

# 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

## Eye Wash for Smokey Eyes

A prominent politician recently said, "Primaries are so much eyewash."

A prominent Salem publisher and ex-governor recently wrote, "One valid objection arises to the presidential primary. That is its excessive cost . . . If the convention system sometimes fails to give us superior men as candidates, the primary system gives no promise of that either."

A prominent Rogue river valley editor, Robert W. Ruhl, answered the latter objection, as follows (in part):

"The chief objection advanced is the expense of added campaigns.

"But who would pay that, the people?"

"No, chiefly the candidates themselves and their supporters.

" . . . Can the people en masse be trusted to act wisely when given full responsibility?"

"The easy answer, of course, is a resounding 'Yes.'"

"But we doubt if any honest objective survey of the past would fail to show that this is true most of the time, but not all of the time. The people do, being human, make mistakes. But they also learn from them."

"There is however another factor — and an important one — the alternative.

"The question is not which system is PERFECT, but which is the BETTER one — allowing the 'pros'—the bosses—to continue to choose in their 'smoke-filled rooms' the candidates of a party, OR, the people—the members of that party?"

"We can see only one correct answer to that — taking the control from the 'pros' and giving it to the people, would mark a long step forward in better and more democratic government, and should be done, just as soon as it CAN be done."

These words answer the aforementioned "prominent politician" and Salem publisher and could have come from the mouth of an older prominent politician, but, most of all, a STATESMAN, Abraham Lincoln. As this newspaper said last week, the latter once wrote, "Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?"

Like Editor Ruhl, we think not. When it has come to the point when leading politicians are so imbued with machine workings that they feel the nomination is coming from a "smoke-filled room," or that the expense isn't worth it, then these partners in political crime should grab some Murine eyewash and wash the hotel room smoke from THEIR eyes and take a GOOD look at some of our democratic IDEALS!

We must constantly have a "re-birth of freedom" if we are to survive. The greatest election RE-BIRTH we can have at the present is for the electorate to name convention delegates that are supporting THEIR candidates. This would hide the oil from the political machines and force them to better face popular acclaim.

The only people that would suffer from such a universal move would be some cigar manufacturers and the hotel room service, while the PEOPLE would gain a clearer and firmer hold on the so-called democratic election process in our country.



Our Town By HARRY NORDWICK

## MONEY FOR TIMBER

For many people, the announcement on Tuesday that the timber sale on the Ashland watershed was complete, closed a hard-fought chapter in recent Ashland political history.

Started back in 1948, the proposed sale raised such a row that some Ashland citizens formed a group to oppose it under the label "Taxpayers, incorporated." This opposition failed, however, when the sale was approved by voters in the special recall election of 1950.

The present drive which has never stopped, was instigated by Councilman Fred Homes when he brought the matter up after it had been "pigeonholed." City Attorney Harry Skerry has been beating his brains out for a year and a half with government red tape after he began suit to quiet title.

Periodically, during this period, Skerry would report that another letter had been received asking for some further action until it seemed that it would continue ad infinitum. It was with "great joy" that he reported on Tuesday that approval had finally come through from the department of interior sanctioning the sale which brings \$32,000 to the city.

The money is urgently needed for the funds have been earmarked for improvement of Ashland's water system. A pipeline has already been laid, out of other funds, which will be reimbursed from the sale money and the much needed "roof" and other repairs for Crownson reservoir will now be completed.

A round of Lithia water is in order for all hands with the assurance of just plain good old H2O for all water users in the area with an improved system from the timber money.

## DOGS

The announcement by Police Chief Vern Smith that the county dog control officer will enforce local ordinances dealing with strays, untied dogs, etc., during the 4-month quarantine period gives another reason for the advisability of transferring the control to the county.

The police chief reported that the county officer makes several trips a week to Ashland and is handling the situation "very well."

Smith added that the police department is selling dog licenses, without charge to the county, as a service to the citizens and the county.

BRAVO: The never-say-die efforts to achieve the timber sale and realize the water system improvements.

BOO: The 3 1/2 inches of snow that fell yesterday and . . . say, didn't snow fall on March 1 of last year? This boo will continue until all this snow nonsense stops for a glorious spring.

and getting the equipment in shape for the coming season.

Council Chairman Mark Hamaker presided at the meeting in the absence of Mayor Phil Stansbury who is in Portland on business.

Brotherhood is science saying: Humanity is one: there is no such thing as a superior or inferior race.

## Capital Parade... By Murray Wade

INDIANS PREFER STATE A plan will be drafted to transfer the Klamath Indians from federal to state jurisdiction, an eight-man committee decided this week while meeting with Governor Douglas McKay at the Capitol. The governor said it would probably pave the way to complete freedom for other tribes in Oregon.

