

EAGLE EDITORIALS

PERHAPS THE WRONG IDEA IS PREVALENT HERE?

TWO ORGANIZATIONS, one of them city-wide in extent and the other extending throughout the county came in for a bit of razzing one day of last week by an individual, a rancher living a short distance from Vernonia. Perhaps that person was correct in his contentions, at the least he was certainly honest in his opinion of a situation which is being given the thought of these two groups.

The objection, as it was raised, is one that isn't original as applied to the Upper Nehalem Valley nor to any of the Pacific coast. It was voiced years ago in the growth of this country, in fact before any white habitation existed here. It was heard when the tide of advancement spread from the east coast to the plains of the central states so it can't be said that the idea is original.

To state the idea in simple terms it will suffice to say that the influx of people to uninhabited portions of land in the county is unwanted, unwanted for this reason: already there are too many people here interested in seeking a living from the land either by bringing it into crop productivity or by pasturing it—so many in fact that those already here find themselves confronted with the problem of a bare existence from that which they are able to produce. And should the number increase the condition would become worse to a point where not even a living would be possible.

Both organizations were thoroughly "panned" for seeking a development of the county, for seeking to bring improvement for the benefit of those people already here and for those who might wish to make this their home. In fact the idea as presented would indicate, if correct, that a lot of people have a very mistaken idea and have been wasting a lot of time trying to put the idea into working order.

We can hardly bring ourselves into agreement with the objections for a number of reasons. The idea that the Chamber of Commerce and the Livestock Association, the two groups mentioned, should forget any attempts for improvement would be a step not to betterment for the future even though their idea be wrong but a step in a backward direction amounting to nothing more than indifference to the possibilities existent in the county.

Whether the arrival of people to settle on vacant land will lead to a decrease in the means of livelihood for those people already here is a question that must be carefully answered. But one thing is certain, nothing ventured, nothing gained. No attempt at betterment will certainly not help conditions.

AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK PREVAILS FOR 1939—

BUSINESS FIGURES for the possibility of an increase in business for the coming 12 months have for the past month or so tended to a showing that the farmer, the merchant, wholesaler and manufacturer can expect an increased revenue for his products with the chance favorable for a better showing to come.

The outlook doesn't indicate an upshoot immediately to surmount all previous records but it does give the thought that a steady increase is due. Probably the first three months of the year will not be such that a considerable gain will be evident but following that time the expectation is that the gain will show.

Nearly all large manufacturing concerns are planning the coming year with an attitude of optimism and the feeling is spreading throughout the country.

VERNONIA'S LOCATION HAS ITS ADVANTAGES—

VERNONIA'S LOCATION as far as geography is concerned isn't so bad after all it would seem considering the intensity of storms which have whipped the coast line only a short distance from here during the past weekend.

Reports that wind velocity at points near the mouth of the Columbia river reached the proportion of 90 miles an hour with the result that houses were moved from their foundations and that ships were prevented crossing the bar have been made. But should complete means of communication have been destroyed so that no word of the storm could have been told in other than the region in which it happened nothing would have been known of its effect here.

It seems that Vernonia is so located that although close to the scene of many coastal storms they are not able to penetrate sufficiently for their strength to be noticed here. And that is something for which to be most thankful.

A DIRECT CONNECTION PASSES THROUGH VERNONIA—

WITH THE completion of the Rainier-Apiary road will come a more direct and shorter route connecting those points of the Roosevelt highway between Longview and McMinnville than is in use at the present time. The present direction traveling from Longview south tends to the eastward for a distance to Portland and thence angles westward to reach the point farther south.

By means of the Rainier-Apiary road on to Vernonia and then southward an approximate saving in distance of 50 miles would be made. It isn't, of course, to be expected that the saving in distance would draw considerable of the traffic from its present path but there it the possibility that some will travel the shorter way. At least it can be expected.

FREEDOM NOT ONLY FOR PUBLISHER'S BENEFIT—

FREEDOM OF the press is an expression which may give somewhat the wrong impression when one thinks of it lightly or for the first time but the true meaning of that "freedom" was aptly expressed not so long ago in the National Printer Journalist.

With the drafting of the Constitution of the United States came the assurance of freedom for the expression of ideas and for freedom in the revelation of facts to the reading public. But drafting into the Constitution of that right has brought somewhat of a mistaken idea to many people in that they think that guaranty is for the benefit of the publisher alone. They believe he is allowed to give just what information he wishes to reveal whether it should be of favor to his friends or whether it be that he may benefit by the statement of certain facts.

That alone gives the attitude of many when they think of freedom of the press. They forget that it is not for the publishers themselves but for the protection of the reading public. It is an essential safeguard to liberty that the press is allowed the freedom of printing facts as they come into existence.

On the other hand many are the persons who would be pleased should the law-makers take away some of this liberty or curtail it by the application of certain rules and regulations. And it must be remembered that speech is a freedom which today makes this country a land free of the European dictator style of government.

