

Central Point AMERICAN

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Editorially speaking

SKY HIGH RATES—

We knew Central Point water rates were high, BUT we did not know we had the honor of having the highest rate in the Pacific Northwest!

This week we had our eyes opened with the survey report from John Cunningham & Associates of Portland, who had been retained by the city to make a survey of water supply needs.

In this report, Cunningham mentioned that, to his knowledge, Central Point has the highest water rate of any similar town in the northwest.

As local residents know, city water is purchased from Medford on a surplus basis. The present contract will expire in November. We sincerely hope that city officials will get down to brass tacks and try to get a sizable rate reduction on the future contract. In addition, it might not be a bad idea to review the present setup for water and sewer improvement assessments.

We would like to see property rather than users assessed for the lines and mains installed throughout the city.

IT'S SMOOTH NOW!

Last week the street past the American office had its face lifted.

We are very pleased with the smooth surface of the street and the absence of pot holes and "driver's nightmares." To improve this small section of street, it was necessary to tear up a fractional coat of oil. There are a number of other streets, supposedly oiled, which could stand the same treatment.

We hope you will take a few minutes to drive up Second street and then make yourself heard for a similar job on your street.

Book Briefs

From Central Point Public Library
By Evelyn Graham

"The Toll-gate"

by Georgette Heyer

Georgette Heyer started her writing career when she was in her teens and published her first novel when she was seventeen. For this new novel the author has moved from the English city scenes to the beautiful countryside of Derbyshire. It is a wild and rugged land of moors and hill that hide deep unexplored caves. Here in the period of English history, just after Waterloo, she had laid a lively tale of mystery, murder, robbery, and strangely enough, romance.

The hero of the tale is Captain John Staple, 29, recently resigned from his commission in the Dragoon Guards, bored with the society life of his family and the match-making of his mother. This large, handsome, well-groomed gentleman found himself posing as a humble gatekeeper on the toll road, being the protector of a small frightened boy, and becoming involved in the stormy affairs of Squire Stornaway, even to the point of falling in love. His skill and fearlessness solve a murder and robbery, and incidentally change a highway-

man into an honorable landed gentry.

The other characters are equally fascinating: Nell, granddaughter of the Squire, beautiful and high spirited, trying to protect her invalid grandfather from the evil surrounding them; Rose, her maid, loyal and lovable, ashamed that she has fallen in love with a common highwayman; the Squire, helpless and bedridden, who in a stroke of genius, finally has his own way in protecting Nell, and dies a happy man.

The solving of the plots and counterplots creates one of the gayest and most exciting love stories that Miss Heyer has ever written.

HERE ON TUESDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hazen of Jacksonville were Central Point visitors Tuesday.



LEGISLATIVE RE-ECHOES

Comments on the 1955 legislature have a revealing pattern. The farther from the Capitol they come the more beclouded and ribald they are.

Evaluations by those who heard committee hearings, committee discussions and debates on bills on the floors of the Senate and the House, have an understanding of the very unusual tasks the members of this session faced. No Oregon legislature in the past 60 years has been confronted with such complex financial problems. In this session they had no trouble getting along with each other. Their enigma was getting along with the voters—not just the folks back home but those of the entire state—the masses who went overboard spending at the ballot box during the ultra prosperous post war days. The days we still are slow in realizing cannot last forever. Then there is the financial hangover of pressure group appropriations always present from previous sessions. All these were members of the red paint daubing crew.

Here are excerpts from comments by state officials and legislative party leaders:

"What concerns me with this legislature is the almost complete lack of emphasis on economy. No one can deny that its members have worked long hours trying to solve the age-old problem of matching income with outgo. There is an indication, at long last, that many of the members realize that a wise policy is to get revenues first and expand secondly."—Earl T. Newbry, secretary of state

"The legislative assembly has faced its problems squarely, and acted. The state has been provided with policies and revenue is in sight. Tho a tedious session, the 48th assembly has been earnest and thorough." Sig Unander, State Treasurer.

"With the fine leadership we have had, the Forty-eighth Legislative Assembly has been a hard working group.

"The balancing of the State budget, which was a much more difficult problem this session, has been accomplished.

"We have worked over the Workmen's Compensation and unemployment program and, I believe, have come to a fair conclusion.

"While I realize many of the controversial issues were not present at this session, we have

had our problems and they have been settled." — Representative Ed. R. Cardwell.

TREES AND TAXES

Should an orchard be taxed on the value of land and trees or on the value of the land only. Rogue River Valley orchardists have taken the stand that for purposes of taxation the value of the land only should be used. Tax Commissioner Sam Stewart translates the law to mean the entire value. The growers contend that "trees" as used in the statute referred to forests and not trees, the product of husbandry, such as orchard trees, perennial pastures and can berries. If an order to county assessors should include these the growers say they will prevail on the next legislature to change the law. Tax commissioners Ray Smith and Carl Chambers told the growers they would study the situation before issuing any orders.

Property Purchase Reported this Week

Dayton and Richard Glenn and families have purchased the Clarence T. Franks property on Old Stage Road and are moving into their new home this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan S. Phipps have purchased the Kane property at 1405 W. Main in Medford. Sales of the property was handled through the M & M Agency of Central Point.

LADIES FROM IDAHO

Mrs. Hazel O'Keefe and Mrs. John W. Leonard of Boise, Idaho, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Starks on Freeman road. Mrs. O'Keefe will return home in a few days but Mrs. Leonard plans to remain for an indefinite visit.

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