

Roseburg News-Review

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The Weather

U. S. Weather Bureau Office
 Roseburg, Oregon.
 Forecast for Roseburg and vicinity: Clear and warm.
 Highest temp. for any June...106
 Lowest temp. for any June...36
 Highest temp. yesterday...68
 Lowest temp. last night...44
 Precipitation yesterday...00
 Precipitation from June 1...11
 Deficit from June 1, 1945...49
 Deficit from Sept. 1, 1944...5.60

In the Day's News

(Continued from page 1)

lost, of course, but if they run true to form they'll keep us out of the Borneo oil as long as possible.

IN Burma, incidentally, we are now seeing something new in the Pacific war—Japs fighting to GET OUT and FIGHT AGAIN instead of digging in and dying in their holes.
 All the Japs left in Burma are moving eastward toward Thailand, and the British, fighting in the drenching monsoon rains, are seeking to trap and exterminate them.

THE finish fight in Okinawa is a bloody one.
 Our indomitable marines and soldiers are scaling the cliff where the Japs are making their last stand. They are proving themselves to be TOUGHER than the tough Japs, and at the same time are applying their native ingenuity. They're running flame-throwing tanks up to the foot of the cliff and when the tanks stall their range is EXTENDED by hundreds of feet of hose.
 One crew scaled a strategic point, carrying the nozzle of one of these flamethrowing hoses, sprayed the point with flame, burning out the defending Japs, then let down a rope that was climbed hand over hand by their comrades with machine guns and ammunition strapped to their backs.
 All this, remember, under a hail of Jap machine gun, rifle, mortar and grenade fire.

THE Jap radio is literally squalling about converting ALL OF JAPAN into another Okinawa, that we'll have to take hole by hole and cave by cave. One guesses that even the Jap propagandists know better.

They may be promoting this die-in-every-hole-in-the-homeland campaign in the hope that when we DON'T tackle it that way their strangely sappy people will think they have us bluffed and get all steamed up again with hope and enthusiasm.
 One never can tell what a Jap propagandist may be driving at.

THE fighting in south China is part of the off-again-on-again variety. The Japs seem to be still making some progress in their struggle to keep the Indo-China corridor open. On the other hand, the Chinese have taken Hoyon, 100 miles northeast of Canton.

A glance at your map will make it clear that the fighting forces on both sides in this whole general area must be broken up into relatively small bodies, with little semblance of an established line.

HOPKINS and Davies are back from Moscow. Truman has breakfast with them, and comes away in what the correspondents describe as "obvious" good humor.
 Later he tells his press conference that the results obtained by his two representatives in their conferences with Stalin were "completely satisfying and gratifying."
 He adds that the Russians are "just as anxious to get along with us as we are to get along with them." All present signs indicate that Hopkins must have done a good job in Moscow.

TRUMAN announces that the date for the next meeting of the Big Three (Stalin, Truman, Churchill) has been set, but adds that he can't tell the time or the place until he arrives there.

BOTH London and Moscow seem to be hopeful that the Polish question can be settled without

VETERANS HOSPITALS

By Charles V. Stanton

Charges of mistreatment of patients in veterans hospitals, inadequate equipment, inefficiency and neglect, are being widely aired. This sort of issue is a virtual gold mine for the sensation-seeking reporter, publicity-seeking congressmen and others who covet public attention.

There can be no question that our veterans hospitals are not as efficiently managed as before the war. There cannot help but be lack of equipment. Probably there are isolated cases of mistreatment. But we cannot believe that conditions are nearly as serious as one would think from reading the sensational articles which have appeared in a few widely circulated publications.

The current investigation was aroused by a reporter writing in one of the popular magazines and telling of a few isolated cases of alleged mistreatment. His article would lead the casual reader to the opinion that the conditions recounted were general rather than limited. Publicity seekers immediately seized upon the report to create a sensation. But official investigation does not support any contention of widespread neglect or abuse of veterans.

The American Legion reported that "veterans hospitals were found to compare favorably with civilian institutions and in some instances were better."

The Disabled American Veterans said there should be more hospital construction but that "in general, conditions at veterans hospitals are good."

The report of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was more critical, declaring that 47 per cent of all veterans hospitals provide inadequate hospitalization.

