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Miners Love John L. Lewis, But Must Dig Deeper to Support Him

By JAMES THRASHER

John L. Lewis must have had a wonderful time at the United Mine Workers convention in Cincinnati. In fact, he must have felt like the Maharajah of the Princely State of Coal.

His faithful miners didn't quite follow the custom of the Maharajah's followers and match his considerable weight in gold. But they achieved substantially the same effect by doubling his salary to a fairly princely \$50,000 a year, plus expenses.

A few of the faithful were so sold as to complain about Mr. Lewis' new salary. They thought he should have \$100,000 so as to be on the pay of the President of the United States, who a couple of times committed the unforgivable offense of taking their lead-ership down a peg or two. Mr. Lewis indignantly declined the generous offer.

Absolute Monarch
Other members wanted to make his presidency of the UMW a lifetime job—officially, as it now is in reality. The convention occurred in "the spirit" of that resolution. But since the job is Mr. Lewis' anyway, they decided to continue the "democratic" practice of re-electing him every year. Let him be offended by this, apparently, they elevated him to the rank of national hero by deciding that henceforth they will celebrate Feb. 12 not as Abraham Lincoln's, but as John L. Lewis' birthday!

The convention also gave its rascally beetle-browed boss a chance to put down a hint of opposition. Some of the boys balked at having their dues doubled and their initiation fee increased five-fold. But their pontifical president told them that the extra money was needed to show "our enemies in the economic and political realm" that the miners are ready for future fights.

The comparison between the United Mine Workers and a princely state is not entirely idle. Mr. Lewis is, economically, the abso-

lute monarch of the coal miners. It is he alone who secures their wages and benefits. All he asks in return for these blessings is absolute obedience.

The miners seem to pay the price gladly. It is not hard to understand their gratitude to John L. Lewis. He is neither a safe nor a pleasant calling. They have been severely exploited in the past. John L. Lewis has done much to make their lives easier, even though his motives cannot have been entirely unselfish.

Influence Buffers
But Mr. Lewis overdoes the thing. To hear him talk, one would think that there isn't another tough and hazardous type of job in the world. One would think that in no other field of labor has the worker's lot been bettered in the last 40 or 50 years.

Moreover, Mr. Lewis has set up boundaries around his princely state. He has contrived to insulate the miners from their fellow countrymen by a barrier of class-consciousness and group self-pity. He plants in the miners' minds that they are surrounded by enemies, and that he alone can save them.

In the process, Mr. Lewis has made himself one of the most thoroughly unpopular men in the country. The miners may love him, but few others do. And in the field of labor his arrogance and lust for power have lost him not only friends but most of his onetime influence. So perhaps no one should begrudge him the consolation prizes of a fat salary, a big house, a fine car and rich food. Certainly the miners don't even though they now will have to dig a little bit harder to pay for it all.

Eagle Scouts Plan Court of Honor

Eagle Scouts of Douglas County are working out a very elaborate Court of Honor. According to an announcement by Eddie Quam, Scout executive for his district, the ceremony will be held in the Armory, and a Scout leadership will be elected as the setting, he said.

Each troop is asked to put on a demonstration merit badge work prior to opening of the court. It is anticipated several hundred boys and the majority of Scout troops will be present. Days Creek, said Quam, has completed registration of its troop and 10 boys enrolled under the supervision of Robert "Bud" Brown, as scoutmaster.

Organization work was started last week at Garden Valley school and yet the scoutmaster and court committee has not been selected. A parents meeting on Oct. 21 has also been held at Dixonville, Quam stated.

Pending Excess In Senate Race Hinted

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—(AP)—Senate investigators said yesterday they have gathered data indicating that former Gov. Robert S. Kerr exceeded Oklahoma's spending limit of \$3,000 in the Democratic senatorial primary. Nelson Deranian, chief counsel to a subcommittee on elections, said he is preparing a report for chairman Jenner (R-Ind.) which will show Kerr's expenditures exceeded substantially the limit fixed by state law.

He said the committee has had investigators in Oklahoma for approximately two weeks, following receipt of four sworn statements alleging that Kerr spent large sums in the primary election. The former governor and Rep. Ross Riley are contesting for the seat held by the retiring Senator Moore, Republican.

