



Gubernatorial Inauguration

It was almost poetic. All day long a gentle snowfall drifted down on a becalmed marble ship of state. Inside the capitol not a breath of dissension disturbed the prearranged program of the convening of the 44th session of the Oregon legislature. The tempo of events were so even that they were uneventful.

A president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives were nominated by former opponents and elected. And so it was down to the last appointment of pages. All this vast and weighty program consummated in an hour and at a cost of only \$1000 to taxpayers. Then to await the pomp and ceremony of the inauguration of a governor and hear his biennial message.

In his message Governor Earl Snell first extolled the performance of Oregon's civilian defense, state guard, selective service, post-war readjustment and development commission and the department of veterans' affairs.

He stated he was "making a rather exhaustive study of his proposals to establish boys' camps for youthful offenders or delinquents" and recommended construction of an "intermediate" institution for criminals; offered a 10-year program levying a 20-cent-per-thousand excise or severance tax on all stumpage or timber cut in the state to raise \$12,000,000 to be used for forest rehabilitation and fire prevention. "I desire to suggest," said the governor, "that the assembly by resolution or memorial urge strongly the importance of a free press." The governor eased the responsibilities of members when he said, "I urge that any major tax proposals be referred to the people." No inference was made that would offend either of the extreme wings of labor controversy.

The governor's statements and inferences fell as gently as did the drifting flakes outside the legislative halls.

The message to the 44th legislative assembly might be reduced to five short words.

"It's up to you boys."

Tax Commissioner Passes
Coe A. McKenna, 59, Oregon tax commissioner and a former state representative and senator

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from Multnomah county, died in a hospital in Salem last Wednesday night following a cerebral hemorrhage. He was recently reappointed to the commission for a four-year term.

Widely known in real estate circles and a past vice president of the National Association of Realty Boards he was recognized as an authority on tax problems and as a leading advocate of the sales tax for Oregon. He was an alumnus of the University of Portland, the University of Notre Dame and held a political science degree from George Washington university.

Benjamin Franklin's Birthday
An announcement from the offices of Governor Earl Snell this week called attention to Benjamin Franklin's birthday, January 17 and to National Thrift week, January 17 to 23.

These dates, the governor's prescribe reads, "will be dedicated to the promotion of wisdom in spending, care in handling of money, and following of the example of Franklin, whose quotation 'A penny saved is a penny earned,' has assumed the aspect of a truism. I can think of no more appropriate way to celebrate Franklin's birth than to remember, and observe, the tradition of thrift and economy which he so well exemplified."

State Police Report
There were 2296 arrests made during the past 30 days by Oregon state police for violations of the motor code which resulted in sentences totaling 1727 days in jail and \$18,3049.75. General law enforcement arrests numbered 268 with sentences totaling 99.43 years in prison and \$3566.69 in fines. There were 261 arrests for violations of the game code, resulting in 1.30 years in jail and \$7481.70 in fines. Violations of the commercial fisheries code numbered 13 with \$433 in fines. Of the 42 arrests for driving while intoxicated 41 convictions were secured with sentences totaling \$4453.50.



Almost 86 per cent of World War II veterans, polled in a recent nation-wide survey by the American Legion, hold the opinion that America's farmers "did a good job" during the war.

Only 0.9 per cent felt that the farmers had not done a good job while the GI's were away fighting, while 13.3 per cent held no opinion.

The same survey revealed that almost 75 per cent of the veterans polled by the Legion expressed the opinion that the nation's manufacturers also "did a good job," with only 5 per cent holding a contrary view and 20.7 per cent having no opinion.

Nine out of 10 veterans polled opposed government ownership or operation of electric power companies, and 10 out of 11 opposed federalization of the nation's railroads.

Commenting on the survey, National Commander Griffith, the top man of the American Legion, said:

"The survey shows, beyond doubt, that World War II veterans recognize free enterprise as an essential factor in our democratic system."



Division or Defamation . . .

There is only one major agency of the federal government now which operates a division of defamation. The government's housing agencies are at last decent and honest in their political programs and publicity practices, as they relate to the building industry. But over the radio, in the newspapers, through motion pictures, there is yet one agency that still hammers and yammers away at the forest industries as "devastators" and "exploiters." This is done by means of hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money, all appropriated by the congress.

I leave the agency nameless simply because it has divisions of public service which really serve the people through an army of able, devoted and technically-trained men who are paid none too well. These men are not responsible for the Pravda Boys on the Potomac to keep the one surviving Wallace-Tugwell machine of defamation in operation, on working orders that come from powerful pressure groups outside the government.

A simple example of the work is a clever little cartoon sent recently in mat form to newspapers all over the nation. It shows a background of hills dotted with stumps. In front is a beaver and a baby tree. The beaver is telling the little tree it can never hope to grow up because of the "destructive cutting practices" of lumbermen. That cartoon example is just one flyspeck in a smear that is kept black and spreading through the power to misuse public money.

Some Real Devastation . . .

While the Pravda Boys on the Potomac were concocting their defamatory cartoons a working service division of the agency was publishing a scientific study which showed how well baby trees can spring up and grow even where fire has caused the worst devastation the forest can suffer.

