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A FACT NOT A THEORY

A little over 25 years ago the city of Moro through its council decided to put curbing on some of its streets and pave the intersections while the county and state were putting a highway through the town.

The intersections cost \$10,500 in bonds, now paid. The curbs were paid for under the then new Bancroft act by which the property that benefited was to pay for the curbs. The bonds were a general obligation of the city; both for curbs and intersections.

Some of the property owners paid cash, some took advantage of a ten year payment plan paying six percent interest, which the Bancroft act specifies as proper. As happened with many other obligations payment practically ceased along in 1929 or 1930. Some owed one or two payments and some owed more.

Interest still continues at six percent on unpaid balances. From 1935 until 1939 there was a state law that permitted cities to adjust the interest or cancel it. The legislature passed the law for another two year period in the 1939 session and Governor Sprague vetoed it, saying that it was unconstitutional inasmuch as the constitution provides that, "no law impairing the obligations of contracts, shall ever be passed." That being the case there is nothing the city can do to abate or cancel the lien or the interest. The lien will remain against the property until paid and the interest will accumulate at the rate of six percent a year until the lien is paid.

The present city administration has notified property owners with liens against their property three times of the existence of the liens. The city is not obligated to do so, no more than a tax collector must give notice of delinquent taxes.

During the 25 years period the city has had many officials who handled its money. It is possible that some payments have been made that are not recorded on the books. The city will be glad to rectify any errors that have been made.

The city is making no particular effort to collect the liens other than formal notification of their existence. It is possible that some property owners appreciate the information about liens against their holdings. Whether the members of the city government are saints or scrooges changes the situation not at all. The lien will not outlaw.

In 1925 the city constructed a sewer under similar provisions as the curbing. Assessments for payment of that debt have not all been paid. Conditions regarding them are identical to those regarding the curbing.

REVENGE TRIALS

Yet this month the allies are going to try a couple dozen of their recent enemies and thereby are going to accept the Nazi doctrine that physical might shall rule the world. We are giving notice that no one shall have other views of international morals than those we profess.

Allied generals and other public officials captured by the Nazis were seldom treated as criminals. We are saying that no one, friend or enemy, dare diverge from the ideals of the most powerful country or coalition. That is, in effect, the idea that Germany was trying to put over in the world. We fought against the idea espoused by the Nazis; now we accept it and go farther with it than its originators dared to go.

We are as arrogant in insisting on our theory as were the prisoners. We are as sure we are right. We kill off opposition lead-

ers like Nazis did away with Dillfus, but we are such sticklers for the forms of law that we offer them a trial as a preliminary.

It has been hundreds of years since civilized men tried the leaders of the opposition. It may be presumed that all of them followed their conscience, probably followed it as honestly and thoroughly as did Roosevelt, Churchill or Stalin. If the world is to accept the theory that a man is guilty of international crime who follows his conscience, it has gone a long ways back toward barbarism.

For centuries no soldier has been held as prisoner after peace was agreed upon. He has been allowed to go home. For centuries no general has been tried for fighting against the ultimate victor. That policy seems to express a higher morality than does the doctrine of revenge and the doctrine of making every enemy soldier a criminal.

That is assuming that a soldier on the losing side commits a crime not perhaps because he didn't win, but because he fought against the ideals of the victor. By that means the victor assumes moral superiority won by might. That is wrong.

The CIO UAW leaders and the officers of General Motors are still insulting each other which means that the strike has to go on for some time. Until they get down to an understanding of each others problems and a realization that there are two sides to the question there is little hope of peace.

Attendants at the football game in Portland last Saturday now know that Moro has a better football field than Portland. Ours has less mud and more grass.

It is likely that Russia will not change much even if Joe does pass out of the picture. In that case concern over whether he is working or ill becomes curiosity.

Chester Bowles and the president should get their stories together if they want to impress the citizen. Chester says we've got to hold prices down to prevent inflation and the president says wages ought to go up. Maybe we can do both, but the thought of it is reminding of the time a rodeo performer tried the Roman race until his horses connecting strap broke.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could get about five feet of this white stuff that's trying to fall this week. While the ground is unfrozen a big snow would soak up the earth clear to bed-rock and springs would run that have been forgotten since 1932.

The atomic bomb seems capable of stirring up diplomatic explosions as well as physical ones.

In Other Days

From the Observer, Nov. 9, 1906

Firms advertising were Carmody Bros, Menefee & Wilson, Hosford & Ragsdale, O. J. Goffin, E. V. Littlefield, W. A. Gordon Co., J. H. Sachs, Dr. J. F. James, L. W. Shanks Grass Valley, Wm Rudolf, O. W. Axtell, E. S. Sells, J. W. Messinger, J. M. DDunahoo.

We had a pleasant visit from B. W. Anson whose home near Klondike is the envy of Columbia Southern travelers.

Carl Williams of Grass Valley is thinking of locating in Hood River or The Dalles. Miss Baueh is attending school in The Dalles.

The Ladies Aid society is thinking of giving a drama and oyster supper the latter part of the month.

From the Observer, Nov. 12, 1926

Virgil Cushman was a business visitor in Moro coming across Cottonwood grade from Condon. He says the grade is in bad condition.

Moro and Grass Valley boys and girls teams played volleyball Wednesday evening at Grass Valley and both games were won by Moro by scores of 2 to 1.

Mrs Clara Ward is a visitor here from Boyd with her parents Mr and Mrs Hans Thompson.

Fifty friends and neighbors attended the Dorcas society meeting at E. T. Strong Wednesday afternoon.

From the Observer, Nov. 10, 1926

George Simon will auction his farming equipment and stock at his farm near Rutledge on Nov. 16, G. C. Huls, auctioneer.

