

SOUTHERN OREGON NEWS REVIEW

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WENDELL LAWRENCE, Editor

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Looking Back on the National Election

There has been very little personal mudslinging in the 1948 presidential campaign, and practically none of the undercover rumor movements which are designed to persuade electorate that this candidate or that, is morally, mentally or physically unfit for office. Most of the critical digs have been of a general nature—as, for instance, Mr. Truman's description of the 80th Congress as one of the worst in history, and Mr. Dewey's allegations that the present administration is incapable of doing an efficient job. Thus, judged by political precedents, the campaign has been unusually clean, and no one of importance has attempted to make either of the principal candidates appear to be a crook of the first water.

A good many voters, perhaps will look back with nostalgic regret on campaigns in which invective gave color and life to the proceedings, reprehensible as these weapons may be in principle. And to find the campaigns which were most enlivened in this fashion, we must look back quite a distance. In the October issue of the American Mercury, Robert Bendiner presents an amusing and instructive brief account of "Mudslinging in National Elections" which indicates how tremendously the times have changed in the matter of political manners and weapons.

Even Washington was not spared from the vitriol. On the First President's retirement, a newspaper observed that "If ever a nation has been debauched by a man, the American nation has been debauched by Washington." And while he was in office, an opposition cartoon was published which showed the Father of His Country being led to the guillotine.

Jefferson, sainted as he is in these days, also came in for his share of attack. The then president of Yale warned the country solemnly that the Jeffersonian doctrine was designed to make "our wives and daughters the victims of legal prostitution." He was also accused, through a published tract, of being a man of very loose morals.

The opposition really turned on the blowtorches when Andrew Jackson ran. Due to a legal mix-up, the General had married his second wife before she was fully divorced from her first husband, and a second ceremony had been necessary. An example of the use his political enemies made of this incident is found in this sentence: "Ought a convicted adulterer and her paramour husband to be placed in the highest offices of this free and Christian land?"

In modern times, Grover Cleveland, when running against Blaine, was given the most savage treatment. Evidence was dug up to the effect that he was possibly the father of an illegitimate child. This was played to the hilt by the Republicans, in the hope that the voters would become convinced that he was an utter libertine. As the New York Sun put it, "We do not believe the American people will knowingly elect to the presidency a coarse debauchee who will bring his harlots with him to Washington and hire lodgings for them convenient to the White House." However, Cleveland's great record of probity and public service—coupled with the fact that Blaine had a very dubious Congressional background—was sufficient to offset this. Yet it was very close—a switch of a few hundred votes in New York would have beaten him. In this connection, it is an interesting fact that another piece of invective may have been the determining factor. One Republican slogan held that the Democrats were the party of "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion." This is supposed to have alienated the large Catholic vote in New York, and thus given Cleveland the state.

Al Smith came in for heavy abuse too. A clergyman asked rhetorically: "Shall dry America elect a cocktail President?" A pamphlet described the Governor as "the friend of prostitution." The Catholic issue was played up to the hilt. Herbert Hoover and the responsible Republicans had no part in this and considered such tactics contemptible. But they couldn't stop the vilification. And Mr. Hoover didn't get off scot free by any means. He was accused of fraud during his engineering career and other crimes.

To come down to the very recent past, Franklin Roosevelt was a consistent target of the rumor mongers. A lunatic fringe put out pamphlets to the effect that he was really Jewish, was a sufferer from unmentionable diseases, and so on. Scurrilous attacks were made on Mrs. Roosevelt. Matters went so far that the late President once said that his enemies "have not been content with attacks on me, or on my wife, or on my sons—no, not content with that, they now include my dog Fala." Oddly enough, that was literally true, Fala being accused of viciousness and other canine sins.

It is a point of interest that vitriolic attack has been employed most dates—Jefferson, Cleveland, Roosevelt, etc. This caused Mr. Bendiner, freely and consistently against the more dynamic and colorful candidate to say in his Mercury article, "Given the comparatively colorless pair of nominees we have, it was improbable from the start that the 1948 affair would ever dip to the low but gaudy level of past classics. . . ." Thus, the emphasis has pretty much been on issues and principles rather than on personalities. But it's a safe bet that during some future election the mudslingers will dredge up the old ammunition again.

Looking Back on the Local Election

Although the national election might have been fairly free from mudslinging, the local election at various times got a bit smeary. The race for recorder had both sides swinging and slinging, and quoting the same man as an authority.

Leland J. Knox, public accountant, who audited the city's books found that his statements were being quoted by both sides as ammunition. Knox finally stated that he felt like the character who interfered in a family quarrel, only to find both participants swinging at him.

The race for councilman was the quietest part of the entire campaign. We can't recall any councilman out to vilify any other candidate. No one councilman's ability, character, or reputation came in for any comment. All was sweetness and light among the 10 who sought the job.

Not so with the mayoralty race. Though at no time did this really get out of bounds it showed at several times a possibility of really becoming a forthright old fashioned American election with name-calling, mudslinging, and muck raking. But it nevertheless didn't stray too far from the grounds of common decency, and all the candidates had a whale of a good time.

To the mayor, we say, good luck, and may the next four years be successful ones for your administration. And to the council members who will serve during the next four years, may you do as well, governing, as you did campaigning. To the recorder and the city treasurer, may your books always balance, and to the members of the park board, let's hope that you, too, continue to do your bit toward making this community a better one.

All the men and women elected to office have jobs to do, we're sure that they will do them to the best of their ability.

How Much?

How much money was spent in the local political campaign is not known, but the sum would surely keep a family of five in food, clothes, and gasoline for all of a year. Amazing how much money a fellow will spend for a job that pays \$100.00 a year.

