

Southern Oregon Miner

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THE RURAL PRESS

There are some 15,500 newspapers and periodicals published in this country. The greatest proportion of them are small-town weeklies, dailies, and semi-weeklies, and magazines whose principal appeal is to the rural dweller.

The importance, the influence, and the worth of these publications can hardly be exaggerated. They are, as the San Francisco Argonaut has written, "the chief influence in the thought habits of our rural population of fifty-four million." And the character of their comment, both in news and editorial departments, well repays those who peruse them.

As a result, the recent contest held by the magazine "Country Home" to pick the best country newspaper correspondent in the United States, was of much more importance and interest than contests usually are. The winner, a woman, lives in a Missouri town which has a population of twenty-seven, and is fifteen miles from the nearest railroad. For forty-four years she has been local correspondent for a rural paper in her county.

Urban editors, on reading excerpts from her correspondence, have been amazed by its quality. It does not deal with crimes and misdemeanors. Instead it tells of the crops, of the trials, tribulations and achievements of farm people who rarely make the metropolitan headlines, but who, happily, are more numerous and more vital to the nation than our gangsters, our political and busi-

ness renegades, and our ex-showgirl divorcees.

Most interesting of all, this woman's correspondence, fine as it is, is not greatly different from that of other rural correspondents. Winners of lesser prizes in the contest show the same qualities—the same command of clear and vivid English. The country newspaper, little known as it is to the city dweller, is one of the finest, most permanent, and most deservedly successful influences in our American life.

UNIFORM DRIVING LAWS NEEDED

One of the greatest barriers to fair and efficient enforcement of traffic laws is the lack of uniformity in the traffic codes of different states and towns.

As one traffic authority recently pointed out, when he drives from one state to another, he doesn't have to stop and change his nickels, dimes and dollars into other and different kinds of money; but, if he wishes to operate his car in accord with the law, he must at once revise his driving habits. He leaves a state where the maximum speed allowed is 40—and then must remember that now he must hold his car down to 30. He has been accustomed to traffic lights and signs placed on corners—now they are overhead in the middle of the streets, where he is likely to miss seeing them entirely.

Suppose that motor car manufacturers pursued the same practices as many cities and states. Suppose a man who had been driving the Smith car wanted to trade it in for the new Jones model, and discovered that it had a different kind of transmission, required a different kind of fuel, and presented major points of difference in other respects. Such a policy would be no more absurd than is the existing policy of our governmental units in adopting traffic codes that are utterly at variance with those of a town or state 10 miles away.

The Uniform Vehicles Code and Model Municipal Ordinance, prepared by traffic experts, could and should be adopted by every town and city. This would not only give the motorist a break—it would immensely expedite the efficiency of our police and traffic patrol departments, and make an important contribution to the cause of highway safety.

BELLVIEW NEWS NOTES

Special to The Miner:

Mrs. Walter Longstreth and sons Jack and Dale, Mrs. Edwin Dunn and son Bob, and Albert Newbury returned last Thursday from Portland, where they attended the Pacific International Exposition. Dale, Bob, and Albert had hogs entered in the exposition. Dale won first prize of \$30, and Bob won third prize of \$20. While there, the boys attended various entertainments given in honor of the 4-H Club members. Bellview can feel justly proud of the

achievements of these boys and the club they represented. Only sixteen hogs were entered from Jackson county and twelve of these were from Bellview.

—The Extension Unit will meet at the clubhouse October 22. "Buy-manship" will be the topic for discussion. Mrs. Alice Pagel and Mrs. C. A. Brown will be in charge of this meeting. Saturday, Mrs. Pagel and Mrs. Brown will attend a Buymanship School at Medford in charge of which is Mrs. Mabel Mack.

—The Bellview Grange met Tuesday evening at the clubhouse. During the lecture hour, Walter Longstreth presented Laverne Dalen and George Bibby who gave

very interesting talks on their trip with the Boy Scouts which they took last summer. After the program, Clyde Young assisted Mrs. Edwin Dunn in directing the drill team, of which she is captain. Next Thursday evening the drill team will compete with the other drill teams of the county in a contest to be held at Central point. Sunday the team had a covered dish luncheon at the clubhouse, after which they went to Central Point to practice.

—The Community Club is sponsoring a dance Friday evening, October 18. The dance committee in charge is composed of Mrs. A. R. Kincaid, Mrs. Henry Stenrud, and Mrs. Alice Pagel.

—The Parent-Teachers will hold their regular meeting Friday evening, October 18. All those who attend are asked to bring cookies. —Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moritt of White River, Arizona, visited Mrs. Alice Pagel last week.

—Mrs. Louise Pankey was pleasantly surprised by a group of friends Sunday evening in honor of her birthday. Mrs. Pankey was the happy recipient of many lovely gifts. At the close of the evening, delightful refreshments were served. Those who enjoyed the pleasant evening were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stenrud, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gowan, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Kincaid and daughter Eunice, and Marie Walker.