Leaders of the group said it would be more satisfactory for the Indians to be put under state jurisdiction because they would only have to go to Salem to get adjustments, instead of going 3000 miles to Washington, D.C.

Harvey Wright of Salem will head the special committee on plans and Senator Phillip S. Hitchcock and Rep. Henry Semon of Klamath Falls will serve on a special legislative committee and will present the plan to the 1953 session.

WOULD BAN LIQUOR ADS Seven county Granges have asked the Oregon Liquor Commission to ban all liquor advertising.

Oregon's "Knox" liquor law gives the commission power to control, regulate or prohibit liquor advertising.

The seven county Granges—Hood River, Wasco, Clackamas, Jackson, Linn, Washington and Columbia—based their request on the grounds that advertising of liquor promotes intemperance and crime and has a bad effect on youth.

Liquor Administrator Bingham, said he expects every county Grange in the state to ask for the ban on liquor ads. Commissioners declared their regulations on advertising are the most strict of any state.

Bishop Hammamaker will put a bill before congress in March that will prohibit alcoholic advertising from radio and TV.

HIGHWAY BONDS APPROVED The same restraint committee that recently refused to permit the sale of \$40 million of bonds to pay the state bonus covering World War II veterans this week approved the sale of an additional \$15 million worth of Oregon State Highway bonds.

The Western Voluntary Credit Restraint Committee that passed on the two bond issues, is composed of a group of bankers and investment brokers designated by the federal government to determine if state and local bond issues are inflationary.

A second application to sell the veterans bonds recently was filed with the committee.

THE WEEK'S CANDIDATES The odds are that Oregon will retain the unique distinction of having the only husband and wife legislative members in the nation. Senator Richard L. Neuberger and Representative Maurine B. Neuberger of Portland filed Thursday for reelection. Both are democrats and have a way of winning in republican precincts.

Six other members of the present house or representatives (all top vote-getters), Henry Semon (Dem.), Klamath; Joseph E. Harvey (Rep.), Multnomah; Alva C. Goodrich (Rep.), Deschutes; Ed. R. Cardwell (Rep.), Linn; Carroll Lacey (Rep.), Malheur and Stanhope Pier (Rep.), Multnomah filed for reelection this week.

Olga M. Wilson has filed for the unexpired 2-year term of the late Senator Manly J. Wilson who represented Clackamas, Columbia and Multnomah in the 1951 session.

New faces in the legislative arena showed up when filings were made for the house of representatives by George Lyman (Rep.), Yamhill; R. H. Windshire (Rep.), Yamhill; Claude E. Hall (Rep.), Lincoln; Earl A. Moore (Rep.), Hood River; R. T. McKenzie (Rep.), Coos and Currier; Jess W. Savage (Rep.), Linn and Ralph J. Brown (Rep.), Crook and Jefferson.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS The following interpretations of Oregon law were handed down this week by Attorney General George Neuner:

The insurance commissioner had no authority to sell books, blanks, pamphlets or other matters required for general distribution pursuant to Oregon statutes.

A county clerk may appoint the election board for regular elections and name an additional qualified member to make up the six-member board for a hospital district election held concurrently with a regular election, but ballots should be tallied separately and results returned and treated separately for each election.

The law prohibits the Oregon real estate commissioner from issuing real estate salesmen's licenses to non residents by reciprocity.

Another opinion given out by Neuner this week was that he would not be a candidate to succeed himself.

## Letter from Washington . . . By HON. HARRIS ELLSWORTH Member of Congress, 4th District

There has been very little activity on the floor of the House of Representatives thus far this session. If my memory serves me correctly, the roll has been called only twice for record votes on legislation. One of those votes was on the treasury re-organization plan which did not amount to much anyhow.

My own opinion about legislative bodies in our country — either the state legislatures or the congress — is that they may be criticized for passing too many new laws rather than too few. Accordingly, I see no harm being done to the people of our country by the present slow-bell congress. A few major problems must, of course, have congressional action. Some decision must be made regarding military training. The Defense Production act, which contains the control provisions, expires soon and must either be renewed, killed or amended. Appropriations are made annually and these bills must be passed. These items and a few others should and undoubtedly will be acted upon by the house. No vast amount of time will be required on each. Even in slow motion there will be ample time in the next four or five months to complete and pass all of the pending legislation that is actually needed.

Most people do not realize it I know, but every law passed by congress costs money — some of the laws cost a vast amount of money. But even a minor one must be administered and it is a minor law indeed which does not actually require the employment of more people in the government agencies and bureaus.

