

CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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Musings

By an Innocent Bystander

Once again we seem to be fated to defend our position against the Medford water matter. Long before we ever took up the cudgels for such a system of supply we had a feeling that what this city needed more than anything else was better water. At that time we had little hope we would ever see such a thing even in the offing. But we had a few heart-to-heart talks with several business men of the city who had lived here much longer than we had and who also believed it would be a fine thing for the town if the Medford water could be brought in. Then along came the shortage of last year and the people began to demand a more plentiful supply. So we jumped in and did our best to get the thing going.

We talked to different officials in Medford for the purpose of learning whether or not that city had more water than they needed or would be apt to need for years to come and whether they would or could lawfully sell any of that water to this city. Then up jumped Eagle Point and grabbed part of that surplus and our hopes began to dwindle. Again we sought to learn from official sources whether we could still hope to secure any of the water for this town. And we were told that there was more than plenty for all.

Finally the agitation we stirred up became strong enough to bring the matter to the attention of the city council. There was argument galore and finally the council became interested to the extent that they started an investigation on their own hook. Believing it would be of help to them if they could secure an expression of opinion on the part of the citizens of the town showing just how public sentiment stood on the matter, we prepared a petition asking for an election to settle the question. When we presented this petition signed by more than 130 citizens the opposition seized the opportunity to tear the poor little thing apart. The statement was freely made that the said petition was not legally drawn; that it was signed by the riff-raff and floaters of the town and did not represent the honest opinion of the real property owners and taxpayers. The whole thing was tabled indefinitely and has since never been heard of.

During this time this writer prepared many articles concerning the feasibility of the project. We secured all the figures we could dig up to show what the project would cost and how it might be handled. Up to date those figures have never been refuted. Our arguments have never been answered, at least publicly. It is true we were told we were nothing but a darned old busy-body, butting in where we had no business to. And so the matter has diddled along.

But finally the efforts of the councilmen who favored the plan bore fruit and the preliminary work of renewing the old mains was undertaken. Now they have taken on a more ambitious project and have made application for a federal loan to rebuild the whole city water system and as a separate project to build the necessary connecting main to bring in the Medford water. Again comes the charge that this paper has not told the exact truth but that the people of the city are being "misled" and the whole thing "misrepresented."

Now this sort of thing is getting rather monotonous and we hereby demand that those who believe we have printed misleading figures bring forward their own figures showing wherein we have failed to tell the whole truth. And we hereby freely offer the use of our columns to those who wish to publish their side of the matter. We'll print 'em just as prominently as we know how and if you can show wherein we are wrong we will gladly admit our error. So come on, fellers, either "put up or shut up."

NOTICE

By special request of the Medford Kiwanis club, the Civic club will serve one of their justly famous chicken dinners to the club at the Grange hall Monday noon. The Kiwanis have invited all Central Point business men to meet with them on this occasion.

FAMILY REUNION UNITES 5 SISTERS AFTER LONG YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Woods, who recently returned from attending the seventy-fifth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg and a final grand reunion of Union and Confederate veterans of the Civil war sponsored by the federal government, spent a few days in their old home in Ohio on their way home. Mrs. Woods had the pleasure of visiting her four sisters there whom she had not seen for many years.

Following is a clipping from the Marion Star telling of the family reunion held by members of Mrs. Woods' family during her visit:

"A family reunion yesterday at Garfield park, honoring Mr. and Mrs. James C. Woods of Central Point, Ore., brought together 49 members of the Morrison family, including five sisters who have not been together for many years.

"The sisters are Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Gertrude Priest of 142 Jefferson street, Mrs. J. B. Hoagland of 212 Barnhart street and Mrs. Florence Tracy and Mrs. Brainard Hoffer of Mansfield.

"Mr. and Mrs. Woods are enroute home from Gettysburg, Pa., where Mr. Woods, 91-year-old Civil war veteran, attended the national Civil War veterans reunion. They will be here for several days before continuing home by train.

"Mrs. Woods was Miss Fidelia Morrison, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Morrison of Wyandot county, before her marriage. Mr. Woods, a native of southern Ohio, lived in Richland county for a time before going west as a young man.

"Relatives were present yesterday from Columbus, Toledo, Bellefontaine, Mansfield, Postoria, Massillon, Marion and Buffalo, N. Y."

Mr. & Mrs. Anderson Return from Sweden

Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson returned Friday from a visit to their old home in Sweden. Mr. Anderson reports he found things in fine shape in the old country—no relief—and everybody working and happy. They enjoyed their trip from start to finish—never missed a meal—but are glad to be back. They are staying at the Hotel Valandra.

