



DUNSMUIR'S NINTH ANNUAL RAILROAD DAYS, celebration June 18, 19 and 20, will again be host to Dr. Olker and his Ben Ali Oriental Shrine band. Dr. Olker and his band will appear on the program throughout the three-day festival and march in the big parade at 12 a.m. Sunday.

California Official Lauds Oregon's Parole System

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
SALEM, Ore. — A good parole system, besides enabling ex-convicts to resume their places in society under the supervision and guidance of trained parole officers, saves the taxpayers a lot of money.

Oregon's 27 parole officers, as well as the parole board and its administrators, had this pointed out clearly this week by Walter A. Gordon, chairman of the California Adult Authority, which has one of the best parole systems in the country.

Gordon, a big former University of California football player, boxer and wrestler, also is one of the nation's outstanding Negroes. In California, it costs \$100 a month to keep a man in prison, but less than \$200 a year to have him on parole.

The cost of keeping a man in the Oregon prison is \$82 a month, and Oregon's parole costs are smaller than California's, too. Oregon has 1,500 men in prison, and an equal number on parole and probation. Without the parole system, the prison population would be almost doubled, at a cost of a few million extra dollars a year.

The Oregon parole men found that this state's parole system stacks up well with California's. For instance, in Oregon, each parole officer supervises an average of 75 parolees and probationers, compared with 90 in California.

The Oregon parole officers agreed heartily with Gordon when he urged that store clerks and bartenders be held partially responsible for the bum checks they cash. "Stores and bars encourage bad check writing by their carelessness in cashing them," he said. "Many of them don't care whether the checks are good, because they are insured."

Twenty-eight per cent of prison inmates are serving time for writing bad checks, Gordon favors prison terms for the professional check writers, but he thinks prison sentences often are too severe for men who write worthless checks over their own signatures.

He said robbers are the men most likely to repeat their crimes, and therefore are the poorest parole risks. The second worst parole risks are the check writers. The best parole risks are the murderers and sex offenders.

Many convicts blame liquor for their criminal careers. But Gordon says that liquor never is the primary cause of crime, although it often is a factor. Gordon questioned the Oregon method of having its parolees and probationers supervised under the same department and by the same officers. He suggested it might be better to separate them.

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