

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago



Jan. 15, 1976

CG Depot goes off the track

Moody House Moving of Eugene spent most of Monday relocating Cottage Grove's old Southern Pacific depot from its longtime 9th and Main street location to the city's regional park north of I-5 Connector Road. City Manager Phil Kushlan said reconstruction work on the depot will begin as soon as an access road or path can be provided. Volunteer workers will be trying to restore the building.

Jan. 12, 1956

Half-century sees progress speeding up

Some people reflect old age by living in the past. None of us will find it convenient to die when the time comes, and yet if you are 50 years old you have witnessed the period of the greatest material progress in the known history of the world. If you would care to pause at the beginning of 1956, you might reflect that the electric light is just a little over a half century old, the successful automobiles has not reached the age of 50. Neither has the wonder drugs, the modern medical care, and like the automobile, the flying machine did not much more than come of age in the 50-year period. Radio is an outgrowth of wireless telegraphy and television is the child of radio, all under 50 years of age. Moving pictures are not much past the half century mark and talking pictures are about 30 years old.

In 15 years we have passed the atomic age and are in the age of the hydrogen bomb. Material progress may even be more rapid in the next 50 years, but that sort of progress is hard to realize with our limited knowledge. In comparing 50 years with about 6,000 years of known history and several thousand years before this, the brief period equals about a second in history.

What brought about these thoughts?

The other night when the snow storm had put our electricity on the blink, we sat by candle-light and reflected just how dependent modern man is on the modern day conveniences and how short the time had been since man was using the candle to light with and the fire-place to heat with and was wholly unacquainted with the convenience of running water in the house. And the time had not been very long as history goes.

After all there are a few people living among us who know how to rough it, that is, live like our ancestors, but there we sat pretty helpless. There was no electricity, there was no furnace heat and the house was cold except for the fire-place. The candle might have been romantic in its day, but it was a poor substitute for the modern electric light and reading was out. We might have turned on the radio the radio for entertainment, except the radio was powered by electricity and we did not dare get thirsty, because it would have meant a trip to the creek through the snow because our water system was off on account of the electric pump. All the worries brought about by the crisis did not center on the immediate future for we wondered what in the heck to eat for breakfast since the only cook stove we had was electric.

Jan. 3

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle, Dorena Lake

A caller advised that his vehicle was stolen within the last 10 minutes of placing the call. The caller was transferred to the Lane County Sheriff's office.

Jan. 4

Criminal Mischief, N 9th St.

A reporting person advised of a person that appeared to be trying to get into mail boxes from the post office side. There was damage to the rear door, but it is unknown if the damage is old or new.

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle, Taylor Ave.

A caller advised that her roommate took her vehicle without permission and wrecked it. The caller is willing to press charges. The subject was transported to the police department pending charges.

Jan. 6.

Welfare Check, HWY 99

A caller requested a welfare check on her daughter at the location. The caller advised that the daughter abruptly left work yesterday at Bi Mart stating she didn't know when she would be back. She also advised that there are odd messages and postings on Facebook that are unlike what her daughter would post. The subject is possibly driving a white Subaru Legacy. The subject was entered as a missing person.

Jan. 7

Death Investigation, Birch Ave.

A woman in her 60s was found unconscious and not breathing after not being seen for several days. The caller was escorted to South Lane Mental Health Services to meet with her counselor due to her behavior on the scene. The body was released to Andreason's Funeral Home.

CITY BEAT

Selections from the City's Friday Update

Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council

In early December, the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council applied for a Youth Tobacco Elimination Project grant from the American Lung Association of Oregon.

The Cottage Grove YAC was the only youth group in Lane County that qualified to be awarded a \$750 grant to participate in the Youth Tobacco Elimination Project. The grant is awarded to assist raising community awareness about the threat tobacco poses to youth and advocate to improve tobacco related policies in the community or at the state level.

As part of the grant, the YAC will

receive training on youth advocacy, media literacy, policy change, tobacco issues and communicating with decision makers in addition to funds for use in efforts to reduce tobacco use. The YAC is planning efforts to assist in educating the public about the City's recently adopted tobacco and e-cigarette ban in parks and conducting a survey and education pieces during park events.

Sockball Fight

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council held a Sockball Fight at the Cottage Grove Armory on Dec. 18. According to City Manager Richard Meyers, The YAC felt the event was a success and hopes to make it an annual event. They are already gathering ideas for next year's event. About 30 people were at the event and the age of participants ranged from seven to undisclosed grandparents. In preparing for the Sockball fight, the YAC collected about 190 pairs of socks donated by community members. The socks were used in the fight and then

cleaned, sorted, and refolded. Then 55 pairs of warm, thick cotton socks were donated to Beds for Freezing Nights and 133 pairs of other socks were donated to Community Sharing.

'Hello, I am from the IRS'

Members of the community have been receiving phone calls from someone purportedly from the IRS stating that this is the final notice and it is urgent to receive a return call or the IRS will be filing a lawsuit against them. The City of Cottage Grove says this is a scam. The IRS will not initiate contact through phone, email, text or social media. They use mail. The City suggests not to provide personal information to any person that contacts you over the phone, by email, text or social media.

Scenic Bikeway Committee meeting

City Manager Richard Meyers attended a meeting of the State Scenic Bikeway Committee in Salem this week. The manager is a member of the committee representing the League of Oregon Cities and the interest of cities in the Scenic Bikeway program. The committee reviewed proposed scenic bikeways and reviewed policies for the operation of the Committee. Oregon is the first in the nation to have a Scenic Bikeway program. Since creating the program a number of other states have started programs. The Scenic Bikeway program has nearly 1,000 miles of scenic bikeways designated in the state.

