

Local News

Resumes Studies—Arthur Rathkey has returned to his studies at the University of Oregon Medical school, where he is a senior student, after visiting briefly with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Rathkey, at Tenmile.

Purchase Edenbower Home—Mr. and Mrs. Jay Beatty and their daughter, who recently purchased a home in Edenbower, have gone to Portland to move their furniture there. For the past six weeks, they have been making their home with Mrs. Beatty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Carter, 519 Cobb St.

Leaves For Detroit—Miss Kathryn Fisher, who has been employed at the Vancouver Memorial Hospital and who has been visiting in Roseburg several days with her parents and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fisher and Mrs. C. H. Koontz, has left for Detroit, Mich., to take a three month course in anesthesia.

More than 40 per cent of the injuries among American wounded in the European theater during World War II who reached medical units alive were in the lower extremities because of the widespread use of land mines and booby traps by the Germans.

Announcing

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Sweet Peas First to Sow in Spring Garden

In most of the United States, where spring comes late and its stay is brief, growing sweet peas is a race against hot weather. The gardener who would win should sow seeds early, and grow a heat resistant strain, which will bloom quickly and give him an abundant harvest before mid-summer, with its searing heat.

A sweet pea which prefers heat is yet to be bred, but a heat resistant strain of the giant, wavy-petaled Spencer type known as the spring flowering strain is becoming popular. Many compare it in abundance of bloom and long flowering season with the old-fashioned grandiflora type, which used to be one of the most popular flowers in this country.

When the Spencer sweet peas were developed, having wavy petals and much larger flowers, they were hailed with delight by American home gardeners. They soon discovered, however, that it took longer to bloom than the older strain; and in sections where spring was short and summer hot, it had a brief flowering season.

Hot Weather Resisted

Early flowering Spencer varieties were then developed, which flowered a month to six weeks earlier than the late Spencer, but had fewer flowers, and bore them in sprays of three. These are widely used by florists for winter flowering.

The spring flowering strain blooms in between the early and late Spencers, but has four flowers to a cluster, and much more abundant bloom than the earliest varieties. Its ability to withstand hot weather is outstanding, being developed by careful breeding.

All sweet peas can be started indoors and transplanted to the garden; and in cold-winter sections the late Spencers should always be planted so far from results.

Advice on Sowing
If sown direct in the garden, then all types should be planted just as soon as the ground can

be prepared. The soil should be spaded one to two feet deep, preferably in the previous fall. Sweet peas demand rich feeding. At least a pint of balanced plant food should be spaded into the soil for each 25 foot row.

The old practice of sowing the seeds at the bottom of a trench several inches deep and filling with soil as the plants grow, is going out of favor. The trenches often fill with water, and disease is encouraged. If the soil is spaded deeply, the seed may be planted an inch or two deep, and the roots will go down far enough.

Sweet peas are legumes, and secrete nitrogen from the air. They benefit if the seed are inoculated with a bacterial culture sold for that purpose. The vines should have something to climb as soon as they reach a height of six inches.

Child Labor Above Prewar Peak; Law Hits Employers

By PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Child labor and conviction of employers for illegal hiring of children has dropped from its wartime peak, but is still above prewar levels.

U. S. Census Bureau, Office of Education and the Child Labor and Youth Employment Branch of the Division of Fair Labor Standards in the Department of Labor all tell the same sad story, hard as it is to believe.

Census figures put the number of employed children under 17 years of age at less than one million in 1940.

At the peak of the war effort in 1945 the number of employed children under 17 rose to three-and-a-half million during the school year, and to five million in summer vacations.

The number of such youngsters employed in the fall of 1946, in the latest estimate available, is put at two-and-a-half million. About three-quarters of a million of them are 14- and 15-year-olds—one out of every six children of that age.

U. S. Office of Education confirms this with a report that there are a million fewer youngsters in high school now than in the peak enrollment year of 1942.

Worst report of all comes from compliance figures of the Child Labor and Youth Employment Branch. In the government's fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, 579 employers were found guilty of employing 1761 children illegally.

Then wartime demands and labor shortages drew hundreds of thousands of youngsters into more or less steady employment. The peak was 1945, when 4381 firms were found guilty of employing 13,289 children illegally. Fiscal 1946 saw a drop to 2449 convictions for illegally employing 6338 children.

Convictions Up Fivefold
The alarming part of all these figures is that they show total employment of minors double what it was before the war, while convictions for illegal employment are up five times.

Convictions obtained were under somewhat inadequate state and federal laws and regulations. Whichever code sets the higher standard is the one enforced.

Last year there were convictions in every state and in almost every kind of industry. Vegetable packing sheds and canning plants. Mail order houses. Service industries like laundries and stores. Plus the old offenders in sugar beet and cotton fields, and in factories. Usual offenders are not the big industries, but the middle-sized employers who face worst competition.

In all states except South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas and Idaho, certificates, permits or "working papers" may be obtained in cases of necessity to allow minors to be employed legally. But evasion of regulations is easy. The law is as full of holes as a Swiss cheese.

For instance, children may not be employed in agriculture while schools are in session. But schools are often recessed in harvest time so the youngsters can be worked. And in states like Arizona, where school attendance before age 8 is not required, 6- and 7-year-olds have been employed to pick cotton.

Transportation Exempt
Also—because the lawmakers wrote their statutes that way—



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A FRESHMAN—AT 79—Declaring "a man is never too old to learn," 79-year-old James Nicklen, of San Francisco, is a freshman at the city's Junior College, majoring in chemistry and anatomy. Heretofore too busy making a living for himself and his family, Nicklen now has the time and inclination to seek the education he has always wanted. Above, he takes time out from studies to buy tickets to a St. Patrick's Day dance.



