

Southern Oregon Miner

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Leonard N. Hall
Editor and Publisher

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"THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

ELSE WHY SUCH A CONTRAST?

Recently The Miner carried several editorials critical of results being gained by the Jackson county district attorney's office, and last week a reply to them was published.

In fairness to District Attorney Frank Newman, we refrained from editorial comment other than to suggest that his letter was a most convincing piece of work.

This newspaper finds it neither pleasant nor personally gratifying to complain about the outcome of erratic prosecutions of lawbreakers and alleged lawbreakers by Newman's office. Neither does it find the casting of reflections a desirable chore when at least one member of the district attorney's office has been a good personal friend who has, unsolicited, performed appreciated favors for the writer.

But the fact remains that the "batting average" of Jackson county's prosecution has taken a surprising and alarming drop since the first of last year. Average percentage of convictions in cases tried by the previous district attorney—who held his office for eight years—was well over 90 per cent while convictions now are limited to occasional instances and to defendants who enter pleas of guilty. Today convictions in contested cases are the exception and not the rule in Jackson county!

There can be no question as to the proper intentions and honesty of District Attorney Frank Newman. But there most certainly is cause for comment in the results being turned out by his office. The cases already described in previous issues are but two of a number of outcomes that are very surprising and unsatisfactory to those interested in justice.

In placing the blame onto grand juries and trial juries who violate the obligation of preponderant evidence and "go soft," Newman was partly correct. The district attorney cannot be expected to do the whole thing alone while big-hearted jurors weepingly spring the traps which the law has set to catch wrongdoers.

Juries are picked, supposedly, for the judgment of guilt or innocence of their fellow men—not for granting of mercy or expressions of sympathy, which rightly is the sentencing judge's job if mercy is caller for. And every time a taxpayer sits impeached to free an accused defendant when evidence shows him guilty, he is throwing away his own tax money as well as contributing to the success of crime.

Even so, all the blame cannot be shouldered onto the people who compose our timorous grand juries and those who warm the jury box seat cushions. For we had grand juries and trial juries during the previous district attorney's term of office, and his results were almost 100 per cent effective while now defendants who admit their guilt escape conviction.

It is because of this great contrast in effectiveness that The Miner has blamed the incumbent prosecutor, and surely everyone can't suddenly have gotten out of step but the district attorney!

There can be no denying that Jackson county taxpayers, who expect results for dollars spent for prosecution, are paying for something that isn't being delivered!

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YOU CATCH FLIES WITH HONEY, GEORGE!

It is surprising how far people will look for an explanation that is right under their nose.

Early this week our sage contemporary, the Daily Twiddlings, editorially complained that Ashland is not being given enough prominence in railroad timetables.

In the General's same issue was an article which went into great detail to relate how passengers suffered "shock and minor injuries" and great inconvenience when the train on which they were riding struck two automobiles. The incident took place down in California and was of no consequence to Ashland people, yet the article pointed out that passengers were "detoured through Reno."

Strictly speaking, the incident was news, even up

LIFE'S BYWAYS!

WELL—I SAYS JANNIE:
IF SHE READS THIS KIND O' BOOKS—
SHE AIN'T NO LADY!



here in Oregon. But, strictly speaking, it is the railroad's own business how it prints its timetables, and what size depots it shall build as well as whether it will continue through trains or not.

Railroads, like daily newspapers, are in business to make money, and we have yet to hear the Southern Pacific complain to the Band Master of Fort George about the way he runs his newspaper.

Which makes the railroad an exception in Ashland.

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NOTE TO LETTER WRITERS!

Although The Miner is glad to publish letters from readers on any topic of public interest, it does not accept unsigned communications for printing or consideration.

If the person who this week lodged a written complaint about inconvenience of applying for an old age pension will sign his (or her) name to the note we shall be glad to print it as an expression of one taxpayer's opinion.

However, it is not fair to a newspaper or to the reading public for writers to hide behind anonymity. If there is good reason, the name of any letter writer will be withheld on request.

Persons who camouflage their identity with unsigned sheets of paper do not instill confidence or indicate responsibility.

FACTS FOR DRIVERS

By EARL SNELL
Secretary of State

HOW MANY PERSONS MAY BE CARRIED IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT?

