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More Significance to Flag Day

In view of two recent tragic national events—the murders of Senator Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King—our conscience-stricken country might well emphasize Flag Day, Friday, June 14, with renewed sincerity and dedication.

As it did after the death of Dr. King, a reaction of guilt has swept across the nation following the death of Senator Kennedy. Even those who did not politically support this vigorous man of purpose mourn his loss, for he was a great American.

There are those who blame a "sin sick" America for his death. It does not seem quite logical somehow to charge all Americans for the despicable act of an inflamed Jordanian, who, if the apparent facts are true, struck down this national leader in a perverted outburst of nationalism for his native land.

The fact that our nation does feel guilt, however, is of more significance. Our ashamed people realize that they have reason for contrition because of racism, bigotry, an exaggerated love of material wealth, hypocrisy, and other ungodly actions.

Racism surely was a factor in the death of Dr. King, and every American who has not stood firmly against inequality and prejudice might well feel a prickling of conscience for this terrible deed.

Circumstances were somewhat different with Sen. Kennedy because his murderer was from another nation, and the assassin's action seems to have been provoked by a misguided sense of duty to the land of his nativity.

But this does not make the loss of a highly esteemed leader any less appalling. Perhaps in some manner all of our citizenry is entitled to a share of the indictment, but the evils that are so prevalent across America do not seem to be particularly applicable in this case.

In another paper last week was an editorial, "I Am a Discouraged American." The writer said that he was discouraged because of the murder of the Kennedy brothers, John and Robert; because of the death of Dr. King; discouraged because students could overrun and assume control of a college; and discouraged about similar things that have made disconcerting headlines in recent years.

But this is not a time for discouragement. The very fact that America is making more progress towards true equality than ever before brings reactions and adjustments which cause strain and unrest.

When one makes a house cleaning, it is the easy way to close the door on a dirty closet. Open the door, and an assortment of accumulated things will naturally come tumbling out that require some effort to replace and adjust.

What is needed in a time of crisis—and we profoundly believe Senator Kennedy would agree—is not weeping and wailing, but a rededication of purpose; not discouragement, but a renewed resolve to do better.

This is still a very great America. It is a rapidly growing America, and the very fact that its population is exploding in itself gives rise to pressures and problems that will result in troubles and difficulties.

Undoubtedly there are measures that must be taken to safeguard against the malevolent minority. It occurs to us that the country should consider devoting more attention to the mentally disturbed with a view towards rehabilitating the unbalanced and the fanatics or at least taking measures to protect society against their erratic acts.

As Senator Eugene McCarthy puts it, many of us would like to believe that we are still living in a pioneer-type age when actually we are now in a highly complicated and sophisticated society.

Perhaps gun control measures are necessary. It could be that registration on the same basis that cars and boats are registered could prove to be a genuine safeguard. Certainly our record of 6,000 killings per year is shameful and awful.

At the same time, the tragic death of these great leaders should not panic the nation into frantic action that it may regret later. There could be sorry consequences to an ill-conceived gun control law. One that would require photographs and fingerprints, for instance, could be discriminatory to the poor. It would be easy, through such an act, to infringe on basic freedoms of Americans.

But with Flag Day at hand and the unhealed wound from the loss of great Americans still hanging heavy on the minds and hearts of our people, this is a time for restoration of faith. This is a time for the individual to vow, in full earnestness, that he will aspire to the highest idealism of America to the very best of his ability.

We have placed too much emphasis on prestige in this country; too much concern on our image of power and wealth abroad. We need to develop the qualities of greatness in the same idealism of the Founding Fathers. Once our inner souls are pure, our image throughout the world will come out all right.

The answer is a simple one if our people would accept it. If we lived by true Christian principles, sincerely loving our God and loving our neighbors as ourselves, there would be few problems. So very simple and yet so terribly hard to attain!

When the Stars and Stripes fly on Flag Day, let's think on these things.

Summer Fun for All

With the completion of the "new" swimming pool, the recreation program getting underway at the high school, and other activities starting, Heppner is in a position to offer summer fun for all.

There is truly something for everyone. The Willow Creek Golf course is in beautiful shape, and its fairways and greens beckon the golfer. Fiesta Lanes continues to be an inviting spot for the bowler. The tennis courts by the junior high gym are there for the using.

Stuart Dick, lifeguard at the pool, has announced a full schedule of swims and swimming lessons, and it is a certainty that the city's investment in this facility will pay dividends through almost constant use through the summer. This year the pool will have greater use than ever from men and women, as well as from children. It may be a cool summer—judging by its start—but it seems apparent that even so, the swimmers will enjoy the warm water.

