

Poets' Corner

Conducted by
Arnold Eugene Jenny

Good Poetry

All good poetry deals with what is of universal import. Another mark of poetry is sincerity. No writer who lacks honest conviction produces poetry of high merit. . . . The poet who is sincere approaches his subject with freshness and vitality, even when his theme is old. Also the person who is writing merely to be clever rarely produces a poem of worth.

—Gerald Sanders

Freedom

An Experiment in Composite Free Verse*

Freedom of a nation—
a God-sent gift—
is fashioned in the minds of men.

Freedom is for the Brave,
the fundamental Right
of all to live
a full life
in the house of the godly—
to say and think as one sees fit
in the unbounded universe,
where actions and words
remain unfettered

Freedom of the Spirit
may at last triumph
when a blood-drenched flag
pulses with the wind
over the broken bodies
of men.

Freedom,
once gained by those now old
can be lost by those now young;
but
the Seed of Freedom—
once planted in the heart of Man—
can never die!

S.K.

*Students in Dr. Leon C. Mulling's high school class in creative writing at Southern Oregon College were asked to submit one original poetic line on the subject of Freedom. Results were edited to form this poem. Initials indicate the work of Ken Stevenson, Elaine Meads, Peggy Parsons, Janet Miller-Ashland; John Champ, Ruby Laws, Leslie Dewey-Crater; Vicki Brumback, Bill Dames, Nancy Duncan, Sue Scott, Sherry Kobluk-Medford; Lanny Parsons-Rogue River; Mark Flint-Lake Creek.

On a Chapel Door*

Here is a quiet room.
Pause for a little space
And in the deepening gloom,
With hands before thy face,
Pray for God's grace.

Let no unholy thought
Enter thy musing mind;
Things that the world has wrought
Unclean, untrue, unkind,
Leave them behind.

Pray for the strength of God,
Strength to obey His plan.
Rise from thy knees less clad
Than when thy prayer began,
More of a man.

—Anon.

*In the YMCA building, Hartford, Conn.

I Love a Maid

I love a maid, an artless child
With sweetly curving smile,
And dancing eyes in visage mild;
Would that she stay awhile!

But lass she is, for, all in truth,
A fickle one she be;
Thus, change she must her frock of youth
For gown maturity.

—Ellen Montgomery*

Medford

*Senior, Medford Senior High School.

On Nonpartisan Election

To the Editor: It seems to me that nonpartisan election of county officials as proposed in the new charter is a good idea. The nonpartisan system is very common in all but the largest cities and works very well. County government is more like city than national government.

Party labels help us decide how to vote in national elections because they give us an idea how candidates stand on tariffs, trade agreements, foreign aid, the national budget, public or private power, and school aid. These issues have very little to do with county government.

When we choose county officials we look for honesty, common sense, business ability, knowledge of the county and devotion to its welfare. I do not think either party has a monopoly on these qualities.

It is true that parties have money and organization to help candidates campaign. But I wonder how often these resources are used to pay off political debts, further political ambitions, or strengthen the party. When we vote, we ought to use our own best judgment of candidates and not let party labels do our thinking for us.

Mary Alice Moore
(Mrs. Donald Moore)
496 Beach st.
Ashland, Ore.

Have Nothing to Fear

To the Editor: It is surprising that the editor of the "Ashland Daily Tidings" should think that the advocates of the home rule charter are "running scared." The only people running scared are a handful of local politicians who are afraid they have no real qualifications for the technical jobs they seek.

The charter advocates have nothing to fear, but a great deal to hope for. They believe that under the charter we will have a more efficient and economical government, more directly responsive to the will of the voters of Jackson county.

The personal property tax delinquency story was a dandy example of just what can go wrong under the present system. Naturally, the

charter advocates jumped on it, and naturally some present office holders thought they were being personally attacked. This is emphatically not so, and especially as regards the present members of the county court. One thing that is clear about this mess is that the county court has no responsibility for it.

But under the charter the board of commissioners would indeed be responsible to the people of Jackson county that taxes should be collected as prescribed by state law, and that the people who do pay their taxes would not, as at present, have to pick up the tab for those who don't.

Cynthia Lord
588 Beach st.
Ashland, Ore.

Dogs and the Charter

To the Editor: Just a reminder:

Say, you people of Central Point, if you want dog control now is the time to get it. Just turn out and vote for it. It will be on the ballot this coming election, so turn out and vote.

And furthermore, you better wake up and vote this home rule down. If you don't, you just as well be in Russia. We have already had too much dictating to put up with already. You better find out what they are doing in some other parts of the country. If this goes through you will have to abide by what they tell you what to do and what not to do. So you better wake up and vote it down and elect some good men to office and stop all of this.

D. F. Perkins,
Box 514,
Central Point, Ore.



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... Communications ...

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

From A Proud Mother

To the Editor: Just a note to express my views on the parade and the majorettes that upset Mrs. Spackman so.

I happen to be the proud mother of one of the little Jackson County Sweethearts, and I thought they and all the rest of the majorettes were wonderful.

