

EDITORIAL



Do You Read Budgets?

The April 26 and May 3 issues of the Gazette Times carried a condensed version of the 1951-52 budget of the Rural School District. The law does not require publication of this budget but does not prohibit publication if the Rural School Board or the board secretary, who in effect is the county superintendent, feel it is of service to the people to give them an opportunity to peruse it well ahead of the election date.

A check-up with Henry Tetz, board secretary and administrator, shows that to date there has been little or no comment relative to the budget. It would seem that the taxpayers are unconcerned or that they have grown so accustomed to paying taxes in large lumps that they can't be bothered with looking over the budget figures to see if it is a question of paying more or less. This lack of interest leaves the school authorities in the dark insofar as to what the attitude of the voters will be on election day. They don't know whether silence gives consent or means that something ominous is brewing. A little expression would not be out of order.

What People Are Thinking

A poll taken by Fulton Lewis Jr. reveals that the Administration is not too popular at the moment. Lewis asked his listeners to send to their member of Congress the answers to sixteen questions.

This office has had no report from Congressman Lowell Stockman but from Congressman Walter Norblad of the third Oregon district comes a report which shows a definite decline in Administration popularity. All questions were asked two days prior to the MacArthur firing, except No. 16 which was asked supplementally a day or two thereafter. All letters received by Mr. Norblad came from the state of Oregon, with the great majority from his own district. In reporting these tabulations he made no attempt to evaluate the accuracy of this type of poll.

Here are the questions and the results:
1. As of today would you vote for Harry Tru-

man for President? Yes, 3, No, 1636.

3. Do you believe that Congress should continue investigations such as the one into RFC loans and the Kefauver crime hearings and extend those investigations into other activities of government? Yes, 1627, no, 15.

2. Should President Truman be allowed to continue to receive the \$50,000 tax exempt salary recently voted him by Congress? Yes, 57, no, 1588

4. Are you in favor of Keeping Dean Acheson as Secretary of State? Yes, 12, no, 1627.

5. Do you favor the United Nations in final control of United States troops in Korea or else where? Yes, 118; no, 1509.

6. Should Chiang Kai-shek be permitted to send his Nationalist Armies against the Chinese Communists? Yes, 1596; no, 26.

7. Do you feel confident that Europe will fight to the end against Communism? Yes, 128; no, 1477.

8. Do you approve of the proposed continuation of economic, along with the military, aid to north Atlantic pact nations? Yes, 279; no, 1373.

9. Would you favor a requirement that nations receiving military aid or economic aid from us must agree to stop trading with Russia, Communist China, or any other Iron Curtain country? Yes, 1594; no, 31.

10. Do you believe President Truman's statement that all communists and communist sympathizers have been weeded out of Government? Yes, 4; no, 1633.

11. Are you in favor of a permanent peace time program of universal military training? Yes, 887; no, 716.

12. Do you believe President Truman is making a sincere effort to cut out unnecessary government spending? Yes, 13; no, 1620.

13. Should wages be controlled along with prices? Yes, 1563; no, 64.

14. Should the government prevent strikes in time of war emergency? Yes, 1588; no, 46.

15. Are you in favor of calling General Mac Arthur home for a report to Congress on the Far Eastern situation? Yes, 1417; no, 219.

16. Are you in favor of impeaching President Truman? Yes, 1317; no, 46.

30 Years Ago

Thursday, May 12, 1921

An 8 pound son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Mahon at their home at the Hamilton ranch May 8.

Children of the Hepner grade school were taken out by their teachers for picnics Wednesday. They went to various points along Willow creek. The day was ideal, bright, warm and free from wind.

A 9 pound daughter arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ashbaugh of Hardman on Wednesday, May 11.

At a regular meeting of the PTA Tuesday afternoon the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: president, Mrs. F. W. Turner; vice president, Miss Lorena Palmateer, secretary, Mrs. Lloyd Hutchinson, and treasurer, Mrs. W. E. Pruyn.

It is reported there are 15 inches of snow at Snowflake No. 31

near the head of Ditch creek. Around the head of Potomac creek and in the vicinity of Arbuckle mountain there are from 30 inches to four feet of snow.

The matter of a baseball team for Hepner was taken up at the business men's meeting Monday and sufficient funds were raised.

R. V. White reports the sale this past week of the upper half of what is known as the Hager ranch by its owner, Art Minor to W. H. Cleveland of Gresham.

BROTHER DIES

Chris Brown received a telegram Wednesday morning apprising him of the death of his brother John at Waupaca, Wis. The passing of John leaves Chris the loan member of the family in the United States. A brother, Paul Brown, resides in Copenhagen, Denmark. John Brown will be remembered by a number of people in this community, he having visited here in times past.

Seven Attend Classes For Food Handlers

Five of the eight eating establishments in the Hepner area were represented at the series of foodhandlers classes held in the Elks temple May 7 and 8, according to W. B. Culham, district sanitarian. Certificates of attendance were presented to those who attended one session on each consecutive day.

Those receiving certificates of attendance were Catherine Carty, O'Donnell's Cafe; Gladys Connor, Theda Stratton, Elks lunch room; Kay Kononen, Eunice Pettyjohn, Saager's Pharmacy; Lulu Merle Cornelison and Elba Breeding, Lexington Cafe.

Mrs. Wm. French has received a card from Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Fell, 6973 Muscatel Ave., San Gabriel, Calif., announcing the birth of a daughter, Sharon Lee, on April 28. Weight seven pounds 14 ounces.

The American Way

A COURAGEOUS EDITOR

By GEORGE PECK

To paraphrase an old saying, "It Takes a Cooke to Catch a Crook." The Cooke I have in mind is Harry St. John Cooke, editor and publisher of the weekly Square Dealer - Democrat of Poughkeepsie, New York. For many a year Cooke has carried on what is virtually a one-man crusade against organized crime, not only in the community served by his newspaper, but throughout state and nation.

