

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
BY H. W. YOUNG

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Office Corner Second and Taylor Sts.
Believed at the Coquille Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.

Coos county is distinctly poorer without that thrice-a-week paper. As a show place it was a big coast.

You see, we must keep our cheap foreign goods but the foreigners make enough money to buy our native farm products.—Baltimore Sun.

The Pacific Ocean comprises 30 per cent of the earth's surface, and 75 per cent of the argument against naval disarmament.—New London Day.

Professor Einstein says American women are lovely. How much lovelier it is to understand the professor when he cuts out theory and gets down to fact.—Marion Star.

Sixty-five thousand girls are said to have disappeared in the United States last year without leaving a trace. Coquille's share of that 65,000 would be about one girl; Coos county's would be about one quarter. How many mothers are there in Coquille or in Coos county who don't know where the daughters are tonight?

New York City is again rushing out for water and a tunnel eighteen miles long is to be built under a range of mountains to supply its growing needs. Perhaps the time will come when it will be necessary to tap Lake Ontario or exhaust Niagara Falls to prevent that city from growing thirsty.

Not one in two hundred of the people of the United States manage to earn more than two or three thousand dollars a year and yet Jack Dempsey got \$250,000 in ten minutes last Saturday by knocking out a Frenchman's face with his fists; and the sufferer profited \$100,000 in the same time by submitting to the exhibition. Evidently the work that is of the most value to the world is by no means the best paid.

The appointment of William H. Taft as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States is certainly to President Harding's credit. It is the best position that ever fell to the lot of an ex-president, though some have had an opportunity to make more money. While Wilson's appointments contributed to radicalism this and the others that may follow while Harding is steering the ship of state will tend to restore the conservative balance.

BANISH THE PISTOL

In so many cases people who commit murder in a fit of passion claim that they were "temporarily insane" that the Sentinel editor feels like contributing a bit of experience as to the psychology of such crimes. Fifty years ago I was travelling on a steamship on the Ohio river in the beautiful month of October, and I do not believe a trip up the Rhine could have been any more delightful at that season.

One day at dinner I was a little premature in getting to the table and the negro steward called me down in an extremely offensive manner. Naturally very quick tempered, I was so angered that my first impulse was to draw my Smith & Wesson and shoot him down. However, I took a second thought and realized what utter folly it would be to yield to such an impulse, even in a section where many went so far as to deny that a negro was human. But I have felt the insane impulse to kill a man and know that it was caused by nothing more than a fit of anger.

The ancients used to say that "Anger is a short of madness" and this every one who has experienced it must admit. We all suffer more or less from this form of madness; and I believe that those who yield to such an impulse as I felt and commit murder are no more insane even temporarily than the rest of mankind. They simply have less self control, that is all.

Another thought in this connection is that if I had not been so foolish as to think I needed to tote a gun, I am very sure I should have had no impulse to fire one at a fellow being.

Who else do we blame for the poor fellow who died at Myrtle Point Monday morning by his own hand would have any inclination to kill the girl he loved if he had not been taking a gun. It is hardly within the bounds of possibility that he would have attacked her with a pocket knife or attempted to beat her to death with his fists or choke her. And even if he had it would have been impossible surrounded by friends as she was. No use a gun is taking an awfully unfair advantage.

So we favor all necessary restrictions on the sale of shooting irons; and would even go so far as to require men and boys to get a license before they are permitted to carry one. The victim of the last previous murder in this valley, as we recall it was another young girl.

ADVICE TO SWIMMERS

With swimming becoming more popular every year, the American Red Cross life saving corps is continually extending its humanitarian activities. Its instructions in life saving is free to every one who can swim.

It is with the welfare of the expert and novice alike at heart that the Red Cross life saving corps has devised and published a number of water safety suggestions and precautions for swimmers. If one is an expert, it will do no harm to be reminded of these precautions; but if you are a beginner, you should learn and observe them.

