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"ACHIEVEMENT" REPORT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We have before us a year-end review of the "Friendly" Southern Pacific's "achievements." The "achievement" report is made by President A. T. Mercier, covering the year 1950.

It is a good report, showing much progress. We can't blame any business — utility or otherwise — for putting on its best dress at a public appearance, but, excuse us, the S. P.'s slip is showing.

"Southern Pacific rolled up more ton-miles of revenue freight movement in 1950 than in any other twelve-month period with the exception of 1948 and the peak years of World War II, and set an all-time operating efficiency record," says Mr. Mercier's review.

We are intrigued by that "efficiency record." Does it include the millions of dollars of losses to Oregon's sawmills because of inadequate transportation facilities? Does it cover the fact that, when the "Friendly" Southern Pacific couldn't furnish cars, lumber mills piled up millions of feet of lumber which could have been moved at a high price, laid off crews, although books were filled with orders, and then had to sell accumulated products at a bankrupt price because the lumber price skidded during the car shortage?

But, back to Mr. Mercier's "achievement" report. It says:

"A heavier volume of traffic, starting in March, was caused by a greater demand for goods and materials throughout the nation. The Korean crisis started a buying rush in June which resulted in a sudden demand for transportation services. Never in Southern Pacific's history had business activity attained such high levels in territory served by the company's lines."

That will be welcome news to the hundreds of Douglas county mill workers who suffered payroll losses from lumber production curtailment because the "Friendly" Southern Pacific couldn't furnish freight cars when needed.

This We Find Interesting

Mr. Mercier continues: "More streamlined passenger train cars were placed in service by Southern Pacific in 1950 than in any other year. New streamliners inaugurated were the five complete trains necessary to maintain daily Sunset Limited service between Los Angeles and New Orleans, and the twin Cascade night trains between San Francisco and Portland. Southern Pacific now provides the most modern streamlined sleeping car and streamlined coach service on each of its four transcontinental routes."

And we might add that the good old Southern Oregon Nightcrawler continues its bumpy way, with all its milk cans. During 1950, one of the "achievements" of the "Friendly" Southern Pacific was to remove the Nightcrawler's buffet car, thus denying its suffering passengers the solace of a cup of coffee and the possibility of warm milk for hungry babies. The saving thus obtained could have been used to much advantage in one of the streamlined club cars on the Cascade route.

Investment Earnings Low

"In spite of the heavy freight traffic in 1950, the net operating income of the Southern Pacific Transportation system for the calendar year, according to best present estimates, will equal a return of only a little more than three and one-half percent on the value of the transportation properties," Mr. Mercier states. This falls far short, he says, of what a railroad should be permitted to earn in order to maintain and properly improve its plant.

We can agree with the "record" on that score. A railroad company is entitled to adequate earnings on its investment. Earnings, however, are in some measure affected by service. In southern Oregon, the railroad company's service certainly is not conducive to promotion of good will — and good will is a necessary ingredient of profitable operation.

Mr. Mercier reports heavy investment in new freight cars — a total of 4,116 added in 1950 — but the question arises whether 4,116 cars are equivalent to the increased demand in this rapidly expanding area.

President Mercier says he notes "with enthusiasm the continued exceptional growth of the territory served by the Southern Pacific."

We share in his enthusiasm, but wish the "Friendly" Southern Pacific would express its sentiments by a little more attention to our transportation bottlenecks, particularly in the field of passenger service.

Despite our criticism of local conditions, however, we congratulate the Southern Pacific company on its gains for the year.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued From Page One)

SMALL military force is apt to be vanquished by a BIG military force.

Here's a big question: Are we going to risk the same situation in Europe?

Our leaders talk as if we ARE going to. But remember this: OUR UPPER BRASS CAN'T TALK ANY OTHER WAY.

Suppose we announced officially that we're going to pull back to the perimeter of our islands — Britain in the Atlantic and Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines in the Pacific — and fight a DEFENSIVE war.

That would take the heart out of the peoples of Western Europe. They'd curl up right now and quit.

You and I can say we ought to pull back to what we can hold and GET STRONG before we tackle any more. But our leaders DARE NOT say that. It would tip the enemy off to something he mustn't tip him off to. No good soldier

never yet gave his enemies a blueprint of his battle plans.

At this critical moment in our history, let's keep our shirts on. We have good military leaders — battle-trained in World War II. We have the biggest, the MOST EFFICIENT production machine on earth.

