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ESCAPE FROM TRAGEDY

Charles V. Stanton

Two tragedies were narrowly averted in Eugene last Friday.

An old school building, used for elementary grades, was destroyed by fire. All children were quickly evacuated from the building without loss of life or injury.

Only a few blocks away, editors from all parts of Oregon had packed the dining hall at Erb Memorial Building on the University of Oregon campus for a luncheon program connected with the annual Oregon Press Conference. Had these newsmen been aware of the fire in progress within shouting distance of their meeting place, many people doubtless would have been killed or injured in the stampede for exits.

But, fortunately for all concerned, the school children, obedient to their training in fire drills, executed escape maneuvers perfectly, while the editors, blissfully unaware of the fire, listened to a "burning" talk. Had they followed their training, as did the children, they would have rushed en masse to the scene of the blaze.

Eugene's school building was an old structure. It was of brick and wood construction. The fire, believed to have started from an electric space heater in a classroom while the students from that room were at recess, spread within a few minutes from the bottom floor to the roof.

Value Of Training Proven

School officials had long been aware of the danger. They had given much attention to fire drills. When smoke began seeping through ventilation shafts, the fire alarm was sounded. The children quickly went through normal escape procedure. By the time they were marched to the safety of the play field, the building was a roaring mass of flames.

The administration and staff of the Eugene School deserve commendation for their efficiency in meeting the critical emergency. It was most welcome news that no child had been killed or injured. But the experience causes us to wonder just how many schools would be as fortunate under similar circumstances.

The occurrence at Eugene should encourage school officials and teachers everywhere to give continued thought to safety measures.

Here in Douglas County we have many dangerous school buildings. We can find numerous structures duplicating in large measure the conditions that existed in the Eugene building.

Its heating and ventilating system had been altered. Openings left during the alteration process acted as drafts in spreading the flames. The building had undergone some modernization. False ceilings had been installed, leaving spaces where flames could race. Firemen were amazed at the speed with which the fire traveled from the bottom floor to the roof.

Constant Drills Needed

It was fortunate that children in the school had been thoroughly trained by frequent fire drills. Their automatic response to the alarm was based on long practice. Even a few seconds of delay could have had tragic results.

We presume that every school in Douglas County has likewise held frequent fire drills and has established escape plans to meet any emergency. The experience in Eugene, however, points up the necessity of maintaining constant vigilance and preparation. Continued emphasis on training for escape from a burning building should not be neglected.

Because of economic conditions and inability to replace obsolete structures, we will be forced to occupy hazardous buildings for many years to come. We cannot escape the possibility that fire may originate while pupils are attending classes and that lives will be endangered.

It would be well for school authorities to check and re-check their emergency plans in order that, in an event similar to the one occurring in Eugene, we could have the same satisfaction now felt there because tragedy was averted.

Hal Boyle

By SAUL PETT
(For Hal Boyle)

NEW YORK — Out of a clinical curiosity, I went to an "agony" television program recently and everything went according to plan; I never felt worse.

The show was "Strike it rich," which gives away about \$250,000 a year to people who tell their troubles before the cameras. For that kind of dough, you can buy a lot of trouble.

The audience involved mostly women and some servicemen who seemed to have wandered in out of boredom. On the stage there were many boxes of a wash detergent and paste-board hearts since this is "the original show with a heart" and the soap pays for the heart.

A few minutes before air-time, a cheerful, tall man came out and introduced "the man with the really big heart," who turned out to be Walter Frammer, the show's producer. Frammer, a short man with heavy glasses and a nervous, set smile, introduced the man who had introduced him.

Then Frammer made a little speech which I took to be an answer to recent criticism of the show on the grounds that it attracts needy people to New York who end up on relief and that it exhibits bad taste in parading human misery in public.

"We're not running a welfare department," Frammer said. "Just a little quiz game, which is basically for entertainment and also some inspiration."

Frammer concluded by telling us he wasn't asking us to applaud but he'd appreciate it if we did when he raised his hands thus and so, besides, there would be prizes later for those who applauded the most.

As the show got under way, Frammer was very busy, running around checking camera angles,

watching the clock, leading applause and several times darting backstage to announce "heartline calls," which presumably come from people watching at home.

