

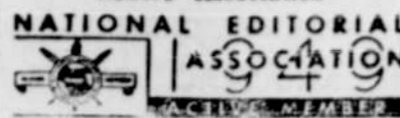
BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS

Percentage-wise, the states of Oregon and Washington are of but five states and the District of Columbia whose population has shown a decrease in total proportion of residents over the age of 65.

The nation as a whole, according to figures compiled by the Social Security Board, shows a marked trend upward of oldsters. In 1940, according to the Bureau of the Census, the United States as a whole had 9,020,916 residents over the 65 year age, or 6.8% of the total population.

In 1948, this summer grew to 10,940,000, or 7 1/2% of total population. In the state of Oregon, 1940 saw 93,277, or 8.5% of the total population aged 65 or over while, in 1948, this total increased to 114,093 which was only 7 of the total population.

Explanation of the shrinkage in percentage although total number increased significantly is told in the fact that population during the eight years grew greater than did the increase of aged folk.

The mounting emphasis on old age pension schedules in the state of Oregon, which resulted in approval by the people, in general election, of \$50 per month, can thus be illuminated. Of course, by prompt legislative action, the measure as accepted by the people was not enacted. But surely were the "straws in the wind" indicated.

Nationally, the aspect of a population which gradually becomes older has economic overtones that must well be noted. Provision will perform be made to manage some care to the elderly, whether it be generous, adequate or mere subsistence.

In studies of the Social Security Board, it was shown that 39% of those over 65 years of age were dependent upon public and private assistance; 34% worked or had a business of their own; 18% had an income from pensions including old age and survivors insurance while 9% had investments. Over a million had income from insurance and annuities.

Assistance to those over 65 years of age is not something that should be given or withheld at the whim of the legislature. Today's pattern of social responsibility leaves little room for disregarding the needs of the aged and infirm.

Whether it's a welcome thought, or not, the substantial increase of citizens 65 years or older presents far reaching economic, social and political implications.

WISE CHANGE OF POLICY

For long, the American Medical Association could be best depended upon to provide pointed diatribes in opposition to socialized medicine but little in the way of helping the medical profession live up to its Hippocratic role.

Without question, the threats of government medicine is one of the foremost in the minds of the nation's practitioners. Under private enterprise their rewards have been, to put it mildly, fully adequate. Whether they would remain so under government rule is open to question.

Leading proponent of AMA policy, as seen from the sidelines, appeared to be Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of its journal and frequently quoted spokesman. Recently, however, the good doctor was replaced. Almost immediately a major change appeared in its public relations.

Instead of monotonous presentation of the pure white AMA in comparison to the pure black government medicine, now there appears a dignified news release offering stories adaptable to newspaper use telling of progress made in dealing with specific diseases. Written in restrained style that lets facts speak for themselves, these handouts will do much to overcome an editor's reluctance to use them.

Whether it is because of personnel shifts within the organization or a determined re-evaluation of approach to the public, the new system seems definitely to be a wise change of policy.

HOW FAR WILL THEY REACH?

Some mysterious someone whose alleged wishes are respected as gospel is supposed to favor the consolidation of Multnomah county into the city of Portland.

Towards that end result, Mayor Dorothy M. Lee has appointed an uninstruced fact-finding commission to investigate the city manager form of administration and, concurrently, county-city consolidation.

In behalf of the latter idea, certainly Portland has reason enough to want more and more valuation as a basis of revenue with which to run its multifarious public services. With the normal growth of the metropolis tending to move beyond its borders, added valuation is escaping. It can best and most easiest be reclaimed by reaching out and annexing the county.

Groundwork for this move has been laid for some time, particularly in the Southwest Hills and West Slope area, through the lengthening encroachment of the Portland post office on adjacent communities. Beaverton might well recognize this pattern for almost to its very door are addresses within the sphere of the Portland office.

It would seem, of course, that the line separating Multnomah and Washington counties might be a barrier before which the Portland postal territory would pull up in a fast halt. Such is not the case, in actual practice. There are Washington county areas that are effectively orphaned by having a Portland (Multnomah county) mailing address to becloud and confuse the identity and the geographic location.

Nor has the city of Portland been backward of stepping across county lines to add to its valuation. Clackamas county has lost one settlement to Portland. There is no sign of reluctance on the part of big town as to gobbling up choice Washington county property that lies adjacent to its borders.

In consideration of a county-wide city, such as Los Angeles, provincial attitudes are, of course, frowned upon. Proponents always emphasize the big city advantages, in the matter of street lights, water use rates, police and fire protection.

As far as the east end of the Tualatin valley is concerned, improvements could be made in police, street lights and water rates. Fire protection is generally good.

But many a suburbanite or ruralite, if asked to indicate a choice, would nevertheless shy away from the shadow of the big town. Some of them will even contend they wanted to get away from the metropolis when they established homes in the valley.

There is one inescapable fact in all civic services. That fact is that there's no way to get something for nothing. Every improvement made must be paid for and paid for it is, whether by direct assessment or general assessment on taxpayers.

It seems that the best counter-action against being willingly or unwillingly included in the corporate limits of the city of Portland is by incorporation of your own city. In a smaller city, a citizen has a feeling of being part of a community, of being able to have a say-so in the civic affairs.

