

Southern Oregon News Review

Ashland, Oregon 38 East Main Street

Entered as second-class mail matter in the post office at Ashland, Oregon, February 15, 1935, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879

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Harry Nordwick News Editor

Subscription Rate — \$2.50 year

MEMBER
Oregon Newspaper Publishers' Association

306,457 DIMES SHORT

Today marks the 11th day of the 1951 March of Dimes campaign. Only six days remain in the current drive to raise funds for polio research and care of patients.

This week, Mrs. Marie Ulrich, treasurer of the Jackson county chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, revealed that the local chapter had a \$600.57 deficit in its operations last year.

In addition to the county's share of March of Dimes funds and other contributions, which totaled \$9,065.14, the chapter's entire reserve of \$2,464 was used. Expenditures last year were \$12,129.71. A breakdown of expenses shows that \$12,101.66 went for hospitals, doctors, braces, crutches and transportation of patients. Only \$28.05 was used for operation of the chapter.

Faced for the first time in its history with a deficit, the county must make this up in the current fund-raising campaign. No surplus exists to fall back upon. The first \$600 collected only brings us to the starting point for 1951.

Last year, expenses exceeded contributions by \$3,064.57 (deficit plus used-up surplus). We needed 25 per cent more than we gave. Remember that when you make your donation this year. We might be lucky and not need as much, but we may need considerably more. Remember, 1950 was not an epidemic year in Jackson county. And remember this: of all polio cases needing help in 1950, three-fifths were patients from previous years.

Give generously that all polio victims may be helped back to a normal life, and that research may continue to eventually wipe out forever the fear of polio.

WHAT KIND OF ECONOMY?

Police Chief Vern Smith, in his annual budget report to the city council last week, termed police department finances as "critical." Smith explained that the more efficiently the department operates (thereby increasing city income), the more the department itself is penalized financially, since expenses of operation increase with increased services.

Lack of personnel and low salaries were also cited as serious problems in the maintenance of the police department.

It has been pointed out before that Ashland has the smallest police force of any city of equal size in the state. Both Grants Pass and Roseburg, with approximately the same population as Ashland's, have considerably larger police forces. Ashland is the only city in the state which has not given its policemen a raise in the last three years. At least one member of the force resigned during the last year to take other employment with better hours and pay.

Most amazing is the fact that, in spite of this, the police force has operated efficiently and retained high calibre men. But as costs continue to climb and as more demands are made, this situation may be reversed, in spite of all efforts. Either more funds must be allotted for the police department or its field of services must be sharply curtailed.

There is no argument with the necessity for strict economy in the operation of our city government. The currently popular term "austerity" may be even more appropriate. The city fathers are faced with the unenviable task of apportioning limited available funds in the best public interest. But neglect of the police department in this respect would come under the heading of "penny wise and pound foolish."

In 1950 the police department brought \$11,830 into the city coffers through fines, dog licenses and bicycle licenses. An additional \$12,591 was collected from parking meters. The department was also the agency through which the city collected income from liquor licenses and amusement taxes. It is impossible to estimate the value of property protected and recovered for Ashland citizens—the number of lives saved by alert police practices.

And here is an important point: More income can be produced for the city (from parking meters alone), providing the staff and facilities are adequate to do the job.

Undoubtedly a compromise will have to be made. Sufficient funds for ideal operation of the department are out of the question. Nevertheless, the people of Ashland and their council representatives must see that this phase of municipal government, as well as all the others, are given a sufficient share of operating funds. The proper balance must be struck.

"We are told what fine things would happen if every one of us would go and do something for the welfare of somebody else; but why not contemplate also the immense gain which would ensue if everybody would do something for himself?" —William Graham Sumner in 1889.

The ammunition we need for this war is a demand on Congress for adoption of the recommendations for cutting waste in Federal expenditures. —(Winter Park, Fla., Herald).

Our Town . . .

By HARRY NORDWICK

QUESTION: When will Lyn Newbry and associates appoint as one of the special 1951 Chamber of Commerce committees, the committee on Ashland's Centennial celebration which comes off in August of 1952?

"Bonds, bonds! Who's got the bonds?"

This question would certainly seem to be answered with definite finality when City Treasurer Gertrude Easterling produced them along with the corresponding cancelled checks.

