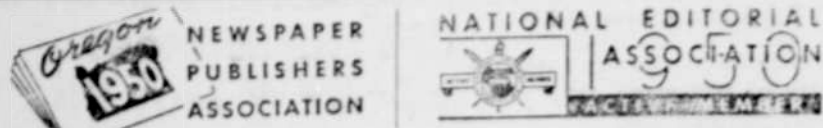


# BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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### VOTES KEEP DEMOCRACY

Somewhat less than 50% of registered Washington county voters went to the polls on May 19, to nominate candidates on two party tickets for the general election of November. This is considered a "heavy" vote, in an off-presidential year. What sort of responsible citizenship, however, does it actually rate?

One of the results of this primary election, beyond naming contestants in the general election, was the levy of \$200,000 per year for three years, to attempt reconstruction of the primary county road system.

This special tax will be laid upon the property of all taxpayers. One hundred percent of them, not the 50% that took the time to vote, after registering. For half the citizens of the county, therefore, the taxes they pay and the government which rules them, as far as the state and county goes, will be imposed upon these non-voters, rather than by their will.

It is a threatening feature of a democratic government when only half its citizens show sufficient interest to vote. Is there no sense of frustration in these inactive citizens who are taxed without representation, whose county and state level regulations are administered by public servants for whom they had no voice at election time?

There was not a contested candidate or issue on the recent primary ballot whose result could not have been reversed. Any defeated candidate could have been nominated. The road levy could have been side-tracked. The fair levy could have passed. All that was required was the participation of all eligible voters in the county.

This diatribe, to be sure, is not aimed at declaring candidates defeated should have been elected or that the road levy should have been turned back.

What is pointed out, without confusing shadings, is that those who squawk like seagulls when tax-paying time comes around or who come to the personal conclusion that whoever someone else put in political office is a scoundrel or a nincompoop should realize they have no one but themselves and some 14,000 or more like them to blame.

The problem of non-participation in elections has long been a matter of concern to many states. While there is no attempt made to dictate to voters how they should express themselves, twenty four states have declared by statute that employees will be excused from their jobs up to 4 hours on election day, to enable them to vote.

In some states, employers designate the part of the day employees take off. In others, the statutes specifies. Some states rule there can be no deduction from wages, while others permit wage penalty. Likewise, the majority of employees excused for an election must be entitled to vote, by qualification and registration.

On the west coast, only California is included in this voting-persuasion category, allowing two hours off for employees entitled to vote, with a deduction of wages made.

Here is a project which would richly deserve the attention of state legislators, when they are hard-pressed to find a measure to suggest as future law.

Whatever the rule, however the method, any effective process to encourage voters participation in elections is a substantial bulwark to local, state and national government.

Votes keep Democracy. The will of the people will never be substantially expressed unless there is substantial interest in candidates, issues and the right of suffrage.

### AN END AND BEGINNING

Graduation thrills, by now, have generally given way to a feeling of anticlimax as the "commencement" duly exercised with appropriate ceremonies becomes a cold, cruel fact.

After the ringing speeches and marching music are stilled, the caps and gowns carefully removed and sent back to the rental agency, there remains the ever growing job of finding a place to work... and wages.

We would be glad to connect any of these eager graduates with employment suited to their temperaments and qualifications. But unable to do so, we next suggest they all make acquaintanceship with the Oregon state employment service office at Hillsboro. And may the world treat you kindly, you graduates, on the occasion of an end and a beginning.

### UNTIL THE RAINS COME

The warm days, which seem sure fore-runners of a full grown summer just about upon us are a pleasure to those of us whose hides take a long time drying out and warming up from the weather experienced the fore part of the year.

But the pleasant warmth which extends to the stage of free perspiring has overtones of seriousness which is of some concern to the crops and the green forestlands of our living.

Statistical report on rainfall during the

last month and a half points to the possibility of stunted harvests and withered produce unless we are visited with a little rain. Not every year is the ration of weather ideally suited for growing of crops. Sometimes it is too wet, other times too dry; too hot or too cold; season too early or too late. This so surely puts us in the position of weather victims, unless we take measures to overcome the handicaps imposed.

Extension service advice encourages the proper use of irrigation to increase crop yields, for grasses and forage crops as well as others. Sprinkler irrigation has been recommended for many crops, to furnish moisture critically needed at this particular stage of the growing season.

Soil conservation and erosion control measures, at this time, prove their invaluable worth... though such practices are not an immediate solution to the drought problem.

