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Musings

By an Innocent Bystander

It would appear that some folks would "strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." We heard a good deal the other night about the sanctity of the law, or the majesty thereof. Fears were expressed that certain acts would bring down the stern hand of the law upon the perpetrators. And now the story is going the rounds that the whole meeting of the council was illegal and a farce. All of which may or may not be true, but "a good time was had by all."

To be, or not to be? That is still the question. Whether it were nobler to take the back seat as we were more or less politely told to do, (and not attempt too much "back-seat driving", either), or to go forth on our sword and buckler and go forth to battle for the right as God gives us to see the right? The basic question as to "what are we going to do about the water situation" remains still a deep, dark mystery.

Some months ago a number of mis-guided citizens, in their innocent faith, signed their names to a document asking that certain things be done by the governing body of our city. These people had no thought of forcing such action. The whole idea underlying their act was to show to the said governing body that the common people of the town—the more or less downtrodden taxpayers—wanted certain things done and stood ready to pay the pipes when the time came. The act was intended more as one of encouragement, rather than of coercion.

But the feeling seems to have been aroused that these meddling fools should have kept their hands off. They have been accused of making wilful false statements; of misrepresenting the fact; of juggling figures to suit their ends. No later than yesterday we were told that the statements and figures printed in this paper last fall were misleading in that they failed to include all the items of expense which would be required.

This writer has never claimed to be Omnipotent. We make as many mistakes as the next fellow. But we do claim to have retained a certain amount of common honesty, even after a lifetime spent in and around newspaper shops. And the figures given were the result of hours of painful study and were as accurate as the information at hand at the moment permitted. It is true that certain things have since come to light which would have a tendency to change these estimates in a slight degree. But the final result would in our belief still remain, practically as then stated.

This writer has perhaps put in as many hours of thought and investigation over the water situation as any man in town. And we are still convinced that the securing of Medford water, even at the cost estimated, would be of great benefit to this town. If we did not so believe, we would certainly make haste to cease harping on the question.

It is with much regret that we are forced to announce the acceptance of the resignation of E. W. Hedgpeth as City Marshal and Street Commissioner. "Bert" as we all call him, has proved himself a very faithful employe of this city and we fear his place will be hard to fill, especially at the present salary paid. And it is our belief that the action of the council in refusing to grant him the slight increase in salary asked for was unfortunate, to say the least. It is our opinion that this sort of thing is just what the lawmakers had in mind in providing an "Emergency Fund."

It has always been our belief that this "Emergency" fund was supposed to be used in just such cases and without it being necessary to declare an emergency existed. We believe this fund was created for the purpose of helping out any time when any other fund proved inadequate for the purpose for which it was budgeted. We know that has been the practice in school districts, which operates under precisely the same budget laws as do cities.

MRS. HEDRICK WINS HONOR AS STORY WRITER

Friends of Mrs. Helen Hedrick, wife of Medford City School superintendent, will be pleased to know that she has sold a story to the Saturday Evening Post for a good sized sum and has been requested to send them more stories. Mrs. Hedrick is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Norcross, who recently celebrated their golden wedding, and grew to womanhood in Central Point and graduated from the local school. She is the mother of three charming children, Eva Eileen, thirteen; Bill, eleven, and Lola, six. Her story is of smudge time in the valley and is called "Road Kid". It was her wish that nothing be printed about the story until it was published but the news leaked out some way. Mrs. Hedrick studied short story writing at the University and was given much encouragement by her instructor. Later she sold a number of stories to smaller magazines. When she would have a story returned, Mr. Hedrick would encourage her and tell her to try again and some day she would sell one to some of the worthwhile publications. He had much faith in her ability which was proven when "Road Kid" was accepted. She is now working hard on another story for the Post. Many friends are waiting impatiently for the appearance of her story in the Post. The American joins them in congratulations to Mrs. Hedrick and her family on her success.

J. C. Reynolds, Pioneer Passes to Reward

John C. Reynolds, the prospector poet of the Applegate, was laid to rest with simple rites in the Jacksonville cemetery Tuesday afternoon. He met a peaceful death as he slept in his cozy miner's cabin late last Saturday night. In accordance with his wishes, the burial rites were simple, symbolic of the way the pioneer frontiersman lived. About 20 friends participated in the service. To fulfill Mr. Reynolds' request, friends read several of his poems at the graveside.

STEPHEN R. HILL, AGED 73, DIES FROM HEART ATTACK

Stephen R. Hill of the Central Point district, passed away at his home Wednesday evening, death being due to a heart attack. He was born at Wingville, Wis., in 1864, age 73. He came to Oregon in 1880 and for many years was a successful farmer of the Willamette valley. He came to Jackson County four years ago.

Besides his wife he leaves four daughters, Mrs. J. B. Wolfe, of Salem; Grace Hill and Mrs. J. P. Warren, Central Point and Mrs. E. Tallstrom of Portland. Also two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Conger chapel at 1:00 P.M. Saturday.

FIRST GRADE NEWS

Wednesday, March 9, 1938
There are 33 children here. Not one is out. How fine.
We have a new boy. His name is Lee. We have 21 boys and 12 girls now.
Happy birthday, Delores. She is seven years old. She got 2 new dresses, shoes and some skates.
Lester is going to make a garden all by himself.
We have some pretty wild flowers in our room.

