

Central Point AMERICAN

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editorially speaking

POWER OF THE PRESS . . .

The power of the press was graphically demonstrated last week by the appearance of the "Just Wondering" Letter to the Editor.

The publishers were highly pleased with the response of the letter because it indicates that a number of local residents are awakening to the needs of the city. Change, growth and progress in any city are possible only when residents become interested and aroused.

Any city administration, whether here in Central Point or in any town or city in the nation, is representative only of the individuals in the town. Wishes of the residents must be reflected through the actions of the city fathers.

However, to put the record straight, let us say that we do not agree entirely with the contents of the first "Just Wondering" letter.

We believe that a change in administrative organization is needed for the betterment of Central Point. Our proposal is as follows:

To begin with, there are three main areas of city activity. These are the city streets, city sewer system and city water supply.

It is our thought and belief that Central Point is woefully undermanned in these three departments and overstaffed in other areas.

First, we propose that the position of city recorder be made an appointive post. Through our contact with other small cities and with other small city councils, we have noted that few maintain a full-time position of recorder, secretary or treasurer.

With the establishment of a part-time recorder-office manager, budgeted salary funds would be available for the three main areas of city activity . . . water, sewer and streets.

As a matter of fact, the present city recorder, Arden Pinkham, is being wasted in his present post. He has the knowledge, experience and ability to take over a post of city superintendent responsible for the maintenance and progress of the streets, sewer and water systems.

This ties in with our second proposal. We believe that a post of city superintendent should be created to work with and direct a two-man crew handling street, sewer and water work.

If such a post were created, the present street system could receive continued attention and care. Great strides could be taken to improve city streets, alleys and curb areas.

Installation of new water connects, repair of water mains, maintenance of the sewage pumping station and numerous related jobs to improve the city could be handled efficiently and promptly.

We are interested only in the growth and development of Central Point. The Rogue River Valley and the Central Point area are in for a huge population growth within the next years. The city will be able to accommodate this increase of population and related business activity only by being prepared, foresighted and progressive.

No town can sit back on its hands and expect to live in the past. No town can disregard the future. No town can hope to get by "as is."

With these thoughts in mind, we suggest that Central Point prepare for the future . . . look ahead to a "great" town.



To the Editor:

No more of the "Wonderer" for me please and thank you. And if you ask me, you will get more out of our town's administrators with a little praise and not so many brickbats.

I know of no one who would miss the wondering one if he went back to Medford without asking of us to go too. We are doing good, now that we have plenty of good, soft water, you ought to have been here before '48.

Mrs. P. A. Tracy

P. S. J. C. might do well to lose the chip chip off his shoulder.

To The Editor:
Just Wondering!

After the tremendous number of phone calls and contacts congratulating the writer on last week's "just wonderings", I feel that another letter to you is in order.

I am wondering why the position of city superintendent, as we knew it in the past and originally created, has been scuttled



of dissent and dissatisfaction begin to come out of the city hall. I believe that most of it was over who was boss. This should not have been difficult to determine, as the city superintendent's duties were clearly set forth at the time of his hiring.

Finally, after 4 or 5 years, the city superintendent was fired or resigned. A little later the assistant resigned, and the position of city superintendent, as originally put into effect was scuttled or done away with. I am just wondering why! The money to pay for these services was budgeted. Why, as tax payers, can we not have this badly needed service.

The writer feels sure that if the present city administration does not see fit to restore the position of city superintendent on a full time working basis, as we knew it in the past, that some other administration will do so in the not too distant future.

As a mere suggestion, when the mayor and city dads do again hire a full time working city superintendent—why not hire a man from outside our city. Let him come in under no obligations to anyone and not mixed up in local petty politics. I am sure that with the money budgeted for this job, it will attract plenty of good applicants. This was the original thought by many persons, in hiring a city superintendent at the time the job was created.

I am just wondering if it is not about time for the city administration to take a new look into the overall cost of city administration, such as salaries, supplies, etc. I wonder if we have not reached the peak or gone over, on what we can really afford. I am wondering if a halt to bond issues are not in order. Let us pay for some of the things we have bought on time.

I am of the firm belief, and have advocated in the past, along with many other tax payers, including some members of the present administration and the two preceding ones, that the office of city recorder should be appointive instead of an elective office. I would place the

cost of this office on a competitive basis, and the mayor and city council would have more control of the office. I am sure that the office, with its limited specified duties, could be filled on a part time basis with possibly not over \$100 a month expense. For instance, Jacksonville with only about 600 less population, I believe pays for the office of recorder \$60.00 per month. This would be quite a substantial saving to the city in comparison to the present cost of the office.

I believe that some sort of move by the present administration to make this change has been made. I personally think that this would be a very commendable act of the administration from a dollar savings standpoint.

I think the mayor and city dads should be congratulated on their hiring an efficient, courteous, and pleasant office girl in the city hall. This is something, I believe, we have needed for a long time. Let's hope this service is continued.

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Editor, on your last week's editorial, entitled "How Do You Rate Central Point."

Mr. Editor, please understand that I am interested only in an impartial, efficient city administration at the lowest possible dollar cost. As tax payers, I believe we are entitled to this kind of service.

Any statement in this letter to the editor is in no way meant as a criticism of any one individual. If construed as criticism, it is purely against a system or method of city administration. This communication is written solely as a query to some things about city administration that I do not understand.

I am just wondering!

Signed,

John Cupp

A Citizen Tax Payer

P. S. More "just wondering soon about our continuing tax levy."

J. C.

To the Editor

I have been wondering for a long time and I will have to

agree with our writer on certain problems. I have been wondering for a long time if the people would ever wake up, not only on our city affairs, but also on our county and state affairs.

To refer to our city problems, I think there is quite some room for some improvement . . . put in more time at things that need to be done instead of so much time at the coffee counter.

I have been wondering if there couldn't be more done on some of our streets than there has been done. It seems as long as we sit and say nothing, they just spend our money just the same. I pay my taxes, but it is a struggle sometimes to meet them. I have been wondering how they expect such people as myself to meet all requirements with no income except what I work for.

It is time people are getting their eyes open.

It seems to me some of our money has been spent and hasn't done us much good. For instance, that \$800 sweeper bought with our money seems like a total loss. It doesn't appeal to me to just look at. There can be one bought for \$8 or \$10 which would serve the purpose, only it would require a little elbow strength.

I would like to see some cooperation with the people of the city as well as our councilmen.

Only last spring I asked for some cooperation from the city councilmen on the dog problem. What did I get . . . nothing.

So, my citizen taxpayers, please pay more attention.

D. F. P.

A taxpayer

WEEKS VACATION

Mrs. George Smith of Gold Hill left Monday for a weeks vacation at Walnut Creek, Calif., where she will visit her mother-in-law, Mrs. Nellie Smith, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Irene Belgado. Mrs. Smith is the mother-in-law of Postmaster George Evans.

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