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CHARLES V. STANTON Editor EDWIN L. KNAPP Manager
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OREGON LOGGING TALK

OREGON STATESMAN

A cherry picker, in the Willamette valley, can be either a harvest worker or a crane for reloading logs spilled along a railroad right-of-way. A pole cat is either a skunk or a man who peels piling or telephone poles. A skeleton flat might be a graveyard but it's a logging flatcar and highball could mean something you build out of drinkin' whiskey (as opposed to rot gut) or it could mean any all out effort to full speed.

Many logging and sawmill terms have become part of our western Oregon vernacular and are used unconsciously by all of us. Unlike the lingo of "the old West"—much of which is used somewhat selfconsciously only in Hollywood lots and radio studios—logger and splitter-picker (mill worker) talk is part of the living language hereabouts.

From Cottage Grove, Veronia, Estacada, Fossil and other sources in this region, Wilbur A. Davis, whose home is in Clackamas, has compiled a glossary of logging terminology which every tourist and newcomer ought to memorize if they don't want to hire an interpreter as soon as they wander off the pavement into the forests and trails and crumbling skid roads of Oregon's logging country. It's in the spring issue of Western Folklore, published by the University of California press in Berkeley and here are some of the terms that have enriched and spiced our language:

A farmer, to the logger, is an appleknocker. Barrellin' her means speeding. An inept axeman is a beaver and the superintendent is the big push. Wages are blood money. Bushwah as a lot of bunk or baloney. A candy or gravy run is a profitable trucking haul. Cat skinner is a caterpillar tractor operator; cold deck is a pile of logs held for future removal; cork boots are caulk boots; donkey is a stationary winch to skid logs, it's doctor the mechanic and puncher the operator. The drink is where the logs are dumped into a river or pond and a fool killer is an unsafe piece of equipment. A guy who's fouled and fly-bowed has had a lot of bad luck and a gink is a man who lives so far back in the woods the owls cross with his chickens.

The gypso outfit is a small logging outfit or sawmill working small lots of timber which larger operators could not profitably handle. A hard-faced bird is either a woodpecker (feathered variety) or a high climber who limbs and tops trees. To hit the air means to stop suddenly and when everything is hunky-dory she's OK. Jewellery is logging hardware and a loading punk is a donkey puncher on a loader. To lower the boom is to deliver a one-punch knockout, to make her out means I quit (make out my time) and to be ore-eyed is to be hoppin' mad (very angry). A peavine is a logging railroad, a pilgrim is a migratory worker. To punch a road is to build a road for cat logging. The show is the site of logging operations; side by each means side by side, squeehowed means crooked or out of line, tail hold (tail holt) is any secure fastening. Tin pants are heavy cotton drill trousers and loggers wear their stagged, i. e. cut off between knee and ankle. Turkey is a logger's bedroll. The whistle punk is the signal wire operator of a rigging crew.

A pond monkey works on the log pond and if he spends too much time in the water he's a pond lily. The night watchman's an owl herder, swimper means clean-up man and a shotgun is a high-speed mill.

Congress Chat

The sudden passing of two members of the House of Representatives was quite a shock to the membership. Both William Lemke of North Dakota and John Lesinski of Michigan were well known and well liked. I was not well acquainted with Congressman Lesinski but Bill Lemke was a good friend. The last time I saw him was at my daughter's wedding just a few days before he died. Everybody called Mr. Lemke "Bill" and everybody liked him. On the other hand, Bill had many ideas about government that very few of us, at least on our side of the aisle, could agree with. In this work, however, friendships are not based upon attitudes regarding legislation. Here it is quite common for close personal friends to be professional and political enemies.

With the death of John Lesinski, who was chairman of the House committee on education and labor, Graham Barden of North Carolina becomes chairman. It is an automatic succession based upon the seniority rule. It is doubtful if any two persons ever more completely disagreed on legislation than did Lesinski and Barden. Since the chairman of a committee has considerable power in the operations of the group, it is certain that the nature of the legislative production of the education and labor committee will be materially changed. For one thing, Lesinski favored the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. Barden is equally dead set against its repeal.