The vision of the Rev. Dirk Rinehart is responsible for starting a new activity for young people with the recreation program at the high school gym. So far, upper junior high and high school students have evidenced the most interest in the sports and physical education program offered, but if other ages show interest, provision will be made for them, too.

These youths can take part in the things that they so much enjoy—basketball, volleyball, tumbling, trampoline and other activities—and at the same time they will develop and keep in good shape for the school year ahead.

So often it is expressed that a community neglects to provide worthwhile activity for its young people. Through the start of this program, the Chamber of Commerce, backed by the city schools and the county, is seeking to give the opportunity for such activity, and all are invited to participate. It is not restricted to Heppner young people, but any in the area, close enough to come regularly, are invited.

The idea of the Rev. Rinehart and his committee shows promise of blossoming into a well-rounded summer recreation program here. This opens the door, so to speak.

The new pool is a major step in offering exceptional facilities for summer recreation here. It would be possible to use the pool, the tennis courts, the golf course, the gymnasium and other facilities to develop a full-scale coordinated program for all ages.

At the same time, the community is fortunate to have trained young men and women, such as Stuart Dick and Martha Doherty, to give good leadership.

A number of groups have shown interest at the adult level—the "Romans," a group of men who played volleyball last year and are starting early morning swims this year; the women who took part in a jogging group; and others. Our area lends itself well, too, to those who like to hike over hill and dale, train to climb mountains, ride horseback, and engage in similar types of physical activity.

Since we have the facilities and the leaders, the main thing needed now is a show of interest.

The first helpful thing that might be done is to encourage the young people to go up to the high school gym now and register for the evening activities in progress there. All in the area are invited.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

IT SURELY must signal the coming of a new era in the evolution of our society when one can get a sunburn at a commencement.

This happened to us Sunday at the University of Oregon commencement in Eugene when son Bill received his bachelor degree in sociology.

It wasn't the fiery glow of learning, with which vast Autzen Stadium exuded, that caused our face to burn. It was the mere physical fact that we were exposed in the open air for several hours while Dr. Arthur Flemming, the college president, and others expounded on matters of importance to the graduates, the candidates for advanced degrees, and the audience in general.

We say this is a milestone in society's evolution because the indoor pavilions no longer seem adequate to accommodate the vast numbers achieving degrees, together with those who desire to come and share with pride their moment of triumph.

The largest pavilions in Oregon would seat only around 12,000 but Autzen stadium will hold around 40,000. We hasten to add, however, that there were great expanses of this big bowl of concrete that were empty on Sunday.

WE SORT of like the idea of an open air commencement. One could say that the fresh air is symbolic of academic freedom; that the vast space is an invitation from the wide world beckoning the graduates.

But from our point of view it was enjoyable because one doesn't have to perspire through the ceremonies for several hours in a stuffy auditorium.

The covered section at Autzen, which usually is reserved for those who have made substantial contribution to the construction of the stadium, was opened to visitors. So on Sunday, we ordinary peons got to sit in the comfortable lemon yellow seats.

At a sports event we would have had to look with envy from across the way to those implanted there, while trying to console ourselves that the bleachers just might be made of soft pine.

NOT ONLY the fact that commencement was in this stadium marked a new era for U of O graduation ceremonies. This was the first year that the undergraduates did not march around and take a diploma from an overstretched hand.

When it came time to award degrees, the candidates merely stood, and at a signal, moved their tassels on their black mortarboards to the other side, thereby to symbolize completion of their undergraduate curricula.

Anyone can do this, but it requires probably some \$6000 on the average to do it legitimately, for that is about what it takes to run the four-year course. Oregon awarded some 4,000 degrees, both undergraduate and advanced, during the academic year completed (this includes earlier awarding of degrees in August, December, March and June). Thus, perhaps \$24,000,000 was plunged up by parents and

the candidates for their educations, and the masters and doctors paid more, of course, for their longer courses.

If they conducted college commencement now in the same manner as at high school, it would probably take the better part of two days just to award the diplomas at a major institution. If the grad marched by, his name announced, the diploma handed to him, and with a handshaking ensue, perhaps this operation would take 30 seconds.

Now if you have 2500 candidates, that would be 1250 minutes or more than 20 hours!

THIS WAS a colorful affair Sunday and a proud moment for many parents, but we couldn't help but agree with a comment that floated back from a restless man squirming in a seat ahead of us as the ceremonies went on.

"I wish this was a football game," he remarked wistfully.

WE BUMPED into the Hillard Browns there, and had a bit of a visit with them. The ex-Heppner Elementary principal is now principal at Toledo and Mrs. Brown is teaching in a Newport school. They are looking hale and hearty, and we promised to convey their greetings to their many friends here.

