

Slipper's Soliloquies

Politics???



By Fred Slipper

By the time you read this we will have John Spellman safely enclosed in the State Mansion in Olympia and Ronald Reagan installed in the White House. Both will be starting on new, difficult assignments and I wish them well. I have never been quite sure why anyone would want such tough jobs --- must have something to do with recognition and self esteem. Now Dixy can go back to Foxtrot Farm on Fox Island, and Jimmy can retire to Plains.

Politics have influenced our various ways of life since the beginning of the electoral system. You do something for me, and I'll do something for you...

In one of my earlier columns I mentioned the "History of Banking in Skagit County, Washington," written by John W. Higgins, well known as a former local manager of Sea-First Bank, who has been promoted to a higher position. John wrote about banking history in all of the towns in Skagit County, and the account of the Lyman State Bank is of course, of special interest to me, as it was founded by my late father-in-law, Fred Fellows.

The Lyman bank was founded in 1912 and was still going strong in 1933. Fred was getting along in years by then and you would have thought he would be content to live out his career in Lyman. However, the First National Bank in Sedro-Woolley failed and Fred felt there was a need for another bank in Sedro-Woolley.

Now politics enters the scene. Fred had always been a staunch Democrat and had not supported the then Governor, Clarence Martin. So his petition for a move to Sedro "got lost" in Olympia. Next came Governor Langlie, and as the Republican Bingham in Sedro had supported Langlie, Fred again was side tracked.

Fred then decided the only way to win was to fight fire with fire, so when Mon C Wallgren ran for Governor on the Democratic ticket, Fred agreed to whole-heartedly support Wallgren with the understanding a victory meant approval to move his bank to Sedro. All of those of you who knew Fred knew there was no middle of the road way with him -- he was either for you or had strong reasons to oppose you. He really worked for Wallgren in the Northwest part of the state, and when Wallgren won, thirty days after he took office, Fred's transfer was approved. So in May of 1945 the Lyman State Bank moved to Sedro and became the Skagit Valley State Bank.

I hope Governor Spellman and President Reagan are as successful during their term of office as Fred was in winning his fight to move to Sedro, and his subsequent success in operating the Skagit Valley State Bank.

(Later, after inauguration) President Reagan's birthplace of Dixon, Illinois was mentioned during the ceremony. Move over, President Reagan -- Fred Fellows was also born in Dixon, Illinois!!!