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Salem Scene
By Jack Zimmerman

Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries

OREGON MISCELLANY

Author to hike emigrants' trail

Author Rick Steber of Union, Ore., plans to walk the Oregon Trail from the Snake River near Vale to the Dalles—a distance of 450 miles—this month. He plans to retrace the exact route of the pioneers who crossed the Oregon Trail by covered wagon. He will record what remains of the West's greatest thoroughfare and gain an insight into the impressions of the immigrants as they neared their goal just ahead of the winter snows.



Rick Steber begins trek

The trek is to publicize a new book, "Traces," that is to be issued early in 1980. The book is a joint enterprise of Steber, artist Don Gray and photographer Jerry Gilde-meister, all of Union County, who have to their credit a previous book, "Rendezvous," which captured the spirit of old Oregon in stories and illustrations. Two years ago Steber publicized "Rendezvous" by riding horseback 500 miles around the Willamette Valley.

This time, the hike will take Steber across deserts and over the mountains of eastern Oregon. The Oregon Trail is quickly vanishing from erosion and the advance of man but wagon wheel ruts over the Blue Mountains and across the high plateau leading to the Columbia River make the trail visible in places; on steep ground, rope-burn scars remain on old trees. A detailed set of maps will provide direction where no trace remains.

The handful of surviving Oregon pioneers who followed the trail by covered wagon is the subject of "Traces." "The pioneers who recalled the crossing told me of the ordeal and of the well-marked road they followed," Steber said. "Now the trail is nearly obliterated and most of the

emigrants have died. That's why I felt it was so necessary to record their stories in "Traces" and to experience at first hand the route they traveled as they crossed Oregon."

The book "Traces" will be issued by Bear Wallow Publishing Company of Union, Ore.

Ernest who? one might ask about the presidential candidacy of Ernest Green, whose ad appears in a recent issue of the Pendleton Record.

Ernest Green announces his entry into the race for President of the United States as an independent in 1980, in an ad paid for by Ernest Green.

The ad pictures a man one might guess to be 45, wearing a western-style Stetson.

Would he be bidding to be

Sifting through the TIMES

1929
Fifty years ago, after several weeks of earnest investigation, the city council decided that the best plan of securing an ample pure water supply for the city of Heppner was by the sinking of wells. A.M. Edwards, a well driller in company with Mayor McCarty and others had gone over the ground at the forks of Willow Creek and said an abundant water supply could be had at a depth of more than 500 feet.

He was sure that an artesian flow existed.

The Council was also interested in investigating land at Skinner Creek.

Two major changes in money were made for the Heppner Rodeo, September 27-28 with the splitting of the bucking contest prize money four ways instead of three and increasing entrance fees in the calf roping from \$1.50 to \$5.

Good news came with the announcement of the recovery of Bluebird, star buckler out of the show last year because of a wire cut. The string of bucking horses came from Albert Peterson's ranch at Ukiah.

1974
Robert Jones was named as conservation winner for Morrow County by the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Three cheers for the Red, White & Blue

What a good sight it was in Heppner on Labor Day for the town to be dressed up with American flags mounted on store fronts.

The brackets were installed and the flags placed as a project of the American Legion. Bravo for them!

In recent years it has been the plaint of many citizens that there has been a loss of patriotism in the land—that simple devotion to one's country that thrills to the sight of the Star Spangled Banner waving in the breeze. Perhaps the lessening of a patriotic fervor, if indeed there has been, was bred in the cynicism of the 1960's and early '70's.

The nation then was engaged in an unpopular war, there was unrest on the campuses and an abuse of power in the highest places.

When the bicentennial year of 1976 came along, there was a renewal of respect for the flag as a symbol. It was popular to display Old Glory. May it ever be so!

Among Americans who have traveled abroad, who hasn't felt a heart-tugging throb at seeing the Stars and Stripes waving on a staff at an embassy or World Fair exhibition, or aboard an American ship?

The sight of the flag at home should evoke the same emotion.

So, congratulations to the Heppner American Legion Post for dressing up the town for a national holiday!

Editor's Notebook

Is there, perhaps, a joke book from which federal bureaucrats may borrow to leaven their talks with humor?

The following was told recently by Don Bliss of the Environmental Protection Administration at a public participation workshop in Seattle—a familiar story with an appropriate twist:

"I'm sure you're all familiar with the old story about the three blind men who were trying to describe an elephant. One, seizing the animal by the

tail, said 'Aha, an elephant is like a snake.' Another, grasping the beast by the leg, said: 'Oh no! An elephant is a kind of tree.' And the third—maybe he was from the EPA—felt the great tusk and proclaimed that an elephant was a piece of polyvinyl chloride pipe."

How is that for an attention getter? Bliss had the task of explaining the purpose of public participation in environmental protection programs.

He closed his remarks with a couple of more stories.

"One of the greatest lies, according to the story, is 'The check is in the mail.' Another is, 'This won't hurt a bit,' and the third and perhaps the greatest lie is 'I'm from the government; I'm here to help you.'"

Bliss said he likes that story because it promotes skepticism. He said that was the attitude Demosthenes was talking about 2,200 years ago when he wrote that: "There is one safeguard known generally to the wise, which is an advantage and security to all, but especially to democracies as against despots. What is it? Distrust."

Some readers of the Gazette-Times will remember Rick Steelhammer, who formerly was news editor of this paper. Recently he sent a copy of the front page of a feature section of the Washington Post, on top of which was the penciled notation: "Local boy makes good. Regards. The Kid."

From this note he drew an arrow down the page to a story with his by-line—a piece about a family named Lilly in coal-rich West Virginia and a recent Lilly family reunion in the town of Beckley, W. Va., which drew members from all over the country.