Oregon law limits the number of persons who may be carried in the driver's compartment to three persons over 12 years of age. While there is no set limit on the number of children who may sit with the driver, the law very clearly states that the driver must not be crowded. Even if there is no one in the seat except the driver, his movements must be hampered by luggage or other type of load.

DOES THE LAW REQUIRE ME TO STOP BEFORE DRIVING ACROSS A RAILROAD TRACK?

You are required to stop only when there is a visible, positive signal clearly warning of the approach of a train. If, after stopping thus, you see that you can cross in safety, you may drive on. If your engine is cold or if you are inexperienced in handling a car, the wisest course in such a case is to stop and wait for the train to pass, because you may find yourself in a difficult spot if you kill your engine while your automobile is still on the track.

You are required to slow down to 15 miles per hour or less when approaching a railroad grade

Woman Is Injured In Overturned Auto

When the 1936 sedan piloted by a Los Angeles Filipino overturned on the new Siskiyou highway in Bellview early Wednesday morning a white woman giving her name as Mrs. Mary Tabelin, wife of one of the three Filipinos in the car, was cut and bruised about the head and was taken to the Community hospital for treatment. Neither the woman's young daughter nor any of the men were hurt beyond minor bruises.

The car left the road, apparently, when the driver fell asleep, plunging down a bank and overturning into a ditch of water near the Southern Pacific tracks. Badly smashed, the vehicle was towed here for repairs.

LETTERS to the Editor

GRIFFIN CHALLENGES

To the Editor:

I read the letter in The Miner written by F. J. Newman, district attorney, in which he attempts to explain the whys and wherefores by which it came to pass that a grand jury found a true bill against three of a quartet who beat up and "rolled" a man near Ashland last fall and left him lying in a ditch, and returned a not true bill against the fourth after all had confessed.

It would be appreciated very much if the district attorney could tell the people how a stunt like that could be pulled off right in front of his eyes and be gotten away with.

Now, the least that anyone can say is that there was something mysterious about the whole proceeding and, to my way of thinking, the affair should be investigated and if there was any funny business going on, exposed so the people may know where the blame lies. If it is, as Newman says, the fault of jurors (and they violated their oaths) let them be punished according to law.

I have talked with a number of citizens regarding this affair and they all seem to be of the same opinion which I hold.

I can't see that the letter which Newman wrote to The Miner has helped the matter any, only to convince people that they are right in their opinion as it certainly was too coarse a stunt to fool anyone of intelligence.

It certainly is a fine thing that we have one newspaper in Jackson county with an editor who has the sand to come out and expose and condemn such slight-of-hand performances as this one turned out to be.

Are the people of Jackson county going to stand around like a bunch of dumb brutes waiting for the butcher knife, afraid to open their mouths in condemnation of such bare-faced performances for fear that they will be jerked up and jailed for expressing their opinion? Well, I have this to say for myself—if any of those jurors or anyone else concerned with the affair think for a minute that I am afraid to talk they have another guess coming, because there are hundreds of people in Jackson county who have the same opinion that I have: that for pure unadulterated cussedness and evasion of facts and disregard of truth and evidence of guilt this takes the cake.

