

Southern Oregon Miner

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THE POSTMASTER APPOINTMENT HERE IS STRICTLY DEMOCRATIC BUSINESS!

Perhaps since the beginning of postoffices, or at least since the invention of political patronage, the appointment of postmasterships has plunged communities into bitter feuds and divided cities against themselves.

Just let a postmaster appointment come up in the most placid, peace-loving town in the country and boom! Into thin air goes community harmony and innocent bystanders run for their storm cellars.

Ashland, of course, is no exception and last week when word got out that the county democratic central committee had endorsed Bert Miller as successor to Postmaster John Fuller, who has indicated a desire to resign, tongues started wagging, personal grudges were aired and vapid criticisms filled the air.

As near as The Miner ever was able to determine, postmaster appointments are traditional rewards for party faithfulness. Whether democratic or republican administration, the postmaster's belief always coincided with the party in power, and his selection from among his fellow partisans was made as the result of his prominence in or influence with the local political organization.

On such a basis, we can see no justification for criticism of the county central committee's recommendation of Bert Miller, for surely he has been one of the most sincere democrats and hardest workers in the community. Bert has earned the endorsement of the central committee and there is no reason for criticism, especially by republicans who will have nothing to say about the appointment anyway and who would never, if their party had won the presidential election, tolerate advice or criticism from the democrats.

BACKSLIDING MATANUSKANS PROVE UNWORTHY OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE!

Now it seems that some Matanuska settlers are demanding that the government cancel their debts for farms in the Alaskan settlement project. Some even refuse to make \$5 "token payments" as an indication of sincerity and the manager of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation corporation has threatened eviction.

The rebellious settlers are reported to be buying new cars, attending movies and otherwise living comfortably but are making no effort to repay the \$4000 to \$5000 stake the government gave them. And, of course, a political hero has risen to the hour, a territorial legislator who tells them to resist eviction and "prove whether they are American citizens or peons."

Some people will think the politician is careless in his handling of words and should have asked them to prove whether they are honorable Americans or disgustingly unappreciative no-goods from the dust bowl who, once their bellies are filled, forget a beneficent government that rescued them from hunger and want and established them in a new land of promise.

Coddling of the unworthy always sets up a vicious circle that becomes burdensome to honest taxpayers and a curse to deserving unfortunate.

TALK OF MOVING ALCATRAZ PRISON ANOTHER OUTBURST OF SOB STUFF?

Members of a congressional investigating committee soon will make a trip to Alcatraz prison in San Francisco bay and on their decision may rest the future of "the Rock". There is considerable talk of a desire to have the prison island moved from the bay because, as one critic comments, "I think it is a great injustice, both to the prisoners and the citizens of San Francisco, to have this place of horror on a rock on San Francisco's doorstep."

Just why the prison, which houses the nation's incorrigibles, should be described as a "place of horror" will not be readily apparent to the average law-abiding citizen who understands with good reason that only those prisoners who have well earned their spurs

OUR DEMOCRACY by Mat

-AND STILL GROWING

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TODAY-AMERICA HAS 306 COMPANIES, ALL REGULATED BY STATE LAW, AND 124 MILLION POLICIES IN FORCE.

THE FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB GLOWED FOR EDISON IN 1879.
TODAY - MORE THAN 23 MILLION HOMES HAVE ELECTRICITY. THE USE OF CURRENT IS UP 73% IN 7 YEARS.

THE MOTOR CAR... FOUR REGISTERED IN 1895. 30 MILLION TODAY.
THE AIRPLANE... THE FIRST ONE TO FLY, 1903. 1000 A MONTH MADE HERE NOW, AND INCREASING EVERY DAY.

are sent to Alcatraz. As far as the residents of San Francisco are concerned, they could be no farther from the barred walls, for all practical protection from escapes, if the island were a hundred miles out to sea. Perhaps their esthetic sense of niceties is offended by sight of the rock—that is, on days when the bay atmosphere is clear enough so one can see across the street—or perhaps, too, San Francisco's boosters would rather not be reminded of the less happy side of life.

And as for the prisoners, the only real "horror" on the rock is the utter hopelessness of escape tries, to which convicts naturally are rebellious. If they believed in paying their debts to society they wouldn't be in Alcatraz.

A GENUINE ACT OF BRILLIANT HEROISM HAS GONE UNREWARDED!

People never seem to like their heroics close to home. Brave deeds are much more impressive if removed to story books or theater screens, or are flashed across the continent. And southern Oregon seems to be no exception.

Some weeks ago two Medford men were swept out to sea in a skiff which was overturned at dusk as it was pounced on by huge breakers along the lower coast of Oregon. Nearly two hours later one was rescued by a pair of strong-hearted men from Brookings who very likely qualified, by their deed, for Carnegie medals.

Picture the scene: Two hysterical wives who saw their husbands swept away by current and wave and heard their cries for help; the dark night closing in on the restless, swelling ocean; the roar of the ever-treacherous surf sucking at the beach. Calls for help bringing two experienced boatmen—Archie McVay and Victor Anderson—down to the scene of tragedy. Knowing not whether one or both the fishermen already had been drowned, unable to see their overturned craft in the black night and with no audible cries to guide them, they without hesitation pushed a skiff into the surf only to have the giant combers overturn it. With courageous determination, they fought the small boat back into the sea, this time with success resulting from skill and strength alone... out into the heaving swells they oared, guided only by their knowledge of tides and wind... out, more than a mile they searched and after muscles ached from steady pulling, chilled through by water and night wind, they came upon the overturned boat and pulled in the lone survivor who clung to it and life.

Ashore they brought the man, nearly frozen and half drowned. To his rescuers alone he owed his life and hospital care soon had him normal again.

The rescuers returned to their homes wet and exhausted after having risked their lives searching for a man they had never seen before, nor have they seen since.

And, ingratitude of ingratitude, to this day no one has bothered to give them thanks or write them a card of appreciation. Which makes the heroism of Archie McVay and Victor Anderson all the more genuine, for they went without thought of reward and they received none.

However, people of the coast country who understand the power of the sea know what an unselfish deed was done that night; they know how two men risked their lives to save another and they are ashamed that gratitude is so scarce in the world.

EXPRESSES THANKS
To the Editor:
I want to thank you for the fine support you and your newspaper accorded the National Guard recruiting campaign before and during mobilization of the Forty-First division in September.
Your splendid co-operation was of great service at that important time, and now that we are engaged in an intensive training program in the field, I am taking this first opportunity I have had to express, on behalf of the division, our hearty appreciation for your assistance.
With best wishes, I am cordially yours,
GEORGE A. WHITE,
Major General, U. S. Army.

- Roland Scheidreiter spent last week-end in Crescent City.
- Elton Petri recently returned from a visit with friends in Riddle, Ore.
- Bobby Colvig spent last week-end visiting with her mother in Klamath Falls.

IT'S NO WONDER!
Latest reports from Rome are that two men were suspended from the Fascist party for refusing to stand for Il Duce's war communiques. One can hardly blame them, though. It must get rather monotonous standing to attention every 15 minutes to hear that "the army advanced 10 miles today—backwards."—Bob Johnson.

● Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Woods made a trip to Salem this week where Dr. Woods attended a state board of health meeting.

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