

CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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Musings

By the Editor

Again the Grim Reaper has laid his hand on one of the old-time friends of this writer and one who was perhaps the most consistent booster this paper has ever known. Delroy Getchell, the beloved "Banker-poet" of whom Art Perry loved to speak, has gone to his reward. And, unless we miss our guess, that reward will be a very worth-while one.

We shall miss that warm smile and hearty hand clasp. In financial matters; in personal matters and in any thing pertaining to the publication of a country weekly, we always felt free to ask the advice of that dear old man—and what's more, we always got the best he had. How he did love to point out the typographical errors in our little sheet, while at the same time giving us a friendly pat on the back and a word of encouragement.

Central Point, too, has lost a friend. Only a week before he died Mr. Getchell pointed out the advisability of this city getting behind the new movement to build a reservoir on Little Butte Creek to furnish water to make the desert "blossom like a rose". And every civic movement undertaken by this city since we have lived here has always had his encouragement and support. "When night slips down and day departs And rest returns to weary hearts, How fine it is to close the book Of records for the day, and look Once more along the traveled mile And find that all has been worth while; To say: "In honor I have toiled: My plume is spotless and unsoiled."

Today is the day set apart by the President of the United States as a day of Thanksgiving, (this year commonly called "Frank's Day"). But whether we celebrate today or a week from today, the fact remains that we of this country have plenty to be thankful for in the year of grace 1939. So far at least, our nation has been able to stay out of the European mixup, we still have more or less freedom of action in our daily affairs and if our people have their way, we hope for greater freedom.

The American people don't need a special day for giving thanks for the many blessings which we receive. In fact the old meaning of Thanksgiving Day has almost disappeared. No longer do the people gather reverently on that day to thank the Giver of all good things for what they received during the year. Today this day has come to be just another holiday for most folks. So what difference does it make whether we celebrate the day appointed by Mr. Roosevelt or the traditional last Thursday of November? For that matter, there are too darned many holidays for the good of us all, anyway.

With the coming of these spring days, (at least they feel like spring) everybody and their aunt is busy burning the dead leaves from their yards. Usually these blow over the face of the earth and are a perfect pest. But this year folks are taking advantage of the clear, dry weather to get rid of them. But it's getting so that one cannot tell when the fog rises in the mornings, for the smoke is just as bad to see through.

But this writer would like to know some way to make an oak tree shed its leaves all at once, as most other trees do. Up at our house we expect to have a job raking leaves from now until the new leaves start.

Last night some twenty young men of this city met at the fire hall for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire department. This is just about the best thing that has happened here for some time. Fire is one of the worst enemies of mankind and it will help a lot to have a bunch of these young fellows getting together each week for training in the art of fire fighting. We bespeak for the new organization the help of all the citizens of the town.

In preparing for the above meeting Recorder Tex searched the dusty recesses of the city vault and brought out the original copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the old-time fire companies of this city. And

INTERESTING TALKS MADE BY MEMBERS OF COUNTY BOARD

A meeting of the Jackson County School District Reorganization board was held at the high school Tuesday evening. On account of the fact that there is so much sickness from flu in the community and also that the school was closed at noon that day on account of so many pupils being ill, there was not a very large turnout.

The meeting was called to order by County School Superintendent Bowman who explained the reason for the meeting. He then called on County Judge Earl Day, who told of the history of the legislative committee which conceived the idea of attempting to lessen the number of school districts in the state, of which there are at present about 2100. As all these districts are tax-leaving bodies, each with different requirements, the result is that school taxes throughout the state vary enormously.

By the term of a bill passed at the recent session of the legislature committees were formed in each county, consisting of the county judge, school superintendent, assessor, chairman of the non-high school board and three other members appointed by them, with instructions to make a study in their county of district boundaries and to make recommendations for such consolidation as they believed best for the county in general.

Mr. Bowman showed a map showing the present school districts in this county, numbering about 63. He also showed a colored map showing the best plan of consolidation the committee had been able to work out, which still left 22 districts. He also explained that in case the people of this county desired, they could adopt what is known as the "County School Law", which combines all the districts in the county under one central body.

He explained the working of the county school law and stated that many people were under the misapprehension that such a law meant that all the smaller schools would be closed at once. He showed by comparison with Klamath county, where the county school law has been in effect for the past seventeen years, that such is not the case, but that such closing depends entirely upon the wishes of the people of each district. Also that it would not mean the doing away with local school boards, which would still be elected as at present and which would have much power in the management of each school.

Assessor J. B. Coleman showed just what consolidation of school districts would mean in the matter of taxation. He showed that in many cases the tax rate would be lowered in some districts, while raised in others, but that if the county school law was adopted, the tax would be uniform throughout the county.

A. E. Brockway, president of the county non-high school board, explained the advantages of the county school law and said it would seem that this was the only solution of the uneven tax muddle.

A number of questions were answered by members of the board regarding different phases of the problem. It is the plan of the board to hold a series of meetings throughout the county so the people may better understand the situation. It is thought that when these meetings are completed a petition will be circulated calling for a special election to put the matter of adopting the county school law up to the voters.

