

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.

THERE IS HOPE

We are the problem drinking patients of the Oregon State Hospital at Salem, Oregon. Sometimes, we are called "Alcoholics," once we were. We are here to become free of the problem of drinking. We want to never again know that cloudy, dazed, fuzzy mind and sick body that alcohol creates and the troubles it brings. We want to know good health again, to return to our families and friends and to acquire new friends and a wider interest in life. To restore us as we once were is our object and the object of the Staff of the Hospital.

Knowledge of propensities of alcohol and of our own personal problem is the first big step we have to take. To this end we have meetings, lectures, forums and conferences with staff psychiatrists. The spontaneous conversations between patients and the reading of books and articles contribute a great deal to our knowledge of alcohol and of ourselves. Yet, all this would be lost if we did not have hope that we can be cured of the problem of drinking.

Alcoholism is a sickness. It is as real as measles, mumps, tuberculosis, heart trouble or jaundice. It has been estimated that there are between four million and four million five hundred thousand persons suffering from this sickness in the United States and more and more join the ranks each year as the population increases and as indulgence in alcohol spreads. We are not alone. However, we do live in the shadows of those who have gone before us and of those who are coming to join us. The former, at least, have contributed to our knowledge of this sickness.

For more than four thousand years of recorded time and until comparatively recently alcoholism was regarded as a practically hopeless sickness. It was hopeless because the only treatment the alcoholic got was being scorned by more fortunate people, being called a "drunken sot" and an "alcoholic bum." He was shunned by society and regularly tossed into jail. He was shamed and brought shame upon his family. No one understood or offered a helping hand. The hopeless alcoholic sunk deeper into the pit of hopelessness.

We are fortunate that we live in these times. Beginning with the 19th century addiction to alcohol gradually became to be regarded as a sickness that could be beaten. Many, many thousands of those suffering from it have beat it and returned to the health and happiness which the sickness deprived them and then ruined their lives. It cannot be "cured" in the manner of other sicknesses; no splint will heal its pangs. There is no vaccination against it. There is no antidote for alcohol except more alcohol. There are no magic words, pills or simple vases that will beat it for us. These are basic truths. It is a basic truth, too, that the sickness can be beaten.

The alcoholic who has been restored to society can never again drink alcohol. It has become to him, a poison-slow, sure, effective. It is not a merciful poison; there is no quick end. However, an alcoholic can learn that he does not need alcohol. He can come not to want it. With knowledge he can reach a point where he never again will drink alcohol. Many, many thousands have.

Alcoholism can be beaten, perhaps even prevented, only by knowing the complete facts about this ruinous, insidious sickness and how to overcome it. It is for this purpose we have come to the Oregon State Hospital. "On Center," publication by, for and about alcoholics, published at the Oregon State Hospital, Salem.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This is an election year and we've got to expect some nonsense. A little nonsense is all right in an election year if the people who dish it out and those to whom it is fed recognize that it's strictly nonsense.

Some of the strongest doses of non-sense are administered by party officials. Thus, it was the Oregon state chairman of the Republican Party who insisted it was wrong for the late Sen. Richard Neuberger to write for magazines and newspapers in his spare time.

And now comes the national Republican committee chairman for Oregon, Mrs. Collis Moore, with the charge that "foreigners" are trying to "buy" the election of a United States Senator. Mrs. Moore

is speaking of financial gifts which Maurine Neuberger has received from outside Oregon to further her campaign for the seat her husband held.

Sen. Neuberger was a prominent man who had prominent friends throughout the country. It is those friends who are trying to assist Mrs. Neuberger in her campaign by giving her a little cash, of which she has almost none. Friendship is involved here and so is the fact that those people have reason to believe Mrs. Neuberger would further programs her husband began, programs they stoutly support.

Mrs. Moore knows, of course, that there's nothing wrong with this. Funds come into this state every election year for candidates for national offices. When they come in this year from some big corporations for Mrs. Neuberger's opponent, Elmo Smith, will Mrs. Moore insist that they be returned? What do you think?—Pendleton East Oregonian.

IT DID HAPPEN HERE

One would say, it can't happen in Oregon. But it did. A Negro family is building a new house in a Portland suburb. The board of Richland Water District suddenly discovered it needed the lot they had purchased and started to condemn it. Federal Judge William East blocked this move. Sunday night arsonists set fire to the half-completed home. Undaunted by this, the owner, Rowan M. Wiley, said he would rebuild right away. Fortunately for him the loss was covered by insurance.

