

From Oregon's Press

Oregon's newspapers are, generally, vigorous and well-edited. The following are editorials, articles or column comment from various Oregon papers, quoted either in full or in part, and selected because of their general interest. Their publication does not imply either approval or disapproval on the part of the Mail Tribune of the opinions given.

Dear Congressman

Bev, sharpen your pencil and get an asbestos notebook. There's a letter that cries to be written. Ready?

This is to the Honorable Charles O. Porter, House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. Dear Charlie. No. Make that Dear Congressman Porter. This is far from a friendly letter.

On today's editorial page of the Register-Guard, A. Robert Smith writes that you are going ahead with your idiotic scheme to run a chairlift from the rim of Crater Lake down to the water.

Go bother Trujillo, why don't you. Go junketing off to Formosa. Threaten somebody to a debate. Resurrect Al Sena. Find something else to do. Write letters to your constituents, if need be. But in the name of all that's sacred about our national parks, leave Crater Lake alone.

It isn't even in your district. It's in Al Ullman's. Sign that. "Formerly yours." - Register-Guard, Eugene.

Wishful Wonderland

It's funny how tired you can get of something after seeing it once. We've glimpsed only one of the new Oregon license plates, and already we feel as though we've been staring at them for years.

These are the plates with that inspired slogan, "Pacific Wonderland," ordered crowded onto the plates by the last Legislature.

The idea, of course, is to convince people as you pass them at 90 that they should spend their dollars here.

If this works, we have suggestions for license plates of the future. "Crowded but Quiet" should do for the mid-60s. "Lovely If Littered" might be just the thing for the end of the decade. And a simple "No Vacancy" will suffice for the 70s.

Actually, this license plate slogan idea is so great there's no reason why it should be limited to the states, and the provinces of Canada.

Why not countries? "You'll Get a Boot Out of Italy." "Laos, Jungle Wonderland." "Malaya, Land of Enchantment."

Or islands? "You'll Want to Come Back to Baffin." "Tierra del Fuego - It's Not Far." "Send Mom to Guam." "Come to Attu." "Get Your Kicks in Kiska." "Every Day's a Holiday on Easter Island."

Since we can't leave Oregon right now to work on these campaigns, we'll busy ourselves setting up a test case. Is it illegal to use tinsnips on a license plate? - Capital Journal, Salem.

Premature Applause
One is inclined to be gratified by the conviction in a New York federal court of 20 underworld leaders on charges of conspiracy. Beyond a reasonable doubt, all of the defendants richly deserve the stiff sentences imposed, and probably more.

Even so, there are aspects of the case that are disturbing. Despite the scarlet characters ascribed to the 20, the government was forced to acknowledge that it could not pin an overt, indictable offense on any. The prosecution was forced to break new ground in indicting, in effect, for a conspiracy of silence with respect to the purpose of the celebrated meeting of underworld chiefs at Apalachin, N. Y., in November, 1957.

A defendant cannot be forced to testify against himself because of the provisions of the Fifth Amendment. But it now appears that he may yet be brought to book along with others if there can be shown to have been a conspiracy to withhold testimony.

Well and good in this particular instance, but we shudder to think how that same principle might be employed by an unscrupulous government.

Nor does there appear to be adequate reason for the bouquets passed around among law enforcement officers for the denouement of the Apalachin case. What it means is that law enforcement-local, state and federal—failed over a period of many years to arrange these men for their unlawful acts. We do not doubt the existence of such acts, but they have not been proved in court.

One recalls the sorry fact that multi-murderer Al Capone finally had to be brought down by the income tax law. Now his successors are tripped on a technicality that may not stand up on appeal.

Morse in Lead

For Primary Vote
Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) will walk away with the Democratic presidential primaries in Oregon if the Statesman's Ballot Box participants have their way.

Of Democrats who voted, 50.37 per cent chose Morse, with Sen. John Kennedy of Massachusetts next.

Republicans who voted gave 30.76 per cent of their votes to Kennedy, with Stevenson next, Morse third. The Republicans can't vote in the Democratic primaries but their opinion will have a considerable bearing on what happens at the general election in November.

