

The News-Review

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WE'RE IN A MESS

Charles V. Stanton

The News-Review office is a mess. Don't come to our office if you are inclined to be upset by the sight of suffering humanity. Don't come, that is, unless you want to pay us money. Nothing relieves our suffering more than that. But, don't take us too seriously. We're always glad to see you at any time—even if you have a gripe, or want to chew out the editor.

We're just warning you that things are in a mess. You see, we're in the process of remodeling our business office. We have no place to go while the work is in progress. We have to sit here in the midst of all this confusion and disorder and try to keep the operation going. So please don't be too hard on us if we make more than the usual number of mistakes for the next few days.

The News-Review has one of the finest mechanical plants for a newspaper of its size to be found anywhere. Whenever we could squeeze out a dollar of profit, or could float a loan at the bank, it went into production machinery and equipment. Profits haven't been enough to do more than keep up with our policy of staying ahead of mechanical needs.

And while we've been building up a fine mechanical department, our business office, news room and advertising department have occupied quarters daily increasing resemblance to a skid road junk shop.

Office Overcrowded

It was only a comparatively few years ago that *The News-Review* had only eight employees in its "front office." They handled the news, advertising, business department and circulation. The office space was so large that these eight workers had ample room.

Today we have 25 people working in the same space, even after moving circulation to another part of the building. With our existing arrangement we have difficulty keeping from sitting in one another's laps. It's so bad in our news room that when a reporter lifts the telephone receiver his neighbor must duck to keep from getting an elbow in the eye.

It has at last reached the place where we can no longer postpone remodeling, even though we can't afford it. We've tried to design an office that will make use of space now wasted and, at the same time, eliminate some of the junk yard appearance.

Having at long last arrived at a decision on design, we're trying to work in the midst of the construction mess. That's why we're asking your tolerance until the work is completed. Then we'll want all of you to come around and see our new office before it gets all cluttered up again.

Reflects Timber Capital

Being the only daily newspaper in the world's timber capital, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to make the best possible use of locally produced wood and wood products.

The new office will have a lowered egg-crate ceiling made of boards and acoustical tile. Partitions will be of knotty pine and One-Eleven textured plywood.

Despite the fact we'll still be crowded, even after remodeling is complete, we'll have better and more efficient arrangement, less noise, and a greatly improved appearance.

The prospect of improved conditions is our consolation while we work in a tangle of wires, disarranged furniture, misplaced desks, skeleton partitions, dust, noise and confusion.

Hal Boyle

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP) — Notes on the Mare Island Navy Yard centennial:

Whales are sometimes a nuisance to submarines—but not nearly so much of a nuisance as the submarines are to the whales.

For some reason whales, used to bossing the ocean depths for centuries, can't get it through thick skulls that anything is as big and tough as they are.

"A whale always thinks he's got the right of way," said Capt. Duncan C. MacMillan, veteran pigboat commander. "He simply can't believe there is anything beneath the seas that he can't push out of his path."

The U. S. Navy policy generally seems to be to allow the whale the right of way when he is entitled to it. But if he tries to hog the road the submarine sticks to its course.

"In this type of collision the whale gets the surprise of his life," said Capt. MacMillan. "Submarines don't bruise easily."

Submarine recruits learn on land how to fight at sea. The school here—the only one on the West Coast—has simulated sections of a real submarine in which the candidates can practise the split-second timing so necessary in these undersea prowlers.

"In three weeks we can teach a beginner how to man his station properly for diving and surfacing operations," said MacMillan.

The crews learn the art of battle by locating through their periscopes toy models of ships which are moved automatically across the floor above them. It is a game they play with an intense seriousness, and there is no joking among them as they work out the attack problems.

Since submariners have to get along together for long periods in crowded conditions they must have steady temperaments under strain.

How do they weed out potential psychiatric cases? One veteran gave this solution:

GAME PROGRAMMED

Radio Station KRNR will carry the live broadcast of the Shrine All-Star high school football game direct from Multnomah Stadium in Portland beginning at 8:15 Saturday night.



Bruce Blossat

Not for a month or more can we be sure of the final lineup of issues on which the fall congressional elections will turn. Yet even now some things stand out.

The signing of the Indo-China truce in late July was a matter of prime significance for American politics. The truce was a defeat for the West, but is unlikely to be a defeat for the reigning Republican Party. For it means avoidance of American involvement in Indo-China, a thing which at one time seemed imminent. And that escape can only be beneficial at the polls.

Placed side by side with the Korean truce gained a year ago, this development casts the GOP in the voters' minds as a party capable of extricating the country from military entanglements—or keeping it out of them.

Exactly how much responsibility the Republicans had for the two truce decisions is not what counts. What matters is whom the voters will credit.