For self assurance and safety, and for self-confidence on the water, the first essential is to learn to swim, and naturally it is better and quicker to learn right at first, under a competent instructor. Having learned, there are certain precautions that every swimmer should observe.

Don't swim immediately after eating; safety first says wait at least two hours.

Don't swim if overheated.

Don't continue swimming when exhausted; rest and rest.

Don't swim if you are subject to heart failure.

Don't wade or jump into water with your arms over your head. You will not be in readiness to stroke should you step into a hole.

Don't struggle if caught in a swift current or undertow. The force of the current will bring you to the surface.

Don't fight or struggle to swim if you swallow water; clear your wind pipe of water first.

Don't be afraid of a large wave; if it breaks over you, duck under, and you will come up smiling.

Don't call for help in fun; you may need help some time and not get it. In some states it is unlawful to call for help in fun, and is punishable by fine and imprisonment.

If you do need help, call. Don't raise your hands above your head to attract attention, as their weight will sink your head under. Keep them moving under water.

If you swim well, do not misjudge your distance. It takes longer to get back than to go out, as you will be tired.

Don't dive head first without knowledge of the approximate depth of the water, or of possible snags and rocks. If you must go in, go feet first. It is always a good plan to inspect a diving place by swimming under water before trusting yourself to dive, and this takes but little time.

Don't fail to learn the life saving corps methods; and, if possible every swimmer should take the test. Anyone wearing the Red Cross emblem on his swimming suit will be glad to give you information regarding these tests, or ask your instructor.

The local members of the life saving corps are working on a campaign for safeguarding the river in every way possible, that there may be as few careless swimmers and accidents as possible. Their activities last year helped to lower the number of drownings from that of former years, and they greatly increased membership should make itself evident this summer, says the Bandon World.

The North Dakota legislature has made it a crime in that state to smoke in a cafe, hotel dining room or dining car in which women are present. That seems to put it up to the South Dakota legislature to prohibit gun chewing in any place where men are present.—Oregonian.

Have you? If they had not been too thrifty and only be granted. The prohibition was, of course, a violation of the law, but judges and governors and senators were interested spectators. We sometimes wonder if civilization is more than skin deep with the vast majority of people. And yet when it came to fighting a world war three years ago blood and money were poured out unhesitatingly and ungrudgingly for our country and our civilization. It's a queer world—the worst and the best we have ever seen.

"A Tragedy of Nonsense"

In an editorial thus entitled, discussing Coos county's recent tragedy the Oregonian says:

"So pathetically little can be said of any tragedy that there comes an inclination to lay our mental mischiefs at the door of fatality and so cease to fret ourselves. Reflection of this sort cannot fail to arise from the death, at Myrtle Point, of a young woman slain by her sweet-heart, who turned the same pistol upon himself and went out into eternity as murderer and suicide. It cannot be that such crimes are engendered by our modern mode of living; for they are peculiar to no age. The pages of romance and history are stained by them. But their perpetual prevalence does not relieve society of the obligation of seeking the sources in an attempt to prevent or lessen their recurrence.

They had quarreled, it seems, as lovers not infrequently quarrel, over the entrance of jealousy. And while a great many elder folk could have told them that such differences speedily find a way to adjustment and reconciliation, and that if they do not they are not worth the worry, the element of youthful dramatics, unadvised, sped the bullets and left only an opportunity for belated moralizing. And no amount of moralizing will serve to summon the boy and girl back again, or restore to them the enchantment of moon light and the fullness of well-lived lives. Customarily observers of tragedy blame the public news, or the books we read, or our film plays, for these briefly terrible flashes of passion. But none of the stock explanations fits the crime, for we are less inclined to dramatics than ever before."

Old Murder Recalled

G. A. Bennett, pioneer Marshfield editor, recalls a strange coincidence in the tragedy which marked the close of the Myrtle Point Fourth of July celebration, ending in the murder of Emma Wagner and suicide of Bert Clifton, her slayer.

