

EDITORIAL



People Are Funny

The tremendous sums of money that go out from the small towns and villages of the land each year in the form of federal income tax would suffice to make most of the local improvements, such as resurfacing the rough streets, building sewer systems, school buildings, hospitals, parks, and caring for the cemetery, to mention a few. But the idea seems to be growing that we must send our money to Washington to have the planners spend it for us and the result is that the streets continue to get rougher, the cemetery gets insufficient care and, as in the case of Heppner, we don't have a sewer system and a new school building and will not have these things unless we all dig down deep in our pockets and bring up a few more shekels which by right should go towards improving our individual properties, or to otherwise elevate our standard of living.

The funny thing about it (if such a serious situation can be deemed funny) is that we go right on paying in these vast sums to the federal government and the idea has not occurred to us that we might do those things for ourselves that we look to the federal government to do for us, knowing full well that there is a chance for only a small portion of the tax money returning for whatever the planners might deem worthy of their consideration. A local bond issue for some needed improvement looks mighty big, yet it is possible that the income tax checks mailed out of Heppner in one year would go a long way in financing the sewer project. Or the money mailed out of the school district would to a large degree account for a new grade building. Of course the government has to have money to carry on its business, but if the government would get back to the principle that it is the servant of the people and that the people are not its servants, it would require much less in the way of federal taxes.

The concluding paragraph of an editorial in the Barnesville, Ohio, Enterprise, sums it up in this manner: "The situation is like a church that spent all of its money on foreign missions and didn't have enough to pay the preacher or buy coal."

Driver Training Gets Results

High school driver training courses, originally aimed solely at teen-agers, have had the effect of improving adult driving habits and consequently the traffic safety of entire communities. This impact, especially in smaller cities, was brought out in a survey by the Chevrolet Motor Division which is cooperating with the American Automobile Association by making 2,500 training cars available to schools.

An instructor of a Louisiana high school puts it this way: "Take, as an example, the matter of proper hand signals. Before our course was organized, we were a town of non-signalers. Since our students were taught to signal, the practice has become customary with nearly all drivers."

Latest available figures show ten per cent of all traffic accidents, or 884,500, are caused by failure to signal or improper signals.

From Minnesota comes this comment: "High school training has sold safer driving to adults. Parents hear their children discussing the course. They come and ask questions. A lot of them want instruction, even though they've been driving a car for years."

These are typical quotes from the survey report and show plainly that the course is getting results. It is so full of merit that it should be included in the high school course to train the young people as they arrive at the age when they are permitted to drive cars. The natural tendency of the younger people to show what they have learned would have far-reaching results in the spread of better driving knowledge among the older drivers.

An opportunity to secure a dual driver car was given the local school a few years ago but there seemed to be no one available at that time to take the two weeks required for the special training and nothing came of it. With the highways and streets becoming more and more crowded with automobiles the demand for training is more pressing than ever.

Criticism—Just and Unjust

Any fair minded citizen holding a position of public trust knows that he is subject to criticism although he may be exercising his honest and conscientious judgment in all matters entrusted to his administration. Being thus fortified he is prepared to accept constructive criticism, the type that points out the error in his judgment and offers a better plan of action. That is just criticism.

Unjust criticism usually comes from the mouths of the uninformed—from those who through ignorance or unwillingness to properly inform themselves, engage in a whispering campaign, which, whether intentional or not, injures the reputation of those elected to administer public business as well as putting a big question mark after everything they do. This has a tendency to reduce the efficiency of the official set-up. It lessens the value of the money expended, making government operation more costly and this is reflected in higher taxes—and who helps pay this increase? Why, the guy who by his unjust criticism has helped create the situation.

The place to register complaint is directly with the officials upon whose shoulders is placed the blame for ills, imagined or real. Any citizen who has a just complaint to make will not hesitate to make it in the right place. It is the fellow who likes to sound off on the street or in public places where he won't be apt to meet face to face with the accused who is guilty of creating doubt and dissension.

If we want good government, efficient government, let us be honest with ourselves and with those whom we elect. Let us find out what we are talking about before we start talking. And if we do that it is likely that not once in ten times will we find anything to holler about.

The American Way

MASS PRODUCTION

By George Peck

Mass production, developed to a high degree under our American System of Free, Competitive Enterprise, is responsible for the high standard of living which we Americans enjoy—a standard which tops any ever enjoyed by any other people, at any time, anywhere.