True, we made a blunder in Korea — a bad one. But I can't imagine our military leaders REPEATING such a blunder. Let's face the future with the grim and confident determination to do whatever we have to do to keep communism's heel off our necks.

Vital Statistics

KERN-JONES — Lyle Kern and Ruby Mary Jones, both of Drain

KELLAR-JOHNSON — Roy Raymond Kellar Jr. and Barbara Joan Johnson, both of Glade

DANCER-WAFER — Pete N. Dancer and Ora Louise Waffer, both of Camas Valley

He's Not Fire proof, Either



Scissors from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

Dear Earlene, Harriett, Janet, Alice, Gregory, Gil, Harry, and I, and also the other first graders, too, whose letters did not, for one reason or another, find a place in the fat envelope that surprised me recently. I really should say, one day before Christmas: for you will not read this on the day I write it. If you do not see it before then, Mrs. Coons will read it to you for me. I know.

I liked your letters very much indeed. You print very well! I don't just wonder to be able to draw some lines on a sheet of paper, put stampings on the letter, and then—no matter how far away the letter goes—know that the one who opens that envelope will be able to know just what you wanted to say, did say, in fact, when the pencil was in your hand!

When I was a little girl I learned to print, too. My mother saved some of my letters, just as your mother will save some of yours, probably, and just as I now have some of those printed by two little boys. (This was in the country where children had six-pences—remember?)

For practice we used slates. Each child had a slate, a little tin covered box in which we kept a wet sponge, and a nice slate pencil. Sometimes when a boy felt like stirring things up a little he would squeak his pencil on his

slate and make a loud noise, for that he would be invited to "stand in the corner" with his back to the other children. Come to think of it, I had turns standing in the corner, as I can well remember. We sharpened our slate pencils on the stone window sills!

Each little girl carried her doll to school. And when we entered the room where our teacher was waiting for us, each little girl curtsied, and each little girl bowed politely. Since this was exactly what our mothers taught us at home, the teachers were just helping the mothers by reminding us of our manners, just as Mrs. Coons reminds you of please and thank-yous.

When my mother had a Christmas tree party for me, there were many presents on the tree, each one numbered. The guests drew a number and then each was given a present from the tree which matched the number. How little I knew, so long ago, that someday I should be in Oregon, living where from every window, I can see Christmas trees growing! I love Douglas county—don't you?

Now, I shall pin your letters up on the screen with all the other Christmas greetings and enjoy them all through the holidays. I hope you are having just the happiest Christmas vacation. With love from your friend,

Vianett Martin

Gen. Eisenhower's Task In Europe Much Tougher Than In World War II

By BRUCE BROSSAT

Better than almost any man alive, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has come to symbolize the hopes of free men. There will be supreme faith in him as he begins building a unified European defense force.

Accepting this crucial responsibility undoubtedly represents a real sacrifice for the general. He takes his job as president of Columbia University. Recently he bought a farm near Gettysburg, Pa., and he was planning to spend a lot of time there. Moreover, he's past 60, and he's troubled by high blood pressure.

But he was the unanimous choice of the 12 Atlantic Pact countries and he has responded to the call of duty as a world expert has to do. Said President Truman in announcing his selection: "His experience and talents make him uniquely qualified."

Some military men believe Eisenhower will have more authority in his new post than he did as Allied commander in Europe during World War II. He probably will need it, for he faces a task of extreme difficulty.

In World War II, the general's enemy was already declared when he took over. He knew what he was up against. He knew, too, that Germany was being engaged heavily by Russia in the East, and that he wouldn't have to combat the Nazis' full power.

This time that same Russia is the potential, though not the declared, enemy. But Soviet forces are not now actively engaged anywhere, nor is anyone likely to divert their attention seriously from the West. China, the only big nation at Russia's back door, is a friend.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union, though her soldiers are doing no shooting, is waging a strange, unorthodox kind of warfare against the West. She prods her satellites and other friends to embolden western armies in combat that fritters away their strength. Meantime, she indulges in an endless campaign of harassment in the United Nations and on the political, diplomatic and psychological fronts generally.

Only Moscow knows, of course, when this live wire will enter a live shooting phase, it

is for that that Eisenhower must make his army ready. Under present plans he will command a force of 35 to 40 divisions, backed up by Atlantic and Mediterranean fleets and large air elements. But only a small part of the ground forces, estimated at one million men, is now in being. The remainder will not be ready until late 1953, according to existing schedules.

