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Musings

By an Innocent Bystander

We have been told to cut the grass in front of our office window before we holler about the city's back lot across the street. That's always the way—someone is always nagging at us to do something. We can't even let that pile of rubbish in back of our sanctum rest in peace. The neighbors say we ought to be cleaning it up right now.

If people would only learn that editors are like the preacher who said "do as I say, not as I do." That is—or should be—the editorial prerogative. We poor mortals who must spend our lives telling the world of the happenings of the day and who are of necessity forced to comment thereon, are usually too lazy or too busy, or too something to be bothered by a little pile of rubbish at our own back door. But for the sake of peace and harmony we shall strive to remove the offending matter soon.

Isn't the Valley beautiful just now? Where on this earth could one find a fairer view than that lying about us? Even the clouds of black smoke from the orchards these mornings add to the beauty of the scene, at least for those of us so fortunate as not to live where we get the full benefit of that same smudge. Reading the "Smudge Pot" is enough for most of us.

But just the same, these clear, sharp mornings give one a wonderful feeling. One can step livelier and breathe deeper and thank his Maker for just being alive. There is something about a clear, frosty morning which quickens the blood and makes one feel almost young again.

It does beat the band how far-reaching this beautifying contest seems to be. This week we had a pleasant call from the "banker poet" Art Perry so loves to take a slap at, who brought with him the state representative of the Federal Housing Administration from Portland. Both gentlemen spoke in the highest terms of the idea behind the contest and said that they hoped to see other towns follow our example. And we hear that people in far distant places are taking notice of what Central Point is doing.

This writer can never get used to having folks from other cities and far-away places telling us they saw this or that in The American. Our little paper seems so trivial sometimes. But its influence is growing and with that growth comes a deeper sense of responsibility for the editor.

Incidentally we received a letter the other day from an executive of one of the great railway systems of the country who said a certain editorial in our paper had come to his attention and asking for a copy. We little dreamed our humble efforts would ever reach so far.

Everywhere one looks these days one sees men and women and even boys and girls busy with rake and hoe, spading, planting and cleaning away the debris of winter. It does one good to see this sort of activity. It proves to us that our people care for appearances and appreciate beauty. Even though one may not be able to spend a lot of money for shrubbery; for rock gardens, sunken pools, etc. we can at least rake away the rubbish and cut down the unsightly weeds. But we do wish an old-fashioned Kansas cyclone could drop down and carry off a lot of the tumble down shacks scattered about the town.

We note that our present city council seems to be more wide-awake than some of them have been. More work is being done on the streets and there is a general attitude of wanting to make this a better, cleaner, town which is very commendable. And, believe it or not, we saw His Honor, the city recorder, planting flowers about the city hall!

We got quite a "kick" out of the expression of dismay on the faces of the three ladies who were sent down by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce as judges for the contest when they learned the number of entrants. The Medford folks usually have a hard time to realize how many people there are who live outside the city limits of the metro-

AVERAGE OREGON CITIZEN PAYS TAX OF \$14.81 YEARLY

University of Oregon, Eugene, April 24.—The average citizen in the average Oregon city pays \$14.81 per year in taxes to maintain the functions of his city government. City taxes vary from nothing at all in a few small towns to a high per person of \$73.71 per year. Central Point pays an average per capita tax of \$12.26.

Portland pays somewhat above the average, \$17.37 per capita, and incidentally tends to raise the general average, due to its much greater population. Most of the Oregon cities fall between \$5 and \$12.50 per capita, and a fourth of them are between \$7.50 and \$10.

These and many other figures on assessed valuations and tax levies are included in detail in bulletin No. 10, just issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research of the University of Oregon and the League of Oregon Cities.

The average assessed value of Oregon cities, per person, computed on a 50 per cent assessment ratio, is \$695. The average for the entire state, including both city and rural areas, is \$725. For Central Point the average is \$322 per capita.

Gearheart, which also levies the highest per capita tax, is the "richest" city in the state, with a per capita assessed valuation of \$2263.

Portland ranks second with \$885 per capita, while Roseburg is third with \$809, the survey shows.

The average city tax rate for the state, on a 50 percent valuation basis, is 21.3 mills. Central Point, on a 50 percent basis, would pay 38.1 mills per person, although on the regular county assessment ratio the rate is 29.3. The highest is 78.1, second 75.2, and third 71.3. Of cities over 5,000 population, Corvallis is lowest with 17.5. Hillsboro with 16.3 is lowest in the 2500 to 5,000 population group. In the over 5,000 group, however, Pendleton has a lower millage levy, 13, than Corvallis, but its assessment ratio is much highest than that in effect in Corvallis.