Many, many times while the writer was serving on the school board in this district have sums varying from \$10.00 to \$300 been transferred from our "Emergency" fund to other funds which had proven too small, and we have yet to hear of a complaint for our action. Each year our books were audited by the county auditor, who must have seen such entries. But the books came back O.K., so we felt we were breaking no law by our action. In fact, we were told by higher-ups to spend as much of that fund as possible each year as a matter of policy.

City Dads Accept Resignation Bert Hedgpeth, Marshal

The city council met in regular session Monday night with all members present. After the usual routine business was completed the Recorder read a communication from City Marshal Bert Hedgpeth, offering his resignation to take effect April 1st, unless the council saw fit to provide for the \$15 per month increase in salary which they had voted at the last meeting, but which had later been refused.

It appears that the problem before the council is the fact that the 1938 budget only allows \$75 per month for the Marshal's salary and in order to increase this amount it would be necessary to declare an emergency and transfer the necessary amount from the emergency fund. There is a difference of opinion among the councilmen as to whether the present situation actually constitutes an "emergency" as defined by the statutes and therefore they could legally grant the raise asked for.

After some discussion, Councilmen moved that the resignation be accepted with regret. Councilman Lewis seconded the motion. Mayor Hatfield called for a roll-call vote, which resulted as follows: Finley, yes; Hesselgrave, no; Lewis, yes; Milton, no; Myers, yes; Ross, no. It being a tie, Mayor Hatfield gave the deciding vote, yes, and the motion was declared carried.

In the matter of the securing of

additional street lights, Recorder Tex read a letter from the California Oregon Power Company stating that the company was prepared to put in five new lights at once. These lights were to be placed as follows: Fourth and Alder streets; Fourth and Maple streets; Fourth and Hazel streets; Third and Laurel streets and Front and Cedar streets.

Councilman Finley mentioned the fact that a light was badly needed at the corner of Fourth and Bush streets, on account of providing better light near the high school. The mayor instructed the light committee to take the matter up with Copco to see if they would be willing to place a light at this corner instead of the one at 3rd and Laurel street.

The matter of granting a renewal of the franchise of the Central Point Mutual Telephone company was taken up and the Recorder read the old franchise. It was voted to grant the new franchise in the same form with the exception that the city was to receive four free phones instead of three, as under the old franchise.

A. E. Powell reported to the council on behalf of the Civic club that the new street signs were practically complete and the poles would be ready for setting the next day. The matter was referred to the street committee to arrange the position of the signs and set the posts in concrete as agreed upon.

Washington's Military Career, Cecil Rodgers; Washington In Office, Robert Baker.

The boys' basketball team of the high school took in the Southern Oregon school tournament, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 3 to 5.

Miss Neugart was ill Monday, February 28 and unable to teach but was back the next morning feeling much better.

Lois Glass of Central Point visited high school Friday, February 26.

Mr. Whitest of Ashland who has been holding church services here every Sunday will be unable to attend any more for financial reasons.

A. B. Zimmerman, one of the survivors of the S. S. Tuscania, received an invitation to their 20th Anniversary Reunion, held February 5, 1938 at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill. Memorial services are held for the dead and a reunion for the living. The S. S. Tuscania was bound for the battle fields of France when a German submarine hit it in the engine room.

Mrs. Gerald Von Ting and son have gone to visit her parents in Los Angeles until summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Gott went to Grants Pass Sunday, February 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Patton have moved into Fredenburg House.

Mrs. Margaret Patton has returned from Medford and is moving into her own home again.

Cleo and Zelda Richmond, who are attending Normal School in Ashland, were home over the week end. Irene Green from Portland has been spending the last week here, visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Everett Abbott fell and broke two bones in her foot. Mrs. Abbott left Sunday for Eugene to visit her mother.

Mrs. Elga Abbott was called to Medford because of the illness of her mother, Mrs. Betty Edmondson.

Frances Smith who has been going to school in Los Angeles returned Saturday evening to attend her father's funeral. We wish to express deepest sympathy to the family and also those of Mrs. Charlie Edmondson.

Mrs. Bert Hedgpeth left this morning for Portland where she will consult a family doctor. She was told here that an operation was necessary. She will visit Mr. Hedgpeth's sister Mrs. Oden, who is a nurse. Before returning home she will visit her brother, Mr. Doolittle at Heppner.

Mothers of Team Serve Banquet for Basketball Lads

The mothers of the players on the basketball teams, gave a banquet in their honor at the high school Tuesday evening. There were 18 players present, eleven guests, including Mr. Hulbert, Mr. Jewett and Mr. Roy Jones. As one of the boys expressed it "it was some feed". After the dinner the boys were treated to a show at the Craterian by the Central Point businessmen. After their winning game over Eagle Point Mr. Guy Tex also treated them to a show.