It seems to me the over-all political scene in our country today is more mixed up than it has ever been in all history. For example Raymond Moley, now an editor and an author, was just about number one "Brain Trust" of the new deal. Now he declares that socialists have taken over the Democratic party. Not long ago Moley said: "Shrouded under names like liberal and progressive, the Socialists creep into the Democratic party and have taken

it over. Truman has become the spokesman for their purposes."

Speaking of quotations, here is one by Charles F. Kettering, famous inventor and scientist which I think is something of a cute. Kettering says: "One of those things we have to be thankful for is that we don't get as much government as we pay for."

In the spring of 1948 when our country was still suffering from shortages of several basic commodities, steel among them, the Interstate and Foreign Commerce committee, of which I am a member, held weeks of hearings on the fuel oil shortage problem. We learned that one of the difficulties in oil production was the shortage of steel. We also learned from Department of Commerce officials that the Department's Office of International Trade was still issuing export licenses for the export of steel products and only ceased issuing such licenses when our committee began putting the heat on them.

We were told that Russia, who had not been a big steel customer before the war, was shipping 600 times as much steel in 1946 and 360 times as much steel in 1947 as she had ordinarily received from us before the war. Those two years were the years of our most desperate shortage of steel. We also learned that one of the men who was recently discharged by Secretary Sawyer was in an important executive position in the Department of the education and labor committee which handled the export licenses for shipments to Russia. I had forgotten this testimony until the discharges were announced. Then I took a few hours and read it. There was something peculiar, if not wrong, in the O. I. T. about that time. That might have been due to incompetence, or to bad judgment, or it could have been due to unusual friendliness toward Russia. I haven't information enough to state definitely what was wrong. I feel pretty certain however that firing a few Department officials will do the country no harm.

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How Much And Where Did He Get It?



Soaps from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

This is the tale of Mr. Exeman, a packet of climbing beans, and the battle which the beans — but let me begin at the beginning, which was when Mr. Exeman decided that a white-painted trellis, not in use at the moment, about 4x8, would be just the thing to run the beans on! He staked it up close to the garage next door which shaded the beans from the west.

For some reason not quite clear to anyone except Mr. Exeman, he slanted the trellis backward at a sharp angle, and carefully, gently, showed the bean runners where they were to go. A little later, having snoozed a bit in the lawn swing, he inspected the garden, and found the beans had misunderstood. They had disengaged their tendrils and were waving peacefully in the air.

Once more, not quite so gently, Mr. Exeman twined the bean runners where they should go. This performance was repeated for several days... with Mr. Exeman's patience wearing thin, and his fingers less gentle each time. The runners even clasped each other and waved about in the breeze thus supported—two runners being better than one alone for that purpose.

Mrs. Exeman (remembering certain experiments in a school laboratory in which there had been a

climbing bean, a pencil-stake, and much discussion, with a general consensus as to the stubbornness of a bean), suggested that the beans would not run on that trellis the way it was... a suggestion Mr. Exeman disclaimed. He had raised acres of beans, he would like to have her know.

"Climbing beans on slanting trellis with a contrary light!" "Beans! Just beans! Planted and 'plowed.' (Mrs. Exeman and her husband having observed agricultural pursuits in different sections of the country in their youth, could always find something to chat about when she said 'cultivate' when she should have said 'plow.'?) Let 'em run any way they wanted to." Which, of course, is just what beans will do, whether on a field or a slanted trellis!

One morning bright and early Mr. Exeman was out in the drowsy garden, removing the trellis, removing the stakes, removing the beans which he tossed on a rubbish heap. "There," said he, with obvious satisfaction, "I guess I licked those beans this time!"

"Oh!" said Mrs. Exeman. "Yes," said Mr. Exeman, a trifle louder than necessary. Mrs. Exeman thought a moment, and then she said something her husband thought was 'cockeyed': "Do you know, I think the beans won."

ities of twice the size and half the ingenuity."

Nevertheless the stationery of the centennial committee has sketches of a stage coach captioned "Still in the Horse and Buggy Daze," and a tombstone with the inscription: "Fillmore, New York, 1850-1950. Rest in Peace."

'Rigor Mortis' Tag Picked For Town's Centennial Slogan

FILLMORE, N. Y. —(AP)—A Century of Rigor Mortis.

