

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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Beaverton In 1891 Started First East End Newspaper

FIRST PAPER ACTUALLY PRINTED IN CITY

WAS SATURDAY EVENING JOURNAL OF 1902

By Hervey S. Robinson

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.

Continued from June 9

We have long desired to devote an installment of this series to a history of the newspapers of this area. Local newspapers not only have an important part in the development of a community, but are also the chief instruments in preserving its history. Unfortunately, the region which includes Beaverton, Aloha, Tigard, Multnomah and Tualatin had no local newspaper until about forty years after the first settlement began. Although the town of Beaverton began much later than the settlements at Tigard, Cedar Mill and Fanno Creek, it was the first to have a newspaper.

Beaverton newspaper history began in 1891 with Oscar Thayer's "Chronicle". Thayer and his wife were at that time teaching in the Beaverton school. The office of publication was in the Kelly store building, on the corner of Broadway and Hall streets. There the type was set and the forms made up and locked. Then they were sent to Portland for printing, as there was no press in Beaverton. Mr. Thayer published his four page paper for about five years. Since he was also engaged in teaching, he hired George Thyng, then a young man living at Reedville to do the work on the paper. George was editor, devil printer, and in fact the whole working staff. He came down from Reedville every morning to his work.

After the "Chronicle" suspended publication, Beaverton was without a newspaper for six years. In the spring of 1902, a young man by the name of Bailey began printing the "Saturday Evening Journal". He did the printing on a job press at Beaverton. So the "Saturday Evening Journal" may be said to have been the first newspaper actually printed in Beaverton. A fire in April 1903 destroyed the entire plant and the paper never resumed publication.

Charles H. Fry and M. F. Emmons started the Beaverton "Reporter" in 1909 and carried it on until 1912. They were also engaged in the real-estate business and, for this and other reasons, the work of the newspaper was somewhat neglected. Earl Fisher, who, in later years, has figured prominently in educational and political affairs in Washington county was teaching in the vicinity at the time and used to bring in news items from his school. These he would often set up in type for the publishers. As time went by, they encouraged him to set other matter and he soon found himself setting up a large part of the paper.

The "Reporter" fell into financial difficulties and creditors were pressing. Local business men urged Earl Fisher to buy the paper and offered him financial backing. So, in 1912, he took it over, renamed it the "Owl", and carried on until 1914. We have been unable to locate any copies of these three early papers and have been obliged to rely upon personal reminiscences, appearing in later publications, on biographical collections and interviews with old timers.

Mr. Fisher, being engaged in school work at the same time, found it difficult to take care of the paper during the school year. He relates many amusing incidents of his problems during those two years.

A. J. Hicks, a well known newspaper man, with a partner by the name of Davis, bought the paper in 1914, and changed to the "Beaverton Times". From 1917 to 1921, the "Times" was published by the late R. H. Jonas, another well known newspaper man. Files of the "Owl" and the "Times", from March 30, 1916 to Nov. 27, 1925, have been preserved in the newspaper library of the Oregon Historical Society.

In 1922, Howard Boyd began publishing the "Beaverton Review", which was taken over in 1923 by

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TB-Health Assoc. Sends Delegates Summer Session

The executive board of the Washington County T.B. and Health association at its regular meeting at the home of executive secretary, Mrs. Zola T. Morgan, 234 East Jackson St., Hillsboro, Ore., authorized the sending of a delegation to "The summer work shop" - In-service training session of the state association, at Corvallis, Oregon July 17.

A motion was adopted to send "appropriations" to Mrs. Clarence Maas of Hillsboro, former treasurer, for her long service. Mrs. Maas has moved to Portland.

The Washington county association is urging all members to attend the county budget meeting June 26. Refreshments were served. Those attending were: President and Mrs. C. J. Fink, Forest Grove; Mrs. M. C. McKeercher, secretary, Beaverton; Mrs. Edna Siegrist, treasurer, Hillsboro; Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Ringe, Barnes Dist.; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Yount, Hillsboro; Mrs. Elizabeth Mabee, Aloha; Mrs. Homer Pierce and Mrs. George Laver of Banks; Mrs. R. L. Kingsbury and Mrs. Carl Larsen of McKinley; Mrs. J. O. Holman and Mrs. John Robinson of West Slope.

