

EDITORIAL

We Don't Know the Answer

In recent weeks this office has had numerous inquiries relative to the construction and opening of the proposed Morrow county hospital. To all of these inquiries it has been necessary to answer "We do not know." To make the answer doubly effective it may be stated that no one knows the answer at present. It is one of those indefinite things clothed with the uncertainties of war and to our way of thinking to remain shrouded in mystery or an indefinite status until those charged with the duty of planning and constructing the hospital have been given time to study it from all angles.

It should be recalled that the county court in submitting the proposal did not state or lend the impression that the hospital would be built in the immediate future. It was the desire at that time to add one more post-war project to the county's program, recognizing the necessity for a well-constructed and properly staffed hospital and the obligation of the county to build and maintain such a project. The fact that the hospital is needed now was not overlooked but there were contributing factors making it appear impracticable to build at this time. These factors should be plainly evident to anyone interested to the extent of giving some study to existing conditions, yet there are many who feel that the work should go ahead at the earliest possible moment. That's exactly what the court thinks, only its time does not correspond to that of early construction proponents.

The tax voted for the purpose of building and maintaining a hospital does not go into operation until July 1, 1945. It is estimated that it will require four or five years to accumulate a sufficient fund to build and equip the type of hospital needed here. There is no denying that the building could be financed through private channels but this is not what the court set out to do. It is deemed advisable to have the funds in hand before starting construction and in the meantime world conditions may have changed so that the county will get more value for the money expended. Labor and materials should be lower. There should be more doctors and nurses available for staffing the institution. Without an adequate staff there is little reason for building the hospital.

This newspaper is just as interested in seeing the hospital built as others are and was one of the first to lend support to such a project. We stand ready to be convinced on the advisability of building now and feel that if such a move were practical the court should be prevailed upon to act. In the meantime, it may do more good to contact the court directly, and the suggestion is offered that a citizens' hospital committee be formed for the purpose of studying the proposal and submitting the findings to the county court.

Call for Old Clothes

On another page of this issue will be found an appeal from Mayor J. O. Turner for old clothes for relief of Russians impoverished by the long war to drive the Hun out of their land and force him to submission. The type of clothes asked for and where to send them have been explained by the mayor and it is urgent that prompt action be taken to assemble everything the community can spare.

Regardless of what we may think of the Russian government and its purpose, it must be remembered that the Russian people have suffered terribly in this conflict. Their sacrifices have saved us from a similar fate. The least we can do is to see that they are provided with all the clothing we can spare without limiting our own wardrobes to an injurious degree. We responded to the clothes for Britain request and no one has suffered from over-generosity. There still must be quantities of cast off garments in our closets that will bring warmth and cheer to the needy and hard pressed Russians. Let us be generous. We have

WOOLGROWERS AUXILIARY TO MEET FRIDAY P. M.

Regular meeting of the Wool growers auxiliary will be held Friday, Feb. 2, opening with a no-hostess luncheon at the Lucas Place at 1:15. Several items of importance are on the program, calling for a full membership attendance, states the president, Mrs. L. D. Neill.

The president will make a report on the state convention held earlier in the month at Prineville. Election of officers is scheduled to take place at this meeting, and of special importance is the proposal to form a women's civic club. Non-members of the auxiliary interested

in the civic club are urged to attend the meeting.

SIMMONS-SWICK NUPTIALS PERFORMED AT CANYON CITY
Mrs. Etna Simmons of Portland and Howard Swick of Monument were married Tuesday, Jan. 30 at Canyon City. Announcement of the marriage was made in Heppner Wednesday by Mrs. Anna Bayless, mother of the groom.

Howard has announced that he will give a dancing party Saturday evening in honor of the occasion and has insisted that Mrs. Bayless attend, but she thinks maybe weather conditions will prevent her making the trip.

been repair ten-fold in the valiant fight our allies been repaid ten-fold in the valiant fight our allies have put up to stop the Nazi menace.

The Human Side of the Postal Service—and Others

There is scarcely an individual engaged in serving the public one way or another but has the urge to write an article on the actions of the people making up his public and his resultant actions. Now comes a Washington postmaster who responded to the urge and through the courtesy of Postmaster Charles B. Cox we are privileged to reprint the article, doing so with the hope that no offense will be given but rather that more of us will understand the problems of public servers and learn to control our whims and idiosyncrasies. Claude F. Shrauger, postmaster at Mount Vernon, Washington, is the author of the following:

Postal employees, as they meet daily with the public, have excellent opportunities to study human reactions. There are folks for whom all the world is rosy. Then too there are those who have permitted the milk of human kindness to curdle in their breast. Each postmaster has his share of amusing or annoying or heartbreaking experiences that keep the work from becoming monotonous.

The rural routes turn in their full share of these experiences. Holidays on which post offices do not close, flag day, bank holidays, etc., never fail to bring from six to 12 phone calls wanting to know if the rural carriers will deliver mail, notwithstanding we have never failed to make delivery on such holidays.

