

We Still Count

The government of this nation is dominated by the small towns and the rural areas—not by the great city populations. That striking fact is developed in an analysis of the United States Congress published in the December issue of the American Press.

The analysis shows that 76 out of the 96 senators—79 percent—are elected by rural majorities, and that 54 per cent of the Representatives represent more rural counties than urban counties. For the purpose of the study, a rural county was considered to be one in which there is no community with more than 10,000 population.

The small number of Senators who represent predominately urban constituencies mostly come from states with very small land areas and concentrated industry, such as Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The point is that, in spite of the growth of the cities, this still a grass-roots country. The people on the farms, in the villages, and in the small municipalities have the dominant voice when it comes to electing the men who make our laws. The future of America is in our hands.

It behooves us as residents of a small community to realize our responsibilities, but further our potential power as citizens in the federal, state, and city governments. A letter to the man in office is still a vital influence.

The Same Old Story

To be sure it's an old, old story, the "abrupt rise" in Mill City. Perhaps too much space has been dedicated to complaints and too little to constructive suggestions. Be that as it may, with the recent snows the so-called Banfield loops in Mill City again present road hazards too serious to disregard.

The State Highway Commission's duties, according to The Oregon Blue Book for the current year, are in part—

"To locate, construct and maintain a system of state highways; to adopt standards of construction; to determine types of pavements, bridges and structures; to select construction materials; to prepare plans and specifications . . ."

It becomes apparent that "standards and specifications" have been neglected when it is impossible for trucks of commerce, which incidentally pay their share of highway taxes, to traverse this section of the state highway. With the recent light snow of this week, state police deemed the loop too hazardous for travel.

The highway commission is composed of three members, all of whom are appointed by the governor. The name of T. H. Banfield, chairman of the commission, has been attached to the "abrupt rise" because of his refusal to adhere to "standards" high enough to alleviate this hazardous road condition.

It so happens that the term of T. H. Banfield expires March 31st of this year. If the governor's office should be flooded with complaints which demand greater competency in the highway commission office and emphasize the need for some alteration perhaps the old story will take on a new light.

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BYRON DAVIS, Prop.

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ALLEN
KEITH



Out of the Woods

By JIM STEVENS

If the fair city of Portland is not shaken to its toes and giving way at its seams by sunset on Friday, January 27, then I'll have to admit the town is built better than we knew. Starting Monday the 23rd the lumbermen begin to congregate there, for oratory, argument, love feast, song, dance, and welkin-ringing in general. It is a record-breaking occasion.

The first half of the week the members of the West Coast Lumbermen's association will hold the fort and shoot the fireworks, and then the big chiefs of the tall timber, the members of the West Coast Lumberman's association will invade the field—while Portland is still rocking.

All of this, I hasten to state, is the old literary symbolism. In this day and age lumbermen are nothing if not genteel. They form as seemingly a convention audience as may be seen anywhere. Their voices are ever well modulated and it is doubtful if "Holy old mackinaw" will be heard once in Portland all week.

However, there are to be mighty meetings. They are pointed at an estimated \$15 billion of U.S. home building business in 1950 for just one thing. They are vitally concerned with the biggest peacetime government programs ever heard of. They have to do with the present income and future management of the northwest's major industry and No. 1 resource.

The Lumber Merchants

The typical growth of American communities nearly always began with some sort of lumber yard.

Retail merchandising of lumber ranks as one of America's oldest businesses. In its pioneer phase the lumber merchants commonly operated their own sawmill—or the sawmill operator sold his own cut to the consumer. When the railroads were built the retail lumberman came with them, starting a yard by the new siding in each budding town.

Many of the nation's 25,000 retail lumber establishments of today began as sheds by a raw railroad siding. Their history represents American private enterprise at its best. The original investors took terrific risk on the future of the pioneer villages in which they sank their money. Again and again all was lost. But there were some who came through, not just growing up with the country, but building up the country as they built their businesses.

What the members of the Western Retail Lumberman's Assoc. will face in their 47th annual convention, like their business brothers in other conventions throughout the country is the threat of government invasion of the building business to their investments. They must submit to a tax that piles up and until the back bends, the legs spraddle and wobble, the eyes bug, the tongue hangs out, and the heart aches.

A featured speaker of the WRLA convention is the nationally famed radio preacher and orator, Dr. W. H. Alexander, Oklahoma City pastor, who was once an amateur champion boxer. I keep wondering if he is expected to help the lumbermen prepare to meet their end or to inspire them to pitch in and fight through.

The Sawmill Men

While the annual meeting of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association is more centered on the actual work of the organization than on consumer merchandising and entertainment features, the sawmill men also have some rousing numbers on their program.