Rebekahs Hold Regular Meeting

Mt. Pitt Rebekah Lodge held their regular meeting Wednesday evening with a very good attendance. Ida Henderson, the new Noble Grand presiding. Sister Lillian Wiedman was installed as Left Support to the Vice Grand and Sister Betta Pankey as musician.

The Noble Grand introduced some new ideas that she intends to carry out during her term of office, which will prove very interesting and all members are requested to be present at all meetings.

Counties Asked to Reserve Space Soon

Oregon counties panning to exhibit at the 1938 Oregon State Fair, September 5 to 11, at the Salem fairgrounds, should submit their entries by August 15, Manager Leo G. Spitzbart said this week.

Because demand for space are unusually heavy this year, Mr. Spitzbart has asked that counties make reservations immediately. The deadline set in the premium list will be adhered to. Several counties have already made their applications. It was announced.

Other space is reported as going rapidly, with all available room in the machinery shed taken up. The biggest machinery exhibit is predicted.

"Many new people are coming in and asking us for space this year," Mr. Spitzbart said. "In several instances former exhibitors have doubled their orders. It begins to look as if we will have to turn many away."

Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Chastian of Riverside, California visited Mrs. Chastian's parents Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watkins who accompanied them on a trip to Portland last week.

More Facts About Medford Water

Again we have been accused of not telling the truth about the Medford water question, or at least of not telling all the facts. We are getting tired of that sort of thing and some of these days we fear we shall blow up and get rough about it. We wish the men who are spreading that sort of rubbish would bring in some figures to show where ours were wrong. Instead of just saying "He's misrepresenting the facts." We have pled with our readers who do not agree with us that getting Medford water would be a good thing for the city to bring to our office figures showing just where we were wrong, but up to date on one has responded.

At the council meeting the other night one of the councilmen made the statement that he was opposed to calling an election on the Medford water proposition until the people of the city had been told ALL the facts regarding the actual cost. He stated that many of the people had been given the impression that if the Medford water was brought in they would be allowed to use all the water they cared for—to let their hydrants run night and day if they so desired—all at the flat rate of \$2.50 per month.

Now let's make this as clear as we know how. ONLY THE PEOPLE LIVING INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF MEDFORD ARE ALLOWED WATER ON A FLAT RATE. Those residing within the city limits of Medford pay a flat rate of \$2.50 per month and are allowed to use as much water as they please. All other users of Medford water must pay \$2.50 per month MINIMUM of 5000 gallons. For all water used above the said minimum allowance, of 5000 gallons, the charge is 20¢ per thousand gallons. THIS RATE OF \$2.50 PER MONTH FOR A MINIMUM OF 5000 GALLONS AND 20¢ PER THOUSAND WILL APPLY TO CENTRAL POINT IN CASE WE EVER GET MEDFORD WATER.

This rate, by the way, is just \$1.00 per month higher than the people of Central Point are paying under the present rate, which was adopted the first of this year.

The statement is being industriously carried about the city that if the Medford water proposition receives a favorable vote and the system put in, our people will be compelled to pay at least \$1.50 per month minimum in addition to the \$2.50 charged under the contract with the city of Medford, in order to raise sufficient funds to pay the expenses of the water department and the interest and sinking fund payments on the outstanding bonds together with the new bonds required to pay for the system. WE CHALLENGE THAT STATEMENT IN EVERY RESPECT. So far no one has brought forward figures to show wherein such a charge will be necessary. Let us look at some facts in the matter. (If any of the following statements are false or misleading, we stand ready to correct them upon receipt of proof.)

1st. The city now pays to the California Oregon Power company about \$1200 per year for electricity to operate the pump at the city well. This amount will not have to be paid if the Medford water is secured, as that water comes to us at a pressure of about 100 pounds with absolutely no pumping cost. Thus the city's largest single item of expense under the present system will be done away with.

2nd. With the entire distributing system throughout the city rebuilt and the old pipes replaced with new cast iron pipes there should be no cost for repairs for many years. Thus the second largest item of cost under the present system would be also done away with.