How could you tell whether the old men she spoke of were drooling over the girls or if they tapped their fingers out of habit? A lot of old people have habits such as that. If it is true what she thinks, the girls could wear an old sack clear down to their feet and they'd have the same thoughts.

I don't remember reading where the little children that have been found mutilated and murdered had been wearing anything other than plain school clothes. Also, I don't remember any old men involved.

Could it be that ugly thoughts are read into things that aren't really there? Makes me wonder if the old men or the viewer were having the wrong thoughts.

Hurray for all the majorettes and their pretty costumes.

Mrs. Alvy Kendall
3306 Snowy Butte Rd.
Medford.

Never Another

To the Editor: The next time someone thinks up such a hoax as the Blossom Bucks I hope I am not stupid enough to fall for it. You save carefully, and even buy more than you should, and finally acquire a couple of hundred blossom bucks. At the parade you get a few more that have been thrown to the winds, and happily go to the park to hope for some small reward for your efforts. The slobber tones of the auctioneer sound off 6,000-8,000-10,000. You go home with nothing and thoroughly disgusted. Blossom Bucks are only for the rich—I hope they never have another one!!!

Mrs. S. L. Teel
409 North Central ave.
Medford.

The Only Issue

To the Editor: An open letter to the supporters of Stephens for Sheriff.

You are right, my husband, Harold Ottosen, is not a professional politician. If this be a crime, then he is guilty. He is merely a hard working, honest citizen with a lot of experience in law enforcement work, who wants to serve his community in a way for which he is particularly suited.

In common with many other residents of this Valley, he has to earn his living by working a great deal at night, which explains why he has been unable to attend a great many evening affairs.

You are also right that his campaign manager is a Republican. If it be a crime for a Republican to support the candidate he conscientiously feels best qualified for public office, then yes, Mr. Crews is also guilty.

However, we don't feel these are the real issues at stake in any election. The real issue is, who is the candidate best qualified to serve the public interests, and I would like to issue a plea to all to keep the issue on this basis, leaving personalities and emotions out of it. We have great respect for Mr. Stephens as a man and as a candidate and in no way wish to insult him or his supporters. We merely want to remind you all that we sincerely feel my husband is an even better qualified man to serve in the office of sheriff, due to his particular background and experience. We would like to ask the voters to decide the issue strictly on this basis.

We would like to thank everyone who has given my husband support and encouragement and proof that true democracy is still very much alive in this country and is bigger than partisan politics.

Mrs. Harold Ottosen
109 Geneva st.
Medford

Not His Privilege

To the Editor: At the recent Jackson County Stockmen's meeting, Mr. William Deatherage opposed the non-partisan provision in the proposed Jackson County Charter. This is his privilege. But it is not his privilege to make false

statements just to help his argument.

The League of Women Voters has not, as stated, been "trying for years to destroy the two party system." Rather, the league urges members and all citizens to join a political party and participate actively in political affairs. Even if it were true, Mr. Deatherage's charge has no bearing on the proposed county charter. If Mr. Deatherage hasn't enough relevant and factual material to prove his point, he shouldn't offer himself as a speaker at public meetings.

I presume Mr. Deatherage used (or rather misused) the League of Women Voters since it has favored the proposed charter. It does because this charter meets League's standards of good government.

Mr. Deatherage does the voter a disservice, by making false accusations against the League. The real help it gives on voters information (both pro and con) and the hard research it does on "unsensational" civic issues, as testified to by news commentator Paul Harvey on several occasions, are valuable to our community.

If Mr. Deatherage feels he must oppose the Charter for whatever reasons, he may. But when he drags up points that have no real bearing on truth, the harm to Jackson county residents is great.

Mrs. Don Bradshaw,
Route 1, Box 20,
Central Point, Ore.

Will Take Obedience

To the Editor: First, the Editor should be thanked for that good article on the tobacco subject not long ago. Except for the last line. And all others who have complimented us on our articles to the paper. One friend stated that "they make sense," and was glad we plan to send more.

In the February issue of the "Defender Magazine" there was an article in favor of Abraham Lincoln. This stated he was a teetotaler in regard to liquors, and was a man of exceedingly temperate habits. He made no use of whiskey or tobacco during the years the writer knew him. He stated he only used water in his family, and served it to the committee of the Chicago convention.

Even if he had used liquors or tobacco, why quote him since Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life? When Christ was here he did not accept men, and did not commit himself to them. Why? Because he knew what was in man. What is in man? They love darkness. Why? Because their deeds are evil. So it is and will be Christ who saves us no matter what men say. The things that are highly esteemed among men are an abomination to God.

So why accept their ideas? For their carnal minds are not subject to God and cannot be, since they are after the flesh, and minds; fleshly things and shall spiritually die, and not enter heaven. All are commanded to be a pattern of good works, (not of evil), and to be an example (a good one). Why? Others look at our walk and do not listen to our good talk if we say, and do not. We will have to give an account for all of our worthless (or idle) words. God created all things, so he made Satan, too, who is evil. So God created poisonous snakes, weeds (and animals) (people), but not for human consumption. And we are commanded to be good or evil, not both.

It will take obedience to God and His words to prevent our being one of the worms who die not. Tobacco planted by our grave will not prevent that.