Copies of the study, which includes every city in the state, may be obtained from the Bureau of Municipal Research at the university at Eugene.

Past Matron's Club Enjoy April Meeting

Always an important event of the spring for the Past Matrons Club of Nevita Chapter O. E. S. of Central Point is its April meeting.

This April they met at the country home of Mrs. Gay Husband Wednesday April 17th, for a one o'clock luncheon.

The tables were attractive with floral centerpieces of pretty wild flowers and decorations carrying out the Easter motive. The place cards decorated with little colored easter candy eggs made a picture long to be remembered by those present. After luncheon the ladies retired to the living room for a short business meeting presided over by the popular president Mrs. Jennie Merritt. Arrangements were made for the May meeting when the club will meet with Mrs. Leta Kyle, the Junior Past Matron.

Assisting hostess will be Mrs. Virginia Cook.

Sunday School Classes Entertained

Mrs. Edward Jones and Miss Marjorie Jones entertained their Sunday School classes of the Christian Church Saturday afternoon at a joint party. They had a jolly time and played various games after which delicious refreshments in keeping with the Easter season were served.

Those present were: Joyce Hamilton, Anna Dale Coleman, Adrian Leach, Rovanda Heath, Maxine Holland, Lois Yost, Mable Tyrell, Mary Knader, Qwendolyn Marine, Sarah Faye North, Juanita Pappas, Mary Frances Pappas, Beverly Leach, Patty Powell, Doris Penland and Constance Potts.

But the ladies, accompanied by Mr. E. C. Faber, did their best to look over the town so as to be able to judge fairly the improvements made when the contest closes.

Expect Average Crops in Spite of Drouth Condition

Despite the serious drought situation in the Great Plains in an area which normally produces about 15 per cent of the agricultural output of the United States, crop prospects in general are about average for this season of the year in most of the country, says a report on the agricultural situation just released by the state college agricultural extension service.

The season is starting off with conditions good in the East, while crop conditions are above average in the west Coast states and better than last year in the Intermountain area, although not up to average.

Wheat, pastures and milk production reflect the Great Plains drought situation, the report points out. The winter wheat crop is expected to fall about 183,000,000 bushels below the 1928-1932 average, nearly all due to poor prospects in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. The esti-

mate, however, is 30,000,000 bushels above last year's winter wheat harvest, with most of the gain east of the Mississippi and in the Pacific Northwest and California.

With pasture conditions exceptionally poor in the Great Plains drought area, the general average conditions of pastures for the whole country on April 1 was the lowest in 10 years, with the exception of last year, according to the circular. In this area are located one-third of all the cattle and one-sixth of the milk cows of the country, despite large reductions made during the past year.

With new low records in milk production in the drought area registered on April 1, milk production per cow averaged more than 10 per cent below average in the whole country, although slightly better than a year ago. Total milk production was about 5 per cent in the number of milk cows in the country.

Auto License Gain Is Business Gauge

If increase in registration of motor vehicles is indicative of improved business conditions, the Oregon economic situation is better than in 1934, according to reports compiled by Earl Snell, secretary of state, this week.

During the first three months of the year, 12,244 more motor vehicles, including passenger cars, trucks and busses, were licensed than during the same period in 1934. The number of vehicles registered during the first quarter of 1935 was 247,141, while the total in 1934 was 234,897.

More than \$100,000 additional revenue has been obtained from registrations this year, the total receipts reaching \$1,761,740.63. In 1934, motor registration sources yielded \$1,657,257.87 during the first three months.

Passenger car registrations this year total 228,254, busses 536, and trucks 18,351, the last total including both annual and semi-annual licenses and farmers and special season classifications.

Drivers' Licenses Must Be Renewed

All motor vehicle operators' licenses in Oregon expire on June 30 of this year, and on this account the office of Secretary of State Earl Snell is making extensive preparations for taking care of the applications that will soon be coming in for new licenses. No licenses can be mailed out or used until June 15, but prior to that time applications blanks for either original or renewal licenses will be available throughout the state.

During the past two-year period, 353,521 operators' licenses have been issued, 44,061 being originals and 289,480 renewals. The latter class are issued without examination except in special cases, while the originals are put out only after a check as to the applicant's physical condition, knowledge of the law affecting operation of a motor vehicle, and actual ability as a car driver. So far for 1935, chauffeurs' licenses in the number of 12,772 have been issued and during the year this number will be increased by nearly 5,000.