Informed Men Battle Escaped Chimpanzees

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Oct. 19.—Two unarmed men battled a pair of escaped chimpanzees through cages and on the roof of the Mesker Park Zoo yesterday. Both of the men suffered serious injuries before the animals were captured. The animals attacked George Davis, 53-year-old plumbing company worker, and E. J. Morton, 5, Evansville Park Board general foreman, as they were working on the heating system in an adjoining cage.

"Hank," a heavy male chimpanzee, and his mate, "Kuku," attacked the lock on the door connecting the two cages. They jumped on the two workers without warning.

The average yearly rainfall in the United States equals 1300 inches and weighs an approximate total of six trillion tons.

'Okay, Ivan, You First!'



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

"If we go by way of Corvallis," I remarked to El, "I'd like to stop at the college Herbarium and—"

"Oh, oh," said he, alarmed at once about his appointment in Portland, "We'd better go by way of Salem. I think I can make faster time that way. I've waited for you at a college before—besides, the appointment is for eleven, you know."

"Uh-huh, I know, Salem will be even better. I just have to stop at the State Library and see Miss Stephens for just a minute—well five minutes, ten at the most. I'll explain why I'm in a hurry. Do the rest by mail."

"You—a library—out in ten minutes? You'd better be this time or—"

Maybe that was why the interview became almost at once a half hour later—we both did our best to make it ten minutes—I found a husband down in the foyer, about ready to organize a searching party, and for some miles on my way I enjoyed in retrospect my most informal interview with Eleanor Stephens, state librarian; laughing blue eyes, friendly personified, dignified yet not hesitating to almost run back to her office for 'one more leaflet' to add to my hand full of reports and other material of interest. I had time for only the briefest

glimpse of the Library (my time in Salem has always seemed limited) but in the all too short time in which I enjoyed my rapid-fire talk I certainly acquired one more picture of Oregon to add to the others rounding out my understanding of this wonderful state.

Miss Stephens is a woman of vision: she loves Oregon and she loves its people, and her vision is a library in every county, plenty of book-mobiles to serve isolated areas, a vision that knows no limit to what the State Library can do if its fullest possibilities are used, and its plan meets with cooperation.

I was a bit disappointed to find that Douglas County trails less wealthy counties in its support of library facilities: this I gather from a printed report before me as I write. Douglas County is sixth in value of taxable property; twelfth in county population; eighteen counties participate in COUNTY-library work; but Douglas County does not; twenty other counties do more than our county does in library expenditure; twenty-five other counties exceed our per capita cost which is 27; Douglas is fourteenth from the top in number of volumes in the county; and twenty-first from the top in circulation of books. I wonder . . . do you?

LETTERS to the Editor

Senator Cordon's Public Service Record Praised

MEDFORD.—On September 9th there was published in this paper a paid advertisement which was mainly an attack against our able Senator Guy Cordon. It accused him of being prejudiced in conducting the hearing at Eugene concerning the sustained yield plans of O & C Administration, stating that his whole background was one of having for years represented the big timber interests of Oregon in his law practice.

To Senator Cordon's many friends, who know of his outstanding public service for the past 20 years, the article was so clearly erroneous as to need no reply. This letter is intended to be helpful to the great number of new citizens and voters who have come to this community recently and have not had the opportunity of knowing Senator Cordon and his years of efforts in behalf of the taxpayers of Oregon.

The writer has been intimately associated with Senator Cordon for over 15 years. With other County Judges of Oregon he represented the counties and the state before Congressional committees at four different times during the past 20 years. The bills being considered at those hearings were sponsored by the County Courts of Oregon to secure for the taxpayers of this state necessary legislation correcting a grave injustice caused by the Federal government resurveying some 2,500,000 acres of timber land formerly owned by the railroad which for years had been on the tax rolls. This program was started over 30 years ago and during all this time Senator

Cordon has been the counsel for the county courts and the man on whom we depended to arrange for the hearings and steer us over the many legal pitfalls along the road. Incidentally, he has led this fight successfully and to date the taxpayers of Douglas County have benefited in the amount of \$3,413,643.04 which otherwise they would have had to pay in additional taxes.

