

Hospitals, Doctors Toughest News Sources

By GORDON G. MACNAB
Associated Press Staff Writer

An Oregon school board scheduled a meeting for one location, then secretly met at another to avoid reporters.

At a meeting of logging industry leaders and state and federal forestry officials, reporters were told they could print nothing of what was said. "The logging industry was on the job for forest fires," several officials of one county resigned, then were reappointed, to straighten out a technical point of law. But the action also opened the way to competition at an election had prospective candidates learned of it. The story was not told and there was no competition.

These are random cases of news barriers in Oregon.

Newsmen from Oregon dailies, weeklies and radio stations told the Associated Press some of their news barrier problems. It is a topic which has been widely discussed in the country.

DIFFERENCES

The Oregon newsmen said: Most officials are helpful. Some few try to conceal what goes on in their offices. Some like to try to spike reporters' stories by giving the information "off the record." Some like to give out information only through a spokesman. Others will answer questions but will volunteer nothing.

A public body sometimes goes

into "executive" or off-the-record session when it wants to withhold information. (At least one district attorney has ruled that they can't do that.)

But getting down to cases—

At the State House:

There are few if any news barriers. Virtually all meetings are open to the press, and all legislative sessions and committee meetings are open to the press. There are a few officials who sometimes yield reluctantly, but good reporting gets the information. There are a few infrequent off-the-record meetings but reporters, by refusing to attend, get the information from those who do attend. Someone always will tell. Once in a while an official tries to funnel his news through a press agent, but this form of censorship has been successfully resisted.

Peace officers:

There are three districts in which newsmen report some difficulty with state police. The barriers in those districts consist chiefly of the police telling the news only in response to a specific question on a specific point. This may explain why you don't know something happened or I don't learn anything at all about it—or of denying access to records and telling the story orally. If the officer is not himself a good reporter, the story may be told incompletely, inaccurately and may be twisted or misused.

On the other hand, newsmen in most parts of Oregon say state police are a big help co-operating fully and some will even furnish a reporter out of bed at night to report a big story.

Supt. H. C. Mason says all officers have been told to give the press "all the news to which it is entitled." This may explain why in three districts there are complaints. One officer believes the people are entitled to all the news another believes what they don't know won't hurt them.

Fortunately, most state police officers want the people to be informed. They can, though, take refuge in the directive. And the directive has a basis in law. Traffic accident reports, for example, are not public records of the sort that can be forced into the open.

Sheriffs and city police around the state co-operate in reporting the news, but there are a few scattered reports of semi-barriers.

Most of these, newsmen say, stem from lack of news sense. "I didn't think it was news."

On these, though, and local newsmen solve their problem in their own ways.

Labor and Management:

One newsmen puts it this way: "Labor unions and employers vary from dispute to dispute. Generally they are both hard to crack for truths when truth is needed."

There are times when the best a careful reporter can do with a labor-management story is to halve an untruth on one side against an untruth on the other and hope the people aren't misled.

Big employer groups are the biggest problem.

The Armed Services:

Oregon has few peacetime military or naval establishments, but newsmen have occasion to deal with them say they still get the old run-around. Despite protestations and reports of directives from the Pentagon, the armed services operate on the theory that the people are not to be told until it suits the convenience of the officer in charge. This is true, newsmen say, convenience of the officer in charge. This is true, newsmen say, on matters which have no connection with security.

There was for example, a fire in one of the installations and the press got the word in a mailed hand-out. But on last Monday's Portland F-51 crash, the Air Base phoned the papers. Deskmen said it was unprecedented and hopeful.

Hospitals and Physicians:

This is the big news barrier. It is the one found just about everywhere.

Newsmen's comment selected at random:

"There are only two sources with which I have trouble. One is the hospital."

"We have the most trouble with doctors. In fact, they are about our only complaint."

"We have very poor relations with hospitals. Doctors are the greatest news barrier in this city."

The medical profession, which hired a press agent to put its best foot forward in attacking socialized medicine is viewed by most newsmen as actively hostile to the press. Most troubles with hospitals, they say, stem from physicians' orders.

When the Portland Associated Press tried to learn whether a hit batsman had a skull fracture or only a bruise, it was the doctor's order which prevented the hospital from telling. And the doctor was nowhere to be found.

A physician who had no connection with the case remarked later that this was proper; that it was wholly right that the thousands who saw the man felled should not be told of his condition until the physicians chose to report it. And if the physician could not be reached, then the man's family might report it, but no one else.

