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CHARLES V. STANTON
Editor

EDWIN L. KNAPP
Manager

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LET'S FORGET IT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A number of Reedsport and Winchester Bay residents are in an angry frame of mind because of a star chamber session recently held at Reedsport by various law enforcement agencies.

The anger stems from the fact that, through error, the meeting was announced as a public affair. When all except representatives of participating agencies were asked to leave, the request stirred up resentment.

County Judge Carl C. Hill reports he had contacted heads of the state police department, seeking representation from that agency. The state police officers were glad to cooperate, but insisted that they would not discuss policies or plans at an open meeting; that their discussion would be only with other affected agencies. The judge promised a star chamber session.

The meeting, called to discuss a program of law enforcement at Winchester Bay, was attended by representatives of the county court, district attorney and sheriff's offices, sanitary department, county park board, coast guard and state police. The state police representatives were willing to discuss matters of policy with these officials, but did not want to talk in open meeting. Their position, as reported by the county judge, was that too often, when talking in a public group, statements are misunderstood, misinterpreted or distorted.

Actually, the state police had made arrangements to follow the meeting with a weekend "raid" at Winchester Bay, in an effort to correct some of the abuses at that popular fishery. Because of information leaks, it was necessary to cancel the enforcement drive.

Fishery Is Cooperative Effort

The meeting at Reedsport had only one purpose, that of working out a pattern for improving law enforcement, safety and sanitation at Winchester Bay. It was supposed to be a session for department heads to consider technical details.

Through error, word was given at Reedsport and Winchester Bay that the meeting was to be public.

Many individuals and organizations have contributed to the unique sports fishery at the mouth of the Umpqua river. Naturally they were exceedingly interested in any program designed to improve conditions. A large crowd had gathered in the conference room.

The meeting was thrown open for public discussion, after which the chairman asked for a closed session. Some persons making a valuable contribution to the fishery felt they were entitled to remain. Resentment ensued when they were asked to leave.

It is indeed unfortunate that such an incident should occur. Many people are receiving undeserved criticism. Other people, working industriously in the interest of the community, feel they have been slighted. Opportunity exists to use the occurrence to seriously damage the cooperative spirit that has marked the Winchester Bay project to date.

In fact, hasty criticism already has been voiced that the whole safety program was initiated only because residents from the Roseburg area were drowned in accidents at the bay; that the county court would not have been interested had victims been residents of some other area. Blame for the incident is laid at the door of the county court.

It was to be expected that irresponsible criticism would follow what may well be considered an affront, even though no affront was intended.

Continued Cooperation Needed

Though the specific accusations cited show obvious irresponsibility, they should not be permitted to go unchallenged, because, if the Winchester Bay fishery is to be improved and promoted, continued cooperative action is essential.

A thoughtful study of facts, freed from resentment, will show that the meeting should never have been announced as open to the public. Certainly no one expects police action to be planned in open meeting. After a pledge of closed session had been made to state officers, that promise could not be rescinded. Patently, the purposes and intent of the meeting were not understood by public representatives present. Possibly a more tactful method of calling a star chamber session could have been used under the circumstances.

But it should be quite evident that a combination of policing factors must be considered. The county court's authority is limited. It can do certain things insofar as the land side of the fishery is concerned, but it can't enforce safety regulations on the water—a coast guard duty—nor can it enforce the game laws—a job for the state police. Thus a meeting of all affected agencies was necessitated.

The Roseburg community has given whole-hearted cooperation to the Winchester Bay project, even sacrificing park board money that could have been well used in the Roseburg area. Roseburg people have been interested both as spectators and participants.

This newspaper, in its news and editorial columns, gave much prominence to hazards at Winchester Bay and urged extreme caution, even before the season started and long before any fatalities occurred. The parks board tried to initiate a safety program and bring all affected groups together, months ago. Fatalities doubtless stimulated action on the part of various agencies, previously inclined to pass the buck, but it can't be truthfully claimed that the same action would not have resulted had victims been residents of any other community.

A deplorable incident has occurred. It occurred through unfortunate error and misunderstandings. Some people have been offended. Resentment has led to thoughtless and damaging aspersions.

It is evident that mistakes were made and ill will generated. Inasmuch as the incident resulted entirely from misunderstandings, let's forget the whole thing, eliminate this silly business of calling names in retaliation, and instead of promoting friction, get down to the job at hand with the same sort of cooperation that has been so effective in the past.

"Ain't Nobody Here But Us G.I.'s"



MENDING BASKET

Vahnett Martin, P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

"The building site you have chosen," writes Mrs. B. F. Roberts, "is just across 38 from where my son and his wife are building. Mrs. Roberts wants to know on just what tree you will hang your telephone? She suggests that you use her phone until you have a place for yours."

Mrs. Roberts Sr., who lives east of Yoncalla continues: "We get a lot of laughs out of The Mending Basket, and look forward to having you for neighbors. Dad and I live the second place from the charming Mrs. Phelps who wrote about a while back, but I hope to meet you soon."