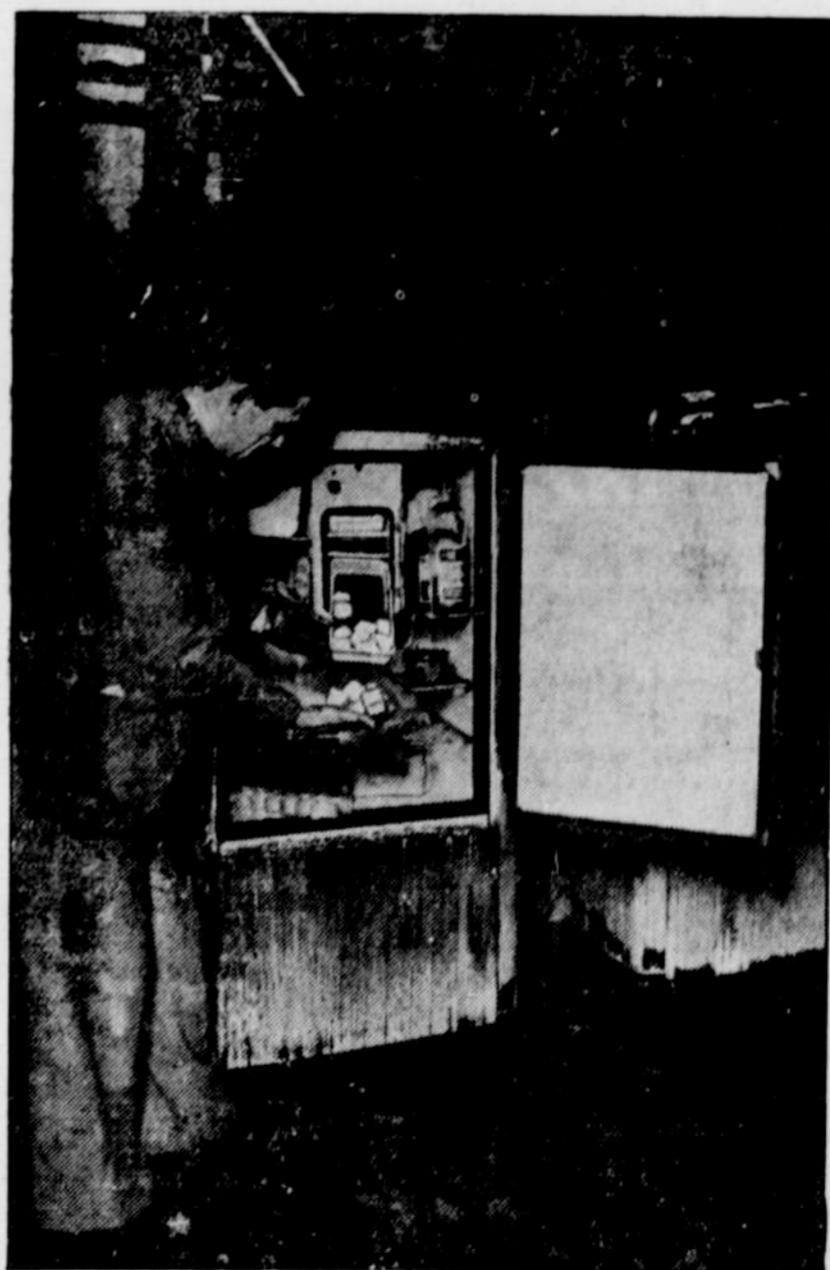
I have never known anything like it to happen before and I was born and raised here and am now 84 years of age.

JOHN B. GRIFFIN.

TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION SET FOR C. W. BYRD FARM

Of interest to many valley farmers will be a tractor tire demonstration Monday afternoon, April 4, at the C. W. Byrd farm in the Bellview district.

Two types of tires will be used to determine the slippage, cleaning and traction.



ICE CUBES SURVIVE FIRE

Perfectly formed ice cubes were found in Norge refrigerators, twenty-four hours after fire completely destroyed the London showrooms of Electric & Musical Industries, Ltd., Middlesex, England. Interiors were spotlessly white, and imitation food-stuffs of wax remained intact.

First Baptist Church

CHARLES E. DUNHAM, Pastor
Church schools meets at 9:45 a. m., R. L. Walker, superintendent.

Morning worship at 11 o'clock, the pastor preaching.

The Young People's union will meet at 6:30 p. m. with the service commission in charge.

Evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Prayer and conference meeting, 7:30 p. m. Wednesday.

Subscribe for The Miner today.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH MOTHER GOOSE

Jack and Jill
Went up the hill;
The weekly washday chore;
They had to bring some water down
And then go back for more.
But Jack fell down
And broke his crown!
A washday accident;
It shadows every home in town
With laundry burdens bent.

A wiser plan
And safer than
Another without doubt
Is, "Call the Ashland Laundry in
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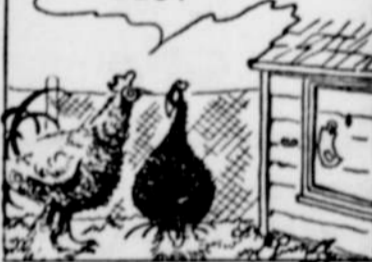
STEVEN R. SCHUERMAN

Phone 334-R

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