



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS." -George Putnam.

Shades of Lincoln

Hitting the highways toward Rochester, New York, these days is an honest man.

We were sitting in our "office" the other day minding our business when K. N. Putnam, veteran workman for the CBI, came in and handed us a dime.

Now, we have absolutely no objection to anyone coming in and handing us a dime, but we are curious.

"What's that for?" we blurted out.

"My subscription ran out two issues ago, and I am leaving town and won't have a definite address for a while."

So we accepted Mr. Putnam's dime and felt pleased with humanity in general. Here was a man who in the midst of moving, probably confronted with a hundred different matters, taking time out to pay a humble obligation. Shades of Lincoln!

As long as we have men who take their debts seriously no matter how small they may be, we humans aren't as bad off as the headlines paint us.

Putnam, who was an electrical foreman at Detroit dam, lived in Mill City sixteen months and had worked for the CBI for eleven years. The reason for his departure was the illness of Mrs. Putnam's parents.

Mill City can't afford to lose more citizens like the Putnams.

The "J. R. Watkins" Letter

Elsewhere in this issue we are printing a letter we received Tuesday afternoon. We were grateful to the writer at first for his seemingly honest approach to our problem.

Admitting our weakness on points of Oregon school law, we would invite him to cite us a single authority in Oregon who knows all about it. Our information is that the most talented of school law experts are confused. We would also like to know his source of information on the local problem, but though he represents himself as a "responsible" citizen interested in good government, he identified himself only as a citizen of Salem, Oregon, and mailed and registered his letter in the local postoffice. We fail to understand why he should waste twenty-five cents registration fee and one cent postage when he could have come to our office and delivered his letter in person. We have had the courage to report the affairs of the local school board but he apparently prefers to remain anonymous.

We checked with at least five different people, who can be classed as old-timers of Mill City to see if by chance he was known here. We received replies only in the negative. We do not find his name in the Salem telephone directory, and so we believe he does not have the courage to openly defend his stand.

We invite him to write to us giving us his address. Perhaps, he wishes to indulge only in "hit and run" criticism and not be "responsible" for his remarks. There are many phases of the letter which we would like to take up.

First, the writer has an obvious bias against newcomers who automatically lack "knowledge and understanding of Oregon school laws" which even old-time Oregonians can't explain.

Second, he evidently resents our inviting all eligible voters to vote knowing that the wording of our message was immaterial. We wanted people to vote. If they were ineligible, they could hardly have been "duly" registered.

Third, he says "I am sure you have received a number of decent letters from responsible people in behalf of your school board." Yes we have. The number is three and we printed two, the other was from the same person as one of those whose letters we printed. That person was not even in Mill City at the time and obtained information second-hand. No local citizen defending the school board has been denied access to our columns, when they have identified themselves.

Fourth, his implication that we have refused to check with the "proper authorities" makes us wonder at the meaning of the word "proper". Is the "proper" authority the Marion county treasurer when the school district operates out of Linn county? We have checked what records we could reach in both county seats.

Fifth, his charge that our investigating a minor sale is evidence of inefficiency on the part of the school board ignores the fact that we are not essentially interested in the transaction in itself. It is a school board's job to do all of its work according to law. If only a nickel slipped into the wrong pocket and burned a hole that cost twenty dollars to repair, it would still be wrong and is evidence not of efficiency but of inefficiency.

Sixth, the "original" cost of the property mentioned was indeed small. It was, we understand, a generous gift or near-gift from the Hammond lumber company.

Seventh, we have checked with the county school authorities and have learned that we have seen them more often than the school board has.

Eighth, we have made diligent search for a definition of a "standard" school and couldn't find any. The same goes for the phrase "state equalization program". If local authorities have an argument on this ground they have given every opportunity to present it and have neglected to do so. We have certainly not denied them any publicity.

Ninth, as to our alleged "charges" of misuse of school funds, we have only asked questions. We have had insufficient evidence to make charges. What evidence we had indicated that funds allotted for one purpose were not spent for that specific purpose. We have asked for an accounting of school expenditures. How could the school board account to us or to Mr. "Watkins" when it had not yet accounted to the proper authorities? As to the possibility of fraud, we are informed that one school board member in this county is already in trouble for having received and cashed a warrant for several thousand dollars and being unable to account for the money. Do you still think it ridiculous and absurd?

As to our choice of the words "for the first time" perhaps before World War II such a period existed, but we have it on good authority that in the past decade such an election has not been held. The one exception was in 1948 when the bonding company refused to buy the \$101,700 bond issue until a "legal" bond election was held.

