

Southern Oregon News Review

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THE CAMP BATTLE

The battle of words over reactivation of Camp White goes on and on as the military chooses to keep mum while coming to a decision. Reports from the northern part of the state indicate the same battle is taking place in Polk and Benton counties over possible use of Camp Adair.

Here in Jackson county the first notable opposition to Camp White came from the county agricultural association in a letter addressed to the Medford city council. Shortage of acreage in the county available for cultivation was the principal argument presented by the group, although other reasons were cited, such as lack of recreational facilities for troops, the necessity of displacing lumber firms and farmers now using the former camp area, the present veterans hospital utilizing facilities, water shortage, civilian defense problems and traffic problems.

Next, the cattlemen indicated their opposition to the camp's reactivation on the grounds that much of the area is presently being used and is needed in the county's growing agricultural economy.

Then Monday brought a surprise. A group of 10 farmers and stockmen who lease land in the area sent letters to Oregon's congressional delegation endorsing reactivation of the camp. The group was headed by W. L. "Bill" Taylor, Central Point farmer and 1950 democratic candidate for sheriff.

These men stated their willingness to sacrifice present operations in the area since their individual losses "would be more than offset by the gain that would accrue to the nation as a whole..." They pointed out that the camp already has hard surfaced highways, water mains, sewer system, railroad facilities, hospital, warehouses and suitable existing foundations for rebuilding.

Through all this, Medford's city council and the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce have declared themselves neutral in the controversy while indicating a willingness to cooperate with the military if it decides to reestablish the camp as a training base. Ashland, in general, is standing by as an interested spectator.

This week a Portland paper—the Oregon Journal—editorially opposed reactivation of Camp Adair and favored Camp White. The editorial, which appeared Tuesday, stated that of the original 65,000-acre Camp Adair site, all but 2,000 acres were sold back to private owners, mostly former owners or GI's. These owners are now living on the land and farming it.

"Reactivation of Camp White... is another matter," the editorial continues. "Not so much valuable farm land is involved. More of the facilities, including the whole hospital area, are intact and usable for both training and hospital purposes. Climatic conditions are better than at Adair..."

"In broad terms, the scores of great training camps, including Camps Adair and White, were necessary for World War II—when some 12 million men were in service. This time, with a current ceiling of approximately 4 million indicated, they aren't."

The conclusion is that Camp Lewis in Washington—and Camp White, if needed—should "serve the military's training needs in the Pacific Northwest."

Comparatively, Camp Adair land is at present more productive, agriculturally, while the value of Camp White land is primarily potential. Landowners are actually living on the Adair site, while this is not so generally true at White. Camp White has more of its old facilities left intact and would be easier and more economical to rebuild.

We predict these are the factors that will be considered and, if any military site is established in the state of Oregon, it will be Camp White.

Our Town...

By HARRY NORDWICK

Never fear friends... "SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN!"

Who says? R. M. DeMille, local writer and painter, and (like most of us) a sometimes cracker-box weather prognosticator.

This writer doesn't know or believe him or not. Despite any doubts, he did say last week that he couldn't figure out why we hadn't had a big freeze, because as long as he has been around here we have had one every winter.

Well, as Ashlandites have felt, we did have quite a freeze. Not particularly surprised at his "big freeze" prediction, Dee (DeMille) cast out into the open spaces (and, as far as this column knows, he stands alone, with the following: "We will have about three or four nights of this, and then we will have summer."

Hmmm. Not wanting to be accosted with an "I told you so," this writer is waterproofing his swimming trunks and is having his tennis racket restrung—just in case it really does happen.

Hmmm. Summer in February. On second thought, in order not to appear too foolish, a new pair of ice skates will be ordered... just in case.

Anyone for ice tennis?

We're for BILL DAWKINS.

The executive board of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival association is currently considering the matter of hiring Bill Dawkins of Southern Oregon college as publicity director of the coming 1951 season.

Dawkins is a good man for several reasons. He is a good writer and has given well-written releases to the local papers. Since plugging the shows in a consistent manner is a necessity, he could fill the position with room to spare.

