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**ROAD ELECTION**

Voters of Road District No. 1, Sherman county, are going to vote, May 26, on a special levy for roads. It is being held under an obsolete law designed for the times when road districts were small and a very few citizens lived in each one. The law has been remodeled to an extent so that a public and secret vote is now mandatory.

The resolution which put this road levy on the ballot calls for continuance of the five man board. This board, composed of public-spirited citizens, has been advising the county court for two years. It was named by a gathering of citizens to advise the court because the citizens apparently felt insufficient confidence in the court.

The five man board has advisory authority without responsibility. And that is a poor thing in government. This is not to decry the often excellent advice the board has given the court nor cast reflection on the members.

Should the special levy be defeated the budget committee could then levy in excess of the six percent limitation and raise money that would be expended by the court itself. There would be fewer restrictions, most of which handicap the proper expenditure of the money.

All of the county would have a say in the election. As it is only those residing in Road District No. 1 can vote. A farm owner living in town cannot vote although he may pay many times the taxes of a farm laborer living on a farm. The cities would share in the voting although not in the expenditure for it is unlikely that any of the road money would be spent inside the towns. Its use, however, would help the towns through better roads.

It is apparent that the county cannot have the kind of roads it wants without special funds. But more co-ordinated management might result if authority were concentrated in the county's official governing body.

**GENEVA**

The United States could not help but agree to the series of international conferences the first of which was held at Berlin and the one now going on at Geneva. Our allies, England and France, wanted to meet with the Russians and old Churchill felt that he could handle them, overlooking the poor record of an American president who thought he could handle the Japanese.

The first conference resulted in the second because France wanted to get out of the Indo-China war so badly. It has brought Red China to the table with other conferees and given them a psychological stimulus they needn't have obtained.

Because our allies are so anxious for more foreign trade—and

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also because there are powerful forces in this country demanding the same thing—our policy of isolation of Russia and her allies cannot be continued. We are going to trade with our enemies, directly or indirectly, and our allies are going to do more of it. If we are to refuse to be isolationists in diplomacy, we are going to refuse to be isolationists in economics. After any great war there is always a period when international relations are difficult and suspicion is rife. If we are able to get through it—and it will take 20 years or more—the world may settle down for a long period of peace. And perhaps peace would be of more help to the so-called democratic nations than to the so-called dictatorships of communism.

**ON SEEING A FAT WOMAN GET OUT OF A CAR**

Obesity, which comes from over-eating, is an emotional ailment, we read. The story went on to say that people eat because they are unhappy, worried, fretful or upset and mainly because they have nothing else to do.

We had thought that maybe good tasting food had something to do with it but that wasn't considered in the article in question.

There used to be fat people in the days when education was partially designed to aid students to entertain themselves. They were taught to read, to paint, perhaps to play musical instruments and there was training in physical pursuits such as milking cows and tending gardens—both now gone professional and obsolete as far as the average householder is concerned.

With nothing to do and with no training in self-entertainment the modern goes to the cupboard—no, refrigerator—and indulges in the animal instinct of feeding the face, a pleasurable occupation and one that takes the mind off the snide remark heard at the card party, the failure to win advancement, the fit of the new dress or the boredom of the daily job.

The thin folks, we take it from the writer's conclusions, are the better adjusted. They have things to do, more interests, fewer frustrations. They do their eating at meal times and keep busy between times.

We wouldn't know. However, doesn't it beat the deuce how some one is always breaking into print with simple solutions to everything? And some of them delve into the subconscious for their answers. Who is to say whether they are right or wrong? We have as many theories about living as we have gadgets to live with. Gadgets aren't restricted to mechanical-things but extends over into thought.

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**People's Column**

To the Editor:

Your article commenting on the present and past program of building county roads was quite meritorious. Naturally I couldn't go along 100 per cent.

The big gripe is, the county court has no program. Especially an extended one. The taxpayers wonder just why not do as Gilliam and Morrow counties.

If the taxpayers want such a program I submit one on a pay as we go. Give us this 6 mill tax that we may get everybody out of mud, then vote a 4 year ten mill tax and pave 50 miles of road.

This would benefit every citizen in the county, pave at least 5 miles east and west from 97 to all five towns. I will name a

few must roads, 6 miles north of Wasco, this is the heaviest traveled county road carrying one-half of 97 east travel, 7 miles of the Hockman road, 5 miles Lonerock, 8 miles east of Grass Valley and 5 miles each east and west of Kent. This program would cost 4 mills more each year than the present 6 mill special and would require a county vote. According to the letters I am receiving this

is the plan most of the correspondents want. Of course, this plan would require planning. Next year the Root corner road will be on the agenda. The highway will probably pave from Wasco to Klondike. Grass Valley is paved to the Deschutes.

The county could keep rocking dirt roads on county budget. This plan would save rebuilding the heavy traveled county roads. The court and five man board pledged themselves to carry out a promise to spread the funds equally between the five districts. A broken promise causes war. Let's not bond the county at this

time, we know not what awaits us.  
C. A. Tom  
County Judge

Election on a levy above the six percent limitation for the Rural School District will be held next Monday, May 17. Every voter in the county is eligible to cast a ballot in the election which will be held in school houses in the towns of the county.

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