

# The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.  
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1935, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1917.  
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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., office in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$3.00, six months \$1.50, three months \$0.75. By City Carrier—Per Year \$1.50 (in advance), less than one year, per month \$0.15. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$3.50, six months \$1.75, three months \$0.75.

## THE HAND OF GOD

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A nation plagued today by juvenile delinquency stands in the unique position of paying homage to a beloved sports hero who, as a youth, was strictly an incorrigible.

Few boys ever had a less auspicious start in life than the immortal Babe Ruth. At the age of seven years he was placed in a Catholic industrial school—actually a reform school—because even at that tender age he was beyond control of his parents. A swaggering, tough, tobacco-chewing kid, he defied the discipline of the school. He ran away. He violated parole. He was strictly a non-conformist.

But in the school there was a big man with a big heart. He was Brother Matthias. He stood six feet and six inches in height. His patience must have been sorely tried by the antics of the brazen, profane, disobedient lad over whom he had partial custody. But his keen eye noticed the youngster's interest in baseball, so he spent hours batting balls as America's future home run king learned to coordinate the muscles of his growing body.

The boy, apparently because of family neglect, was an exhibitionist. He craved applause. He wanted to be in a position of command. So he became a catcher on the school team because the catcher could tell the pitcher what to throw, could move infielders and outfielders where he wanted them and could direct the play. He also was a perfectionist and when his teammates made errors or were unable to meet competition, the youngster's tongue lashed out with profane abuse.

Came the day when the young catcher was "riding" his pitcher with unusual vigor. Patient Brother Matthias thought another lesson was due, so he sent the boy to the pitcher's mound. But the lesson boomeranged, for then and there a new pitcher was born—a pitcher who, contrary to usual custom, also was a hitter.

Nearly everyone knows the rest of the Babe Ruth story. How, through the influence of Brother Matthias, he went into organized baseball, first as a very successful pitcher and then as the world's champion home run hitter.

Babe Ruth remained an exhibitionist and non-conformist throughout his lifetime, but the great affection held by Brother Matthias for children was born into the heart of the Mighty King of Swat, who became the idol of sports-minded boys and girls the world over. His kindness to children has never been told in its entirety.

Grantland Rice, one of the nation's foremost sports writers, tells for the first time of the occasion when Babe Ruth drove 60 miles one night during a world series in Chicago to see a sick boy.

"If you write anything about it, I'll knock your brains out," the writer says he was told by Ruth.

### The Importance of Leadership

As America sorrows today over the passing of its baseball hero, the mighty Babe Ruth, how many people pause to wonder what might have happened to him had it not been for the inspiration and direction given by Brother Matthias? How many children are denied an opportunity to become national heroes because there are not enough Brothers Matthias? How many children are lost as useful citizens because they have no one to guide them or furnish leadership and inspiration in their lives? How many children are branded as incorrigibles and permitted to degenerate into enemies of society because their exhibitionist and non-conformist complexes are not properly channeled? And who can foretell how many potential incorrigibles will be saved for future usefulness by the Babe Ruth achievement?

It is not difficult to envision the feeling of pride Brother Matthias must have had in Babe Ruth's record on the baseball field. Many an unfortunate boy undoubtedly must have had the Ruth experience held before him as an example of how the unfortunately placed can become masters of their own destiny.

Uniform No. 3 has been sealed away forever. Never again will a player on the Yankee baseball team wear that numeral. The body of George Herman Ruth will be laid at rest. But nothing can stop the inspiration of his life from influencing the lives of generations yet unborn.

Babe Ruth will become a legendary figure in American sports history. His fame will grow with the years. Yet behind the expanding legend will forever remain the shadow of the saintly and understanding man whose giant frame was filled with overwhelming love for God's blessed little children.

## Dimmicks Return From Memorable Celebration Trip

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Dimmick, who returned Sunday from a trip to The Dalles and participation in the Oregon Trails, Inc. trek to Portland and Oregon City, reported a very enjoyable week's trip.