One of the first things Eisenhower will need to determine is whether this force and the timetable for its establishment are adequate to meet the possible perils of the days ahead.

Eisenhower is a genuine leader, with the qualities of both general and statesman. High among those attributes is a hard-headed sense of realism. Free men here and in Europe are counting upon him to give it to them straight — to tell them exactly how big their armies must be and how fast they must be built up to be reasonably safe against Russian attack.

Boys Try Out Yule Gun, One Goes To Hospital

MEDFORD — (P) — Joe Neil Jr., 10, could hardly wait to try the 22 caliber gun he got for Christmas. His cousin, Gary Neil, 10, of Portland, was almost as excited over it.

The boys took the gun outside. It was fired accidentally. The bullet struck Gary in the right arm and stomach.

Hospital attendants here reported him in fair condition.

TWO DRUNKS FINED

Charles Francis McMann, 65, of Oakland and Lloyd E. McCalk, 31, of Roseburg were fined \$50 each and then released after pleading guilty to charges of being drunk on a public street, reported Justice of Peace A. J. Geddes. McMann was arrested by the state police and McCalk by a deputy sheriff.

Money Suits Filed In Circuit Court

Catherine G. Parcels has filed suit in circuit court for \$1,400 allegedly unpaid on monthly support money by William J. Hursh.

The plaintiff charges that the defendant has not paid support money since May 1, 1948. The decree allowing the money for support was issued from the Washington state superior court for cow-litz county.

An amended complaint has been filed in the court by L. E. Stoner against Winter Brothers Logging Co. On two causes of action, the plaintiff has asked a total \$1,666.57. This money is allegedly due for labor and services rendered in felling and bucking timber.

The Embrey Roofing and Material Co. has started action against Jack Boxley for a total \$632.67 on two causes of action. The defendant allegedly owes \$352.67 on a loan and \$280 on a promissory note.

Washington Report

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

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WASHINGTON—When a special committee reports that a government department could lop off more than 15 per cent of its personnel without having any ill effect on its operations, the natural assumption would be that the committee was not controlled by the same political party as the government itself.

That's what lends special credence to a recent report by a House Post Office and Civil Service subcommittee, which stated flatly that the Treasury department's fiscal services could function just as well with some 7,850 employees as they do now with 9,432 employees. A majority of the members of the subcommittee are Democrats who take an exceedingly dim view of feather-bedding and over-staffing in government departments and agencies.

For example, the subcommittee admits to some difficulty in finding out why the Treasury needs to maintain more than 100 different offices in each of the nation's six most populous states. The various branches and divisions of the Treasury, the report discloses, have 166 different offices in Pennsylvania; 161 in New York state, 148 in California, 127 in Illinois, 117 in Texas and 106 in Ohio. It wouldn't require much cogitation for one to reach the conclusion that considerable savings could be effected by some judicious consolidation of some of these hundreds of offices.

The Coast Guard, which functions in peace-time as a unit of the Treasury department, is given a slight going-over in the report. The subcommittee gives it credit for maintaining in its headquarters "the most satisfactory staffing idea in the Department of the Treasury," and finds its headquarters staff is "grossly over-graded."

"The rank of the headquarters military personnel," says the report, "is far above both the quality and quantity of the work to which the commissioned officers are assigned."

It says this "grossly over-graded personnel includes no less than eight admirals, 32 captains, and 59 commanders; but that the number drops sharply for lower ranks—49 lieutenant commanders, 33 lieutenants, 22 lieutenants junior grade, and only two ensigns.

"Admittedly, a greater proportion of the top rank is required in headquarters," but this discrepancy is too marked to be easily reconciled," it says. The Treasury's various administrative accounting units are given credit in the report for unnecessary and duplicative work. "A large part of the time spent in accounting in all bureaus," it says, "is devoted to the compilation of extensive and detailed reports, supposedly for the use of management. Some of these reports are advantageously used, but others are placed in files and never utilized. More often than not the reports are filed away as historical records even though they contain valuable data which could be used as a means of attaining operational economies."

Another report issued by this same House subcommittee deals a similar dusting-off job on Labor's department's prices, a labor cost of living division. This one calls attention to complaints received by the subcommittee from several employees of this high-sounding division—complaint of inept supervision, of employees who could find nothing to do but were told to fill out hours-worked forms anyway, and of feather-bedding in general.