Thank you, Mrs. Roberts. Next time we shuttle out in our borrowed jeep we'll stop at the Roberts place and say hello and hope to catch you there, too. The only reason we haven't met your son and daughter-in-law, I guess, is that no question to ask them happened to occur to us, nor was their place for sale. It's a wonderful way to meet one's future neighbors, this business of hunting a small place to buy! We have

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)
zone between Russia and the various powers that have ruled Western Europe.
Look where Poland is now.

It will not escape your attention, I think, that ALL of Korea is an Asiatic buffer zone between Communism and the free world. We've been doing our fighting in KOREA, instead of on our own ground. So have the red Chinese. The poor devils of Korean civilians (if there is such a thing as a civilian in modern war) have been taking the rap. Both sides have been trampling THEM into the bloody mud.

One of the sad lessons of history is that buffer zones are always established on the soil of nations that are too little and weak to protect themselves.

If we let ourselves GET WEAK, we'll be a buffer zone some day.

The nub of this buffer zone business in Korea is WHERE IS IT GOING TO BE?

The reds want it on the side published 38th parallel. Our side insists on approximately the present battle line.

Why the argument?

Along the present battle line, we are holding excellent positions on ground of our choosing—hills, for example, where we can SHOOT DOWN at attacking reds who have to charge UPHILL into our guns to get at us. We've expended large numbers of precious American lives to gain this favorable ground.

The canny reds want us to abandon it and go back to the 38th parallel, which is flat and undefensible. We'd then, if the shooting starts again, have to expend MORE PRECIOUS AMERICAN LIVES regaining the positions we now hold and which the reds want us to give up.

Do you suppose the reds really think we'd fall for anything like that? I rather doubt it. In all our horse trades like this true business in Korea, you first put up to the other guy a lot of things you know he won't stand for in order to get an idea of what he will stand for.

Here's one to close on. It comes from Pacoima, California. (Does anyone know where that is? I never heard of it.)

liked all we have met, and appreciated their friendly help. Elinor Brown, down in Hollywood, has taken an interest in our telephone too. She writes: "We missed your column for a couple of days, and thought you might be on a visit to California." (Good gracious, Elinor, at a time like this?) "But then the column blossomed with a fancy new heading. If the phone won't come to you you'll move to where you can get a phone. Is that it?" And then Mrs. Brown writes that the state library asked for their biographies as Oregon writers, and that now one copy of each of the Camas Valley Press publications has been added to the state library's "Oregon Collection." Oh yes, the Browns are starting a new magazine, to be titled "The Archer," and are inviting short prose and verse for it. By the way, I heard that "Old Days in Camas Valley," a Camas Press publication, is most successful, and well it may be. Interesting! Wilfred Brivn, you know, writes the news for Glenn Hardy, who is heard on KRRR.

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Congress Chat

By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.,
Fourth District, Oregon

When the President sent his enormous budget request to Congress at the beginning of this year he verbally threw out his chest and dared Congress to reduce it. That was a foolish statement. Congressional action thus far on 8 of the 12 regular departmental bills shows reductions totalling more than one billion dollars. In terms of percentage that does not represent a very large cut, but I am just old-fashioned enough to feel that a billion dollars is a whole lot of money. (It really is one thousand millions, you know.)

Where does all the money go? Well, it might be part of it is distributed in the form of checks to individuals. The latest Treasury report on the number of such checks being issued (July 1, 1951) shows a total of 17,247,783 people receiving payments of one sort or another from the federal government. The comparable figure for July 1, 1925 was 2,196,151. I cannot resist making the political observation that the Democratic administration is sending checks to 15 million more people than the last Republican administration did—or a total number about seven times the size of the last presidential election victory margin.

Pity the poor retail merchant under the present price control administration. Here is verbatim the essential paragraph of ceiling price regulation number seven, issued June 18th:

"Sec. 35. Rule 4; If the article you are pricing has a net cost between two net costs listed for that category in Column 2 of your chart, you compute your ceiling price by multiplying the net cost of the article by the average of the percentage markups listed in Column 4 for the next higher net cost and the next lower net cost than the one you are pricing, and by adding the result to the net cost."

But the retailer is not the only one who is having trouble keeping up with the red tape tangle in our wonderful controlled state. When a city or local government unit makes a request upon Washington for an allocation or a priority for necessary materials to construct school houses, pave highways or build other needed structures, the community officials must deal with 18 different government units under the economic stabilization conglomerate set up by the Truman administration. An individual builder, of course, has to go through the same rigmarole.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that steel is being allocated for the production of a reasonable number of freight cars per month. Transportation and ICC officials have long declared that we must have at least 10,000 new freight cars a month in this country to replace old cars which are going out of service, and to build up an adequate car inventory. Early this year panicky production authority executives threatened to cut the steel for cars back to about 6,500 per month, but later had the good judgment to allow car builders to increase their capacity. The goal of 10,000 cars has not yet actually been reached but the output in May was 9,774 cars. In June it was 9,644, and third quarter production is scheduled to total 28,500. Even this output of new cars is not enough to prevent a car shortage in the lumber producing area in a bad season, but it will help.