There is Senator Malone of Nev. for example who is to be the orator of the evening at the dinner on Thursday, January 27. A powerful foe, in both speech and deed, of all that is on the march nowadays to pipe the people over the hill to the poorhouse and down to the sinholes of Red Gulch, the Nevada solon will really make the welkin ring if anybody does.

And the triumphant story of west coast lumber advertising and promotion is one to bring cheers from the toughest survivor of old-time lumbering sales ways. This story is to be told and pictured. And, the first west coast lumber movie of top class among industrial films is to have its premiere. Big doings. Paul Bunyan himself may be expected to show up any minute.

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LYONS

By EVA BRESSLER

Mrs. Leora Stevens principal of the Mari-Linn school in Lyons, has announced her intention to quit teaching this year, at the expiration of the present term. She has given this early notice to permit others to apply early. Mrs. Stevens has been announcing her intention to stop teaching year after year but has been taking first one position then another. She says this time it is for good.

Mr. and Mrs. Claire Humphries and family moved the last of the week to Myrtle Creek where Mr. Humphries is employed.

The annual meeting of the Peoples Co-Operative telephone company was held at the Santiam Valley grange hall with a small attendance due to weather conditions. Mr. Bert Karr was re-elected president, and Lloyd Sletto was elected director to replace Vernon James. Harley Scott and Hugh Johnston were retained as directors, and Fred Lindemann was elected secretary-treasurer to replace Laurence Walworth.

Mr. and Mrs. Gail Fox of Salem were Sunday afternoon and evening guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Allen.

Little Mickie Knox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merlyn Knox of Fox Valley, under went surgery at the Salem Memorial hospital Friday. He was able to be brought to his home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bridges returned home Saturday after a two weeks vacation in Calif. Mr. and Mrs. Keith Taylor stayed at the Bridges home and took care of the children, and Taylor was in charge of the gas heating plant while they were away.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Johnson of Portland spent the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bodeker.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Corbett of Salem were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bressler. Additional dinner guests were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Allen of Lyons.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McRae have moved to Portland to be with their son John who is attending school there. A family by the name of Smith are moving into the McRae house.

School began again Monday morning after a weeks vacation due to the deep snow. The school was closed last Monday when the buses were unable to make their routes.

Rev. and Mrs. O. A. Jewell went to Woodburn Tuesday. Rev. Jewell conducted funeral services while there.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Paul Johnston went to Salem Sunday morning, where they attended church services at the First Methodist church. In the afternoon they were guests at the Marion County Jersey Cattle club.

Help Him Climb



Ronald Kadec, 6, of Orchard Beach, Me., begins his long climb back from infantile paralysis. Thousands like Ronald, stricken in last year's unprecedented epidemics, need help in their pull back to health. Yet funds of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis are almost gone. You can furnish the help by contributing dollars to the March of Dimes. Join the March of Dimes (January 16-31) with as much as you can give.

Tax Agent to Offer Help

Agents from the State Tax commission will be at the various points listed below to assist taxpayers in preparing their state income tax returns.

At the City Hall in Sweet Home on February 2 and 3, 1950—9:00 to 4:00 p.m. At the City Hall in Lebanon on February 6 and 7, 1950—9:00 to 4:00 p.m. At the Court House in Albany on February 14 to 17 inclusive, February 20 and 21, 1950—8:00 to 5:00 p.m. At the Court House in Corvallis on February 23 and 24, 1950, February 27 to March 2 inclusive—8:00 to 5:00 p.m. At the City Hall in Silverton on March 13 and 14, 1950—9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS

9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

SANTIAM Fraternal Order of Eagles 2745 meets at Rod and Gun Club in Idanha each Wednesday 8 p.m. 80

Mill City Lodge No. 144, L.O.O.F. Meets Every Friday night. Visiting Brothers Welcome.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Give Us Back Our Sidewalks, Slim!

I wrote that over an article in the Clarion last week, but I didn't like doing it. After all, the man it was aimed at—Slim Henderson—is a good friend of mine.

Slim came into quite a windfall last month, and bought the old Clarke place. The deed gave him title to all the land—right down to the street. Then Slim started to take up the sidewalk to make his lawn look better.

I felt it wasn't fair to the town and said so in my article. Next morning Slim comes around and wants to know what I mean—get-

ting folks riled against him. I felt ornery myself, and we had quite a set-to over the whole business.

From where I sit, that was foolish. Once we'd cooled off (over lunch and a bottle of beer at Andy's Tavern), Slim decided the sidewalks should stay—for the common good and I promised next time I'd take a good look at the other fellow's point of view before writing any articles about him!

Joe Marsh

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