Roseburg News-Review

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The Weather

U. S. Weather Bureau Office
Roseburg, Oregon.

Forecast for Roseburg and vicinity: Partly cloudy tonight; light rain Friday.

Highest temp. for any Mar.	85
Lowest temp. for any Mar.	18
Highest temp. yesterday	54
Lowest temp. last night	38
Precipitation yesterday	.08
Precipitation from March 1	.66
Deficit from March 1, 1945	.14
Deficit from Sept. 1, 1944	7.79

In the Day's News

(Continued from page 1)

thought on the subject. One, which includes the bulk of the cynics and the hard-boiled anti-Roosevelters who can see no possible ray of hope in anything the president does or ever may do, holds that it was the first move of another drive to the left—probably a scheme to use the big government lending agencies hitherto gathered together in the department of congress as a spearhead of reckless lending to take it away from those who have and give it to those who have not.

This crowd's enthusiasm for the George bill (now signed by FDR), which removed the big lending agencies from the department of congress and so took them out of the Wallace orbit, is tempered by the sobering knowledge that after all the president has the appointive power and so will pick the man who will head these agencies in whatever set-up they may be placed. He may, of course, have another squabble with the senate when it comes to confirmation, but history leaves it fairly clear that in all such ruckuses the holder of the appointive power usually comes out ahead.

THERE is another school, fairly numerous and including a fair proportion of impersonal observers, that thinks FDR may have been just finally and definitely getting rid of Henry, whom he dropped overboard at the convention last summer.

The theory of these people is that the president picked the secretaryship of the department of commerce as the one job which Wallace couldn't possibly be confirmed by the senate, expecting, when confirmation was refused, to be in a position to shrug his shoulders and say deprecatingly: "Well, Henry, I've done my best to repay you for the self-sacrificing, self-forgetting devotion you displayed last summer when you gave me your all-out support after getting the gate at Chicago. But you see how it is. I just can't get away with it. The wicked senate won't let me.

"But at least I've done the best I can to pay off my debt."

THERE is a third sector of political opinion which holds the thought that Wallace was being built up as the New Deal candidate for 1948, and that his final confirmation by the senate has more or less dumped the play.

The contention has been that in order to be a sure-fire winner in 1948, Wallace will have to be dramatized as a martyr. Now that the senate has gone ahead and seated him in the commerce secretary's chair, after taking away the big marbles, it is asserted that he will have a hard time playing himself up as the leader of a great cause that will be hopelessly lost unless he is vindicated at the polls three and a half years hence.

HERE and there one hears a chirp to the effect that once again Roosevelt is knocking down a head that threatens to rise above the general level in the New Deal party, thus offering a threat to the theory of his own indispensability.

Hoover managed it, but the department of commerce isn't very widely regarded as a stepping stone to the presidency. Once installed there, the argument goes, Henry will be definitely buried.

THE tendency of objective, nonpartisan observers here is to withhold an opinion until the president names an administrator of the great lending agencies that were amputated from the department of commerce as the price of Wallace's confirmation.

The kind of man he picks for this job will give a reasonably dependable inkling of what is in his mind for the course that he described after his fourth election as "slightly left of center."

Mother Goose was born Elizabeth Foster in 1665 in England and only went down in history because an irate son-in-law secretly put her verses in print to ridicule her.

BETTER HOUSING NEEDED

By Charles V. Stanton

When a woman has spent hour-after-hour and day-after-day in a fruitless search for suitable living quarters, it would be perfectly understandable if she became short-tempered and resentful. But a few days ago we met a woman who, dispite continued disappointment, has found a certain measure of pleasure in house-hunting, even though she is still searching.

"I have met so many wonderful people," she declared. "Everyone is so kind and hospitable. We have been here only a short time, but already I see people I have met while hunting a house. We speak. In just these few weeks it seems we no longer are strangers. I think I have been on every street in Roseburg. Sometimes people stop me and ask for directions and I get a thrill out of being able to give them information. This is such a beautiful city and the people are lovely. Everyone is so friendly. I know we will love it here."

So many people in this woman's position would be cross and out of sorts, critical of the town and its people, and resentful because continued efforts had failed. It is refreshing, indeed, to find a person who can see the brighter side and find a certain amount of pleasure even in such an onerous task as hunting a house in these days of shortages.

But the plight of this woman and numerous others who are facing the same task today, as well as many who are soon to come, emphasizes the necessity for immediate action to relieve the critical situation.

The Roseburg chamber of commerce has been working industriously to aid persons desiring to build homes. A great deal has been accomplished. New residences are to be seen under construction in nearly every part of Roseburg and environs. But it is a slow, hard task. Negotiations must be conducted through federal agencies with their maze of red tape. Retail material yards have low inventories. Even when priorities are obtained, it often becomes almost impossible to secure materials desired for the job.

The federal government is urging sawmills to increase their rate of production, and the operators are doing everything possible to turn out greater volume of timber products. But it is found extremely difficult to keep plants operating at full capacity, simply because manpower is not available. The reason there is not sufficient manpower is because adequate housing is not available.