The first contestants were May or Dominic J. Delucco of Hartford and Lionel Hampton, the band leader. After a few questions, they won \$500 for a girl in Hartford, "who is sick — very sick — just to prove how sick she is, her weight has gone from 143 to 73."

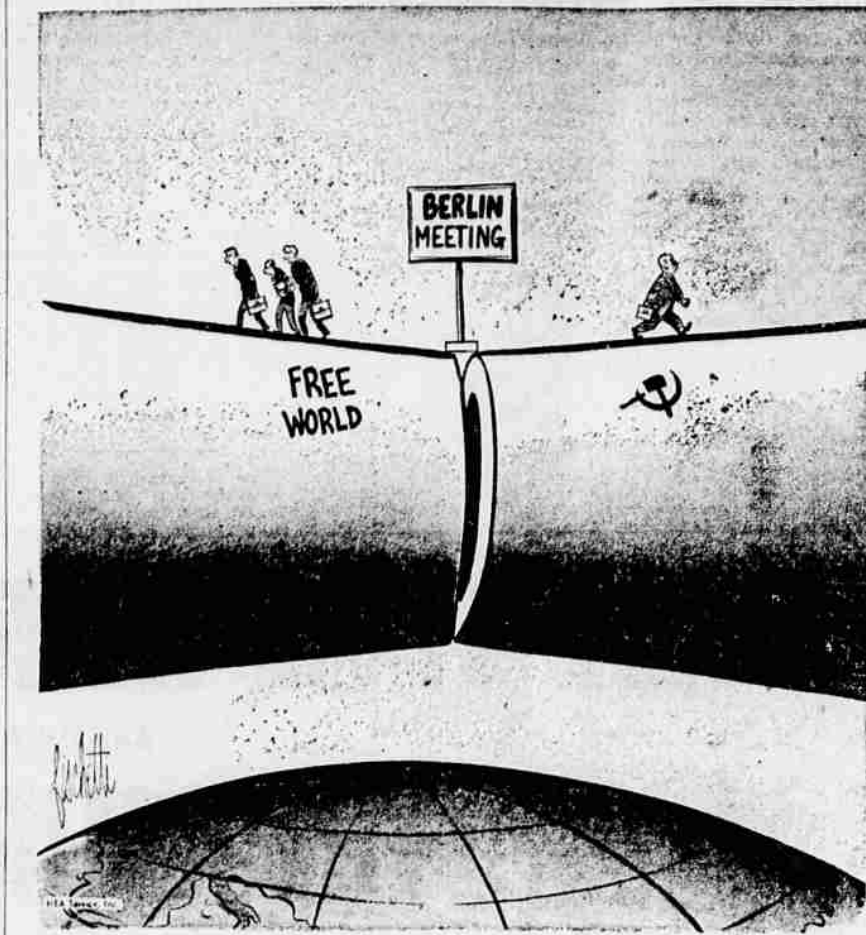
I also thought it was nice of Warren Hull, the host, to bring out the fact that the mayor owns a restaurant in Hartford, which bears his name, and that Hampton's next theater date will be at the Apollo in Harlem.

After a singing commercial and a plug for a movie magazine, a gray-haired, nervous woman tried to win \$125 for a sewing machine. She said she's alone in the world, she sews for a living and "she took away my old machine, I'm back in the rent and my lights have been turned off."

Having difficulty with several questions, the woman won only \$60. But at the last second, Frammer's "heart-line" voice announced that "Strike it Rich" had just arranged with a certain company which he named for her to get a sewing machine free as well as the \$60 in cash.

"Ah, boy!" Hull sighed. "That was to the rescue all right."

Next came two young honey-



In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

son in the world—there is an irrepressible conflict between buyers and sellers.

Buyers want LOW prices.

Sellers want HIGH prices. It has always been that way. So far as anyone knows, it always will be that way.

Out of this irrepressible conflict between buyers and sellers, the economic law of supply and demand arose. It works like this:

When prices get too high, buyers quit buying and goods accumulate in the warehouses and on the shelves. That goes on until sellers, in order to get rid of the surplus, begin to quote prices that buyers can and will pay. They don't like it, of course, but in the language of the street they have to LUMP it. When prices reach the point where buyers can and will buy, consumption increases and the surplus gradually disappears.

