

Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888
BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

Published every afternoon except Sunday at 444 Chemeketa St., Salem. Phones: Business, Newsroom, Want-Ads, 2-2406; Society Editor, 2-2409.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Carrier: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.25; One Year, \$12.00. By Mail in Marine, Post, Linn, Benton, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties: Monthly, \$1.00; Six Months, \$5.50; One Year, \$9.00. By Mail Elsewhere in Oregon: Monthly, \$1.00; Six Months, \$5.50; One Year, \$9.00. By Mail Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.25; One Year, \$12.00.

METAMORPHOSIS OF THE SALOON

Oblivious of the lessons of the past, Oregon is trying another "noble experiment," in the guise of "liquor-by-the-drink" which is merely a costly refinement of the old saloon, which was the inspiration of national prohibition. The main difference is that instead of paying 10, 12 1/2 or 15 cents for an alcoholic drink, as in the old days, the cost has climbed to from 50 cents to a dollar. And the fair sex is served at the "cocktail bars" as well as the sterner sex.

For some years, the gradual relaxation of prohibition has permitted the serving of liquor by the glass provided the imbibers furnished the liquor in bottled form, and merely paid for the serving as much as the bottle cost, and the new law merely saves this inconvenience. Clubs and other social organizations will not have to require members to keep their booze in club lockers.

Prohibition failed, as most compulsory laws fail in a democracy, through public resentment and bred worse evils in the moonshiners, bootleggers, beer racketeers, home brew and bathtub gin. It introduced liquor into the household and hotel room and initiated women, barred usually in old saloons, into the drinking habit.

One of the amusing developments of the liquor-by-the-drink inauguration is the free press publicity the "cocktail bars" are receiving from newspapers which ardently espoused the "noble experiment." In the old days all the publicity the vendors of liquor received was in the police court and the wet editors of the dry papers pictured on front pages the "Carrie Nation raids" by mayors of the cities who wielded sledges on bottled cheer. The wet legislators who always voted dry welcomed the lobbyist dispensing costly bootleg like a long lost friend.

Oregon's metropolitan press has devoted more space to the "liquor-by-the-drink" revival than they have to the Korean war. Every step in the new liquor legislation has been minutely heralded in top front page news, the list of licensees repeatedly printed and photos and cartoons have illustrated the momentous and historic event and lauded it editorially.

Moreover, the new saloon, instead of being pictured a hell-hole as in days gone by, has been rechristened with the euphonious label of "Oasis" in the desert of life and its patronage pictured as a social distinction, for only the well-heeled can enjoy its plush luxury and pay for it.

Apparently the only reason new bars are operated in semidarkness is to prevent the thirsty patrons from watching the clumsiness of the amateur bartenders in their various concoctions—for bartending used to be an exact science and few of the old guard have survived the nearly 40 years of Oregon "dryness."—G. P.

ARMED FORCES DAY

This is Armed Forces Day, on which Salem is paying a well deserved tribute to the men and women who defend we civilians from foreign attack.

To serve the country when summoned to the colors is one of the obligations of citizenship which our young men have been required to assume on a large scale in these post-war years, many of them a second time when they have reason to feel that their obligation had been liquidated, barring all-out war which hasn't occurred as yet.

Several million men and their families have been painfully disrupted these past few years, families broken up, the men sent to Korea or Germany to face deadly danger from which not all return. They are paying a heavy price for their American citizenship which comes relatively free to the rest of us.

It is right that they should be honored for what they are doing, but the honor shouldn't be confined to this one day. It should be felt every day of the year.

VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET

We had not intended to comment editorially on the annual school budget election tomorrow afternoon, made necessary by Oregon's six per cent limitation. We've heard no suggestion that the additional \$719,769 to be authorized has any general opposition. There is no suggestion whatever that it won't be approved as it has been in previous years.

But it will probably be approved with a pitifully small vote cast, if past precedent here and elsewhere means anything. This means that a mere handful of people, possibly one per cent of the electorate, could defeat the levy if it chose and force the district to hold another election.