When we read of bombs thrown at dwellings of Negroes or swastika signs made on Jewish synagogues usually such incidents are at distant places. We are sure Oregon people are more tolerant, more mature in their thinking. Evidently this confidence is excessive, as the Wiley case attests.

Why, one may ask, does Wiley persist in trying to locate in a district where he and his family are not wanted? It is the desperate effort of the colored race to break out of the ghetto or "pale." Some families have to endure the scorn and the hurt to establish themselves as citizens free to reside where their tastes prefer and their purses permit. This breakout is necessary if the Negro race is to enjoy equality of opportunity and have a chance to rise in the social and economic scale. Oregonians of the Caucasian race must learn to accept as equals and as neighbors persons of different color, just as Americans are learning to end discrimination on grounds of religion.

A group in the Richland Water District has organized to defend the Wileys in their rights and to welcome them as neighbors when they move into their house. This attitude is not only more in accord with the principle of human brotherhood, but is far more realistic for the age in which we now are living.—Oregon Statesman, Salem.

WHY PLAYGROUNDS?

Some oldtimers complain that "we didn't need expensive fenced-off parks to play in when we were kids—nor paid city employees to tell us how to play, either."

These critics seem to forget that today's youngsters have few empty fields, old barns or tree-houses at their disposal. They fail to consider handicaps put on kid's play opportunities by whizzing auto traffic, pollution of

streams and ponds and other adult depredations.

Actually, it's questionable whether enough can be done to compensate our youngsters for the fun-robbing consequences of what adults call "progress." City parks and playgrounds are pallid substitutes for primeval glens, mysterious thickets and adventure-filled groves. Concrete swimming pools are safer, but muddy-bottomed swimming holes were never so crowded.

As the cartoon on this page today indicates, Eugene's neighborhood parks are numerous. And youngsters are swarming to them daily. But there are several populous sectors where the city hasn't yet been able to develop suitable playgrounds. Those who scoff at the wisdom of further expanding the neighborhood playgrounds system should go now to see what rich returns the taxpayers are getting from previous investments in this system. Let them measure these dividends in terms of youthful laughter, scampering and obvious delight. Let them then consider whether or not they feel the city has gone far enough in providing suitable substitutes for pleasures of youth they knew themselves—and which their own generation despised. And, let them reflect upon why they didn't need expensive fenced-off parks and playground supervisors. And why today's youngsters need them in every neighborhood.—Eugene Register-Guard.

Portland Sanitary Hearing Sought

Portland — (AP) — Harold F. Wendel, chairman of the State Sanitary Authority, said Wednesday the authority will seek "an immediate hearing" in its water pollution suit against the city of Portland.

The statement by Wendel followed a Tuesday meeting in Salem with Gov. Mark Hatfield and Curtis M. Everts Jr., state sanitary engineer and authority secretary. The suit asks a court order which would require Portland to halt the dumping of raw or inadequately treated sewage into the Columbia and Willamette rivers. The suit also asks that Portland be compelled to undertake construction of proper sewage collection and treatment facilities.

Opinion Directs Court to Pay Fee

A legal opinion from the district attorney's office Friday directed the county court to pay the contractor for part of the construction of the new 4-H and FFA fair building.

Through an oversight, the county court neglected to carry over into the new fiscal year \$26,000 in the capital improvements fund. This money will be used to pay part of the \$72,000 total estimated cost of the new fair building, County Commissioner Ralph James said.

The building had been scheduled for completion by July 1, beginning of the new fiscal year, but construction was delayed, James explained.

Portland — (AP) — Mrs. Maurine Neuberger, Democratic nominee for U.S. Senator from Oregon, will leave by plane Sunday night for Los Angeles and the Democratic National Convention. She will take part in the Women's Day activities there on opening day Monday.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

AT ONE OF THOSE lavish, cost-be-damned parties in Hollywood, relates Cynthia Lindsay, the host courted disaster when he hung cages of white doves overhead in the ballroom for decoration.

The warmth of the lights confused the birds into thinking it was morning, and they started to lay eggs on the guests.

The stingiest man in Long Island had nightly, violent fights with his wife that intrigued the whole neighborhood. One evening he made a new series of accusations while standing in front of the big picture window in their living room. Wife suddenly seized an iron poker and prepared to throw it at him. The tightwad blanched, threw a protective arm across the window and implored, "Susan! For heaven's sake don't miss me!"

Back from South Korea, a traveler confided that Syngman Rhee had a most influential post to the end. He was the park commissioner.

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7-9

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