

# The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.  
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1920, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 2, 1879.  
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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$10.00, six months \$4.50, three months \$2.50. By City Carrier—Per year \$10.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month \$1.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per year \$9.00, six months \$4.75, three months \$2.75.

## WHO'S SAFE AND SANE

By CHARLES V. STANTON

According to press reports NOT ONE FATALITY resulted from use of fireworks last Fourth of July.

What a glorious victory for exponents of a "safe and sane Fourth!"

A comparatively few years ago people professed to be alarmed by the number of deaths resulting from use of fireworks on our national holiday.

So we took the firecrackers away from the kids.

We have a hunch that the dislike by adults of the constant noise, the irritation from incessant explosions, the trend toward larger and larger explosive crackers, and the wear and tear on frayed nerves had more to do with the crusade for a "safe and sane Fourth," than did alarm regarding death and injury.

But, be that as it may, we've succeeded in reducing the youngsters' supply of firecrackers to what in the good old days would have been contemptuously referred to as "lady-crackers."

Now, our adult population, having greatly softened the banging in their ears from firecrackers, have substituted the grinding, crushing roar of colliding automobiles.

No one was killed last Fourth of July from use of fireworks, but 315 persons lost their lives in traffic accidents.

Did someone say something about a "safe and sane Fourth?"

Picking a copy at random from our files, we learn that SIX people died July 4, 1935, from accidents caused by fireworks. What a grand achievement it has been to reduce fireworks deaths from six to zero!

But back in 1935 there were 83 traffic deaths as compared with 315 for the holidays a week ago. What's "safe and sane" about that?

In 1935, 79 persons lost their lives from drowning, while press reports a week ago today listed 256 water fatalities. Seems to us that's making progress backwards. The 1935 report listed 34 miscellaneous deaths as compared with 140 for July 4, 1949.

Of course, 1935, with 202 total deaths had a better than average record. Fourth of July fatalities 1928 to 1935 averaged 233, with 483 in 1931 as high and 177 in 1934 as low. Last tabulation we saw for 1949 was 711.

The kids managed to kill only a dozen or more, at best, during the good old days, so the adults have taken over and are doing a bang-up job, and we don't mean "bang" with reference to explosives.

Yes, the adults, who imposed a "safe and sane Fourth" upon the young fry, have done a far better job of killing than the youngsters could even begin to do.

We must take into consideration, of course, that we have more population, more automobiles, more miles of improved road, more leisure time, all contributing to holiday accidents. Too, we can be thankful that even as few as six deaths from fireworks are not to be pyramided onto traffic, drowning, fire, and other causes of fatalities.

Isn't it about time to take off our robes of hypocrisy and candidly admit that we deprive kids of fireworks because as adults we don't like the noise and are afraid of property damage from fire, rather than that we have a noble purpose in mind?

We certainly would have a hard time proving otherwise before any unprejudiced jury, if faced with the evidence of death, injury and destruction we adults produce every holiday, most particularly over the dangerous Fourth of July.

Perhaps its about time the kids started a "safe and sane Fourth" campaign to apply to adults.

## Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

### Medford Mail-Tribune BEAUTIES SHOULD BAND

Those who specialize in organizing groups — fraternal, political, agricultural, financial, ideological, social, labor, or whatever — are overlooking one of the best bets of all. Who are getting the most headlines this summer? Whose pictures appear most often in newspapers, magazines and on movie screens? Beauty queens — that's who! And they are completely unorganized. They must slight their jobs, if any; diet, primp and parade. They must be ready to dress in bathing suits (or undress, according to how one views such things) to be rushed hither and thither for public parade or picture taking purposes.

There is the water pose with the poor girl splashing daintily in pool, stream or surf so cold her smile is really fixed. She couldn't get that smirk off her face if she wanted to. There is also the scenic pose, with the scantily clad nymph perched languorously on sharp rock. Here, too, what the camera records as a gay smile may, in reality, be a grimace of pain. In contrast to these variations of the standard outdoor pose, is the industrial or promotional shot which entails draping of the form divine over the business end of a bulldozer in ceremonies marking start of work on the new gas works, perching precariously atop a new fire wagon, or dem-

onstrating the easy control of a newly invented posthole digger. In addition to the foregoing categories, there is the convention, lodge or club whoopedoo. Here the posing may not be as uncomfortable, the setting being usually indoors, but despite the absence of sharp rocks, water, etc., the going may be even more rough in other respects.

