

# 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

## Stored Water Needed

The acuteness of the lack of agricultural output to keep pace with the increased demand created by swelling populations in Oregon was voiced by the soil and water resources committee at the recent statewide agricultural conference held at Corvallis.

Ed McCause, La Grande, committee chairman, stated that there is little prospect of increasing the state's 4 to 5 million acres of plow land. "Demand on this limited area of cropland is real. The effect on the individual farm is becoming only too apparent," McCause said. "The cost of owning land in purchase price, taxes and interest is mounting. These are accompanied by increased material, labor and supply costs. The individual farmer, by necessity, faces the problem of increasing the volume of business from the same acreage — so it is for the state as a whole."

The committee which McCause headed pointed out ways through which a production increase could take place during the next 15 or 20 years:

1. By bringing an additional 800,000 acres under irrigation in the Willamette valley.
2. Extend water supplies in eastern and southern Oregon to benefit one million acres either through better supplies on land now irrigated or to land now dry farmed.
3. Improve 800,000 acres of land by drainage.
4. Step up production 25 to 50 per cent by intensive and proper use of commercial fertilizers.
5. Double production from 500,000 acres of wild meadow hayland.

The second point of the committee's suggestions hits right at our own Rogue basin.

The great need for a part, and preferably all, of the proposed Rogue area development is clearly expressed in the soil and water resources report. In the Rogue basin, 63 per cent of the total irrigated land (64,250 acres) has an inadequate water supply. In addition, the present irrigated acreage can be more than doubled.

There's plenty of water available in the basin—provided, of course, that there is storage. Providing the latter would include supplemental water to the 40,300 acres now inadequately irrigated and offering a full supply of water for 73,540 acres not now irrigated. Of the latter, 47,440 acres are now farmed under dry-land conditions, and 26,100 acres would represent an entirely new addition to the farmed area of the basin.

Thus, it can be plainly seen that unless such facets of the state's agricultural economy such as the activity in our own basin are strengthened by better and more consistent water supplies, the expanding statewide economy will suffer a tightened belt and the rural growth of our own area will be stalemated.

Every effort should be made to aid any and all surveys for this end and gentle but firm expedition is certainly in order.

## Our Town



By HARRY NORDWICK

Well, it's finally beginning to happen. The time when you can shut your stoves off for at least part of the day and breathe a sigh of relief as your fuel bill begins to spiral DOWNWARD instead of upward.

The time when a recent setback could have been doubled in weight if the sky was a gloomy grey and the trees and lawn lifeless, but is entirely forgotten upon sight of a baby-blue sky and yellow, pink and white blossoms.

The time Pop begins repairing his fishing gear for that trip to a cool Cascade lake or stream. The time when Mom eyes her garden to be and notices a peculiar green tinge around her thumbs.

The time when Junior spits in the pocket of his baseball glove or painstakingly looks for the first dandelion so he can go without shoes on a dewy lawn.

The time when Sis gets that look in her eye for Mr. Dreamboat and blossoms out like the flowers in gay spring dresses.

The time when all Ashlanders begin to perk up and actually SMILE — even at their creditors.

The time when everyone in the Rogue valley eyes our beautiful Lithia park for his or her favorite picnic spot and waits expectantly for those fuzzy, awkward, little ducklings to appear on the ponds.

The time, and only the time once in a hundred years, when we lucky citizens can commemorate the founding of our town with appropriate events in memory of the early pioneers.

The time when we can again decide whom we want for public office—be he democrat, republican, vegetarian, animal or plant.

The time when we squeeze into last year's swimming suits and find that the darn things didn't oblige us by growing in certain areas too.

The time when we are caught by an unexpected visit from relations which forces junior to sleep on theavenport.

The time when . . . gosh sakes — it's SPRING! Luscious, new, beautiful, clean crisp spring.

**SWAN SONG**  
 Spring is a perfect setting for the song of the swans gracefully gliding over the smooth surfaces of the park pools. It is also the time when this writer (whose neck is often stuck out longer than any swan's) must write his own swan song on this newspaper. It is with regret that this will be the last OUR TOWN written by the undersigned. Beginning next week you will have a new editor and a new friend.

"The moving finger writes; and, having writ, moves on." In this case, the finger is only going 12 miles north for continued work in the field of journalism. Yours truly will continue his work for a bigger and better Rogue valley and progress for OUR TOWNS.

Members of the Kilty band were Harry McNair, director; Ormy Goddard, William Kaddie, Gerald Gunter, Ed Berninghausen, and Thomas Lewis. The SOC Dixie land band was composed of James Ylvisaker, George Adler, El Rene Axtell, Bill Anderson, Wayne Johnson, Ken Bergerson and Glen Matthews directed.