The ground of the study was that of the great Nastucca burn between Otis and Keskwon, Oregon. Over a wide area a fire raged in the early 1850's, leaving black snags jutting from blankets of ashes.

Most of the burn was soon reseeded from neighboring forests. Fire did not strike the area again from that day to this. Now a flourishing forest of hemlock and spruce, 94 years of age, greens out practically all signs of the "devastating" fire of long ago.

Measurements have been made of sample plots in the forest. They show on the average a net annual growth per acre of 247 cubic feet or 1454 board feet.

One plot, spruce for the most part, has an average gross scale of 168,291 board feet per acre. This means that the average annual growth (gross) per year for the 94 years that the new forest has been coming up on the burn is 1790 board feet. That is on the one specific plot, of course. Another plot shows little net growth in the past 11 years due to heavy

mortality by overcrowding, blow-downs and other causes.

So the average annual growth of the forest is reduced to 1454 board feet. This is nearly three times the conservative growth figures used by industrial foresters in computing estimates for growth on Douglas fir cutovers, although the latter how keep good seed sources under state law and are otherwise managed for intensive production of new tree crops.

Snafu Forestry . . .
As long as the Pravda Boys are given a free hand with public money in Washington, D.C., their defamation of the character of the forest industries will continue and the publication of honest information on the good side, the bright side, the constructive side of timber growing in the U.S.A., will remain as neglected as government business.

The present policy is not only to flood the country with propaganda on "devastation" and "destructive cutting," but to give never a hint to the public on such facts as that of a 50 per cent increase in net annual growth in the Douglas fir region between 1933 and 1946.

That is a policy of snafu forestry. Real forestry hides out in the woods.

Champ Cusser

AIR WAS BLUE—It was haying time and the boys bet that Bill couldn't pitch the load off the rack without swearing so many oaths. So they hid and counted the times. Never mind who won the bet, the point is that Bill had a name all through that section. He was the champ cusser.

MOUTH CLEANED—Come on Dad, ain't you in on this? And Sonny took Bill's hand and led him up front and there Bill kneeled down. When he came to his feet he had a new mouth. God gave him new birth, new appetites and a new urge. When Bill made Christ his own Lord and Saviour right then God made Bill a new man.

GOD DID IT—It was not that Bill kneeled down. I was not something he did for God but what God did for him. God looked into his heart and saw that Bill had come right with Christ. Bill had it settled that Christ had died for all his sins and by that he was in the clear. Then God took up and made Bill a new man. **T. AND O.**—God moves in and saves us even though we have lived a life of sin. Only so we claim Christ as dying for us and clearing us with God. Then God saves. By His mercy and love He saves us. See Titus 3:5—**BI-BLE.** Then it is **T. AND O. TRUST AND OBEY** for there's no other way, to be happy with Jesus than to Trust and Obey.

Dean Taylor
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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Willie Goes to School at 23

Everybody's joshing Willie Wells about going back to school. They remember when Willie would hide out in the woodshed—scared to bring his report card home to Pa. But under the G.I. Bill of Rights, Willie (who has a wife and baby) is getting a free education at the Agricultural College. And Uncle Sam is giving him a fine report: "Depotment, excellent; Progress, above average."

That goes for all those undergraduate veterans. Like Willie, they appreciate an education more than

ever now. They're industrious and well-behaved—their favorite beverage is milk, or a temperate glass of beer. For them the "three R's" seem to mean: Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Restraint.

From where I sit, cynical folks who thought veterans wouldn't want to return to school—wouldn't stick to steady habits of work and moderation—have their answer in "undergraduates" like Willie.

Joe Marsh



As a service to veterans in the community, this newspaper will publish a weekly column of news briefs from the Veterans Administration. For more detailed information, veterans should contact or write to the nearest VA contact unit at 1091 S.W. 10th Avenue, Portland.

Moves to Increase Bed Space

A new program to make more beds available in Veterans Administration hospitals is now under way, the VA has announced. VA hospital managers are being authorized to furlough patients whose treatment can be completed adequately out of hospitals, thereby making additional beds available to new patients.

Procedures will differ for service-connected and non-service-connected disability cases. Veterans with service-incurred disabilities who are sufficiently improved to warrant release will be discharged and will receive out-patient treatment in other VA facilities or on a fee basis "as circumstances warrant." Transportation for this treatment may be furnished at government expense.

Non service-connected cases will be granted leaves of absence from the hospital but will continue to be carried on hospital rolls as patients. They will report for treatment in VA hospital clinics or field stations but will be ineligible for transportation costs at government expense.

The VA emphasized that the program will apply only to those patients whose actual period of hospitalization may be shortened by this method, without prolonging treatment or impeding recovery.

Need Not List Guard Pay
Veterans in training who are required to report on earnings other than their subsidies need not list National Guard pay, the veterans administration says.

A recent ruling exempts the drill pay from the \$175 and \$200 ceilings on combined earnings and subsistence which congress imposed on veterans in training under the GI bill. A ruling is expected shortly on whether naval reserve and other reserve training pay should be included in veterans' earning reports.

Lightning strikes oak trees six times more frequently than smooth-barked trees, such as the beech.

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