

Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888
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Published every afternoon except Sunday at 444 Chemeketa St., Salem. Phone: Business, Newsroom, Want-Ads, 2-2406; Society Editor, 2-2409

NEVER TOO LATE TO CHANGE

For as long as even "Old Man Oregon" can remember it's been solemnly agreed that Messrs. Lovejoy and Pettygrove were somewhat less than inspired when they flipped that coin way back in 1845 and named our chief city Portland instead of Boston, but they've also grumbled that nothing could be done about it at this late date. And the date kept getting later and later.

Now, at long last, 46 years after the revered Harvey W. Scott said it was too late to consider changing the name of Oregon's metropolis to its original Indian name of Multnomah, a committee of Portland citizens including Stewart Holbrook and former Governor Oswald West formally requests that it be done and wins the endorsement of the very Oregonian that headed off a similar move nearly half a century ago.

The Oregonian this morning quotes Scott as observing that Pettygrove and Lovejoy owned the town and had a right to name it whatever they pleased. It adds that the people who live in Portland own it now and have a right to reverse the original decision if they see fit, and the Oregonian suggests that they do this by an election.

It was once believed that a change of name would lead to years of confusion, but subsequent events have shown such is not the case. Three great world cities today carry different names than the youngsters of 40 years ago knew them by. Oslo, the capital of Norway, was Christiania for 300 years prior to 1925, but you have to scratch your head to remember that now. Prior to World War I the then capital city of Russia was St. Petersburg. It was changed to Petrograd by Czar Nicholas in 1914 because St. Petersburg was German, Petrograd Russian. After the Bolshevik revolution the name was changed to Leningrad, by which the world knows it now. If the present Russian government is some day overthrown the old name is likely to be restored. Istanbul was Constantinople for centuries prior to the Turkish revolution subsequent to World War I.

Here in our own state we have witnessed enough name changes to show that it is not difficult if the people really wish to do it. Many of us still remember that Linfield college was McMinnville college the first half century of its existence, but that certainly makes no difference now. Pacific college over at Newberg was only recently changed to George Fox, by which it is already becoming well known. And Coos Bay was Marshfield not long ago. No serious difficulties seem to have been encountered in this change, which was voted by the people.

It is not for us upstarters to tell Portland what to do, and Portland is a nice name we'll all miss if it goes the way of Christiania, Istanbul and Marshfield, but Multnomah is distinctive and unique. If adopted all four of the Northwest's major cities would have local names not shared by big and little towns all over the English speaking world.

We hope Portland does vote on the question and makes the change most Oregonians have long agreed should have been made a long time ago.

Salem people will watch this drama with more interest than the rest of the state, for we have an almost identical situation. We too, have a local Indian name many of our people have long felt should have been adopted instead of the imitative Salem. This is Chemeketa. If Portland changes to Multnomah, why not Salem to Chemeketa? It's an exciting prospect which ought to be discussed and acted upon.

CHIEF JUSTICE VINSON

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson of the United States supreme court who died of a heart attack at his Washington apartment early Tuesday, was born January 22, 1890, in an obscure mountain village in Kentucky "in a jail" as he liked to tell because his father was the jailer and the family lived in the front part of the jail.

Appointed by President Truman as chief justice at the age of 66 on June 24, 1946, his election capped a distinguished public career that included service in all three branches of the government. He had served in congress, as justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the district of Columbia and in several high executive posts including that of secretary of the treasury.

Vinson also served, after his resignation from congress as director of economic stabilization under Roosevelt to control inflation in 1942, as federal loan administrator to head the \$40 million RFC and its agencies in 1945. Scarcely in the new office, he was named director of the office of war mobilization to succeed James F. Byrne.

Few men in congress enjoyed the popularity and confidence that democrats and republicans alike reposed in Mr. Vinson. Leaders of both political parties heaped praise on him when he retired from the legislative branch of the government.

For all his loyalty to the New Deal and his devotion to President Roosevelt, Mr. Vinson displayed a streak of stubborn independence that stamped him as a man with a mind of his own. He opposed Mr. Roosevelt's economy bill and supported the soldier bonus bill which the president vetoed.

As Chief Justice Vincent had to preside over a New Deal politically packed court, consisting of eight democrats and one republican, which almost immediately split into two factions, in which the chief judge did a good job as mediator or balance wheel in restoring public confidence in the tribunal. He was an affable and popular middle of the road judge and peacemaker in the wrangle between the divergent factions. He did not write a large number of decisions, but participated in a number of important cases—the last being the Rosenberg case.