PUBLIC MONEY

Where does it come from? The answer is—from the earnings of the citizens. No government ever earned a dollar. If you doubt that statement dig out your history and try to find the government that made money thereby reducing taxes.

Taxes will be lower when you, the taxpayers, regard Public Money for exactly what it really is—namely your money.

You should have a very deep interest in how your tax money is spent because every cent of it that goes for unneeded things in government is money that you could have used for a personal possession or have in a bank account for your personal protection.

Your earning capacity as an individual limits what you can do. Your government is simply the sum of the individuals.

HEART OF COUNTY GOVT.

The strength of protest proved incontestable last midweek when the county budget committee had a change of heart and put back provision for the home demonstration agents in the coming fiscal year.

They indicate, privately, that they were not particularly happy about the necessity of yielding on the approximate \$4,000 item. But the flood of letters, telephone calls and group representations underlined the determination of county extension and 4H groups that the demonstration agents be retained.

The sincerity of the county budget committee need not be questioned, in desperately seeking some avenue for economy. With over \$25,000 added as an additional burden on the county for welfare purposes, at the dictation of the state which acts under the lash of the federal government, county revenues are being squeezed unmercifully.

The ever present problem of county roads—something which affects even more people than even the home demonstration agent and the public health service—hangs like an impending cloud over the budget committee in its deliberations. The matter of transportation takes top priority with a population for, without roads and highways, business would be at a standstill. Hardship would directly or indirectly affect all and vital services would cease.

Anyone who goes off the deep end too enthusiastically in condemning the budget committee for trying to economize, even if the attempt backfires, would no doubt receive a warm welcome if he were to appear with a plan by which no cut in government services would be required, where roads could be maintained at a standard level and where taxation rates would remain within comfortable distance of the 6 percent limitation mark.

For the health of county citizenship, it has been an enlightening development to have a determined stirring around of people affected by proposed deletion of the county extension service home demonstration agent. It should have brought home the fact that a budget preparation task is monumental. Beyond the clamor of partisanship, too, it should have encouraged greater appreciation for the services in question.

Next burning issue, also deleted in preliminary budget plans, is the matter of the third nurse in the public health unit. Now employed, this nurse would be cut off at the paycheck, by the primary budget estimates, a slash which the county court has learned by a first-hand communication will cost state and federal contributing funds on the public health program.

The county commissioners give the rather rueful opinion that "probably" the public health deletion will be restored, basing this statement, perhaps, on the voluble protests that are even yet generating as well as the withdrawal of state and federal support of the department.

Final answer on the final budget determinations will be forthcoming after the public hearing of June 26, starting at 10 a. m., in the county court house. Here will be given the last chance audience for protests on fiscal plans as they now stand and citizens available for the hearing are invited to attend.

It might be a good object lesson in citizenship for a goodly delegation of county taxpayers to make a point of attending the budget hearing and getting to the heart of county government.

MARK OF PROGRESS

Many a person, feeling the temporary inconvenience, berates the digging of streets and the business paralysis this effects.

What might better be the viewpoint is that every new installation of water lines and sewer lines and every major rehabilitation of a city, county or state road is just that much of a mark of progress, pointing surely to better days ahead.

WINTER SHUCKS OFF

Weather has brightened the land, following the recent deluge of rain, and gardens, berries and fruit burst with the zeal of growing. Certainly the scars of winter shuck off in the days of blissful summer.

AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS

The great American middle class, by tradition, is the backbone and the life of our democratic civilization. From this segment of the population, so truly, sometimes comes great figures of industry. A vital portion of the populace, as a rule not degraded by direct government subsidy in any of such myriad forms, the great middle class furnishes a heavy proportion of its income and earnings to lubricating the tax machinery of the federal, state and county government.

Now, doesn't that make a pretty picture? Trouble with pretty pictures is that they are too easily overdrawn. And in this instance is forgotten the trend of a great middle class, in which are maintained inviolate the tenets and credos of American Democracy, to be absorbed upward and downward. In fact, where is the great middle class of today?

Surely the conservative respectability of these symbols of faith is under direct and unrelenting attack. The ferment and upheaval in the way of American life operates to restrict and foreshorten the ranks of the middle class.

