

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

BUSINESS OFFICE AND PLANT PHONE BEAVERTON 2321
Plant located in Beaverton—Tualatin Valley Highway and Short St.

Published Friday of each week by The Pioneer Publishing Co., at Beaverton, Oregon. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office Beaverton, Oregon.

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WITH LOSS OF IDENTITY

Regardless of the merits of the case, the present controversy which rages around a bulb grower in Sherwood very definitely threatens a government institution in that community—the post office.

The first class postoffice status at Sherwood has been a matter of local pride and joy. Certainly, the establishment of an office of such status has proved a boon to its patrons, offering the best of service even though the community is not too heavily populated.

The basis upon which the United States postal department arrives at a decision to furnish first class mail service is income. A minimum of some \$40,000 per year is the volume beyond which all the trappings and prerogatives of improved mail service are a matter of right.

According to testimony to answer allegations of wrongful business practices, by the bulb distributor in Sherwood, it would seem that a substantial part of the business volume in that post office can be traceable to this firm which has put the city "on the map" and in so doing built up a million dollar business or more.

Whether the charges against the nursery will be proved or be found without merit, the action is extremely serious. And the impact of the suit will likely have a disruptive influence on Sherwood in many ways—whether by a government order to desist, by the unfortunate publicity which the trial occasions or by the distraction from business which comes through the time and effort necessary to offer a defense.

The focal point which will affect the patrons of the Sherwood post office most pertinently, of course, is in the possible shrinkage of business volume through the difficulties its main customer may encounter. As the high priests of the U. S. Post Office department give, so may they take away.

The history of the postal department may offer voluminous examples of localities which have mushroomed to first class status and then deflated backward. There can be, of course, no favoritism whatever in the operation of the nation's post offices. The only determinant is the amount of business that comes over the counters.

The post office, to be sure, is a shrewd, business-like organization both federally and locally. Pressures "from on high" generate as surely in the department as in the organization of any private or corporate enterprise.

Financed in part by taxation but in the main by its sales and services, a post office is expected to produce. And while personnel are protected to a degree by civil service ratings, there yet looms threateningly the loss of status and prestige if business volume falls below a set minimum.

No one can rightfully criticize the enthusiasm with which a local post office might reach for greater business volume. It might well mean maintaining a favorable status or being relegated downward.

There are ramifications to this effort to increase receipts, of course, that touch many people. Aside from the vigorous campaigns in behalf of using airmail and stamped envelopes, the taking in of new areas also contributes significantly to improved business volume.

The practice of enveloping and absorbing more territory, even to the extent of infringement on an already established, though smaller office, seems to be the established practice. Strengthening such a contention is the continuing reaching out of the Portland post office, which offers foot or mounted carrier and a Portland address to outlying areas which are even in a different county.

The Sherwood office, too, has gone beyond its original boundaries until it encom-

passes areas as far away as Tualatin and Wilsonville. Both the latter localities have post offices and in the event of substantial growth of either, their postal departments will have rather a difficult task of keeping in step with the development.

One who lives within the trading area of Tualatin, for instance, might well have Portland lights and gas, Stafford or Tigard telephone and Sherwood mail address.

Perhaps this is a thesis that might wear thin. But address is an important feature of identity and without it there is a tendency to let civic consciousness slip, to let civic pride dilute itself.

If Sherwood faces a climactic crisis in the matter of remaining first class or slipping downward in post office status, we might well expect a heightened effort toward converting Tualatin's present post office to a branch of the Sherwood office. This would mean, of course, the shelving of the Tualatin postmark and the effective removal of an important method of identity.

So might the good people living on the fringe of this first class post office understand, in the event of an attempt by anyone to abandon their small post office, that a significant value vanishes with the loss of mail identity.

THIS TIME OF YEAR

Summer shadows are lengthening, noting the passing of the vacation phase and presaging Fall and the opening of the school year.

Parents, at this time of year, are in some cases bemused with the many demands that are made upon them as their offspring prepare to hurl themselves into the thick of the fight for education. New clothes to be bought, books, pencils and other impediments must be acquired, awaiting the opening bell when the future leaders of tomorrow charge into the arena, eager-eyed, in pursuit of learning.