The effectiveness of Cooke's campaign is evidenced by the fact that the crooks respect and fear him. They have threatened to liquidate both him and his wife. On August 4, 1950, a knife was placed in his car. Later he received a threatening letter signed by the Black Hand. Returning from a business call with his wife and daughter, Mrs. Cooke opened the door of the car and found on the seat a "cutting knife." About its handle was a string, in the parlance of the MAFIA, it meant that this organization did not intend to kill him, but only to "slash" him a bit, perhaps disfigure him for life.

Mrs. Cooke, who is of Italian descent, her father was born in Italy, knows all too well the cruel methods employed by the MAFIA. The shock was so great that she became paralyzed from the spine down. For 17 weeks there was grave doubt that she would ever walk again. Her physicians now hold forth hope that Mrs. Cooke will eventually recover.

A few weeks later, on November 18, 1950, another knife was placed on the windshield of the Cooke car. These gruesome objects were immediately turned over to the N. Y. State Police. To date, neither they, the local Poughkeepsie police, nor other law enforcement agencies that have been investigating the case, have succeeded in tracking down the inhuman monsters.

The Poughkeepsie publisher promptly offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who placed the knives in and on his

car, promising that any such information would be kept strictly confidential. No informants have so far come forward.

While Cooke has not yet succeeded in tracking down the particular criminals who now jeopardize his safety, his anti-vice campaign has borne much fruit. Several men are now languishing where they properly belong—behind bars—as a result of the fearless and relentless campaign he has waged in his newspaper. The good citizens of Poughkeepsie have good reason to be mighty thankful that Harry St. John Cooke has been so active on their behalf.

And how does Cooke, himself, feel about all this? Before writing this piece, I talked with him over the long-distance telephone. To my question, "Aren't you scared?" his reply was an emphatic "YES." To my second question as to whether he would continue his crusade against crime in his community, his reply was an even more emphatic "YES."

To realize danger, to be afraid, but still carry on, stamps Cooke as a very courageous individual. This writer, as should all decent citizens, salutes him and wishes him continued success in exposing and bringing to justice the racketeers who infest his community. May God protect him and his loved ones from those who have threatened them.

Cooke believes in a free press, has proved it by word and deed. What he wishes to know is—has the time come in America when men are no longer allowed to voice their opinions of a gangster-run community, state or nation? He believes that if it has, then, indeed, "The American Way" that we have known and loved, has passed into oblivion.

Senator Kefauver says organized crime must be beaten on the community front. Cooke anticipated that truism many years ago. It would be a splendid gesture for editors and readers alike, to send him a note of encouragement and felicitation.

Plans Completed For 4-H-FFA Show And Sale June 4-6

Final plans for operations of the fifth annual 4-H and FFA show and sale of wheat-fed live stock, held under auspices of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, were adopted at a conference in The Dalles between the operating board, county extension agents of eastern Oregon and wheat league officials.

Steers, lambs and hogs will be shown at Wink's Auction Yards, one mile west of The Dalles on Highway U. S. 30, June 4-5-6, with the auction sale the final evening of the show.

Entertainment events for youth and club leaders, including the annual boat trip on the Columbia river provided by Inland Navigation company, are on the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McDade and little daughter Kathryn of Seattle were guests from Friday to Sunday at the home of Mrs. McDade's father, Jos. J. Nys.

Deafened, Almost Blind, He Starts College At 67

CLIFTON, New Jersey—Undaunted by severe deafness and almost total blindness, Lester B. Kahn is starting college at the age of 67.

"If all goes well," says Mr. Kahn, a widower living at the Daughters of Miriam home here, "I'll receive a bachelor of arts degree when I'm 71."

Mr. Kahn is studying Braille shorthand and British and American literature through a correspondence course offered by a Midwestern university. Some of his lessons are in Braille, others are on records. He qualified for college by completing a high school Braille course with an average grade of 97.

Mr. Kahn's hearing loss dates back to his youth but he managed to cope with this handicap by lipreading until glaucoma began to rob him of his eyesight five years ago.

Now he sees other persons as "just vague outlines." But with the help of a Sonotone hearing aid, he has learned to recognize individuals "by the tone of their voices and the sound of their footsteps."

"Just recently," says Mr. Kahn, "I was without my aid for three days and it was like being without arms and legs. I was helpless—couldn't hear a sound and saw practically nothing. When I put the Sonotone on again, the first voice I heard sounded like a 'Hallelujah' chorus."

A tour through the rooms and halls of the Daughters of Miriam is like a visit to a one-man art show. The artist: Lester B. Kahn.

When Mr. Kahn came to the home three years ago, he started doing oil paintings. Often working with the aid of a magnifying glass, he finished vanishing eyesight forced him to quit.

His pictures, mostly landscapes, reflect his love of the out-of-doors. Many are painted from memory of places visited in this country and abroad.

"I used to travel a lot," he says. "I never liked staying in one place for a long time—always wanted to see what was on the other side of the hills or around the bend in the road."

Mr. Kahn's college courses keep him busy. But he finds time to typewrite letters to friends, using a two-finger touch system, and to listen to drama and classical music on the radio. "I'm never bored," he remarks. "I live in one place, it's true, but I still travel in many directions."

FLOWERS for all occasions MARY VAN'S FLOWER SHOP

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SONOTONE OF WALLA WALLA T. C. DOWNS, Mgr. 320 DENNY BLDG. TEL. 4742 T. C. DOWNS Will be at the Hepner Hotel May 15th, 1 P.M. to 8 P.M. for counsel and fitting. Mrs. J. O. Rasmus shopped in Portland Tuesday for Norah's Shop and returned that evening.

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