In contacting federal agencies to secure relief from this situation, the city is confronted with the fact that the emergency trailer camp located near the east city limits has never been filled to capacity. But anyone familiar with conditions in that camp can understand the reason.

The trailers are constantly damp. Bedding mildews almost overnight. Interior fixtures rust out within a few weeks. The surroundings are unattractive and there are few conveniences. People will occupy trailers only for emergency housing, and when something better cannot be obtained they will move on.

A great industrial expansion is in prospect during the coming few months. Where the people necessary to this expansion are to be housed is a problem which is creating a good many headaches for civic and industrial leaders.

A large public housing project to serve the Roseburg area has been proposed to congress, but what is needed is a diversion of materials into private construction enabling workers to build their own homes and thus obtain a feeling of permanence and security, which would be reflected in better production and community pride.

Singing of Kipnis Pleases Audience

By I. K. P.

One of the world's most famed artists, Alexander Kipnis, bass-baritone of the Metropolitan Opera association, brought to a close the 1944-45 season of the Roseburg Community Concert association by presenting his program last evening before a large audience at the Junior High school auditorium.

Kipnis' voice proved to be one of the most powerful ever heard here and he also proved himself equally adept at singing the softer tones in presenting some of the most difficult numbers on his program. He added greatly to the concert by explaining the meaning of the songs, which he sang in foreign languages. He was very ably accompanied by Wolfgang Rose, who presented a piano solo on the program and responded to an encore as a result of the audience's demanding applause. Mr. Kipnis' encore numbers included both English and foreign language selections.

OUT OUR WAY — BY J. R. WILLIAMS

BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON 3-9

Tommy Debolt Gravely Wounded In Battle Action

Tommy Debolt, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Debolt, Lookingglass rt., Roseburg, was seriously wounded in action in France, Feb. 18, according to official word received by his parents. According to a letter written since his injury, Debolt suffereed four wounds, apparently from shrapnel, being struck on the head, arm, side and leg.

Originally a member of Co. D, 162nd infantry, the Douglas county national guard company, Debolt was transferred into an engineering department and spent 31 months in the Aleutians. He suffered an injury which necessitated prolonged treatment, and was at home three months during recuperation. He then returned to the army and was sent to England and later into France, where he suffered a minor wound prior to the injuries suffered Feb. 18.

A brother, Fred Debolt, who was a member of Co. D, has been discharged and is now employed by the Umpqua Valley Hardware store. He suffered a leg injury incapacitating him for further military service when his leg was crushed under a heavy mobile gun being moved after dark in a bivouac area.

Reedsport Forced Into Competitive Bid for Acreage

REEDSPORT — The city of Reedsport, forced into competitive bidding for 589 acres of hillside land lying directly east of the city, a part of which is within the city limits and the remainder adjacent to the city, has appointed a committee to compose the city's offer. The committee was authorized at the regular monthly meeting of the council Monday evening.

The council had hoped to acquire the land, owned by Douglas county, without competitive bid, but as an offer was submitted by a Reedsport resident, the county court was forced to require sealed proposals. It had been the intention of the council to acquire only that portion lying within the city limits, planning to hold it for eventual use as a city reservoir, but under the existing circumstances will be forced to bid on the entire tract.

Loan to be Liquidated

Payment of a $55,000 loan from the state land board was authorized by transfer of funds from the water fund. The loan was obtained to cover cost of installation of water facilities.

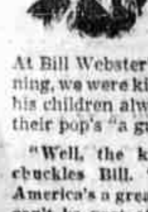
The council adopted an ordinance calling for sidewalks and curbs in the Wade Flats district. A street grade was authorized.

Announcement was made that the city is preparing to start legal action to quiet title on a number of lots held by the city by non-payment of taxes and liens. By clearing title the city will be in a position to speed sale of the lots.

Legal steps also are to be taken to secure easements for water lines, sewers and other public utilities through certain city blocks which are without alleys.

The water committee was authorized to contract for cleaning and clearance of a tunnel through which the city water mains are laid. The tunnel is near Clear lake, source of the city's water supply.

The daughter of the U. S. commissioner of patents, Annie Elsworth, chose the words: "what hath God wroght!" for the first commercial telegraph message sent in 1844.


From where I sit ... *by* Joe Marsh

Definition of a Great Man

At Bill Webster's the other evening, we were kidding Bill about his children always saying that their pop's "a great man."

"Well, the kids are right," chuckles Bill. "Everybody in America's a great man. You just can't be part of greatness and not share in it."

In America (argues Bill) things that used to belong only to the great are common property: a share in government through the right to vote; individual liberties guaranteed by constitution; freedom to speak one's mind; to work at what one pleases; to choose what one likes to eat or drink ... whether beer or buttermilk.

But from where I sit, there's one important point to add ... to make Bill's definition ring true. We must be worthy of this greatness. We must have the humility to appreciate these blessings ... never abuse them with intolerance, intemperance, or indifference.

Joe Marsh

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