"The subcommittee," the report says, "find that a substantial part of the \$1,000,000 initially appropriated for the revision of the consumer price index by this division was dissipated through gross over-staffing, inferior planning, untrained supervision, and improvident administration. The subcommittee believes that the supervision prevalent in this division has been inept, poorly qualified, and without proper concern of the taxpayers' interest in the responsibility it has assumed. The subcommittee concludes that the allegations made by the employees who appeared voluntarily before it are justified and that these employees rendered a distinct public service in bringing these conditions to the attention of the committee.

Times being what they are, and the country embarking on a war economy basis, it would seem proper and fitting that government agencies, not directly connected with re-armament could do their bit by cutting out all non-essential spending. Whether they do so or not is something only time will tell. On the basis of past experience, it will take a lot of prodding by conscientious groups such as this House subcommittee to compel them to do so.

G. E. Reports Top Year In Sale Of Appliances

NEW YORK — (P) — General Electric Co. reports that 1950 was its greatest year in history in the production and sale of household electrical appliances. H. L. Andrews, vice-president of G. E.'s appliance and merchandise department in Bridgeport, Conn., said the company built and sold approximately 12,000,000 appliances during the year.

This output, he added, was the equivalent of one appliance for every three wired homes in the United States. Andrews said it also was the best year on record for the entire appliance industry, which sold about 33,700,000 units. This was 12,000,000 more than G. E.'s production for the industry last January.

Local News

Goos To Seattle — Mrs. W. F. Wilson of Lookingglass left today for Seattle to spend a few days visiting friends.

California Visitor — Margaret Jackson of Santa Monica, Calif., is in Roseburg visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roberts, over the holidays.

Here From Ft. Lewis — Pfc. and Mrs. John W. Resner came to Roseburg from Fort Lewis to spend the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Findlay of Keasay road.

Holiday In Portland — Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Patterson and daughter, Lois, and Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Critser motored to Portland to spend the Christmas weekend with Mr. Patterson's relatives there.

U.S. Natl. Bank Announces New Asst. Manager



ASSISTANT MANAGER — C. W. Bagley, bank manager at Amity, Oregon, has been named assistant manager of the U.S. National Bank's Roseburg branch. He will report here Jan. 1.

Appointment of C. W. Bagley, now manager of the U. S. National bank at Amity, Ore., to assistant manager of the U. S. National's Roseburg branch, is announced by E. C. Sammons, president.

The appointment is effective Jan. 1.

Increased business, in which loans at seasonal peak double the total of three years ago, make the addition of Mr. Bagley to the staff of the Roseburg branch particularly welcome, says Harold E. Schmeer, manager at Roseburg. "Mr. Bagley will be of great assistance because of his varied experience in banking and his knowledge of the lumber field," said Schmeer. "He should be of much help in enabling us to give our customers improved service."

Prior to being made manager at Amity, Bagley spent four years in the head office in Portland. He has worked as commercial teller, in the chief clerk's department, real estate and investment loan departments and in the branch operations section.

A native Oregonian, Bagley was born in Baker. He attended high school in Oakland, Calif., and began his banking career in San Francisco. In 1944 he joined the United States National bank at the St. Helens branch. He is a member of the American Institute of Banking and has taken several courses offered by it.

Mr. Bagley is married and has four children.

LOVAT GETS NEW TEETH

LOVELAND, Colo. — (P) — Mrs. Ella Hagler says her 27-year-old cat, Little Sister, cut a new set of teeth after several years of bare gums. The cat drooled like a human infant until the new teeth were in, Mrs. Hagler reported.

FORESTERS TO RESIGN

PENDELTON — (P) — Carl M. Ewing, supervisor of the Umatilla national forest at Pendleton, will resign Dec. 31 after more than 30 years as a federal forester. His successor was not announced.

Also retiring after almost 40 years in the national forest service is Royal (Doc) Cambres of Pendleton, who has been working as a forest service lumberman in timber sales work in the Umatilla national since 1935.

GOT A KICK?

If your paper has not been received by 6:15 p.m., PHONE 100 between 6:15 and 7 p.m. ONLY

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NOTICE

The Hotel Umpqua Coffee Shop Will Be Closed All Day, Sunday, December 31st, 1950, For Repairs.

We will be open to serve you New Year's Day, January 1st, 1951. Plan your New Year's dinner at the Hotel Umpqua Coffee Shop.

Happy New Year To All!