In addition to the above record of public service, Senator Cordon was legal counsel and policy advisor for the Interstate Public Land Counties Association of the 11 western states. This Association was sponsored by the county courts of Oregon and is today aggressively carrying on its program of combatting the policy of the big government bureau of continually increasing their public land holdings at the expense of the taxpayers of the West, and of securing some reasonable payment in lieu of taxes on their immense holdings. The Federal government actually owns at this time, and keeps off the tax rolls, more than one-half of all the area of the western states. In the last session of the Congress the Senate passed Senator Cordon's bill requiring the Federal government to pay to local governments 1 per cent annually on the fair value of its federal forests and some other lands now exempt from taxes.

In view of the above facts, can any intelligent voter doubt that Senator Cordon would give a fair hearing on any public land question or believe that he, through all the past years, had been identified with the large timber interests. Many years ago Senator Cordon told the writer that he had been asked by a large group of private timber owners to act as their counsel. He refused, and to use his own words, "All my professional life I have been fighting for the rights of the general taxpayers of our western counties and I couldn't change now."

Senator Cordon's record and

Picture Contest Set for Children Of Grade Schools

Artistically minded boys and girls who like to display their ability on store windows, will have an opportunity to exploit their efforts in a contest being sponsored by the local J. C. Penney Company Store this Saturday night.

According to Manager Bruce Elliott, all children in grades one to six living in Douglas County will be eligible to compete in a picture poster contest, the pictures to be displayed in the window. Roseburg entries will be accepted Saturday up to 5:30 p. m. Out of town children may bring their entries any day at any convenient time up to that hour.

There was never an easier contest to enter, Elliott said. Just draw any kind of a Halloween picture on a piece of white paper 8 by 11 inches. Drawings may be made in pencil, chalk, crayon, paint or any other material.

The student's name, grade and school must be neatly printed at the lower right hand corner of the picture. It must be the child's own drawing, with no help allowed, according to the rules.

Judges will be Miss Margaret Carr, Junior High School; Miss Florence Snedacker, Benson School; and Ralph Turner, Senior High School. Judging will be on originality, technique and neatness. The entries will be judged at 9 p. m. Saturday. First and second prizes, and 10 additional prizes will be given.

Death Takes Clackamas Nominee for Sheriff

OREGON CITY, Ore., Oct. 19.—(AP)—Harold Everett Meeds, 67, Republican nominee for sheriff of Clackamas County, died of a heart attack yesterday.

Meeds had resumed his campaign Saturday after returning home from a hospital, where he had rested after suffering a heart attack two weeks ago.

A retired Oregon State Police sergeant, Meeds was well known throughout the state for game enforcement work. He had headed the game enforcement division here from 1930 until his retirement a year ago.

The widow, two sons and a daughter survive.

E. C. Steward Engaged To Teach in Schools Here

Earl C. Steward was elected by the school board Monday night to a sixth grade teaching position in the Riverside and Fullerton schools. It was announced by Superintendent Paul S. Elliott.

Steward is a graduate of the Oregon College of Education at Monmouth and formerly was the principal of an elementary school at Hillsboro.

Dillard Bridge Closed During Redocking Job

The county's steel bridge over the South Umpqua River at Dillard will be closed to traffic for about six weeks while its roadway is being redocked with steel mesh. It was announced by County Commissioner Lynn V. Beckey.

The closure is effective today.

his effectiveness in public service are unsurpassed in the West. His assignments on strategic committees in the Senate are of vital importance to all of us. He should be given an overwhelming vote of confidence.

EARL B. DAY, former County Judge Jackson County and member State Tax Commission.

Oregon Medical Society to Fight Anti-Trust Suit

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 19.—(AP)—The Oregon State Medical Society is expected to fight the anti-trust suit filed against the society by the U.S. government in district court here today.

Dr. Leslie Kent, Eugene, president of the society, called the action "a bolt out of the blue." "We felt," she said, "that we were meeting a crying need for good prepaid medical service."

