

Southern Oregon News Review

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"Even OPINION is of force enough to make itself to be espoused at the expense of life." —Montaigne

Police Progress

We are very happy to note the steps forward by the city of Ashland in modernizing its police department—even though the progress is only slight.

The council has deleted the dog protection duty, freeing the police department from that function and will next, we strongly hope, complete the removal of traffic meter maintenance and collection from the department.

We have been informed that meter maintenance equipment has already been properly removed to other quarters where facilities exist for meter maintenance and other manpower is available to relieve policemen for more urgent duties.

Another function which takes several police man-hours a week, viz., meter collection, is still being done by the police department. While the above progressive motion is still fresh in our minds, how about removing this burden, too?

It can be accomplished as easily as eating a Rolling Pin do-nut. For, the city ordinance No. 1064, sec. 11, which concerns such collection says, "It shall be the duty of the chief of police to designate some person or persons to make regular collections of the money deposited in said parking meters, . . ."

Thus, anybody which the chief "designates" (and is bonded) can collect the money for the department. Since the ordinance already places the counting and depositing in the hands of the city recorder, meter collections would end the work of the police department, except for their first and primary duty of issuing citations to meter violators.

There are still several people in our Lithia city that believe that Ashland has enough police protection, and might possibly get by on less. These people argue that Ashland's police problems haven't grown apace with the population increase. Others say that Ashland cannot afford a larger police department until property taxes are reassessed to provide a larger municipal income (the latter will take about 10 years).

In direct contradiction to the thesis that policing hasn't grown in our town are the following facts giving total yearly arrest figures for 1937 to 1951: 91 arrests in 1937; 103 in 1939; 196, 1940; 159, 1941; 180, 1942; 232, 1943; 200, 1944; 234, 1945; 217, 1946; 522 (including traffic meter violations), 1947; 337, 1948; 531, 1949; 695, 1950; and 733, 1951 (traffic arrests last year alone were 548).

As anyone can plainly see during the last 14 years, arrests have jumped seven times over what they were in 1937 and have progressed upward each year. The figures also show a marked increase from 1949 on. This increase can be attributed directly to Chief Vern Smith whose reorganization of the department and training of personnel stepped up the arrests of violators from 47 prior to April 15, 1949, when he took office, to 484 for the remainder of the year.

From these statements we can deduce that many violations were being made that were not caught. By increased efficiency of the department, a larger portion of these are now being apprehended. With the above-named streamlining of the department, it will be possible to get a clearer view of what maximum protection and arrests can be made by the present eight-man force with one patrol car and one motorcycle.

From these statements we can also deduce that many more violations are taking place than can be policed effectively. It's a simple fact that if we had a policeman on every corner there would still be violations of the law in the middle of the block—such is human nature and carelessness. The point to be made, however, is that we all have a right to AVERAGE protection. In an earlier survey made by this newspaper it was pointed out that average protection for a city the size of Ashland was two patrol cars and 10 men. This would mean one more patrol car for our town and two more patrolmen.

To point out that this increase is nothing fantastic, it is well to remember that in the 15 years since 1936 only two patrolmen have been added to the force and one motorcycle. Our arrests have increased 700 per cent, but our force has only increased 33 1/3 per cent.

We now have an efficient force which is crowding its maximum protection. We have squeezed every penny from the dollars spent for this protection. They are now stretched about as far as they can go. What's to be done about it?

The mayor and council have done their best but are limited by the tax base to work with and the 6 per cent increase limitation on the police department under the general fund limitation. If the money can't be raised by a special election (there is no reason why it can't be with the proper campaigning), then the question arises: Is average police protection important enough to be financed by money taken from other operations of the government that don't deal directly

Our Town



By HARRY NORDWICK

CHEST X-RAYS

So you don't think it's important enough for you to visit one of the mobile X-ray units now in service in Ashland?

Maybe you will change your mind when you digest the following figures of the only comprehensive survey held last year in Jackson county: Out of 3,830 people X-rayed in the Ashland-Talent area, there were 15 positive cases, 10 probables and 128 questionable diagnoses. And this was only a 38 per cent coverage according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health physician.

Change your mind? Tuberculosis does exist and right here in our section of the county. The goal for Ashland its trade area is 7,554 people over the age of 15. Every one of these people must respond or whatever amount attends may be jeopardized as to effectiveness if many go unfound.

Each INDIVIDUAL must take it upon himself to protect himself, his family, and his neighbors by telling someone of the survey. You have been hearing the cry of "Give to the Community Chest." Most of you graciously responded to this worthy cause.

How about adding to your list of slogans this phrase: "Give to the community your chest — FREE of germs." It will only take a few moments of your time. Remember, the air you breathe is public property. You've got nothing to lose . . . no money . . . no clothes (no undressing required) . . . and a lot of pure air to gain.

