



We Represent The People

It's an old established custom, this thing of choosing men to represent the people in public offices. It would be nice at times if everyone could be president, or senator, or mayor, but there is no question in our minds that laws would never be passed or official action would never be taken. It would be an impossibility for so many to come to an agreement in time to accomplish anything.

Nevertheless it must not be forgotten that public officials are placed in office for only one reason and that of course to represent the public. It is a negligent and "laxidical" people who refuse for one reason or another to meet their responsibility in demanding representation from office holders. It is when such an easygoing policy is followed by the public that nauseating policies are followed by the "people's choice".

Recently when a serious discipline problem faced the schoolboard rumors of unpleasant nature permeated the community. Now their policy of discipline, while open for question, is not under consideration in this editorial. Rather the fact that when the board was notified from a bipartisan consensus that public opinion was running high and a statement should be made the chairman chose to state, "If the public wants to know they can come to us."

This writer in no way suggests that personal discipline problems should be aired through the press but does express the opinion that it is not the duty of the people to seek out the men they placed in office to find out what is going on. It is true that school board meetings are open to the public. When do they meet? The answer is whenever there is pressing business. How can you know of these meetings? Again you the public must seek out the men you placed in office to find out.

To be sure to hold the position of a member of the school board is a thankless one and the problems they face are not small. Certainly they work against difficult odds. Such things are not under editorial comment. Only this, if they are to represent the people, then they should do so without equivocation.

Violation of Basic Traffic Rules

Drivers who misunderstand or fail to obey three basic rules of the road are responsible for more than half of Oregon's traffic accidents, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry estimated today.

Despite a common belief that traffic laws vary widely from state to state, these three rules are virtually the same across the nation, the secretary said. He pointed out that violators lucky enough to escape injury may still be liable for damage to others.

He listed the three rules as follows:

The Intersection Rule:

If two cars arriving at an uncontrolled intersection (no stop signs or signals) at about the same time, the car on the right always has the right-of-way. Two out of five Oregon accidents occur at intersections.

The Following Rule:

If you run into the rear of another

car, you are always at fault. It doesn't matter that the car ahead stopped suddenly or that the driver failed to signal. He may have had no opportunity, and the law requires that you drive far enough behind to be ready for any emergency. After failure to have right-of-way, following too closely is the most frequent single Oregon traffic violation.

The Speed Rule:

Speed must be adjusted to conditions regardless of posted or designated speed limits, which are considered maximum for ideal conditions. If traffic is heavy or the roadway is slippery, you may be charged with driving too fast for conditions even though you did not exceed the apparent legal limit. On rural highways without posted speeds, the "reasonable and prudent" rule still applies. Excessive speed is responsible for one out of four traffic fatalities in Oregon.

BROADWAY AND MAIN STREET

Bogey and Pandas Were Tame Compared to J. Brutus Booth

By BILLY ROSE

There was a lot of talk on Broadway in recent weeks about the incident at the El Morocco club where Humphrey Bogart was caught with his pandas down, and to hear the prissy boys tell it, unless Bogey stops acting up he's a cinch to finish behind the well-known eight-ball.

Well, mebbe so, but I wouldn't bet on it. It's my belief that, if anything, his daffy didos will help his pulling-power at the box office, very much as they helped John Barrymore, W. C. Fields, and other talented screwballs who had the nerve to do what the rest of us only daydream about.

And don't let any old-timer with braid on his vest tell you that the entertainment business wouldn't have tolerated a Humphrey Bogart in the dear, dead days. According to the record, the antics of yesterday's stars make our present crop of performers look as pale as a ghost who has just seen a man.



Billy Rose

For easy example, take, say, the great tragedian, Junius Brutus Booth—a name to conjure with and make faces at.

JUNIUS BRUTUS was born in England a few years before the 19th century made its bow, and by the time he was 13 a servant girl had accused him of being the father of her out-of-bounds baby. During the next four years, among other things, he took a crack at being a sailor, a sculptor and the husband of two ladies, without the customary divorce in between.

None of this stunted his growth, however, because by the time he was 20 he had become one of the great stars of the London stage. He appeared at Covent Garden as Richard III, and the following season at Drury Lane as Iago to Keane's Othello. And, unless the record is lying, his success was so great that a group of envious actors started a riot in the theater and tried to burn it down.

Offstage, Junius Brutus was even more spectacular than on, and if Lauren Bacall's husband had been sampling the flesh and winepots of Pizzadilly at the time, she'd be a bit more than a "morning-after thought." Booth, so goes the story, made so many parties and passed out so many times that finally, at the insistence of husbands, bartenders and bobbies, he packed and "thuddled to New York."

Here, he proceeded to revolutionize most of our acting techniques and, despite the enormous quantities of wozzle-water he consumed, he never let his audiences down. At one matinee, he was literally carried into the theater, and while the manager was splashing water on his face the customers began to yell for the show to go on.

Annoyed by their catcalls, the tragedian stuck his face through the curtain and roared, "I'm drunk now, but in ten minutes I'll give you the greatest King Lear you ever saw." And he did.

