

## The Salem Sampler

(By Hon. Ralph T. Moore)

One of the peculiar quirks of human nature is to magnify little things and to minimize big things. Such things seem to happen without any basis in sound reasoning or logic.

Such was the excitement over House Resolution No. 13 which provided for \$1.00-per-day raise to the secretaries and clerks employed in the House.

With all the current raises granted other types of work, one would think that a measure of this kind, being of small importance, would pass without a lifting of the eye-brow. Particularly should this be so when a majority of the employees are wives of service men.

Yet, because many members employ their wives, the bill was first defeated and then later reconsidered and passed by a close majority.

Place yourself in the position of a member at home for the week-end and accosted by a friend who says: "Well, John, I see you raised your wife's salary in the legislature." Rather a tough spot, is it not?

Stella Cutlip, my able colleague, made quite a hit in the House when she took the floor against House Bill No. 259. Her speech was well conceived and forcefully delivered. Her motion was defeated eventually, but this did not detract from the favorable impression she created.

The bill on which she spoke was a dairy measure of little interest to most of the members, who felt that if the dairymen wanted to use their specific tax for advertising in the magazines, they should be accorded that privilege.

Experienced legislators have little regard for mass telegrams bearing on specific measures. They know that such telegrams are mostly sent under pressure by some organization and are not reliable indication of the sender's true opinion.

It is my advice to those interested in particular legislation that they send personal letters to legislators instead. Much better results will be obtained; a statement over your own signature has great weight, whereas a telegram has practically none.

The tendency of people to judge from outward appearances is shown in the criticism one frequently hears from gallery spectators regarding the brevity of the sessions in the House and Senate.

It is often mentioned that the members meet twice a day in formal session, many of the meeting taking only a few minutes' time, and then adjourning until the next day; thus, apparently working only a half-hour or so for the money, the people voted them last November.

However, most of the work of any legislature is not done on the floor but is thrashed out in committee meetings. Committee members meet after the formal session and debate the various bills for hours before they are returned to the House or Senate for final action. Much study is done by committee members on controversial issues and, let me say here and now, it is certainly no bed of roses to be on one of the main committees. It means a lot of hard, exhausting work.

But the public does not realize this; it bases its opinions on what it sees and hears in the formal sessions.

It used to be my opinion that there were altogether too many lawyers in our legislative halls and that we could very well do without any. I thought they cluttered up the statutes with reams of meaningless words designed to prevent any common person from reading the law intelligently. This session has taught me that a sprinkling of them—good high-grade attorneys—is as essential in a legislature as yeast is in bread.

They keep us from putting the wrong words in the right place and from appearing to say what we did not intend to say.

I doff my hat in respect to the able young attorneys who are my colleagues in this session. Without them, we would do a very sorry job, indeed.

Attention was called to Senate Bill No. 8, which simplifies the obtaining of birth certificates.

It is a measure that will be appreciated particularly by the older people of the state who have had great difficulty in obtaining birth certificates because no supporting documents were in existence. This bill provides that the petitioner himself may tend to the matter by filing a verified document with the county court clerk.

Several bills bearing on the financing of proposed increases in old age assistance are under consideration by the committee on Assessment and Taxation in the House.

It is not generally understood that old age assistance is supported fifty per cent by Federal Government, 30 per cent by the State, and 20 per

cent by the counties. This is true in the state of Oregon only.

If the state increases the number of dollars it pays into the old age assistance fund, it can be readily seen that the counties must increase the number of dollars they pay also. This means that real property in each county must be taxed more heavily to meet the counties' increased share. In other words, any increase in old age assistance means a direct increase in real property taxes all over the state if the present set up is maintained.

To meet this situation another bill has been proposed to have the state pay not less than 60 per cent of the total sum to be raised within the state itself and the counties to raise not more than 20 per cent. Thus, if through the passage of some special state tax, additional sums were raised for the old age assistance fund, the counties will not be required to add to real property taxes in order to meet their share.

Every legislator desires to have the state do its best to take care of our elderly people. The only debate will be over the manner and the amount.

Familiar faces in the halls of the legislature are the several news reporters covering the proceedings for the various dailies and news services.

Each of them have interesting characteristics which I have observed as I watch them work during the sessions and during committee hearings.

First there is Gentle Jenny, an attractive young lady who slips in and out of the meetings quietly and unobtrusively without anyone noticing her. She carries her notebook on a board with a spring clip and jots down a key word here and there to guide her write-up later.

Then there is Herby, the Hawk, who perches at the typewriter close to the speaker's rostrum and pounces on any interesting bill or speech with the unerring accuracy of a diving falcon. He appears to regard the legislature as a sort of sideshow for the amusement of the spectators and newspapermen. And who can prove that he is wrong?