This is typical of reports from around the state: "If there is an accident, I cannot get any report at all from the hospital unless I know the names of the persons

brought in." Doctor's orders. The Press itself:

One newsmen said the biggest news barrier he had noted was a tendency of reporters to use the telephone instead of personal contact. Another said his news barriers vanished—he even got news from his hospital—"because we have won the confidence of our sources."

WURLITZER
A magnificent piano. Many lovely styles and finishes to choose from.

LOUIS R. MANN
PIANO CO.
120 No. 7th

See Calhoun's for MIRRORS for any room in the home! 333 E. Main



AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS Mrs. Wilma Ross, president of the Federation of Women's Shareholders in American Business Inc., and U. S. Steel stockholder, clashes her glasses as she clashes verbally with Irving S. Olds, board chairman, during the annual meet of U. S. Steel Corp., stockholders at Hoboken, N. J. The meeting was boisterous with varying comments from the floor on the present steel strike.

Agencies Plan Basin Surveys

PORTLAND — Three federal agencies have agreed to make further studies of land and water uses in the Klamath Basin.

The Department of Interior said the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Fish and Wildlife Service would appraise irrigation, power, recreation, fish and wildlife and flood control.

The agencies, all under the Interior Department, will seek to determine the future use of land within the Klamath Indian Agency in relation to other developments, the department said.

Worker Goes Through Press

NEWBERG — A pulp and paper mill worker was recovering in a hospital here from injuries suffered when he forced his head and body through a pulp press after one leg became caught in the rollers.

The Spaulding Pulp and Paper Company worker, Norval Haverman, 39, told his physician that his right leg became caught between rollers of the press when he fell against the webbing Monday.

In severe pain and unable to free himself, Haverman swung his left leg between the rollers. Haverman told the physician, Dr. C. A. Bump, that when the rollers reached his chest he shoved up on the top one. This forced the lower roller down and his shoulders and head passed through, and he dropped into the pit below.

He suffered a leg paralysis, a hemorrhage at the base of one lung and a cut lip.

Truck Seizure Cost Millions

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department announced Thursday the government will pay \$1.5 million dollars in damage claims arising from federal seizure of the mid western trucking industry during World War II.

The announcement said the will completely discharge "damage claims amounting to about 50 million dollars filed by 91 motor carriers, seized by order of President Roosevelt in August, 1944."

Attorney handling the case noted that this was a statutory seizure, carried out under a number of wartime laws, as contrasted to the current seizure of the steel industry under claimed "inherent powers" of the President under the Constitution.

Prison Food Probe Stated

SALEM — The Oregon State Medical Society will investigate whether Oregon State Prison convicts are getting the proper kind of food, Gov. Douglas McKay announced Thursday.

The governor said he asked the society to make the survey so he can determine if the convicts are getting better food or worse food than they should have.

The governor's request followed last Monday's refusal by the State Emergency Board to approve \$150,000 extra for food at the prison. The board sharply criticized prison officials because they were spending more money on food than the Legislature authorized.

Prison Warden Virgil O'Malley said the prison is spending 42 cents a day per convict for food, and that that amount isn't enough. The last Legislature authorized 22 cents a day per convict.

Gov. McKay said he would be guided by the medical society survey. He can provide the \$150,000 out of the emergency fund since the function of the emergency board merely is to advise him how to spend it. He doesn't have to take the board's advice.

Prison Food Probe Stated

SALEM — The Oregon State Medical Society will investigate whether Oregon State Prison convicts are getting the proper kind of food, Gov. Douglas McKay announced Thursday.

The governor said he asked the society to make the survey so he can determine if the convicts are getting better food or worse food than they should have.

The governor's request followed last Monday's refusal by the State Emergency Board to approve \$150,000 extra for food at the prison. The board sharply criticized prison officials because they were spending more money on food than the Legislature authorized.

Prison Warden Virgil O'Malley said the prison is spending 42 cents a day per convict for food, and that that amount isn't enough. The last Legislature authorized 22 cents a day per convict.

Gov. McKay said he would be guided by the medical society survey. He can provide the \$150,000 out of the emergency fund since the function of the emergency board merely is to advise him how to spend it. He doesn't have to take the board's advice.

Truck Seizure Cost Millions

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department announced Thursday the government will pay \$1.5 million dollars in damage claims arising from federal seizure of the mid western trucking industry during World War II.

The announcement said the will completely discharge "damage claims amounting to about 50 million dollars filed by 91 motor carriers, seized by order of President Roosevelt in August, 1944."