The majority, which rules in America if it asserts itself, but not unless it does, exposes itself to minority rule when it fails to go to the polls. Tomorrow will be a good time to put a resolution to vote at every election in effect, and keep it in effect. No election is unimportant.

SOUND PUBLIC POLICY

We assume that Attorney General Robert Thornton's ruling that a property lease by the state from a member of the state senate is invalid to be sound law because it has long been an accepted legal principle in English speaking countries that an official cannot do business with the governmental entity in which he is an official.

This means that a mayor or councilman cannot buy from or sell to the city, a county commissioner cannot engage in business with the county, or a governor or other state official with the state. The wisdom of this is apparent at a glance and we imagine a court would so hold even in the absence of any statutory enactment.

According to Thornton there is a decision by the Oregon Supreme Court bearing directly on the question, which should clear any question concerning the current instance and any of its kind in the future.

Quite likely the state suffered no loss in the deal at North Bend, but let the practice go unchallenged and it would soon be repeated and then repeated some more. Eventually loss would be sustained, and even more important, loss of standards in the public service.

HOW MANY NOTICED?

Corvallis Gazette-Times Wonder how many local Trumanites noticed that President Eisenhower flew to New York Thursday (to make talks at two Republican meetings) in a chartered commercial plane. This is the first time in twenty years that our chief executives have not used government transportation for purely political purposes.



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Hal Boyle Writes of His Mother and Her Struggles

By HAL BOYLE

Kansas City (AP)—Once a girl is a mother she just has to keep on growing something.

Well, if you ever bought a house and tried to grow grass around it, I'd like to have you meet my mother.

She has been trying to grow grass around a house for more than 30 years. You can't sell her the Brooklyn Bridge, but if you can convince her you grew grass on that bridge she will bargain for the seed.

All Mom started with was the fact of a fair, green, clean lawn—or, in her time, a meadow—quiet and undisturbed. And I suppose she has always had a yearning to get back to the peace of it. So she goes on planting . . . some day to get back.

She was the eldest of nine Irish girls and an Irish boy, born on an Irish farm where Irish pride jutted above the stones of Irish poverty.

The girls came over to help settle heathen America, all nine of them. It was the boy who stayed at home to keep England from owning all of Ireland, and killed the stony land and died there, while his sisters lived across the sea.

And there was a great crowd to greet the girls when they reached the United States—all gathered at Ellis Island, and all trying to get in, too.

I have passed the Statue of Liberty many times in my life, going and coming, and think I own a part of it. My mother has never taken it for granted. She has never passed it going the other way, and doesn't want to. When she mentions the Statue of Liberty her mouth frames a kiss.

But Mama did bring from Ireland something she is always reaching back to—to her the dream of the fair lawn of youth. She has always kept a green farm thumb in the city, and a sweet growing mind. She has liked to see things come to flower, including her five children, and has never lacked the energy to kick a bud into bloom.

But it is that fair green lawn she yearns for. And so for 32 years she has fought to make a lawn before, behind, and around an eight-room, old-fashioned house here which Dad bought for \$5,000. Mom now threatens to give it away and actually is willing to part with it for \$1,000,000 in cold cash, no sentiment involved.

The spring has been rainy in the Midwest, and the grass has come up in patches. All dogs and children in the neighborhood are afraid of Mama, and they love her, too, because when she is strong she orders them off the possible lawn of her dreams, and when she is tired she sits down in the old scabby back yard and will talk to them.

Mama has always been that way. When she raises her voice, everybody runs away. When she is weary, everybody wants to cluster around her. This is the hardest single fact about one human being I have ever tried to figure out. She is 65 and I am 42, and I still don't know how she can boss children and dogs that way, and make them all love her.

She fights that lawn so hard we have to forbid her the lawn mower. She says you can't hire kids today to mow it, but she has always attacked the grass herself, though her face grows red and she has been told not to do it. My sister Dolores, when she hears her pulling the lawn mower out of the basement, goes down and says, "Mama, now you know better. Stop it!"

