

## VERNONIA EAGLE



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RAY D. FISHER, Editor and Publisher

### Lax Enforcement To Blame

Lax enforcement of laws against drunken driving has been largely responsible for making the roads perilous for innocent motorists and pedestrians.

The accident in which J. J. Russell, supervisor of the CCC camps in this district, was a victim recently is an instance. A drunken driver crashed into Mr. Russell's automobile near Seaside, and though all who were in either car were fortunate enough to escape injury there was enough of damage to property and enough of hazard to life and limb to call for decisive action on the part of authorities that would protect others who might haplessly get into the path of the erratic motorist. This man, it appears, was no new offender. He had been convicted before of drunken driving, and had been deprived of his driver's license. Despite its lack, he was taking a chance. Upon being arrested and later taken before a justice of the peace, he pled guilty to driving without a license. His penalty was a light fine and six months in jail—with three months of the sentence remitted. The charge of drunken driving was not pressed. It would have been a penitentiary offense if he had been again convicted, was the excuse given.

By such half-hearted measures on the part of those who should make it their aim to keep the highways safe for sober motorists the menace of drunken driving is perpetuated. As in this court, so in countless others, where judges are lenient, lawyers are persuasive, and juries sympathetic—with the wrong party. Convictions in drunken driving cases are indeed hard to obtain, for the danger of allowing an addled brain and a paralyzed hand to guide what may be a death-dealing machine is not realized. It should be, and some day it likely will be, when public sentiment is sufficiently aroused to demand that courts do their full part in helping to eliminate the danger.

As for Vernonia, Judge Hill has announced his intention of showing no mercy to drunken drivers. His example should be followed elsewhere.

### Only 2.09 Per Cent File Returns

Only 2.09 per cent of the population of Oregon had sufficient incomes in 1931 to require filing of income tax returns, according to announcement from Washington, D. C. Figures for 1932, when incomes were lower yet, have not been released, and those for 1933 have of course not been reported. It is safe to assume that the percentage will be even lower than in 1931.

No one except those of the wealthy who would like to shift the burden of taxation to other shoulders less able to bear it denies the justice of placing a tax on

incomes in the higher brackets. As a source of badly needed school revenue, however, the outlook would not have been promising. A bigger reservoir—such as the sales tax provides—is essential for drawing upon if the schools really are to be saved and the tax on property reduced.

### Like Gorillas and Hairy Apes

Highway workers have a right to look like gorillas and hairy apes if they choose to, says in effect the state highway commission during the process of ignoring a protest from a woman objector. Apart from motives of aesthetics, however, one would expect the workers to postpone the season for ape imitation and keep their shirts on at least during the winter.

Fifty cent dollars will be all right with us if they come in three or four times as fast as the 100 cent dollars do.

### What Other Editors Say

It is to be hoped, as the people consider the gross sales and utilities service levy, that they base their decision on the merits of the proposed measure in the light of existing circumstances.

Prejudice against any and all forms of taxation, loyalty to the traditions of some particular organization, reactions to the emotional appeal of an emotional newspaper, the natural desire to be consistent with some previous vote—none of these should be a factor in the decision to be made. The basis for that decision should be the individual's answer to this question.—Klamath Falls Herald.

### Keeping One's Temper

The tendency to be intolerant is just one of the many phases of any great upheaval of economic conditions. Any period of stress tends to wear on people's nerves and a continuation over a long period makes for snap-fire judgment, intolerance and hate. Questions of public policy always have two sides. In order to approach their solution there must be argument pro and con. If arguments are advanced in good temper much light is shed on disputed questions and much good results. Just because your friend entertains a view diametrically opposed to yours doesn't give you the right to charge him with being a crook, a tool of special interests, nor dishonest. Yet this point has just about been reached the world over. Frizzled nerves react with unexpected suddenness, debates become acrimonious, and instead of according to others the same right to their opinions we demand for our own we are inclined to be dictatorial and intolerant. It pays to maintain an even temper at all times, particularly so now when it is so easy to misjudge and condemn.

—McMinnville Telephone-Register.

The 1½ per cent sales tax voted by the legislature was in answer to a desperate need for money to keep our schools from closing.