Of the combined Democratic and Republican votes tallied by The Statesman Ballot Box, 38.31 per cent were for Morse, with Kennedy next.

Percentages Given
Here's how the vote tallied percentage-wise:

	Demo- crats voted	Repub- licans voted	Total voted
Humphrey...	4.51	6.43	5.96
Johnson	3.01	14.10	7.66
Kennedy	21.80	30.76	25.12
Morse	50.37	19.23	38.31
Stevenson	18.05	25.64	19.57
Symington	2.26	3.84	3.38

100 - 100 - 100 - The vote was in response to The Statesman's Ballot Box question broached last week: "Whom among potential Democratic candidates do you favor for president?"

The six listed were Sens. Morse, Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, Lyndon Johnson, Stuart Symington and former Gov. Adlai Stevenson.

All except Humphrey and Johnson received second-choice votes, too. - Oregon Statesman, Salem.

A New University
A new University of Oregon seems to be emerging. This is the word from the Eugene campus from both faculty and students. The "new" university is more inclined to the intellectual than the old.

After the influx of veterans following World War II, the university went into an enrollment decline, contrasted by Oregon State's constantly climbing number of students.

Low salaries cost the university some outstanding professors, who left for better paid positions, mostly in California schools.

This out-flow of brain power from the faculty was halted at least temporarily by the pay raise granted two years ago by the legislature. After a low point in enrollment in 1955, the number of students gained steadily every year.

But, this year has seen an explosion. Enrollment jumped to over 6,700 students (while Oregon State dropped in numbers), causing a housing shortage and also stimulating competition. Bright new faculty members have joined the ranks of old timers, causing a new exciting intellectual air.

But what is even more important is that the students are taking their university work seriously. Study facilities are crowded every day and evening. The good student has joined the ranks of campus wheels.

Administration, faculty and students are all excited by the new atmosphere and the promise it holds. After standing still for a while, the university is once again progressing.

And finally, Oregon is losing its reputation as a "play-boy" school, a name which has never really deserved. Any student can play a game at most any college, if he wishes.

All this is most pleasant for the taxpayer of the state to note. An average of 43 per cent of all high school graduates in the state of Oregon go on for some type of higher education (a record which almost equals Russia's and is one of the highest in the nation.) It's reassuring to know that Oregon is providing a great university for its students. - Argus - Observer, Ontario.

'Fattest, Most Smug...
"We are not bankrupt, but we do look as if we are determined to end up the richest, fattest, most smug and complacent people who ever failed to meet the test of survival. In air-conditioned splendor, we may be heading for the last roundup. The real hope and expectation of the Soviet Union, Mr. President, is not that the U. S. will spend itself into bankruptcy but that it will suffocate in its own fat."
"If the American people really understood their predicament, I believe they would prefer to survive poor than to

die rich. I believe they would prefer to go to work in a Lark than to their funeral in a Cadillac. . . I am sure they would prefer to pay more taxes, if necessary, than to default to the Soviet Union. . . We spend far more on motorcars, cosmetics and advertising than the Russians but less than they do on education, power-plants and factories."

Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, in speech in Senate, quoted in Oregon Education.

Good Government Hit By Ruling of Court
The Supreme Court ruling of yesterday, in the test case involving the right of the legislature to raise its annual pay is—although we are sure it was not intended to be—a blow at the cause of good government in Oregon.

There is doubt the court had any choice in the ruling. Between the state constitution and the results of a number of attempts to get the people to raise the pay scale at election time, the course was fixed. This is true even though members of the court, as individuals, must have known the effect of the ruling.

The decision means that Oregon will continue to be served by subsidized legislators or rich men. And this is not right.

Oregon pays legislators \$600 per year. On this amount a member of either house is expected to live in Salem for four or five months every other year, at the same time maintaining his regular home.

He also is required to take additional time off from his job or business between sessions, to serve on the interim committees which do much of the state's legislative studying.

The 1959 legislature had attempted to improve this situation by raising pay of members to \$2,100 per year. The bill was allowed to become law without Governor Hatfield's signature, and Secretary of State Howell Appling refused to pay the increase until the court ruling.