Numerous other factors are covered in the reports of the three organizations, with general agreement on personnel shortages, overcrowding, lack of equipment, low wages, scales, etc.

We imagine conditions at the facility in Roseburg furnish a fair example of those to be found generally.

Dr. George A. Melvin, manager, reports that he has six vacancies on the nursing staff. This represents one-third of the normal personnel. The number of vacancies stood at seven until this week.

The facility has been lacking in nurses' aides for many months. A librarian has arrived to fill a long-existing vacancy. The facility has no recreational aide and there are three vacancies in the occupational therapy department. The facility has 173 persons on the payroll, as compared with a normal staff of 219. Many of these persons are untrained, some are superannuated, some are in poor health. Authorization has been received for 27 new employees, to bring the total staff to 246, yet the manager is unable to secure personnel to fill the 219 positions required for normal operation.

The Roseburg facility has a working capacity for 566 patients. The load, ordinarily, is in excess of 600. The facility, however, has not been seriously overcrowded, as it has a maximum emergency capacity of 659 beds.

But, in view of the help shortage, it is not at all surprising that there should be a certain measure of inefficiency, nor could it be expected that morale and discipline would be maintained as effectively as would be anticipated in an institution served by a trained, fully-manned staff.

Charges have been made concerning inadequate kitchen facilities. Any housewife who has shopped to replace utensils can sympathize with the management of veterans hospitals. Dr. Melvin reports he has had kitchen equipment on order since January of 1944, nearly a year and a half, and still has not received all the articles requested. Kitchen help is almost impossible to obtain and limited personnel cannot prepare and serve food as efficiently as can a full staff of workers.

Sewage disposal at the Roseburg facility is one of the worst conditions existing at that institution. Because the city of Roseburg was denied right of way through the reservation, the original plan, providing for joint sewage disposal, was abandoned and the city provided its own plant, which lacks capacity to serve the hospital. Sewage from the hospital now is going directly into the river, causing a condition which should be investigated by the state board of health.

Mistreatment of patients should not be permitted in any such institution. Dr. Melvin reports that only two such cases have been reported at the Roseburg facility and immediate disciplinary action followed. Any bruise or scratch upon the body of a patient calls for immediate investigation to determine how it was received.

We believe our veterans are entitled to every possible consideration in the great majority of our veterans hospitals. There may be isolated cases where correction is needed. But, on the whole, our veterans hospitals, we are convinced, are doing the best possible job under most adverse circumstances.

Jobless Payment Hike Affects 56, Local Area Claims

Higher unemployment benefits for Oregon's covered workers will go into effect for the rest of 1945 beginning next week as a result of the amendment made by the recent legislature. Weekly allowances will be increased up to 29 per cent, while maximum yearly benefits may go up from 30 to 50 per cent.

The number of waiting weeks which must be served by each claimant has been reduced from two to one.

The new law provides for a schedule of benefits based entirely upon the individual's base year earnings. Weekly allowances run from \$10 for those who earned from \$200 to \$325 up to \$18 for those who made over \$1,375. Calendar year benefits are limited to \$360 or one-fourth of the wages in the base year—which for present claimants is from Oct. 1, 1943 to Sept. 30, 1944.

In the Roseburg employment office area 56 claims are affected by the amended unemployment law. Any information with regard to the changes may be secured from the unemployment deputy Oscar B. Barrie.

Other changes affecting claimants include longer periods of disqualification for fraud and misrepresentation, and requirement of subsequent earnings before benefits may be paid those who voluntarily quit, are discharged for misconduct or fail to apply for suitable work.

OUT OUR WAY



Abortive Attempt to Start Daily Paper in Early Days of Roseburg Journalism Told

By FRED M. WRIGHT
 News-Review Redemptorist Correspondent

George Turnbull, professor of Journalism at the University of Oregon, in his "History of Oregon Newspapers," published in 1939, tells the story of the news publications of Oregon. Twelve and two-thirds pages of that book give briefly and concisely the history of newspapers in Douglas county and prove that Mr. Turnbull studied his subject carefully and spent much time in research. He outlines the history of newspapers in Roseburg and gives the lineage of the present Roseburg News-Review as an interesting story.