J. B. Holman has leased his

People's Column

The following letter was received by Mr and Mrs Andrew Thompson from their grandson, Ted Thompson, now in Japan.

Hiro, Japan

October 21, 1945

Dear Gramp & Gram:

It has been a long time since I have written to you. I should have written a long time ago. Moving and all of the extra work that we have been doing has kept us pretty busy.

We left Zamboanga, Mindanao on the 18th of September and got to this place Hiro, Japan on the 7th of October. We stopped a few days in Okinawa on the way up but didn't get to go on shore.

Hiro is about 9 miles from Kure and about 25 miles from Hiroshima on the southern tip of the island of Honshu.

I have been to both Kure and Hiroshima. Not very much of anything left to look at either. Hiroshima is where they dropped the first atomic bomb. The city itself was about like Portland as far as size goes. They had some real nice buildings and lots of factories there. But where the bomb hit you can't tell by looking at it what was there. The worst is about 3 or 4 miles square and all that is standing is two buildings. The rest of it is as flat as can be. Just piles of junk where once may have been a big building or factory of some kind. Its really hard to believe how much damage that one bomb did.

Kure is one of Japans big naval bases. We have a Quartermaster Depot there. It was pretty well burned out by fire bombs and what not.

Here in Hiro they had some factories too that were all wrecked. In my spare time I have walked around through some of them and saw what sort of machinery that they have. We see all makes of tools and lathes and machinery like that and a good share of them were made in the U.S.A. Most of their big machinery is ours cranes and presses and stuff like that.

They had one under ground factory here. It is still in good condition. Dug out of the side of a hill. You can drive a truck around in it and its about a mile or more long with rows of different kinds of equipment on both sides.

Its a good thing that we didn't have to make an invasion on this place. It would have been a very costly mission to my notion. You see Kure and Hiroshima are on the Inland Sea and it could be well guarded. Narrow straights lead into it. None of it is very wide at any place.

Lots of Love, Ted

farm to W. C. Miller who also buys the farming equipment. The Holmans left Tuesday for Portland.

Deputy Sheriff Ross Ornduff and wife left Wednesday for a few days vacation going as far as Camas, Washington.

R. J. Ginn is having a concrete walk and wall built around his residence.

GEORGE G. UPDEGRAFF Attorney At Law Moro and Wasco

Lureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of each month. Visiting members are cordially invited to meet with us. C. A. Ruggles, W. M. W. D. Wallan, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Clara Houston, N.G. Florence Johnston, Sec.

Moro Lodge No. 113, I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us. Ernest Houston N. G. A. R. Kessinger, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78, O.E.S. Meets Every Second and Fourth Thursdays in each month. Visiting Members invited.—Moro, Oregon Rose Amidon, W. M. Ruth Spurling, Secretary

Washington Column

Continued from page one.

This is the production schedule of General Motors. Congress was not advised as to what Ford production is or will be. The main idea of the manufacturers is to get their cars into the hands of dealers as rapidly as possible.

Navy plans to train 3000 aviation students a year in its post-war program. Students must have at least two years in college. They will be given one year of training and two years of active duty with the fleet, after which selection will be made and the best will be transferred to the regular navy, the others remain-

ing on an inactive status. This will assure a steady stream of new blood in navy aviation. Top men in the war will be given an opportunity to take refresher courses from time to time so they may retain the "feel" of the planes.

Treasury department does not like the number of "E" bonds that are being turned in. These are the bonds which were pushed by the big drives and were purchased by "the people" and not by corporations or wealthy individuals. The turn-in discloses that many persons are cashing bonds to carry them along until they are settled in peacetime pursuits.

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IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR SHERMAN COUNTY. In Matter of the Estate of Ellen E. Sommer, deceased. SS. Notice to Creditors.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that Irma Laffoon and Elsie Martin the administratrix of the above entitled estate have rendered and presented and filed their final account therein, with the above entitled Court, and that Monday the 3rd day of Dec. 1945 at 10 o'clock A. M. in the County Court room, in the County Court house in Moro, Sherman County, Oregon has been appointed as a time and place for a hearing on and final settlement of said account, and of hearing any objections thereto. First Publication being Oct. 19, 1945.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Factory versus Farm: A Draw

Mel Bates and Jud Polk were arguing the other day about the factory versus the farm. Jud has a job in the tool works and Mel grows the best corn in the county.

"Where would you farmers be," Jud says, "if it weren't for the factories that make your plows and tractors?"

"And where would you factory workers be," says Mel, "unless we farmers grew the food that keeps you going?"

Well, they called it a draw, and made peace over a glass of beer, "brewed from golden farmer's grain," allows Jud, "... and bottled and kept wholesome by the ingenuity of industry." Mel adds politely.

From where I sit, we may have different occupations, different standards, different opinions... but we're all necessary to one another. And the more we skip the differences, and stress the bigger issues of co-operation, tolerance, and understanding... the closer we are to a better world.

Joe Marsh

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Grangers Grow Social Crops that benefit all Oregonians. R.F.D. MAIL BOXES along country roads are symbols of a Grange achievement. Oregon was one of the first States to have rural delivery of mail. The route, south of Salem, was established on an experimental basis in 1898. The success of this and similar routes in other parts of the country led to the extension of R.F.D. to every part of America. Projects of this nature are as vital a part of Grange policy as better agriculture itself. That is why 28,000 progressive farmers belong to the Oregon State Grange—why membership continues to grow—why the Grange is a dominant force for social progress. Information about the purpose and accomplishments of the Oregon State Grange is contained in a booklet "Let's Look at the Record". Contact your local Grange for copy, or write direct.

OREGON STATE GRANGE 1135 S.E. Salmon St., Portland 14, Oregon 7