

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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To escape comment or criticism, do nothing, be
nothing, say nothing.

Americans Need Offer No Apologies

This newspaper has frequently complained about apathy of the voting public and exerted numerous efforts to help create more interest by being critical, by appealing to their patriotic duty and by attempting to publish news of general public interest.

Apparently most of these efforts have failed, just as they have been somewhat ineffective throughout the nation.

The reason? We're not sure, but it could be that modern political philosophy does not appeal to rank and file American citizens.

Perhaps the American public is sick and tired of "special favors" being offered by candidates of both parties. There may be more real Americanism left in the rank and file voter of both parties than the politicians realize, resulting in subconscious distaste for the promises, the special privileges and the government funds being offered from every quarter.

Both parties for several years have been attempting to divide America into two categories: "the poor man" and "the rich man." Each of those is being broken down into categories fitting the politicians' presumed opinion of an area. The poor small business man, the poor farmer and the poor wage earner are in the first group. Where that appeal is being made, the rich man is pictured as dishonest, ruthless and detrimental to the "poor people."

We doubt if many farmers, small business men and wage earners are desirous of special funds, special tax relief, easy loans, ridiculously low interest rates and exemption from laws based on the difference between right and wrong.

Most of us want to be able to operate our own business, whether it's a farm, a hamburger stand or our own affairs as a wage earner. We would like to be able to take pride in making a fair profit, giving good service and observing the moral integrity that made America the greatest nation on earth.

Whenever political leaders of either party ram through legislation "to get even" with the big, bad business tycoon, all three categories of their imagined "poor people" are caught in a tight squeeze. Whenever tax funds are made available for "that shot in the arm" or shifted from the shoulders of one group to another everyone suffers.

Politicians should get closer to the people and realize that only a small minority will proclaim, "We don't believe in all this spending and special legislation, but we might as well get our share or someone else will take it from us."

We believe the average person—and we mean Mr. and Mrs. American—would like to get the government, state and federal, off their backs. Oregon and the nation is becoming socialized more rapidly than you can imagine. Any farmer, any wage earner and any small business man, who will take the trouble to study his increased costs of staying alive, will soon learn the greatest increases have come from hidden taxes, expense of book-keeping and the task of compiling the proverbial seven copies of everything.

Much of the present so-called apathy would disappear overnight if one or the other of the two major political parties could produce a candidate who had the guts to stand up and proclaim, "There'll not be a dime for your community just because millions are being spent elsewhere. I have no intention of giving you any special tax consideration over any other area or any other group of individuals. I will fight to make you proud once again that you are Americans and can make a profit, no matter what your vocation is, but I hope you will quit apologizing if you do make an honest profit."

A wise statesman many years ago acknowledged that the American public is from 18 months to two years ahead of Congress and state legislatures in their thinking, whether it's matters of war and peace, public pork barrels or Americanism and Socialism.

GATE CITY GLEANINGS

By Andy Nonimus

As a new member of the Gate City Journal staff, my job is to write a column—nothing clever, of course, just some jokes, comments and rumors overheard, clipped or stolen here and there. The boss drove a hard bargain! After I found out how short my hours would be, how many coffee breaks I'd get and how soon my paid vacation starts, he demanded that I take full responsibility for everything printed.

It may or may not be a joke about the post office department complaining about too much mail and too little revenue, then promoting National Letter Writing Week. Cost of first class letters went up 33 1/3 percent a few weeks ago and volume of junk mail—including politicians' speeches made in outer Mongolia—66 2/3 percent.

Bob Thompson is responsible for this Main Street news tip he handed me Monday:
Hal Henigson: "Here's my bill for services. You can pay \$400 down and \$50 a month for the

Malheur Meanderings . . .

By Johnny Birrel
Well, it had to happen sooner or later. . . so later, here it is for better or for worse. . . until readers (or lack thereof) do us part. In case you haven't already guessed this is a column. I sincerely hope you'll find it interesting, and I'll tell you what I'll do. Every time something is said in this column that you disagree with or if you come across something that you think would be interesting to exploit (note the use of that word rather than explore) in this column, drop us a line or come in and see us.

The Primary purpose of this usage of newspaper space (regardless of what you may think as we go along) will be to entertain. We'll try to present little bits of interesting information that might not warrant a news story but that may be of interest. We might even try to be a little funny from time to time. Whether we can make it or not will remain to be seen. Of course we'll use idle (but not malicious) gossip. And, we'll try to poke a little fun at someone from time to time.

There's bound to be some so-called editorial opinion or dissertation from time to time, too, but, honestly, we'll try not to overburden you with our solutions to all the world's problems.

Here are a few samples of what you may come to expect as the weeks roll by, if we can keep meeting that back shop deadline that stares us in the face every week. (Incidentally if a blank space appears on the editorial page some week, you'll know we missed it—perhaps some of the readers would prefer it that way??)

FISHING on the opening days of deer season, that's what one Nyssa high school teacher (female, of course) has been accused of. And what's more, she and her friends all made limit catches (she insists there were none over the limit) of big, fat, long trout. Bet there were some returning, deerless hunters that wished they'd gone fishing, too.

SPEAKING OF FISHING. I've heard of the "green thumb," but a local fisherman came up with a fish hook thumb this summer. Seems as though Mrs. Walt (Fayetta) Looney was fishing on Lake Owyhee one Sunday this summer (like so many others), and in the excitement of catching a three-pound, 19 inch rainbow trout (who wouldn't have been excited), she hooked her own thumb along with the fish. We understand that with the aid of a doctor, a knife and a tetanus shot, she recovered nicely.

LAST CHRISTMAS SEASON (that'll show you how long we've been thinking about a column like this) a local coffee emporium was displaying various size boxes of Corona cigars for Christmas presents. The sign with the display proudly proclaimed you could buy a box of 25 for \$3.69, while a box of 58 cost only \$7.45. This is savings by volume buying??

YOU CAN'T SAY high school principal Jack Jenkins' office has gone to the dogs, or cats, but . . . along about that same time when yours truly was in his office to gather a little news, quiet, but strange noises kept issuing forth

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My first day on the job
(Continued on Page 5)



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Canyon county, Idaho, sheriff's office. The results—the complete dissolution of the ring, prosecution of three when they are returned from a Baker conviction, the recovery of a stack of stolen goods, and the peace of mind of merchants in about 13 towns and cities in the valley.

UNOFFICIAL FLAG LOWERING ceremonies took place at the city hall the other night

about midnight under the direction of Fred Bennett and Rex Voeller. They ceremoniously lowered the flag and left it inside the city hall, properly (Continued on Page 7)

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This year marks a milestone of hydroelectric progress in Hells canyon. Already Brownlee — less than three years from the start of construction — is turning out twice as much power as is produced by the C. J. Strike project. By the end of the year, four Brownlee generators will be in place. Their output of electricity will be nearly as great as from all other Idaho Power system plants combined.

Our OPEN HOUSE will provide an opportunity for everyone to see Brownlee at its virtual completion and Oxbow at an interesting stage. We hope you'll come.

Open House hours—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. . . . Coffee, ice cream and pop will be served free of charge to supplement your picnic basket. . . . "He-man" sandwiches can be purchased at the Brownlee parking area. . . . Enter project area from the Idaho side via Cambridge—from the Oregon side via Richland and Halfway.

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