

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Member of Congress From Oregon

During the last 10 years Oregon has grown in population more rapidly than any other state. The last census estimate available is the 1949 figure which placed the population of our state at 1,735,000, a percentage gain of around 60 per cent over 1940. The constitution requires an enumeration to be taken every 10 years but it was not until the passage of the law approved March 6, 1902 that a permanent census office was established. Subsequent laws dealt with the problem of census taking but in 1929 a basic census law was passed which, with minor amendments, is the legal authority for census taking now.

The 1929 law also spelled out exactly how members of the house of representatives are to be apportioned among the states. In the first congress the membership of the house was 65. The constitution set this figure specifically, apportioning the members to the states. The constitution does not, however, specify regarding the membership of the house for the future. It merely says, "The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every 30,000, but each state shall have at least one representative." The house grew pretty much on that basis until the membership reached 391 in the year 1900. After the 1910 census the membership was pegged at 435 where it has remained.

1920 census. The population of the country had both grown and shifted, but the house membership remained at 435 and the apportionment of members was unchanged. In 1929, however, congress faced the problem, fought it out, and settled it. In 1930 and 1940 redistribution of the 435 house members to the states was made on the basis of a mathematical procedure known as the method of equal proportions which is called for in the 1929 act. Some states gained members, others lost—but the total remains 435. The same procedure and formula will be followed after the 1950 count.

Applying the equal proportions formula to current population estimates reveals that the three Pacific coast states will gain a total of 10 members in the house, California which now has 23 congressional districts will have 31; Washington will have seven instead of six, and Oregon will gain one seat increasing its house delegation of four members to five after 1951.

CENSUS TAKING is going on now. The work must be completed in eight months. During the first week of the next congress (January 1951), the allocation of house members to the states will be formalized and the state legislatures notified. Thereupon it will be the duty of the Oregon legislature to re-make present congressional district boundaries so as to provide five districts instead of four. It is possible for a house member to be elected from the state at large. A few states elected one or more members at-large. This practice has been generally discontinued.

A Nichols' Worth of—

Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington, Feb. 21 —(U.P.)—Edward Walsh Mehren, president of the Squirr company, hopes his idea doesn't fizzle.

At any rate, Ed has the assurance of at least one senator that it will get a hearing.

Squirr is a soft drink. Ed's idea has to do with money—2½ and 7½ cent coins which he thinks the government ought to mint to "save the public between five and eight million dollars a year."

Sen. Sheridan Downey (D., Cal.) said he had requested the senate banking and currency committee to hold hearings on several bills for intermediate coinage sometime in March.

Mehren, a handsome, strapping fellow who used to be a football player, hopes the start of the hearings will come around March 15 — the day we give Uncle Sam his income tax dues.

Ed really gets to fist-pounding when he starts talking about his pet subject—which is the odd-sized coins.

Significant Advance

"If these coins are added to the minor coinage, they will mark a significant advance in enabling Americans to buy more goods with current consumer income," he said.

"Thus," he said, "American business could price goods close to value and diminish overcharges based on convenience."

The Squirr man is hepped in the matter of convenience. He maintains that it costs us around \$55 a head a year—because we have no in-between small coins.

He goes even farther than that.

"The biggest chief in American business today," the business man said, "is an appealing thing called 'convenience.' A big percentage of the goods we buy is paid for with small change—coins which are convenient for the buyer and the merchant to handle. As a result, the pricing of many popular commodities is based more on convenience than on the actual value of the commodities."

Goes Deeper

Ed looks at it a little deeper, even.

If we were to eliminate the nickel, dime and quarter and use only pennies for all sales under half a dollar, many prices would be changed immediately.

John and Frank Perl

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State Office Site Favored

Selection of the site on the Pacific highway just south of Medford for the Secretary of State's building, as announced yesterday will, we believe, meet general commendation. The selection was made after long and careful consideration of available locations and it is doubtful if a more convenient spot could have been chosen.

ANNOUNCEMENT that it is planned to speed construction and have the office completed and ready for operation by May 15 will also be received with general satisfaction.

Registration of automobiles, renewal of licenses, driver license examinations and other matters pertaining to motor vehicle ownership and operation have been handled under a considerable handicap heretofore, due to lack of adequate and easily accessible office facilities.

WORD from Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry is that the new field office will also serve as a clearing house for tourist information for this region. This is a matter which should be well publicized, up and down the highway, for there has long been need for such an easily reached, official information source.

Correct and easily obtained information can play a major part in cultivation of the tourist crop in this region. Travelers are prone to spend more time where attractive side trips are offered and in this connection the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and other neighboring chambers can aid by making available maps and booklets detailing recreational and other attractions. E.C.F.

Many Interested In Medford

There's a touch of spring in the air, the wander bug is attacking citizens in various parts of the country and if the flow of letters to the Mail Tribune is any criterion many of the bug's victims will soon be moving in this direction.

NORMALLY this newspaper receives subscription orders from various parts of the nation in rather steady volume—not many at any one time, but a few coming in all the time. The new subscribers usually explain that they are thinking of moving to this particular locality, or at least some place "out west."