These actions probably will far overshadow any other developments in the foreign field. Indeed, a voter could be forgiven for having a hard time distinguishing between the predecessor, Democratic foreign policy and much of that expounded by the GOP.

Domestically, the biggest issue could have been the state of the economy. If the downturn of late 1953 and early 1954 had continued apace, the Democrats might have figured to walk in. But the declining business curve appears to have leveled off. Unemployment has eased a bit. Unless activity now takes an unexpected dip, the hurt to the Republicans is not likely to be severe.

High unemployment and low economic activity evidently will be marked in certain regions, however, and particular congressional contests may be sharply affected.

Last year at this time, the political sagas would have sworn the issue of farm prices was destined to be crucial in the 1954 elections. Now they cannot be certain. Congressional support for President Eisenhower's flexible price support plan has proved substantial, and this may indicate that many farmers slowly have been won over to the seeming wisdom of the President's and Secretary of Agriculture Benson's plans.

Still, it must be said that the farm issue is important, and control of Congress could hinge on what happens in a few key mid-western states.

The broader matters of the President's general legislative program—including tax revision, improved social security, the St. Lawrence seaway—and the degree of effectiveness of his leadership surely will weigh a considerable amount in many voters' minds.

Conversely, the voters will place a measure on the Democratic leadership in Congress, which has often supported the President, though generally perhaps for more selfish reasons than would be immediately clear. Many will be saying at the polls whether or not they like the Democrats' version of "responsible opposition."

The tangled questions of McCarthyism and communism in government may figure more strongly than current measure now suggest. Polls do not put communism in government high on the voters' list of issues.

But Senator McCarthy's approach to the problem is extremely controversial, and is bound up with judgment of the President's leadership. Events of the next few weeks could project this to the center of the stage.

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In The Day's News

(Continued from Page one)

luck with your Russian masters."

I know that sounds rugged, but as one American I'm beginning to feel that as between RELUCTANT allies and no allies at all we'd be better off with no allies.

Late Tuesday, President Eisenhower appointed Herbert Hoover, Jr., son of former President Hoover — to be undersecretary of state, the No. 2 job in the state department. He will succeed retired General Walter Bedell Smith, who has resigned effective October 1 to take a job in private industry.

He requested quick confirmation, and the senate foreign relations committee responded by voting unanimously before the day was over to recommend that the appointment be confirmed. The full senate is expected to vote confirmation today.

That's getting action.

What's in the wind? I wouldn't know. But it seems that last Friday Russian Ambassador Zarubin was requested to call around at the state department. (They wanted to tell him the long-missing Russian spy, Yuri Rastvorov, is in U. S. hands and will be granted political asylum in the United States.) Zarubin said he was sick and couldn't come, and he didn't send anybody in his place — which isn't regarded as kosher in diplomatic circles.

So — It appears — The state department held a session of its upper brass and discussed the idea of asking the Kremlin to recall Ambassador Zarubin on the grounds that he had insulted the United States by failing to call around at the office when requested.

This drastic action is said to have been decided against when somebody pointed out that if we asked Zarubin's recall the Kremlin would retaliate by sending our Ambassador to Russia Charles Bohlen home.

I've felt for a long time that our state department goes in too much for frock-coat-and-striped-pants protocol and too little for hard-headed common sense. Maybe I'm the same way about it and wants to bring in some new blood.

Body Identified By 'Fun' Killers

NEW YORK (AP) — A Negro's body was recovered from the East River Thursday and was identified by a teen-age "murder for fun" gang as one of their torture victims, police reported.

The four alleged sadists were taken to a Brooklyn pier head shortly after a police launch with grappling hooks recovered the body.

They were marched before the body one by one.

Jack Kosow, 18, reputed brain of the gang, was first to look at the corpse.

Police said he burst into tears and exclaimed:

"Yes, that's the man. Take me away from here before I faint."

The police said the others also agreed it was the man they said they had beaten, burned with cigarettes and thrown into the river last Monday solely for a thrill.

Authorities had not known about the river death, they said, until the four youngsters voluntarily told of it while giving a list of beatings, burnings and girlwhippings they had performed.

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The newest case was that of a 3-year-old, Medical authorities described it as nonparalytic.

Charles Mason, employed by a Brooklyn factory, tentatively identified the river victim as Willie Menter of Brooklyn, a few employees. He said Menter had not been seen since Monday.



Ninth Polio Death Reported In Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The Greater Anchorage Health District Wednesday reported the district's ninth polio death of the current outbreak and its 79th case.

Dempsey Dietz, 23, who was flown here last week from Homer, died in a local hospital.

The newest case was that of a 3-year-old, Medical authorities described it as nonparalytic.

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