Another time, he went into a pawnshop to borrow \$10, pledged himself as security, spent the tenner on Jersey applejack, and then, as per promise, came back and squatted in the pawnbroker's window until his manager redeemed him.

One night while playing "Richard III," he suddenly decided to revise Shakespeare's script, and when it came to the duel scene in the last act he began slashing away at the young actor playing the role of Richmond. The episode ended with his chasing the kid out the stage door and several blocks down the Bowery.

AS THE YEARS leaped on, Booth's capacity for nuttiness became something of a national legend, and any theater he was scheduled to play generally sold out the day the engagement was announced. Stories about the caperous crackpot were repeated around every pot-bellied stove—and little wonder. For instance, while taking an ocean voyage, the ship passed the spot where an actor named Conway had committed suicide by drowning. Junius Brutus suddenly appeared on deck and yelled, "I have a message for Conway," and dove overboard. And for the next 30 minutes, he played water-tag with the sailors who jumped in to fish him out.

In his final years, Booth took up the study of Buddhism and developed so great a horror of inflicting death that he would burst into tears if someone happened to step on a bug. He financed a campaign against hunting and, while on tour one autumn, enraged at the wanton killing of birds, he bought a cemetery plot and held a funeral for some pigeons: a sportsman had that.

Despite all this hi-jinks and hoop-la, however, he was quite a family man, and the 10 children he raised were devoted to him. Unfortunately, the final curtain on the career of the inspired looney who hailed killing was that one of his children, John Wilkes Booth, was the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln.

Census to Determine Representation

The primary purpose of the 17th Decennial Census of the United States to be conducted in April, 1950, is to determine the population of each of the 48 states as a basis for the division among them of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States. This is in accordance with Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution of the United States. This section provides that representation in the House "shall be apportioned among the several states—according to their respective members" to be determined by an enumeration of the population. This section provided that the first census was to be taken within three years after the first meeting of the First Congress and within each subsequent 10 years. Under this provision, the First Decennial Census was conducted in 1790 and the years ending in "0" have thus become to be

recognized as the Decennial Census years.

The Constitution provides that each state shall have at least one seat in the House of Representatives. After the 1790 Census, seats in the House were apportioned to the states at the rate of one per 33,000 populations. In recent decades, because of the shifting population, some states have gained seats in the House and others have lost. No reapportionment of seats was made after the 1920 Census, the only decade since 1790 in which this was not done, while after the 1930 and 1940 Censuses the present fixed number of 435 seats was distributed among the states under what the Congressional Apportionment Statute defines as "the method of equal proportions".

It is estimated that the population growth in Oregon will have at least one, and possibly two, new Congressmen.

To accomplish this, the present Congressional Districts will be reshuffled so that the five, and possibly 6, Congressional Districts will be approximately of equal population.

The Oregon State Legislature is charged with the duty of re-districting the state and this task will conform to the 1951 session of the Oregon State Legislature.

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Editors Letter Box

Dear Editor: I have lived in this community now for nearly two years. During which time I have tried to take my rightful place as a citizen and assume my share of community responsibility.

I would like to raise a question, however, without any personal reflection upon individuals. Why is it in a community the size of Mill City and Gates we must suffer from such inadequate telephone service. As I tried to indicate, I am not trying to be a crank or to find fault but I am interested in seeing the community that I have adopted for my home have the best facilities possible.

I have no doubt in my mind that the phone company is trying to do the best they can but be that as it may, the service is not satisfactory. I have been told by proper authorities that the service is listed among the five poorest systems in the state.

Maybe I should be more specific. With the manual ringing system in operation one can never be sure whether it is their own ring or not. That is, also if there are a dozen other parties on the line, and there usually is, it means a constant interruption with the telephone ringing. I know Rome was not built in a day, but some times it would be very nice to complete a call in a relatively short period of time.

Is there anything that can be done. Perhaps your newspaper could inform the readers of some action they might take. A lot of people I know would be glad to help. No hard feeling I hope. Sincerely, Mr. Johnson. P.S.: Perhaps if other readers would also write to you it would help.

Editor's Note: Upon receipt of the above letter, The Enterprise, contacted Al Geddis, phone company director, and Mrs. Gladys Mason, local telephone operator for a statement.

Mr. Geddis also believed something should be done. He stated the company, which is owned by a Co-op, had tried to sell out but were pre-

vented from doing so by some legal entanglement. Such an entanglement, it was believed could be straightened out. Selling the company, Mr. Geddis stated would necessitate contacting all of the stockholders. While stock was originally sold for as little as \$10, many of the holders have allowed the stock to be consumed by non-payment of dues. It was believed that there were only 12 or 15 active members left in the Co-op and that the majority would be in favor of such a sale. The company's only capital assets are in the switchboard equipment and lines.

Mrs. Mason, stated she believed the letter unjustified. She stated that delays on long distant circuits are quite often due to faults outside of this company's circuit. Mrs. Mason continued that money could remedy the majority of complaints and if residents wish better service they can pay for it.

While there are now 366 telephones in service at the present time it was the consensus of the operator that at least one third of them would be discontinued after the Detroit dam was completed.

The Enterprise would be interested in the viewpoints of other citizens.

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