By perusing the paper they hope to gain an idea of property prices and general living and business conditions here.

Recently, however, the number of such subscriptions has markedly increased, according to Circulation Manager Gerald Latham who has submitted a few of the more pertinent ones received Saturday.

ONE from a man in Fallon, Nev., states that, having just sold his ranch, he is thinking of locating in Medford.

A Chicagoan who subscribed some time back, must have been impressed by what he read for he writes: "Please discontinue my subscription February 19. We are leaving Chicago soon and expect to be in Medford by May 1."

A Los Angeles woman wants the edition "with all the ads in it," as she is interested in the real estate situation here.

From nearer home is a subscription order from a Portland man who hopes to gain an insight on general conditions through reading the local paper.

SOME of the subscription letters include questions which require personal answers, and some are turned over to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce for answer. E.C.F.

Goodbye Garbage Man?

Jasper, Indiana, a town with 6,800 population, has given the "garbage man his walking papers," we read in a publicity release, and henceforth all garbage will be disposed of electrically. The release goes on to say that the Jasper City Council voted to suspend all municipal garbage collections and accepted a bid for installation of garbage disposal gadgets in the sinks of Jasper homes. At the same time the council passed an ordinance forbidding storage of garbage outside homes within the city limits.

ACCORDING to the publicity writer Jasper becomes the first municipality in the world to substitute electric garbage disposers for garbage cans and collection trucks. The disposers, it is claimed, will shred food waste into small particles which may then be flushed down the drain and carried away through regular sewage lines.

The new method is expected to save the town \$13,000 a year in garbage collection.

JASPER'S bold experiment in garbage disposal sounds very fine until one remembers the many things which find their way into the garbage can besides potato peelings, egg shells and burnt toast.

There is, for instance, the metal bottle caps which have completely supplanted the old fashioned cork stoppers for medicine, pop and practically all other bottles. What about the tin cans, the frozen food cartons, the bones which Rover drags in, the piles of old magazines and papers, the old shoes which Aunt Minnie left the last time she paid a visit? In fact, what about the million and one things which accumulate about a house and eventually find their way into the garbage can? E.C.F.

Budget Will Reduce
Rated Pilot Strength

Washington, Feb. 21 —(U.P.)—The air force disclosed today that past and proposed budget reductions will cut its rated pilot strength from 30,000 to 24,000 by next June 30.

Some pilots have been or will be separated from the service and some will be converted to non-flying activities, the air force said.

Including pilots, bombardiers, and non-commissioned personnel with flying ratings, the overall reduction will be from about 33,000 to 22,000 a spokesman said.

When Mr. Jones learns that there are two sides to every question, and then learns to study the other side, he will be in a much better position to tell us how to live our lives.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name is permitted. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 100 words.

Freedom of Speech

To the Editor: For the past several years, at frequent intervals, I have noticed letters in your paper by Ira C. Jones, self-styled authority on all of the ills of mankind, and with a glib solution of all of them.

He is clearly one of those individuals who hates labor and everything connected with it. According to Mr. Jones, the world is going to pot—but fast, and unless we all adopt his viewpoint, all is lost.

Freedom of speech is our natural heritage in this country of ours, but when that privilege is abused as he has abused it through your columns, I, for one, feel that someone should protest.

As to his statement that he would prefer to live in England or Russia rather than in a country ruled by "organized selfish groups," (referring to our labor unions, of course) it makes me laugh.

Perhaps he might get by as a soapbox orator on Piccadilly Circus—but Russia? Well, you tell me how long he'd last over there, unless he could take Joe Stalin's place.

When Mr. Jones learns that there are two sides to every question, and then learns to study the other side, he will be in a much better position to tell us how to live our lives.

Frank H. Gaster.

On the Side—By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Here's to the hostess who has worried all day
And trembled lest everything go
The wrong way,
May the grace of contentment possess
her at once
May her guests—and her servants—
all do the right things.
—Francis Wilson.

(How about the first time you had guests to dinner after you were married? Did everything go all right? And how about the time, if ever, you had the boss and his wife for dinner? Do you remember the clever treatment of the latter situation in Frank Craven's hilarious comedy, "The First Year"?)

Seems to be no end of the variety of the things to be sold by slot machines. Now Jane Burgess, an Indianapolis housewife, has invented an umbrella that can be sold by the slot machine method. It is designed to be used by those poor wretches who are caught in the rain minus an umbrella. It is made of waterproof paper. It is supposed to be used once and then tossed away. What the price will be I have been unable to definitely ascertain. Probably a quarter.

Oomph Girl

So some of your women readers say that though they are in their middle thirties they still get wolf whistles, writes a feminine subscriber of Milwaukee.

"And so what? With all the artificial aids there are to beauty now, there is no reason why a woman in her middle thirties, providing she has strength of character enough to retain her schoolgirl figure, should not get wolf whistles. I maintain, however, that my case is unusual. I am 52 years of age and still get wolf whistles. Maybe I am this country's oldest 'oomph girl'."

