

# Capital Journal

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## EUGENE TACKLES OFF-STREET PARKING

Eugene has a worse traffic congestion than Salem because of its narrow streets. As an alleviation if not a complete solution the city administration has proposed an election on January 19 on a charter amendment giving the city authority to provide, operate and maintain off-street parking lots anywhere in Eugene for use by the public.

Also to be voted on is the proposal to give the city permission to sell \$750,000 bonds for initial financing of construction of as many parking lots as the money will buy. There will be pledged all the revenues from meters on the lots, plus 25 per cent of \$50,000 (whichever is greater) from on-street meters to pay off the bond issue.

This election is the culmination of protracted efforts to provide some means of alleviation of serious parking problems in the downtown area.

A benefit assessment plan which would have brought financing of the parking lots through charges against surrounding property owners was first favored but abandoned because of the delay by necessary court action.

Then the city council, backed by the Chamber of Commerce approved a draft of the proposed charter changes. A hot fight over the proposal looms and the city is issuing a voters' pamphlet containing the proposals and arguments in full by advocates and opponents.

A "Citizens' Protective Committee" composed of opponents, largely of realtors claim the issue is inequitable to many residents, because downtown merchants will be the principal beneficiaries, but the advocates contend all citizens will benefit and the lots are essential to cope with congestion.

The Eugene Register-Guard pledges editorial support of the measure for the following reasons:

"We do not believe anybody can dispute the need of off-street parking in any growing city. Eugene was one of the first to be talking about it 15 years ago; it is one of the last to act. Our neighbors in Springfield have beaten us to the honor of being the first city in Oregon to do what 700 cities in other states have done."

"Essentially the only issue is whether the city should take on this chore or leave it to private enterprise. We believe the city must—because private enterprise has failed nearly everywhere to do the job. Even Oakland, California, which has the oldest and most successful merchant parking system in the United States is asking the city to take a hand because 'There is no other way to insure permanent public use of parking facilities.'"

"The proposed plan will not affect tax rates. We view off-street parking as a necessary part of the street and traffic management system—a public utility."—G. P.

## IKES' FIDESIDE TALK

President Eisenhower might become as effective a "fideside" speaker as President Roosevelt was if he would deliver them oftener for he has the late president's sympathetic, appealing personality, and he has an advantage F.D.R. did not have, television.

The president must have found a friendly reception Monday night with virtually all of the tens of millions of his countrymen who heard and saw him. This is true because of his obvious sincerity, his desire to serve the best interests of the country, and his freedom from personal or partisan rancor. He is the same devoted public servant he has been ever since he devoted his life to his country when he went to West Point more than 40 years ago.

The president gave no details of his legislative program. These will come Thursday when he addresses congress. But he did reveal the guiding philosophy of his administration, which is as far from old line conservatism as it is from new deal socialism.

Eisenhower made it clear that his administration is and will continue to be keenly interested in the troubles of the people, unemployment, ill health, needy old age and other ills which can be attacked through governmental action, such as a depression, will be vigorously dealt with through all the means available to the central government.

But the major reliance will continue to be placed on individual enterprise and initiative, and local governmental agencies will be expected to play their large, important role. The government in Washington will be an active, but not the dominant partner in all this.

## HE CHANGED FOOTBALL

Gus Dorais, who died the other day at Birmingham, Mich., the other day, threw the first forward pass in American football, and with his Notre Dame teammate, Knute Rockne, changed the character of the game, for the better, most people will agree.

Dorais and Rockne thought up the tactic of throwing the ball forward, practiced the play all summer and sprung it at West Point in 1913, after clearing it in advance with the referee and finding that he considered it legal.

An underdog Notre Dame team—the Irish sometimes were back in those days—upset a highly touted Army eleven 5 to 13, and football became a game of speed as well as brawn. These two, who became famous coaches, and others improved on what they began and as a result we have the forward pass as a major weapon of football offense today.

Rockne and Dorais drew lots to see which should become coach at Notre Dame. Had Dorais won it would be interesting to speculate on whether he would have become as famous as Rockne did. Probably not because Rockne was a unique personality who would have made a distinctive place anywhere.

But Dorais did all right as it was, for several years at Gonzaga in Spokane, which he made a football power, and for many years at Detroit university. He amassed one string of 19 consecutive victories at Detroit U. Later he coached the Detroit Lions five seasons.

## STRANGE NEUTRALITY



## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Legion and Medical Assn. Squaring Off for Battle

**By DREW PEARSON**

Washington—Mr. John Q. Public will be chiefly watching taxes, social security, national defense, and other headline issues as congress gets under way. Backstage, however, two of the most powerful groups in the nation—the American Legion and the American Medical Association—are getting ready for a cutthroat battle against each other that will end up in the halls of congress.

The issue, in effect, is "socialized medicine."