In the forests of Western Oregon, the protracted dry spell has sharpened the awareness of foresters to fire danger. Already, some logging operations have been forced to suspend on account of humidity conditions and a great dread has been expressed in many quarters as to what a large-scale woods conflagration might mean to counties such as Washington county, where economic dependence is put upon forests and forest products.

After Memorial Day, people will be turning more and more to the outdoors, for vacations and picnics. With so many coming to grips with nature, the probability for man-made fires heightens.

Sometimes careless campers unwisely build fires for cooking in places that are invitations to full-scale damage. Many actually do not realize, for instance, that a campfire is never out until the glowing embers underneath are extinguished.

Some also learn with the utmost alarm and regret that fire may race madly through a carpet of pine needles which often can ignite by a stray spark from an untended campfire.

"Unchaperoned" cigarette butts, allowed to go out alone, are another menace to the welfare of Oregon's green forests. State law prescribes the use of ashtrays for all motor vehicles and picnickers as well as woods-travelers are further enjoined to use care in discard of butts.

What it boils down to, the proper manners in the woods, is common attention to the fire danger and a little extra care in not innocently starting a blaze which might consume acres and acres of forest and land before brought under control.

The overtones of disaster echo clearly, these days of heat and lack of rain. We must act wisely, for our crops and for our timber lands, that our future does not suffer staggering blows of adversity.

But wait. What's that coming in from the coast? It's clouds and cooling weather. There is a suggestion of moistness in the air.

We can hardly wait... until the rains come.

### JOIN THE ROSE PARADE!

The big push is on. Another Rose Festival parade float competition is getting underway in cities outside of Portland with each eyeing a possible blue ribbon for first prize. Designated groups within communities are girding themselves in an all-out effort to sell a specified number of season tickets to finance float construction and to perfect plans for entries in the line of march.

The Beaverton junior chamber of commerce, seeking to repeat its 1949 win for the best float outside Portland, has hit upon an idea of fostering inter-community goodwill by inviting participation of neighboring vicinities to join Beaverton in the float project.

This idea has already gained favorable response from service groups other than strictly in Beaverton. It seems to give the promise of a well-rewarded effort, if neighboring communities would forget about area limits and just prove what cooperation and working together might accomplish.

The scope of a parade float is so wide, to be sure, that one community working by itself would hardly have much hope of real accomplishment. The many tasks that require doing and the amount of thought that a project of such proportions demands are better accomplished by the efforts of many rather than a few.

To the plans of Multnomah, which always seems to make an impression of the float judges, might the suggestion be added that a worthy program of inter-community cooperation might well start by appealing for help from its neighbors on this task.

The more people who participate in float preparation, the more people who have an interest in the end result. And whether it results in a blue ribbon or not, the evidence that communities can and will work together is more than enough justification for lending a hand in a purely civic effort.

Let's help our neighbors and join the Rose Parade!

## ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

EVENTS AS CHRONICLED BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES IN SURROUNDING NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES

### THERE WAS A PARADE

The city of Sheridan had a parade without military or election overtones, on Memorial Day, to herald the opening of the 1950 softball season with an official, annual jamboree.

The SUN explains that teams assembled at the railroad depot for a march to the field of battle, led by the redoubtable Sheridan school band.

Half the night's net proceeds were for the softball league while the balance went to the band's uniform fund.

### WATER SYSTEM COST

Philomath found out just what its water system was worth, recently.

In the BENTON COUNTY REVIEW was the resulting figures from an engineer's survey and probable replacement cost.

Present value is set at \$28,408 while, to replace it, would require an outlay of \$74,829.

### CHANGE IN ELECTIONS

Lebanon took a long step toward cutting expenses and taking the penalty from minor city officers.

Election returns from seven precincts, says the EXPRESS, approved by a good margin the charter amendment making it unnecessary for the following posts to stand for election: surveyor, engineer, recorder, marshal, night officer, treasurer, health officer and attorney.

The measure had been passed the year before but was believed unconstitutional because of a technical error in advertising the measure prior to election.

### "NO" ON ROAD PROJECT

McMinnville often remarks about the condition of county roads. But the rest of the county doesn't seem to mind.

According to the TELEPHONE REGISTER, final tabulation of Yamhill county's recent election showed a turnout by voters of a \$1,750,000 road reconstruction bond program.

The most bitter slant on the situation for those who were promoting the measure that a scant 91 votes stopped the improvement plan. Voting was light, an estimated 52% taking part.

Rejection of the road bonds complicates the county road department, inasmuch as county funds allocated to this work had been slashed approximately \$41,000 from last year's figure. And although \$40,000 is expected this year from the county's cut in higher motor vehicle licenses and gas taxes, this sum will be used to retire the state highway department loan for emergency repairs in 1947-48.

