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PORTLAND'S "FURIOUS" PACE

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Looking through old papers and documents at her home recently, Mrs. H. C. Darby of Roseburg discovered a Portland city directory for the year 1864.

It was something more than a directory, as we know such a publication today, for it contained a chronology of news events of the preceding year, an outline of state government, copies of city ordinances, the charter and organizational history of the volunteer fire department and many other interesting facts in addition to the usual list of societies, churches, fraternal organizations, classified list of advertisers and the alphabetical listing of residents.

Portland in 1864, according to the directory, was a "thriving" city with population of 4,794, which included 700 transients registered at various hotels and rooming houses.

Even then, Portland was bragging about its growth, which, it was claimed, was proportionately more than any other city on the Pacific Coast.

Portland then was the outlet for gold shipments from the Idaho gold fields. Mining and shipping furnished the bases for the city's business. The news chronology indicated frequent sailings of coastwise boats loaded with "treasure" ranging from \$30,000 to \$790,000.

Portland had not yet entered the lumbering field, which later was to speed population growth at a remarkable pace.

Portland's development from a town of 5,000 people to a city with a population of 100,000 resulted almost entirely from the lumber industry and associated shipping activities, and in this connection it is interesting to note that the volume of raw material producing that sensational growth was considerably less than the amount of standing timber in the Umpqua Basin, which may give some indication of what the future holds for this area.

But, getting back to the old Portland directory: It was observed that Addison C. Gibbs, then governor of Oregon, had a salary of \$1,500 annually. However, federal salaries were high then, even as now, for Matthew P. Deady, one of Douglas County's early settlers, serving as U. S. district judge, had the princely stipend of \$3,000 per year. Douglas County's judge, however, struggled along on \$400 per year.

The "Oregon State Idiotic and Insane Asylum" was handled by a private corporation under state supervision, and advertised for business, with the notation that "the indigent will make application to the county judge for a permit to obtain admission."

And, speaking of advertisements, Portland must have been a pretty lively place back in 1864, judging from the liquor ads in the city directory and the number of saloons and places of entertainment listed in the business section. We're afraid Portland's lady mayor would have met much more strenuous opposition had she lived in those days and attempted a clean-up campaign, such as now is in progress, in that rugged, river-front community.

The Portland city court must have had a rather bewildering job enforcing some of the city's laws, particularly the one exposing to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$20 "any person riding or driving at a 'furious' pace between the Willamette River and Fourth Street."

Just what would constitute a "furious" pace?
Brother, if the old-timers could only see 'em now!

Knowledge of Russian Language Best Defense Against Communism

By DEWITT MACKENZIE

Associated Press Foreign Affairs Analyst

The Russian writer, David Zaslavsky, says in Moscow Literary Gazette that it's impossible to be genuinely educated without knowledge of the Russian language.

Zaslavsky claims that the "countries of new democracy" (meaning Moscow's satellites) are learning the tongue, and that even Soviet enemies are studying it. He adds that "The Voice of America" (the U. S. official broadcast) lies in Russian.

Well, I'm afraid we can't take it for granted that there is a widespread thirst for Russian in America merely because "The Voice of America" employs it in some broadcasts. However, it certainly is to be hoped Russian isn't being neglected in this country.

After all, we should be more than stupid if we didn't acquaint ourselves so far as possible with the nation which has declared that our form of government and our way of life and our religion must be destroyed.

Should a hot war grow out of the present cold war (which heaven forbid), we should look mighty sick if we didn't have plenty of citizens who knew Russian and a lot of other things pertaining to the land of Bolshevism.

There has been in America a tendency—now happily disappearing—to play ostrich towards the evils of Communism. We have tried to avoid discussing the facts about Communism, hoping thus (1) to avoid friction with Russia and (2) to prevent the spread of this evil among our people.

This tendency has been responsible for the heated argument over whether Communism and the affairs of the Soviet Union should be discussed in the classroom of our universities and high schools. Many institutions have continued to put the facts before their students and there is a growing feeling that this is no

time to play ostrich with the subject.

There is recognition that the only way to combat a "great evil" is to learn all there is to know about it.