The American Medical Association, which ranks second among registered Washington lobbyists, spent \$270,174 to influence congress in 1952. The legion, which ranks eighth, spent \$106,235. Both are among the top lobbying spenders to influence congress.

But in this case the battle goes deeper than congress, with the A.M.A. encouraging doctors to infiltrate the legion as ordinary veterans in order to fight the socialized-medicine battle from the inside. The A.M.A. has even set up a "front" group, the National Medical Veterans Society, to fight the socialized-medicine battle and warns its members to confine their statements to remarks "cleared through the A.M.A. to make sure you all say the same thing."

The legion in turn has alerted its 18,000 posts to start shouting at the A.M.A. Bluntly, the American Legion Magazine warns: "The legion has definitely lost patience with the American Medical Association's weaving, twisting, opportunistic attacks on the federal system of care for veterans."

"Never before," says the legion "had the A.M.A. defined 'socialized medicine' in such a way as to compel America's war veterans to be for it."

What the battle boils down to is a proposal by the doctors to ban free hospital care by the government for non service connected disabilities. In other words, when a veteran gets sick for reasons other than a disability suffered in war, he would be denied treatment in a veterans administration hospital.

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Dr. Walter B. Martin, president-elect of the A.M.A., warned that any such drastic step would be a fatal error and the doctors would "get our throats cut and get in the doghouse permanent."

One doctor, whose name was not identified in the minutes, asked his fellow doctors what plans they had for treating the 87 per cent non-service-connected cases.

"How," he queried "could these patients be placed in already overcrowded local hospitals? How does it help the taxpayer if the burden is simply shifted from the federal to the local government?"

After warning the doctors that their proposal was impractical, the delegate added: "If the doctors do not know that the American people have a special regard for veterans, the congress does know it."

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## Pearl Appointment

**Grants Pass Courier**

Reaction to the recent appointment of Dr. William A. Pearl as Bonneville power administrator to succeed Paul J. Raver, resigned, on the part of the public ownership crowd of the Pacific Northwest, has been violent, as was to be expected.

Gus Norwood, executive secretary of the Northwest Public Power association, led the pack. As Norwood sees it, Dr. Pearl was "sponsored by private power agencies."

William Way, president-elect of the Portland Central Labor council chimed in with: "Dr. Pearl is not a friend of labor and what it stands for."

Way was elected on a platform of greater participation of Organized Labor in politics than in the past—if that is possible. He uses the old chestnut which means, in every-day English, that a public official must be subservient to the will of labor bosses or he is "not a friend of labor and what it stands for."

The government-ownership crowd in the Pacific Northwest, of course, is interested in government ownership of everything, the platform of the Socialist party for ages. In this instance, these people would advance their theory of government by appealing to the cupidity of the residents of the Pacific Northwest.

It isn't hard to convince many that millions taken from the citizens of the nation generally and dumped into the Northwest benefit the people of the Northwest.

The most conservative business elements of Portland do not find it hard to conclude that such dumping of Federal tax monies in their trade area constitute and "exception."

As a matter of fact, Dr. Pearl is a native of the Pacific Northwest, is a competent engineer and ideally qualified to head the government's huge Northwest power project.

It also is true that Dr. Pearl may be expected to follow the policy of the Eisenhower administration which is to conduct the project on a business-like basis, eliminating from the administrator's operation the huge public power propaganda section which flourished under both the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

Public power installations can be used to wreck private power concerns. They should not be.

The present Administration has made its position plain. It will continue to develop Federal power projects in the Northwest where they are needed and which private industry will not or cannot finance. On the other hand, private industry will not be browbeaten and baited around by the greater power of competing Federal power projects.

We like that program, despite the position of either Mr. Norwood or Mr. Way.

## Salem 27 Years Ago

**By BEN MAXWELL**  
January 5, 1927

A force of 160 sailors and marines Galveston at Corinto, Nicaragua, had disembarked from the U.S.S. and entrained for Managua, the capitol, to guard the U. S. legation and protect American lives and property.

First State Savings bank of Stayton, with capital increased to \$50,000, had absorbed the First National bank of that place.

Gov. Pierce had this day (27 years ago) presided at his last meeting with the board of control and superintendents of state boards.

Salem Rod and Gun club had elected Romeo Goulet as president for 1927.

Kafoury Brothers, 466 State street, were offering bed sheets, size 81 by 90 inches, at their special clearance at a price of 39c.

A gold pin had been awarded Ralph Purvine, member of Comrade club affiliated with First Presbyterian church.

Permission to extend its line from Bend to Klamath Falls had been sought by Oregon Trunk line, subsidiary of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads.

British were awaiting with curiosity the inauguration of trans-Atlantic radio phone service with an initial rate of \$23 a minute for conversation.

Dr. Oscar B. Hunter of Washington, D.C., told the group that their proposed changes in VA medical care would have tough sledding in congress. He reminded the doctors that the AMA "is in some disrepute in congress and during recent congressional hearings the congressmen asked questions 'baited' against the doctors."

