

... 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.

To End The Filth

To the Editor: I have received from Senator Ted Hallock a copy of your editorial "Let's End This Filth" from your Friday, Feb. 22, edition, together with several letters from individuals in your area referring to this editorial and endorsing Senator Hallock's sponsorship of Senate Bill 259.

We are appearing before the Committee in support of this bill tomorrow morning, and I have taken the liberty of making copies of your editorial which together with the letters from the people in the Medford area will be supplied to the various Committee members.

We appreciate your forthright stand and hope that either with or without Senate Bill 259 we will be able to alleviate the air pollution menace in your area.

I came through Medford in the past ten days, so I know something about this condition.

Thank you again for your fine public stand.

B. A. McPhillips
Acting Chairman
Oregon State
Sanitary Authority
McMinnville, Ore.

Smart White Man
To the Editor: Who is the smartest, the white man or the Indian? When the white man took over the country it was long on birds and short on bugs. Then came the white man, a very smart man, who plants cherry trees, shoots birds by the hundreds for eating his cherries.

Then along comes his bird killing cats. I am not a cat hater, but I have had lots of experience with them as I have had lots of them on the ranch, and I know what they will do. Truly they will kill mice, but most of them would prefer a bird.

The country is so full of cats I believe the Dellenback cat law would help.

Then you quite often see a dog hunting for bird nests for

the eggs. Then along comes the sportsman with his fine shot guns to shoot what birds have dodged the cats, dogs and poison spray.

It's a wonder we have any birds left at all. Yes, the white man is a very smart man.

Bill Holman
402 1/2 Newtown st.
Medford.

Gold Tale

To the Editor: One of a few big gold strikes that reached the five figure mark 80 some years ago in the wilds of Josephine county was really discovered by sheer accident.

As the story goes, a young rugged placer miner set out one day with his dog on a deer hunt. In order to suppress his dog from making a "break" to run, the lone hunter stooped down to pick up a stone to toss to halt his dog. Lo and behold! the first glance and heft told him it was laden with "pocket" gold. Right there the deer hunt came to an abrupt end, for the time being. He returned to camp to break the news to the family and secure their help to mine the rich find that yielded a small fortune.

In due time after the fabulous strike was made as an adventurer, never having been to a big city, the young prospector soon set out to see Portland, Ore. After sight-seeing in the metropolis, he soon became broke. After telling some city officials of his plight and the story of his recent fortune and misfortune, the good and helpful people took heed of the bewildered young man's dilemma and volunteered to send a telegraph message to Grants Pass for more information.

In due time a return message stated that the young prospector had an ample supply of gold on deposit at a local bank and that all the prospector's wishes would be realized. So there ended another episode of another one of southwest Oregon's hey

day romances of adventure and drama of the gay nineties.

Bert Kissinger
322 South
Riverside ave.
Medford

Building Protest

To the Editor: The following letter, signed by sixteen aroused Americans, and their addresses, has been mailed: Mr. Samuel Schrivener, Jr. Chairman Board of Zoning Adjustment.

District Building, Washington, D.C.
Dear Mr. Schrivener: Word comes to us that plans are under way to circumvent the established building ordinance for the Washington, D.C. area for the purpose of erecting an "apartment" building in the city of Washington, D.C. which would overshadow America's national shrines, monuments to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, our national capitol building, Arlington memorial cemetery, burial place of known and unknown defenders of this land of liberty, freedom, justice.

We consider such an attempt abominable, unpatriotic, un-American. We feel that such an abrogation of the established ordinance of Washington, D.C., would be an insult to our Nation, a loathsome breach of sacred trust, by whomsoever might be in authority to evade the time-honored Washington, D.C. building ordinance.

Only by accident have we learned of this attempt to thwart this long-maintained ordinance. Please advise us in detail just what group, organization, or persons are back of this movement and what is the object of a so-called "non-profit" group?

John E. Gribble
139 Kenwood ave.
Medford.

Sin and Law
To the Editor: In the Tribune, 2/21/63, in an interesting article (Religion in America) Prof. Hinson of the Southern Baptist Seminary says: The churches are not cracking down on such blatant acts of immorality as adultery and drunkenness. Then he quotes from Paul's letters to the Christian churches in Paul's day.

Paul made it clear that Christ came to save sinners, but would not tolerate hypocrites in the church who took the name of Christ while making mockery of his teaching. None should realize better than Prof. Hinson why this is so. In Paul's day, they taught and believed the old Testament, they taught and obeyed God's Ten commandment law as God spoke and wrote it (Exodus 20:3-17). Those verses are the only ones in all the Bible that God wrote with his own hand and spoke with his own mouth in the hearing of over 2,000,000 people.

Today the people say: that is the law of Moses, it was nailed to the cross. Not because they believe it, but to justify themselves, while making up a set of ten commandments from their pet quotations. They are unhappy with God's law, so they make their own.

They do the same with the law of the land. In California in 1961, over 80 per cent of the 109,000 fatal and injury auto accidents involved a law violation. The same year the California State police issued over 1,000,000 citations. What a price people will pay for the privilege of making their own law as they drive. And it can be even more expensive to make up your own commandments while you live. The police don't issue one citation in 1000 violations. But God records every violation of his law even to the words we speak, and every stop sign we run, let it be on the Lord's Sabbath day or on Sunday, the first day of the week, going to church gives us no right to break the law of our fair land.

It is not only crime to break the law of the land, but a sin also. Paul makes this very plain. Fifty-four years after Christ, Paul worked in Corinth for a year and a half making tents six days a week, no doubt, and preached every Sabbath day to both Jews and Gentiles. Good example for us.

