

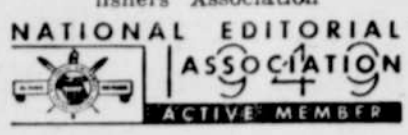
BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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In Lieu Of Pied Piper

It was a charming tale of childhood which might have had double meaning if one were inspired to interpret it. But the enchanting yarn of the itinerant piper who tootled his way through the town of Hamelin and led the rats to their destruction is well remembered.

Particularly in the Tualatin valley might one long for the touch of a Pied Piper. For certainly the problem of rats is one that cannot be lightly ignored.

The divine purpose of a rat seems certainly open to question. Of all the creatures drawing breath, Mr. Rat's only justification is his ill-temper and mania for wanton destruction.

Figures compiled on the waste that can be directly traced to the rat population are incomplete. Some ten years ago, government estimates on grain and food losses spoke in terms of four million dollars a year. And this was given as an indication, only.

This damage, of course, represents grain and other products contaminated, as well as consumed. For, by his nature, a rat will rip great holes in food containers, whether in cloth, paper or wood. When faced with the challenge of many sacks of flour or sugar, for instance, he will contaminate as many as he is able, without going to the bother of physically attacking.

There have been instances of rats angrily biting through the floor, in one place, and then, next night, chewing another passageway nearby, without going to the trouble of using the hole already accomplished.

Serious as this temperamental tendency might be, the most alarming fact about a rat is the diseases for which he is credited. Bubonic plague and typhus are but two epidemic disasters in which he often figures.

What does that mean to the Tualatin valley? Hardly a resident therein but can easily answer that question.

Reports from communities within the valley point out waves of rats that frequently invade homes as well as business firms. Food establishments, particularly those of wooden construction through which the rat can chew passageway, are sometimes alarmingly beset by families of rats that turn up their rodent noses at traps and allied devices.

Rat control is a matter which should concern everyone in the valley. Not only because of their destructiveness but because of the disease these filth-carrying vermin carry, they should be searched out and destroyed.

An easier way not being apparent, it would be a splendid act of civic improvement for service clubs and merchants to spearhead a rat-extermination campaign.

Wherever a rat can find food and shelter, he will set up headquarters, establish his family and multiply his numbers. A co-operative drive by service organizations and businessmen could well implement extermination by one of the accredited rat control organizations available.

This would seem an admirable improvement of the area, a long-range rat-control program in lieu of the pied piper of story fame.

The Handwriting Shows

Since 1920, 21% of the population growth of the entire country has developed in the states of Washington, Oregon and California.

If current state and municipal headaches are of king-size proportions, future problems can be safely guessed. For, on the wall, the handwriting shows.

Local Government Crisis

Taxes differ from the weather. While, about weather, everyone talks about it but no one seems able to do much to improve it, taxes can be re-scheduled.

At the moment, the Oregon state legislature finds itself in a tangle of red-tape and confusing policy because of tax laws. With a surplus of \$45 million in funds from personal income and corporate excise taxes stacked up in a corner behind a "Keep Out" sign, the harried legislators are beset with the demand for funds.

The law provides that unless these funds are specifically appropriated, the state General Fund can obtain an increase of only 6% year, regardless of need and in spite of surpluses. Of course, a simple amendment to the personal and corporate income tax laws would make possible available revenues for the future.

Because of the present tax set-up, there is an impression abroad that the state is on the verge of bankruptcy because of its artificially unbalanced budget. Yet the more critical picture of all is in local government.

As the League of Oregon Cities will verify, the increase of Oregon population in the last eight years, estimated at 49.2% or 1,626,000 persons, has laid heavy demand on services and facilities. Schools, streets, sewers, public building and other demands are being made in a rising chorus. And at the same time rising prices and related costs have even more greatly aggravated such local government services as exist.

Request for local services are more insistent than for state services. But 6% limitation on tax rates restricts growth, even in the face of expanded community wealth. Only by special levies, by single elections paid for by each city, are additional funds available.

While the legislators are concerned with worries on a statewide level, they might well take note of the plight of cities. For in tax matters, there is a local government crisis.



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Marcia Pike Recalled Fury Of Oregon's Mystery Storm

LITTLE VILLAGE OF BEAVERTON WAS IN PATH OF 1880 BLOW WHICH BAFFLED SCIENTISTS OF DAY

By Hervey S. Robinson

January 9, 1880 dawned a

beautiful winter day. The sky was clear and the weather balmy, even for January in Oregon. But at ten o'clock a twenty mile wind came up from the south which soon rose to a gale and then a hurricane.

By twelve o'clock it had attained a velocity of fifty miles an hour with occasional gusts and spurts of sixty miles. As the storm grew in intensity most of the men in Portland were in the streets trying to protect their property from destruction and viewing with alarm a scene such as never had been witnessed before in the memory of the white settlers or the oldest Indians in the Oregon country.

The scene was grand and terrible. The creaking of signs and swaying walls, the crash of falling awnings, the rumbling of tin roofs, the wind whistling through overhead wires and above all the roar of the storm united in a frightful chorus.

Men rushed hither and thither, eager, uncertain and fearful. Frightened women and children peered through the windows afraid to go out and afraid to remain within.

The gale raged for barely three hours. Rain, mixed with snow and sleet fell in pelting sheets. In Portland several hundred houses were unroofed. Some were completely demolished. Rescue work was hampered or prevented entirely by the fury of the storm. Drains were inadequate and floods of water poured through the streets bearing timber and other debris into the river.