In the coming operators' license renewal period it is estimated that approximately 425,000 licenses will be issued. As soon as the new period starts law enforcement officers will begin an active campaign to eliminate unlicensed drivers from the highway, both in the interests of safety and of revenue to the state.

Senior Play Will Be Given Saturday

The annual senior play to have been presented by Central Point high school Friday, April 26, has been postponed until Tuesday, April 30, due to conflicting dates, it was announced recently.

The play is "Trapped" a mystery in three acts, which will be given at 8 o'clock. The production is being coached by Mrs. Mildred Ross.

Martin to Speak At Dairy Meeting

Governor Charles W. Martin has been invited to be the guest of honor at the fourth annual dinner and meeting of the Oregon Dairy Council which will be held in an afternoon session at the Multnomah Hotel and the dinner at the same place in the evening. The definite date will be announced next week at which time invitations will be sent to leaders of the dairy industry all over the state.

The Dairy Council is the state-wide promotional and health education unit of the state's dairy industry and receives its financial and active support from all branches of the industry. It is controlled by a state-wide committee of forty-five directors, thirty of them producing dairymen, and fifteen are creamery operators or milk processors. An executive committee of seven, chosen from the state-wide board, directs the actual operation of the council's program.

A report of the year's activities, the election of the directors, and the executive committee, and the adoption of a program for the current year will be taken up at the business meeting. Many other notables of the state, including S. T. White, Director of Agriculture; the newly appointed Milk Control Board; Department heads of the State College and the Health Division of the City of Portland will also be invited to attend the annual dinner.

Paul C. Adams, Executive Secretary, and Ada Reed Mayne, Nutrition Director, have had active charge of the affairs of the Dairy Council since its inception in 1931.

Eastern Star Enjoys Pleasant Meeting

Another of the very popular lodge meetings of Nevita Chapter No. 93 O. E. S. was held last Tuesday evening, April 23. Worthy Matron Mrs. Ethel Freeman and Associate Worthy Patron Mr. E. Vincent presided.

After lodge closed the members were invited to gather in the dining room where dainty refreshments were served.

The committee included as chairman Mrs. Claire Vincent assisted by Mrs. Betta Pankey and Miss Evelyn Hamilton. Easter time provided the theme for the arrangements. The long table with its beautiful centerpiece of apple blossoms surrounded by tall white tapers in yellow candlesticks together with the unique place cards made a picture long to be remembered by those present. Mr. J. C. Robnett of Portland who is a past patron of Nevita Chapter was the guest of honor.

A copy of the Los Angeles Times of Friday April 19th sent Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Norcross by their son Paul who is manager of Mannings Coffee company contained the sad news of "damage estimated at \$150,000 we done yesterday when a fire raced through the Manning Coffee company wasting plant and general warehouse completely destroying gift contents."

Judges View Work Done In Contest

The Judges in the City Beautiful Contest were here Monday and owing to the number that had registered could not complete the ask so returned Wednesday and completed the circuit. The Judges, Mrs. Ralph Woodford, president of the Medford Garden Club, Miss Beeson, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Mrs. Verne Shangle, accompanied by E. C. Faber to show them around, made a very thorough trip.

Now let's all get in and work hard to make our city a city beautiful. If we did not register we can still have a share in beautifying our city. It will only be six weeks or two months before the final judging. Then for our big day in Central Point.

Prize Baby Show Attracts Interest

The keen interest of parents in Medford and throughout the county in the welfare program and prize baby show which the Pythian Sisters are conducting was manifested in the 139 entries in the show up to the present date.

Health examinations will be held during the week of May 1st, and each little tot will be carefully looked over by physicians.

The beauty show, at which the most beautiful babies will be chosen will be held May 10th at the Knights of Pythias Hall, and the tiny kings and queens in the various age groups will be officially crowned at the Junior High School, Medford, on May 13th.

The Central Point babies who have registered in the baby show to date are: Marie Hildegard Pierce and Ilda Maxine Penland.

Registration offices are at 309 East Main St., Medford, and will remain open for registrations until May 1st.

Gas Tax Refund Law Is Changed

Probably no law passed by the recent session of the legislature has been the cause of more requests for information from Secretary of State Earl Snell than the new gas tax refund act, which makes a number of important changes in the requirements to be met by applicants for refunds and which becomes effective June 30.