If each individual is to be protected, every individual must respond. GIVE YOUR CHEST to a mobile unit for a few seconds. It may save you many months of suffering, or even worse, save somebody you love dearly.

HORSE TRADE:

There once were two parties. One party wanted something. The other said, "Okay. But what do I get in return?" After some haggling, an old fashioned horse trade was reached. Each got "something for something," as the legal-eagles call it.

This is the story of the Ashland-COPCO electrical contract agreed to last Tuesday. COPCO wanted the contract to run 10 years in order to assure their bonding companies

with life, limb, and property; or is such personal protection so inconsequential as to be pigeon-holed for 10 years until the property taxes are readjusted throughout the whole state?

If the citizens of Ashland feel that such duties as patrolling school crossings, general traffic, and protecting home and business property should be done on at least an AVERAGE basis, then they won't wait this long but will ask the city administration to take immediate steps for a remedy. Whether it be preparing for a special election or a shuffling of the budget, be no matter.

The citizens have until July 31 to make a change. The budget committee is meeting now. The men the citizens want to see are Fred Tayler, budget director; Laurence Rude, Delbert Jones, John Cotton, Hugh McKeever, Dr. Elmo Stevenson and Emil Kroeger, committee members.

Speak up! Speak loud! Speak AVERAGE police protection. Remember, "First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." —Mark 4:28.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Experienced Hand Wanted

Cappy Miller's back from visiting relatives and tells about a big snow storm that knocked out the electric power for miles around.

Naturally, the local power company was doing everything possible to restore service but folks kept calling in and one woman gave them a new twist.

"I don't mind not having lights," she grumbled, "but I've got 20 cows in my barn and they all have to be milked by machine. Nobody around here knows how to milk a cow by hand any more."

From where I sit, it's only too easy to forget how to do something—even as simple as milking a cow—if we don't keep at it. And that goes for practicing tolerance, too. Like forgetting our neighbor has a right to decide for himself whether or not to enjoy a temperate glass of beer. If we don't keep the other fellow's point of view in mind we're all liable to get "snowed under" by intolerance.

Joe Marsh

Capital Parade...

By Murray Wade

GOT SOMETHING MAYBE

Elaine Berry, Portland, a democratic worker may do far more for republican candidates in Oregon than for one of her own party.

Mrs. Berry is credited with originating the idea of printing and selling sheets of stamps to aid in financing the presidential campaign of Sen. Estes Kefauver (D. Tenn.).

The stamps being sent over the state are about the size of horizontal commemorative postage stamps, have a portrait of Kefauver in sepia and "Kefauver for President" in red letters at the bottom of the panel. The sheets of 50 stamps are sold for \$1.

Political counselors are talking up the use of the idea to bring into the running good men who refuse to accept campaign funds in large amounts that violate the corrupt practice laws. REPUBLICAN MOLD SHIFTS

Decisions made last week by two Eastern Oregon statesmen will have considerable bearing on Oregon politics. In each case long tenures of office will terminate.

that they would get a regular income over the period. The majority of the city council favored buying from COPCO but were dubious about entering into an agreement for 10 years without some benefit for doing so.

In the ensuing "horse trading," both parties gained the respect of the other. As a result, the city will realize an estimated \$40,000 more during the life of the contract and will be protected against the company initiating any increases in rates as it will undoubtedly do with its other customers.

If the new reduction would have been in effect in January, the city would have saved \$1200 for that month alone, according to City Supt. Mike Biegel.

Ashland can be proud of its council in making this bargain with the company. Those who favor doing business with a locally-owned and run utility (Medford) which is investing its capital in this area and creating jobs for its residents would favor the contract on past terms alone with the rate reduction.

The fact that the council members obtained the reduction is a test of their merit as representatives of the people who felt that they couldn't sell future councils short but would get "something for something" for OUR TOWN.

BRAVO: The shrewd "horse trade" between Ashland and COPCO.

BOO: Anyone who endangers the lives of others because he didn't get his chest X-rayed.

Rep. Lowell Stockman who last week announced he would not be a candidate to succeed himself, has represented his district in congress since 1943.

State Representative Giles French, Moro, publisher of the wit-besprinkled Sherman County Journal, filed his candidacy Friday for the republican nomination for U.S. representative. He has been a member of the state legislature continuously since 1935.

PARTY LEADERS SELECTED

Captains to pilot the republican and the democratic Oregon campaigns in 1952 were elected Saturday at separate meetings. In each case the election was to fill a vacancy made by the resignation of a chairman of a state central committee. Robert A. Elliott, Medford, was elected chairman of the republican state central committee. He succeeds Sigfried B. Unander who resigned and is expected to file his candidacy for the republican nomination for state treasurer.

