

AFRICA-BOUND AXIS CONVOYS SHATTERED

Our Job Is to Save Dollars Buy War Bonds Every Pay Day

Roseburg News-Review

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY DAILY

VOL. XLVII NO. 204 OF ROSEBURG REVIEW

ROSEBURG, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1943.

VOL. XXXI NO. 184 OF THE EVENING NEWS

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

GAS rationing holds the attention of irritated westerners this week more or less to the exclusion of other things—much as an IMMEDIATE aching tooth can take precedence over a THREATENED case of pneumonia.

THIS writer's advice is to meet the situation good-naturedly and patriotically.

The purpose of gas rationing is to restrict UNESSENTIAL driving. It is a sound and necessary purpose. If it isn't accomplished, national efficiency will suffer.

It isn't easy to give up the pleasant habits of peace, most of which are all tied up with unlimited use of the automobile, but THIS IS WAR.

In all nations there are two kinds of people—the right kind and the wrong kind. The right kind of people will cooperate loyally; grousing, of course, in the traditional American manner, but putting up with whatever personal inconveniences may be necessary.

The wrong kind WON'T. Few of us want to be classed with the wrong kind of people.

WHATEVER you do, don't fuss out your local rationing board.

It's members, with few exceptions, are WORKING FOR NOTHING, doing their best to straighten out the snarl. Their best may not be as good as you WANT, but when tempted to criticize or complain ask yourself this searching question: COULD I DO ANY BETTER?

THE local rationing board is our protection against REMOTE bureaucracy. Its members know local conditions and are trying to protect their communities against the evils of distant bureaucratic control.

Given time, the local boards will sift out the essential from the unessential and will get things running more smoothly.

But it will take time.

NEVER let this thought out of your mind: No matter how great the in-

(Continued on page 6.)

4 Destroyers Routed From New Guinea

Allies Down 10 of Nippon Planes

Despite Aid Failure, Jap Land Forces Continue Desperate Resistance

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Dec. 3—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur's air forces supporting ground troops closing in on the Buna-Gona area on the New Guinea coast have smashed new Japanese attempts to land reinforcements in a 12-hour running battle with four Japanese destroyers and their screen of fighter planes.

The allied planes knocked 23 enemy fighters out of the air as they carried the attack to sea, forcing the destroyers to withdraw without materially aiding their hard-pressed forces on the shallow beachhead ringed by allied ground troops.

The planes kept up low level attacks on Japanese ground positions between Buna and Gona.

Brief reports from allied airmen described the night fight in the air and at sea as "A great fireworks display with enemy warships shooting rockets to illuminate the allied aircraft."

The destroyers and their fighter screen were sighted in mid-afternoon Tuesday coming from the coast of New Britain.

Flying Fortresses roared to the attack and were engaged by the Japanese fighters. North American B-25's came in and made a direct hit on one destroyer out of the flotilla continued its zigzag

(Continued on page 6.)

Wilber Henderson Named Legal Adviser to Snell

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 3—(AP)—Governor-elect Earl Snell announced today the appointment of Wilber Henderson, Portland attorney, as his legal advisor during the legislature, which opens January 11. Snell will become governor on that day.

Henderson, a graduate of the University of Oregon law school, has practiced law in Portland since 1911. He served in the state house of representatives in 1927 and 1929, where Snell also was a representative.

Henderson was one of the organizers of the Oregon department of the American Legion. He served in the army on the Mexican border and in the world war, and was a delegate to the republican national convention in 1932.

Expanding Sawmill Industry Displaces Agriculture As Principal Source of Revenue in Douglas County

By HARRY PINNIGER (Secretary Roseburg Chamber of Commerce)

The sawmill industry has replaced agriculture as the chief source of revenue in Douglas county. For the first time in the county's history, agriculture has dropped to second place as shown by a report recently completed by the Roseburg chamber of commerce with the assistance of the West Coast Lumberman's association.

This report shows an annual payroll of more than four million dollars from operating sawmills, but does not take into account the money being expended and received in the logging industry not associated with mills.

The study made by the chamber of commerce was to determine the factors which have caused Douglas county population to increase in spite of the movement of a great number of people into the armed forces and defense industry centers. Douglas county, unlike other counties in Oregon, or, for that matter, on the entire Pacific coast, has not suffered population loss or a decrease in retail business volume by reason of having no war production industries in the vicinity. However, the lumber industry has gone to war and the present production figures for Douglas county reveal the reasons why population has held up and retail business is on

the increase.

