

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

In an editorial, the Salem Statesman says: "Periodically for years persons in public life have cited the waste inherent in the 36 separate county governments in Oregon. Whereas once county seats were a day's travel or more from county hinterlands, few persons now are more than a few hours away from their home governments, mostly only a few minutes. But the 36 divisions persist.

"The same clinging to 'home rule' applied to schools for many years, and still does in many instances. But just as school districts are realizing more and more the necessity for merger, so eventually will counties. So Governor Hatfield certainly is not out of line in his suggestion for fewer counties, as voiced this week before the League of Oregon Cities convention in Portland."

THE pendulum swings. The counties of Oregon were once immense. These were Wasco, for example. When it was created, January 11, 1854, it comprised all the area of Oregon territory between the Cascades and the Rockies. The name, incidentally, is said to be derived from an Indian word meaning "small bowl of horn." Wasco county was anything but a "small bowl" a century ago.

THEN there is Jackson. When it was created, on January 12, 1852, it comprised all that part of Oregon west of the Cascades and between the south boundary of Umpqua county and the northern boundary of California. Most of present-day Josephine and Curry counties have been taken out of original Jackson. Later Jackson county's boundaries were stretched across the Cascades to include what is now Klamath and Lake. This eastern area was in time split off to form Lake county. Still later, Klamath county was carved out of Lake.

While we're on that subject, it is worth mentioning that on the very early maps all of Northwestern California was shown as Klamath county. This vast area included roughly the entire drainage basin of the Klamath river.

Crook county once included an immense chunk of what is now generally known as Central Oregon. The glamorous seat of this mighty cattle empire was Prineville, which

shared with Lakeview the glory of being the big cow towns. In later years, Deschutes and Jefferson counties were carved out of Crook.

SO IT WAS in the beginning. The counties were big—and the people were wide. Their horizons were wide. They were accustomed to the wide open spaces. One guesses they thought big—at least so far as space was concerned. And, besides, GOVERNMENT wasn't a very big item in their lives. If they visited the seat of it two or three times a year, it was enough. Keeping government as far away as possible probably suited them.

THERE came then—some three or four decades ago—a change. More towns grew up. These newer towns realized that county government was GOOD FOR BUSINESS. It brought people to the county seat. While there, they did a lot of trading. So—these newer towns wanted to be county seats.

The result of that was a rash of county division proposals—of which the proposal to carve Nesmith county out of southern Lane, with Cottage Grove as its seat, probably generated the most heat. As a battle, it was a BATTLE. But it failed—and Cottage Grove is probably now just as happy that it did. Two county seats instead of one would mean more taxes—and in these days taxes BITE.

The carving of Jefferson county out of Crook included opera-bouffe highlights. Rival towns picked up buildings in the dead of night and moved them back and forth. It was quite a ruckus, taking it by and large.

DOUBTLESS, as the Statesman suggests, it would be a good idea if the pendulum swung again, back toward FEWER county seats. Government costs money, and the more seats of government we have, presumably, the higher the COST of government.

But I have an idea that if such were attempted a lot of blood would be spilled on the moon.

SUPREME COURT MEETS—Washington—UPI—The Supreme Court meets briefly today to act on recently filed appeals before taking a two-week recess for opinion writing.

U.S. Voting Machine Interests Average Viewer in Russia

London—UPI—Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev snubbed him pointedly. Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia was coldly formal.

And Arthur Darby of New York returned to the West convinced that the secret ballot will remain a Western prerogative until the summit melts.

Like the legendary salesman who took refrigerators to the eskimos, Darby took a bona-fide American voting machine into Communist eastern Europe.

The idea was to show the rest of the world how the American voter records his choice in secret—and in safety.

Darby set up the Shoup voting machine exhibit at the U.S. fair in Moscow and on opening day awaited Khrushchev's arrival.

"The Premier came beaming along the various stands until he was a few yards from my exhibit," Darby recalled. "Then he spun his heel and snapped, 'This machine does not interest me.' And off he went."

The rest of the Russians that day mostly took their cue from the Soviet leader but as time went by more and more of them, overcome by curiosity, demanded to know how the gadget worked. Among them were many planted hecklers, Darby believes.

"These characters would ask questions like 'How many of these are in use in Washington, D.C.?' There is no vote in Washington, of course. Or, 'Can Negroes use these, too?'"

Darby said that when the hecklers became too persistent it was the other Russians who shouted them down.

"I was astonished—and pleased that this should be so," he said. "We had the Russians vote on the machine but only for such innocuous things as their favorite author and the place they would like to visit."

(Mark Twain was voted favorite author, New York City the place they would most like to visit.)

Darby duly reported his experiences to the Shoup organization in New York and was instructed nevertheless to take his machines to the Zagreb International Fair in Communist Yugoslavia. Marshal Tito, who opened the fair, looked at the voting machine but made no comment.

"It seemed to me he was a lot friendlier while examining the other exhibits," said the intrepid salesman.

As in Russia, the Yugoslavs were given such harmless questions—at the request of the U.S. State Department as who was their favorite film star. (Doris Day was the surprise, runaway choice.)

There were also questions about books and artists. Darby still chuckles about the Yugoslav woman who read the list and then said thoughtfully:

"Why don't you try to get people interested in using this kind of machine for political elections?"

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LOST—Pr. of glasses in Dead Indian area. SP 3-1625.

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FOR SALE—Youths bed with BO-Peep mattress, like new. Also child's chest of drawers. Call MU 2-6911 exts.

FOR SALE—Double concrete laundry trays, with fittings. 14 Hawthorne.

WANTED—Housekeeper. Home nights. 2 adults. SP 3-1910.

WANTED—Rent or lease: 2- or 3-bdrm. house. Jefferson School dist. preferred. SP 2-9926.

FOR SALE—Or will trade for trailer house: new 2-bdrm. house unfinished on half acre lots of trees, small creek. Call owner SP-3-1143.

FOR SALE—Good locker beef. MU 9-7749.

FOR RENT—2-bdrm. house. SP-2-8138 after 3:30.

NOTICE: Have old house to be removed. Call H. C. Witham, SP-3-6291.

BLOX—2' Planer ends. Big Loads. MEDFORD FUEL—Tel. SP 2-2111

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They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



BOMB INJURED 14 Algiers—UPI—Fourteen persons were injured Sunday when a terrorist-planted bomb exploded in a movie house during a showing of the Marilyn Monroe picture, "Some Like It Hot." Police were holding four Moslem

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