It would be an interesting news story if some ambitious and energetic reporter would take one of the minor and innocent looking laws passed during the last year or so and find out just how many new government employees were recruited to enforce it and how much the administration of the law is costing.

Just for fear some spending-minded congressman or bureaucrat might grab on the above paragraph as an explanation for government extravagance, I hasten to add that it surely cannot explain the following: In 1940 the department of commerce cost \$37 million — their present budget request is for \$917 million. In 1940 the department of labor spent only \$29 million — now it wants \$263 million! The state department functioned smoothly in 1940 with an expenditure of \$24 million, but must have \$338 million for the coming fiscal year! I could list some others but I think these give the general idea.

My good friend Congressman John Phillips of California has the following gem in his own weekly letter: "When I was home last summer, one of my Riverside friends, talking about the tax increase, remarked he was mad enough 'to blow a gasket.' He needn't worry, if he does. The army had on hand, on a recent count, 921,602 gaskets for the front axle housings of jeeps. The peak demand in any year, since the army started using jeeps, was 8,846 gaskets. At that rate, we have enough on hand to last 104 years. Any taxpayer, who feels a gasket-blowing spasm coming on, should write the army quartermaster."

Phillips knows what he is talking about because he is a member of the committee which handles armed forces appropriations.

Brotherhood is good sportsmanship saying: Do not make another person or another group the scapegoat for your own shortcomings and frustrations.

HEAR  
**Al Turner**  
and the  
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SYSTEM



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MEMORIALS  
"On the Plaza"

## Our Council . . .

Continued from Page One  
intersections paid for by the property owners who use them; that is, the ones adjacent to them.

The matter of the triangle-shaped city-owned property at the intersection of E. Main and Siskiyou boulevard abutting Steve Zarka's service station was again brought up.

The city attorney pointed out that the deed actually states that the "pie" will be dedicated for park or street purposes and nothing else.

Plan Offered  
Supt. Biegel outlined his plan for cutting the corner back to allow a safer flow of traffic from the boulevard to E. Main. He added that removal of the point would "cut out quite a hazard and 6 feet would be left for a sidewalk." He will show drawings of the proposed change at the next council meeting.

The council moved to execute the releases of a \$250 insurance settlement with the De Bon Motor company of California for damage to city property.

Councilman Fred Homes, past chairman of the electric committee, asked Supt. Biegel to explain the choice of Westinghouse over General Electric in the matter of mercury-vapor lights and installations. He told

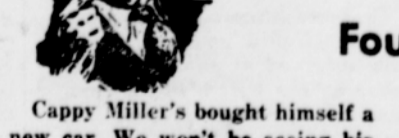
the council that both companies had about the same fixtures with Westinghouse's transmission poles slightly lower in price. He said that the latter's globe was not quite as bright as GE's but spread the light well. A deciding factor was the fact that Westinghouse's globe was 5000 hours, whereas GE's was only 3000 calling for replacement at more frequent intervals.

Judge Reports  
City Judge H. R. Jordan reported that his convention trip to Eugene was "well worthwhile," and would have been valuable to all law enforcement and legal prosecutors in the "state. He recommended that the city send both the police chief and city prosecutor to the spring meeting of the law enforcement group.

Park Commissioner Frank Barnhouse told the council that there was "little activity" in the park during the winter except for cleaning up fallen branches

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## From where I sit . . . by Joe Marsh



Jiggs Gets Four "Hot-Foots"

Cappy Miller's bought himself a new car. We won't be seeing his old jalopy bouncing over the back roads any more. I'm going to miss it, too.

Many a morning Cappy and I drove off in that rattletrap for a day's hunting or fishing. We'd pile rods or guns in back, and prop open the trunk compartment—so Jiggs, Cappy's pointer, could jump in and go along.

They say when Cappy brought the new car home he opened up the hood to show off the engine—and poor old Jiggs hopped right

in! Figured it was the trunk. If hopped right out in a hurry, too. That cylinder head was mighty hot.

From where I sit, old habits are hard to shake, once they get a hold. Like, for instance, too many people are still in the habit of trying to run the neighbors' lives—telling them how to act, what to wear, whether or no to enjoy a refreshing glass of beer. I say that kind of thinking's outmoded . . . one's't to be turned in for a new mod!"

Joe Marsh

# Business Directory

**Commercial Finance Corp.**  
Loans on  
Furniture Automobile Livestock Salary  
45 E. Main Phone 2-5111 Ashland  
M 374 Lic. S-296

**Walter Redford, Realtor**  
Ranches — Farms — Homes  
Business Property  
Jess Kidwell Telephone 2-6587  
38 East Main Ashland, Oregon  
Business Phone 7866 Res. Phone 3176

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