Alan Pattison directed the Old Time Fiddlers composed of Mrs. Gladys Conner and Tommy Conner.

The invocation was given by the Rev. James Jondrow and Henry Enders led the group singing with Miss Edna Dougherty giving the piano accompaniment.

**OSC-USDA Farm Review**  
 Farmers and marketing agencies divided the consumer's food dollar on a 50-50 basis last year, according to the weekly price, cost and weather review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA reports and other data.

In the early pioneer days, the producer of farm products was, in many instances, also the consumer. Not so today! Before the product reaches the consumer today, many marketing agencies and processes are involved. The cost of assembling, processing, wholesaling and retailing farm food products took half of the consumer's dollar last year. The other half went back to the farmer.

**March Traffic Arrests Higher**  
 Traffic cases kept Oregon courts busier than usual last month as a total of 4,721 convictions for traffic law violations were reported to state motor vehicle officials, the secretary of state's traffic safety division said today.

March reports of convictions were approximately 44 per cent more numerous than the number received in March a year ago.

**Cases Reported**  
 Oregon law requires all courts hearing traffic cases to report convictions to the department of state, where they become a part of the files kept on individual drivers.

Suspension of driver licenses is required by law for such offenses as driving while intoxicated, hit-and-run, and manslaughter resulting from motor vehicle operation, and licenses may be suspended for repeated convictions on lesser counts, Newbry explained.

Driving while intoxicated cost the licenses of 242 persons last month, as compared with 218 in March of 1950.

Mimeograph Bond at the News Review.

## Capital Parade...

By Murray Wade

### A NINE-YEAR "RECESS"

After nine years of freedom 51-year-old Jack Erwin, Oregon state penitentiary escapee is back, having been captured in Seattle last week.

Erwin has more than seven years left on a 10-year sentence for assault and robbery. Warden Virgil O'Malley said Erwin was a trusty with a good record before he walked away in 1943. Erwin's wife, to whom he was married after his escape, knew nothing of her husband's prison record but she promises to help him win his freedom. She declared "he has lived a model life, has rarely tasted liquor and everywhere he goes he has lots of friends."

Erwin says he will ask for a parole, as he has made a complete reformation. If this is not successful he says he will appeal to Governor Douglas McKay for a pardon.

**LOW VALUATIONS CLAIMED**  
 Improper tax valuations on merchandise approximating \$6,788,999 showed up in 33 of Oregon's 36 counties when spot checks were made, Robert Maclean, state tax commissioner in charge of the assessment and taxation division, reported this week.

A complete check of all merchandise stocks in all counties would increase this figure to \$100,000,000, Maclean estimated.

The law requires that merchandise reports shall be filed

with the tax commission as of January 1 each year.

### LEAGUE OF CITIES MEET

The League of Oregon Cities will conduct a district meeting in Salem April 24.

City and county officials are invited to join with those of Marion and Polk counties to a dinner and program of mutual interest.

Salem's Mayor Alfred Loucks is scheduled to preside.

### LIQUOR BY THE DRINK

A petition was filed with the state department of elections this week that would legalize the sale of liquor by the drink in private clubs, fraternal and veterans organizations, on railroads and in restaurants. Petitions are being circulated and if 26,282 signatures are obtained by July 3, the proposal will be on the November ballot.

A similar measure was defeated in 1948 by the voters by a ten per cent margin of those voting.

**TO FIGHT WET INITIATIVE**  
 Ministers of western Oregon will meet in Portland April 15 to consider plans for a campaign to fight an initiative petition filed in Salem this week to permit sale of liquor by the drink in Oregon.

The meeting has been called by George Smith Brown, superintendent of the Anti-Liquor League.

### NEW PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry announced this week that he had named Don F. Dill to head the new department of public relations for his office.

Dill, a journalism graduate, resigned from the Statesman of Salem to fill the new job. He served three years during World War II in the Air Force being stationed in the China-Burma-India theater.

**AFFABLE OFFICIALS**  
 Nearly all the escape attempts from the state penitentiary made since Warden Virgil O'Malley took over have been no go. A departure made this week was different.

John H. Parker, a 27-year-old convict, served a two-year term and was released Monday. You can finish this story the way you want it.

Either he was released two hours earlier than scheduled or two Klamath Falls deputies who were waiting to grab Parker on another charge were two hours late.

Last seen Parker was breathing fresh air like a five-mile champ.

**BARBER'S PRICE FIX VOID**  
 The Oregon supreme court this week declared the law unconstitutional which allowed barbers to set minimum prices.

