

# The News-Review

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## SITUATION REVERSED

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We have just been reading an unusual type of news item. It is the generally accepted privilege of newspaper readers to lash out at will against editors, reporters, proofreaders and any other person having anything to do with their newspaper. But when a newspaperman starts causing out the readers—and in public at that—it would seem that his comments would come under the heading of real news.

Dr. Gordon A. Sabine, assistant professor of journalism, University of Oregon, did just that in a recent talk before Eugene businessmen at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, according to Ken Metzler writing in the *Oregon Emerald*.

If Dr. Sabine's audience acquiesced as do Oregon's editors when he starts taking them and their newspapers apart, as he frequently does both formally and informally at conferences, we can have some sympathy for his businessmen listeners, when he spoke to them on the subject, "How Stupid Can You Get?"

According to Metzler, Sabine cut loose on "lazy newspaper readers."

The *Oregon Emerald* reports: He said to many readers skim the headlines of the daily newspaper and then turn to the sports page or the comics.

"If you do skip to the comics or sports how in the devil can you know what is going on in the world," he asked. "Some people read so little that all they get is a fool's glimpse of the world."

Although the newspaper must compete with the multi-fold activities of its readers, Sabine charged that large numbers of people do not know how to read a newspaper: "It takes only 30 minutes of the reader's time to get the main trend of the day's news."

He pointed out that the newspaper is arranged in a manner conducive to efficient reading. Its important news is all presented in one section. Headlines give the essence of a story in just a few words.

Sabine asked readers to analyze what they are reading and pay particular attention to the quoted source of the story.

Every editor, we are sure, could agree with the professor, even though no editor would dare say such things about his readers.

But an editor couldn't help but agree when so many times he has had an irate reader call and say his pet item didn't appear as promised although actually it was on the front page under bold headlines. Or the woman who calls up to report that the paper carried an item about a man by the name of Smith having a cow that won first place in the Iowa state fair when she was sure the radio announcer said Jones, and her aunt Minnie has a cousin in Iowa by the name of Jones, and didn't the newspaper make a mistake?

But Sabine, according to the *Oregon Emerald*, also had something to say about newspaper mistakes:

He admitted newspapers make mistakes. "But so do these in other professions. However, the errors of no profession are as glaring as those of the newspaper."

And no profession is so abused by the public as the newspapers, Sabine added.

"The public doesn't argue with professional men in other fields. We don't tell a lawyer he is a dope or a pastor that his sermon is all wrong. We don't tell a doctor to move over and let us handle this operation."

"Yet that is precisely what the readers do to the highly trained men who put out the daily newspaper. They lambast and cuss anyone who has the smallest finger in the publication of a newspaper."

However, they have a constitutional right to do this and whether their criticism is just or unjust their voices will be heard, Sabine declared.

We're glad Sabine tackled on that last paragraph.

Newspaper editors and newspaper reporters are in much the same position as baseball umpires. They're trying their best to "call 'em right." But the audience always has the right to roar disapproval if it thinks a close one was miscalled.

sometimes, even because of a disagreement in play?"

It has been said that the first seven years of a child's life decides the child's character.

From the accounts of slayings among the children in the same family we can lay it to the "funnies" or "and" movies and broad-casts.

It is what we feed the minds of our children that decides their future and sometimes our own future.

We do not feed poison physical food. Let's feed that which is uplifting and educational to our children of sub-school age as well as those older.

MRS. EMMA P. WOODS, Roseburg, Ore.

**Fund For Wind Tunnels Approved By Congress**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—(AP)—Congress sent to the White House Monday a compromise bill authorizing a \$250,000,000 program for developing transonic and supersonic wind tunnels.

The money will be used partly in cooperation with educational institutions and partly through a new air engineering development center.

A large part of it will be used by the National Advisory committee for aeronautics to expand its facilities at existing laboratories at a total cost of \$136,000,000.

The newly born oyster or larvae is so small it can barely be seen by the naked human eye.

**LETTERS to the Editor**

**Child Delinquency Blame Put On Parents, Comics**

ROSEBURG — Not long ago I read in a current publication of three small boys playing in a garage; two of them bound the third one and set him on fire. When the corva which bound him burned away he ran to his mother, terribly burned, so much of his body burned that neighbors, friends and strangers even hastened to offer to give skin from their bodies to save the little boy's life.

