

Member
**OREGON NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION**

EDITORIAL

Slow Down and Save Your Car!

Oregon motorists appear to be trying to make up for lost time during the war, if a check on speed during the first four months of 1946 is to be taken as an indication of the general trend. And it is an authentic index, because it shows in plain black and white figures how much faster we as a people are trying to reach our destinations than we did during any of the previous five years.

The average speed of Oregon motorists during the first four months of 1946, as checked by automatic speed recorders maintained by the traffic engineering division of the highway department, was 51.3 miles an hour. Average speed for the past few years were as follows: 1941, 48.5 miles per hour; 1942, 43.1; 1943, 40.3; 1944, 41.1, and 1945, 44.2. The 1941 average was the highest prior to this year and strange to say, traffic fatalities were the highest prior to the first three months in 1946.

Motorists not only are taking the risk of death or serious injury by driving at high speed in their old cars. They are confronted with the very definite possibility of having to walk or use public utility service in case of loss of their cars through accidents. The supply of used cars is dwindling rapidly and the continued strikes of one kind or another are delaying the time when new cars will be available in sufficient number to meet the demand.

Nurse the old bus along. Give it the best of care, and above all, cut down on the speed. No matter how slow you may have to drive, it still is faster than walking, and walk you will if your car goes out of service. It is too bad that serious accidents or serious shortages must occur before we learn to take simple precautions that would prevent either one or both. But that seems to be the way of life.

A Notable Celebration

Saturday, May 18, will mark the beginning of a new era over in the heart of Oregon. On that day citizens of Jefferson county will observe the opening of the North Unit irrigation project which will this year bring some 20,000 acres of rich land into production under a program set up by the bureau of reclamation. It also will mark the end of a long, persistent battle put up by residents of the district to get water onto land that has been in production for many years but has suffered from time to time due to drouth.

Settlers on the plains land of central Oregon centering around Madras began their plea for irrigation even before Jefferson county was carved out of Crook county, and despite setbacks to their plans never abandoned the idea of bringing water onto acres that lacked only moisture to make them

highly productive. It remained for the drouth of the early '30's to develop that resolute spirit which finally culminated in success. Occupants of the territory were forced to realize that it "is now or never" if they were to weather through and retain their holdings. The plan was revived in 1935 and by the fall of 1936 residents and landholders went to the polls in the special election and almost unanimously voted for irrigation.

It was the privilege of the publishers of this newspaper to have taken a part in that election, not as voters but as propagandists, may we say, and it is their hope to be in attendance and help felicitate the people of Jefferson county, many of whom are personal friends, upon their good fortune in realizing a dream of more than one-third of a century. As employes of the Madras Pioneer it was not difficult to learn to appreciate the sterling quality of the people who not only pioneered the movement for irrigation of the North Unit but who stayed on the job and saw it through. Some of them are gone forever, others have moved away, but the mark they have made in development of that region will long remain in the minds and hearts of a grateful public.

Don't Forget to Vote!

Oregon's primary nominating election is but a little more than one week away. It may be closer at hand than many of us realize and for that reason it is pertinent to call attention to the date—May 17.

Although this may be termed an off-year, politically speaking, it is anything but that and the voters should make it their duty to go to the polls and express their preference for the respective offices. Indifference toward the primary may bring regrets later on and it is the part of good citizenship to exercise the voting franchise. Lack of competition for the respective offices naturally creates a tendency to pass up the primary election, yet the candidates who are on the ballots would appreciate an expression of confidence from the voters.

Returning veterans should be glad to participate in the election this year, after having been "out of the know" for one or more elections. It is their opportunity to participate in one of the most important functions of civilian life. Also there is the hospital ballot to consider. There should be a strong vote registered to back up the court and commission in their efforts to bring about construction of the building at the earliest possible date. A light vote, even should it be unanimous, is not a full expression of the taxpayers, and it seems that the measures are of sufficient importance to warrant a general expression.

Word comes from the hospital at Pendeton that Mrs. William Cunningham is now recovering rapidly from the effects of a major operation performed Wednesday of last week. Members of her family visiting her the first of the week were light for her appetite, so they did informd that hosepital fare was too something about it.

New Bus Service

The Gray Rock Bus Lines will now give daily bus service between Heppner, Lexington and Ione and The Dalles.

Bus will leave Heppner at 7:30 a. m. and returning leave The Dalles at 5:15 p. m.

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Time's a-Wasting!

Mother's Day gift selections are still varied. And there is still time to make a good choice from our stock.

Mothers are sort of taken for granted so much of the time. It's not that you don't appreciate your own, but it is so easy to overlook letting her know that you think she's pretty special!

We'll be glad to help you make your selection if you come in and give us the opportunity.

Mother's Day is such a good day to say thank you in a tangible way.

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