

Southern Oregon Miner

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THE PINS ARE THERE TO STICK YOU!

Jackson county pinball operators, in circuit court, are claiming "an element of skill" exists in their devices.

The element is there, all right. But you've got to have a key, pair of pliers and a screwdriver to be on the profitable end of such proficiency.

With predetermined payoff percentages, such a machine can be nothing but a lottery, regardless of how much legal loquacity is pumped into a courtroom. The devices, which received heavy play in Ashland, did put a lot of money into business channels, but they gave the player nothing in return for his nickels but a bad habit.

THAT SUPREME COURT ISSUE AGAIN!

Some presidents have selected public issues by the applause-reaction method, while others prefer to base their urgings on worth of a question rather than on its popularity.

Mr. Roosevelt, in his Constitution day address, showed that he belongs to the latter school—willing to prosecute his convictions at expense of popularity, if necessary. For Franklin D. is well into that second term when it is generally agreed that a president will forego vote-consciousness and attend to matters at hand, and is continuing his fight to keep our Constitution from crystallizing into a lawyers'-leave contract.

As Mr. Roosevelt pointed out in his radio address, our Constitution is a layman's document written for the benefit of all of us and there is no justification for intricate hair-splitting over moral issues outlined by it. Our Magna Charta was written as a flexible, warm and living thing to aid and protect the people under it—not as a concrete, hidebound, unyielding blueprint that must be followed regardless of needs or the times.

The people of America cannot be unconstitutional. Pompous utterances of bias-steeped lawyers can never obscure the fact that our government, and its documents, are answerable directly to the people supporting them. Government, the Constitution and all our institutions exist by leave of the people, instead of the people existing by consent of their government.

Of course, President Roosevelt's suggested changes in retirement of older members of the supreme court are highly controversial. But the man in the White House is doing his country a service when he takes his opinions directly to the people for consideration.

Thanks largely to the machinery of radio, we—the orchard-run variety of American citizens—know more about our government than has any previous generation.

There is one thing to remember in this court fight: Mr. Roosevelt's opposition is coming from those learned "experts" who, like other specialists, are so out of focus on their pet notions.

WE WONDERED WHEN IT WOULD HAPPEN!

A few years ago, before the '32 election, Jackson county had but one democratic newspaper. But one newspaper in the county predicted Mr. Roosevelt's victory. But one newspaper supported Mr. Roosevelt's policies previous to his election, and that newspaper (as we like to term it) was The Miner.

Back in those days the good old Medford Mail Tribune was as rabid a republican rag as could be found and rivaled the Oregonian for blind defense of Herbert Hoover and the old deal. Following the landslide of '32, however, the Oregonian went "independent" and the M-T scrambled for the majority side as fast as Editor Bob Ruhl could mail his editorials into Medford.

It wasn't long, though, until the Oregonian re-assumed its policy of hidebound republicanism, but for some reason or other, Ruhl forgot the blue blood that

LIFE'S BYWAYS!



was Pulitzerizing through his veins and supported Mr. Roosevelt. It was quite a surprise and we of southern Oregon regarded the metamorphosis as an added wonder of the world.

But now Bob has rejoined the Ruhling classes and has forsaken the masses in favor of his heavier advertisers. He is back in his old niche again now that things are straightened out to the point where the economic aristocracy may safely sneer at the proletariat.

Well, times and people do change. When Jackson county was boiling over with political troubles of its own, Editor Ruhl was in calmer climes licking postage stamps, returning only when things started to straighten themselves out. Now, with the republican party having regained some composure after its political panic, Editor Ruhl again rushes back to the battlefield.

Sort of being consistent, though, at that.

Rain, Snow Break Hot Weather Siege

A heat wave which ran temperatures up into the middle nineties in Ashland last week was culminated by showers which started Saturday afternoon and continued through Sunday, bringing a total rainfall of eight-tenths of an inch. The same storm brought six inches of wet snow to Crater Lake and closed several forest roads in that area, including the Tiller-Trail cut-off.

Hunters benefited by the downpour which stilled crackling underbrush and lessened fire hazard. Some tomatoes were split and the harvest of pears was halted temporarily but other farmers looked upon the moisture as a boon to dry pasture land.

Temperatures have remained considerably lower since break-up of the first fall storm, with an average maximum near 60 but with clear skies, which are predicted to continue.

ROBERT GERALD NORTON

A Christian Science funeral service was held Wednesday afternoon from the Stock and Litwiler chapel for Robert Gerald Norton, 3-year-old boy who was drowned last week in a reservoir at Calpine, Calif. Robert was born November 4, 1934, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Norton at Medford. Interment was in Mountain View cemetery.

Oregon's Traffic Toll

A Series of Weekly Articles on the Problem of Highway Safety by EARN SNELL, Secretary of State

AS the result of convictions in Oregon courts for violations of the motor vehicle laws, 153 drivers' licenses were revoked or suspended during the month of July. More than a thousand convictions for various minor offenses were reported to this office during the same period.

Records in my office indicate that approximately 97 per cent of those who suffer revocation of their driving privileges are unable to secure reinstatement in less than three years. The majority of these cases come from drunken driving charges.

It is well also to remember that in any case where a judgment in excess of \$100 resulting from a motor vehicle accident goes unsatisfied for 30 days, revocation of the defendant's operators license is mandatory. In such cases, proof of financial responsibility must be filed and maintained for a period of three years, even though the judgment is satisfied before the

expiration of that time. A number of Oregon residents have had their drivers licenses revoked as the result of convictions or forfeiting bail in the courts of other states. In either of these cases, if the charge is one that would require mandatory revocation should the offense be committed in this state, the same procedure must be followed if the conviction or bail forfeiture would be in another state.

Careful driving with due consideration for the rights of others and strict adherence to the laws is not only common sense in each individual case, but will avoid serious penalties and do much to help eliminate Oregon's traffic deaths.

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KNOT HOLE NEWS

By KEN WEIL

HOWDY, FOLKS:

Well, "the bloom is on the punkin' and the punkin's on the vine" these days. Fine fall weather—but a little crimping mornings and evenings. Time to really start getting in your winter fuel. We have it for sale from blox to coal. Give us a try on your next order.

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