F. E. Beverly,
112 Geneva,
Medford

More Democracy
To the Editor: The Commission for Constitutional Revision presents "A New Constitution for Oregon" which they term "a responsive and effective whole document which adheres to fundamentals."

What fundamentals? One of the essential fundamentals of a democracy is the right of citizens to elect, recall or reelect representatives of their choice. It is missing from this so-called "whole document." Under the guise of "placing responsibility," "stream-lining," "shortening the ballot" and "making it easier to vote," they have set up the Governor as the only statewide elective state executive officer. In a sense they are telling us we are not capable of governing ourselves and that we had best leave this up to a select few in power. This is a fundamental of autocracy.

If there are ills in our democratic processes, at the state level, they can best be cured by more democracy. This can be accomplished by electing more state officials than we now do. The people should elect not only their Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and Labor Commissioner, but

a Public Utilities Commissioner, Tax Commissioner and State School Superintendent as well. They are all servants of the people and the people should have the right to elect, recall or reelect them.

We have only to look at the outrageous increases in our utility bills and the shifting of the tax burden to see the fallacy of allowing an elected official, whose largest campaign contributors were utility executives, large stockholders in utility corporations and timber barons, to appoint a Public Utilities Commissioner and a Tax Commissioner who have permitted excessive utility rates to be put on citizen users, spawned legislation which can create a power monopoly, and maneuvered a tax-shift most beneficial to the large timber interests.

Why throw such temptations in the path of a man? Why encourage him to amplify, cultivate and sustain his power at the expense of the people who are powerless to eliminate these "lackeys" who are duly appointed by special interests before being appointed?

If we are to have a "Government of the People, by the People and for the People," God deliver us from those who want to chop away our democratic right to use the ballot box as the ultimate check on officials who are elected to serve the interests of the people. So they want some measure of responsibility? "The voice of the People is the voice of God" (Alcun). So they want to simplify voting and make it easier on you? "When someone wants to give you something for nothing, yell for a policeman" (Anon).

"It would be folly to argue that the people cannot make political mistakes. They can and do make grave mistakes. They know it; they pay the penalty; but compared with the mistakes which have been made by every kind of autocracy, they are unimportant." (Calvin Coolidge).

Robert A. Freeman,
4625 N.E. 118th ave.,
Portland, Ore.

Editor's note: Another Rogue Valley resident, Mrs. Margaret McWhorter, Route 1, Box 41A, Rogue River, also concerned over this matter, wrote to Congressman Duncan. Here is his reply:

Dear Mrs. McWhorter: Thank you for your recent letter and the enclosed clipping regarding a proposed apartment building which would stand taller than surrounding national monuments.

I contacted the National Capital Planning Commission and enclose home material they sent me. You will note that the Zoning Commission has approved the plans for this development on the condition that the maximum height of 130 feet (permitted under governing regulations) be limited to 25 per cent of the building complex. Also enclosed is a thermofax copy of a map of the area showing the proximity of Watergate Towne to the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Watergate Towne will front on Virginia and New Hampshire Avenues. As a matter of comparison, the Howard Johnson Restaurant at 28th St. and Virginia Avenue is 90 feet high plus 26 feet for the penthouse making a total height of 116 feet. I hope this allays somewhat your apprehension which I share.

I appreciate hearing from you on this and hope you will continue to give me the benefit of your thinking on matters of public interest.

Robert B. Duncan
Member of Congress
Washington, D.C.



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Poets' Corner

Conducted by
Arnold Eugene Jenny

Grief
I tell you hopeless grief is passionless,
That only men incredulous of despair,
Half-taught in anguish, through the midnight air
Beat upward to God's throne in loud access
Of shrieking and reproach. Full desertness
In souls, as countries, lieh silent-bare
Under the blanching, vertical eye-glare
Of the absolute heavens. Deep-hearted man, express
Grief for thy dead in silence like to death—
Most like a monumental statue set
In everlasting watch and moveless woe
Till itself crumble to the dust beneath.
Touch it: the marble eyelids are not wet;
If it could weep, it could arise and go.
—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

A Sergeant's Prayer
Almighty and all present Power,
Short is the prayer I make to Thee,
I do not ask in battle hour
For any shield to cover me.

The vast unalterable way,
From which the stars do not depart
May not be turned aside to stay
The bullet flying to my heart.

I ask no help to strike my foe,
I seek no petty victory here,
The enemy I hate, I know,
To Thee is also dear.

But this I pray, be at my side
When death is drawing through the sky,
Almighty God who also died
Teach me the way that I should die.
—Sgt. Hugh Brodie*

*Of the Royal Australian Air Force, one time Melbourne University student, reported "missing" in 1943.

Paragraph Poem
Must a poem be set down in lines
like a dinner fork's parallel lines, or can
it be jumbled, uneven, mixed, appearing as prose,
similarly fixed?

For freshness of appearance as well
as of thought, it seems to me some poems are
wrought in paragraph portraiture, so much to be
sought.

The only thing wrong with this reasoning,
somewhat like pie's subtle seasoning, is a fact that
leaves me aptly surprised: a poem, like a fork, should
be recognized.

—Winifred Reskell Layton
Salem, Ore.

Sunday Dinner at Uncle John's
Feather clothed and kettle bound,
White meat, dark and bone,
Unmindful of the grisly sound
Of steel on stone.

Chopping block, a lump of wood
That had withstood
The lusty brown
Of Uncle John.

Kitchen stove, a family member,
Aunt Tessie's pride and joy,
Biscuits, chicken, dumplings—boy,
A repast to remember:
—George McDonald
—Dufur, Ore.

Hard Prescription
How can I follow doc's advice? He tells me to relax:
His bills amount to half I earn; the rest is income tax.
—Jack Finel
Central Point, Ore.

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