This economic law of supply and demand works the same way in reverse. When prices get too low, producers quit producing, or at least cut down on their production. That goes on until there are fewer commodities than people want and need. They then have to bid up the price in order to GET what they want and need. In these times of scarcity, buyers don't like to pay the high prices any better than in times of surplus sellers like to accept the lower prices. But they have to lump it. There is no other way to get the things they want and need.

In the course of time producers (sellers), stimulated and encouraged by the higher prices, PRODUCE MORE, and eventually supply catches up with demand and consumers (buyers) no longer have to bid against each other to get what they want. Prices then quit going up.

Politicians (meaning by "politicians" those unscrupulous persons whose sole objective is to GET ELECTED, regardless of the rightness or the wrongness of the issues involved) don't like the law of supply and demand.

They want to be able to assure their constituents that they will see to it that as long as they are kept in office buyers will always pay LOW prices and sellers will always get HIGH prices.

That is what these do-gooders of United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization who are meeting in Washington mean when they say their purpose is to find ways to get food surpluses to hungry nations WITHOUT DEPRESSING PRICES to the producer.

My cynical guess is that they'll do a lot of talking but won't get anywhere much.

mooners who wanted to win money for a Korean orphan boy whom the husband had once befriended in Korea. "The boy," we were told, "was hungry, cold, had insufficient clothing and his bones were swollen."

The couple had trouble identifying composers and won only \$20. Hull thought that was too bad, but never one to miss a silver lining, he added: "That'll go a long way in Korea."

The last guest was a public health nurse who wanted to win money for a hospital bed for her patients but just then the program ran out of time. There were only a few seconds left to announce "heart-line" calls in behalf of the sick girl in Hartford. These donations included \$50 from a meat-market, which was named.

Later, I went backstage where prospective contestants were being interviewed for future shows. They included a pregnant woman and her husband, two women with small children, two soldiers and one young lady, somewhat disheveled in a long coat and saddle shoes, who was crying quite visibly. "I'm so nervous," she sobbed. "I'm getting married next month. I want a tractor for my farm."

Peery Medicals

BY W.K. PEERY

American guests were arriving at Fort Vancouver, on the Columbia river as early as 1828. Host of these casual strangers, citizens of a rival power, was Doctor John McLoughlin, genial chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company of England. Each visitor represented a facet of the new democratic faith that was characteristic of the young United States. Each was a rival of Americana. All were imbued with the American vision of manifest destiny.

A few of these guests were agents of the United States government. The young republic was not sleeping on its eastern frontier. It was fully aware of the importance of the Oregon country that flanked the recently purchased Louisiana territory. The British, who were in temporary possession, though in theory the country was jointly occupied by the two nations, were to be watched. Their success in the fur trade, the possibilities of agricultural development the company was sponsoring, foreign commerce—all these were of primary interest to the Americans.

Unless these scouts of the United States were blatantly offensive, McLoughlin gave them the full hospitality treatment. A few of the self-appointed critics of his regime and all things British—men like J. Hall Kelley—were given humane treatment, but banned from the inner circle at the fort.

There were other Americans, men of science, missionaries and casual travelers who came to the fort and were welcomed as equals. They were given comfortable quarters within the establishment and included in the guest list of the exclusive gentlemen's hall. This was the feudal dining hall where conversation was considered an art and good food a friendly stimulant. The guests sat at the long table, served by company employees. Quarters of deer were served at one setting, with platters of

wild duck and geese as appetizers. McLoughlin sat at the head of the table and he was flanked on either side with the honored guests. During the meal McLoughlin's own bag-piper would make the huge room echo to Scottish tunes, and if there were guests with special talent they were requested to do their share in the entertainment of others.

The casual reader may ask, where were the women? The answer is that nearly every man of the company present was married to a native woman. This was a marriage of convenience, accepted by the Hudson's Bay Company, but these Indian wives were never accepted as equals. Few of the white men at the fort ate at their own quarters. If they did, their wives and children ate after the father, who ate alone.