Where did the idea originate? Let this clipping account for some of the child crime.

**45 CRIME PICTURES IN COMIC BOOK; BAN ASKED**

SEATTLE, Oct. 13.—(AP)—Five of the 52 pictures in the comic book "Murder, Inc." showed crimes being committed. Luis Price, F. A. Walters, chief of the Seattle police department, said yesterday he is recommending that the book be barred from the newsstands.

The crimes included three robberies, four assaults, two threats to kill, one hit-run, two kidnappings of infants, a burglary, three conspiracies, one larceny in sale of stolen property, one kidnaping and a murder.

It is not an uncommon sight on our Roseburg streets to see children run after passers-by with a gun so like the real thing that it makes one shudder.

Can we wonder that babies shoot their playmates in fun?

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## European Red Birds



**CLICKING WITH THE HIERARCHY**—Margo Jean Coff, 3, turns her back on Columbus day paraders in New York to take a picture of New York's Catholic hierarchy on St. Patrick's Cathedral reviewing stand. Left to right are Rt. Rev. Msgr. Christopher T. Weldon, Bishop Stephen J. Donahue, Bishop William R. Arnold and Francis Cardinal Spellman.—(AP Wirephoto).

**Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET**  
 By Vahnett S. Martin

A project which a woman's organization might well consider taking up could be working for the enactment of a law similar to one already in force in California, a law of great protection to women and children: the "homestead" provision: California Civil Code: Sub. 5, Sec. 1263.

This homestead law is not to be confused with the provision for filing on land and proving up on same by residence and improvements. It concerns the small home owner in city or country, the householder who is trying to keep his head above water in this day of unceasing demands upon him, in addition to the task of keeping children in school, and a roof over their heads.

In California the husband or wife or any responsible person may take out a "homestead" on the home provided the one doing this LIVES IN the home.

In event of some calamity—illness, tragedy, accidents not covered by insurance—the family is sure of a roof over their heads. That, it would seem to me, would be a godsend of comfort in event of such an unforeseen emergency.

Of course, to sell the house, the homestead must be legally "abandoned," all a matter of a couple of dollars and the filing of a paper in the county recorder's office.

Good faith is assumed. To be sure, even in a barrel of good apples, there may be one that is spotted. By and large, the homestead provision is a good thing.

**Editorial Comment**  
 From The Oregon Press

**An Experiment on Tourists**  
 Oregon City Enterprise

From Joseph Patterson, old-time Oregon newspaper man, first and second war participant, and now a world traveler and commentator on the passing show, we have the news of a California activity to make up the drop in tourist revenue that the Golden State hotel operators had noticed this last year.

Because hotel patronage has been dropping in Southern California, the hotel operators have devised a "guinea pig" tour for tourists that will keep them in the state—and the hotels—for at least one more day, on the reasoning that if only one tourist in five stays one more day it would more than make up the \$10,000,000 drop in hotel business this last year.

This is how they do it, as the Los Angeles Times tells in the

case of a newlywed couple from Portland—Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bjorklund.

When the hotel clerk learned the Bjorklunds were leaving after a two-day stay, he merely said if it were convenient for them to stay another day he might make it "the best remembered day" of their honeymoon. There was to be no financial inducement; the young couple would go on a tour of their own selection, but they would have to pay their own way, every cent down to the last tip. But the hotel would provide a reporter and photographer who would open doors to them. They chose a shopping tour in the Miracle Mile, after a hotel breakfast they paid for, a trip to Griffith Park Observatory, the Coliseum, the Rose Bowl, the film studios, the LaBrea Tar Pits, a place on a radio program, the Cocolaco Grove, Huntington Library, a television station, China town and the harbor, with a quick look at the County Museum.

With doors opened and a reporter making life interesting, the Bjorklunds bought scarfs, coats, and perfume, and had luncheon at a small but costly place, after all that and more, of course it was evening and dinner followed at the Cocolaco Grove and more money was spent to park the car and later to buy a night snack—in all some \$43.50 for the extra day.

The Hotel Association is quite frank about it. They want the tourists to stay one more day, and are making it easy for them to do so.