COMMUNISTS FIND EAGER EARS IN ITALY—Some 10,000 peasants from districts outlying Rome, Italy, listen as Communist leaders address them in front of Rome's central police station. Group later demonstrated against government's failure to adhere to its promise of dividing land, confiscated from fascists, among them. They also called for food and jobs.

the crime is not in employing children. The crime is to ship in interstate commerce goods which were produced with the aid of child labor. Tracing the goods and proving that they were shipped across state lines is what is difficult and therefore the cause of many escapes.

Transportation and communications industries are exempt. In the Western Union case two years ago, the Supreme Court in a five-to-four decision said that since the company did not produce or ship goods, child labor laws did not apply to it.

An effort was made to tighten the law in the last Congress by amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act. But the amendments were tied up in an omnibus bill to raise minimum wage standards. They passed the Senate but were lost in the House. An effort may be made to revise the law again this year, but passage is doubtful.

Little Farm Gets Larger, Thanks to Mechanization

By WILLIAM FERRIS
AP Newsfeatures
CHICAGO—That nostalgic vision of a little farm out on the prairie, particularly potent to former farm boys caught in a late afternoon big city traffic

rush, will have to undergo revision. The little farm ain't what it used to be.

Specifically, it's bigger. Quite a bit bigger and growing all the time. Big time farming received added impetus during the war. That's the report from the Agriculture Department.

The Department has all sorts of statistics on this trend. For example:

1. The average farm is now 50 acres larger than 25 years ago and 20 acres larger than five years ago.

Greece All But Bankrupt From Ravages of War

By PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Two days of testimony by Undersecretary of State Clayton before Senate and House foreign affairs committees reveal that the Greek government which the United States now proposes to back is all but bankrupt. How badly it's broke can be revealed only by digging into supplementary government economic reports.

Greece has about the same area as Louisiana, but Greece has three times the population. Picture Louisiana with half her roads gone, half her bridges out, 180,000 homes destroyed, a million people homeless, their livestock and farm crops reduced by half, 80 per cent of her railroad equipment wrecked, 75 per cent of her shipping sunk, and the port of New Orleans destroyed. That was Greece at the end of the war, with the ports of Piraeus and Salonika substituted for New Orleans.

UNRRA poured \$354 million into Greece—over \$250 million of it supplied by the United States. Half of it went for food. The other half divided about equally for clothing and medical care, agricultural rehabilitation, industrial reconstruction, and miscellaneous aid. This may have kept millions from starving, but it didn't begin to do the job.

Because of the food shortages, prices soared. The Germans and Italians took about \$1 billion out of Greece during the war—half as occupation costs, half as materials not paid for.

How Finances Crashed
The Greeks tried to get by on printing press money. Before the war the Greek drachma was worth a little less than a cent—137 to the dollar. During the war inflation was so bad that in 1944 the government put out a new issue of currency in which one new drachma was exchanged for 50 billion of the old ones. That wiped out the value of all Greek bonds and bank accounts.

Today currency is exchanged on the open market at 8,000 drachmas to the dollar. That makes one drachma worth one-eighth of one one-thousandth of a cent. In short, the cost of living in Greece is now 100 times as high as it was in 1939.

Wages have gone up 75 times. But even so, the average Greek family's real wages are now only three-fourths of prewar. And even before the war the Greek standard of living was one of the lowest in Europe.

For this year the Greek government income is estimated at \$175 million, with expenses of \$196 million—a \$21 million deficit. The Greek foreign debt is \$67 million, over half of it held by Greek-Americans in the United States.

On top of the \$354 million of UNRRA aid, the United States has already advanced \$181 million and Great Britain \$44 million.

More Millions Needed
It is now proposed to give \$350 million more. Fifty million dollars of it will go for direct relief to follow up on the UNRRA shipments ending March 31. Twenty million will be for aid to Greek agriculture. Fifty million is intended as aid for industrial rehabilitation.

For Greek labor to do the reconstruction job and for building materials purchased in Greece, it is estimated another \$80 million will be needed.

But still on top of this another \$150 million is to be advanced the Greeks to modernize, equip, and train their army.

Add up all this postwar American aid to Greece—the U. S. share of UNRRA, the postwar credits, the new proposals—and

the total comes to \$731 million. The \$350 million they're talking about in Congress now is just relief to cover the next 15 months.

The more you study this picture, the worse it looks. Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper asked Secretary Clayton, "If, after having spent all this money things get no better—then what?"

"We do not contemplate failure," said Clayton. "Fifteen months in this world is a good long time, and a year from now conditions will be better."

The question everyone in Washington is now asking himself is, "What else is there to do?"

Ray Dotson, Retired Farmer, Passes Away

Ray Dotson, 67, retired farmer, died Friday after an illness of two weeks. He was born Jan. 14, 1880, in West Virginia and had been a resident of this community since 1930.

Surviving are two sisters: Mrs. Isa Francis Goin, Roseburg; Mrs. Lillie Johnson, Seattle, Wash.; five brothers: Oliver Dotson, Seattle; Goodlow Dotson, Olympia, Wash.; Frank and Leeman Dotson, both of Boise, Idaho; and Harry Dotson of California.

The body will be taken to

Seattle by the Roseburg Funeral Home Monday and graveside services will be held Tuesday, April 8, at 10 A. M. in Forrest Lawn Cemetery in Seattle.

Lumber production figures for 1946 show an increase for the first time since 1942.

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