Other than the rich, about the only men and women who can serve the state in the legislature are those whose employers are willing to keep them on the payroll, or those who can be subsidized by some special interest or the other.

Wealth does not always connote ability. In this area, each political party has had frequent trouble getting a good candidate for ballot vacancies in legislative spots.

And, with what seems to be the inevitable annual increase in the cost of living, combined with a substantial, but fixed, pay scale, the situation does not seem likely to improve. - Bend Bulletin.

Holmes Elected Director of Bank
David H. Holmes, president of Harry and David, Medford, was elected to the board of directors of the Rogue Valley State bank recently, Clarence H. Young, president of the bank, has announced.

Bank officers, in addition to Young, include Ron E. Gordon and Pierce, vice presidents; Raymond E. Rieger, cashier; Gertrude F. McCorkle, assistant cashier; Glenn Lusk, manager, East Medford branch; and Robert A. Flora, assistant manager of East Medford branch.

Reiger was promoted to cashier to replace Neal A. Curry, who resigned recently. Flora was promoted to assistant manager of the bank's branch in the Medford Shopping Center area.

Young's report to stockholders noted the satisfactory growth during 1959 and he expressed optimism for continued growth and good business conditions for the county this year.

Earthquakes Rock San Diego Area
San Diego, Calif. (UPI)—Two sharp earthquakes rocked the San Diego area Thursday but caused no reported damage.

Seismologist Fred Robinson said the first tremor hit at 2:21 p.m., followed by another shock at 3:53 p.m. Both quakes registered less than three on a scale of twelve. It was estimated they were centered 55 miles northeast of here.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

INTERVIEWED ON his hundredth birthday, spry old Jed Abernathy told reporters, "See no reason why I shouldn't live another hundred years to boot." "You'd be about the first human since Methu-

selah to make it," a reporter said. "I know," nodded Jed, "but there's one thing in my favor: I feel a dang sight stronger starting my second hundred than I did my first!"



Three cellmates in a Soviet hosogow compared notes. "I was jailed for coming late to work," mourned the first. "Me, I came too early," recalled the second. "They said this proved I was a capitalist spy."

"And I'm here," nodded the third, "because I arrived exactly on time. They accused me of owning an American watch."

One more evidence of inflation: Today, when you tell a girl friend she looks like a million dollars, she thinks you're insulting her!

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VA Budget Reflects Relative Balance in Benefit Programs

The Veterans administration budget request for fiscal year 1961 reflects a relative balance between expanding and declining veterans benefit programs, according to Sumner G. Whittier, administrators of veterans affairs.

The total VA budget request for the new fiscal year is \$5,463,845,000, he said, and represents an increase of slightly less than 6 per cent over the \$5,156,721,000 appropriated last year.

After reaching a peak of \$8,352,909,655 in 1947, sums appropriated for veterans benefits and services declined gradually to a point during the last five years when appropriations ranged between \$4.8 billion and \$5.5 billion, he said.

Largest Single Item
The largest single item in the new budget request, he said, is \$3,840,000,000 for compensation and pension payments to veterans and dependents, an increase of \$435 million over the 1960 figure. The increase is attributable to the addition of veterans and dependents to the pension rolls, including some 277,000 veterans, widows and children expected to become eligible under provisions of a new pension bill enacted last August, Whittier said.

The administrator noted that the estimated total requirements in the field of readjustment benefits will be \$175 million less than the current year because of a declining workload forecast, which current trends indicate to be realistic.

Among these, he said, is an estimated decrease of about 100,000 in the number of Korean conflict veterans in vocational rehabilitation and education programs. The readjustment benefit requests in the new budget is \$410 million, compared to \$585 million a year ago.

Operating Expenses
General operating expenses have been reduced more than \$12 million as a result of reduced workloads and management economy, including the application of automatic data processing equipment in the veterans GI insurance program. The budget request is \$154,054,000 this year, compared to \$166,190,000 in 1960.

The amount requested for general operating expenses, Whittier explained, is a little less than 3 per cent of the total VA budget.