Meanwhile the American Legion Magazine, not exactly known as a socialist organ, has published a stinging editorial accusing the AMA of "urging that indigent, disabled veterans be thrown back upon their communities for indigent care in order to save the country from socialism."

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Want to Start New Year Off With Million Dollar Idea?

**By HAL BOYLE**

New York (AP)—How would you like to start the New Year off with a free million dollar idea? Well, a fellow gave me one the other day, and after examining it from all angles, I am now passing it on to you—and you are welcome to it.

"Why doesn't somebody invent a new middle-aged pleasure?" This man demanded. "It would be worth a million dollars to him."

When I asked him what he meant, he continued: "A great amount of effort and energy is spent thinking up gadgets to keep the young happy or soften the woes of the elderly, but nobody pays any attention to the middle-aged."

"Yet there are more middle-aged people than any other kind. Why should we have to shift for ourselves so much? Why doesn't somebody exert a little brainpower to provide us with some new form of pleasure."

"Take me, for example. I'll admit I'm middle-aged, and I am bored. I am in that critical period when a man is too old to enjoy playing post office and too young to enjoy rheumatism. Why doesn't somebody dream up a new kind of pleasure that will enable us middle-aged people to forget ourselves and our problems."

"Have you never tried bird watching?" I inquired. "The sight of our little feathered friends at work and play is often soothing to the spirit."

"Look," he said, "let's be practical. When you've seen one English sparrow, you've seen 'em all. Let the birds watch each other."

He made the same complaint about baseball, television viewing, canasta, and stamp collecting. He was weary of sports and jobbies.

"No," he said, "what I want is an absolutely new pleasure for a middle-aged guy like myself—something that doesn't come in a bottle or wrapped in cellophane, something that doesn't come with a guarantee to help me or hurt me, but something I can get some real fun out of."

"Any other qualifications?" I asked.

"Well, yes," he said. "A new pleasure for a middle-aged man ought to be simple and inexpensive. It ought to be something the children can't steal from you as soon as they reach their teens. It ought to be something a man can enjoy without having to share it with a woman. Naturally, also it ought to be respectable, so that it won't be denounced by the clergy or make a man subject to arrest and imprisonment."

"That all?" I inquired.

"Yes, that's all," he said, "but is that too much to ask?"

Frankly, it didn't seem too much to me. After all, why shouldn't a middle-aged man be allowed a new pleasure that wouldn't bankrupt him, bring down the law on his head, or that he would have to divide with his wife and kids?

"Don't you have any suggestions?" my friend asked hopefully. I thought and I thought. But it isn't easy to

## Hoop Hospitality

**Corvallis Gazette-Times**

Nebraska was completely overwhelmed by the hospitality of Corvallis people and the cooperation between the town and college and the support given by the merchants to the college athletic program.

Both Indiana and Nebraska teams appreciated the elongated beds provided for the comfort of the exceptionally tall players. The Beaver Big Bed Brigade has helped considerably toward making Corvallis a basketball capital. Incidentally, it doesn't seem to be generally well known that the Benton hotel—Warren Taylor and Carl Doty—paid for four of the beds themselves.

The townspeople of Eugene seem to be much more loyal to their conference than were the people of Corvallis. While many of us cheered the Nebraska team when they played Oregon, we had the almost unanimous support of the crowd in Eugene when we played Indiana.

That Gill Coliseum and McArthur Court were filled to capacity for the two double-bills proves that the fans will turn out to see a top-flight attraction. When we have good team or recognized teams are brought in to play, the people come to the games.

See Keene and Leo Harris pulled a smart stunt in providing the double-bill in each town instead of running competing attractions forty miles apart.

## SURVIVE! DON'T MISS IT!

**Bend Bulletin**

The columnist had been telling about the Ickes diary and of Harold's criticism of several of his cabinet associates and then he wrote, "Drive carefully. It would be a shame to miss the volume giving the Ickes opinion of Harry S. Truman."

(Advertisement)

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## \$75,000 Theft In Bank Puzzle

**AMARILLO, Tex. (AP)**—The case of the shop-lifted \$75,000 had police and bank officials in a quandary here Tuesday.

The money disappeared from a teller's cage Monday. First National Bank officials said, and police said they didn't have any good clues and weren't holding anybody.

The missing money—in \$5 and \$10 bills—was one of three sacks full making up a shipment to the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas.

Its disappearance was discovered about 1:30 p.m. while the bank was crowded with customers.

A bank employee soon before in the bank about the time the money was missing from a cage near the rear door of the bank lobby.

Police officials alerted local officers with a description of the man, said to be of medium height and about 30 or 32 years old, but they put out no statewide pickup order.

Investigating officers assumed somebody entered the rear door of the cage, picked up the sack and walked out the rear door, into the street. Officers believed anybody reaching over top of the low cage would have been noticed.