

The News-Review

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CAUTION DEMANDED

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A fire in Roseburg's business district was controlled Sunday before serious damage was done to surrounding blocks.

Looking to the west, Roseburg residents can see smoke billowing from Hubbard creek and Scottsburg fires, turning the evening sun to a ball of copper, and furnishing a weird, ominous, but beautiful, sunset spectacle.

Continuing hot, dry weather warns us of the need for extreme caution with fire. Caution is needed not only in the woods but in our homes and business houses.

Roseburg's volunteer fire department is deserving of high praise for brilliant work in controlling Sunday's fire at the Eagles' hall. A little less efficiency and a large sector of our business district could have gone up in smoke. Working under difficult conditions, firemen managed to confine the threatening blaze to a limited area. Had the flames reached wooden structures across the street it is difficult to estimate the damage that might have resulted.

Residents of Roseburg also can be very thankful that the newly-purchased fire engine arrived ahead of Sunday's blaze. Without that piece of equipment, we might have had a greater catastrophe. The fire also emphasized the need for the ladder truck for which the fire department has been pleading for so many months. Had ladder equipment been available firemen could have reached the heart of the blaze more quickly and with less risk and, perhaps, could have stopped the blaze with smaller damage to the building.

Fire Situation Perilous

Considering all circumstances, we feel that our fire department is deserving of much appreciation for its excellent job of fire fighting.

But many other fire fighters are engaged in a losing battle. Hundreds of tired men are laboring to control the two big fires raging in the coast range. Suppression agencies are finding it extremely difficult to obtain enough men for the extended fire lines. It is a hard and discouraging job for, with low humidity and high temperature, coupled with strong winds, the blaze jumps fire lines almost as rapidly as they can be built. Threatened is some of the finest timber in western Oregon. More than trees are burning, for each tree destroyed represents losses in jobs, homes, payrolls, business and taxes. And the loss is not for today alone. We must include as a part of the assessable damage the impairment of watersheds, fish life, recreational environment and possible slaughter of wildlife.

Fire is a terrifying thing. Seldom in the past has the hazard compared with the present situation. The prolonged drought, low humidity and drying winds have left the countryside ripe for fire. Nor is the condition confined to forests alone. Boards used in construction of homes exude moisture even though protected by paint. In weather such as this, a house becomes highly inflammable. Carelessness around home can easily touch off a blaze. Danger always exists that the fire may spread from home to home, particularly under present conditions, and cause terrible tragedy.

Certainly, the hazard with which we are confronted demands from all of us the most extreme caution.



Scraps From the MENDING BASKET
 by Vahnett Martin, P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Did you ever learn the gentle art of wig-wagging? Copying the Morse code just now for a young friend has stirred up a lot of memories of that code, and the flag semaphore wig-wagging and other ways of signaling. (The Morse code is, of course, like most everything else, in the unabridged dictionary. Also in the Boy Scouts' handbook and the navy manual.)

I confess that other things, at the time, seemed important, but not more important, I am grateful now to remember, than a young son's desire to "practice signaling!" I was patiently instructed until my progress warranted a position in front of our house while Serley scooted to the other end of the street with his flags. Whatever motorists thought as they shot by on the big boulevard behind me I knew not I felt extremely silly, but that also seemed less important at the time.

From the time the boys were just babies, I used a small tea bell to call them in from play. As they grew older the tea bell continued its work. Many a time

a passing neighbor has relayed its message to the boys when out of hearing. "Your Mom wants you!" Their dad required that the bell should be answered at once. If for some reason there was need for them to return to the scene of their operations, they could then go back for a definite time. But the bell meant "Come at once!" Use of the bell discouraged procrastination and a shouted request—provided the ringer ducked back in the house promptly.

Another thing that helped our neighborhood children was a common alarm clock propped up against a window. They could glance at the dial and know "what time," and if on the way to school, its silent message would hasten their steps. Or if playing nearby they would time their games or "turns." It promoted harmony and fairness and was an impersonal time-keeper. They also knew when it was time to go home for lunch!

Turns for indoors games were often regulated by an egg-timer. I kept one by the telephone, too, and found it helped me.

Local News

To Newberg—Mrs. Lloyd Lipincott of Roseburg has left for Newberg on business.

Fly To Eugene—Holden McTaggart and Art Pearson of Roseburg flew to Eugene Saturday on business.

To Portland—Bill Brady, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Glenn Brady of Roseburg, left Monday for Portland, where he will stay a week on business.

Return From Eugene—Mrs. Burton Randall, her mother, Mrs. Nolan, her daughter, Lucinda, and a friend, Fred Foye, all of Roseburg, have returned to their homes following a shopping trip to Eugene.

To Meet—The parents of Fullerton grade school boys, from eight to eleven years, will meet tonight at 7:30 in the Fullerton music room. The purpose of the meeting is to organize a Cub Scout pack.

Back From Portland—Lloyd Stutsman, advertising manager of the News-Review, returned to his work Monday, following a stay in Portland on Wednesday, attending to business for the News-Review.

Return Home—Mr. and Mrs. John Hardiman and sons, Jim, Joe, Mike and Rick of Roseburg, have returned to their home after visiting relatives in Seattle. Mr. Hardiman spent his two-week vacation



FIRE FIGHTER—R. J. Thomason, Sutherlin, is one of more than 300 men battling the Hubbard creek forest fire. Here he pauses for dinner at Hubbard creek camp. (Staff photo)

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

is written by Senator Capehart of Indiana and Senator Bricker of Ohio. It calls President Truman and Democratic National Chairman Boyle "graduates of one of the most corrupt political machines in the history of any state" and adds: "They have transferred Pendergast politics to the national level."