Of course in permitting Communism to be aired in the classroom, there is always the danger that sometimes it may be presented by an instructor who is a Red sympathizer. There is the danger that it may be advocated to the students, whereas Washington has condemned it as subversive and as aimed at the overthrow of our government by force.

The way it looks from here, a realistic education about Communism is our greatest defense against the undoubted evils of that ism. Sure, learn to speak Russian if you want to. If a lot of us knew the language we shall be prepared to cooperate with Russia one day when Bolshevism is as dead as old Marley.

I suppose they'll call it "one world" then.

The maximum record depth of the ocean is a point in the Pacific east of the Philippines: 35,400 feet—6,398 feet deeper than Mount Everest is high.

Pamphleteer Thomas Paine was also an inventor: He sought to interest British and French in an iron bridge he invented in the year 1787.

"Sold! To the Miracle Man From Missouri!"



Scapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viachett S. Martin

A novel little booklet came to our mailbox recently, via the State Library. Its novelty is in the way it is printed: one reads half and then reverses the clever little pamphlet in order to read the other half.

On one cover it says: Books for Adults. On the other cover: Books for Young Americans. The booklet is "Reading for Democracy," published by the American Brotherhood, National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the address given is: Midwest Area Office, 203 N. Wabash, Chicago 1, Ill.

I liked the foreword to the children's section, written by Mary Alice Jones. I'd like to quote it all but here is a little: "Books are bridges! Bridges that help little children move out from themselves to the world in which they live; bridges which help growing boys and girls to cross the differences which separate them from their fellows; bridges which help youth and adults to reduce the misunderstandings which prevent the meeting of mind and spirit; bridges which span the years and the oceans, bringing the long ago and the faraway close to the lives of developing persons for their enrichment and inspiration."

"But if books are to be dependable bridges, they must be GOOD books; not books of propaganda or exhortation or special pleading, but well-told stories, true to the realities of life, with believable characters and stirring plots, and books of authentic information so presented that children will read them with keen interest and satisfaction."

United Action Needed to Get T-H Act Repealed, Union Told by Its Chief

SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Feb. 15.—(AP)—President Donald Henderson told the bi-annual convention of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union (FTAAU) yesterday that action was needed to get the Taft-Hartley Act repealed and the Wagner Act restored.

Delivering a national officers' report, the union president said: "The last two-year period has been one in which reaction has been in the saddle. This period coincides roughly with the period of the reactionary 80th Congress."

"It has been a period in which the Truman administration gave no effective support to labor in its fight against the reactionary employers and did much through the issuance of strikebreaking injunctions to hurt labor."

"The American working class, and particularly the membership of the FTAAU, must be mobilized to force Congress and the administration to make full delivery on the progressive, pro-labor promises made during the recent campaign to raise the standard of living of the common people."

Delegates from 35 states and Alaska were registered for the convention.

heavy in cities throughout the state. Many macadam streets in Portland were pitted with holes. Damage was expected to be in the thousands of dollars.

Today's items concerned the nickel plate railroad which was reported to have laid off over 1,000 workers because of "a decrease in business" and a New York dispatch saying 100,000 railway workers are out of jobs at present.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

immortality, take the case of the late Elizabeth Barrett Browning's late husband. Envelopes addressed to "Mr. Robert Browning" are being received at the University of Redlands. It happens about this time every year, sighs Dr. L. E. Nelson, chairman of the University's annual Robert Browning poetry contest.

The Redlands dispatch added that the good professor thinks it should be made more public that Browning has been dead to these 60 years and only his poems live on.

Believing firmly that in the end the "pen is mightier than the sword," still both pen and sword must be used to be effective! Writing about Lincoln recently probably reminded me of Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which historians credit with being one of the causes of the Civil War. That indomitable and indefatigable writer used her pen to turn out a "well-told" story, with such "believable characters and stirring plot" that it set the emotions of the reader into purposeful action! Have you ever read the Life of Harriet Beecher Stowe? Said she:

"When you get in a tight place and everything goes against you till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

And, in her life and home (mother of six children!) she practiced what she preached!

Oh, to be in England
Now that April's there
And whoever wakes in England
Sees some morning unaware—
So help me, that was as far as I could get. I appealed to Mac Epley, and he bogged down at the same point. I tackled Lois Stewart. She wrinkled her brow, made frantic motions in the air and stamped her foot, but could get no farther than those four immortal lines. Then she reached for the phone.