The new law follows the provisions of the Washington act in a number of its features, but continues to allow a period of six months from date of purchase of gasoline to date of making application for refund. The reduction of this period to 60 days was seriously considered by the legislature, but this change was opposed by the state department which administers the law, collects the gas tax, and makes the refunds.

Under the new law a permit to secure refunds must be obtained before a refund can be made. The application for this permit will carry complete information as to equipment operated by the claimant, the activity engaged in, and particulars as to contemplated uses of motor vehicle fuel. The charge for the permit is 50 cents. Full information will be furnished refund claimants, together with proper blanks, prior to the effective date of the act. No permits will be mailed out until late in June.

Investigation of applications will be commenced as soon as possible. The main object of the changes in the law is to eliminate the large number of dishonest claims that have been made in the past. "However," Mr. Snell states, "the office is just as anxious to give prompt service and to see that people entitled to refunds obtain them with the least possible delay and inconvenience as it is to eliminate the improper claims."

Relief Corps Holds Regular Meeting

The W. R. C. held their regular meeting Saturday afternoon at 2 p. m. All the quilt blocks were handed in and a few of the ladies got together Tuesday afternoon and put the blocks together. A very nice assortment of magazines were handed in also. These are for any of the members to borrow and exchange. Results from the membership drive are coming in very good.

"HAM" CONVENTION HUGE SUCCESS; MANY ATTEND

The Amateur Radio Convention of Oregon was held in Corvallis Saturday and Sunday, the 13th and 14th of this month. Southern Oregon was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Max Crawson WTBQK, and Ben Goldy W7ETZ of Ashland Radio Club, Geo. Peckham W7ABD and Mrs. Gordon Turner XYL of W7CIK of Medford Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Richardson, W7DZH of Central Point.

Saturday morning was spent in registering in the lobby of Hotel Benton, inspecting displays of radio dealers and also greeting and meeting our fellow "hams". The forepart of the afternoon a boat race between Portland Rowing Club and Oregon State was held at the Van Buren bridge. The DM's, otherwise "Directive Antennae" given by E. A. Yunker; while the ladies got together at Hotel Benton and played bridge, chatted and for tea. For the evening Howard Mason of Seattle gave a very interesting talk, and illustrated with lantern slides, and explicated with Admiral Byrd on his first trip to "Little America." Mr. Mason was one of the radio operators.

Sunday morning early breakfasts were arranged at different restaurants for the army net, phone and brush pounders; following the breakfast contest code sweepstakes, Q. R. M. contest, hand sending and novelty contests.

The afternoon was spent in touring O. S. C. Campus buildings, laboratories and other points of interest for hams; also technical demonstrations in many of the laboratories.

For the close, a big banquet was held on the Mezzanine floor of Hotel Benton. Music, skits, and songs along with a hars contest and awarding of prizes for the contest and door prizes ended a very enjoyable and interesting time. Salem is to have the honor of having the convention there next year so be prepared to set that date aside which will be announced later for a very interesting and good time. Everyone is welcome.

Gleason's Hold 21st Annual Picnic Sunday

The Gleason Clan held their 21st Easter picnic in the same place on Rogue river where they have met for 21 springs.

Those present were Mr. Jesse Richardson, Erma and Charlotte Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Snyder, Mrs. White, Jean Hermanson, Kenneth Beebe, Vivian Ross, Maxine Holland, Jim Eddy of Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Gleason, Mervyn and Jimmie, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Gleason of Bellingham Washington, Bobby Hoagland and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Gleason. Mr. Strangle of Talent who has been with them other years was unable to attend on account of sickness. A boulevard picnic dinner was served with everything anyone could wish for. Games, horseshoes, baseball, etc., were played. A big camp fire added to the pleasure of the occasion.

Lodges Plan for Anniversary Meet

The Rebekah's and Odd Fellow's are planning a big joint celebration on their 116th anniversary April 26. Dinner will be served at the Grange hall from 6 to 8, afterwards a program will be given. All Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are invited. Members from Ashland, Medford, Jacksonville, and surrounding territory will be present.

The Beautiful Vale

Don't get the jitters. We have everything. Soil, water, climate, productivity. If we stop frowning, begin comparing, soon we'll be smiling. All contentedly. FARMERS AND FRUITGROWERS BANK (Deposits Insured) P. S. We have faith; and have been and are COMMUNITY BUILDERS