The first woman admitted to the gentlemen's hall were Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spalding, wives of the American missionaries. But they were militant feminists and on being informed that the Indian wives were barred from the gentlemen's dining room, the American wives refused to eat there any longer. They took their meals with Mrs. McLoughlin. The Doctor, instead of taking offense seemed greatly pleased at the independence of the women missionaries, and appreciated their acceptance of his own wife as an equal.

Mrs. McLoughlin was a Chipewa, whose father was Swiss. She was deeply loved by Dr. McLoughlin, and he was constantly on the alert to save her from slight. She was granted every deference by the employees of the company, and was the first lady, in fact. Her influence among the Indians was recognized to the point where she was the final arbiter on certain levels in matters pertaining to Indian policy by the company.

Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (AP)—(NEA)—Two little-known projects which aeronautical engineers are now working on to improve the performance of supersonic speed jet aircraft involve the use of the jet thrust, or exhaust, to brake the planes' high landing speed and increase their lift.

Experimental planes have been flown in the United States and Europe using both of these principles. They are said to offer considerable promise for development. But neither is now far enough along to be in production for making today's "last word" 1300-mile-an-hour jets even better.

Engineers point out that it takes a long time to go from theory on paper, through the laboratories and into practical working models with all the bugs eliminated.

The idea of using the jet thrust in place of the reversible propeller or the parachute is for the same purpose—to slow down landing speed. The problem is to turn around so that it blows forward. By so doing it acts as a natural brake.

The principle of the thing is so simple that most people, hearing of it for the first time, wonder why they didn't invent it themselves. Between thought and execution, however, is a big gap.

Addison M. Rothrock, an assistant director of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in Washington, points out that thrust reversal must be efficient, it must be light weight, it must not complicate the already complicated controls of jet aircraft, it must not interfere with forward flight, and it must not sacrifice thrust just to gain braking power.

The second auxiliary use of the jet exhaust to increase lift gets into the area of what flight sci-

Benson Assailed On Cost Of Farm Price Support

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Hill (D-Ala.) said Monday Secretary of Agriculture Benson is "misleading the American people as to the cost" of the present farm price support program.

"In his attacks upon the program," Hill said in a statement, "Benson has publicly used multi-billion dollar figures but failed to accompany them with sufficient explanation as to what they include."

"This has served to create the impression that the farm price support program has cost 16 times more than it actually has."

The Agriculture department some weeks ago said total cost of farm programs amounted to nearly 17 billion dollars in the past 20 years. Hill said this total included rural electrification loans and many other programs not related to price supports.

Robert Chessman Heads Oregon Press Conference

EUGENE (AP)—Robert Chessman, publisher of the Astorian Budget at Astoria, is the new president of the Oregon Press Conference.

His election came on the closing day of the annual conference of newspaper men at the University of Oregon campus.

Chessman is the son of the late Merle R. Chessman, 15th president of the organization.

Delegates also: Named Verne McKinney of the Hillsboro Argus to continue as trustee of the Eric W. Allen Memorial Fund.

Passed a resolution commending Gov. Paul Patterson for his recent assurance that the press would have full access to public information.

wing and released through a slot. The other approach is to suck the boundary layer off the wing through a porous surface. The suction would be obtained through the air intakes leading to the combustion chamber of jet engines. British engineers claim to have increased lift from one-and-a-half to seven times by boundary layer control.

NACA has equipped a Cessna experimental plane with boundary layer control devices for research work at Langley Field.



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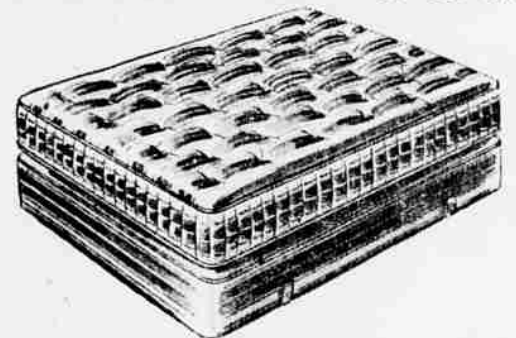


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