County millage is expected to remain at last year's 11 mill mark.

### MUSIC AMazes CRITIC

Hood River might not have realized just to what degree of noteworthiness its music association is rated.

The NEWS carried a comment

by the New York Herald-Tribune music critic of "amazing", which followed his attendance at a special rehearsal called at his request.

Because the critic wanted to "see if what I've heard can be true", he arranged with Boris Sirpo, conductor of the group, to stage a special session of the junior and senior chorus and orchestra of the association.

"I have seen this sort of thing before", he declared, "but never in America!"

### TOO MUCH PRESSURE

St. Helens sees a new set of hands taking over the reins of city government, because of mounting business and other pressures.

The CHRONICLE announces the resignation of its mayor of three and a half years and the election of the council president to fill the breach.

The mayor notes increasing demands of business affairs which require his attention. He, likewise, is candidate for the state legislature and needs time to devote to this activity.

The withdrawal came about just as the city council was about to enter the annual patience-trying endurance race of the city budget. The retiring mayor declared this was a good time for him to step out, thus permitting the new member of the council to familiarize himself with city revenue structures.

### VOTERS APPROVE LEVIES

In Oswego, voters gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the city fathers.

The REVIEW relates that a high vote endorsed by wide majority two taxing issues.

One provided a five mill tax increased police and fire protection. The other empowered a sewage disposal plant and sale of \$160,000 in general obligation bonds.

On June 9, voters of the Oswego school district will express themselves on a \$69,000 bond issue to provide funds for school building purposes.

### FIRE BRINGS EXTRA

Lakeview was told all about the fire that wiped out its business district, a terrible calamity to befall a small, new community in the raw desert country.

In a dramatic presentation, the LAKE COUNTY EXAMINER devoted its most prominent front page space to the conflagration that "made brave hearts quake"—some fifty years ago.

Reproduced, side by side, were headlines of the LAKEVIEW EXAMINER and the story as appeared in the LAKEVIEW RUSTLER, each of which featured mixed fonts and an appearance which mirrored the fact that both publications were hit in the conflagration which levelled the desert town.

The original of both papers, printed on sheets 8 1/2 by 11 inches, were loaned from a museum collection.

### POLITICAL HOT POTATO

Milwaukie, in picking a new fire chief, is finding itself without the hottest political potato it has noted in some time.

The REVIEW prophesies that before the situation is resolved, things will get a lot hotter—even to the extent of threatening the tenure of the city manager.

According to the story, the manager does not have full backing of the city council. In fact, the city dads are said to be "sharpshooting him full of holes on everything he undertakes".

Adding fuel to the fire department "blaze", various city firemen openly challenged the manager at a council meeting, attacking his alleged remark that the volunteer fire group is a "political and party organization" and giving the opinion that the present city council did not have the guts to fire the manager.

On the otherhand, and in reply, the city manager suggests an examination of all candidates for the fire chief post — something which draws the cry of "skulduggery" from the volunteer firemen who are crowding around on all sidelines of the controversy.

The REVIEW adds the opinion that perhaps the council feels this controversy is an opportune time to "break the alleged stranglehold" that the fire department and its volunteers have on the city—feeling not at all adverse to a general, first class housecleaning.

### RATION OF WATER USE

New York City has nothing on Oakridge, Oregon, in the matter of restricted water consumption.

The TELEGRAM tells of emergency water conservation measures enforced by the city's water committee when it woke up one fine morning to discover that the city reservoir had been drained.

A spur of the moment special ordinance was enacted to restrict water use during present and continuing hot weather, to allow for adequate fire protection.

The regulations became effective upon passage of the ordinance and will continue until September 15, unless revoked by council action.

No open hoses will be allowed. All watering must be done by nozzle or sprinkler. In case of fire siren alarm, all sprinkling must be stopped.

So far, no appeal has been made for the services of a cloud-sending rainmaker, however.

### Radio Fraternity Names Guardian

MULTNOMAH COLLEGE, Portland, Ore. (Special)—George W. Bates, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bates of 8250 S. W. Canyon Lane, was elected Guardian of Shack of Iota Tau Kappa, Multnomah college radio school fraternity, in elections conducted May 10 at the college radio school on Swan Island.

Originally founded in 1922 as an amateur radio club, the fraternity is an organization of radio students which is devoted to improving the students knowledge of the industry. Its program includes lectures and demonstrations on phases of the industry not covered in classroom study.

Bates is studying radio theory and broadcasting at Multnomah in preparation for his federal license examinations.

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