"I'll find out," she said.
I tried to dissuade her on the ground that time was marching on and edition deadlines are rigid, but she said: "No, I've got to get it settled or I'll be upset all day."

So she called the city librarian, who promptly gave us what we wanted to put us out of our misery.

SUPPOSE I shouldn't tell all this. It's giving away trade secrets. We newspaper people are generally believed to KNOW EVERYTHING. People call us up to settle bets. Whoever gets stumped grabs the phone and puts it up to the newspaper.

Eventually, we come through and save the day.
But if it weren't for city libraries and the World Almanac, our bluff of erudition would be called soon and often. We alibi ourselves out of it with the wisecrack that "education consists in knowing where to go to find it."

In case you're interested, here is ALL of Browning's lovely poem:
Oh, to be in England,
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs
And the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm tree bole
Are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings
On the orchard bough
In England—now!

Electoral College Continues As Threat to Democratic System

By JAMES THRASHER

President Truman may favor keeping the Electoral College, but there is a noticeable sentiment among the voters for locking up the old institution and throwing the key away. The reason for this, of course, is the closeness of the 1948 presidential race which, because of our electoral system, almost wound up in the House of Representatives.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts has introduced a bill on the subject that would abolish the electors but not the electoral votes. His proposed amendment to the Constitution would divide a state's electoral votes between the candidates in proportion to their popular vote.

Under this system Governor Dewey would not have received 47 electoral votes for carrying New York, but 21.8, against 21.3 for President Truman and 3.9 for Mr. Wallace. In Ohio, Mr. Truman would not have won 25 electoral votes, but 12.525 against Mr. Dewey's 12.475.

The idea of retaining the electoral tabulating system as a concession to the smaller states has had considerable support from the nation's press. It has remained for the New Bedford (Mass.) Standard-Times to raise a practical rather than theoretical question as to a possible weakness in this system.

It is the Standard-Times' contention that Senator Lodge's amendment would virtually prevent the election of a Republican president in the foreseeable future. The reasoning is this: Eleven Southern states, which normally are solidly Democratic, cast about 10 percent of the popular vote in an average presidential election. Yet they control approximately 21 percent of the electoral vote. Further, the average of electoral to popular votes in those states is about 10,000 to 1, as against 110,000 to 1 in the others.

The result, says the New Bedford paper, is that any Republican candidate would be starting out under a considerable handicap. He would stand to lose large blocks of votes in Northern states carried by his party while making negligible gains in the Solid South.

The Standard-Times states that Senator Lodge's answer to these objections is that his amendment would break down the South's one-party system and thus do away with the present practice of having a very light vote on election day.

If that, in substance, is the senator's reasoning, it might seem overly hopeful. Abolishing the present electoral system might give a Southern Republican the assurance that his vote would not be thrown away. But it would scarcely abolish the state laws and restrictions that help to make light election-day votes.

The past year would have been a logical time for the Solid South to break up. The Republicans, encouraged by the Dixiecrat revolt, campaigned seriously in the South. A number of Southern papers supported Governor Dewey. But when the votes were in, the Solid South was still solidly Democratic, though not solidly for Mr. Truman. If the Dixiecrats, with the resentment that their movement aroused, could not open a wedge for the GOP below the Mason-Dixie Line, it is doubtful that Senator Lodge's amendment could.

The Standard-Times' objection to the amendment may or may not be partisan. But anyone, re-

Northern Pacific To Lay Off 267 Shopmen

BRainerd, Minn., Feb. 15.—(AP)—The Northern Pacific Railway shops here will lay off 267 men effective Friday, Superintendent John Vanni said yesterday.

"Due to a serious falling off of traffic, these reductions are necessary for the time being," Vanni said.

WATCH FOR "THRIFTY THURSDAY"

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New Fleet of B-29s Goes To England for Training

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Twenty-six U. S. B-29 Superfortresses arrived in England yesterday. The bombers are part of the 92nd group stationed at Spokane, Washington.

Four other flights of the same group are enroute here.

The group will be based at Sculthorpe in the English midlands for an indefinite training period. It replaces the 301st group of Salina, Kansas, which returned to the United States.

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