Church Announcements



ASSEMBLY OF GOD

The Live Church With A Live Message
 O. W. Klingsheim Minister
 Tel. 22688

Sunday morning service at 11 o'clock. Special services nightly at 7:30 (except Saturday) with Bobby Clark Enthusiastic Evangelist.
 Subject Friday night "The Final Dictator."
 Bible School 9:45 a.m.
 Subject "Is it Even Right to Do Wrong?"
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Music by the choir.
 Assembly of God House KWIN at 1 p.m.

C. A. Vesper Service at 6:30 p.m. Orchestra Music at 6:20 p.m.
 Evening Evangelistic Service 7:30 p.m. Subject "Five Good Things in Hell" Evangelist Bobby Clark.
 Music, Orchestra Special Instrumental and Vocal.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

117 Siskiyou Blvd.
 Ewart P. Borden, Minister
 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Marjorie Flinieu, Supt.—Mrs. Henry Metz, Primary Supt.
 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Marjorie Flinieu, superintendent.
 11:00 Morning worship, Sermon "Rewards in the Kingdom"
 Pilgrim Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Leadership Mrs. Borden. Program and refreshments follow devotions.
 Pilgrim Study Club meets at the church Wednesday 2 p.m. Topic for study is the Country of Turkey.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Robert McIlvanna, Minister
 The church of the Wayside Pulpit
 Youth chorus rehearsal, led by Zo Peters.
 9:45 Sunday School, A. O. McGee, Supt.
 11:00 Morning Worship, Text "And When He Came to Himself."
 5 p.m. Intermediate MTF Allene Inlow, advisor.
 6:45 p.m. Senior Youth Group
 Wednesday 10 a.m. Sub-district

FRIENDS CHURCH

Pastor, Irwin P. Alger
 9:45 Sunday school as usual.
 10:00 a.m. Bible School
 11:00 a.m. Worship service.
 7:00 p.m. Christian Endeavor
 8:00 p.m. Praise and Worship.
 Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Prayer meet.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Pioneer Avenue, South
 Block. Subject: Adams and Fallen Man.
 Golden Text: Genesis 2:6-7. There went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday evening meeting, which includes testimonies of Christian Science healing, is held at 8 o'clock.
 Reading room open daily from 2 to 5 p.m. except Sundays and holidays.

TALENT METHODIST CHURCH

11:00 Morning worship. Message 7:45 Evening Service. Presented by the Young People under the leadership of Romona Coldwell and Wallace McNair.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Earl P. Downing, Minister
 Bible School, 9:45 a.m. Classes for all ages.
 Morning Service 11:00 a.m. Sermon, "Peter's Bees."
 Junior Church, 11:00 a.m. for the children under junior high age.
 Christian Endeavor, 7:00 p.m.
 Evening Service, 7:30 p.m. Sermon, "Parables of Hope from the Farm and Kitchen."
 Midweek Service, Wed. 8:00 p.m.
 The Christian's Hour, 9:00 a.m. Sunday KWIN.
 meeting WSCS.
 Wednesday 7:30. Choir rehearsal. Della Weber, directing.
 Thursday, 7:30. Bible class led by Homer Billings.

Letters to the Editor

November 2, 1948
 RFD Box 461
 Talent, Oregon

Dear Mr. Lawrence,
 There are two precincts in this area, East Talent and West Talent. Both polling places are located within a short distance of each other. Either location is readily accessible to the voters of either district.

The total number of voters accommodated at both polling places could readily be accommodated at one.

It seems a waste of public funds and a needless duplication of effort to maintain two polling places where one would serve as well or better.

Today it has been necessary to dismiss one class from the Talent elementary school to make way for the election board.

NEWS FROM WMCA

Total attendance in the building for the past four weeks has been 1025. Some of the groups and organizations using the "Y" building during that time are: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Gra-Y Club, Senior Tri Hi Y Club, Senior Hi Y club, Junior Tri Hi Y club, Junior Hi Y Club, Boxing club, Catholic Women's Group, Junior Civic League, American Association of University Women and the Ashland Rotary Club.

An adult group in Shellercraft will hold its first meeting in the YMCA. Tuesday evening, November 2nd, at 7:30. This group is under the direction of Mrs. R. N. Fletcher and is open to all women in the community.

The first instruction period of the season for the Kiwanis-YMCA Boxing Club for boys was held at 7:30 o'clock on Tuesday evening, November 2nd. John Chernig will be in charge of the instruction and training periods for the club again this season. The boxing club is open to all boys in the city 9 to 18 years of age.

Two games were played in the YMCA-Church Six Man Touch Football league over the weekend. The Ashland Presbyterian team lost to the Talent Methodist team in a game played in Talent on Friday afternoon, October 29th. The Talent Friends Church team won easily from the Ashland YMCA Gra-Y club boys in a game played on the junior high school play field the same afternoon. Standings in the Church Football league with two games left to play are:

	W	L	Pc.
Talent Friends	3	0	1.000
Talent Methodist	1	1	.500
Ashland Presbyt.	0	2	.000
Ashland Gray-Y	0	1	.000

Next Friday afternoon the Ashland Presbyterian team and the Gra-Y club will play on the junior high play field.

The Neil Creek Club met at the home of Mrs. Mary Gyger, 84 Dewey, last Thursday at two o'clock for its regular meeting. Walter Deboer of Lithia Motors was a business caller in Portland this week.

This arrangement is made at some cost to the district, disruption to instruction personnel and a falling behind on instruction schedules.
 Inasmuch as your paper stands for economy and efficient government, would you kindly insert this in your columns.
 A. W. WISNER

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Mr. and Mrs. Tony Coy and other relatives and friends, daughter, Dee Ann, Bend, Oregon returned to their home last Monday after spending the past two weeks at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Har-

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