The Republican report, of course, sounds like a partisan political blast, but the POINT is that both Republican and Democratic senators join in an official statement that the RFC business was a scandalous and shameful thing.

YET—About all that has come of the whole affair is that the gal who got the fancy mink coat quit her job.

Otherwise "business as usual" seems to be the slogan in Washington.

The Republican report says: "Morality in government has declined to the lowest ebb in the nation's history."

That is certainly true. But it then adds: "The American people ARE DEEPLY ASHAMED AND RIGHTLY DISTURBED."

I wish I could believe that. It looks to me like most of us have shrugged our shoulders and taken it for granted.

there and his family spent five weeks. They visited Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hardiman, Mrs. Hardiman's parents, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barden, Mrs. Hardiman's parents.

Convalescing—Mrs. R. E. Robertson is reported convalescing satisfactorily at her home at 121 Taft road, Roseburg, following her discharge from Douglas Community hospital, where she recently underwent a serious major operation.

Visit From Seattle—Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Grubbe of Seattle spent the weekend visiting at the W. E. Thompson home at Wilbur and the Bernard Grubbe home on the North Umpqua. Mr. Grubbe is a nephew of Mrs. Thompson.

Son Is Born—A son, Eric Lynn, weighing eight pounds fifteen ounces, was born Aug. 15 to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Albro of Elkton at the Cottage Grove hospital. Mrs. Albro is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Thompson of Wilbur and the baby is the first great-grandchild of the Thompsons.

Stop At Buzzell Home—Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bennett of Chicago and the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schneider, of Hampshire, Ill., have left for Portland and Seattle, following a stop in Roseburg to visit Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Buzzell. Mrs. Schneider is a cousin of W. H. Buzzell. The visitors will return home through eastern Oregon and stop enroute at Crater lake.

Returns From Honolulu—Terry Jones, formerly of Roseburg, who has been spending the last several months in Honolulu with his mother, Mrs. Vera McClintock Jones, has returned to the United States and is now in Portland with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John McClintock. His mother plans to return to the states in the near future.

IF your News-Review has not been delivered by 6:15 p.m., phone 2-2631 between 6:15 and 7 p.m.

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Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

LONDON—The most alarming factor in Britain's present plight is the total bankruptcy of leadership, not only in the Labor party, but in the opposition as well.

The guessing in London today is that a general election will be held late in October, and if polls mean anything, the Conservatives will win.

Most middle and upper class voters to whom I talked think it will be by a margin of twenty or thirty seats. Newspapermen are skeptical. They think the margin will be much closer.

The working class people, who really determine the outcome, seem to feel that the Labor party will squeak through, once again, with a handful of seats to spare. Nobody, however, has any expectation that the Conservatives, even if they win, are going to make any drastic reversals in the socialist course on which the Labor government has embarked—and that feeling, in itself, reduces the Conservative chances.

The Socialist-Labor party, as a political machine, is a highly disciplined absolutism, as relentless and uncompromising as the Nazi party of old Germany, or the Fascist party of old Italy. For a Labor party member of Parliament, there is no such thing as a free vote. Orders come down from the top, and the price for failing to obey those orders is being summarily read out of the party.

There are no ifs, ands, or but's. There are no explanations. It is the political guillotine, right now, and thus far nobody in the party has risked it.

Prime Minister Attlee is a skillful and resourceful politician whose primary objective is to keep the party in power, and thus keep party members in jobs.

The labor party's popularity with the voters reached its all-time low ebb last March, and the generally accepted estimate is that if the election had been held then, the party would have lost Parliament by as many as 100 seats. Mr. Attlee and company maneuvered their way out of that crisis.

Weather has a great deal to do with British political trends. Winter is hard, bleak, and depressing. The last one was particularly so, with a coal shortage, a continued food shortage, transportation difficulties, and smelly scandal involving the government's flasco in a peanut-raising venture in Kenya, South Africa. On top of that, an American admiral was chosen as head of the combined naval forces under the North Atlantic pact, and that seared the pride of all Britons, high and low alike.

The Britannia that once ruled the waves, with its tradition of Lord Nelson and endless other naval heroes, took the appointment with no relish at all. Conservative Leader Winston Churchill rubbed salt into the wound on every possible occasion by mentioning the disgrace of it all, and blaming the Labor party leaders for the low estate to which Britain's naval reputation has fallen.

But in time the "ground nut" scandal as they called it, and the naval appointment were largely forgotten, and spring brought

Camas Valley

By JEAN YODER

There will be a benefit dance for the Camas Valley fire truck September 25 at the hall in Camas Valley. The dance will start at 9:30 and the Hootowls will play.

The Camas Valley volunteer fire department will meet Wednesday, August 22, at 8 p. m. at the Camas Valley hall. Members are asked to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Libby of Empire and their three sons are visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Martindale. The Libbys are on their vacation, which has included a trip to Crater and Diamond lakes.

Lee Wilson is recovering from an army injury inflicted by loading tons last Tuesday.

Lloyd Pope has returned from Community hospital after an attack of malaria.

J. Brauch underwent a major operation Tuesday, August 14, at Mercy hospital.

Mrs. Hattie Long is staying with her daughter, Mrs. Louis W. Papp, while recovering from an illness.



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