He also knows the town and Prof. Bower, who is an associate of his at the college. Coupled with this writing knowledge and locale familiarity, he has creative ideas. The festival could do a lot worse... so why shouldn't it get a man who knows the situation... and who is known by us?

WANTED: A big-name actor or actress to appear with amateurs in the Shakespearean festival.

The thought may seem impossible to many on first glance but this columnist assures all that are doubtful that such a procedure is quite common in many playhouses throughout the country.

Of notable fame is the procedure at the University of Utah. There, along with collegiate actors, such names as Orson Wells, Helen Hayes, and others appear regularly and make this theatre one of the outstanding in the nation.

Peter Marroney, head of the University of Arizona drama department, told this writer that such a procedure is the key, many times, to making a financial success to a little-known theatre. Besides bringing in money, such an action, he said, is wonderful in teaching the amateurs the finesse and fine points of the art which they absorb by working with a competent professional.

The obstacle of getting promising young actors and actresses to come to our town for the summer would be largely overcome with a big-name drawing card.

Recently, Rodney Keating was unable to interview Katherine ("As You Like It") Hepburn in Portland. This shouldn't stop here. When the new publicity director for the coming season is appointed, letters should be sent to every "legitimate" stage personality that can be thought of. If we only get one answer, it would be worth it.

Such an action must be done soon before the good actors get engaged in other summer stock groups throughout the country.

Sincerely,
A Loyal Phoenix Fan

(While it is not the policy of this paper to publish unsigned communications, an exception is being made because the chastisement is well-deserved. The writer is right. Carelessly written headlines have no place in any newspaper. Fortunately, the story and box score correctly showed Phoenix as the winner, 29 to 32.)

Forestry in this country is only 50 years old. The first professional forester was graduated from college in 1900. Today there are 12,500 practicing foresters in the United States.

CAPITAL PARADE

Legislative Tempo

By Murray Wade

The Oregon legislature finished the third week of the present session last Saturday with some 300 bills, resolutions and memorials before the two houses. This is normal procedure and this session is following the pace and pattern of most sessions.

Taxation, education, budgeting, highway development and welfare are top essential issues with the ever-present biennial pro and con duels over fish, milk, liquor, slot machines, trucks and railroads in the swirling arena laterals.

Little of the "heavy" legislation has been acted on or is expected to be for two weeks. Hearing on pension legislation is scheduled for February 13 with hearings on the Holy report before committees on education the same week.

Trends are that the repeal of civil service has lost for this session though the defeat of the repeal does not mean there will be no changes made in the act. The state-wide ban of fireworks, except for supervised displays, expected to pass the house. The fight for milk control repeal looks dark for the customers.

When a democrat senator was working up a huddle to memorialize the president on his snappy civilian defense program a republican quoted citizen Art Steele, editor of the

Clatskanie Chief, "Nero fiddled while Rome burned. We gotta get that piano out of the White House."

Patterson Governor

When Governor Douglas McKay crossed the state line on his way to Chicago last Thursday morning, Senate President Paul I. Patterson became acting governor and Sen. William E. Walsh was elected by the senate to preside over the senate.

State Highway Program
The state highway commission will require 30 million dollars a year for the next five years if the most critical work demanded by the public is to be contracted and completed.

Right of ways for major projects have been arranged for, surveys completed and the department has ample personnel to begin as soon as approval of federal aid projects is cleared. Chairman Ben R. Chandler and R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, told the joint roads and highways committee of the legislature this week.

"It is entirely up to the legislature," said Chandler, "to determine if the urgent program is to get under way and if the additional funds are to be provided by taxes or through the sale of road bonds."

Senator Elmo Smith, chairman of roads and highways committee, briefs the problem with, "The state's population has increased 39 per cent during the past ten years, in that time travel on highways increased 102 per cent, dollar purchasing power slipped almost 50 per cent and highway income increased only 108 per cent leaving a net increase of about 17 per cent to match against the 102 per cent increase in traffic requirements."

