

Sherman County Journal
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Giles L. French, Editor
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ELECTION DAY BLUES

This is election day. Across the nation men and women of sufficient physical maturity are going into booths to mark in elaborate secret their preferences for candidates and measures. What are they voting for?

If Oregon is a fair sample—and we think it is—these millions of voters are voting for more services from government and therefore more government. In fact, there is little else to vote for. Since the grandest giveaway of all—the new deal—candidates have vied with each other in promises to deliver more things to more people. Republicans held off for some time, but succumbed in the end.

In these days a national election is a sort of public auction of the nation's resources. Voters are promised bigger payments to "senior citizens", more public money for local schools, bigger and better highways, earlier pensions for women, more and easier "rocking chair" money, more public improvements. A visitor might conclude that the functions of government were merely a slicing of pie instead of a very complicated job of management.

Alexis deToqueville, a wise Frenchman came to this country 125 years ago to study the then new system of government we had inaugurated. He reported that democracy might work very well until some demagogue arose to show the citizens how to acquire the possessions of the wealthy by their votes. We have had that demagogue.

So far the rich have been able to hold their own to some extent. When taxes are raised, prices are raised. When some super-demagogue stops that there will soon be no goods, no production, no jobs, no democracy.

The political observers say that we have a new concept in this country, a concept that government is responsible for the welfare of its citizens. Well, government is certainly working at it if candidates are to be believed. Let's see, there's a government unit to give advice and aid to expectant mothers, examination of pre-school age children, and of course schools are an especial concern of government from the district to the federal government, out of school the graduate can get a job from private firms, or if not, then from government. When that is lost there is unemployment compensation and welfare money. In time there is social security and a citizen can be lowered into grave without a wrinkle of care on his cold brow.

According to the teaching of biology such humans would be very poor things to depend on in a pinch. It takes adversity to make a man, responsibility to make character. Of course, government cannot go on being all things to all people. There is no example in history of a government lasting very long after it tried.

SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS

The Sherman County Journal starts its 68th year this week and by any human method of estimating that is quite a long time. It has had as many names as a movie actress in that time, Wasco Observer, Moro Observer, Sherman County Observer and Sherman County Journal. It has also devoured some rather husky competitors including the Grass Valley Journal, Wasco News-Enterprise, Moro Leader, People's Republic, Kent Recorder and the Grant Dispatch and all have added something to the end product. Whichever one had survived would have by now been called the Sherman County something or other and would probably have been little different from this newspaper. Survival depends on meeting certain conditions in man and in newspaper and the conditions determine the result.

Here, at this time, after a full 68 years, the present editor, himself a sort of veteran of more than a third of those years thinks that some thing should be said in retrospect if not in prophesy.

This newspaper is older than the county by more than a year and the first editor could have taken credit for some of the work preparatory to the formation of the county. Back in those days there was a larger population than now; there were more stores all housed in flimsy wooden buildings and selling everything for which there was a demand; there was a full complement of professional men. Social life was

right in the community. There weren't any banks and the money lender would have foreclosed on any homesteader foolish enough to go to Portland for a sports event.

Families lived in homestead cabins with blue flags and yellow roses in the front yard and inside walls covered with newspaper unless some boughten wall paper with pink roses on it had superseded that utilitarian covering. They drank Arbuckles coffee ground fresh every morning and never drove to town for a loaf of bread. They wore rough woolen clothing and heavy shoes—and underwear. Most of them were in debt and paying interest at ten per cent.

The newspaper was set by hand and run off on a Washington hand, two operations, believe it or not, that gave printers strong backs and big muscles. Farm machinery was as slow and back breaking.

As we sit here this November day, late in 1956, looking out the window at the brick buildings, the paved streets lined with modern automobiles we wonder why recount all this. And there seems one very good reason. The world has moved very fast these last 68 years and is still moving. The direction is toward more ease for humans, more entertainment and more knowledge. A man's information and opinion gets obsolete more quickly now than ever before. No adult can get along on what he learned in youth; he must keep everlastingly at it to keep up with the fast moving times.

That we are going fast doesn't mean we are going in the right direction. Those who constantly check the map and ask for a less heavy foot on the throttle may be performing a service.

ELECTION APPRAISAL

The returns are not all in as we write this although there are enough to indicate some trends that to this writer seem important.

Everyone with a typewriter will try to appraise the election returns and everyone with a voice will join in. It is a great American game and fortunately some one is always right—or near enough that he can boast about it for months.

To us the election seemed to confirm a conservative trend in American politics. Eisenhower stood for a more conservative attitude toward government than Stevenson who made some extravagant charges. Several senate seats changed hands, Republicans electing the rather conservative and sensible John Sherman Cooper in Kentucky, the Democrats elected the very conservative Lausche in Ohio over the fast

talking Bender, the Republicans apparently kept Dirksen in Illinois, in California Kuchel defeated a radical Richards. Wiley, Hickenlooper, Capehart were all elected and all are solid sensible men. Clark beat Duff in Pennsylvania but Duff had not been an effective senator. Wagner lost in New York thus eliminating a man with a famous new deal name.

The only part of the nation to vote new dealish was the Pacific Northwest where Church, Morse and Magnuson were all elected. Conservatives from the south were chosen easily for the south is conservative.

We think there is less chance for new deal actions in the northwest with this section radical and the remainder of the nation conservative than if we had been conservative and the remainder of the nation new dealish. The coalition of conservatives in the senate have some good material for recruits and we think the radicals from the northwest will have little effect on national legislation.

In Oregon the Democrats, with a first time majority to spur them, voted in party members regardless of political philosophy, putting Ullman and Porter in the house of representatives, Holmes in the governor's chair for two years and taking the ruling hand in both house and senate of the state legislature. They stopped only at electing Sweetland.

The emergence of the Democratic party as the majority party in Oregon should cause the leaders of that party to be more careful of the kind of candidates they nominate. As long as they were not going to be elected anyway the sensible Democrats let the new dealers propose the candidates and then voted against them. Now, with greater responsibility on the Democrats, they can be expected to give the voters some candidates of better merit.

For sound legislation it is not a bad thing that Democrats may have a more workable majority in the senate. That will make it much more difficult for a switch-shitting radical like Morse to throw his weight around. Magnuson will play with the conservatives and probably Church will learn that that is the better policy.

That congress is Democratic and the administration Republican makes for many battles but the wisdom of Eisenhower and of the elder senators should make it possible to obviate unnecessary clashes.

Everyone will have many reasons for the success or defeat of candidates. These, we believe, are likely to be fallacious. If any one knew why people vote as they do he could become a political seer of wide renown. So far none has qualified; the voter is still a mystery.

WANT ADS

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Frank J. Ketter has been appointed by the County Court of Sherman County, Oregon, as the Administrator of the estate of Pearl Garrett, deceased, and has qualified.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified as required by law, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Dated and first published this 9th day of November, 1956. FRANK J. KETTER Administrator

A. J. Moore Bend, Oregon Attorney for Administrator 1-4c

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against the Estate of Oral M. Gosson, deceased, are required to present them with vouchers to the undersigned, at the office of Dick & Dick, Rooms 19 and 20, Vogt Block, The Dalles, Oregon, within six months from the date

of the first publication of this Notice. The date of the first publication of this notice is November 2, 1956.

LAVILLA MORRISON Administratrix

DICK & DICK
The Dalles, Oregon Attorneys for the Estate 53-3c

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MODIFY WEATHER CONDITIONS

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

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As a newspaperman, I hate to admit it—but facts are facts. The Windys of this world aren't only quicker news spreaders

Joe Marsh

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