

Political Writer Surveys Klamath County's Status

(This is the last of a series on Oregon political trends by Paul W. Harvey Jr., Associated Press correspondent at Salem, who has been touring the state.)

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
KLAMATH FALLS — With a long-time heavy Democratic majority, Klamath County has been traditionally independent in its voting. Many ranchers and farmers, while registered Democratic, often vote Republican.

The county gave Guy Cordon, Republican, a 234-vote margin two years ago in his losing fight against Sen. Richard L. Neuberger.

An influx of Southern Democrats, many of whom are working in the state's lumber mills, is helping the Democrats. One Republican candidate said he was amazed at the large number of Southern accents among the mill workers.

This, and the fact that some labor union members here openly support Doug McKay in his battle against Democratic Wayne Morse, has confused the picture here.

The Democrats hold a 3,200 lead in registration.

The county looks safe for President Eisenhower, but political observers agree that McKay is running behind him. Ed Geary, Republican speaker of the state House of Representatives, says things look "tough" for McKay in this region, although here and there he is breaking into Morse ranks.

Two men questioned, both Democratic laborers, said they would vote for McKay, and said some of their fellow workers would. One works for a railroad, and the other works in a mill.

Rep. Sam Coon, Republican, and

Al Ullman, his opponent, have been fighting hard for Klamath County's bloc of 20,000 votes. Coon is personally popular, having received more votes than any other candidate in 1954, when he carried the county by 1,000 votes.

The Democrats are better organized here than the Republicans. Florence Jenkins, of the Klamath Falls Herald and News, says the local Republicans complain that the state GOP organ-

ization isn't cooperating with them.

She says that Mrs. McKay, who appeared before a women's group

a couple of weeks ago, is a better campaigner than her husband.

Klamath County has two of the most interesting legislative races that Oregon has had in years.

For state senator, Sen. Harry Boivin, Democratic lawyer who was speaker of the House in 1937, is opposed for reelection by Ed Geary, Republican rancher, who

was speaker in 1935. Each has a big popular following, and the outcome looks close.

State Rep. Henry Semon, potato grower who is a conservative and

Democrat, is running for reelection as an independent. He has served in 12 sessions, and has been a power on the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Semon says the regular Democratic organization was out to beat him a true Democrat.

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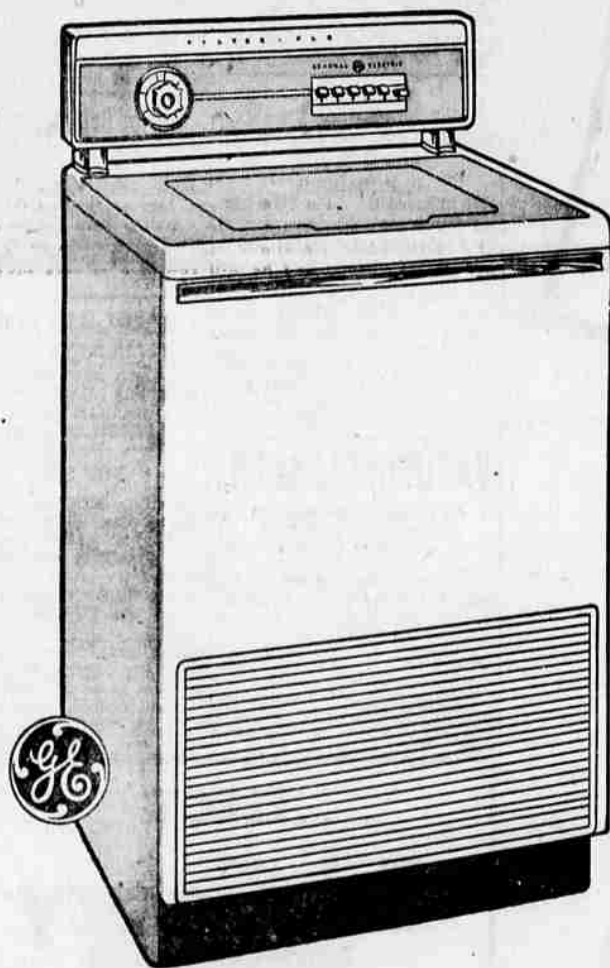
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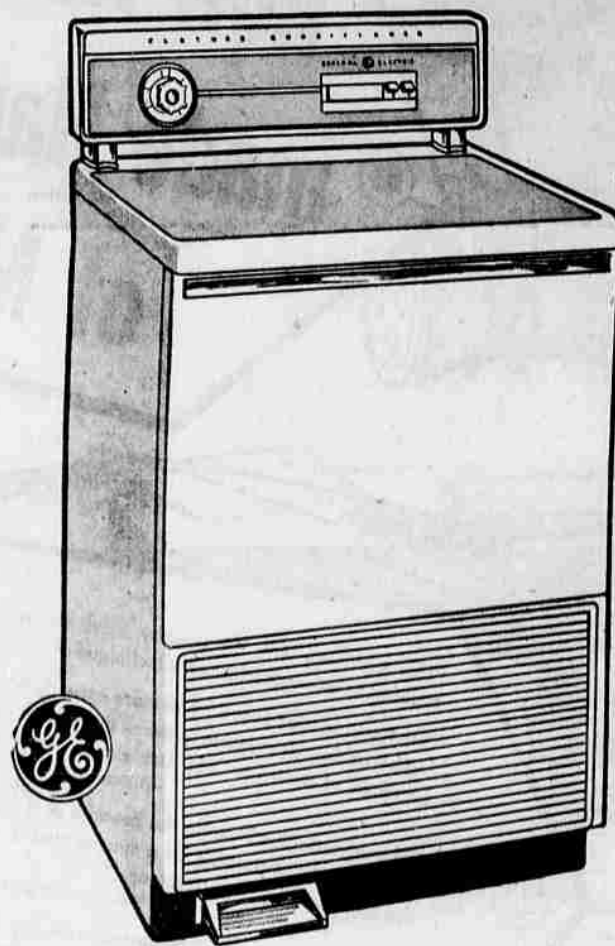
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Radio To Relay Vote

ROSEBURG — A radio-telephone connection will be used again next week to relay election returns from a remote Douglas County precinct at Toketee, a construction camp community on the North Umpqua River about 65 miles east of here.

Residents of Toketee include construction workers finishing a hydroelectric power project and forest service employees and their families. There is no telephone service and the only road often is hot-deep in mud in the rainy season.

The California Oregon Power Co. maintains communications through a radio-telephone hookup, over which the tabulated votes are relayed to the News-Review office here each election.

Schrunk On Vote Trail

PORTLAND — Terry Schrunk, who seeks to step in the Portland mayor's office from his present job as Multnomah County sheriff, said Monday that if elected he will fire Police Chief Jim Purcell Jr. and require his new chief to file an annual statement of net worth.

The statement, given to the Oregon Journal, also said he has no ties with the Teamsters' Union, a charge made editorially last week by The Oregonian in its endorsement of the reelection effort of Mayor Fred L. Peterson.

Schrunk did not say who he would elevate to chief, but said he would come from the Portland police department and be a man of "maturity, vigor, training and with a reputation for integrity and efficiency." In addition to an annual statement of net worth, the chief will be required to make his income tax returns available for inspection, Schrunk said.

The present chief is under indictment in the Portland vice probe on a charge of failing to prosecute known law violators. Mayor Peterson, at the time of the indictments, said he had confidence in him and would leave him on active duty.



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