Just forty years ago on the Fourth of July, Charles McCloskey, a well known resident of the Coquille valley, was murdered by Dave Higgins, who made his escape and has never been heard of. Higgins had previously been engaged in a brawl near Norway and McCloskey's brother, who was county commissioner and justice of the peace, fined him. Higgins was again liquor-ed up and not finding Justice McCloskey picked a quarrel with McCloskey's brother Charles, and shot and killed him. He held the officers at bay with his gun, swam the river and disappeared and trace of him was never found.

Binger Hermann on that day was also the Fourth of July orator and Mr. Bennett says it was strange that Mr. Hermann happened to again be the orator Monday.

Warned By a Cat

Toby, a Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad cat, black at jet, born in the Milwaukee roundhouse, was accustomed to noisiness of the machines running in and out. Toby always managed to keep from under the wheels after he had lost his tail under a switch engine. On cold nights he could be found curled up in the cab of his master's "hog."

When the engineer started out he whistled. Toby would make the cab in a jump and curl up at the engineer's feet and go to sleep.

When Toby appeared for the run one evening recently he seemed to have a premonition of evil, for he showed reluctance to board the locomotive, but was finally persuaded.

About 2 o'clock in the morning Toby sprang to his feet and began to dash madly about, clawing at the engineer's feet. Then a light flickered by that told of a high trestle a few miles beyond. The spring rains had made the track "spongy" and raised the stream beneath to a raging torrent.

The engineer knew the bridge had been condemned a few weeks before, so he closed the throttle and jammed on the air. The train came to a stop a few rods from where the headlight showed a chasm that had been spanned by a bridge a few hours before. There were several Pullmans in the train and all occupied.

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EAST FORK NOTES

A family from Powers went out over the Coos Bay wagon road last week in their Dodge bound for a trip to Eugene.

Mrs. Crowley enjoyed a pleasure trip to Brewster Valley the Fourth on the mail truck with Mr. Crowley.

Tom Keweenaw and family spent the Fourth with his folks at Drain.

There were a number from Coquille at the club camp for Sunday and the Fourth.

The stages have loads of passengers these days and cars are passing too numerous to take time to count, and airplanes are buzzing aloft. The East Fork has not the world by the tail, it is the world.

Every once in awhile it will be published and go the rounds that 90 per cent or 95 per cent or some other per cent in the nineties of all the incomes taken in by the United States government goes to pay war debts, past, present or future.

To learn something concerning the truth of those statements, I wrote to the Sec. of the United States treasury for information, and here you have it: "You are advised that no official compilation has ever been made of the total costs of the various wars in which this government has been engaged. It would, therefore, be impossible to give you the percentages requested, and it would also be impracticable for this department to attempt to show the proportion of the receipts of the Government that has been expended for the various classes specified by you. Such unofficial statements along these lines as appear from time to time in the daily press or in statistical publications are largely based upon estimated figures by individuals and vary materially in amounts."

Tried the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Commerce for this 98 per cent evidence, and the reply from that Department is that they have nothing of the kind.

When you read these wonderful percentage statements about the cost of war, remember that they are guesses and that the guesser guesses to boost his windbubbles or they are put out by an adulator, and an "adulator" is a man who knows so much that he don't know. On page 48 of the 1929 report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the statement is made that 90 per cent of the expenditures for that fiscal year were "directly traceable to the war, to past wars, or to preparedness for future wars."

That reminds me of a man in Bette, who complained about the cost of the new baby; he said it cost him \$200 and his wife, the mother of the baby, said, "He is worth it." I say to have helped the world lick hell out of Bill Hohenzollern, alias Billie 2, and all the "infamous breed of Germans was worth "sixty percent" and all the rest that it cost and then some. A saved world "is worth it."

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If you like to laugh don't miss seeing Harold Lloyd in "NUMBER PLEASE?" A Tele-fun comedy at the Liberty Saturday, July 16th. See the Ad. on page seven.