But, if our American Government had had its way, there is serious doubt that mass production would have progressed to the point which it has reached today. History records that instead of encouraging the individual who invented the process of using machinery to manufacture machinery, the authorities at Washington went to great lengths to discourage him—just one more example of governmental ineptness. Here briefly are the details:

A few years after our War of Independence, Europe was in a state of turbulence due to the French Revolution. Our own peace was threatened. Our Government, in a moment of panic, awoke to the realization of its unpreparedness to defend this country should the war spread here. It contracted with Eli Whitney, a Yankee machinist, who was just coming into prominence for his invention of the cotton gin, to make ten thousand muskets, to be delivered within two years.

Whitney had a firearms factory in Connecticut. He started on his big contract in a manner that convinced the wisecracks that he was a bit "balmy." The stupid fellow didn't start making muskets. Instead, he set about building a series of strange machines, none of which had any apparent relationship to the muskets. A year passed and Whitney had not turned out a single gun. To the unreasoning bureaucratic mind, it was quit obvious that if he couldn't produce one gun within the first year of his contract, he couldn't be expected to deliver ten thousand guns by

the end of the second year. Criticism and complaint reached his ears, but he calmly went ahead building his strange machines. Whitney had other virtues in addition to his inventive genius, among them, patience, courage and conviction.

Among these odd machines with which Whitney apparently was wasting his time was one to bore out the barrels, another to form the stocks and various others to make all kinds of parts. Then one day, when he was threatened with losing his contract for failure to perform, Whitney filled his bag with miscellaneous musket parts and hid himself to Washington to confront the bureaucrats. Dumping the contents of the bag on a long table, he told his critics that these were the parts for ten muskets. They were invited to fit the parts together for ten complete weapons.

And what do you know? Surprise! Surprise! — ten excellent muskets evolved. Whitney had invented the process of using machinery to manufacture machinery; turned out from his precision operation of his strange machines, the parts were exactly alike, standardized and interchangeable. These parts could be made at almost incredible speed, and very little highly skilled labor was required. In short, Eli Whitney had invented the revolutionary process of mass manufacture.

Whitney had accomplished this in the face of sharpest criticism from Government quarters. But seeing was believing. In fairness it must be recounted that the Government satraps didn't take Whitney's contract away from him. That perhaps was as much as Government could reasonably be expected to contribute to the greatest single advance ever achieved in industrial process.

P.S.: The Government gets its ten thousand muskets and ahead of schedule.

YOU'RE IN THE UNION NOW

By Maurice R. Franks

(Editor's Note: Maurice R. Franks is President of the National Labor-Management Foundation and Editor of its official publication, Partners.)

If management desires good unionism, then it is up to management to help promote good unionism—especially in those plants with union contracts. But what do we find? Management with its back turned to the problem! Management, like an ostrich, with its head in the sand!

Last month it fell to my lot to act as judge in a contest of employee publications—a grand array of high-class printing produced at regular intervals by diverse American companies for the benefit of their employees. The printing, as I suggest, was in most cases really something of the artwork and layout—almost without exception—being worthy of the flossiest of our national publications. In a word, the two hundred or more examples of slick paper editing I found myself pawing and shuffling represented a terrific investment in time and money.

But aside from a few minor exceptions, all were as alike as so many pawns on a chessboard. And all but one of the two hundred missed an extremely important boat—for in the entire exhibit, just one publication acknowledged the fact that the employees of the company had a union and that the affairs of that union were worthy of supporting. The balance of these curiously dull slicks devoted themselves to telling the workers what a grand bunch of guys were running the company and the privilege it was to work for such an outfit.

If we are to have better relations between workers and employers, the way is through creating better relations between unions and management—relations based on mutual understanding, recognition and respect. To have better labor leaders, all hands must play a part in developing them.

If I were president of a company whose workers, through democratic action, had joined a union, I would accept the situation at its face value and, whether considering them right or wrong in their decision, I would pitch in and do all I could to help them build a good union. I would go so far as to call a special meeting of employees and tell them that, having decided to be union men, they have a duty to be good union men. I would urge them to pay their dues promptly and, above all else, attend their meetings regularly.

Yes, I would encourage them to value their membership and to become an integral part of their union organization, in their spare time—on my time, if necessary—I would hold classes for them with an expert to teach them how to conduct themselves effectively in union meetings.

In doing this I would be acting on the theory that I was making a good investment, in

30th Anniversary Observed By Mr. And Mrs. Majeske

One evening last week the Gene Majeske ranch party was the scene of a dinner party when Mr. and Mrs. Majeske and Patty Majeske were hosts honoring their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Majeske on their 30th wedding anniversary. A two tiered cake decorated with rose buds and leaves with a big gold 30 in the center was presented the honorees as was also a lovely gift. Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Majeske and Patricia Majeske and the honored ones Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Majeske. A daughter, Mrs. Audrey Ansted was unable to be present as she had returned to her home in Medford.

