

Southern Oregon News Review

Ashland, Oregon

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In a recent letter from the Oregon Prison Association, an amazing and condemning array of statistics, discloses the amazing fact that more than 10,000 juveniles were held in the jails of the state between 1944 and 1949. It is a staggering total. And each statistic is someone's child. These are boys and girls, seventeen years of age and younger, who have known the experience of being a jail inmate.

What does it mean to spend even one night in a county jail? Have you ever seen the inside of your jail? Do you know what it is like?

In 1945 the Oregon Prison Association representative was making her first official visit to county jails, she became increasingly disturbed over the conditions under which children were being detained. Not only were many of the jails antiquated, insecure fire-traps but the sheriffs had no money to keep them up decently or to provide adequate supervision. Most of the tax-payers seemed to feel that the "jail-birds" were getting "as good as they deserved," even if the "jail-bird" happened to be a little nine year old girl. To remedy this condition, community support was needed, and that required the securing of specific data to present to the people of Oregon. At the joint request of the Legislative Interim Committee on State Institutions and the Oregon Prison Assn., the Governor of Oregon requested the Federal Bureau of Prisons to conduct a study of the county jails of Oregon.

The Federal survey which was made in 1946 revealed "deplorable" conditions in the majority of the jails inspected, with only eight out of thirty seven rating even 50%. In seventeen jails there was no segregation of boys and girls; most of the jails were dark, unsanitary gloomy places with dirty bedding and inadequate bathing and sanitary facilities. With but one exception, there were no educational, recreational or employment programs. Therefore there was nothing for the children to do but listen to the stories of the other jail occupants — alcoholics, sex perverts, hardened offenders waiting trial and probable transfer to the penitentiary. For the most part these juvenile inmates are not criminals. They are children.

Granting that no jail can offer a constructive experience to children needing detention, the question arises as to where a youngster may be held from the time he is taken in custody until a suitable plan for his future can be worked out. Temporary emergency care should be the responsibility of the child serving agencies (juvenile courts and departments of public welfare) rather than of law-enforcement agencies. It is also felt that the detention of children should be held to a minimum with children being kept in their own homes whenever possible. Detention is not just a bed and safe-keeping proposition, but is an opportunity to study the child in a controlled environment, a step in the rehabilitation process.

One of the chief functions of the Oregon Prison Association is to aid in remedying of conditions in the jails of the counties where juveniles are held. The public understanding of this growing problem will go far toward providing an improved correctional program for better crime control among the juveniles of the state of Oregon.

Timely Topics

Now that the curiosity about the bearded youths has been satisfied we are still wondering in what category their non-collegiate unshaven elders may be classified, probably the counterpart of the baboushka swathed females.

And suddenly its spring! Apple blossoms and lilacs, snow capped mountains and greening meadows, old men drowsing in the sun, Lithia Park alive and bursting with buds.

More Main St. changes. This time the "House of Fashion" owned by Kit and Dan Parker changed hands and will hereafter have Mesdames Jones of Salem and Moffitt of Medford to operate the womens shop beginning the 1st of May.

Many parents will heave a sigh of relief to know that the first Saturday in May will mark the beginning of a new policy in childrens matinees. If the plan worked out by the local P.T.A. groups with the manager of the theatre proves successful, small Johnny will no longer wake up in the middle of the night with the screaming "meemies." Such approved films as "The Sea Hawk," "Five Little Peppers," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" and similar pictures will be shown.

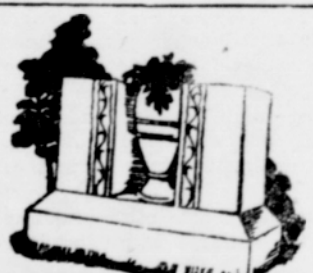
Be on the look-out for the donut girls. Ashland and Talent Campfire groups are in a hot contest for the camp awards which will go to the winners who sell the most doughnuts between May 1 and May 10.

Independence Drive Features Liberty Bell

One of the replicas of the Liberty Bell will tour the State of Oregon during the Independence Drive. Mr. Sammons said, "and will be on display in Jackson County at a date to be announced later." Every effort will be made to show the Bell to as large a number of school children as possible prior to the end of the school year. At the conclusion of the Independence Drive, the Bell will be presented to the people of the State of Oregon for permanent display.