A representative of the Oregon Physicians Service—which the government charged with monopolizing prepaid medical care—declared that the suit "absolutely" would be fought.

He said the government's action had been more or less expected, as the outgrowth of certain insurance groups' objection to the medical society's program.

The Oregon Physicians Service, a non-profit corporation sponsored by the medical society, provides medical, surgical, and hospital insurance for \$3.50 a month. Some 105,000 Oregonians subscribe to the insurance, and 90 per cent of Oregon's physicians are affiliated with the plan. Subscribers choose their own doctors.

The service was set up on the present basis in 1941, expanded rapidly during the war, and now covers families as well as individual subscribers. The charge for family coverage ranges from \$3.50 to \$8.10.

The Oregon Physicians Service is approved by the American Medical Association's Council on medical service.

The county medical societies named in the suit are in Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Douglas, Jackson, Lane, Marion, and Polk counties. The complaint also named the Multnomah Medical Society of Portland. The individual physicians made defendants are Drs. W. W. Baum, John Benson, J. P. Brennan, John H. Fitzgibbon, Charles E. Hunt, Gordon B. Leitch, K. H. Martzloff, and E. H. McLean.

Texas City Blast, Fire Kill Four, Injure Forty

TEXAS CITY, Oct. 19.—(AP)—Four persons were burned fatally and about 40 others injured in a gas explosion and fire which swept a line of automobiles at a blocked railroad crossing here last night.

Fire Chief Fred Dowdy of Texas City said the explosion was caused by the igniting of an accumulation of manufactured gas which had leaked from a pipe line alongside highway 146, near the stone oil refinery.

Witnesses said the gas, which hung in the roadside ditches in a visible fog, went up in a huge puff of flame. The searing blast burned 16 automobiles waiting for a string of tank cars to pass the railroad crossing.

The explosion started rumors that Texas City was menaced by a repetition of the disastrous explosions and fires of April 16-17, 1947, which killed 312 persons and devastated the city.

White Undies Replace Olive Drab for WAF

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, San Antonio, Tex., Oct. 19.—(AP)—There's a mild revolution in the attire of the first 100 women enrolled at the opening session of the Air Force Training School here.

They're being issued white undies, will be permitted to choose their own hair-do and buy their own girdles.

Solemnly the Air Force announced today that "WAF" underclothing is no longer the gruesome olive drab of wartime manufacture.

Instead it is white with a dainty border. That is a male press relation officer's description of these items as yet unseen by this reporter.

These recruits here from all sections of the country are truly civilian rookies. They've had no previous military service.

Chamber of Commerce Gains 8 New Members

Eight new members of the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce were listed in a bulletin issued today. They include James R. Daugherty, civil engineer, U. S. National Bank Building; Green's Flying Service, Roseburg Airport; City Manager M. W. Slankard; James L. Payne, real estate, 636 S. Stephens St.; Edward Odle, nursing home, 726 South St.; Dr. K. A. Oakley, 129 N. Jackson St.; Brown's Saddle Shop, 104 S. Main St.; and Roseburg Jewelers, 246 N. Jackson St.

Sickness, Fire Beset Gene Bearden's Family

POPULAR BLUFF, Mo., Oct. 19.—(AP)—Misfortune has struck the family of Gene Bearden, the Cleveland Indians star pitcher. His father, Henry Bearden, contracted pneumonia while watching Gene pitch in the final game of the World Series with the Boston Braves. Then his 20-month-old son, Shea, became so ill he was taken to the same hospital where his grandfather is a patient.

Last night an apartment building badly damaged by fire. The pitcher's mother was taken to the hospital for treatment for shock. Bearden is in Hollywood, reportedly to take a screen test.

Capital of Manchuria Falls to Communists

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 19.—(AP)—The Manchurian capital of Changchun has been captured by Chinese Reds, the Communist radio in North China asserted today.

The radio reported yesterday that the government's 60th army

had mutinied and was fighting the U.S.-equipped Seventh Army inside the long-isolated city. The two armies made up a garrison estimated at 100,000 men. Last week the government announced that Changchun had been abandoned, but the next day it retracted the story. Changchun has a population of about 1,000,000.

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