P T A MEETING

The regular Parents Teachers Meeting, Friday December 1, at 3 o'clock subject "Value of Music in school" Mr. Myers, Music instructor will be the speaker. The 8th grade is to put on the program.

Mr. Henry Gordon of Fort Klamath was a recent guest at the Jake Myers home.

We got quite a kick in looking over the names of those ancient fire-laddies. Among those we found that of our old-time friend Lynn Purdin, who once ran a newspaper here. Also the names of several who still live here. Sorry they didn't come out and give us the benefit of their experience.

Well Known Banker And Booster of City Dies of Pneumonia

Death early Saturday morning closed the long and active career of Delroy Getchell, president of the Farmers and Fruitgrowers bank since 1912 and one of Medford's best known and most public spirited citizens. Mr. Getchell succumbed to pneumonia after only a few days' illness.

He was born October 27, 1861, in Colton, Ohio, the son of Edwin and Mary Ellen (Smith) Getchell. His mother died when he was four years old. At the age of 13, while away at school, he learned his father had suffered financial reverses and young Getchell insisted upon returning home and going to work to help his father recoup his fortune.

Was Newspaper Man

Mr. Getchell first engaged in the newspaper business in Cincinnati, Ohio, training himself through extensive reading for a journalistic career. At the age of 30 he was president of the Minneapolis Typographical union, and for distinguished services to this organization was presented, upon retirement from office, with a gold-headed cane inscribed "Sans Luche, Sans Peur et Sans Reproche."

His newspaper experience included service as reporter and associate editor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minneapolis Tribune and Minneapolis Journal. Eye trouble, resulting from several hours in the icy waters of a Minnesota lake when a launch capsized, forced abandonment of his newspaper career.

Next, becoming interested in lum-



Delroy Getchell

bering, he engaged in the wholesale branch of that industry for about two years, developing a remarkable faculty for judging land values. This ability brought opportunity to enter the banking business in Minneapolis where his rise was rapid. He organized the Standard Bank of Minneapolis, and later the People's bank, of which he was vice-president and manager. He was also vice-president of the Merchants bank of St. Cloud Minn.

Health Forced Change

Later he consolidated his banking interests forming the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis which

(Continued on page three)

Clinic for Crippled Children Nov. 28

Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health officer, and Mrs. Blanche Lyman, county welfare administrator, announced this week that arrangements were being completed for a crippled children's clinic in Jackson county house Tuesday November 28.

The clinic is being arranged by the Crippled Children's Services of the State Public Welfare Commission, assisted by the Jackson County Public Welfare Commission and the Jackson County Health department.

Any person under 21 years of age of apparent normal mentality, who is suffering from a condition leading to a deformity of the bones, joints, muscles, or who is actually suffering from such a deformity may attend the diagnostic clinic upon referral by their parents and family physician. In addition, the deformities of cleft palate, harelip, burn construction and plastic skin contracts are included.

Attendance at the clinic is by appointment, which may be secured from either Jackson County Public Welfare Commission of the Jackson County Health department.

Following the clinic, if it is found that the family is unable to finance the cost of the recommended care, plans for this care will be made through the county public welfare commission of the county of residence.

Examining physicians for the clinic will be Dr. Richard B. Dillehunt and Dr. John F. Abele.

Tractor Service Is Offered Farmers

Two Jackson county farmers have organized the Gebhard Tractor Service near Medford, under the sponsorship of the community and cooperative services section, Farm Security administration, according to Robert W. Schmidt, county supervisor.

Facilities of a tractor, plow and disc will be made available for use on member farms and a limited number of other farmers in the community may be enabled to participate. The new cooperative was set up on a joint ownership plan with members signing patronage agreements on a fee basis.

Harold Gebhard is Treasurer of the Service. The other member is Edward Gebhard.

Mrs. Watkins is having Thanksgiving dinner with her daughter, Mrs. Burgeman in Medford.

Plans Are Complete For Big Banquet For Sportsmen

Acceptance of the invitations to attend the get-together banquet of the sportsmen's clubs of the valley have been received from the following: Karl Janouch, supervisor of the Rogue River National Forest, Dr. A. B. Peacock of Marshfield, district representative of state game commission, and as many from his office as possible; William McAllister, state representative.

Invitations have also been sent to W. L. Smith, Oregon Wild Life; Senator George Dunn and Representative Earl Newberry, and it is hoped they will be able to attend.

The banquet is scheduled for November 28 at the Medford Hotel and is being sponsored by the Rogue River Sportsmen's club of Medford, the Central Point Sportsmen's club and the Gold Hill Rod & Gun club. The hotel will serve one of their famous steak dinners, tickets being now on sale through the different clubs. The price of the dinner is \$1 per plate.

The three clubs represent a membership of over 500 sportsmen and it is hoped that a capacity crowd will be present. Pictures of Oregon wild life will be shown during the evening.

