

# Southern Oregon Miner

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"THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

## NO BASIS FOR FAIR JUDGMENT!

As the chaff goes, so blows the wind. But it doesn't follow that, as one or two chaps go, so goes an entire college football team.

In the case of the disappointing behavior of three Monmouth football players here last Saturday, the incident should not be marked up as condemning all gridiron stars any more than the fact that an Ashland drug clerk's participation does not point a finger of disgrace at all pharmacists.

The affair, which reaches the proportions of a statewide scandal because the admitted thugs were football players, is one of those unfortunate occurrences wherein seemingly nice young men get themselves afool the law. Because three of them were from Monmouth Normal is no reasonable justification for the belief colleges permit, with promiscuous abandon, the signing of doubtful characters simply because they might look good in a helmet and jersey.

It is foolish and narrow-minded for anyone to suppose that the Monmouth coach or faculty condoned rowdiness or poor citizenship among their football team members. It is an injustice to presume that any school would knowingly tolerate recruiting of players of poor character. And, too, it is not fair to condemn the practice of soliciting out-of-state players for squads because of this incident.

Had Buck Cagle—one of the main performers in the beat-up and robbery here—never attended Oregon schools he probably would have indulged in some form of lawlessness somewhere else. The boys did not behave as they did simply because they were not native to the state. Badness and flaws in character will crop out regardless.

In contrast to current criticism of college football morals, it is noteworthy that Southern Oregon Normal school here in Ashland this year has one of the best student bodies in many a year, judged by their behavior at school and off the campus. The SONS football team is an aggregation of young men any family would be glad to have join them at their dinner table.

Shocking as the highway robbery may be, it should be regarded as an exception and not the rule of college character. Most of the students and athletes are a credit to their schools, and the percentage of undesirables among student bodies probably is much less than among any other grouping of young people.

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## SHALL WE CRY OVER THE VICTIM OR THE THUGS?

While the theory is generally accepted, at least locally, that the three Monmouth football players who assaulted and robbed a man near here Sunday morning are thugs and, as such, should get a drastic penalty, there is reported to be an undercurrent of sympathy for the local man who was mixed up in the case.

It seems to be a "don't send my boy to prison and ruin his amateur standing" sort of plea.

On the surface one can see a faint glimmer of reason for this stand. Here is a boy who was well liked in the community and who has had the advantage of a good education, position and family. The theorists ask, "Why should a boy of this caliber be made to suffer like a common crook?"

And there they defeat their own sympathy. These boys, all college men, and particularly Messenger, positively lacked the "necessity" incentive often presented by the average stick-up artist and, furthermore, had the background and training to know it. They are the ones who should have been models of proper conduct.

Consider the case itself. Rice, the victim, is a small man. Also, he is partially disabled with a permanently crippled leg. Any one of the big bruisers could have held and robbed him with little difficulty.

## LIFE'S BYWAYS!

AW-COME ON! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS ANYWAY!



As a matter of record, he claims that when he comprehended their intent he begged for mercy and offered his money.

Nevertheless, Cagle, Borden, Hearn and, so Rice says, Messenger pulled him from the car and set to with callous relish at slugging and beating him, and then left their victim, bruised and semi-conscious, lying on the highway while they returned to divide their spoils.

Even if Messenger had been forced to accompany the others on their hellish errand he had opportunity later to notify authorities in time to send medical assistance to the injured man. Instead he went to bed and slept—and then denied any implication when questioned in the morning. Only when he was confronted by his victim and when he saw his denials tumbling in the face of the truth did he admit that he had lied and, when asked why he had not reported the crime, is alleged to have said, "I don't know, I just didn't."

It must be that his sympathizers are so befogged in their thinking by their friendship for the local man that they have difficulty in distinguishing between right and wrong. Or perhaps they prefer to feel that no one within the charmed circle of their acquaintance is capable of doing wrong.

Regardless of what they think, the fact remains that a man was cruelly and dangerously mistreated and, besides physical injuries, sustained financial losses at the hands of persons engaged in flagrant disrespect of law and order—in cold-blooded brutality.

Should they, or any one of them, be excused from the penalty they deserve on the grounds that their punishment will cause anguish to their friends, or should other lads spend their formative years contemplating the lucrative possibilities offered by law enforcement which is all front and no back?