But this didn't satisfy the Beswick sisters, Lottie and Sarah.

They then thought that it might have been an overdue bond. But Mrs. Easterling pointed out that it couldn't possibly have been any other bonds. Leland Knox, CPA, had previously declared the city's books in perfect order, and had scrutinized them in such a manner as to find any outstanding bonds.

Anyway, they sat in City Recorder John Austin's office for the better part of one afternoon going over the issues. About a quarter to five they left, signifying that they were only half through. Up to date Austin hasn't heard anything more about it.

It certainly is very strange. Why didn't they bring up the matter of the alleged January 1950 return without receipt when they turned over some other bonds a month later? Instead, they waited clear until May before they mentioned the matter.

This column agrees with Mrs. Easterling. It is certainly one of the strangest things that has happened around here in quite awhile.

The furor caused a special council meeting on the 10th of the month. It would seem that it's just another case of much ado about nothing."

This story could happen at any time—it might even be happening now:

A fire call is placed at the fire hall. The three men on duty roar away to the scene of the conflagration. The fire is found somewhere in the south end of town, in a new district.

A few minutes later, another alarm is phoned in to the fire hall. This time a fire is in a highly expensive business property downtown.

However, the volunteers, and off-duty firemen haven't reported for duty yet—and may not. Finally, someone is available. But, he doesn't have the equipment, or the manpower, to handle the situation. He frantically phones the first fire crew but can't get through because the excitement has caused people in the neighborhood to leave their homes to watch the fire.

His thoughts are now: "If I only had a two-way radio in contact with the first truck—this whole situation could be handled effectively . . . and in time."

After wasting precious minutes, he finally contacts the first group. After getting fire No. 1 under control, the first group makes all haste in reaching the second fire. Upon reaching fire No. 2, the firemen are faced with a flaming building (which might have been nipped in the bud if it had been caught sooner).

Fighting against overwhelming odds, the crew prop their longest ladder (which is only 28 feet long) against the building in order to obtain height to adequately breach the flaming lower stories. Their goal is to open vents in the roof to relieve the terrific gas pressures that have developed.

At the same time, a rescue is being attempted on the third floor (we DO have buildings with more than two floors, you know). One of the firemen heroically tries to save a trapped victim . . . but, his blackboard facilities under non-practical conditions hasn't taught him the finesse and assurance needed to carry out such a dangerous line of duty. His life is lost in the inferno along with the one he had tried to save.

Seeing that the building is entirely lost, the remainder of the crew wets down the surrounding buildings. Several salvage attempts have been made which resulted in only a few hundred dollars worth of fixtures saved . . . the loss was in the many thousands. When the walls finally collapse a silence hangs over the large crowd.

A murmuring gradually builds up to a clearly audible protest. "What's the score here?" "Neglect of duty?" "Incompetence?" "Ill-trained?" A more thoughtful soul quiet-

Lend A Hand!



CAPITAL PARADE

Budget is Only a Budget

By Murray Wade

"Budget: An estimate of probable income and expenditure for a given period."

The budget now is 58 million dollars heavy on the expenditure end.

Governor Douglas McKay should call attention to the above dictionary quotation his friends opine; and to the fact that the present budget as presented to the legislature was made on estimates turned in by state departments July 1, 1950.

Who is there who doesn't know what has happened to prices since then?

The general fund budget is 180 million dollars. Senator Belton points to the fact that the people voted 42 per cent of that amount—and no part of that can be cut. The only trimming that can be done is in the 58 per cent; commodities, employment, and capital replacements.

State Budget Director Harry Dorman said some employees could be eliminated, but doubted if the cut could be 10 to 20 per cent without sacrificing efficiency. The state could get more income tax money if the tax commission were allowed more help.

State Travel Costs High

It cost the taxpayers of Oregon approximately \$311,148 for out-of-state traveling done by officials and state employees during the year ending June 30, 1950.

This is an increase of 30 per cent over the amount spent during the previous year. If this pace of increase cannot be trimmed down it will require a budget item of approximately one million dollars for the 1951-53 biennium.

Sales Tax Bill

When the people of Oregon voted to increase the basic school support fund last November they put themselves in a position facing two alternatives, to raise the money by raising property taxes or accepting a sales tax. There does not seem to be any other place to get the money.