What Figures Reveal

There are at the present time 99 sawmills within the boundaries of Douglas county. Eighty-seven of these mills are in active production. These 87 mills are producing 2,300,000 board feet of lumber per day. Eighty and one half per cent of the total is produced by mills cutting in excess of 25 thousand board feet per day. The remaining 19 per cent is produced by those mills having a capacity of less than 25 thousand per day. Using the generally accepted figure of one man employed per thousand board feet of production, approximately 2,400 men are employed in the sawmill industry. This represents a payroll estimated at \$15,600 per day and based on a 250-day working year would represent an annual payroll of \$4,400,000. This indicates that for the first time in the history of the county the lumber industry has surpassed agriculture as the leading income producer. This is especially significant, because agricultural income for the year will equal or surpass the \$4,000,000 mark, which was maintained for agriculture in the period from 1926 to 1929, inclusive.

A further point is that this report does not cover those parts of the industry devoted exclusively to logging operations without the attendant sawmill production. In

Ex-Legislator Passes On at 100



DUNHAM WRIGHT

LAGRANDE, Ore., Dec. 3—(AP)—Dunham Wright, 100, eastern Oregon pioneer and veteran of early state legislatures in Oregon, died at his home at Medical Springs, near here, today.

Wright, who claimed distant relationship to Abraham Lincoln, came to Union county, Ore., in 1862, and was the county's first representative in the state house. He observed his 100th birthday anniversary on March 13.

Oregon's Income Tax Excess Poses Question

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 3—(AP)—Oregon's income tax collections this year will total \$13,750,000, an all-time record, compared with collections of \$8,027,000 last year, the previous record, the state tax commission said today.

The commission said it doesn't know whether there will be any surplus, because it has not been determined whether the bill passed by the voters a month ago—giving school districts all income tax revenues in excess of \$7,775,000 a year—applies to this year's taxes.

It also has not been determined whether the bill actually provides that the excess revenues will be used to reduce local property taxes, or whether the surplus will be extra cash for the districts to spend.

5 Sailors Dead, 10 Others Missing in Boat Upset

NEWPORT, R. I. Dec. 3—(AP)—Five sailors were known dead, 10 others were missing and two were safe today after their 28-foot liberty boat capsized in rough water in Narragansett bay early yesterday while returning the men from shore leave.

Soviet Lunge Continues On Two Fronts

Nazis Pressed Back in Moscow Area; Trap at Stalingrad Tightens

MOSCOW, Dec. 3—(AP)—White-clad Russian ski troops pressed the nazis back on blizzard-swept battlefields west of Moscow today while between the Don and Volga the red army steadily closed the trap on Stalingrad's besiegers from recaptured heights northwest and southwest of the city.

Battlefront dispatches gave this account of the steadily mounting Russian winter drive.

South of Leningrad and west of Moscow the Germans were arming 1,000 a day as ski troopers armed with tommy guns clashed with nazi Alpinist reinforcements in some of the fiercest fighting of the past two weeks amid snow-blanketed nazi tanks and trucks, now often abandoned and frozen.

On the Stalingrad front the Germans were resisting savagely in a fight for life, and the Russian onslaught went into its third week slowed but unstoppable.

A communique said soviet troops stormed and held another strategic height northwest of the city. This, with the height southwest of Stalingrad which was reported yesterday as recaptured, gave the Russians a field of fire over at least part of the German corridor of escape or reinforcement to Stalingrad.

Germans Reinforced—The Germans rushed reinforcements into at least three key salients in a desperate effort to halt the Russian advance.

Strong forces of German Alpinists went into action east of Velikie Lukie. Other special units appeared south of Rzhev where the Germans were trying to regain control of vital sections.

(Continued on page 6.)

Christmas Trees Free Of Price Limitation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—(AP)—There will be no ceiling on Christmas trees.

Government agencies today exempted the Yuletide institution from price, production and distribution control.

The office of price administration said there would be no price ceiling but asked that "prices be held at the level of last year."