The district health officer adds one more bit of seasonal advice to the requirements already considered. He urges all parents to see that their children have the necessary medical and dental care to prepare them for the nine months ahead.

Examination of children who are starting school for the first time is of particular importance, he points out. All beginning youngsters should have their immunizations brought up to date for full protection against those communicable diseases which are preventable, he says.

As fully as important a safeguard for the health of children as medical checkup is a visit to the family dentist. Time is growing short for attention to the teeth before the beginning of school. But cavities should be treated at once, to prevent more serious damage to the teeth by unchecked decay.

In this modern era, full recognition is given to the effect of health on progress in school. Listless, sickly youngsters are under an unfair handicap at study and grades too quickly reflect the fact. Eyes, the delicate instruments that must last everyone a lifetime, should be periodically checked and corrective measures taken whenever they are indicated.

Yes, health is a very important matter for the growing generation, at all times. But particularly is it so, this time of year.

"Very few people question the advisability of governmental development of the Columbia basin. The issue seems to be: Shall we trade more of the few of our precious local rights remaining to us to the federal government in return for a dubious possibility of a little more rapid development of our hydroelectric resources?"—Philip S. Hitchcock, State Senator.

Judging contests continue on Tuesday and will include hog, sheep and beef showmanship contests. A banquet is scheduled for the evening.

On Wednesday the fat stock auction sale will be conducted at 10 a. m.

PATIO SUPPER

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Olcott of Broadmoor gave patio supper last Sunday evening in honor of Mr. Olcott's mother, Mrs. H. L. Olcott of Chicago who is spending a few weeks with them.

Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mosser, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Gunner Holmberg, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Paxson, all of Broadmoor; and Miss Janice Hartzog of Portland.

Politicians Came To Fore During Ore.'s Initial Vote

MISSIONARY AND AMERICAN PARTIES JOCKEYED FOR FAVORED POSITION AND TERRITORIAL JOBS

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.

Party lines in Oregon in 1849 were drawn upon local rather than national issues, but they were, nevertheless, pretty sharply drawn and the statement of Rev. Wilson Blair, who usually gave his address as Oregon City, but was enumerated for election purposes as a resident of Tualatin county that "political parties have no existence in Oregon," provokes a smile of incredulity from the informed reader. The fact is that the reverend gentleman, a recent arrival in the county, was himself no mean politician.

Mr. Blair, a Presbyterian minister from Hebron, Indiana had arrived in Oregon City November 29, 1848 and according to an early biographer, remained there two years, preaching, teaching and editing the Oregon Spectator. While there he was elected to the first Territorial Legislature. He was elected as councilman from Tualatin county.

It seems strange that a man from Oregon City in Clackamas county, and active in local affairs should be eligible to represent another county in the legislature but the census taker listed him in Tualatin, probably at Linn City, just across the Willamette from Oregon City and within the limits of Tualatin county as then defined. Be that as it may, his political associations were with the self-styled "Republican or Mission party," which centered at Oregon City and was headed by Governor Abernethy.

The Missionary party, was generally regarded as representing the aristocracy and vested interests of the settlement from the United States. Opposed to it was the American party, as they were called, made up of "mountain men" and independent settlers which was strongly nationalistic and opposed to control by vested interests either of foreign corpora-

tions or Methodist missionaries. Beside these two major parties was another calling itself the Independent party, composed of employees of the Hudson's Bay company, the Catholic missionaries and the Canadians. Although a minority, this party held the balance of power, much as the independent voters do today.

Its members had successfully defeated the strongly nationalistic American party in the last two elections by throwing their support to Governor Abernethy the candidate of the conservative mission group. In the election of 1847, Abernethy had been reelected by a margin of 16 votes but the aggressive American party secured a majority in the legislature.

When the legislature assembled on December 1, 1846, Governor Abernethy announced that news just received "gave us every reason to believe that the boundary question was finally settled." He quoted from the Polynesian, a paper published in the Hawaiian Islands, dated August 29, 1846, "The Senate ratified the treaty upon the Oregon question by a vote of 41 to 14."

"Should this information prove correct," he said, "We may shortly expect officers from the United States government to take formal possession of Oregon and extend over us protection we have long and anxiously looked for."