President Eisenhower must shortly appoint a new chief justice. He might, though it is unlikely, elevate one of the following supreme court associate judges:

Hugo L. Black, 57, of Alabama, appointed August 12, 1937; Stanley Reed, 69, of Kentucky, appointed January 15, 1938; Felix Frankfurter, 71, of Massachusetts appointed January 5, 1939; William O. Douglas, 55, of Washington, appointed March 20, 1939; Robert H. Jackson, 61, of New York, appointed June 12, 1941; Harold H. Burton of Ohio, 65, appointed September 10, 1945; Thomas C. Clark, 54, of Texas, appointed July 28, 1946; and Sherman Minton, 63, of Indiana, appointed September 15, 1949.

All with the exception of the last three, Burton, Clark and Minton, were appointed by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt. The others were appointed by former President Truman. All but Burton are democrats.

There is some talk that the president may appoint Governor Earl Warren of California, who recently announced that he would not be a candidate for a fourth term as governor. He has an excellent record not only as an administrator but a previous one as a distinguished member of the bar, and a deserved recognition of the Pacific coast.—G. P.



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Church Leaders Stopped From Bible Bombardment

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — When Rev. Carl McIntyre, president of the International Council of Christian churches, was stopped by German and State Department authorities from dropping Bibles by balloon behind the Iron Curtain, he remarked: "What is our State Department afraid of? Can the word of God do any harm?"

Rev. McIntyre's irritation is understandable. It touches off a snafu inside the State Department, existing for some time regarding the whole question of propaganda behind the Iron Curtain.

The snafu is caused by three groups inside the State Department:

Group No. 1—The propaganda experts of the State Department are anxious to push any program that will get the right information behind the Iron Curtain. They have encouraged private groups, given them excellent cooperation.

Group No. 2—The political advisers fear reprisals from Moscow, worry over reaction in the satellite states, claim we shouldn't stir up the satellites until they are ready for a real revolt and we are ready to support them.

Group No. 3 — Consists of John Foster Dulles and the men immediately around him. During the election campaign, Dulles promised the American people the Eisenhower administration would promote unrest and revolt behind the curtain. Speaking at Buffalo Aug. 27, he said that Eisenhower would "encourage quiet revolution in Red-dominated countries through such methods as pas-

LAST REPATRIATE



Air Force Capt. Theodore Harris (above) of Van Nuys, Calif., the last American prisoner to be repatriated in Operation Big Switch, is shown at Freedom Village, Korea, following his exchange. Capt. Harris said he had been held in solitary confinement as a "war criminal" in Munken, Manchuria, from January 1953 until his repatriation. (UP Photo)

OPEN FORUM

Old Friend Regrets Carkin's Retirement

To the Editor: As an old acquaintance of John H. Carkin when I lived in southern Oregon, I read with mingled feelings of satisfaction and regret the news of his retirement.

The satisfaction came in knowing that this long-time public servant had reflected credit upon those who had appointed him to responsible positions—their trust was not misplaced.

And that he has also helped raise to a higher standard the honest and conscientious service being rendered by our many public officials.

The regret comes in the loss to the state of his experience gained in the important fields in which he served. Any person in business realizes that the smooth operation of any department suffers when such a change is made.

All over Oregon, and in my case in other states, there will be people who will miss John Carkin, his courteous and fair treatment in official duties and his consideration and friendliness to fellow employees. And all will hope that with release from his duties there will be time for leisure and relaxation and all the things one plans to do when office duties no longer make their daily demands.

NEED HARLAN
Boise, Idaho

HIGHER RENTS

After waiting through 11 years of rent control for the chance to raise rents, landlords across the country are now raising them. And the tenants are raising the roof—much to the concern of Republican leaders who voted to end controls. Here's what has happened since rent ceilings were lifted:

1. Over 15 million tenants, who had been living in rent-controlled homes, are now paying increases. Rents have shot as high as 100 per cent in some areas. The government, using 1947-48 as the base, calculates that rents have risen from a national index figure of 100 to 124. The figure is expected to hit 130 before the end of the year.

2. Even the 26 "critical areas" still under rent control, are actually at the mercy of the landlords. Congress neglected to leave any money to enforce rent control, except for a \$60,000 pittance—barely enough to hire eight people to run the whole nation-wide rent-control program.

3. The budget bureau has gone so far as to order servicemen, who live in government-owned housing, to pay the going rate that the real estate boys are charging in each locality. In other words, since servicemen can't get cheaper rent from the government, they may as well rent their homes from the local landlords.

Angry tenants charge that the government, under GOP management, has transferred its sympathy from the tenants to the landlords. In areas where housing is critically short, they charge, the government has put property rights ahead of human rights. Wherever housing is plentiful and competition keen, however, they admit that there's no valid excuse for continuing rent control.

Salem 26 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
September 8, 1927

William Randolph Hearst, publisher backer of Old Glory flight across the Atlantic, had offered a reward of \$25,000 to the captain and crew of the ship that finds the missing occupants of his sponsored plane.

Irate citizens of Southeast Salem had demanded of city council that action be taken on drainage of that part of town.