The court's ruling, which was unanimous was based on the constitutional right of the barber to carry on his business at prices suitable to himself.

A similar law enacted by the 1943 legislature was knocked out.

"Next!"

## Letter from Washington . . .

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

When the President sent his fantastic 85 billion dollar budget to congress he "dared" congress to cut it, saying his figures represented the minimum spending requirements of the government. The house of representa-

tives accepted that challenge with vigor. Even the members of the majority — the administration-side of the house — are now voting economy.

Result is to date we have passed six of the 12 major appropriations bills and have slashed almost 2 BILLIONS from the totals requested. The really big bills are still to come — military requirements and the foreign aid program. These two represent about 75 per cent of the total budget. I am certain that the "water" and waste will be shaken out of those bills also.

It is too soon to predict just how much will be knocked out of the President's demand, but a nice round 10 billions seems possible.

When dealing with the subject of government finances it is necessary to toss the word "billion" around rather casually. Just exactly how much is a billion dollars — in terms we might understand, that is? I am indebted to my friend Congressman Hubert Scudder of California for providing the following illustration: If a corporation began business in the year ONE A.D. with a billion dollars in capital, and LOST \$1,000 every day — by 1952 that company would still have enough capital from the original billion to continue in business until the year 2929 — still losing \$1,000 every day!

To the above it is pertinent to add, I think, that as of March 1, 1952, the national debt (federal) was \$260,398,871,398.

Representative Paul Shafer of Michigan, a member of the house committee on armed services, recently completed an analysis of the vote in the house which sent the so-called Universal Military Training bill back to the committee for further study. The Shafer data reveals that of the 398 members who answered the roll call on the motion to recommend (carried 236 to 162), 224 are war veterans and members of the leading service organizations.

The 224 veterans voted 132 to 92 in favor of recommitting the UMT bill. Included in the group of war veterans voting for recommitment were several former district and state Legion commanders and two former national commanders of the VFW.

A major factor in this majority vote for recommitment was the realization that the UMT bill before the house was actually a manpower mobilization bill and a far cry from the original Universal Military Training bill long sponsored by the American Legion and other veteran organizations.

All life is an experiment. What if you do fail, and get fairly rolled in the dirt once or twice? Up again, you shall never be so afraid of a tumble. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

## VARIED EVENTS DURING APRIL

Salem —(Special)— The travel information division of the Oregon state highway department published the largest Oregon events and community celebration list in its history this week. Over 200 celebration and events are listed for the spring and summer and fall months predicting an exciting season for Oregonians and visitors alike.

The list begins with April events and runs through the balance of the year. Twenty-two events are listed for April.

**Varied Sports**  
 Among sports events listed for this month are the Siltoos Lake Bass derby, Siltoos Lake, April 1 to July 25; Trosde Giant slalom, Mt. Hood, April 5; Oregon Professional Golf association meet, Oswego, April 7; St. Helens Salmon derby, St. Helens, April 12 to 26; opening

baseball game at Portland vs. San Francisco April 15; Ling Cod derby, Newport, April 19 to June 28; Second Annual John Craig Memorial Ski race, McKenzie Pass, April 20; Schneevogel Giant slalom, Mt. Hood, April 20 and the Portland Junior Chamber Giant slalom, Mt. Hood, April 27. A bowling tournament at Delake runs through June 1.

Two music festivals will be held in April, at Ontario, April 27 to May 1 and at LaGrande, April 18 and 19. The Benton County 4-H Spring Fair will be held at Corvallis High School, April 25-26.

**Easter Events**  
 Two special events to be held on Easter Sunday this year are the McKenzie White Water parade from Vida to Leaburg and the Root feast, Warm Springs, either April 13 or April 20, depending on root conditions. Salem's Blossom day will be held April 20.

Rockaway will sponsor an event on April 26-27 to be known as the Rockaway Firemen's dance, Old Time Political rally and Torchlight parade.

Two home shows will be held this month, one at Portland Pacific International Livestock buildings, April 18-27 and one at Eugene, sponsored by the Lions club, April 24-26. Two other Portland events are the Portland Garden Club show, April 19-20 and Shrine circus, Portland ice arena, April 22-27.

Oregon Products week will be observed throughout the state April 21 to 26.



## Business Directory

<p>Diamonds - Watches - Jewelry - Silver          Watch and Jewelry Repair and Engraving</p> <p><b>Sheldon Jewelry</b>          HENRY CARR, Owner          Phone 7131 272 E. Main</p>	<p><b>DR. E. N. TERRILL</b>          CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC          308 N. Main Phone 4371</p>
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