OFFICIAL CAPACITY SOON DUE THOSE ELECTED—

WITH THE coming of the New Year also comes the time when those named to official capacity as a result of the last election will undertake the duties of the office of which they have been charged. Of interest locally will be the seating of J. N. Miller of Clatskanie, with the county court and Ben Bennett on the city council along with the other councilmen and mayor who will be reelected in an elective capacity.

The year will bring many problems and a crying need for them to be solved and upon these men has been placed the responsibility of seeking a satisfactory solution. They have been chosen for their ability and placed in a position requiring the keen thought and foresight gained from years of experience. Undoubtedly mistakes will happen that will bring them the enmity of some—that is true regardless of what the solution may be for the problem at hand. But do not forget that whatever the mistake as it may seem to the individual the decision was made with a view to a solution most beneficial to the greater number. They have a job to perform and all things considered they'll do it to the best of their ability.

illumination in their present stage of development.

The reason for this is that the driver must be able to perceive danger and stop his car within the distance illuminated by his headlights if he is to avoid a collision under many circumstances. Driving at speeds which will not permit safe emergency stops at night is termed "overdriving one's headlights," and is practiced by many drivers who are not aware of its dangers.

Eagle Items Of Past Years

FIVE YEARS AGO—

J. W. Brown named city treasurer to succeed Albert Childs, resigned, and C. F. Hieber reappointed city recorder by city councilmen.

L. H. Dewey was reelected president of the Chamber of Commerce, E. M. Bollinger, vice-president and T. B. Mills, secretary-treasurer.

W. J. King, former Vernonia grocery store owner died from apoplexy.

TEN YEARS AGO—

Legionnaires burn the mortgage on their hall at the fourth annual banquet of Vernonia post, M. E. Carlin acted as master of ceremonies and Lee Schwab was commander of the post.

The recount of votes in the sheriff election between Oscar Weed and William Pringle left the majority the same for Weed (66 votes) but gave each candidate four more votes.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—

Koster Products established a big five-side camp near Trehanne.

The Nehalem Market is now owned and managed by Albert Childs instead of Childs and Koehler.

City councilmen ordered 40 water meters to install in the city.

COUGAR SHOWS AT STONEY POINT RESIDENCE SUNDAY

STONE POINT—(Special to The Eagle)—Daie Clark saw a cougar in front of his place Sunday night but it disappeared before he could find any means of killing it.

The Paul Driscoll family and also, June Woods were released from quarantine, recently.

Mrs. A. E. Woods returned recently from California where she has spent the past four weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Woods went to Portland Saturday where they made the purchase of a 1936 Nash car.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Keene and children of Bucoda, Washington spent the weekend at the Carl Davis home.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Davis and Alice and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fancher were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Davis.

RIVERVIEW FOLK VISIT DURING HOLIDAYS WITH FRIENDS

RIVERVIEW—(Special to The Eagle)—Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Goodwin and family of Silver Creek, Washington, passed through Vernonia Friday on their way to visit Mr. Goodwin's sister at Drain. Mrs. J. M. Peachey joined them here and spent the weekend with her

sister who also lives at Drain. Helen Goodwin remained here visiting Lorraine Peachey. The Goodwins returned to their home Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. George Woods and son, Buster, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Lynch, Margaret Haiman and Richard Banzer spent Monday in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hay and daughter of Gaston spent the New Year at the B. B. Hawkins home.

Lorraine Peachey visited Mrs. Rhca Wallace in Portland Saturday. Bryan Hull, Tiffie Mae and Anna Marie Hull and Gwendyth Broder spent the weekend in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Norgard and daughter spent the holidays with their parents at Toledo, Oregon.

Mrs. Nannie B. Hall of Waldport spent Tuesday here attending the funeral of her brother-in-law, Ben Cline.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Golden and children went to Goble for the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Nelson and

daughter, Beverly, have gone to Goble to stay during the Clark and Wilson shut-down.

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Marvin Kamholz and Marion Sexton, Publishers

MARVIN KAMHOLZ EDITOR

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Few indeed are the automobile drivers who realize how rapidly danger on the highway mounts with the setting of the sun.

It is true that two thirds of all

property-damage accidents occur m. to 6 a. m.; all accidents, 13,500; during daylight hours, chiefly because traffic is so much heavier.

Probably the chief reason for the deadliness of the hours after dark is that motorists do not sufficiently decrease their speed to compensate for decreased visibility. Snell says. Dozens of accident studies and road tests have shown that 40 to 45 miles per hour is the maximum safe speed at which motorists can drive at night, with headlights and highway

6 a. m. to 6 p. m.; all accidents, 25,085; Fatal accidents: 143. 6 p. m. to 6 a. m.; all accidents, 13,500; Fatal accidents: 177.

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