Taxes are becoming utterly burdensome. Costs of living are steadily mounting in a slow-motion sky-rocket. Opportunities for self-betterment through thrift and the genius of self are shrinking in direct proportion to the economic weights that sometimes seem crushing.

Subsidies and dependence upon federal handouts have taken the proud independence of many farmers. Everyone seems to be looking for manna from heaven, in a time when the skies seemingly become more and more empty.

Is it politics, is it philosophy, is it circumstance which depletes our middle class? As it shrinks, so evaporates much of the essence of Democracy and Freedom which has made our nation what it is.

BEACHES BELONG TO ALL

Recreation is a definite need for everyone, not only for once-a-year vacations but for smaller occasions of holidays and weekends. Being able to break away from the routine of earning a living for even so much as one day offers a lift and an assist to a well-rounded personality.

In Western Oregon, we are particularly well-blessed with the facilities for recreation. There is the incomparable Mt. Hood, the many lakes and streams, the forests and the beaches where, without much restriction, we may play to our heart's content.

Whatever the outdoors interest, be it skiing, hiking, fishing, boating, swimming or just the all-around appreciation of Mother Nature, in Western Oregon we have the means and the encouragement to do so.

Of considerable significance to all is the fact that the Oregon beaches are public property, upon which no one has a just, private claim, no matter how imposing a beach cottage and installation might be built adjacent to it.

There is no area below the high water mark—which takes in the full beach width—which is denied the use of anyone who can reach it. Certain private access roads might not be dedicated to public use, it's true, but beach ownership still rests in the public domain.

In addition to the general fact that facilities of sand and pounding surf are available to anyone, of course, is the added development of state parks and recreational or picnic areas which have been improved for better enjoyment by the public. This rates with the state and federal forest camps where fireplaces, cooking facilities and picnic tables give the traveler an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors without too great a tariff charged in any case.

Without question, however, the fact that the beaches are as free to use as the city streets or state highways is only one part of the full recreational advantages accruing to Oregon vacationists. Unless there is, likewise, vacation services, there can be less than full enjoyment.

Poised as most city residents are on practically the brink of a vacation interlude, it is of some consequence to note and observe the accommodations that may be used at the beaches, for instance, on the occasion of two or three days to a week of recreation.

Being practically impossible for everyone to own a boat, a crab net, a beach cottage and all the other necessities of which a beach vacation is compounded, there can but be some appreciation of the myriad small businessmen who derive their living in supplying the same. The appreciation of their enterprise should not be underemphasized by anyone who is bound for the seashore for the annual week or two with pay.

So, as you take off on your seashore junket, to commune with the roar of surf, the invigoration of sea-borne breezes and the lazy days of sprawling in the sun or cajoling a wary fish or crab, remember well the beaches belong to all, your place in the sun well-set for your better living the rest of the year around.

J. H. Hulett, who published it, in association with Vern Bright, well known Oregon poet and writer. The Oregon Blue Book for 1933 names Fred C. Sefton as editor of the "Review", but by 1935 it was back in the hands of J. H. Hulett and Celia A. Hulett. The last mention of the "Review" in the Blue Book occurs in 1939, with Glen Miller as editor. Files of the "Review" from 1924 to 1937 may be found in the library of the Oregon Historical Society.

In 1927, H. H. Jeffries, present mayor of Beaverton, started the Beaverton Enterprise in connection with a chain of papers for the towns west of Portland. He bought the "Multnomah Community Press", which had been started in 1922 by Margaret Dixon and the "Tigard Sentinel", then two years old, and added to his chain the "Aloha News". He located his plant at Beaverton, from which place the four papers have been issued regularly ever since. Complete files of these four publications are preserved in the office of publication at Beaverton.

The Pioneer Press, as the plant was named, has, from time to time brought out publications for other nearby towns, all but one of which have been discontinued after a brief existence. An advertisement in 1930 mentions the "Yamhill Journal", the "Gaston Herald", the "Clatsop County Argus", and the "Troutdale-Sandy Bulletin" as members of the group. In 1946, the group passed into the hands of Stanley W. Netherton, who added the "Tualatin Times" to his repertoire in 1949.

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By Leonard Adams



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