And what do the beauteous damsels get out of all this inconvenience, personal discomfort, expense, rough usage and even downright pain — they get tinsel crowns worth around \$3.95 which they must return when festivities are ended, maybe a couple of bathing suits, or a change of hose, and a ride up Main street on a float.

If there is any segment of the population in need of organization or unionization for a united front in order to secure its rights, it is our hard-working and much abused beauty queens.

Those who have welded the workers of the nation into the various unions, those who have labored in formation of the vast number of fraternal, business, political, and social organizations, have too long neglected our obliging but put-upon beauty queens. Let us have a bill of rights for our beauties. Better hours, hospitalization, where pneumonia follows over-exposure, and at least some pay. Once organized, maybe the rest of us could depend upon a strike relief in a while — and what a relief that would be.

## Sez He!



## Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnnett S. Martin

What price firecrackers in Oregon? Maybe that bill to ban them will be revived? It went half way through the Legislature last year. I'm sure the victims of the last "celebration" would wish it hadn't been stopped half-way?

I listened with gratitude as the call went out, time and again, alerting every one of the "more than 18,000 boys and girls in the Green Guard" to make extra efforts to Keep Oregon Green! No telling what disaster this great company of young people may have saved the State.

It takes so long to grow a tree. I counted the rings on a gatepost: 37 years, it took, to make that gatepost. The first time I saw Tillamook Burn it was less green than now. It was a sad sight. So is any denuded hill blackened with fire.

I watched a forest fire creeping up a mountain once—creeping, did I say? Across the 20-mile valley, yes, but ahead of a fire—no! It roars on... a cousin told of 24 hours in a Canadian lake

shared with every sort of wild creature, none harming or being harmed. He survived, as did the other humans, by constantly letting his head, too, come under the water. When they came out, all that was left of the gold mine above ground were some twisted iron wagon-tires and such things. For as far as the eye could see—blackened ground. "It was not being able to see any green that got us," he said. "No green!" He said the word as if it were next thing to bread. He didn't know how much he loved trees till they were gone, he said.

"I have given thee every green herb for meat," like all the rest of the Book, has a profound symbolic as well as a literal significance," Ruskin wrote in a passage I copied many years ago. "It is not merely the nourishment of the body, but the food of the soul, that is intended. The green herb is, of all nature, that which is most essential to the healthy spiritual life of man... Trees, fields and flowers were made for all and are necessary to all."

## Farmers In Financial Need Offered Help In Proposed Federal Housing Program

WASHINGTON, July 11.—(AP)—Farmers who need money help in getting better homes or even a little more land can obtain it— if they're approved—through the government's new housing program.

No one, though, can get any of the help unless he can't raise the money in any other way, such as a bank loan.

The program will give two kinds of help: Loans, which have to be paid back within 33 years at 4 per cent interest; and grants, which are outright gifts of government money.

Grants can't total more than \$25,000,000. The loans won't exceed \$250,000,000. Since the program is to run for only four years, all the loans and grants have to be arranged for within these next four years.

The program does not set a limit on how much any one farmer can receive. The government will have to decide that in each individual case, based on the individual's ability to pay back.

This is the thinking behind the program, as outlined by the congressmen who approved it: Nearly one-third of farm families don't receive sufficient income from farming to pay for needed improvements to their houses and other buildings necessary to make their farming successful.

Eligibility Pointed Out This is a brief explanation of who can get the government help, and for what, provided, as mentioned above, he can't get the help from any private source, like a bank:

1. A loan to build or repair a house or barn. If you're one of those able to make a living off your farm, you'll have to pay back on the interest and principal every year for 33 years.  
2. If you're a farmer whose farm is not big enough to support you and your family, you can get a loan to buy more land and, if you need to build or repair a house or barn, you can get a loan for that, too.  
3. In the case of No. 2—because this farmer has tougher going

than the farmer in No. 1—the government will let you skip the interest and one-half the principal for the first five years of the 33 years in which you have to pay back.  
3. The government will give grants, or outright money gifts, to help poor farmers in emergency situations. This money is not for any new building but for necessary repairs, such as roofing to keep out the rain, screens to keep out flies, and so on.  
No. 3 is intended only for farmers in a bad fix, with the idea that needed repairs will give them some kind of livable homes until they're able to find better ones.