That's the none too boastful slogan this Allegheny county village of 500 has picked for its centennial, July 3-8. Others have suggested that a better, non-latin slogan, would have been "A Century Without Progress."

Committee members are quick to let you know that their slogan about 100 years of rigor mortis (a stiffening of the muscles after death) is not a joke. They say they picked it because they hoped to arouse interest among business people in improving the appearance of the village. Robert G. Aldrich, centennial committee business manager and publisher of the Northern Allegheny Observer, says Fillmore looks like a frontier movie set. "The business buildings," he says, "are almost all of wood frame construction, displaying a line of ancient false fronts equalled by no other town in the country." "Some of them are sadly out of plumb and seem to lean on their neighbors for mutual support."

Reserve Unit Of Firemen Calls For More Volunteers

An additional 25 volunteer firemen to form a reserve unit in Roseburg are being sought by Fire Chief William Mills. The Roseburg fire department, said Mills, is organizing for civil defense, along with all the departments in the state. Anyone wishing to become a fire reservist to aid in protection of life and property in case of a third world war can leave his name with the department at the city hall, said the chief. Development of a reserve unit here is the outgrowth of a week-long convention held in Salem last week by Oregon fire chiefs. The local volunteer department consists of 35 members, who drill regularly with the paid firemen, and answer calls to fires. The reserves would not only be used in case of an emergency but the unit would also serve as a reservoir of trained men to fill vacancies which might exist in the regulars, according to Mills.

WITH WACS IN JAPAN
Cpl. Marguerite P. Robinson is serving with the occupation forces in Japan, it was announced recently by general headquarters, Far East command. She is assigned to the 825th WAC company, which is billeted in the huge Mitsubishi main building in the heart of Tokyo. Cpl. Robinson is the daughter of J. R. Pickett, who resides in Astoria, Ore.

Battle Between NLRB, Denham Getting Hotter

WASHINGTON. —(AP)—The big policy battle within the National Labor relations board seems to be getting hotter instead of quieter. The scrap has been almost continuous between the five-man board and NLRB counsel, Robert N. Denham, since the Taft-Hartley law went into effect in 1947.

Several weeks ago, after Congress turned down President Truman's reorganization plan to abolish Denham's job, the general counsel sent a let's-make-up message to the board. But after several peace conferences, the fight goes on.

The board has ordered a brief filed in the ninth U. S. circuit court of appeals in San Francisco underscoring the whole controversy. The argument in that case is whether the board should decide some labor problems for a group of four corner drug stores (Haleston stores) in Portland, Ore.

The board said this is too small a case for applying Taft-Hartley. Denham contends the law should be applied, and furthermore, that it's up to him and not the board to say what cases the board decides.

Basically, Denham takes one view of the law in many respects, and the board takes an opposite view.

They differed on something else. Denham had announced last December that because it's virtually impossible to hold labor elections in the vast construction industry, due to the fact workers switch jobs so often, he wasn't going to require Taft-Hartley elections in that industry.

Denham asked the board to go along with him on this. The board said no. It said the elections are required by law and can't be waived. It said the situation ought to be reported to Congress "rather than change the law ourselves by administrative exemption of a single industry."

The board is saying Denham's construction industry ruling amounts to winking at the law, and Denham is saying the board's refusal to handle the drug store labor case is another wink.

Coulee Sagebrush Erased By Aerial Spray Of Poison

COULEE DAM, Wash., June 7.—(AP)—Daring pilots in grim-streaked little airplanes are dealing death by the gallon to 20,000 acres of sagebrush in Grand Coulee.

Flying from 12 to 20 feet above the ground, the pilots are spraying the bottom of the coulee with a liquid that's poison to the sagebrush. But it's harmful only to broad leaf plants. Wheat crops will continue to grow and be harvested.

When their job is finished and the pumps at Coulee dam are ready, a lake will spread over the coulee floor. It will be a huge reservoir furnishing water for irrigation of land in the Columbia basin project.

The sage and weeds must be killed before the lake is formed to keep weed seeds from spreading to the basin farm land. The planes are owned by J. W. Hardison of Yakima. He holds a \$348,000 contract for clearing the coulee of weeds, fences, buildings and trees.

Zooming low between the perpendicular coulee walls, plane pilots unload a lethal mixture containing the compounds 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T on the sage and weeds. Test plots already show that the poison has been administered in a killing dose.