But as to Portland and planners, there's no telling how far they will reach.

Tualatin Co. Rated 5th In First Territorial Census

GOVERNOR LANE ORDERED TABULATION OF ALL OREGON RESIDENTS IN 1849, LISTED BY NAME

By Hervey S. Robinson
 (Continued from last week)

Any reader who has additional information on names, places or events covered by Mr. Robinson are invited to write the newspaper. In this way, a more complete historical series will be possible. Address letters to Hervey S. Robinson, % Beaverton Enterprise, Beaverton, Oregon.

There were not a great many people in Tualatin (now Washington) county or, for that matter, in the whole of Oregon Territory, in the spring of 1849, when Governor Joseph Lane arrived in Oregon City to set the wheels of his new territorial government in motion.

One of his first acts was to appoint a corps of special "marshals" or census takers to determine the population of the territory and of each of its ten counties, under the able direction of United States Marshal Joseph Meek. This census was to be used as a basis for apportioning representation in the first legislative assembly, soon to be called.

If you want to know who were the first families in Oregon Territory you should consult a copy of the census of 1849 in the files of the Oregon Historical Society. It consists of something less than a dozen sheets of "foolscap" paper written on both sides in a flourishing hand, somewhat difficult to read and abounding in misspelled words, making it difficult at times to recognize the names, even of persons well known in Oregon history. We readily recognize John S. Griffin as intended for John S. Griffin and can guess that N. Robitson is intended for Nathan Robinson who lived on the present site of Reedville but some other entries overtax our imagination.

Joseph Meek and his assistants succeed in finding in all of the vast area, which now comprises all of Washington, Oregon and Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming, a population, excluding Indians, of 9083, about one-fourth as many as that of Washington county today.

Tualatin county, the forerunner of present Washington county had 1142 resident about the equivalent of Beaverton's last "official" population. Today with something less than half of its 1849 area, it has about thirty-six times that number.

The most populous of the ten counties was Champoeg (later Marion), with 1,677 people, about as many as now inhabit the town of Oswego. Lowest on the list was Vancouver, with fifty Americans and seventy-one "Hudson's Bay company people," scarcely enough to make a crossroads village today. Vancouver was a little later renamed Clark county.

Tualatin ranked fifth, exceeded by Champoeg, Clackamas, Yamhill and Polk in the order named. Its area at that time extended north to the Columbia and east to the Willamette. Most of its residents were on the plains in the vicinity of Forest Grove, Hillsboro and North Plains. There were about 100 people in the embryo metropolises at Portland who were obliged to go over the hills to Hillsboro to transact county business. A few were in little settlements at Linn-ton, St. Helens, West Linn and other points on the west bank of the Willamette, each hoping to become the commercial center of the Northwest.

The census report comprises a separate list of qualified voters for each county followed by a tabulation showing the number of males over 21, the number of males under 21 and the number of females of all ages who qualified as American citizens. The number of foreigners was given separately under two classifications, males over 21 and all others. In some counties the latter classification was broken down into males under 21 and women and girls as in the case of American citizens.

We do not know just how the census was taken. Some of the census takers were the sheriffs of their respective counties under the former provisional government and it appears likely that they relied largely upon the tax lists in their possession and their personal acquaintance with the families residing in their respective districts, not too difficult a task in view of the fact that there were less than 10,000 inhabitants to be counted by some ten men well acquainted in the county.

Most of the male population of Oregon was then at the mines in California but these absentees, or most of them at least, appear to have been enumerated as their homes were still in Oregon.

In spite of the bad spelling and penmanship we are able to recognize Dr. Ralph Wilcox, D. H. Lowndale, D. Burnside and Captain John Couch of Portland, John S. Griffin, Harvey Clark, Alvin Smith, D. T. Lenox and other missionaries on Tualatin plains.

George Ebberts, Joe Meek and other retired trappers on the North Plains and around Hillsboro and David Hill who founded that city, Robert Moore was at Linn City (West Linn), then in Tualatin county.

Augustus Fanno is on the list. He had settled on his claim on Fanno Creek but his neighbors from the Hoosier state had not yet arrived. Rev. Wilson Blain, who was dividing his time between Oregon City and West Linn, usually claiming Oregon City as his residence, was listed in Tualatin county and was chosen in the first election to represent that county in the upper house of the territorial legislature.

As soon as the census was completed an apportionment of representation was made and a proclamation issued for an election to be held June 6, 1849, for a delegate

to Congress and members of a two house territorial legislature.

On the basis of this census, Tualatin was allotted one member of the council (upper chamber) and two members of the House of Representatives in the legislative assembly. The two larger counties, Champoeg and Clackamas, were allowed one councilman each and one to represent them jointly. Lewis, Clatsop and Vancouver counties had one councilman between them. Other counties had one each.

In the House, Champoeg and Clackamas had each, three representatives, Lewis, Clatsop and Vancouver had one jointly. The others, including Tualatin, had on each. Wilson Blain was elected councilman and David Hill with W. M. King were chosen representatives for Tualatin county.

(Continued next week.)

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