Asides

It was Clerico who advised lawyers as follows: "When you have no basis for an argument, abuse the plaintiff." On the stamp honoring Will Rogers, he is quoted as saying, "I never met a man I didn't like." I doubt I would ever said that. Anyway I know of two men he definitely didn't like and he told me so in no uncertain terms.

Asking

Queries from clients. Q. You say you spent eight years in New England, so tell us which is correct: "codfish cakes" or "cod-fish balls"? A. Both are correct. They are differently shaped. A codfish cake is flat. A codfish ball is round. Elementary, my dear sir, elementary. Q. Do you know a poem advising a young man to take up what he likes as a career, regardless of what others say?

The Grange

Gold Hill Grange

There was a large turnout for the regular meeting of Gold Hill Grange on February 16. Three officers, Mrs. Earl Edwards, Mrs. Charles Askin and Mr. Askin were absent, due to illness.

Master John Gray presented Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Bradford with a pen and pencil set, a gift from State Grange, for bringing in the most members in Gold Hill Grange in the past three months. Mrs. Dale Collins, reception chairman, was presented a guest book to be used in her work.

First and second degrees will be given at next meeting, March 2. Master Gray announced degree practice for Sunday, February 26, at 2 p.m. The tableau and chorus are also to be there.

The Red Cross drive committee includes: Sardine creek, Nora Waite; Galls creek, Mary Estramada; Old Stage road, Glenn Miller; Blackwell hill, Mrs. Reid McKay; Upper River road, Rev. H. A. Dierdorff; Lower River road, Roy Cameron.

Literary program included tableaux with songs on the sequence of life by Mrs. Albert Beman, Donna Eskew, Gail Collins, Larry Eskew, Sammy Collins, Anne Christensen, Glenn Miller, Rev. and Mrs. Dierdorff; Grange chorus, Marie Louise and Billy Jones, Verbia and Ronald Beman.

H.E.C. met at the hall February 9 with potluck lunch at noon. One quilt was finished and another started. Lucy Eddington acting chairman, presided. Word was received that Mrs. Charles Askin, H.E.C. chairman, is greatly improved and will be home soon. Cards were sent to Mr. Askin, Mrs. Mary Moore, of Wimer, who was reported in a Grants Pass hospital, Mr. Francis Sourin and Miss Ruth Kelly.

Each Grange lady is asked to bring a few sandwiches to the March meeting degree night.

PLAN CAMPAIGN

Ashland, Feb. 21—Ted Woods, area manager for the Reserve Life Insurance company of Dallas, Tex., said that plans are under way for a community enrollment campaign here. It will include a county-wide canvass of residents of Jackson county by accredited salesmen of the company. Woods said that local men are being sought as company representatives.

Dead line Sunday Classified to at Noon Saturdays.

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Published by
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An Independent Newspaper

Entered as second class matter at
Medford, Oregon, under Act of
March 3, 1897

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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History
from the files of the Mail
Tribune 10, 20 and 34 years ago

10 YEARS AGO TODAY
February 21, 1940
(It Was Wednesday)

Nineteen persons residing in
vicinity of new garbage dump
protest at meeting of city council.

St. Mary's high school basketball
team upsets Grants Pass, 30
to 29, as Jim Lewis stars for locals.

Chief McLean suggested as
possible manager for Medford
Craters in State Baseball league
this year.

Vernon M. Evans placed in
charge of Eads Transfer here.

Dr. Edwin B. Durno elected
president of Southern Oregon
Medical Service association.

20 YEARS AGO TODAY
February 21, 1930
(It Was Friday)

Beck's bakery, North River-
side avenue, holds open house.

City to observe Washington's
birthday tomorrow with closing
of banks and barbershops, and
a golf tournament.

Chicago jobless start riots and
many heads bumped in battle
with police.

New Medford booklet planned
to give data on city's water
purity and taste.

Council expected to modify
city milk ordinance shortly.

34 YEARS AGO TODAY
February 21, 1916
(It Was Sunday)

Old Brantner placer mine on
Applegate river again put in
operation; rich strike reported
along Birdseye creek.

OAC basketball team, one of
the best on the coast, to play
local high school quintet Monday
here.

Peter Applegate, son of famous
Oregon pioneer and for long time
a county or state office holder,
dies in Central Point.

Alternate Capital
Plans Disclosed

Washington, Feb. 21 —(U.P.)—Sen. Millard E. Tydings (D., Md.) today disclosed existence of plans to set up an alternate capital that could take over if Washington was wiped out in an atomic blitz.

Chairman of the senate armed services committee, Tydings said the proposals are being studied by military experts and that he would like to see them brought forward "in a concrete form."

He said this might be done in a resolution Rep. Chet Holifield (D., Cal.) planned to introduce today. It would authorize creation of a special commission, representing all branches of the government, to study proposals for an alternate capital and plans to replace key officials who might be killed in an attack.

Descendants of 11 chinchillas brought with great difficulty from the high Andes to the United States in 1923 are now so numerous that they stock hundreds of chinchilla ranches currently operating in this country.

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