Havoc prevailed in the forests and indescribable damage was done to roads throughout the state. Immense trees toppled over like pins in a bowling alley. They blocked highways and railroads. Part of the roof of the state capitol at Salem was blown off and, during repairs, the Supreme Court had to hold its sessions in the Senate Chambers.

The late Mrs. Marcia Pike, who had recently moved from Forest Grove to the old McClurg farm, bordering some timberland south of Beaverton, related, "Out there on our farm we witnessed great destruction. We saw tall, proud, powerful trees — trees that had consumed hundreds of years in their making—sway and stagger, then crash with a thunderous roar to the ground. Our horses were seized with quivering fright. They quaked frantically at their halters and snorted with helpless fear. Even the dogs and chickens were affected by the terror of the storm.

"Then, almost instantly, the storm ceased. It had come unheralded and departed as mysteriously as it came. Still bewildered we stood by the window.

"A woman was approaching on horseback. It was Mrs. Downing from a neighboring ranch and she was half frozen and beside herself with anxiety over the probable fate of her dairy herd—turned out that morning to browse in the woods.

"I made her come in and fixed her a bowl of hot soup and some tea while my husband took up the search for her cows. He found them penned in by fallen trees. Three had been struck and lay dead, a fate shared by large numbers of livestock all over the state."

Nothing remotely resembling that storm has been known to occur in Oregon before or since. The event was discussed by the scientifically minded for a long time but no satisfactory explanation for its cause was ever discovered and no practicable plan was suggested for protection against a recurrence of such a disaster.

The remainder of that winter of 1880-81 was uneventful but those three anxious awesticken hours were the topic of conversation for many a long day.

We are giving this story substantially as Mrs. Pike related it to her daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Young who published it in this newspaper in January, 1944, five years ago.

Mrs. Pike always evidenced a keen interest in preserving the story of early days in Oregon, particularly of people and events of the '70s and '80s when Beaverton was a little village with plank streets and automobiles were undreamed of.

She was born Marcia Doty, in Bath, Maine, in 1852. Later she lived in Iowa and Minnesota. In 1869 when she was about sixteen years old, she married Alonzo W. Pike and in 1877 the family came to Oregon. They settled first at Forest Grove and three years later moved to Beaverton vicinity, shortly before the event just

narrated. She died at Beaverton, September 30th, 1948 at the age of 96 years.

A few years ago the writer of these sketches obtained from Mrs. Young her mother's collection of clippings, assembled in a period of over fifty years. It included contemporary accounts of historical events in Oregon, the nation and the world.

Most of the items pertained to Oregon. Other favorite subjects were Abraham Lincoln, Calvin Coolidge, Charles A. Lindberg and Herbert Hoover. The wives of the presidents and social life in the White House received considerable attention as did the life and works of Harriett Beecher Stowe.

We frequently find occasion to consult this valuable collection. When we get it organized and analyzed it will rank among the most treasured items in our working library.

(Continued next week)

PROPHETIC BIBLE STUDY

Reverend Arthur Emerson, who has been leading revival meetings at the Highway Chapel in Beaverton, will lead regular classes in prophetic Bible study, announces Reverend Orville Poulin, pastor of the church.

The classes will be concerned, at the start with the Book of David and will meet every Thursday evening. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

FORMER RESIDENT

Mrs. W. H. Sheeley was a visitor in Beaverton last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheeley and their daughter Carole are now residing at 7701 S. W. Cedar Ave., Portland having recently sold their home in Beaverton.

Assistance With Income Tax Set During February

Deputy collectors of the Treasury Department's Internal Revenue service will come into eastern Washington county in February, to assist taxpayers in preparing federal income tax returns for the year 1948.

On February 18, at the city hall, a deputy will be on hand in Beaverton to answer the necessary questions and extend the official service.

Likewise, on February 21, a representative of the Internal Revenue office will be on hand at the Sherwood city hall.

All citizens wishing to take full advantage of the legal exemptions and provisions of the income tax law are invited to make use of the services offered. There is no charge.

In addition to the two dates listed, tax-form assistance is also available to any taxpayer at the branch office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, Room 100, Pittock Block, corner of S. W. Washington and Ninth Avenue, Portland, every day but Saturday until March 4. From Saturday, March 5 to March 15 inclusive, (including Saturday March 12) assistance will be offered at this address.

Deadline for filing returns is Tuesday, March 15.

YOUTH WOULD DANCE

That Youth would dance is a generally accepted axiom. But, in Oswego, the local Kiwanis have an idea to do something about it.

According to the REVIEW, the club partially completed plans, at a recent meeting, for a dance night for high school age youngsters, to be held once a week. This has been voted one of the programs for the organization in 1949.

Various high schools of the area will be contacted for suggestions on regularly staging the affair. Music for dancing would be provided by a record player. A milk bar or coke-facility was also discussed.

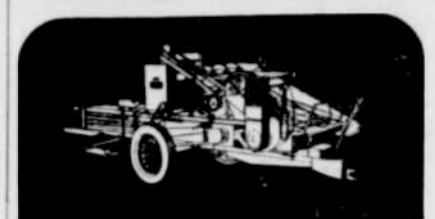
CARMEN KAY PASLEY

Carmen Kay Pasley, on Monday, January 17, joined the family of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pasley at Emanuel hospital in Portland, the third young lady to be so honored.

The mother, whose maiden name was Ruth Lundgren, reports from the hospital that both are doing well.

The Pasleys own and operate the Carolline Apartments on Second Street, in Beaverton.

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