Oyster Supper to Be Served Mar. 22

The Civic club will serve a oyster supper at the grange hall Tuesday evening March 22 from 5 o'clock until 8 o'clock. Oyster soup, crackers, dill pickles, coffee and doughnuts will be served. Proceeds will be used to pay for the new street signs that are nearly ready to be placed. Every one come out and help make it a big success. Nothing is being solicited. The price will be 25 cent.

COMMUNICATED

"Why don't those who are so deeply interested do something?" This is a direct quotation of our city Mayor at the last council meeting. It sounded like a bit of sarcasm. But in answer to the sarcastic remark (if that is what was intended) we ARE interested in SOMETHING being done. Is there any reason why the citizens of Central Point who are paying the taxes should not be interested in all civic affairs? Any question which comes up some one might be wrong. It might be us and it might be you, but it isn't so much a question of who is right as it is we want the matter considered and try to find out who is right.

In the opinion of many citizens here our water situation has not been satisfactory and the city has no doubt lost thousands of dollars simply because they could not furnish the amount of water required at the time it was wanted, saying nothing of the quality or comparison of the two sources in question. Now as to the legality, financial condition, etc. That is a question for the council to decide, but that an investigation into the affair be made is a question of vital importance to the citizens and tax payers. And a consideration to which it seems they are justly due. In my opinion the duty of public officers is not so much their personal wishes or desires as it is to legislate for the betterment of the majority involved if possible.

INTERESTED CITIZEN
(Name on file)

Dear Editor:
We see where the CIO is seeking a court martial for Gov. Martin caused by his remark that "Lewis will get a warm reception". Now we don't know very much about Mr. Lewis. Neither do we know very much about Gov. Martin. Just what we read in the papers, that's all. What we do get out of the mass of information that comes to us thru the papers is this.

Gov. Martin believes that a public official in his position should work for the best interest of all the people and we believe he is doing just that. We commend Gov. Martin on his stand on the labor question in this state. We believe that if every state in the country would handle the labor situation as rapidly and as efficiently as our state has that the country's labor troubles would soon be over.

One thing we do believe. If Gov. Martin and his newly appointed coordinator, Ralph Moody, decide that Mr. Lewis is to get a warm reception if and when he comes to Oregon, why then you can just bet all your surplus change that he will get one. And we also believe that the majority of the people of this state will also join in giving Mr. Lewis this "Hot Time".

(Name on File).

Safety

Thieves and fire destroy. Thieves carry away. Keep your money where it is safe. FARMERS AND FRUITGROWERS BANK Member FDIC

19TH ANNIVERSARY LEGION POST 15 TUESDAY EVENING

The 19th anniversary of the American Legion will be celebrated by Medford Post No. 15 with a big "Birthday Party" Tuesday March 15 to which members of the Ladies Auxiliary are invited. The affair will be held at the Armory where both Legion and Auxiliary halls will be utilized. An entertainment program will hold forth until 9 P.M. when the National Legion radio program, starring Jack Benny and other famous Legionnaire entertainers will be heard. At 10 P.M. there is to be dancing and later in the evening a "dutch lunch" will be served. All indications point to a highly enjoyable party and all Legionnaires are invited to attend, whether members of Medford Post or not. The following committee is in charge of the affair: Wm. Lingaas, Chm. Morris Leonard, Dr. C. E. Kunz, C. R. Barnhill, C. L. Overmyer and C. C. Tuttle.

So what? -

If you want to stay just where you are in the procession or fall steadily behind, give obstacles a first place in your life.—Anon.

Certain people complaining of getting writer's cramp from signing so many petitions.

The basketball boys busy about town this morning getting hair cuts and shaves before leaving for Albany this afternoon to play in the coaches tournament this week-end.

A party called for his printing this morning and tasted of the padding compound to see if it was all right.

What is it worth to you to have a newspaper in your community? If every one supported it just as much as you do in every way—Subscriptions, ads, news, printing, mentioning ads when shopping, etc.—How long do you think it would continue to be printed?

Some remodeling is being done at the Fleischer home. Most of the work is being done by Jimmy. Some old sheds are being torn down and revamped. Also the bath room has been entirely changed and newly decorated.

The Churches

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Clifton A. Phillips, Pastor
"Be On Time," Bible School 10:00 A.M. Roland Hoyer, Supt.
Communion and Preaching 11:00 A.M. Subject "How To Eat, Sleep, Walk, Run, Think, Act and Be."
Children's Church 11:00 A.M. Mrs. Phillips, Pastor.
Christian Endeavor for All Ages 6:30 P.M. Carl Hoyer, Director.
Evangelistic Service 7:30 P.M. Subject "The Whole Bible and The Questions The Bible Answers." Solo with Guitar accompaniment, Scott Darby.
Prayer and Bible Service, Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Continues the same program. Devotional Leader, Laura Caldwell, Study Leader, Mr. Darby.

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Lewis, Pastor.
Phone 51
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

Junior and Senior League 6:30 P.M.
Evening Services 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study 2:30 P.M.
George Ekdahl will show pictures of the Bolivian Indian Mission work, in Bolivia, S. A., in the Brick Church Monday evening March 14. Everyone invited.

Thursday March 17 the Ladies Aid meets in the basement of the church. We are all looking forward to the churches annual dinner March 19, in the basement of the church.