Eugene Majeske and Bill Barratt returned Monday night from Salem where they had gone on business. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McMillan and daughter, Pat and Cecil Jones attended the Sunrise Services in Echo Easter morning. These services were sponsored by the Oddfellows of Echo. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Peck and children motored to Eugene last week end where they visited at the C. M. Urey home, parents of Mrs. Peck. They were accompanied as far as Corvallis by Mrs. Emma Peck who visited Mrs. Loto Callaway. Miss Etta Millett of Astoria was also there. Mrs. Ralph Jackson and daughter, Carole were Lexington visitors from The Dalles Easter Sunday. They took Mrs. Laura Scott home with them. Mrs. Scott, mother of Mrs. Jackson, has been staying at the Sophia Knighen home in lone since an illness this winter.

The Lexington Garden club met at the home of Mrs. M. Leonard Tuesday. The main topic of the program was a plant exchange. The next meeting will be May 9 at the Randy Lott home. Membership in the club is open to all interested in gardens. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bloodworth and small daughter are living in the Hermann Wallace home.

Mrs. L. Z. Cantrell returned Friday from the hospital in Pendleton where she underwent major surgery. Mrs. M. Leonard motored over with Mr. Cantrell.

after her. Mr and Mrs. Ellwood Way and small daughter were guests at the Dan Way home over the week end. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Breeding and Mr. and Mrs. George Irvin and daughter were Sunday guests at the Elza Vinson home on Butter creek. Mrs. Wilbur Steagall motored to Pendleton on Tuesday taking June Steagall to her school there at St. Joseph's academy.

MRS. PETERS DIES Mr. and Mrs. Harry Duval received word Monday of the death in Portland early Monday morning of Mrs. Joseph T. Peters. Mr. Duval was requested to act as a pallbearer at the funeral which was held Wednesday in Portland. She was the widow of Joseph T. Peters, who had heavy investments in Morrow county property and for whom Duval worked for a number of years. She was past 80 years of age.

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Heppner City Council Meets First Monday Each Month Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring them before the Council. Phone 2572

Morrow County Abstract & Title Co. INC. ABSTRACTS OF TITLE TITLE INSURANCE Office in Peters Building

Morrow County Court Meets First Wednesday of Each Month County Judge Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—Forenoon only.

30 Years Ago

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES April 15, 1920 R. W. Turner, Harry Bartholomew and Ed Nell attended a meeting in Pendleton of wool-growers to discuss marketing. J. H. Dobbins of Wallowa county presided at the meeting Tuesday. Heppner Elks chartered a special train to run to lone last Friday evening to attend the benefit staged by the members of the order who reside in that city. The special train was necessary because of the poor conditions of the roads. Better than \$300 was realized. Frank W. Turner left for Heppner Junction Tuesday where he will set up his shearing plant on the Dees place. (Ed. note: We find one leaf torn from the file of this date—utter vandalism!)

Local News In Brief

Mrs. Minnie Card, state organizer for the Degree of Honor Lodge, left the last of the week for her home in Portland after spending several days in Heppner on business for the organization.

Mrs. Rosalia Luccolini and Mrs. Joe Sheppard and children have returned to their homes in Sunnyside, Wn. after spending the Easter weekend here with Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Linder. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hill and family are in Seattle and Portland visiting this week with relatives and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miller and children made a business trip to Walla Walla and Pendleton the first of the week. Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Estberg were his sister, Miss Ida Estberg of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Cason and sons and Ellis Cason of Lonerock and Mrs. Charles Cason of lone. Miss Winifred Osten is spending several days in Portland on business and pleasure. Mr. and Mrs. James J. Farley have returned from Condon where they spent a week visiting with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Monahan and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. George Currin of Buttercreek and Ralph Currin of Pendleton have returned from Portland where they spent several days looking after business matters. In Newberg, the Currins visited with Mr. and Mrs. Ted Burns. Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Turner returned Thursday evening from

a honeymoon trip which took them to Reno, Nevada, San Francisco, and other points of interest. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Munkers drove to The Dalles during the weekend to visit friends. They were overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Munkers in Arlington during their trip. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson and Mrs. Frank W. Turner motored to Pendleton Wednesday.

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Student Body Benefit Carnival and Dance Music by "Fiddlin" Joe Wise and his Western Swing Quartet Lexington IOOF Hall Saturday, April 22 The Fun Begins at 6:00 P. M. \$1.00 PER PERSON

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