Mrs. G. C. Cunningham
748 Maple st.
Central Point, Ore.

Danger to Children

To the Editor: I extend my sympathy to Little Guy, who had the misfortune of losing two toes to that mean old power mower.

Mothers, you better keep a tab on where Dad takes those little children when you are weary and want a rest from them.

I know a few Dads bring their children to our wrecking yard and let them run loose while they are looking at wrecked cars, and believe me, a wrecking yard is no place for small children.

We have a high rock wall behind our house and every time I see a small child up there, I hold my breath.

The time to prevent accidents is before they happen. Mrs. Delbert Casey, Route 1, Box 358, Central Point, Ore.

Farm Home Needs

To the Editor: May we again bring to the attention of your readers some of the needs of the Children's Farm Home New Chapel, at Corvallis. This home is sponsored by the State Women's Christian Temperance Union, a home for children ages 5 to 18 who are from broken homes. Their Chapel burned to the ground last July. Their new Chapel is to be dedicated Sunday, May 6.

They are still in need for many items to complete their Sunday school rooms as well as the kitchen. If some interested groups would like to use as a project or as individuals we will name a few things they need. Overstuffed furniture for the fireside room, three pianos, both American and Christian flags, song books, dining tables and chairs, dishes and kitchen equipment, also Betty Crocker coupons for table ware.

Any financial donations from individuals or groups will be welcome. Send to Mrs. Larry Bell, care of Children's Farm Home, Corvallis, or contact Mrs. Geneva Schwan, SP 2-8449, Medford. Thank you.

Mrs. Ernest Santo
Corresponding Secretary
Josephine-Jackson
County WCTU
Medford.

Clarify Functions

To the Editor: In an attempt to clarify the function and relationship of various groups with, or to the Home Rule Charter:

League of Women Voters: purpose—"To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government." Open to all women. Endeavors to discuss issues free of partisan politics. Has done intensive study of present county government for 30 years, and particularly for last four.

Pamphlet of factual information published by League used in school system as descriptive analysis of present county government. From study came awareness, by League, of archaic, overlapping and unrepresentative processes contained in set-up; therefore, realized need to make county government more efficient, and, in long run, more representative.

On receiving present Home Rule Charter, made arduous and intensive study, airing all arguments pro and con; only then was opinion taken, not along party lines (though prominent members of both parties in League). Consensus (majority opinion): affirmative.

It is doubtful that there exists a more objective, better informed, or more dedicated (to democratic principles) group than this one.

Charter committee: members from both parties, but organized along non-partisan, research lines to study need for change in present county government, if any; then to employ problem-solving meth-

od (find the facts, filter the facts, fuse the facts, follow the facts) to present type of government to meet needs of all the people.

They had no axe to grind, nor preconceived idea that there should be home rule. Present charter was result of much writing and re-writing to weed out superfluous wording, and things antagonistic to democratic form of government. Members are informed citizens giving their time to become more informed and to pass information on to public. Present charter was compromise which seemed best to meet needs of Jackson county.

Jackson County Citizens for Home Rule Charter: pro-charter group of individuals not connected with aforementioned groups (except as League members would choose to join on own). Exists to present charter to public with help of specialists in fields of law, etc., and/or charter committee members so as to get charter as such before public, present arguments for, and to answer those against.

There is no prohibition in charter against anyone's campaigning, or getting verbal or financial backing for same. Only difference between these and usual elective office: candidates will not wear labels, though most certainly their affiliations will be known.

Jeanne Y. Gang,
1209 Mt. Pitt ave.,
Medford.

TRANSLATED MATH

Wilmette, Ill. — (UPI) — Programmed mathematics courses developed in the United States are being used experimentally, in translation, in 30 Italian schools this year, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, Inc., producer of the algebra and geometry texts.

The gray fox eats fruit and vegetables, but its most important food is rodents.



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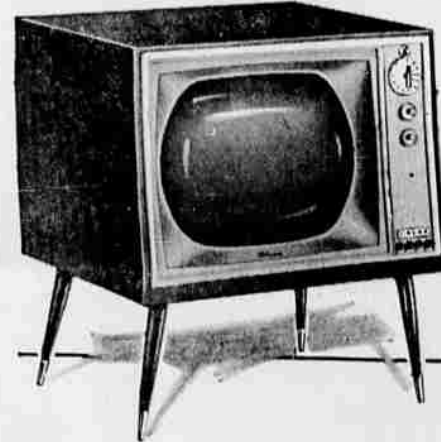


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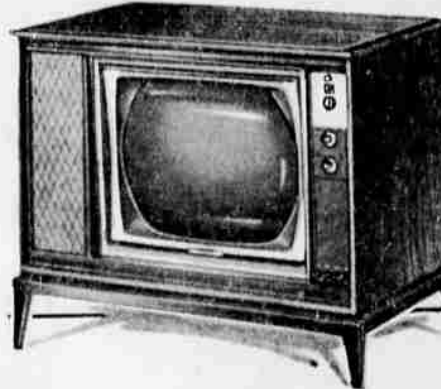
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