Easterners including writers, educators and others, members of the Pioneer Trails Association, took the trip very seriously and pointed out many points of particular interest usually taken for granted by westerners, said Mrs. Dimmick.

The group, coming from La Grande, were met at the south city limits of The Dalles by an old stage coach relic, drawn by four horses and an old pony express wagon, used in past years to carry baggage between the

railroad station and The Dalles hotel.

A free banquet was served to 50 or more guests in the hotel, under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce of that city. After dinner, the group was escorted to a park atop a hill of the city, near the old Fort Dalles. The Fort Dalles Saddle Club preceded the group and built a bonfire. After a brief ceremony and general get-acquainted session, coffee was served.

The Dimmicks did not accompany the group to Portland over the old Barlow Road between The Dalles and Sandy, as they had been over that route before and knew it was not in too good condition. However, they joined the members again in Portland for the Oregon Trails, Inc. business meeting on Friday. The members enjoyed a picnic lunch that night on Council Crest.

Then Saturday were provided free transportation to Oregon City and its Centennial celebration.

A bus ride around the Mount Hood Loop was the Sunday afternoon excursion.

## OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



One of the best investments we made for our youngsters was on the day we bought about sixty old copies of *The National Geographic*. As the boys were too young to bother with index etc., I numbered them all on the backs from one to sixty, and then invested most of several days getting a card index (for my use then and the boys' later) telling where to find any article in the magazines. We paid five cents each, I think, for the lot—many without covers, but clean and whole.

How much the pictures meant to small boys not yet able to read: Horses? Ha, here were lots of horses! Dogs? Lots and lots of dogs! Birds? They pored over pages of beautifully colored pictures, learning without even guessing the fact. It took but a moment, even if my hands were floury, to fish out the number of at least one copy with whatever was desired within its pages. Soon they could find the number for themselves.

Then with school days came a wider use. To school went the old copies as they illustrated whatever was under discussion that week. Many a note came home

from a teacher, too. For—if the need justified it, pictures were cut out and used in the—oh dear me, what did they call that machine like an old-fashioned magic lantern? Bal-balopticon? I'm guessing.

Did Daddy tell something about his days in the Navy? There was a 1918 issue that illustrated his stories with pictures taken while he had been in training. Did Mother want to share some remembered English scenes? Look up "England" in the card-index, let the boys pull out the right numbers from the row of *Geographics*. Did a visitor tell us of strange lands? Why, yes, there was sure to be something to help him explain what he saw.

And at Christmas, the Bible-land scenes were precious. "Right there—" we would say, poring over the picture, "right there!"

It made it all very close to our present experience, seeing those photographs. Just think, Jacob's well is still there to be seen! Still giving water to the thirsty, thousands of years after Jacob "dugged" it, and 1900 years after the Man of Galilee "soused" there and taught a lesson.

## In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)  
people aren't working at full efficiency.

TWO new discoveries of uranium are reported in the dispatches—one in California and one in northern British Columbia. The British Columbia ore may be pitchblende, which is especially rich in uranium (uranium is fissionable material from which atom bombs are made).

As the situation now stands, new discoveries of uranium might change the fate of the world.

SOME scientist might discover how to make atom bombs out of SOME OTHER MATERIAL.

SCIENTISTS of ten countries, gathered in London, recommend that United Nations call a scientific conference to see what science can do about the present state of the world.

Such a conference, they assert, should convene "technically qualified representatives of the social sciences and psychiatry . . . to inquire into existing international tensions and to make relevant proposals."

That is to say, translating this scientific jargon, they should figure out what's wrong with humanity and tell us what to do about it.

IN RENO's big fire the other day, the onlooking gallery was warned by a policeman to "get back, that's dynamite in there!"

Here is what happened:  
A few of the timid retreated. The rest PUSHED CLOSER. There was a roar. Smoke, shot through with spurs of flame, blanketed half a block.