Justice Rossman Honored

Notification of his election to the board of directors of Freedoms Foundation was received by Justice George Rossman on Sunday. The Freedoms Foundation, with headquarters in Valley Forge, Penn., is a patriotic society devoted to expound and defend the constitution, the Bill of Rights and American Freedoms.

Many Acting Governors

Tho he's known as a stiddy young Yanky, Tom Lawson McCall has had six bosses in the last thirteen months. As assistant to the governor of Oregon he has the top-honor publicity job of the state representing the governor on many occasions; acts as minister plenipotentiary at PTA meetings and hot potato clutches.

In his best Bostonese he relates having served in this capacity under Governor Douglas McKay, acting governors William E. Walsh, Frank J. Van Dyke, Earl T. Newberry, this week Paul L. Patterson—all good republicans—and once for

The Battle of Hungry Hill

By R. M. DeMille

(Continued from Last Week)

During the years of 1854, 55 and 56 at different times there were as many as 4,000 Indians on the war path in different parts of the Oregon country at the same time. To have so controlled that large force of Indian desperadoes so they could do no harm, would have required a military force of 10,000 soldiers, so distributed that they could intercept or strike a marauding band of Indians in any part of Oregon, Washington or Idaho. But as the entire military forces of volunteers and regulars in the entire Oregon country never exceeded 1,500 men in actual service, the result was the abandonment of the outlying settlements and the concentration of settlers at points where they could be protected.

Running battles between whites and Indians were frequent events in the eastern Oregon country. Some of them lasted four days. This was possible in the open and level regions of eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and wholly impossible in the mountainous regions of southern Oregon.

To show how completely the Indians had possession of the whole country east of the Cascade range, the attack on the people at the Cascades, where the towns of Stephenson and Cascade Locks are now located, within forty miles of the city of Portland, the following account of the attack is given here by Lawrence W. Coe, who was an eye witness of the exciting

two hours under Walter E. Pearson, fourth man on the acting governor totem pole.

On his best Boston knees, he prays, says he, "that I may never again have the misfortune of serving under a democrat."

scenes. In a letter to Putnam Bradford, who was at that time constructing the first portage railroad at the Cascades, Mr. Coe writes:

"On Wednesday, March 26, 1856, at about 8:30 a.m., the men had gone to their work on the bridges of the new railway, mostly on the bridge near Bush's house. The Yakimas came down on us. There was a line of them from Mill creek above us to the big point at the head of the falls, firing simultaneously on the men, and the first notice we had of them was the bullets and the crack of their guns. Of our men at the first fire, one was killed and several wounded."

"Our men, on seeing the Indians, all ran for our store through a shower of bullets, except three who started downstream for the middle block-house, a distance of about one and a half miles. Bush and his family also ran into our store, leaving his house vacant. The Watkins family came to the store after a Dutch boy, who was lame from a cut in the foot, —that had been shot in their house."

"Watkins, Finlay and Bailey were at work on the new warehouse on the island, around which the water was now high enough to run about three feet deep under the bridges. There was a grand confusion in the store at first and Sinclair, of Walla Walla, going to the railroad door to look, was shot from the bank above the store and was instantly killed. Some of us commenced getting the guns and rifles, which were already loaded behind the counter. Fortunately, about an hour before, there had been left with us for transportation below, nine United States Government rifles with cartridge boxes and ammunition. These saved us."

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Communications...

Dear Sirs:

In the news edition of your paper dated Thursday, January 25, 1951, I found a most disgraceful error. It appeared on the last page under some sports items. The headline ran, "Talent

emerges with 39-32 Win in Rough Contest." If you will look back into the records you will find that Phoenix was the one who emerged victorious!

We of the Phoenix fans don't mind losing a game fair and square, but when we do win we like for the newspapers to record the truth and not a lot of fiction! We are proud of our ball club and hate to see this kind of mistake allowed to go unnoticed. If in the future, you will check to see you know who won the game, we will appreciate it. Thank you.

Sincerely,
A Loyal Phoenix Fan

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MT. SHASTA

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