

The Times

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THE TIMES is an independent newspaper published in two editions each Thursday, one for the residents of Gold Hill and surrounding areas, and one for Rogue River and its trade area.

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LET'S ORGANIZE FIRE CALLS

The volunteer fire department is going to have to adopt some form of taking fire calls to avoid confusion, and to enable them to arrive quickly at the scene of any fire.

The report last week had several elements of confusion that normally don't happen, but other calls have sent the department scurrying in the wrong direction.

Most everyone gets excited during a fire, but if some form were available to those taking the fire calls which would give, for example, the name of the party reporting, and from where; where the fire is located and how best to get there, a duplicate could be given the fire truck driver and a copy held for future reference.

As it is, someone calls in and reports a fire, location etc. all verbal, and in the excitement a fire on West Evans may be reported as East Evans, and a fire on 99 south might be mistaken for 99 north.

It might be well also to report the nature of the fire - wood, oil, grass, house or forest - so the fire department would know what equipment to bring. There would be, for example, no use in taking the big truck if the fire was in a place that could only be reached by the jeep.

These things could be done without much extra effort and they could and would save time and money. Whenever volunteers leave their jobs and dash off to fight a fire, their employers are paying them. If there is a fire to fight, no one objects and the contribution of the men's time is gladly made by the employer. But false alarms or false locations of the fire, injure everyone.

The volunteers serve without pay, and take many risks. All these things should be taken into consideration to make it as easy as possible for them. A little organization along these lines is badly needed.

LET'S ANALYZE THIS AFFAIR

When charges are made against a person or when smears - without charges being filed are made - the public always puts on its own trial and becomes the jury, and convicts or acquits before any real trial is ever held.

This is human nature and those who know how it works use it to their own ends.

We are now discussing the case of Gene R. Brantley. Brantley filed as a candidate for judge on Monday, August 25th.

Brantley has been accused, although at this writing no charges have been filed, of notarizing signatures to petitions to place his name on the ballot as an Independent candidate for county judge. While not accused, the inference has been that he also forged signatures on the petitions - supposedly so that he would have enough to qualify as a candidate.

Now hear this! Brantley knew in advance that he was to be the Democratic candidate for county judge. He knew he didn't have to file petitions to make him a candidate. Does that sound as though he or any of his friends would forge the signatures?

It looks to us as though someone who didn't know he was to be on the ballot purposely and with malice aforethought forged the names.

And to make it so obvious that it couldn't help but be discovered, one of the signatures forged, we are told, was that of an employee right in the county courthouse. Does that make sense?

We are told further that the signatures were so obviously forged that one followed another in the same handwriting. Would a friend of Brantley's be so stupid? Or would it be someone whose interest it was to see that the petitions were thrown out, to see Brantley smeared and accused before the voters?

The case smells to high heavens.

The petitions were filed on Monday. Before the week was out Robert Dickey, deputy district attorney, was giving the story out. And, District Attorney Paul Haviland, who was in Portland, was issuing a statement on the matter.

That is the fastest action the district attorney's office has given any case in a long time. Why the sudden spurt of energy?

As we said before, the whole thing smells; it smells, and if the people can't tell which way the wind is blowing, we'll be missing our guess.



By Fiddle & Fiddle

Since The Times last week ran the picture of O. W. (Ozzie) Newland, mayor of Gold Hill, with his eyes shut, he has been the subject of considerable criticism. They are calling him "Gold Hill's wide awake mayor."

During the big storm on Thursday, Larry Sheehan of Rogue River was one of the busiest men afloat.

Many people saw him in rain hat and coat, with shovel in hand, working on a ditch and running back and forth before a culvert. What they didn't know was that it made scents.

Larry had a skunk, a big black and white one, trapped in the culvert, and he was trying to drown it, a task which he supposedly accomplished considering that he was able to be out in public right afterwards.

Does your car run without gas? Ask Harold Wood of Wimer about his. Apparently his does. He tried to start his pick-up last Friday. No gas! While he was filling a can to remedy the situation, the pick-up took off over the bank removing a section of fence, that being the only damage.

Bates Hamer of Rogue River went fishing last week at Gold Beach and almost caught him a salmon as "big as a man".

He hooked the fish, lost it when his line broke. But in its struggles the fish caught on the hook of one of Hamer's companions. He held it briefly and the hook tore out.

Bates did get a 20 pound salmon and another in the boat got a 35 pounder, so maybe that fish "as big as a man" wasn't so far-fetched after all.

Watch for the new paint job on Neily Sund's Oldsmobile! He wants to paint Esther's car the same color but she says "No".

Bernie (We've-killed-off-all-the-big-ones) Kearns reports that Mrs. Ralph Chapin, who lives on highway 99 (north-west of Rogue River) killed a rattler only eight inches long. It was so small that it only had a button.

Which reminds us that we forgot to ask Bernie (snake expert that he is) "which comes first, the rattle or the button?"

Last Thursday The Times notified Rogue River residents that Rolland Stiehl had been chosen by the city council to count the outside toilets and inform the city council of the owners thereof so letters could be sent, telling the people they had until Feb. 1st to get rid of them and to get inside plumbing installed.

On Friday, into this newspaper office walked a fine looking lady. Said she:

"When Mr. Stiehl counts privies, tell him not to forget the two in the city park. Maybe the city council can write itself a letter. If there were ever two worse messes, those are it!"

REMEMBER. If you aren't registered, you can't vote in the important election in November! If you can't vote you can't complain about higher taxes or the calibre of men who get into office! There is a registrar close to you or you can register in the county clerk's office.

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