Elliott defeated Ed Boehnke of Eugene. Howard Morgan, Polk county sheep rancher and a former state legislator was elected chairman of the democratic state central committee. He will fill the unexpired term of William L. Josslin who resigned, to aid in eliminating party strife in Multnomah county. Morgan defeated State Treasurer Walter Pearson.

TAFT IN OREGON

Hon. Robert A. Taft is scheduled to visit Oregon Feb. 13 and 14. He will be accompanied by his political manager, David S. Ingalls of Cleveland, Ohio, and others of his campaign staff. A press conference in Portland is on the agenda for the 13th. The Ohio senator will talk before a church group and at the Portland Public Auditorium the same day. On the 14th he will attend a banquet and public meeting in Pendleton.

TRUCK FEES UP

Truck fees collected by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission during January totaled \$534,563. This was the highest total for any January in the history of the commission.

The total was \$45,000 more than in January, 1951, which had been the best January on record.

WHO LET THE CAT OUT

Ten Mile Lake in Coos county was one of the miracle trout fishing spots in America in the middle thirties.

It was the only place we ever heard of where big two-pound native trout would consistently grab any large yellow fly that hit the water, but this unaccountable feeding habit (there were many theories) would last only from 20 to 40 minutes just at dusk.

Fishermen came far to thrill over this rarely in sport fishing and many a bait fisherman was converted to ethical fly fishing by the free and sure striking of the big fish. The stunt gave the

Letter from Washington...

By HON. HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Member of Congress, 4th District

Revelations of scandals and irregularities in the federal tax collecting department have shocked the entire country these last few months. The congress has brought the situation to light but congress does not have the power to legislate honesty and integrity into the hearts and minds of government officials. Laws cannot remove or even improve the situation. Only the President can set his house in order. To do so he must take exceedingly drastic action.

What should the President do? Well, for one thing he should remove the attorney general, under whose regime these scandals developed, and replace him with a man of good record and outstanding ability. He should then order such a man to go the limit in prosecuting the crooks.

Next, he should remove the secretary of the treasury who is the head of the agency in which the irregularities (to use a nice term) have occurred. The new secretary should clean house from top to bottom. These things MUST be done if public confidence in government as it is today can even be partially restored.

But in the face of this situation what has the President actually done? Two things. 1.) He has ordered Attorney General McGrath to investigate and clean up himself and his own department which order, on the face of it, is absurd. 2.) He sent to congress a plan to reorganize the treasury department bureau of internal revenue.

The treasury reorganization plan was approved by the house and, I assume, will meet with no objection in the senate. But what of it? There was nothing much wrong with the plan. It was approved by a voice vote, but it will not do much good. The principal argument for it was that it would put collectors of internal revenue and some other employees under civil service. Congressman Curtis of Nebraska dealt with that subject during the debate on the bill. Said Curtis: "I hold in my hand a list of the employees of the bureau of internal revenue who have either been discharged or forced to resign since the King can see this list consists of page after page of names. Some 96

committee went into action. You state wide advertising.

Recently Attorney General George Neuner ruled that the state game commission had authority to use commission funds (derived from license fees paid by game fishermen) to hire commercial fishermen to seine out catfish that now overpopulate the lake and have spoiled its fame as an egregious trout spot.

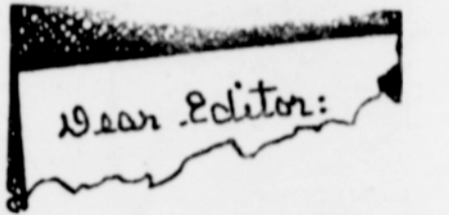
Sometime, someone let the "cat" out of the bag, and into the lake. That started the destruction of an unusual fishing Eden that may not be reestablished.

per cent of these people were under civil service. When it is suggested that by placing collectors under civil service we have remedied all the wrongs that have been exposed in recent months we are merely kidding ourselves. The scandals are not being cleaned up. An aspirin is being administered when a major operation is necessary."

It was also claimed that the reorganization plan carried out the Hoover commission recommendations. Congressman Clarence Brown of Ohio, who was a member of the Hoover commission, disagreed with that claim saying that the plan submitted does only a few things recommended by the commission, but does not do them all.

"But I know one thing," Brown continued, "this plan will not cure what is wrong with the internal revenue bureau; that this plan will not bring greater economy in the conduct of public business, and the plan now before us will not bring greater efficiency. Neither will it protect the American people against the continued dangers of corruption within the bureau."

From all this I cannot help but draw the conclusion that nothing much is being done to clean up the corruption in our federal government and that something genuine and honest MUST be done soon.



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