Then there is the Turtle. He is a small, rotund chap of middle age who frequents the committee rooms. His customary position is slumping in an easy chair, half asleep, with his chin in his collar. Whenever a speaker makes a new point bearing on the subject, the turtle pops one eye open, lifts his chin out of his collar, and jots down a few hieroglyphics. It is amazing to me how he can appear to be so oblivious to what is going on and yet never miss a word of importance.

Another one is the Chipmunk who pops in and out of meetings with the briskness and nervous energy of his name-sake. He always seems to pop up in the committee that has the most interesting meeting for the day. If one wishes to be in the thick of the hot fights always, just follow the Chipmunk.

Last we have the Owl who circulates through the chamber with the bored expression of that calm predatory bird. He casts a supercilious eye on every speaker and does not exert himself to even jot down a word or two unless he believes that the speaker has said something worth while.

The work of these people is to me very fascinating. It is a miracle that so much printed matter in the daily papers can be developed from so few scratches on the work sheets these trained reporters carry around. They very seldom miss the mark and my hat is off to them for doing a good job.

One reason why legislators aren't all confined in the asylum for the insane is that incidents such as the following occur often enough to keep them in good humor.

A bill was passed on this morning having to do with certain game fish in the state. With malicious intent, Representative Hall moved that the reading clerk read the entire bill. The motive behind Mr. Hall's motion was not apparent until the clerk turned over the page and ran right into a list of jaw-breaking scientific names for the various species of salmon. He got along fairly well until he hit *Onchorhynchus Tachawytcha*, the name for Chinook Salmon. The house was in an up-roar and it took about five minutes to get peace restored.

To cap the climax, when Representative Steelhammer arose to speak on the bill, the speaker recognized him as Mr. Steel-sus. Representative Snyder, of Lakeview, immediately arose to state that he represented the bachelor-girl secretaries of the House and wishes to ask Mr. Steelhammer if this bill made him a game fish. (Please note that Mr. Steelhammer is the House's only bachelor.)

One of the institutions of the legislature is the regular visit to the Mount Angel Academy at Mount Angel.

The Mount Angel people were a little more generous this year than

## Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

We note where a bill is proposed at the present session of the State Legislature classifying "dog-salmon" as a game fish.

We hate to show our ignorance in the matter concerning "dog-salmon," as we have known them since our kid days, and as many thousands of other anglers have also known them. For "dog-salmon" are the old red, sorebacked fellows that go far up our streams and small creeks to spawn and then die — simply rot away. So, naturally, we are wondering just who would wish to angle for "dog-salmon" and who could possibly eat one after catching it.

Perhaps our education has been sadly neglected and there is a game fish known in some localities as a "dog-salmon," but I know for a fact that in this neck of the woods that the rotting, spawning salmon are the ones known as "dog-salmon" to all the old timers and a large percentage of the angling fraternity.

If the proposed bill is adopted, it will behoove the Game Commission to classify "the dog salmon" that the bill specifies, for the enlightenment of scores of anglers in the coastal section of the state. For a "dog-salmon" is just naturally a "dog-salmon" — sore backed, with fins and tails rotting away. And the thought of partaking of such a fish would cause anyone's stomach to do flip-flops.

There will always be game law violators just so long as there are fish and game. Just so long as a man is allowed to fare forth with gun and rod. It matters not how drastic fines may be concerning violations, there are always a lot of men willing to take a chance on killing game out of season, catching fish out of season, exceeding bag limits, spotlighting deer and commercializing on it as well.

We have in mind one method that would curb violations more than any other method. In fact, it would practically do away with violations entirely. And that is, to make every hunter and every angler a game warden, that purchases a hunting or an angling license. Swear each such person in when he purchases a license, as a deputy game warden and with all the powers as such. That would place every hunter and angler in the hills, in the marshes and on the streams and rivers as a warden. Then, in addition to this, when an arrest was made for any infraction of the game code, allow the warden who makes the arrest one-half of the fine assessed against the violator. That would give them an incentive to be on the alert for violations at all times. Moreover, it would curb the violators, owing to the fact that if each hunter and angler knew that every man that hunts and fishes were wardens and figuring that he could trust none of them to protect him or not to report him for violations, he would be mighty careful about breaking the game laws. It would cut down violations at least 90 per cent and we're betting on it.

usual in extending their hospitality to the members of the legislature, many of whom had never been there before.

The piece-de-resistance of the dinner was sauer-kraut and sausages, the like of which was never brewed before. We are told that the ingredients were grown at Mount Angel and it must be conceded that the people there know how to make sauer-kraut and sausages.

After the dinner a community sing and impromptu speech-making by the legislators was enjoyed, or shall we say, endured.

Transportation both ways was furnished by the Academy.

A legislative program is beginning to jell in what looks as if taxpayers would get a 25 per cent reduction in income taxes. The real property taxpayers will get some benefit from the kick-back in income taxes to the school districts if that goes through as seems likely at this writing.