—Mr. R. E. Bell and son Robert made a business trip to the Dead Indian Monday.

—Mrs. Mary Neil of Lakeport and Mrs. Rosa King of Klamath Falls visited Mrs. Malinda King Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

—Rosemary Bell and Leona Grimm attended a theatre party given by their Sunday school class of the Presbyterian church Monday evening.

—George Farther and Miss Genevieve Farther returned Thursday from Portland, where they visited with their sister, Mrs. Amy Spafford.

—Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Martin made a business trip to Dorris, Calif. last Thursday.

—Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Bell, Marjorie, Bob, and Sammy Bell made a trip to Hornbrook, Calif. Wednesday.

—Mrs. B. H. Cristlieb, Mrs. Homer Moore, and Mrs. R. E. Bell attended a surprise party given for Mrs. Charles Anderson of Ashland

Autumn Decorators



LETTERS to the Editor

Editor of The Miner:

In answer to "Independent," I wish to advise that "Social Security" is a catch phrase designed to catch the eye of the public. It has a social suggestion but not a social significance. It might be called a sales slogan. It bears no relationship to the commodity it represents except that the article needed a name and a sales talk. If Social Security is wanted we must institute Social SECURITY and the way to get Social SECURITY is to have SOCIAL Security. Now that may sound as clear as mud to the layman, for security is foreign to him and social is more so. But the two together sound euphonious and effect a pleasant reaction in the emotions of the public. The reactions being pleasant, allow the fraud to be put over without opposition.

But if Social Security were construed to mean: "You shall have an opportunity to work and enjoy the fruits of your labor," it would be a horse of another color. People would shy from it. Social Security sounds like something for nothing. But work is a name for anything that we do not like to do. And it hasn't a pleasant sound. Thus there is an unfavorable emotional reaction started.

Opportunity has a pleasant sound, but "opportunity to work"! What a terrible expression. Somehow we have absorbed the idea that it is a disgrace to work, and a worker is a necessary evil to be endured if he keeps his place, but that is more satisfactory if it is out of sight. We do not like to be reminded of the sordid things of life.

Before we can have "Social Security" we must have social equality and before we can have social equality we must have economic equality, and before we can have economic equality we must have economic security. So if we work for economic security we can attain social security in fact.

Economic security can only be realized through a system of production for use. At present we have production for profit and all of our ideas, ethics, customs, habits, and emotional reactions are attuned to that idea. And change is a powerful operation, so I guess we must muddle along with what we have, social insecurity, and continue to pamper parasites, shun overalls, destroy hogs, curtail wheat and potato production, and drive marchers from the Capitol steps, while the three musketeers, Machinery, Science, and Soviet Russia go marching on to Industrial Democracy and Social Security.

Yours truly,
WALTER REECE.

Monday. The party was given at the home of Mrs. Hastings.

—Mr. John Hesse had the misfortune of breaking two ribs last Thursday. He is getting along as well as can be expected.

—Rev. and Mrs. Orr are in Klamath Falls at the present time. Rev. Orr has accepted a call in Klamath Falls and they will move to that city soon. The Ors have been making their home with Mrs. Orr's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Talent.

—Mr. and Mrs. John Stamps of

Brad's Bit O' Verse

By CLEM BRADSHAW

YOU NEVER CAN TELL

You see him go carelessly swinging along,
A smile on his lips, and the lilt of a song,
And you say to yourself, "It's a pleasure to see
A mortal as pleasant and smiling as he."

But you never can tell. In the depths of his soul
The sad knell of sorrow and anguish may toll;
Grim burdens of trouble may rest on his heart,
His breast may be wounded by many a dart.

Yet he smiles and he sings as he goes on his way,
He hides from your vision the cares of the day,
He faces his grief, and he fights it alone;
For he knows that of troubles the world has its own.

You meet them by thousands—the folks who can smile
In spite of the problems that vex them the while,
Who can carry life's burdens and warble a song
And catch all the sunbeams that happen along.

And you never can tell. As they trudge the long road
Their hearts may be aching, and tired of the load.
For there's many a tear never reaches the eye,
And there's many a heart that must stifle a sigh.

The man who can smile in the face of the world
And meet all his troubles with banner unfurled,
Is worth half a million of sniveling skates
Who are always complaining, and blaming the fates.

Chicago, Ill., visited several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Talbot. Mrs. Stamps is a niece of Mrs. Talbot. Mr. and Mrs. Stamps have gone to Los Angeles, Calif., to look for a location for an antique jewelry shop which they plan to open.

—Mrs. Edwin Dunn, Mrs. Walter Longstreth, and Mrs. Herman Helm attended the county P.T.A. meeting at Medford Wednesday.

● Scott Hastings who has operated the Texaco Service Station on North Main street for the past several years, will leave shortly for Powers, north of Coos Bay, where he will build a camp ground and service station.

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