An international demand for a check on speculative airplane stunt flights had followed in the wake of disappearance within the past year of transoceanic fliers and death of seven men in overseas flight preparations.

Marion county with 1291 miles of road, 182.7 being paved and 625 macadamized, had been proclaimed by Roadmaster W. J. Culver as the banner good road county in the entire northwest.

Plans had been made to immediately begin construction of a third story on the northwest wing of Deaconess hospital.

Over 600 students, a majority of them girls, were on hand for the 48th opening of the Indian School at Chemawa.

Bombs or Tax Cuts

Corvallis Gazette-Times

Senator Ralph E. Flanders, Republican of Vermont, a member of the Armed Services Committee, suggests that the United States long since passed the number of atom bombs in its stockpile beyond which it is foolish to make more. His theory is, that if it is true that 40 bombs placed on the right targets will put an enemy out of war, and that one of ten bomb-carrying planes will reach the target, then any production above 400 in beyond the point of diminishing returns.

Flanders would divert money earmarked for more atom and hydrogen bombs to reduce a Republican party pledge of a balanced budget and tax reductions. These are surely very desirable objectives. A more desirable one, for which sentiment is being sounded in the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, is to go on to discover and make a mightier bomb than the hydrogen bomb. Our stockpile has been insurance against World War III. Continued leadership in the atomic bomb race will be our best insurance of eventual peace without war and their concomitants of balanced budgets and lower taxes.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

This Is Day for Rest After Arduous Trials of Labor Day

By HAL BOYLE

Hometown, U. S. A. (AP) — Early on the morning after Labor day the phone rang in the home of Joe Steady, America's average working man.

"Am I speaking to the master of the house?" asked a voice.

"No," mumbled Joe sleepily. "No, Mr. Steady?" said the voice. "You're the one I wanted to speak to. This is Jim Beagle, reporter on the Hometown Daily Eagle. My city editor wants a feature story on how a typical working man and his family enjoyed Labor day. You know — king for a day, and that sort of thing."

"I don't know about that king business," said Joe. "But if \$65 bucks a weeks make a typical working man, I'm your joker, Buster."

"Heh, heh, well, well. Would you mind telling me all the homey little details about your big day off?"

"There wasn't nothing homey about it — that's the trouble," said Joe. "We didn't stay home. I was trying to catch me some shuteye, and The missus shuteye, and we're going on a picnic. I said no, and she said whose day off did I think it was, so we went on the picnic."

"Who was in the group?" pursued the voice.

"Oh, just me, her, and the kids — junior, sis and the baby," said Joe. "It took me three hours to tune up the carburetor on the car, and I hadda drive a hundred miles to the lake for the picnic. Hadda go to that one on account of my wife's relatives live closer to that one."

"A cop stopped me on the way and gave me a \$25 ticket for speeding. He said I was hitting 45 miles instead of 35, when as a matter of fact my old bus wouldn't do 45 on a downgrade unless I got out and pushed it. Hey, can you help me fix the ticket?"

"Sorry," said the voice. "What else happened?"

"Well," said Joe, "one of my brothers-in-law borrowed ten bucks from me. Later they got me to umpire a softball game, and the only close one I called at the plate got me a pop bottle in the eye, and off the record I think it was my other brother-in-law that threw it, on account of I wouldn't lend him a dime."

"Anything else, sir?"

"Well, I came back and brushed the ants off the food, and I guess kinda over-et, so I stretched out to grab me some shuteye, and all of a sudden Sis started crying because she lost one of her jacks. Then my Missus hollers the baby must've swallowed it on account of she was playing in the grass with Sis, and we gotta do something quick."

"So?"

"No, Sis found it in her pocket later. The Doc said all the floor-scope showed in the baby was what looked like the remains of a couple of grasshoppers and something else that looked like a small rattlesnake, but of course he couldn't be real sure."

"Was the baby upset, sir?"

"No, but my wife was. Still is. Kept yelping about it all the way home. We got home about midnight, and all three of the kids was crying, and I finally told the Missus to Oh, shut up, and she said who's telling whom to shut up, and so we finally got to sleep about 3 a.m. I was just getting ready to shaven when you called, Mr. Seegle."

"Beagle, sir, not Seegle. Well, you had quite an adventure. One final question. Every working man naturally likes to count his blessings on Labor day. What, sir, would you say is the greatest blessing?"

"Ain't no doubt about it, Mrs. Fleegle," said Joe. "It's the fact that you can go back to work the next day and get some rest."

AID FOR IRAN
(New York Times)

The democratic West has had little to be thankful for in recent months. It is natural therefore to feel especially happy over developments in Iran, where Dr. Mossadegh is out and a new and hopeful regime is in.

President Eisenhower was right to respond quickly to the call for economic and financial aid from Premier Zehedi and the Shah. The Premier's letter, with its expressed intentions to improve international relations, was a welcome change from the Mossadegh formula of hatred of the foreigner.



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