## Oregon's Traffic Toll

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

EDUCATION, enforcement and engineering are the three vital factors that will solve the traffic accident problem and reduce the number of lives so needlessly sacrificed on our streets and highways. There is a wide divergence of opinion as to which of these three is the most important and the comment of E. Raymond Cato, chief of the California highway patrol, is interesting in this connection.

Chief Cato calls attention to the fact that in one month recently in California there were 31 less traffic fatalities than in the corresponding month last year; also that during the same month period this year there were 5,244 arrests as compared with 3,127 in the same month in 1936. He attributes this improved record in a great measure to the additional police activities. He says:

"We are satisfied that control of excessive speed alone spared these 31 human lives on our highways and we are determined to keep up our efforts in an attempt to show greater improvement each month. This is the first time in nearly three years that we have shown a reduction and I am satisfied that enforcement alone is our immediate answer to the problem insofar as we understand it today."

While I do not believe that enforcement alone is the answer to the problem, Chief Cato's experience in meeting a deplorable situation must carry great weight. Every enforcement agency in Oregon has a responsibility to meet if results are to be accomplished. Excessive speed continues to be a contributing factor in many fatal accidents.

Consider these things, keep your

car under control at all times, and help eliminate Oregon's traffic deaths.

## Neighborhood Church

Congregational  
Church school, 9:45 a. m., Mrs. Glen Prescott, superintendent. Morning worship, 11 o'clock. Sermon, "Mad Men and God." Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m. Pilgrim Fellowship, 6:30 p. m. Christian life service, 7:30 p. m. Questions: In reality who was responsible for the robbing episode of last Saturday night? Is there a feasible basis for uniting the major Protestant denominations into one organization?

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ford of Klamath Falls spent the week-end at the M. T. Burns home.

## Sure-Fire Recipe!

By J. C. REYNOLDS

Our Clergy now deplore the fact that present times look dark. For though they preach with forceful tact, Not many pause to hark. They feel it is beyond their power To bring new converts in, As people nowadays turn sour When urged to break with sin.

But here's a positive receipt To pack the churches full: Hang out a notice short and sweet—A magnet that will pull—And offer twenty bucks in cash To sinners who will join; And every guy in town will crash The doors to win the coin.

## KNOT HOLE NEWS

By KEN WEIL

Howdy, Folks: Just read where honey contains a natural preservative and will not spoil. But how about the honies who are spoiled with too much sugar?



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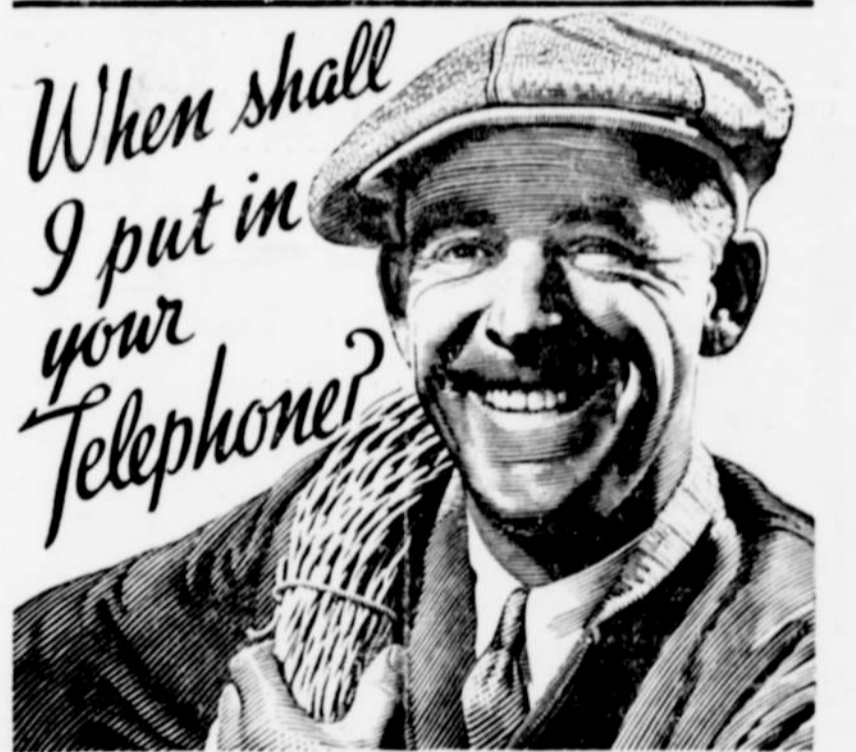
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