Ullman plans hearings on power

Oregon Congressman Al Ullman has announced that a House subcommittee will hold hearings in Portland Sept. 8 on the regional power planning legislation recently approved by the Senate.

The Interior Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources will conduct the hearing in the Portland City Council chambers at Portland City Hall, 1220 S.W. 5th, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Ullman, chief sponsor of the legislation in the House, said any person wishing to testify must write to the Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, by August 31. The written request must include a complete return address and phone number.

"It is generally better to deal by speech than by letter." Francis Bacon

State Treas. Clay Myers doesn't charge a fee to make public speeches.

Nonetheless, during a recent 20-minute address before a Portland civic club, his efforts were netting the state something more than \$30,000!

That doesn't mean the civic organization paid anything to hear Myers speak. The \$30,000 is the amount of interest the state was earning on invested excess and trust funds while the Treasurer was making his talk.

In fact, he told his audience, current net earnings on investments placed by his office represent a profit of nearly \$100,000 an hour during every working day.

It is through messages such as this that the state's 22nd Treasurer hopes to both increase public knowledge about the State Treasury Department and in the process provide him with another four-year term in office.

Up for re-election in 1980, Myers hasn't officially declared his candidacy. But it's likely the two-term former Secretary of State will formally declare his desire to once again succeed himself with in the next 90 days.

The Portland-born descendant of Oregon pioneers has been one of the state's three top elected officeholders for 13 years and would obviously like to extend that tenure to record proportions. And the material he'll be delivering to audiences everywhere could well convince voters he's the logical person to retain as custodian of Oregon's purse.

He describes his last three years as Treasurer as the most satisfying in public life and a time during which he believes he has made his biggest contribution: the state's taxpayer.

Following graduation from the University of Oregon, Myers spent 16 years in banking, property management, investments and insurance. Tom McCall brought the energetic business executive to Salem as Assistant Secretary of State in 1965. Two years later he was appointed to succeed his boss, who won his first successful race for Governor. Myers handily won his constitutionally limited two terms in that office as Secretary of State and made an unsuccessful bid for gubernatorial nomination in 1974.

Undaunted by his loss to fellow Republican, now Gov. Victor Atiyah, he entered and won the Treasurer's race two years later.

For someone in the limelight as much as Clay Myers during his terms as Secretary of State, the move to relatively low-profile Treasury appeared to many as something of a come-down for the ebullient politician.

Needless to say, the new Treasurer didn't share that opinion.

On the contrary, he was suddenly and satisfyingly in an element for which he was both trained and experienced before entering public life.

Historically, State Treasurers haven't been counted

among Oregon's best known officeholders. Half have been re-elected to office. One, Bob Straub, became Governor. Another, Jim Redden, became Attorney General. But for the most part, the position is not noted as a steppingstone to higher office and most Treasurers have simply performed their requirements and faded from prominence when the job was done.

Clay Myers may not settle for that kind of fate. And if the first three years in his present office are any indication, the 52-year-old is working as if he would like to continue serving Oregonians for many years to come.

In addition to serving on seven state boards or commissions, Myers is responsible for all money paid into the treasury and is the state's official investment officer. It is this latter duty that offers a Treasurer the greatest opportunity for prominence and the area in which Myers is demonstrating notable expertise.

Although quick to admit much of Treasury's investment success is due to rising interest rates, Myers has produced innovations that are proving both sound and profitable.

Among these have been making some \$150,000 a year more by storing securities in the East where interest and proceeds can be received on the same day due, boosting earning another \$30,000 to \$50,000 a month by lending the state's securities, intensifying the selection and review processes of selected outside money managers, updating automatic data processing and extending new and better cash management techniques to major state agencies.

It is in the area of cash management that Myers and his staff of 41 are currently most intently engaged. And considering aggregate receipts exceeded \$4.7 billion and disbursements \$4.1 billion in fiscal 1978, effective cash management is an obvious target for attention.

Altogether Treasury supervises some \$3.2 billion in total investments—\$2.4 billion by its own officers and \$800 million by outside money managers. In-house earnings have increased from \$132 million in 1976 to \$196.4 million in 1978.

Those figures—slightly boggling to the average Oregonian—mean total earnings have increased nearly 50 per cent during a two-year period and rate of return stands at something more than 8 per cent.

For Clay Myers, the accomplishment is its own reward. In earlier days—when officeholders were less well paid—Treasurers were permitted to pocket whatever earnings their investments produced. Myers won't spearhead any attempt to restore that practice.

He'll settle now for another term in which to further improve the state's financial status.

Letters From Readers

Editor: Senator Ken Jernstedt of your district was recently criticized by the Portland Oregonian for what the paper calls his refusal to become deeply involved in "Controversial issues."

During my nearly 20 years as a member of the Legislature, I've identified two types of legislators: The work horses and the show horses.

The show horses are the loudmouth prima donnas whose efforts are designed only to obtain free prime time publicity. They contribute little to the legislative process.

The work horses are those legislators without whom the business of the Senate and the Legislature could not be conducted.

Ken Jernstedt of Hood River has always been one of the work horses, demonstrated recently by the fact he has

been assigned greater interim responsibilities than any other member of the Senate.

This follows on the heels of a session in which Jernstedt was highly successful in obtaining passage of legislation important to people in his district.

Even in unfairly criticizing Jernstedt, the Oregonian correctly noted that "he effectively represents his constituents and over the years has wielded influence with his colleagues."

The Portland newspaper should have told all the truth by reporting that Ken Jernstedt is one of the most respected members of the Senate, and his colleagues are looking forward to working with him again in 1981 and beyond.

Sen. Bob Smith, Minority Leader, Oregon State Senate, Salem

FROM THE SEA

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