The recommended appropriations of \$903,502,000 for inpatient and outpatient care reflects about a 2 per cent increase. This will make possible some increase in the average daily patient hospitalization load, he said.

A significant feature of the requested medical funds per-

tains to improved staffing ratios in veterans hospitals which directly relate to an improvement of the veterans administration medical care, Whittier said. Last year the proposed requirements were \$882,271,000.

Veterans Insurance
Another program expected to show a decline involves veterans insurance and indemnities. This program is expected to reflect a reduction of \$4.2 million compared to last year, Whittier said. Present request is \$48,800,000, while a year ago it was \$53 million.

The veterans administration budget foresees the need for funds amounting to \$75 million for the planned and orderly modernization and replacement of some existing obsolete VA hospitals. This proposed figure, he said, reflecting \$43 million more than construction funds a year ago, is part of a long range \$900 million plan to be extended over a 12-year period. This year's request, Whittier added, would initiate the program.

YMCA Open House Set This Afternoon
The annual Young Men's Christian association's open house will be held between 2 and 5 o'clock this afternoon at the Medford YMCA.

Demonstrations of the Y's facilities will be given, and social functions are planned throughout the afternoon. A music program will be provided, as will refreshments, square dancing in the social hall and free swimming.

Robert L. Jones, secretary of the Y, said the purpose is to encourage persons to become acquainted with the people and facilities that are provided through the YMCA, and entire families have been invited to attend open house.

Greeters and ushers will be available to meet and guide visitors through the building and discuss activities.

Growth Illustrated By Real Estate Sales
The growth of the western state was illustrated in 1959 by Strout Realty sales records, according to K. H. Myers, president. The western states division of the firm set a new high record with sales volume of \$25,324,485, he said.

The increase was about 37 per cent over the 1958 level, and was the largest gain shown by any Strout territory, Myers said. The Strout Realty office here is at 938 South Riverside ave.

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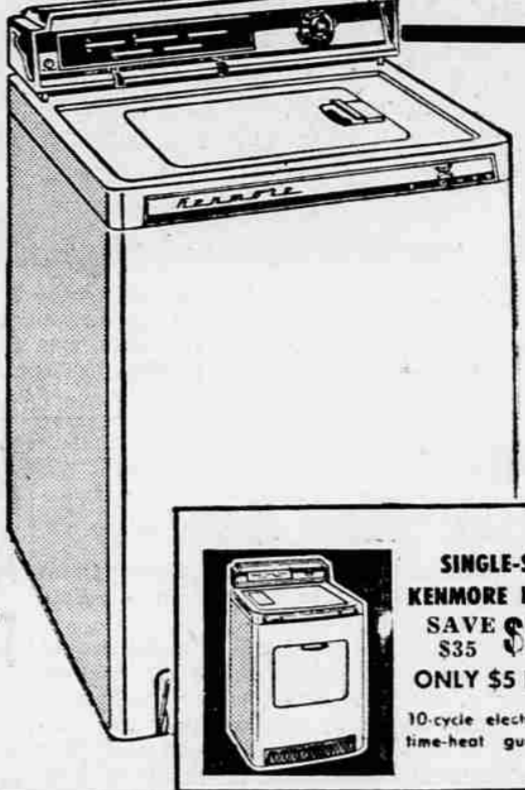
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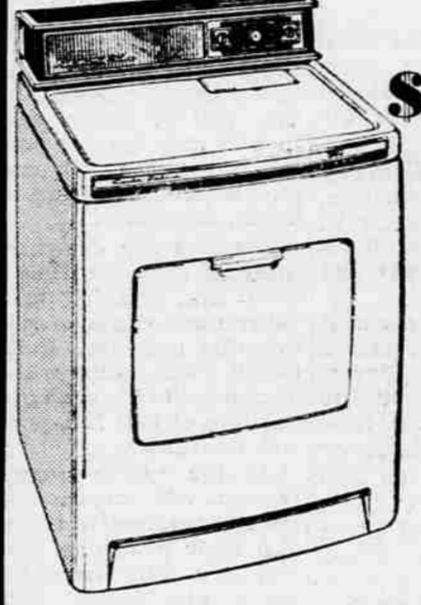
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