House Bill 25, by Rep. Hill and Sen. Ellis, would impose a tax on retail sales equal to 2 per cent of gross receipts of retailer.

ly states the simple fact that the fire chief had told of this condition at the first of the year.

The cry is then raised: "Well, let's do something now, we don't want this to happen again." Thus, with negative nodding of their now-thoughtful heads the crowd disperses . . . stimulated by hindsight . . . never touched by foresight.

Citizens . . . friends: If any civic organization is looking for a project that can prevent future destruction—HERE is ONE that it can RETIRE on after accomplishing.

Let's not be caught with our ladders short . . . our property and lives are too few.

BRAVO: to the Rev. Paul Harms upon achieving the award as Ashland's No. 1 junior citizen.

BOO: to anyone who hasn't yet contributed to the March of Dimes.

Letter From Washington . . .

By Hon. Harris Ellsworth
Congressman, 4th District

A huge volume entitled, "Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1949," has just been delivered to the office of each Member. It is quite a book and may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, but the price is not stated. On looking through the book I discovered that it not only has complete data regarding the Congress but it contains a list of Executive Officers—president and cabinet—for each administration from George Washington until now.

The list under the name of Harry S. Truman, President, is most interesting in one particular. He has apparently made more changes in his cabinet in his five and one-half years as President, than any president in our history. He has had four different Secretaries of State; two Treasury Secretaries; three Secretaries of War before unification, and Secretaries of Defense; three have held the office of Attorney General; three the office of Postmaster General; three Secretaries of Interior; three Secretaries of Commerce, and three Labor Secretaries.

Put it under the heading of carping criticism if you want to, but it seems to me such a rapidly shifting and changing executive organization as that can produce neither unity nor efficiency.

which followed each speech, and in spite of partisan interpretations, the truth is all are in agreement on the following vital points:

1. The Russian government is bent on world conquest.
2. Chinese aggression in Korea is Russian inspired and is a part of the Soviet effort.
3. The United States is the heart of, and is the most powerful country of the remaining free governments. The security of the United States is menaced by Russian aggression.

4. We must arm and prepare to fight off whatever attack may be launched against us and we must aid, as best we can, the defense of other threatened peoples.

5. We want a peaceful world but not at the price of appeasement.

On these things all are agreed. The area of disagreement and discussion, therefore, is not large—but it is extremely important. We are now in the process of discussing and debating what we shall do and how it shall be done. Such debate is healthy and proper. It is the way things are done in a free country.

During the past weeks several distinguished Americans have presented to the Nation their views on the world situation and have said what they think our policies should be. The list includes: Truman, Hoover, Dulles, Taft, and Acheson. In spite of the sound and fury

Ashland Lions Induct Members

The Ashland Lions club met last Tuesday honoring Melvin Jones night, for an induction ceremony and program which welcomed into the local den 24 new members and four reinstatements.

Following a social hour, the induction ceremony was held with President Don Lewis and Roland Parks, membership chairman, in charge.

The principal speaker for the evening was District Deputy Lou Hardin of Oregon district 36E. Earl Miller, Medford, presented the code of ethics of Lionism.

Bernard Windt presented a musical selection and Clarence Wiggins rendered vocal solos, accompanied by Don Davis.

Introductions and remarks were given by past presidents and charter members of the group. Group singing was enjoyed by all.

It was stated by Roland Parks that after the March of Dimes project, currently being sponsored by the Lions, the group will stage a community-wide sale of products made by the blind. All proceeds from the sale will go towards purchasing eyeglasses for the needy children of Ashland.

New members inducted into the club were Dan Buckley, Bill Sampson, Nelson Damon, Irving Nelson, Joe Engh, Joe Rooney, Clarence Wiggins, John Hamilton, Ed Oaks, and C. A. Erwin.

M. L. Wright, Dave Barker, Leighton Schell, Ray Elliott, Giles Green, Luke Osgood, Bernard Windt, John Grey, Vilas Mittag, Oscar Silver Jr., C. Leonard, Gaylord Smith, George Carpenter, and Jack Young.

Reinstated members are Hugh McKeever, Kelsey Smith, Jack Center, and Bill Kerr.

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