This announcement set the political pot to boiling. The anticipated territorial government would require officers to administer it and each of the rival parties hoped to supply that need.

It was expected that the national government would proceed to confirm the land grants to settlers made by the provisional government in accordance with the spirit of proposed legislation which had largely induced them to immigrate and settle here. It was generally agreed that someone accredited by the people, who enjoyed their confidence should be sent to Washington to secure the attention of the government, give information and advice as mold matters of public concern but partisan division prevented the selection of any such person.

Certain sections of the boundary treaty, it was learned, confirmed to British subjects such "possessory rights" as they had acquired un-

der joint occupation. This threatened certain claims by missionaries, notably the Oregon City claim which the Republican (missionary) party were trying to wrest from Dr. McLoughlin.

In this state of affairs Governor Abernethy, upon his own responsibility and without consulting members of the legislature, the majority of whom were of the anti-mission party, sent J. Quinn Thornton to Washington to plead the cause of the territory. This action incensed the members of the legislature for it was believed that Thornton represented the mission group rather than the territory and his later conduct in Washington proved that he did.

When the legislature met in December 1847, J. W. Nesmith, leader of the anti-mission (American) party introduced resolutions denouncing the governor's action and protesting the appointment of J. Quinn Thornton or any persons by whom he may be recommended to any office of honor or trust within the limits of Oregon Territory." The resolution was passed, reconsidered and ultimately defeated by the casting of a vote by the speaker. It was published in the Spectator, over the objection of the Governor and his party, who owned the paper, and George L. Curry, the editor lost his job in consequence.

The legislature then drew up a memorial, in which it practically

requested the president to give the more important offices to persons who were not residents of the territory, and chose its own messenger, Joseph Meek, to carry the message to Washington.

Thus both major parties were represented in the national capital during the closing debates and the passage of the Organic Act. Both rendered valuable service to the cause for which they came, Thornton in the drafting of the bill and Meek in creating sentiment for its passage. Meek was rewarded with an appointment as United States Marshal for Oregon. Thornton failed to secure the coveted appointment to the Supreme Court of the Territory.

When the first federal appointees arrived in Oregon, bringing the text of the Organic Act, the settlers were shocked to learn that Congress had voided all the laws of the provisional government making grants of land to the settlers. It had confirmed the titles of land occupied by mission stations; Thornton had seen to that, and British subjects were secure in their possessory rights under the Boundary Treaty.

These were the only valid claims under the law. The title to all land occupied by the settlers remained in the United States Government until Congress should see fit to pass an act relieving the situation.

(Continued next week.)

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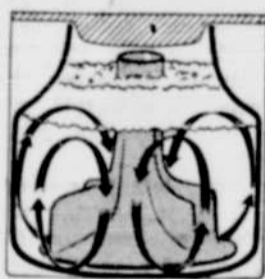
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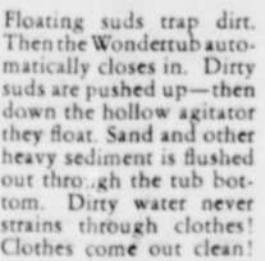


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4H AND FFA COMPETITORS TO APPEAR JOINTLY AT P. I. SHOW

PORTLAND, ORE. (Special)—The West's outstanding 4-H competition, ranging from home economics to livestock, will be a feature at this year's Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Oct. 7-15.

A six-day schedule announced by general manager, Walter A. Holt, calls for the 4-H competitors to appear simultaneously with the Future Farmers of America. Previously they have divided the run of the show and appeared separately.

Holt said the FFA schedule is in the process of a completion and will be announced soon.

One of the most popular 4-H features will be the Dollar Dinner

contest. Girls entered will prepare dinner for themselves and three guests, then act as hostess.

Climax to the young people's part in the big livestock show will be the fat stock auction sale on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The complete 4-H schedule includes the following judging contests: home economics, livestock, dollar dinner, poultry, crops, and rabbits, on Saturday, October 8, followed by a 4-H banquet and livestock parade.

Sunday events will be a weigh fatstock and church service. On Monday, additional judging will be of steers, hogs and lambs, with banquet and theatre party in the evening.