The upshot of it was five dead and about 130 injured.

IT ISN'T enough, you see, to GIVE GOOD ADVICE. People must TAKE IT if they are to be saved from trouble.  
Would we take the UN sci-

entists' advice, even if they did tell us what to do?

PRESIDENT Truman signs the Republican-sponsored anti-inflation bill, but lets go a blistering statement that "congress failed to meet its responsibilities to the American people."

What he says is probably true. Still, it's equally true that Truman has failed to meet his anti-inflation responsibilities.

WHAT we must remember is that we can CAN STOP INFLATION WHENEVER WE WANT TO. The point is that so far we don't want to. Nobody wants to bust the boom.

In reality, both the President and congress are doing what the bulk of the public wants.

"MEETING responsibility" is, of course another question.

What is responsibility? It is giving people WHAT THEY THINK THEY WANT, or giving them what they need?

What do you do in the case of your children? Do you give 'em all the candy and green apples they want, tummy ache or no tummy ache?

### Educator Hurt, Wife, Son Killed in Auto Accident

SEATTLE, Aug. 18.—(AP)—Arless Spielman, former professor of dairy production at Washington State College, was injured and his wife, Wynetta, and five-year-old son, John, were killed in an automobile accident near Gardiner, Me., Tuesday, the Washington Cooperative Farmers' association was notified.

Spielman, now head of the animal husbandry department at the University of Connecticut, is in a Gardner hospital. Funeral services for his wife and son will be conducted Saturday at Conventia, Ore.

### TRAFFIC FINES IMPOSED

Traffic fines imposed in the court of Municipal Judge Ira B. Riddle are announced as follows: Cloris Joseph, 51½, Redmond, \$20, speeding; Clarence Alvin Kuhnhusner, Glendale, \$2, no car license and operating with driver's license expired; Rudolph Frank Schulze, Roseburg, \$2, failure to stop at a stop street; and James L. Shrum, Roseburg, failure to stop at two stop streets, \$4.

## Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

### SERVICE VERSUS SERVILITY

Pendleton East Oregonian  
When a political campaign is underway there is a lot of noise, and at times you may wonder if we have a good way of running the country.

Do not worry. We have a competitive system, as we have in business, and it gives us better service. If there was only one store or one oil company or one motor car manufacturer things would not be so good. We would pay higher prices and would have to take what we could get. They do that way in Russia and often get nothing after standing in line several hours.

We have political competition, between the two big parties, and it gives us better government. The party in power tries to do a good job because it has to or lose out. When a republican congress was called back to Wash-

ington recently the G. O. P. members wanted to tell President Truman to go jump in the creek but they took time to improve the housing legislation, to check installment buying and they passed the U. N. bill, an action that may prove to be of great importance. The lawmakers did not ignore the factor of political competition. Before the president made his western trip the house leaders had the selective service act bottled up in the rules committee and the house wanted to "gut the enterprise" with reference to the Marshall plan. That is what Senator Vandenberg said and he knew what was going on. After the president had told people what he thought about congress the draft act went through and

so did the E. R. P.  
Both political parties pay heed to the competition provided by the other fellows. The democrats do better because the republicans are watching them and vice versa. The officials are not angels. They are politicians and the fact we have elections keeps them on their toes.

It is not that way in a totalitarian country where there is only one party and the regime in control selects the nominees. If anyone in Russia tried to "view with alarm" and did so out loud he would be shot or sent to a concentration camp. A despotic government retains power by keeping people in a state of servility. There is no political competition to provide an incentive for good work. The incentive if, for harsh, ruthless

measures that prevent constructive criticism.  
Our politicians cater to the public and strive to stay in office by giving the best service they can. Naturally there is rivalry and those of each side criticize the others, sometimes until people get tired of the rumpus. It is a good system however and produces results. We can be thankful we have competition. If you get weary of the chatter you can always read about something else.

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