But nobody can stop Mama from putting in her tomato plants. Wonderful crop last year. I have offered to take her back for a visit to Ireland, and see again the farm she was born on. She says: "Ireland isn't modern. I would rather see the rest of America."

But you know how passionate a feeling for growth the people from the old country have. Mama has had five children, she has been a widow

for 15 years, she is 65 years old, and she is down to "a green thumb." But she has to go on raising something.

Just the other day she was tired and sat down on a bench in the back yard. And the things that understand Mama, the children and the dogs that ruin the lawn she is trying to bring back from an over-wet spring, clustered around her.

There is within her such a mixture of "scat-you-get-out-of-here" and "come-back-you-know-I-love-you." And a little girl from the next block, nuzzling up to her, said:

"Mrs. Boyle, why does your family make you work so hard in the back yard?"

Mama is laughing yet at that.

They also pointed out that Franco was not willing to take the Spanish army outside Spain; that the arming of Spain would make it appear to France and England that we were going to abandon them, in case of attack, and move to Spain. From behind the safety of the Pyrenees, the French and British argued, the United States would serenely watch the conflict, while the rest of Europe was swept over by Red invaders.

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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

U. S. and Franco Finally Concluding Deal for Bases

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington—After almost one year of diplomatic dicker-ing the United States is concluding an agreement with Dictator Franco for air and naval bases on Spanish soil. But in order to pin Franco down, U. S. negotiators had to promise secretly an additional future \$400,000,000. This is on top of the \$187,500,000 already voted him by congress, and will make a total of \$587,500,000.

One factor which nudged Franco's elbow was knowledge that part of his money—the \$125,000,000 voted by congress last year—was about to expire. If the contract wasn't signed by June 30, Franco knew that this \$125,000,000 went right back into the treasury to help balance the Eisenhower budget. And Franco isn't much interested in balancing Ike's budget or anyone's except his own.

This is another chapter in government by Washington attorneys and illustrates how certain lawyers representing foreign embassies sometimes exert more influence than the state department.

One year ago, both the state department and the White House, which under the constitution are entrusted with the conduct of U. S. foreign affairs, informed congress that they did not want or need bases in Spain. They pointed out that we had all we could do to equip bases in France, England and western Europe under the NATO pact, and that we were already short on artillery and munitions. If supplies went to non-NATO Spain, they said, it would create ill will both in Korea and among our NATO allies to whom deliveries already were behind schedule.

Pays to Have Lawyers

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reached 11:30. "I am honored," said Heckscher, "to be sandwiched in between two such distinguished speakers as Senators Bush and Taft." Finally he sat down.

Ex-Sen. John Danaher of Connecticut, toastmaster of the evening, rose.

"Mr. Heckscher refers to being that part of a sandwich between two pieces of bread," he said. "Let's agree that he certainly must be regarded as the Ballyony between two slices of good bread."

It was lost in the last-minute voting on the Tidelands Oil Bill, but Sen. Matt Neely of West Virginia, who has been in public office almost longer than anyone else in Washington, introduced his constructive amendment for the use of Tidelands oil funds.

He proposed that royalties from Tidelands oil go not to three states as finally voted by the GOP leadership, but as follows:

Ten per cent to reduce the national debt.

Ten per cent for education.

Ten per cent for finding a cure for heart disease.

Ten per cent to find a cure for muscular dystrophy.

Ten per cent for multiple sclerosis.

Ten per cent for polio.

Ten per cent for the blind.

Ten per cent for disabled war veterans.

Ten per cent for the American Red Cross.

Neely's amendment got a larger vote than most of the other Tidelands amendments. However, even if it had been introduced earlier, it would not have passed. No amendment would have swayed the coalition of republicans and southern coastal democrats determined to give Tidelands oil back to three states.

Had Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey made his statement about hiking the limit of the national debt a little earlier, some votes might have been changed; because giving away the vast wealth of the Tidelands was, of course, reducing the wealth of the federal government. However, it was significant that Humphrey did not testify until the Tidelands vote was already taken.