Under the subheading "Some other Roseburg newspapers," Mr. Turnbull writes: "There was the little Roseburg Champion, started (and practically finished) May 31, 1903. On its very first issue an accident on the press pried the forms of hand-set type in a hopeless heap, and a small makeshift paper that Sunday morning was the result. The Champion was licked in the first round—and it didn't come back."

That was the story, in part, but Mr. Turnbull did not tell the half of it, for it was really an interesting story in the history of Roseburg Journalism.

Story of Plaindealer
 As narrated by Mr. Turnbull, W. C. Conner came from Myrtle Point, where he had been operating The Enterprise, and was installed as editor and publisher of the Roseburg Plaindealer. This was in 1889. He succeeded E. D. Stratford, who had been the editor and assumed ownership and publication, but in those days the Plaindealer was owned by a group of politicians among whom were A. C. Marsters, Binger Hermann, Dr. K. L. Miller and one or two others. Stratford had a small interest in the publication but was not a success as an editor, so Conner was brought from Myrtle Point, where one of Binger Hermann's sons was in business and had recommended Conner for the job. F. W. Beach, formerly of Lakeview, later to become publisher of the Portland Hotel News, was associated with Conner and was named as co-publisher for a short time, but passed his interests back to Marsters and the others. Conner continued in charge of the paper until August, 1902. During this time the writer became associated with the Plaindealer as local reporter and advertising solicitor.

In August, 1902, H. H. Brooks, a fiery Texan from the Danhandle county, arrived in Roseburg and after sticking for a week, arranged to take over the paper on an outright deal. Conner did not want to sell, so he was taken in with Brooks as a partner. Brooks, who was a democrat, agreed with the Roseburg republicans that the Plaindealer should be owned and operated as a republican paper and thus gained control of stock not owned by Conner.

After a week or so he commenced to make things uncomfortable for Conner and forced him to sell his interest for about 45 cents on the dollar. Conner withdrew and started a job printing shop on the corner of Jackson and Oak streets, where the bank building now stands. At that time the property was occupied by a little, white, five-room house, formerly the home of the Ed Sheridan family.

Brooks, who had brought his family from Texas, established his daughter, Mary K. Brooks, as editor, but H. H. himself, was the real editor, with Mary taking care of local society news and advertising. I still continued on local, courthouse news and advertising.

Harry, the old man's son, worked in the back shop, mostly on job printing presses. T. G. Ruth was the foreman. Dale Strange was pressman. The type was hand set by the foreman, Strange and four or five girls, among whom were Laura Spaulding, Dolly Hefty, Della Moore, one of the Jewett girls and probably Genevieve McCrossen and Jessie Weatherly.

Daily Paper Projected

Brooks was continually chafing at the bit in his attempt to turn against the republican stockholders and finally announced he intended to publish a daily Plain-

dealer. The other stockholders rebelled against that move, so Brooks determined he would start a daily on his own account and announced inauguration of the Roseburg Daily Champion, to be published and printed in the office of the semi-weekly Plaindealer. While this did not set well with the Plaindealer stockholders, there apparently was a clause in Brooks' agreement which permitted him to publish under his own name and at his own expense.

Thus it was announced to the employees that he would commence publication of the daily on a certain date and that the paper would be a morning issue. A certain number of the force would be given a half-day off after the Thursday issue of the Plaindealer and would be called to work Friday evening to prepare the initial appearance of the Champion on Sunday and every day thereafter.

Things commenced to hum with activity about the office. Arrangements were made by Brooks to receive Associated Press dispatches through Western Union telegraph service, then under the management of Kate Bulck.

Saturday night the telegraph office was kept open until midnight, receiving dispatches for the new daily. I was delegated as messenger to carry the news from the telegraph to the newspaper office. I also served as copy boy to see that prepared copy was placed on proper hooks in the composing room.

One-Round Knockout

The first news that night concerned floods in the Mississippi valley and as dispatches were delivered to Brooks he wrote the copy in long hand with a pencil. I can remember how he labored and perspired at his desk on that fateful night, in his white shirt sleeves and his starched turned collar, his feet off his collar unbuttoned. He would stop, rub his hands together and remark about the fine news that the readers of the Daily Champion would receive first hand in their new daily paper at the breakfast table the next morning.