Parity Bill With Labor Costs Passed

Roosevelt's Opposition Overridden in Action of House to Aid Farmers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—(AP)—The house by unanimous consent today passed legislation redefining agricultural parity to include the costs of all farm labor, a step against which president Roosevelt expressed "unalterable opposition" when anti-inflation proposals were placed before congress two weeks ago.

At the time parity redefinition was debated in the anti-inflation fight, one government official contended this might result in an increase in living costs of as much as \$3,500,000,000 a year.

Rep. Page (D-GA.), author of the measure, told the house he did not know what effects it might have on living costs.

The legislation now goes to the senate.

Page told the house that under agricultural labor policies being established by the government "virtually no crops will be produced next year, unless farmers are allowed to embrace the increased labor costs into the parity formula."

(Parity is an arbitrary price calculated to give farmers buying power equal to that of some past favorable period for agriculture, usually 1909-14.)

Ruling on Douglas Issue is Adverse

The Douglas county court has no authority to condemn property of the state world war veterans state aid commission, because no governmental branch has the right to condemn the property of another government agency, Attorney General I. H. VanWinkle ruled today for District Attorney J. V. Long. The case, the district attorney reported, is one in which Clarence Anderson, a resident of Lookingglass, had petitioned the court for a gateway road from his farm to a county road. The proposed gateway road would cross property belonging to the veterans commission. Long said, and the opinion of the attorney general was requested concerning the county's power to obtain right of way by condemnation.

The action, Long said, is not for a county road but for a "road of necessity," which would be open to the public, but would be built and maintained by the user.

Trespasser Wounded by Kaiser Shipyard Guard

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 3—(AP)—The Kaiser company reported last night that N. G. Reiter, about 48, was shot and wounded Tuesday when he attempted to enter the company's shipyard here against a guard's orders.

E. E. Blazier, Kaiser public relations council, said that Reiter, believed to be a transient, was warned by Guard John Pantier to keep out of the yard. Several warning shots were fired. When Reiter failed to heed, the guard shot him in the leg and foot.

Blazier said Reiter's condition was reported by the hospital as satisfactory.

Where Rommel Halted to Fight



Halting its retreat at El Agheila, German Marshal Rommel's battered remnants in Libya are offering the same kind of a bottleneck defense that saved Suez and the British army at El Alamein, Egypt. There the Qattara depression formed a natural barrier leaving only a 40-mile wide strip for the British to defend. El Agheila, at the bottom of the roller-coaster bend between Benghazi and Tripoli, is only 25 miles from the edge of the salt marshes that enclose a narrow passage along the gulf of Sirte. Even if remaining axis forces are not strong enough to hold this short line, they may fight a delaying action to hold off the British until an evacuation can be made at Tripoli or other points along the Libyan coast.

Election Dated On Labor Issue of Sutherland Loggers

Word was received here today that the national labor relations board has set the date of Thursday, Dec. 10, between the hours of 4 and 7 p. m. for the election at the Smith Wood Products company logging camp at Sutherland. A field examiner from the 19th regional office, with headquarters in Seattle, will conduct the election at which the woods workers determine their bargaining agent.

Both the C. I. O. and A. F. of L. claimed jurisdiction at the Sutherland camp. A large number of the men held membership in the C. I. O. and favored that organization, but the company's operation at Coquille contracts with the A. F. of L. A hearing was held recently upon petition for an election, with the A. F. of L. claiming that the Sutherland operation, being a branch of the main plant at Coquille, should be under A. F. of L. jurisdiction. The hearing, however, resulted in a decision that the Sutherland camp should have the right to select its own bargaining agent and an election was ordered.

Approximately 50 men employed in the woods in the Calapooia area are expected to participate in the forthcoming election.

Farmers Assured of Ample Gasoline, Tires

PORTLAND, Dec. 3—(AP)—Oregon farmers had the office of defense transportation's word for it today that they will get gasoline, tires and spare parts—so long as they last—for essential truck operation.

Herman O. Sites, district manager of the ODT motor transport division, pledged that no farmer would be put out of business by the certificate of war necessity plan.

Farmers who are dissatisfied with certificate allowances for mileage and gasoline should see the county agents, war boards or transportation committees in their counties at once, he said.

Ceilings on Food Prices Scored by Retailers' Head

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—(AP)—Fred A. Baughan, general manager of the Retail Food Dealers of California, predicted today that unless grocery stores are relieved from what he called impractical price restrictions they would be forced out of business and the government would have to feed the people through food dispensing stations.