3rd. With a brand new distributing system and the water coming in to the mains by gravity pressure and not pumped, it would seem that the full-time services of a water man would not be required. So far as we have been able to learn, all he would have to do would be read meters once a month (which takes an active man about a day and a half), repair an occasional meter and to turn on and off water in cases of persons moving in or out of homes about the city. Also there might be an occa-

sional new service connection to put in. We fail to see where the city would have to raise any large amount of money to pay the operating costs under such a system. Now as to income:

1st. The city will be compelled to charge each individual user of water a minimum charge of \$2.50 per month, with an allowance of 5000 gallons and 20¢ per thousand for all additional water used. Out of this \$2.50 the city will pay Medford for the water \$1.00 per month for each water user and 15¢ per thousand for water used in excess of the minimum. Thus the city will receive a clear profit of \$1.50 per month from every water user, besides 5¢ per thousand for water used above the minimum.

2nd. Out of the profit of \$1.50 from each water user the city will have to pay whatever running expenses there may be and the balance, if any, can be applied on the interest and retirement of outstanding bonds. There are at the present time, according to a statement of the city recorder, approximately 250 water users in the city. At \$1.50 each this means that the city would receive \$375 per month gross profit, or a gross annual income of \$4,500. Out of this would have to come whatever small expense there would be in distributing the water.

But, says our critic, what about the cost of keeping the old pumping plant in running order and the big tank in proper shape? Well, for one, the writer believes there are cheaper ways of driving that pump than by electricity, especially when there is little probability that it will have to be used very often. We contend that it would be foolish to pay the monthly minimum on that 40 H.P. motor when it would stand idle months at a time. Some sort of gas engine could be secured which would cost absolutely nothing while standing still. And even if the well had to be pumped out once in a while, if gas power was used or a Diesel engine the cost would be mighty small. It is our idea that the entire cost of operating the system would not exceed \$500 per year, which would leave \$4,000 with which to pay interest on the bonds and gradually retire them.

There are at the present time \$21,500 in outstanding water bonds. Of this amount bonds amounting to \$9,500 will come due August 1st, 1939. The city has now on hand nearly enough cash in the bank to pay these bonds and will have enough by the time they come due. So we can safely count this amount off, leaving \$12,000 still outstanding. This is not counting the recent issue of \$15,000, which, if added, would make a total of \$27,000. The engineer's estimate of the cost of relaying all the old water mains throughout the city and the laying of the connecting main with the Medford water is \$85,000. Of this amount the city will have to issue bonds to the government for 55% and the balance of 45% will be a free grant. 55% of \$85,000 is approximately \$47,000. We are informed that these bonds will bear interest at 4%.

Adding the \$27,000 old bonds to the \$47,000 new bonds, we have \$74,000, which is what the city would owe after all the work is done. As these bonds bear different rates of interest we have taken 4 1/2% as about the proper figure. At this rate the city would have to pay slightly over \$3300 a year interest, leaving a balance of about \$900 out of the income as estimated above. Add to this the present tax item of \$1320 "rent on fire hydrants" and the city could retire all water bonds in about thirty years.

There's our figures, folks. If you think they are wrong, come and show us where we have made a mistake.

A. E. POWELL, Editor.

Tested

The new water mains are O.K. And if voted for we know the new water supply will be Good and Pure. Central Point is bound to be a good residential town. FARMERS AND FRUITGROWERS BANK (Deposits Insured)

Medford Man Says Hoover Party Hoodoo

Mr. D. D. Davis from Medford says that unless there is some way to muzzle Hoover that the Republicans are in for another flaking. Every time Hoover unbuttons his face he puts a score or more voters into the Democratic columns.

There is no one so stupid as he who does not want to see.

Wake up you Republicans, throw off your Hoover blinders.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Lees Visit in Portland

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lees made a flying trip to Portland recently leaving here on July 24. They went to have a brief visit with their sons Jack and Jim, who were in Portland with the fleet. They spent one whole day with the boys and also visited their ship.

Both boys are looking fine and are enjoying navy life. Returning, Mr. and Mrs. Lees traveled the Coast route, taking two days for the trip. They are now making plans to meet their daughter, Helen, and her husband, Eddie Martin, of Graeagle, Calif., and if possible make a trip to San Francisco to meet the boys there, as this will be the last opportunity to see them until after the world's fair. The ship on which the boys are stationed will enter dry dock at Norfolk, Virginia, in December.

Carnation Club Meets in Medford

The Carnation Club met at Marie Putney's home on King street in Medford. The afternoon was spent in playing buncos with Dorothy Root winning 1st prize and Betty Potter low. All members were present except one and we hope to have her with us at our next meeting at Betty Potter's home. We had as our guests for the afternoon Opal Carter, Jo Williams and Naomi Gleaves.

Our hostess served ice cream, cake and punch.