The chemical war won't entirely supplant normal methods of breaking down and dragging out the sage. Dead apple orchards have been cut and piled up for burning in the future.

When weather conditions are right, and all precautions have been taken, fires will dot the rolling coulee as the future lake floor gives its final treatment.

Now Hardison's pilots are hopping down the valley from temporary landing strips spraying the poisonous oil mixture wherever it's needed.

Betting Racket's Extent Revealed In Seized Files

ST. LOUIS, June 9 —(AP)—Investigators reported that confidential files seized in a raid on a national betting headquarters told of extensive wagers being handled through Western Union managers. Copies of thousands of telegrams and letters were obtained in the raid. Police arrested Sidney Wyman and Steve Montefelice.

Prosecuting attorney Stanley Wallach of St. Louis county called Wyman a "current kingpin of the gambling fraternity."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said the files showed Western Union managers were offered "25 percent of the winnings at the end of the month, after deducting expenses for wire charges and form sheets."

The betting commissioners making the offer were listed as C. J. Rich and Co.

In New York City, the Western Union Telegraph company said its instructions prohibited employees from accepting "gifts, commissions or gratuities from betting officials or other similar establishments."

Wyman and Montefelice were released on \$1,000 bond each to answer any charges that may be filed against them. The raid was based on information Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey gave to Gov. Forrest Smith of Missouri.

A county grand jury of Bridgeton, N. J., last Monday returned an indictment naming Wyman and three other St. Louis men. The indictment was another in a series charging Western Union with aiding gambling by transmitting horse race bets.

Western union said it was asking for copies of "the reported letters from employees acknowledging

Oregon Unemployment Continues Heavy Drop

OREGON UNEMPLOY—12 n... In SALEM — (AP)—Unemployment in Oregon last week dropped to 30,434, the lowest June 1 figure since the end of the war, the state unemployment compensation commission said.

During last winter's cold weather, there were 100,000 persons without jobs.

During May, 10,000 unemployed persons went back to work, mostly in the lumber and logging, construction, food processing and agriculture occupations.

Nearly 85,000 men are working in lumber and logging jobs, compared with the post-war low of 55,000 last winter, and the peak of 91,000 in August, 1948.

Astoria, The Dalles and Tillamook were the only areas in the state which reported more jobless than a year ago.

The biggest drops in unemployment during May were in Baker, Pendleton, LaGrande, Roseburg and Corvallis.

Senator Graham Faces North Carolina Runoff

RALEIGH, N. C., June 8.—(AP)—Willis Smith today announced that he will enter a June 24 runoff primary against Senator Frank Graham for North Carolina's Democratic senatorial nomination. Graham led Smith by 33,000 votes in the May 27 primary, but lacked a clear majority by 5,600 votes.

Smith, Raleigh lawyer, campaigned as a conservative in opposition to much of the President's "Fair Deal" program.

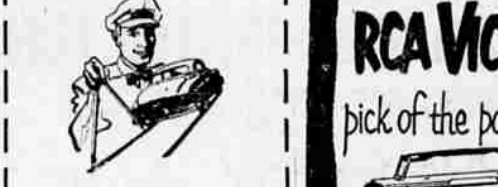
Former Senator Robert R. Reynolds and Olla Ray Boyd, small town pig breeder, were eliminated in the first primary.

gifts, commissions and gratuities so that we can investigate and take appropriate action."

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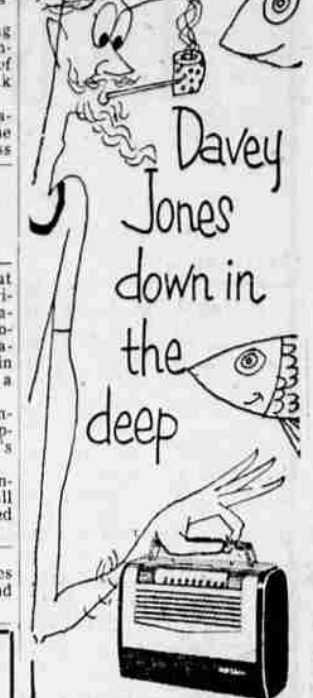
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