Two weeks ago we were approached by attorneys representing the local school board asking us to support the present bond issue. We informed them that we found no reason to oppose the purchase of a new school bus nor for additional school rooms, but the deficit that was to be paid from such bond issue as declared by the board at the June 30 meeting was another matter. We were advised that the board would be told of our objection and that some member would call and explain it. They have not called on us. They did not choose to send a representative to the Citizens League meeting last week. We informed their attorneys that we believe the bond issue should be voted upon in separate blocks. Of course that was not possible since a school board may NOT bond for a deficit, according to county authorities.

In conclusion we have no bone to pick with the school board other than that they have claimed to have saved the district a lot of money. We have reason to be suspicious of that claim. As "responsible" citizens we have investigated into the matter and have not been satisfied with what we have found.

CAPITAL COMMENTS

By WILLIAM M. BOYLE JR., Chairman, Democratic Party

Democrats and Republicans alike—this summer sat down and broke bread with the leadership of the Democratic National committee and told the story of what they want and need to insure the future wealth and greatness of the Pacific northwest.

The meeting was unique in my experience for many of the speakers were registered Republicans; but all who attended this history-making meeting in The Dalles, Oregon, were sincere, honest Americans, speaking from the heart.

The meeting was arranged by Monroe Sweatland, democratic national committeeman from Oregon, and his associates, Mrs. Nancy Robinson, national committeewoman, Les Josselin, state chairman, and Mrs. Joada Leonard, state vice chairman. Its purpose was to give the national committee an opportunity to learn directly from representatives of farm, labor and business just what they feel should be done to build the future

prosperity of the state of Oregon and the Pacific northwest.

This was a striking example of democracy at work. It is the only method by which a political party can determine how the people who are actually facing important problems in their everyday life feel about those problems.

It is on such a basis that the Democratic party operates, for it is only from the people that the desires and needs of the people can be determined. Ten leaders of economic groups of the northwest outlined the needs of the area. They spoke on diverse subjects but all bore heavily on the problem of Oregon's future and how it affects the nation as a whole.

Mrs. India Edwards, who sat with me and listened while these Americans told their wants and aspirations, summed up at the conclusion of the meeting. She said:

"It does my heart good to find that of all the things you in the northwest want, there is not one that is not a part of the present Democratic ad-

BROADWAY AND MAIN STREET

Hugger Mugger in the Automat Cleared Up by a Patient Cop

By BILLY ROSE

As a burglar, I've done a considerable amount of hanging around police stations lately, and I've made a highly edifying discovery—the average New York detective is plenty smart and, considering how few of them there are, gets plenty of results.

To give you an idea of what the ordinary cop can do once he gets going, let me tell you the classic story of Detective Patty MacVeigh and how he solved the case usually referred to as "Hugger-Mugger in the Automat."

One morning in August, 1933, two people died suddenly and within a few minutes of each other in the nickel-in-slot restaurant at Broadway and 104th street. One, a dowdy old dame named Lillian Rosenfeld, keeled over in the restaurant's mezzanine, and the other, a middle-aged garageman named Harry Jellinek, was found outside the little boys' room in the basement. The coroner certified that both deaths were caused by a powerful dose of cyanide of potassium.



Billy Rose

Was it a case of double murder? Was it double suicide? Or was it murder and suicide? Detective Patty MacVeigh was handed this sizzling spud, and went about cooling it off not like a Sherlock Holmes but like an ordinary policeman. He started by questioning everyone in the neighborhoods where the victims had lived, inch-by-inch the tenement flats they had called their homes; jig-sawed together a lot of biographical bits and pieces, and came up with a solution so simple that no one connected with the case could imagine why it hadn't been thought of right away.

Jellinek's past was reconstructed easily enough. Starting as a helper in a garage, he had managed to save enough to buy his own business, and his garage had prospered until the depression hit it. When things got tough, he borrowed \$150 from a bank, and when he couldn't

meet the note on July 1, he was threatened with foreclosure.

Figuring he had nothing to live for, he purchased \$3 worth of powdered cyanide and then, with his last nickel, bought himself a poppyseed roll at the Automat. He dug a hole in it, poured the powder in, bit off as much as he could chew and headed for the men's room. At the foot of the stairs he collapsed and died.

So far, so clear. Next, MacVeigh went to work on Lillian Rosenfeld. She had been a harmless old bat who scavenged around junk heaps, and for 28 years had lived in a \$7-a-month basement room which was filled with everything from old piano rolls to a rusty weather vane.