WE HAD planned to write a bit about these "Romans," these eskimos, these polar bears of Heppner who are now dedicated to getting up in time to go swimming at 6 a.m. daily. But we find ourselves speechless. In the first place, anyone who can get up and be raring to go daily by 6 a.m. is some kind of a superman. And if he has the fortitude to get up by then and go plunging into a swimming pool, that's something else. We just don't find the words for it.

But more power to these valiant souls!

IT IS a little hard to figure how it is going to be without Tom and Millie Howell in their grocery store across the street. They have announced that they are retiring by the end of this month, whether the store is sold or not—and they mean it.

They have been mighty friendly business neighbors, and it has been good to associate with them on Willow Street. For seven years we've watched them work there (all but two of the nine that they have been there) and we know very well that they need a rest and deserve the retirement awaiting them. May they enjoy every minute of a more leisurely future!

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ball and family traveled to Unity Reservoir over the Memorial Day week-end where they enjoyed boating, fishing and camping. Joining them there were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ball and family and Mr. and Mrs. Arden Tripp and family, all of Kinzua. Also enjoying the Memorial Day holidays at Unity Reservoir were Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Watkins and family.

TO THE EDITOR...

RCA vs. NRA

To the Editor:
 I think Vice-Chairman Charley Daly got a little carried away at the Chamber of Commerce meeting recently, according to the article that appeared in the May 30 Gazette-Times.

Most of the RCA tail end, as he called them, have joined the NRA of which he is a director. Some of the better NRA cowboys have joined RCA. Some people would rather be a big duck in a small puddle than a little duck in a big puddle. The comparison of major and minor baseball should have been major and coast league.

In seven rodeo events in 1967 at Heppner prize money was \$1000. Entrance fees ranged from \$20-40. Saddle bronc riding for two days was \$350 prize money and the fee \$25. Team roping \$100, and the entrance fee \$40. I don't think the money is equally distributed. They try to draw more than seven or eight bronc riders. The gate for 1967 was \$4062.70. In 1960, we had a three day show with five major events, prize money of \$500 and \$15 entrance fee in all events. The total gate was \$4841. You don't need 210 cowboys when 64 can do the job. I think the cowboys should entertain the people who pay admission, not the cowboys.

As for NRA paying more prize money than RCA in Oregon and Washington, I cannot buy that. Prize money is put up by the association. It does not include entrance fees paid by the cowboys. In 1967, entrance fees at Heppner were \$5,575. This makes a big purse, but it is the cowboy's money that is big. Prize money at Eugene, St. Paul, Ellensburg, Puyallup and Walla Walla was \$41,950, not including entrance fees. Pendleton in 1968 will put up \$13,025 prize money; in 1967 RCA prize money amounted to \$1,778,657 in the United States. Rodeo is a major sport, the only one in which participants pay entrance fees to entertain the public. We are running close to football and baseball in attendance.

In Valley Springs, Calif., RCA rodeo, May 11-12, 13,000 spectators saw one of Oregon's good cowboys, Mark Schriker of Sutherlin, Oregon, win the all-around gold and silver belt buckle. At Pendleton, we have a champion-ship of the world rodeo close to home. Last year the attendance was so great, people were turned away for lack of seating space.

I have put in a number of years rodeoing. I know every committee has a rough go to make it. Heppner is one of the oldest shows in this part of Oregon, and we want to see it live. There are people older than I that helped make it, and want to see it continue. I agree the Chamber does take an active part, but does not have much to say about it.

Any of you fans interested in rodeo may subscribe to the Rodeo Sports News, Denver, Colo., and get the facts about RCA rodeo.

Its small pay for all the work we have done in the past for the Heppner Rodeo to ask that we at least receive credit for what was done.

Harold Erwin

Duncan Reflections

To the Editor:
 Election day has come and gone. I hope you will permit me to use your communication column to express my very deep and heartfelt appreciation for all of the thousands of people all over the state who gave so unselfishly of their time and resources to help in my campaign for United States Senate.

I have asked myself often why so many do so much when their names never appear in the headlines and they must often feel that their efforts go unrecognized.

I think the answer must be the same as the answer to the question as to why candidates run. It is simply that they are dedicated to their country and to the cause of good representative government.

If this experiment in democracy is to work each of us must do what he can, whether it be running for office, working for a political party of our choice, or simply registering and voting. Each individual contribution goes to make up the strongest and best country on earth of which each of us is so proud. It is this multiple, manifold effort that so overshadows the few who condemn and tear down that government which all of us hope will ultimately bring freedom and peace in this world.