Los Angeles estimates it had 3,373,395 vacationers visit the area last year. If the hotels could keep all of them just one more day and some spent any more than the Bjorklunds did, it would mean \$73,000,000 to the hotel and other businesses and more than make up the \$10,000,000 loss.

The burbot, a fish in northern U.S. waters which has been regarded as a pest because it eats game fish, has been found to yield a liver oil richer than that from cod fish.

The annual oyster harvest in the United States yields about 63,000,000 pounds of food.

## In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

enabling it to see over the horizon.

**WHY** is that important? Here is why: It enables the possessor of the device to see an approaching enemy farther off and GET READY FOR HIM QUICKER.

**LET'S** not kid ourselves. If we can do that, the Russian can probably do it.

This is the disturbing point: The techniques of war and destruction are advancing SO MUCH MORE RAPIDLY than the techniques of peace and cooperation.

**THIS** one comes from Salem: "A New York Republican congressman (Representative Ralph W. Gwinn) thinks 80 per cent of the Democrats and 20 per cent of the Republicans are Socialists.

As proof of his assertion, he cites in a speech to Willamette valley credit men the record of congress on public housing—which, he says, is the "most socialistic measure ever conceived."

(What he means, I presume, is that under public housing the government, which is everybody, builds houses for a FEW people to live in cheaply.)

**I** THINK he misses the point. As I see it, these Republican and Democratic members of congress who vote for "socialistic" measures (including laws designed to vote everybody rich and pension everybody off, so that NOBODY will have to work) DON'T BELIEVE IN THE THINGS THEY ARE VOTING FOR.

They are shallow opportunists who think that is what the bulk of the people want and are ready to vote for ANYTHING that will keep them in office.

The Democrats want to STAY IN POWER.

The Republicans want to GET INTO POWER.

That's the root of the trouble.

**P**ERSONALLY I have far more respect for a SINCERE SOCIALIST than for a demagogue who doesn't believe in socialism but is willing to vote for it in order to keep his job, if he is in power, or to get a job if he is out of power.

**A**LSO (still speaking personally) I think these demagogues are mistaken. I don't believe the bulk of our people WANT socialism, or any of its trappings. The common, everyday people I talk to don't believe you can vote yourself rich any more than you can lift yourself by your bootstraps.

And most of them I talk to are as sure as I am that after we've pensioned everybody off there won't be anybody left to do the work.

## Officers Installed By Pythian Knights, Sisters

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(AP)—The Grand Lodge of Oregon, Knights of Pythias, and the Pythian Sisters closed their 65th annual convention last night with installation of officers.

The Knights invested Ray O. Kaser, Milton, in the office of grand chancellor. Thomas E. Rustin, Klamath Falls, was installed as inner guard. The auxiliary organization installed Margaret Myers, St. Helens, as grand chief.

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**BRITISH DIG IN**—Some of Hongkong's 40,000 British troops dig in as Chinese Communist forces are reported to have entered Canton in force. Hongkong authorities said they believed that it would be only a matter of days before the Communists, spread out from Canton, would seize all territory right to the borders of the British city.

**Portland Vets Cemetery Will Be Enlarged**

SALEM, Oct. 19.—(AP)—The State Board of Control has decided to buy \$60,000 worth of additional land for the veterans national cemetery in Portland. The federal government will maintain the cemetery and get title to the land.

The last Legislature appropriated \$30,000 to buy the extra land.

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## FROM THE NEWS OF 30 YEARS AGO

**Gardiner Gets New Sawmill And Payroll During Year Of 1918**

(From Post-Union Courier)

The biggest improvement of the year in Gardiner was the completion of the Jewett lumber mill, built on the site of the Gardner Mill Co. plant, which was destroyed by fire. The new mill gave Gardiner quite a payroll, and its establishment following the destruction of the old plant was a great help to the place.

Roseburg Review, January 2, 1919.

The community of Gardiner received a shot in the arm with the construction of the new mill. We are trying to give you a shot in the arm to remind you to protect your property with adequate insurance coverage before it is too late. Your business helps the community and increases the economic level of everyone in the community. Protect the community's interest by protecting your own interest with adequate insurance. Call us today.

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