Procedure Told If all this means you, you start by filing an application with the nearest county supervisor—a government agent—who is employed by the Federal Farmers Home Administration.  
The FHA has an office, meaning a supervisor, in 1,500 of the nation's 3,000 counties. The offices usually are at a county seat.  
Then the supervisor turns the application over to a local committee of farmers, usually three men. There's such a committee, which does work for the FHA, in every county.  
This committee will examine the application and decide whether you really need the kind of help you're asking for under the new program.  
If it finds you do, and that you can't get help from private sources, it can recommend to the FHA that you get the help. FHA must follow the committee's recommendations.  
(The FHA runs the farmers' part of the new housing program. The Public Housing Administration will handle the slum-clearances and public housing of it.)  
Note this: Congress has approved the program outlined here, and how much money should be spent. It has not yet voted the money for it. That comes later.

Mount Rainier, Washington, is the fifth oldest U. S. national park. It was established by act of Congress in 1889.

## In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

and vigor for the day's tasks. And so on.

It wouldn't be very exciting. It wouldn't make good headlines.

But after a decade or so of it the world would come around to something surprisingly close to what WE'D LIKE TO HAVE.

At a state convention of Active clubs in Portland last week, Governor Langlie of Washington was the featured speaker. He warned his hearers against allowing government to get too much control over the lives of citizens. How does government get too much control over the lives of citizens?  
Well, it works something like this: Farm prices get out of kilter. So government pays farmers a bonus, or a subsidy, or something of the sort. Whereupon farmers grow TOO MUCH of some crop and government begins to tell them what they must raise or not raise OR ELSE.  
Or maybe we don't build as many houses as people want or think they want. Whereupon government turns in and builds the houses. Government then is in a position to say who can have a new house and who can't. Perhaps government, being made up of politicians, then determines that THOSE WHO VOTE RIGHT ought to have the best houses—as for generations it has determined that those who vote right ought to have the postmaster-ships.

WHILE it is happening it all seems quite reasonable. But in the course of time it results in lodging too much power in too few hands too long.  
Whenever that happens, trouble follows:

FROM Jacksonville, Illinois, we got one of these stories that newspaper people love because they help to lighten up the general stodginess of news that may be significant but doesn't carry much boom.  
It seems that the mercury got well up in the 90s in Jacksonville and back there in the corn belt, with humidity and all, the upper 90s are oppressive. Among the sufferers was a St. Bernard dog that was too well furred for comfort in such a time. The Jacksonville Journal, alert for human interest in its pages, ran a touching little story about the animal's extreme discomfort.  
The response was immediate. One little girl wanted to fan the big canine all through the heat wave, but the ice company had a better idea. It sent over an air-conditioning unit and installed

## Anti-Depression Bill Scheduled To Be Introduced

WASHINGTON, July 11.—(AP)—Eight or more Democratic Senators plan to introduce a ready-made "anti-depression" bill this week, on the heels of President Truman's mid-year economic report to Congress.  
The report is due today. In it Mr. Truman reportedly will fix a new goal for national production—\$300,000,000,000 worth of goods and services a year. That is 18 percent above the last reported rate.  
Persons in touch with the policy-drafting said Mr. Truman will declare the nation to be in robust economic health.  
But he will note widening pools of unemployment. And in a set of ten or a dozen recommendations, he reportedly will urge the adoption of measures to blot them out and to set the country again on a course of rising production.  
Before the week is ended—and possibly within 24 hours after the presidential message—Senator Murray (D-Mont.) and at least seven other sponsors expect to offer their eighth draft of the proposed "Economic Expansion Act of 1949."  
It will not bear the official White House stamp of approval. It will, in fact, call for federal intervention in the economy on a scale which some administration officials fear might alarm business rather than reassure.

Airforce Officer Escapes After Car Takes Plunge  
KLAMATH FALLS, July 11.—(AP)—Major James Evans, Air Force officer of Salt Lake City, narrowly escaped serious injury Saturday when his car left the highway below Klamath Falls and dived into a water-filled irrigation canal.  
He suffered a scratch on his forehead and shock.  
State Police said Evans apparently fell asleep at the wheel. His car left the highway and plunged completely across the canal, its top striking the far canal bank, and rolled back into the water.  
It is all very wonderful, of course. But I'm cursed with one of these so-called "practical" minds. I can't get away from the notion that it might have been better all around just to shear the St. Bernard so that he could stand the hot spell better and let it go at that.

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