I want this humble thanks of mine to extend as well to those who worked for my opponent. While I disagreed with their judgment as vigorously and as honorably as I could, their contribution to this competitive election process is a part of the overall great picture.

I pledge, once again, my support to the choice of the majority both now and in the fall election.

Robert B. Duncan

Painters' Praise

Dear Wes and Helen:
 As the painting classes in Morrow county come to a close for the season, we would like to thank you for the very excellent advertising you gave us over the three terms. These little things that promote our county seem very important to

The Rhyming Philosopher

SO WHAT IS A FATHER? IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN IT COULD BE THE FELLOW THAT BRINGS HOME THE BACON.
 HE WORKS ALL THE TIME AT SOMETHING OR OTHER AND TALKS ON THE PHONE, BUT ONLY TO MOTHER.
 HE BUYS THINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS, UNLESS HE FORGETS, AND LATER ON HELPS US TO PAY OFF OUR DEBTS.
 I OFTEN IMAGINE THAT BEING A DAD IS SOMETHING CREATED TO MAKE PEOPLE GLAD, A MIXTURE OF ANGEL AND RESCUING KNIGHT, HE'S WHAT YOU FALL BACK ON TO MAKE THINGS GO RIGHT.
 A FATHER'S THE HUMAN ON WHOM YOU DEPEND, JUST LESS THAN A GOD BUT MUCH MORE THAN A FRIEND.
 SO HONOR YOUR FATHER IF HE'S STILL AROUND, FOR GRATTITUDE'S VAIN WHEN HE'S UNDER THE GROUND;
 AND DON'T FORGET GRANDPA, SALUTE THE OLD MAN WITH FOND RECOGNITION AND GIFTS IF YOU CAN, FOR CHILDREN WHO HONOR THEIR PARENTS ARE KNOWN
 TO MAKE THE BEST PARENTS THEMSELVES WHEN THEY'RE GROWN.
 WHILE MOTHER IS EVER THE QUEEN OF THE ROOST, THE FATHERS DESERVE AN OCCASIONAL BOOST, DEVOTING THEIR EFFORTS TO GIVE US THE BEST, WE TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED WITH THANKS UNEXPRESSED.
 SO GATHER TOGETHER FROM NEAR AND AFAR TO LET FATHER KNOW JUST HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE.
 HARRY W. FLETCHER

Pioneer

Ponderings



By W. S. CAVERHILL

Skimmings From Sunday's Paper

Our scouts on the horizon of scientific knowledge and research report a number of interesting things.

(a) Fresh eggs communicate with each other by "clicking". An egg that gets behind with his clicks will never hatch. I can imagine the uproar created in an incubator when contact is lost with some bad egg, or the excitement in a carton when the cook prepares to boil 'em).

(b) At last we have a rocket on the way to Mars. (We can rest easy on that for awhile).

(c) Juvenile delinquency can now be detected between the age of one to six years. (Why discourage 'em so early).

(d) Educational investigators have come to the conclusion that a knowledge of the alphabet is of some assistance in teaching reading. (Some of us have suspected that for years).

(e) Thrift is no longer a way of economic life. (Ben Franklin said "he who buys what he does not need may some day need what he cannot buy." That should be revised to read: "Buy it today, you may not need it tomorrow").

me, and your cooperation is much appreciated.

While I was not able to attend the art showing in Pendleton recently, I understand our showings were just as impressive and many have expressed appreciation to me for our classes presenting their work to the public.

So many, many thanks from all the classes for "carrying the message" for us.

Sincerely,
 Birdine Tullis

Mrs. Mildred Winters has received word from her son, Marine Pfc. Simon B. Winters, Jr., that he has been released from the hospital in Vietnam for wounds received in action, but is still in Phu Bai on a rest leave.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM
 Two-months (June and July) Recreation Program for 7th through high school age youth
 High School Gymnasium
 Mondays through Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Planned recreation, \$2 registration fee

BENEFIT CARD PARTY
 Friday, June 28, 8 p.m.
 IOOF Hall, Lexington
 Sponsored by Holly Rebekah Lodge
 Bridge and pinocle, prizes, refreshments
 Tickets, \$1.00

HEPPNER SWIMMING POOL
 Open Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m.
 Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 7 p.m.
 Closed Mondays
 Season tickets available

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
 Advisory Board Meeting
 Monday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.
 Important business
 Next meeting in August

SIDEWALK BAZAAR
 Friday and Saturday, July 12-13
 Plan a booth now

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Enjoy the summer evenings and week-ends in your own back yard.

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