

Illinois Valley News

An independent newspaper devoted to the development of the Illinois Valley and its surrounding districts.

Published every Thursday at Cave Junction, Oregon, by the Illinois Valley Publishing Company.

Entered as second-class matter June 11, 1937, at the Post Office at Cave Junction, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Josephine County	
One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	\$1.25
Outside Josephine County	
One Year	\$3.00



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FRIDAY

One would hardly think it necessary to urge people to get out and exercise their franchise to choose the representatives who will speak for them in the seats of government. Yet it is.

Since the hard days of the Revolution, millions of Americans have fought and died for freedom—the freedom that is symbolized and personified in our free elections. But too many other Americans take this freedom for granted. "Oh well, my one vote won't change anything." You are wrong, brother; your one vote has changed a lot of things.

In the first place, there is no such thing as "one vote" in that sense. When you speak of "my one vote," you are actually speaking of the millions of other Americans like yourself who also have one vote; as a collective entity you have millions of votes. In every large election, at least a million members of this entity fail to cast their "one vote," for very much the same reasons, and instead of one vote it is a million votes. And the reasons, in 98 percent of the cases, are carelessness and pure laziness. The polls are open all day, and if you have no transportation there are many volunteers who will take you to the polls with no obligation upon you whatever.

Time was, and in the United States too, when everyone was not eligible to vote; when only men of property were considered competent to run the country's affairs, and a citizen without real estate had no voice or vote in the government. It took a long and bitter social struggle to establish the generally accepted principle that

every adult citizen is entitled to a vote. We say "generally accepted" because there are still places in this country, not Oregon fortunately, where many of the humbler citizens are "discouraged" from voting by various artifices and requirements of law. It took an amendment to the constitution to establish woman's right to the franchise, and that in 1920—30 scant years ago.

And already the privilege is taken for granted, and many of the people for whom this great struggle was carried on do not have the initiative to take ten minutes out for the purpose of making some X's on a piece of paper.

Many of the phases of a primary election are more important than the general elections, yet they invariably get a much smaller "play" from the voting public than the generals. The public has a much better chance to select its own candidate (as opposed to the "party" or machine candidate) in the primaries than in the finals. In the general elections the choice has been narrowed, and the voter is often faced with a choice of two inferior candidates who slipped in because no one was watching the door during the primaries.

Oddly enough, many people who don't take the trouble to vote are extremely resentful when someone tries to tell them how to vote—they feel, and rightly, that the vote is theirs and that they are competent to pick the man to receive it. We won't try to tell you how to vote—we only hope you will vote for someone. May this serve to remind you that voting is not only a privilege but a DUTY.

Why Public Welfare Files Are Confidential

Questions frequently arise concerning the inability of the public welfare office to reveal the names or information concerning public assistance recipients. Oregon law provides, in conformity with the Federal Social Security Act, that public assistance records are confidential. This means that the information in these records cannot be revealed to outside persons without the written consent of the recipients. Basically, the law serves several purposes.

It is designed to help the welfare agency obtain a full and complete statement from the applicant or recipient of all resources and obligations in order that proper assistance plans can be made—only by assuring the person that information will be held in strict confidence can it be expected that they will feel free to reveal all aspects of their situation.

And as a means to help a person preserve his personal integrity it serves a very valuable purpose in helping to rehabilitate that person. Thus in preventing the public stigmatization of a person as a "pauper" it serves the long-run goal of helping that person help himself.

In a measure the utility of the law has been proved by historical experience which shows too frequently the use of information in assistance records as a pressure device on one to be used for political ends. Thus, in the past, too often the way a man voted, or who he campaigned for, had a great influence on the "relief" he received. The law is designed to obviate that so far as possible.

Finally the law is a recognition, in the best democratic tradition of the worth and dignity of the individual and his right to privacy. The confidentiality of census information and income tax returns is based pretty largely on that ground and differs little from the information required of welfare applicants. It can hardly be assumed that the need of public assistance automatically forfeits all rights to privacy in all matters concerning need and income.

It should always be borne in mind that any information can be obtained from these records on the written consent of the person concerned.

CATHOLIC MISSIONARY SERVICES SCHEDULED

Catholic Missionary services will be held next week in the Valley at the O'Brien Women's clubhouse from Sunday, May 21, through Thursday, May 25.

The schedule includes Sunday mass at nine a.m., daily mass at seven a.m. and evening services at 7:30 p.m.

Cave Junction To Play Glendale Here On Sunday

Cave Junction will play Glendale in a baseball game Sunday, May 21, at two o'clock, at Rambler's Roost.

Vic Smith, secretary of the Rogue Valley Baseball league, has furnished us with the following schedule for the Illinois Valley Baseball club:

May 14—Cave Jet. at Central Pt.
May 21—Glendale at Cave Jet.
May 28—Cave Jet. at Eagle Point
June 4—Prospect at Cave Jet.
June 11—Cave Jet. at Butte Falls
June 18—Central Pt. at Cave Jet.
June 25—Cave Jet. at Glendale
July 2—Eagle Point at Cave Jet.
July 9—Cave Jet. at Prospect
July 16—Butte Falls at Cave Jet.
July 23—Cave Jet. at Central Pt.
July 30—Glendale at Cave Jet.
Aug. 6—Cave Jet. at Eagle Point
Aug. 13—Prospect at Cave Jet.
Aug. 20—Cave Jet. at Butte Falls
Aug. 27—Central Pt. at Cave Jet.

Poppies Bring Aid To War Disabled

How disabled veterans of both world wars are aided by Poppy Day contributions was described today by Mrs. Hugh White, rehabilitation chairman of Glenn-Morrison unit of the American Legion Auxiliary, as the auxiliary continued preparations for the observance of Poppy Day here on Saturday, May 27.

"The dimes, quarters and dollars which people contribute in exchange for their memorial poppies form the backbone of the financial support for the extensive activities carried out constantly by the auxiliary for the welfare of the disabled veterans," Mrs. Hugh White said. "If it were not for the generosity of the millions of people who wear the little red poppy each year in memory of the war dead, the many services of the auxiliary to the living victims of the two wars could not be carried out."

"Poppy Day contributions are used to bring comfort and cheer to disabled veterans in the hospitals. They provide aid for disabled men outside of the hospitals who are having difficulties in re-establishing themselves economically. They help care for the children of disabled veterans while the veterans are undergoing hospital treatment. They pay the wages which mean so much to the veterans who make the poppies. The coin dropped into the collection box of an auxiliary volunteer on Poppy Day works for the disabled veterans throughout the year."

Mrs. Hugh White will distribute poppies on Poppy Day with other auxiliary members and volunteers from other organizations.

"It will be tiring, unaccustomed work for me," she said, "but I feel it is just about the most worthwhile work I can ever do. It keeps fresh the inspiring memory of the war dead, and brings aid to those stricken defenders of our country who are still within the reach of human help."

Pep Club Retains Officers For Year's Remainder

Pep club officers at the high school, named just after the first of the year, were elected to remain for the coming school year at a meeting held recently.

Officers include Charline McDaniels, president; Lillie Scott, vice-president, and Jerrine Masoner, secretary-treasurer.

The club is just beginning to function properly, according to Miss Sella, advisor, and is now in the process of planning its next year's program.

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