TRIAL DIDN'T PAY

PORTLAND — (AP) — Harley Phelps, 33, Portland cab driver, was cited for jay walking by a policeman.

He could have pleaded guilty and paid a \$2 fine. Instead, he asked for a jury trial. The jury of six women found him guilty.

Phelps was fined \$18 by municipal Judge J. J. Quinn, ordered to pay \$12 in jury fees and \$10 for court reporters fees. Total \$40.

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

By GORDON DEAN
Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

WASHINGTON — It has now been almost six years since the A-bomb explosion over Hiroshima revealed to the world that this country had a large atomic energy program in operation, and yet there are still a great many mistaken ideas and misconceptions about atomic energy in wide circulation.

I would like to take the opportunity afforded me by this guest column to lay some of these to rest. To do it, let's take a look at a few of these misconceptions, and then let's see what the actual facts are.

Misconception: That all of the 100,000 or so people who work in the atomic energy program are employed by the government. The fact is that less than 6,000 work for

(Editor's Note — Fulton Lewis, Jr., is on a reporter's tour of Europe for four weeks. During his absence guest columnists will write for him.)

the government. The rest work for the more than 500 private concerns and institutions who perform all of our scientific and industrial operations, what the government does is set policy, supervise the program and look after security. We hold the number of government employees to the bare minimum.

Misconception: That only the U. S. and the U. S. S. R. know anything about atomic energy. The fact is that many countries have atomic energy programs worthy of notice. Among these are Great Britain, Canada, France, Norway, The Netherlands, India and Argentina. At least one—Great Britain—has said she is engaged in the development of an atomic weapon. It is plain from this, I think, that the U. S. S. R. is no longer our only competitor—although I'm glad to say she is our only unfriendly one.

Misconception: That the A-bomb, if exploded under the right conditions, could start a chain reaction in the air or sea, and destroy the earth. The fact is that neither the A-bomb nor the H-bomb could do this. Neither do atomic explosions affect the weather or cause earthquakes.

Misconception: That when an A-bomb is exploded in the air over a city—as at Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the ground beneath becomes contaminated with radioactivity and anyone who goes into the area will die or be injured. The fact is that in a high air burst—the most efficient kind from the military standpoint—there is no residual radioactivity worth mentioning and rescue workers can go into the area immediately. Underwater or underground explosions do leave residual radioactivity, however.

Misconception: That radiation in large doses—such as from an A-bomb—causes mysterious effects on the children of people exposed. The fact is that radiation does cause genetic effects, but they are no different than the devia-

tions from normal that occur spontaneously in the population from time to time. These can be either good or bad, although most are bad in varying degree. Actually, the people who are regularly exposed to small doses of radiation in our plants and laboratories are having normal, healthy offspring. Radiation is not all evil. When administered in a controlled way, as through radioisotopes, it can help cure certain diseases.

Misconception: That the AEC can keep secret the location of its new plants and laboratories. The fact is that when we move into a new site of 200,000 acres or more and begin hiring thousands of construction workers, we can't very well conceal the location of the plant. So we announce the plant at the time best calculated to help us get the job done.

Misconception: That commercial atomic power is right around the corner. It isn't. We will have atomic power first in a submarine, because we need it for our national security. This kind of work helps us to develop plants to produce power for civilian use, however, and we're going to have them someday.

Misconception: That everything about atomic energy is secret. The fact is that only those parts of our program that it would help a potential enemy to know about are secret. There are great quantities of information on the peaceful benign uses of atomic energy that aren't secret at all, and every American should make a special effort to learn about them, for they will undoubtedly have a great effect on the lives of all of us.

Misconception: That all of the atomic energy materials we're putting into bombs today will go to waste if we never use them in war. The fact is that anytime the world situation allows us to, we can take these materials out of our weapons stockpile and put them to work to produce power for civilian use or radioisotopes for medicine, agriculture, industry and scientific research.

These atomic energy materials that we are now producing at a growing rate are, to my mind, the greatest safeguard to our national security today and one of our greatest national resources for the future. We have no alternative, I firmly believe, but to continue to produce these materials in as large a quantity as we can—and as safely, efficiently and economically as we can—and that is just what the Atomic Energy commission is trying to do.

In The Armed SERVICES

Dillard Sailor Becomes Father Of Baby Boy

A baby boy, weighing seven pounds, three and one-half ounces, was born July 7, to Mrs. Lois Ann Harryman, wife of Harry B. Harryman, seaman, USN, at the U. S. Naval hospital Portsmouth, Va.

Harryman, who is stationed at the Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Harryman of Box 57, Dillard. Mrs. Harryman is the daughter of Mrs. Alena Merrifield of Murietta, Calif.

The baby, named Harry Brooks, is the first child for the Harrymans. They are residing at 607 1/2 West Princess road, Norfolk, Va.

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