Chamber of Commerce Annual banquet

The Annual Chamber of Commerce

will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, Jan. 16 at Emerald Valley in Creswell with the social hour starting at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Native American cultural events at the Library

The public is invited to Native American cultural events Jan. 16 and 23 at the Cottage Grove Public Library. Nez Perce Elder and the Great-Great Grandson of Chief Joseph, Roy Hayes Jr., will present storytelling, drumming, singing and other cultural aspects of Pacific Northwest People. Native items are on display all month, and events will include crafts such as beading and leatherwork, and Native American flute music featuring local flute makers, musicians and dancers. Events will be each Saturday from noon-3 p.m.

The events are free and everyone is welcome.

OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

tially dragnetted leftists trying to find evidence against Harry Bridges and other persons of interest. Doyle essentially ordered Bancksy to expose himself as a spy by testifying against Bridges; if he didn't, Doyle would get him fired. Bancksy, quite naturally, figured he was as good as fired anyway if he let his cover be blown, so he declined — and, true to his word, Doyle got the governor to intervene and have him fired.

Doyle carried out other operations to suborn perjury using either cash bribes or threats throughout Gov. Martin's term. By the end of it, though, he'd forged for himself such a terrible reputation that, according to a Department of Labor investigation in 1939, he'd "taken so much money from so many people" in bribes and payments for illegal services that any testimony he might have been able to offer would be useless.

Nor was Doyle the only rogue agent Martin's administration

employed. Convinced that what he faced was nothing less than a threat to the very existence of the American way of life, Martin was hiring almost anyone as a "special police" agent.

"My brother was appointed Special State Police Officer several months ago by you," wrote William Schmitz of Portland in 1937. "My brother has no right to have this power, as he is irresponsible, inclined to be rattle-headed and is just as apt as not to shoot somebody for no just reason."

Another "special agent" was stripped of his badge after he was caught using it to shake down an Italian businessman, whom he subsequently was prosecuted for pistol-whipping. Meanwhile, Martin seemed

completely oblivious to how all this was playing with the public. In 1938 he started gearing up for his re-election campaign. But by this time, most Oregonians — and not just the union members, either — had had enough, and Henry Hess had emerged as a strong opponent had arisen in the Democratic primary. The aging ex-governor Oswald West, who was still playing Karl Rove to Martin's George W. Bush, realized that getting his guy re-nominated was going to be no mean feat. He engineered a clever gambit in which he encouraged conservative Republicans to switch parties to help.

This would likely have worked, but at the last minute came some direct intervention from the very top. On May 18,

two days before the election, several members of President Roosevelt's "brain trust" released endorsements of Hess. Roosevelt himself, as was his wont at such times, remained coyly silent on the matter, other than to publicly deny Martin's campaign claim that the president had told him, during a tour of the Bonneville Dam, "You and I make a good pair."

Two days later, Martin was defeated in his primary. Bitterly and petulantly he blamed everything on malicious conspirators and envious pinko-libs: "Hess, ... that son-of-a-bitch Elton Watkins ... and Dave Beck of the International Teamsters ... hatched their conspiracy ... to buy off the candidates then running against me so as to concentrate the labor vote ... and the subversive elements in the state headed by the so-called Commonwealth Foundation, against me," he said, in a conference just after his defeat.

In the election, Hess in turn was defeated by Republican Charles Sprague. After four years of strident squabbling between Martin's furtive authoritarianism and the allegedly communist trade-unionists, as far as most voters could see the Democratic Party was split between crazy socialists and paranoid fascists. The damage would linger for decades.

(Sources: Murrell, Gary. Iron Pants: Oregon's Anti-New-Deal Governor. Pullman, Wash.: WSU Press, 2000; Murrell, Gary. "Hunting Reds in Oregon," Oregon Historical Quarterly, winter 1999)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finn-john.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY Jan. 14 37° 45° Rain	FRIDAY Jan. 15 41° 47° Poss. Showers
SATURDAY Jan. 16 39° 47° Poss. Showers	SUNDAY Jan. 17 39° 47° Mostly Cloudy
MONDAY Jan. 18 41° 47° Poss. Showers	TUESDAY Jan. 19 39° 48° Poss. Showers

Automotive Specialties

PRACTICING THE ART OF TRANSMISSION REPAIR SINCE 1991

- ✓ Manual & Automatic Transmission Repair
- ✓ Tune ups
- ✓ 30-60-90K Services
- ✓ Brakes, belts, hoses and cooling system services
- ✓ Mufflers & Custom Exhaust
- ✓ Drive-train repair such as clutches, u joints and differentials

All makes and models.

MAINTAINING YOUR VEHICLE AFFORDABLY

WE LIVE IN THE SAME TOWN WE WORK IN

"NO MONKEY BUSINESS!"

www.automotivespecialties.biz

DUSTIN TULLAR & RUSS OWENS
541-942-8022 • COTTAGE GROVE

Douglas G. Maddess, DMD

FAMILY AND GENERAL DENTISTRY
Brightening Lives One Smile at a Time

Comprehensive Family Dentistry
Now Offering Digital X-Rays
Financing Options Available

Welcoming New Patients
Call for an appointment today!

914 South 4th St. • CG • 541-942-1559
See our new website:
douglasgaddessdmd.com

B4UBIDIBRNORBLOAWAYCZIA

Zolezzi Insurance Agency

EST. 1968
Personal, Business, Life, & Public Entity Services

(541) 836-2177
YOU have options. Call for a QUOTE TODAY