We always have the old one about the gas books put in the mail three days ago for Mr. Anderson on Route No. 5. Mr. Anderson informs us he thinks it very poor service that compelled him to stay home over Sunday for want of gas. We try to be pleasant and ask him if he is sure the gas coupons were mailed. He says of course he is sure, the OPA said so. The next day we notice an envelope from the OPA for Mr. Anderson and we hear no more.

Mrs. Clark of 112 North Fifth calls and says that she has not received certain packages which she knows were mailed and that she is certain who is getting them but doesn't want to say, and will we please have the carrier knock when he has another package. We ask the carrier to do this and he, wishing to cooperate, complies. The next day Mrs. Clark calls up and wants to know why the carrier knocked on her door and awoke the baby when she had spent a lot of time getting her to sleep. We remind Mrs. Clark of her request and promise to ask the carrier to knock lightly.

Then we have the young wife of one of our U. S. sailors who wants to know what it would cost her to send a little black kitten air mail special delivery to her mother-in-law in Boston. We tell her we can find nothing in the regulations that will allow her to do this. She then informs us that her cousin by marriage who is now with the army in Italy, used to work in a post office and told her that she could send anything by air mail if she had the price. We still tell her we are sorry, so she informs us she will send it from some other post office.

Then Mr. Parks who runs Park Toggery comes into the postmaster's office with blood in his eye. It seems we had delivered to Mr. Park's home a letter from a girl friend and Mrs. Parks, not liking the brand of perfume used on the letter had opened the same and read it. Mr. Parks thought it a dirty trick store. He would prefer, however to have his light and on our part not to have delivered that letter to the water bill to go to the house. We tell Mr. Parks how sorry we are to have made such a mistake and suggest that we deliver mail addressed to him at the store.

We have a service on special delivery of which the farmers take advantage, sometimes to the discomfort of postal clerks. If a special delivery comes for some farmer a clerk so informs the farmer by telephone. Often the farmer will request that the clerk open young clerk when he has such a request from a lady the letter and read it to him. You can feel for this and the letter turns out to be from a daughter describing the pains of approaching childbirth!

But there are patrons who appreciate that the postal employees are doing a grand job. Recently there appeared in our local paper a poem (too long to reprint here) from which we offer these lines:

If high standards of living were asked of us all,
Our Mount Vernon office could answer that call.

IN PORTLAND

County Clerk C. W. Barlow left Monday for Portland to spend several days with Mrs. Barlow and their daughter, Mrs. Robert Walker, who have been staying with Mrs. Barlow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Akers.

ATTENDS LODGE SESSION

Merle Becket, manager of the Moro branch of the First National bank of Portland, was a Heppner visitor Tuesday evening, coming to help give his brother Harold the Master Mason degree. Merle was accompanied by a brother Mason, Donald Martin of Moro.

Giles French Gives News and Views Of the Legislature

It doesn't seem to matter how cheerful are the statements about the state's financial position at the end of the year, after the legislature has been in session a few weeks there is worry about how the bills are to be met. The caution of the members of the ways and means committee may engender the feeling, as most of them part with no nickel gracefully.

Be that as it may, this state which has been giving money back to the taxpayers in million dollar chunks may be so pinched for money it cannot do things its legislators want it to. Probably that is a good thing.

There are huge demands. First, there is the matter of salaries of state employees. The state institutions are in the same fix as private employers in that the help have been going to the shipyards for better pay. Those remaining have been getting higher pay than the old budget permitted because there are fewer of them and the board of control has equalized it so as to keep some of them.

Department heads have been awaiting the session to try to get more salaries. They don't want to quit and leave Salem, but the state's top in many departments is \$325 per month and most of these men could double that figure in these times.

The building program needs must have a big appropriation but it is not so pressing as the others for nothing can be done about it right away whether the money is set aside now or not. A good part of this money has been returned to the general fund from older budgets anyway.

The demand of schools and other agencies for more money is strong but it is doubtful if the state will pass any of the state functions to the schools, especially in view of the defeat of the school bill last November. Some funds may be available, but not any that are seriously needed for the regular state.

Hope that much of the important legislation will get out of committee is based upon hope and little else. Little if any of the important bill have even been seriously discussed in committee so far. Yet to come is the county manager bill, promised for introduction Monday, the three way insurance bill due this week, the unemployment compensation bills and others that pack a good charge of political dynamite are still a-borning.

School finance bills are resting in the taxation and revenue committee in the house except those in the education committee where they are to receive preliminary discussion before going over to taxation. The bill for equalization of school taxes within counties is still being given the once over by attorneys. There seems to be surprisingly little opposition to it among those who note its provisions, but some legal tanglers remain.

Hearings on the big truck bills and the freeway bill have been held in the senate and have brought out good crowds. General opinion seems to be that the big trucks will be given a two year lease on life and that the freeway bill (to give the highway commission permission to build airstrips along highways) will be killed very, very dead. That is prophesy and valuable only as such.

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