Picnic Is Enjoyed At Tyrrell Home

About 80 friends of Mr. Arden Tyrrell and daughter, mostly from the Christian church gathered at the Tyrrell home last Sunday after morning service here. A big picnic was enjoyed at the Tyrrell home on Evans Creek the other side of Rogue River. Mr. Tyrrell brought in a wash tub of roasting ears to add to all the other basket of eatables. A real banquet was enjoyed. The folding chairs from church were taken along and large tables had already been prepared.

Rev. Strang from Medford preached in the afternoon. Every one reports a very enjoyable occasion.

Democrats to Hold Big Political Picnic

GRANTS PASS, Aug. 2 (Sp.)—The fall political campaign will get under way, at least for southern Oregon democrats, on Sunday, September 4, when the Josephine county Democratic Central committee will be hosts to democrats of Coos, Douglas, Jackson, and Klamath counties in the first big political picnic here in many years.

That is the plan announced this week by Paul T. Moorehead, Josephine county democratic chairman. Moorehead said that invitations have been sent out to all democratic candidates, state and county democratic leaders to attend the picnic to be held in Riverside park on the bank of Rogue river.

The picnic program is being so arranged that those who wish to do so may attend the Miner's Jubilee being held in Caves Junction on September 3, 4, and 5.

Speaking will begin at 1:30, following the serving of picnic lunches for which the sponsors will furnish coffee. Luncheon for the speakers also be furnished by the committee in charge.

Riverside park offers swimming, boating and games for the youngsters, and although Moorehead warned that the main business of the afternoon will be to hear the democratic state candidates, he promised an entertaining time for everyone.

Mrs. Territt spent Sunday with her son Dade and family in Medford.

CIVIC CLUB HEARS INTERESTING TALK BY LOCAL MAN

The Civic club met at the Library Wednesday afternoon. A good number of members were present. The ladies were favored by a very interesting talk by Mr. Alexander. As he had no notes and thought the meeting was to be next Wednesday, it will be rather hard to give all the fine points of his talk. His subject was, "Motherhood" and most mothers present would be very proud if they thought they would measure up just a little ways to his ideal of motherhood. Mr. Alexander stated that it was up to the mothers to save the nation, that it was a big job but he didn't think we knew what the word failure meant. Motherhood is the greatest power for good in the world today. Mothers should use their influence in elections to have right men elected, good, right thinking, sober, honest men who are competent to handle the city affairs. Mr. Alexander went on to say he would like to see a Mayor and council of ladies elected.

Whether this statement had anything to do with it or not, the ladies expressed the opinion that Mr. Alexander's speech was one of the best the club has had. Mr. Alexander also stated that most people were competent to vote and vote right but a great many were careless about it and didn't give the issue or candidate proper consideration.

There is no defeat except from within. There is really no insurmountable barrier save your own inherent weakness of purpose.—Emerson.

So what?—

It was discovered at the Civic club meeting Wednesday afternoon that Mrs. George Marine's baby was at home, caring for Mrs. Doyle Mills' baby.

Mr. E. C. Faber hurrying out of the Boy Scout Cooler at Lake of the Woods for fear he might get goose pimples.

Rev. Phillips hauling one chicken around town in a trailer.

Ray Watkins getting a very special hair cut in Gleason's barber shop.

Overheard in Medford—"Central Point has a very remarkable civic club for a town of its size." "Central Point is the most wide-awake and growing community in the surrounding territory outside of Medford."

Lloyd Smith not worrying about flat tires when he leaves on his long trip to Detroit Saturday. He will travel on the train going back and return in a new car.

Some folks are hollering because last year they paid the minimum rate for water, showing they used less than 3000 gallons, while this year, with no more garden or flowers, their bill shows they used over 16,000 gallons. How come?

Mrs. Edward Farra accompanied Mrs. Hoyt to Medford Tuesday.

The Churches

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
REV. STANLEY PARRISH
(Supply Pastor)

Phone 51
Bible School 9:30 A.M. Mr. Wm. Kamberg, Supt.

Morning Worship 11:00 A. M. Communion and Sermon by Rev. Stanley Parrish. The Sermon subject will be "Doubting Thomas". Junior and Senior League 7:00 P.M.

Evening Services 8:00 P.M. The evangelistic sermon subject will be "The Rich Fool".
Tuesday afternoon Bible class 2:30 P.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service for young and old followed by choir practice 8:00 P.M.

Thursday the Berean class party will be at the home of Mrs. Mead in Lone Pine district. Cars will leave the church at 2:00 o'clock. Everyone invited.