From employees of the Automat, the detective learned that on several occasions the old dame had parked herself in the mezzanine where she could watch the tables on the main floor, and when someone left without finishing a meal, she would hurry down and eat the remains or scoop them into a paper bag.

That finished the case. Obviously the scavenger had seen Jellinek leave part of his roll and had popped the half-eaten bun into her mouth.

MacVeigh's investigation uncovered an additional irony. While sifting through the hodge-podge of Lillian's room, he found six bankbooks which showed she had \$45,000 stashed in various banks in Manhattan and New Jersey. The annual interest on her nest egg was \$1,200, or eight times the amount Jellinek needed to save his garage and life.

DALE BASSETT TRAINS IN EAST

Dale M. Bassett, formerly of Lyons, engaged in six weeks of intensive training with the Signal Corps Reserve Officers Training Corps at Fort Monmouth, N. J. this summer.

An undergraduate of Oregon State college, Cadet Bassett is one of approximately 600 signal corps ROTC cadets taking specialized training in all fields of communication at Fort Monmouth, "home of the Signal Corps."

ministration's program."

Here are excerpts from the very interesting non-partisan remarks made by leaders of Oregon economic life:

Charles Baker, president, Inland Empire Waterways association and head of the Pacific Co-operative Supply, said: "Bonneville dam was the first step in a great program to improve the northwest and open it for expansion. The Republican party should perhaps see how the Democrats operate... What is needed now is to continue the program as it is laid down but with greater speed..."

Baker stressed the need for more water power for industry, more water for irrigation and reclamation and better transportation facilities on the waterways. He concluded:

"To get the maximum benefits that are vital we must have a major, overall co-ordinating program."

Baker has been registered as a Republican.

T. J. Carson, Oregon legislative chairman of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, a Republican, spoke briefly on the needs of railway labor. He was followed by Chester Dusten, CIO regional director. Mr. Dusten, a Democrat, called for an overall, integrated expansion of the program for development of the Columbia river basin.

He pointed out that the re-forestation of the rapidly diminishing timberlands of the northwest is vital to our future, and further said that this should be one major consideration in the development of the Columbia river.

Volney Martin, of the AFL Oregon State Building Trades council, declared:

"We want peace in the world, first and foremost. We are tired of seeing our boys killed."

"We want jobs for our people, and not jobs resulting from war employment."

"We want the Taft-Hartley act repealed and we want an extension of Social Security, an increase in the benefits, and a lowering of the age limits."

"We want a National Health program. The people I represent are the ones hardest hit by illness—illness which takes all savings and leaves my people all too often as wards of the state."

James Hill, Jr., manager, Pendleton Wheatgrowers' association, stressed the need for a "permanent farm program with a minimum of subsidies and a maximum of local control."

Cecil Posey, executive secretary of the Oregon Education association, called for prompt passage of the president's program to aid education. He pointed out the severe problems facing Oregon schools and school teachers in the next ten years and concluded: "If the nation is to be free in the next fifty years it will depend on what we do now to educate our children for freedom."

Ralph Perry, Pomona master, Hood River Grange, declared for a strong farm program. He said the administration farm program and the program of the National Grange were so close that there was no need for conflict.

Arthur H. Bone, editor of the Ore-

gon Union Farmer, also came out for the Administration farm program. He said it was vital that the farmer's income be stabilized to prevent economic disaster in the future.

The concluding speaker was R. T. Titus, executive vice president, Western Forest Industries association. Titus asked for government action to curb monopoly in timber and for passage of a law which would free access roads so that small timber operators could harvest ripe timber on government lands on a basis of free competition.

The meeting was one that I will always remember as outstanding in its application of democratic principles. I took full and complete notes and I promised I would make full report to the President of the United States and to the Democratic leadership in the Congress.

The Democratic National committee is not a government agency; its purpose is purely advisory. Yet the committee remains close to the people. Its purpose must always be to carry the message of the people, their wants and aspirations—carry this message to the elected heads of our government.

In this way we carry out the mission of the Democratic party and strengthen the entire process of the government of free men.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends who gave us such a nice house warming in our new home in Mill City, it is a great pleasure to know our friends of our many years of absence from Mill City gave us such a nice welcome back in our new home. We also wish to thank them for the nice present they presented us, and the lovely flowers and also all the good eats, and the pleasant time spent with everyone and the good old time music, hoping all the friends will yet visit us in our new home, as we will enjoy visiting with them at any time. MR. AND MRS. FRED GOOCH, SR.

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