Miss Helen Wright And John Wilson Married at Church

Wednesday evening, Nov. 22, immediately following prayer meeting at the Church of Christ, in the presence of twenty-eight invited guests, Miss Helen Louise Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Wright, became the bride of Mr. John Russell Wilson, Rev. C. A. Phillips performing the ceremony.

Miss Wright was charming in a long light blue satin dress and carried a shower bouquet of maidenhair fern and pink rosebuds. Miss Millicent Ruth Hammond was bridesmaid and wore a tan crepe dress. Bryan Murdoch was best man. Miss Lysle Gregory played the wedding march.

Mrs. Wilson attended and graduated from the local high school and has many friends in the community. Mr. Wilson has worked with the Dawson Radio shop.

The happy couple left immediately for Portland for a short honeymoon and will be at home next week on North Riverside in Medford. The American joins in all good wishes for the young couple.

Grange to Celebrate Holiday Nov. 30

Every one is invited to come and celebrate America's traditional Thanksgiving with the Central Point Grange Thursday Nov. 30.

The grange leaders are preparing one of their bounteous dinners of roast turkey, dressing and all the other good things that go with it. Capable committees are already busy planning decorations to make the table dining-room and hall attractive.

An added attraction this year will be various forms of entertainment to be provided between the dinner and dance.

Dancing will start promptly at 8 o'clock and continue until a late hour. Music will be provided by Silva and his orchestra. No extra charge will be made for dancing to those who come to the dinner and a very small charge to those coming just for the dance. Bring your friends and enjoy another one of Central Point Granges well known, home cooked Thanksgiving Dinners, November 30th at 6 p. m.

Miss Edith Jacobs AND COMPANION

Are invited to be the Guests of the

CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN and the CRATERIAN THEATRE, Medford to see either of the two following pictures

Last Times Sat. Nite

IN TECHNICOLOR

Claudette Colbert—Henry Fonda "DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK"

—OR—

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

Deanna Durbin in "FIRST LOVE"

19 YOUNG MEN MEET TO FORM FIRE COMPANY

About twenty young men of the city met at the fire hall last night for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire department. The meeting was called by Mayor Powell at the request of Fire Chief Bonney, who is very much interested in the new organization.

The following officers were elected: Jack Tharp, president; A. E. Powell, honorary vice president, Harry Powell, secretary and Bill Abbott, treasurer. A committee consisting of Clarence Long, Chester Kamberg and A. E. Powell was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for report at the next meeting. It was also decided that the boys meet next Monday evening to make some changes in the fire hall.

Plans were discussed for a dance to be given some time in the near future for the purpose of raising funds for the purpose of raising equipment for the boys. The next meeting will be held next Wednesday evening.

Aged Resident Passes to Reward

George Elfers, 90, a resident of Phoenix, Ore., for the past 35 years, passed away at a local hospital, early Monday morning after a prolonged illness.

Mr. Elfers was born in Hanover, Germany, Sept. 6, 1849.

He came to the United States when ten years of age, and spent his boyhood in Ohio, was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Marr, at Wahoo, Neb., on Feb. 20, 1879, she passed away March 18, 1930.

He made a great many friends during his long residence in Southern Oregon, and was admired for his genial personality and kindness. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. W. M. Tetherow, Central Point; Mrs. G. W. Reynolds, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Mrs. O. C. Huggins, Los Angeles, Calif., one son, Herbert Elfers, Ronan, Montana, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Perl funeral home Wednesday at 10 a. m. Rev. C. A. Phillips officiating. Interment was in the Phoenix cemetery.

Beautiful flowers and the large group of friends who gathered showed the high esteem in which he was held. Mr. Elfers has made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Tetherow, for the past year.

Mrs. Rossi Celebrates Birthday Friday

Mrs. Rossi celebrated her birthday last Friday. Her daughter-in-law, who is at the Motel was sick and could not prepare any thing special for the occasion. Mrs. Rossi's children and grandchildren while unable to be here sent a gift in remembrance of the day Mr. and Mrs. Rossi are in hopes some of their family will be able to be here on the 30th.

The Churches

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Clifton A. Phillips, Minister Bible School 10:00 a. m. Roland Hoyer, Supt. Miss Lysle Gregory Primary Supt.

Communion and Preaching 11:00 a. m. Special music, Ladies' Trio.

Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m.

Evangelistic Service 7:30 p. m.

Sermon subject "Noah's Ark." The chart used with this subject will present the size, shape, purpose and peculiarities of the ark.

Prayer and Bible Study, Wed., 7:45 p. m. Mr. Foley leader of "Training For Service". Mrs. E. E. Scott Leader of "Christian Action."

THE FEDERATED CHURCH

Phone 51

Stanley G. Parish, Pastor.

Bible School—9:45 a. m.

Morning Worship—11:00 a. m.

Christian Endeavor—6:30 p. m.

Evening Service—7:30 p. m.

Ladies' Bible Class—Tuesday at 2:30 p. m.

Prayer Meeting—Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

Choir Practice—Wednesday at 8:00 p. m.