A hot debate took place at the fish bill hearing between those who advocate giving the fish commission authority to open or close streams and those who oppose it. The truck bill is dormant for the present and its fate seems uncertain.

The merging of the several commissions as proposed by the Governor, is meeting with sharp opposition and may not be done. Many legislators feel that the saving and overhead will not be great enough to make such a change worth-while.

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State House, Salem, Feb. 11—Governor Snell's tax program seems to have bogged down, so another tax message from the governor was delivered to the house a few days ago. The majority of the legislators have not seen eye to eye with the governor on tax matters; hence his recommendation to the lawmakers on that most important subject hit a snag early in the session. The governor wants no reduction of any kind made in the state income tax. However, many of the legislators in both houses think differently, and several bills have been introduced calling for a reduction in all income tax brackets. The lawmakers point to the four million surplus now on hand and to the high federal taxes all must pay, as their argument for an income tax reduction. Some very hot arguments have taken place in the ways and means committee and several debates on the matter have reached the floor of both houses. From now on the fur is bound to fly on the subject of taxes.

Senator Strayer, of Baker, and, incidentally, several other members of the upper chamber are very unhappy over the way the house is holding up senate bills, which they charge have been in house committees for a month or more. However, the real lowdown is that the house has put everything aside in order to push through their tax programs. All tax bills must originate in the house, hence the house always has this hot potato to wrestle with in every session before it reaches the senate. As a rule, all of the wrinkles have been ironed out of all such bills before

they reach the upper chamber and all the boys have to do is to vote. That's the reason so much of the house's time is taken up with these matters.

A deal is in the making to obtain about \$3,000,000 for a new state hospital "without cost to the taxpayer." Last session a bill was put through adding 50 cents to all auto drivers' licenses to take care of indigent hospital cases resulting from automobile accidents. In two years this fund has accumulated about \$250,000. Only about \$18,000 has been used, leaving a very handsome balance, and it has given some of the lawmakers a few good ideas for obtaining enough money for a hospital. The thought is to place a small state tax on all beer parlors and perhaps a small tax on liquor, earmarking all such revenue for a new state hospital. It is estimated that in two years this would yield about \$4,000,000. That's about the time materials, labor, etc., would be available for such a purpose, and the state would have the money to do the job. No one would squawk, so to speak, about such a tax and it would be as near painless as could be expected. It may be that the lawmakers will also ask for another 50 cents on drivers' licenses for this fund.

To Rep. Joe Harvey, of Portland, goes the honor of an all-time high for defeated bills. Harvey has introduced 13 bills of which 10 have been killed. All pertained to morals or liquor. A few days ago he succeeded in putting over his first bill, an act to close all beer parlors and wine shops on election day. For one who has taken it on the chin as often as Mr. Harvey he has proved himself a mighty good sport. Never once has he shown any trace of anger when his pet measures went down under an avalanche of No votes, and that's much more than can be said of many legislators. Representative Perry of Columbia county now holds the lead for bills introduced with 14 to his credit, and Wallace of Portland still holds first honors in the senate with 11.

At the close of business Monday, March 1, the legislature will wind up its 50th day of the session. From then on the lawmakers will work without pay. From the looks of things

now, it's almost a certainty the boys will be there for at least another week after March 1, unless they hold many night sessions. Most all of the important bills are yet to be acted upon. At the last election the voters extended the regular session from 40 to 50 days, but when you take eight Sundays and two legal holidays out of this total it only leaves 40 days of working time, and that's mighty short for legislative business once every two years. Not for close to 30 years has the legislature been able to complete its chores in the allotted time and go home.

Observations from the press box: Jim Bain, district attorney of Multnomah county, looks things over... and so does Al Brown, county auditor; he wants his salary raised... Ralph Cate, the republican bigwig, whispers in attentive ears of the lawmakers... Dave Eccles, ex-budget director, drops in to talk shop... Wallace in the senate and Harvey in the house do most of the orating... And the secretaries now get \$6 per day... and their pay doesn't stop on the 50th day... it goes on and on until the session adjourns sine die.

## Old Oregon Trail Being Featured

The "Oregon Plan for the Observance of the Old Oregon Trail Centennial, 1843-1943" is being given wide circulation in the schools of Oregon and other Trail states. It has been endorsed by the leading educators in Oregon and elsewhere, and was adopted and recommended by the American Pioneer Trails Association. The Oregon Council, American Pioneer Trails Association, which formulated the plan, and the Centennial Advisory Commission appointed by the governor of Oregon, have passed this on to the teachers of America who will be interested in this great national observance. The purpose of the Oregon Plan is to teach Americanism to Americans through activities. Dr. Howard Driggs, National President of the American Pioneer Trails Association declares that "The place to teach America to Americans is in our schools."

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