Now it is up to the electorate to sustain this action, or assume responsibility for denying the right of education to thousands of Oregon school children.

—The Dalles Chronicle.

If the "baloney dollar" has no appeal to Wall Street, it at least has a chance of remaining in circulation for the great majority of the people.—Hood River News.

### Along the Concrete



### Among Our Neighbors ..

St. Helens is applying for an airport field on land at Deer Island belonging to the county fair board.

A CWA project for improving the county fair grounds will start Feb. 15. 69 men will work for about 25 days.

A movement to induce the state liquor commission to place a state liquor store in St. Helens is being sponsored by the chamber of commerce of that city.

Katherine Anderson has been installed as noble grand of La France Rebekah lodge at Clatskanie. Among the other officers are Myrtle Guthrie, vice-grand; Anna Webb, secretary; Jennie Clock, treasurer.

Among the newly installed officers of Wabanang chapter, O. E. S., at Clatskanie are Flora Garrison, worthy matron; M. W. Markham, worthy patron; Blanche McGilvary, associate matron; Oscar Farlin, associate patron; Anna Conyers, secretary; Geneva Caldwell, treasurer.

Judge Geo. R. Bagley, circuit judge of the 19th district, Washington and Tillamook counties, has declared himself a candidate for the supreme court.

The Washington County News-Times, published at Forest Grove, received the award as the best weekly newspaper in the state for 1933. Announcement was made at the press conference in Eugene Saturday.

### Ten Years Ago . . . .

Vernonia Eagle, Jan. 25, 1924

St. Helens high school defeated Vernonia high in basketball Saturday 17 to 5. Sheeley, Narver, Condit, Roberts and Mills defended the Vernonia standard and did good work.

Mrs. Sarah E. Spencer was installed Saturday as president of John Bucher Relief corps 49. Other officers installed were Mrs. K. McDonald, senior vice-president; Mrs. R. Keasey, junior vice-president; Mrs. Mae Mellinger, treasurer; Mrs. Alma Mills, secretary; Mrs. N. B. Hall, conductor; Mrs. Dorcas Bayes, assistant guard; Mrs. E. Greener, patriotic instructor; Mrs. M. K. Bleile, press cor-

respondent; Mrs. M. Throop, musician; Mrs. S. Munger, Irene Spencer, Alice Gooding, Millie McDonald, color bearers. Mrs. Lena Stanton was installing officer.

C. S. Hoffman is preparing to erect a new building of "Stone-tile" on the lot where the frame building recently burned.

C. D. Bushart of Rochester, N. Y., is building a new house in the Sunrise addition and expects to move in shortly.

C. S. Rich is just completing a new house in the Sunrise addition.

Monday Mrs. Lee Hall was taken to Portland for an operation.

Steve Kansky, from Copper River, Alaska, visited a couple of days in Vernonia with his friends Ed Salomonsen, C. C. Brown and Perry Harvey.

City Marshal Smith, like some others, broke out this week. Tiring of the every day work of a city official he decided to take on a siege of the measles.

Andrew Malmsten, uncle of Elon, Chas. and Franklin Malmsten and Mrs. Eva West died Monday night at the home of Mrs. West, where he lived for several years. In earlier days Andrew was a tailor, learning the trade in the old country. He was 92 years old.

Last Sunday night at the Evangelical church the congregation was surprised to see over 50 members of the Klan march silently in, deposit a sack containing \$100 on the altar and remain during the rest of the service with the white robes of that order on. The occasion was a silent donation by the lodge to the fund for the new building the church is to erect.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY PAYROLL FOR WEEK APPROXIMATELY \$8500

(Oregonian)

ST HELENS, Or., Jan. 19—The CWA payroll in Columbia county for this week will be approximately \$8500, which will bring the total disbursements since November 30 to \$55,000. Including some men on emergency projects, there are 575 on the payrolls. Last week the payroll was \$10,000 and disbursed in the following sections: St. Helens, which includes Columbia City and Deer Island area, \$4000; Vernonia, \$2,000; Rainier, \$2000, and about \$1000 each to Clatskanie and Seapooose.

The constant and consistent advertiser is still doing business.