First shipment of the Liberty Bell replicas will reach New York April 19 from Ancey-le-Vieux, Haute Savoie, France, where the bells are being cast.

Each replica bell and its mounting will stand about six feet high. The bells themselves will be 12 feet in circumference around the lip, and 7½ feet around the crown. Each will weigh about a ton.



MONUMENTS
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Kiwanis Dames Hold Unique Party

The Ashland Kiwanis Dames met on Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Frank Bryant, 437 Morton street, with Mrs. Allan Harris serving as co-hostess. Although the attendance was small the evening was a most spirited one with a continuous series of contests at the three card tables. Scientific experiments and discussions contributed added excitement to the unusual entertainment with prizes going to Mrs. Koester and Mrs. Jones.

The hostesses served delicious refreshments at a long table gay with spring flowers. In May the members and their husbands will hold an old fashioned box social and square dance.

Mr. Laurence Butler, science instructor at SOC, showed the film, "Human Growth" in Lincoln, Bellview, and Lone Pine schools this week. After each showing, Mr. Butler leads a discussion of the subject "Human Growth and Development." This film is shown under the auspices of the E. C. Brown trust.

The donors of the bells are the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, Kennecott Copper Corporation, Phelps-Dodge Corporation, American Smelting and Refining Company, American Metal Company, Ltd., and the Miami Copper Company.

The United States Steel Corporation's American Bridge Company subsidiary is providing standards, stays and hardware for mounting the bells, and the Ford Motor Company will supply 48 red, white and blue trucks to be used in taking the bells on tours of the States.



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Stork Stops

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morris of Route 1, Box 464, announce the arrival of a daughter, Shirley Marie on April 21st at the Ashland General hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Lesley Meeder of Box 306 announce the birth of a daughter, Jeri Susan, born last week at the local hospital.

A son, named Jimmy Randolph, was born April 20th at the Ashland General hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Williams of 643 Indiana Street.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson of Route 1, Box 179, are the parents of a daughter, Deborah Elizabeth, who arrived April 18 at the Ashland General hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John Colley of 433 Mountain Ave. announce the birth of a daughter, Jacqueline Lee, born April 18 at the Ashland General hospital.

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Rouge Jersey Cattle Tour Set For May

The Rogue River Jersey Cattle Club held its regular monthly meeting, April 16 at the R. E. Van Deusen home at Gold Hill.

Jens Svith gave a review of the business transacted at the meeting of the directors of the Oregon Jersey Cattle Club.

Additional plans were made for the jersey cattle tour of Josephine and Jackson county herds scheduled for May 16 and 17. Visiting will start in Jackson county with the E. B. Poyer herd in Ashland. On the second day the Josephine Co. herds will be visited. As a special feature several judging teams will be chosen. Mr. Savage, a dairy cattle judge from Canada, will be here to instruct

the teams and visitors in recognizing the good and bad points of a dairy cow. Each herd will have cattle of a definite group to be judged.

This tour is open to all who are interested.

Members attending the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Mongold and children, Sally, and Larry of Eagle Point, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Poyer of Ashland, Frank Schutzwohl, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Spurling and daughter Ann, John Rienhart, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. McCole, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Mayfield, Bud Miller, all of Grants Pass, Mr. and Mrs. Van Deusen of Gold Hill, Frank Etzular of Provoit and guests, Mr. and Mrs. P. K. Nelson of Central Point.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

His Punch
is His Signature

Was on the train up to Central City the other day and when the conductor came around, I asked him why their ticket punches make such odd-shaped holes in the ticket.

"Every conductor in the country has a different design for his punch," he tells me. "Some even show up a fellow's preferences. Now take mine. The hole it makes looks like a beer goblet."

Sure enough! Then he went on to say that the punch is just like the conductor's signature. Makes it easy to trace tickets... to check up if something happens.

From where I sit, even though your ticket is punched differently from mine, it still gets you where you're going. Just like people with their opinions. You might like coffee, another person, tea—and I'll settle for a temperate glass of beer. But what does it matter, so long as we respect the right of the other to have tastes and opinions? We're all trying to go in the same direction — towards a friendlier, more pleasant world for all of us.

Joe Marsh

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