"We seem to be heading for a combination of technocracy and state socialism," Baughan told the joint committee on reduction of nonessential federal expenditures.

The committee is investigating the possibility of eliminating useless government questionnaires and reports.

Baughan said the March 15 ceiling price lists which all grocers were required to file with their local rationing boards, "are still piled up in the garages of California, just furnishing harbors for rats."

In many cases, including fresh oranges and canned corn, Baughan testified, the retail prices frozen as of March 15 were far below replacement costs, and dealers cannot afford to handle the goods at a loss.

The ceiling price lists, he said, simply were dumped in garages. "Our local boards are almost all garage men originally chosen to ration tires"—and apparently have never been examined by anybody.

Ice Cream Still Safe From Manufacture Ban

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—(AP)—Senator McNary says agriculture and OPA officials have no present intention to suspend manufacture of ice cream.

The senator conferred yesterday with officials of the two agencies after ice cream manufacturers in Oregon asked him to ascertain whether it was planned to discontinue making of the delicacy. They said such a move would "break a large number of small business concerns."

British Fleet Sinks 6 Ships In Sea Swoop

U. S. Bombers Blast Six Others at Libya; Allied Losses Month Ago 11

(By the Associated Press) Britain's powerful Mediterranean fleet was reported "covering" the allied advance in Tunisia today while the London admiralty announced the destruction of four more enemy merchant ships and two destroyers en route to north Africa with reinforcements for the hard-pressed axis garrisons at Tunis and Bizerte.

U. S. bombers were officially credited with destroying or crippling six other axis merchant ships at Tripoli, the enemy's only remaining harbor in Libya.

One British destroyer, the Quantin, was sunk later in a follow-up attack by axis dive bombs.

Liberia Grants Air Base Rights to U. S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—(AP)—Liberia, on the strategic west coast of Africa, has granted air base rights to the United States for the duration of the war.

The agreement, signed last March and announced by the state department today, gives the United States the right to build, control, operate and defend air ports in Liberia and to assist also in the protection and defense of any part of that country which might be liable to attack.

At the same time, it was officially disclosed that the British aircraft carrier Avenger, three destroyers and five lighter ships were among allied naval losses incident to the landings in north Africa nearly a month ago.

Meanwhile the navy in Washington announced the loss of five U. S. naval transports during the operation.

Three transports, a destroyer and a tanker were damaged during the operation, the navy said; in its first communique on the north African coup.

A navy spokesman said casualties were small.

"The next of kin of personnel killed, wounded or missing are being notified by telegram as soon as information is received," the navy said.

The transports sunk were listed in the communique as the Tasker H. Bliss, the Hugh L. Scott, and the Edward Rutledge, which were sunk off Casablanca; the Joseph Hewes, sunk off Rabat, and the Ledestown, sunk off Algiers.

Convoy Broken Up

An Italian version of the sea battle off the Tunisian coast Tuesday night acknowledged the sinking of a fascist destroyer and declared a British cruiser was blown up and a light unit sunk in "a brief but violent encounter."

The British listed the loss of the Quantin, sunk by the axis air attack after a British force of three cruisers and two destroyers had broken up the convoy with its sorely needed fresh strength

(Continued on page 6.)

Roy W. Ritner, Ex-President of State Senate, Dies

PENDLETON, Ore., Dec. 3—(AP)—Roy W. Ritner, 66, one of Pendleton's most prominent citizens and widely-known throughout the northwest died at a local hospital today following a paralytic stroke suffered a week ago.

A leader in republican politics, Ritner served as state representative from 1915 to 1917 and in the state senate from 1919 to 1925, being elected senate president for the 1921-22 session and serving as acting governor in November and December of 1922.

He was business manager of the Pendleton round-up from 1910 to 1917, resigning to go overseas as a captain with the American Red Cross. He again became round-up business manager in 1932 and held that position until the time of his death. Ritner was also Chamber of Commerce secretary from 1932 to 1941.

He had been secretary of the Oregon state farm bureau since 1941, being re-elected at the recent state convention in Hood River, and was vice president of the Rodeo Association of America.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. W. A. Storie of Pendleton and Mrs. Jack Buchanan of Portland; and a brother, Harry Ritner of Portland.

18 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TO BUY A DOLL FOR SUE Buy Christmas Seals