As the proof sheets came back, he arranged the paper on the setting board. Now as the forms were already on the press, he started the gasoline engine, used for power, mounted to the pressman's position, placed a sheet of paper against the guides for the

Berry Values Rise As Acreage Drops

The Oregon acreage of nine principal berries grown in Oregon has declined from a peak of approximately 25,000 acres in 1941 to less than 17,000 acres harvested in 1944, according to the latest statistical yearbook for small fruits grown in Oregon, just issued as extension bulletin 656.

Despite the decline in acreage, the increased price caused the value of farm marketings from these crops to reach an all-time record high of \$6,673,000 last year. Labor shortages, increased costs and uncertain returns are the primary factors contributing to a decline, in the opinion of the extension economists of O. S. C., who are principal authors of the bulletin.

The high prices have stimulated better care and more complete harvesting so that average yields have been higher in recent years, the report shows. Preliminary estimates of acreage harvested in 1944 show strawberries leading with approximately 6,000 acres. Next are black raspberries, 2,600 acres; boysenberries and youngberries, 2,500 acres; red raspberries, 2,100 acres; loganberries, 1,250 acres; grapes, 720 acres; tamarack berries, 680 acres; gooseberries, 580 acres, and cranberries, 170 acres. Approximately 90 per cent of the acreage is in the Willamette valley.

DIAL-LOG

By SUSAN

Be sure to listen in tonight at 9:30 for Freedom or Opportunity's dramatization of Ernie Pyle's life. As we've mentioned many times before, this is one of the best family-listening shows on the air and it should be especially good tonight. Also listed for tonight: Double or Nothing, 8:30; Lone Ranger, 7:30, and Cavalcade of Sports at 8:00. Tonight it's "Sugar" Rex Robinson and Jimmy McDaniels scheduled to go 10 rounds in a welterweight bout. According to publicity, they're saying in fighting circles that Robinson is slipping, so this might turn out to be the night he gets slugged to sleep.

Now for tomorrow. We remind you to listen again to the 1:00 o'clock broadcast of American Eagles in Britain when we are scheduled to get a salute to Roseburg. Symphony of the Americas celebrates Grieg and Tchaikovsky anniversaries with Mischa Kofler as guest piano soloist on their 5:30 bill, and Jean Goldkette has a lot of popular old tunes lined up for the 6:00 o'clock show. Chicago Theatre of the Air goes short-hair with musical hits from the Broadway show, "Bloomer Girl," plus some of Gerstwin's music. Sunday, too, has lots of good entertainment for you. And remember Monday, the special program honoring General "Ike" at 9:30. Man On the Street 1:00, and Spotlight Bands at 6:30; so be sure to listen in.

DANCE

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REMAINING HOURS TODAY

4:00—Fulton Lewis, Jr., Plough Chemical.
 4:15—Max Miller, National Biscuit.
 4:30—Door to Melody.
 4:45—Bible Adventures, Presbyterian Church.
 5:00—Sam Hayes, S. & W. Fine Foods.
 5:15—Superman, Kellogg's.
 5:30—Tommy, Ralston's Purina.
 5:45—Night News Wire, Knickerbocker.
 6:00—Gabriel Healey, Kretz.
 6:15—J. S. Recap of World of Sports, V. S. Tire Store.
 6:30—Double or Nothing, Kennamint.
 7:00—State and Local News, Keel Motor.
 7:05—Musical Interlude.
 7:15—Standard Oil News, Jim Doyle.
 7:30—Lone Ranger.
 8:00—Boxing Beats, Gillette, Ray Robinson vs. Jimmy McDaniels.
 9:00—Alka Seltzer.
 9:15—Hi Neighbor, Carstens Furniture.
 9:30—Freedom of Opportunity, Mutual Benefit of Omaha.
 10:00—Fulton Lewis, Jr., Roseburg Pharmacy.
 10:15—Double or Nothing.
 10:30—Sign Off.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1945

6:30—Youth Patrol.
 6:45—Treasury Salute to Pfc. Bonnie Higgins.
 7:00—News, White King Soap.
 7:15—War Food Assistant Talks.
 7:30—State and Local News, Boring Optical.
 7:45—The Revolve.
 8:00—Haven of Rest, Crew of Good Ship Grace.

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STILL GOING UP

Estimated U. S. fire losses during April, 1945 were \$37,950,000, an increase of 9 per cent over April, 1944 according to an announcement by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Which all goes to prove that you should protect what you have with good insurance—Call

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