Attorney handling the case noted that this was a statutory seizure, carried out under a number of wartime laws, as contrasted to the current seizure of the steel industry under claimed "inherent powers" of the President under the Constitution.

Honesty Returns Lost Money

PORTLAND — Elderly Mr. Louise A. Freund had her \$1025 back Thursday, thanks to the honesty of Pete Marchianes, cigar store operator.

Mrs. Freund had the money in her purse Wednesday, planning to give it to a church building fund. At the Central Bus Depot she laid the purse down then walked off without it.

Marchianes spotted the purse from his nearby cigar stand, had it put in a safe and notified police.

Mrs. Freund, meantime, had contacted police, too. They delivered the money to her.

Forest Fires

SALEM, Va. — One of Virginia's largest forest fires of the year was under control Wednesday for the first time in five days. It burned over nearly 1,000 acres on Purgatory Mountain.

Prison Food Probe Stated

SALEM — The Oregon State Medical Society will investigate whether Oregon State Prison convicts are getting the proper kind of food, Gov. Douglas McKay announced Thursday.

The governor said he asked the society to make the survey so he can determine if the convicts are getting better food or worse food than they should have.

The governor's request followed last Monday's refusal by the State Emergency Board to approve \$150,000 extra for food at the prison. The board sharply criticized prison officials because they were spending more money on food than the Legislature authorized.

Prison Warden Virgil O'Malley said the prison is spending 42 cents a day per convict for food, and that that amount isn't enough. The last Legislature authorized 22 cents a day per convict.

Gov. McKay said he would be guided by the medical society survey. He can provide the \$150,000 out of the emergency fund since the function of the emergency board merely is to advise him how to spend it. He doesn't have to take the board's advice.

LOOK before you decorate!

CONSULT... the opinion of experts on combining colors. Our staff will show you how easy it is.

USE... the Sherwin-Williams Paint & Color Style Guide to see how good color harmonies look in real rooms... and the Style Guide Companion to find 720 additional color schemes created by experts.

BORROW... this Style Guide Service. Use it at home... free of charge.

Plenty free pinky space

A AND B PAINT STORE

WALLS WET?

Get Beauty Plus the Proved Protection of

BONDEX

CEMENT PAINT

Year After Year It Outells All Other Cement Paints Combined

Redecorates beautifully, seals moisture out, protects and preserves stone, concrete block, concrete, brick, stucco, asbestos siding and all kinds of masonry walls. Easy to mix—easy to use. Your choice of 12 lovely colors and white.

5-lb. pkg., white, makes about a gallon of ready-to-use paint. **\$1.40** (Colors slightly higher)

Get BONDEX from Your Regular Dealer OR FOR THE NAME OF YOUR NEAREST DEALER PHONE WESTERN UNION ASK FOR "OPERATOR 25"

Montgomery Ward
9th and Pine Phone 3188

Made to Sell for \$19.95
By a National Manufacturer

Wards Price 13.88 U. L. Approved

Fully automatic, gracefully styled, heavily chromed for years of gleaming beauty — a 19.95 value. Makes toast the way you want it — every time. A truly fine toaster at a price that saves you over \$6.00.

IT'S AUTOMATIC
Silent thermostat controls the timing.

ALWAYS THE SAME
Your toast comes out the same color, always.

CONTROL KNOB
It's a color selector and release for inspection.

When you ask for

OLD HERMITAGE

BRAND

you tell the world you know great

straight Kentucky bourbon

4¹⁰ 2⁶⁰
4 1/2 Qt. Pint

"For Generations One of Kentucky's Great Whiskies"

86 PROOF • THE OLD HERMITAGE COMPANY, FRANKFORT, KY.

Montgomery Ward
9th and Pine Phone 3373

We've a New Sale Book for You
Stop in For a Copy Today

Wards Midsummer Sale Book 1952

See the parade of values in our new Midsummer Sale Book for the solution to your summer needs. Prices have been reduced on play clothes for all the family, fishing and camera equipment, and picnic supplies. Save by replacing worn screens and awnings now. You'll do your budget a favor by asking for a free copy of our Midsummer Sale Book today.

You may order at the Catalog Department when you're in our store, or do it later in the comfort of your own home. Direct-line telephone service to our Catalog Department assures prompt attention. Trained Salesgirls will write the order for you. Let Montgomery Ward introduce you to the ease and convenience of modern telephone shopping.