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A MAN AND HIS DUTY

BY CHARLES D. GRELL

Loyalty in its highest meaning was revealed Wednesday night when the name of Gen. Curtis T. Beecher was read as Roseburg's first citizen for 1954.

The nomination was motivated primarily by the general's tireless efforts in behalf of the American Red Cross. Behind his efforts lies the story of his devotion to the Red Cross cause. The story is touching and dramatic. It brought tears to the eyes of Mrs. Beecher when she accepted the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce plaque in behalf of her husband, who, significantly, was away on a Red Cross appeal and unable to receive it himself.

Gen. Beecher was a Marine. In the early days of the war, he was captured by the Japanese. Subsequently, his experiences were those of the thousands who suffered privations and humiliations at the hands of a cruel enemy. Yet, for a single reason he was among those who survived to return home. That was the Red Cross aid he received in the prison compounds.

Mrs. Beecher spoke the synopsis: "If it hadn't have been for this fine human organization, he wouldn't have come back."

General's Activities Varied

The general obviously hasn't forgotten. Now he is a national vice chairman for memberships and fund-raising for the Red Cross.

More locally, he is an executive committeeman for Douglas County chapter, a voluntary field consultant for seven counties in southwestern Oregon and he spends hours a day in the county chapter office in consultation on perplexities inherent in an organization continually hampered by shortage of funds and help.

That isn't the whole story of his loyalty. Called on by the national organization to speak in several southwestern American cities, the general readily accepted his duty and left as a member of a "flying squad" of Red Cross workers, though he knew in advance that the award was to be presented.

Thus, benevolent service meant more to him than did personal honor.

The presentation of the first citizen award came at an auspicious time. The annual appeal for members and funds for the Red Cross starts in March. But that still means only more work for the loyal general. He's already aided in laying groundwork for the local appeal and more work is to come.

Dr. O. Meredith Wilson, president of the University of Oregon and speaker the night the award was made, said this: "The community has described itself as it idealizes itself" in the selection of Gen. Beecher.

Both the general and the community are to be congratulated.

A WORTHY PROJECT FOR SOMEONE

It was "surprising" this week to an examiner of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that Roseburg, which is proud of its civic attributes, is lacking one activity found frequently in cities in Oregon smaller than our own.

M. C. Walker, here to prepare candidates for U. S. citizenship for a naturalization hearing, said he could think of no single city the size of Roseburg in which some public-spirited organization doesn't sponsor a naturalization class.

While aspirants to citizenship elsewhere receive aid in study classes, here they rely mainly on three sources of information: The public library, government publications and the General Extension Division of the Oregon System of Higher Education. Even in the latter, prerequisites are required before persons may enroll in courses of study in Americanism.

Various Organizations Aid

The problem has been solved in various ways in other parts of the state. In Portland, the public school system sponsors a special class for aliens who desire to become citizens. In Coquille, a much smaller city than ours, the Lions Club is the sponsor.

Frequently, a naturalized citizen is the tutor. Sponsorship in such a class can be maintained with relatively small expense. Walker said he could collect information on methods used in other cities.

Walker made it clear that he isn't in a position to offer outright assistance in such a venture, but hinted advice may be obtained in such a venture from the Service.

It can't be considered an absolute necessity that a sponsor come forward in Roseburg for such an undertaking. But it certainly would be a welcoming gesture toward new people in our land if an organization could volunteer.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the nation's biggest paid delivery boys thinks too many young men today are trying to win success the wrong way.

"They want a glamor job — a position with a title," said Alfred L. Hammill.

Hammill is the delivery boy who heads the giant Railway Express Agency. Largely self-educated, although one college has conferred a doctorate in business degree on him, he began at the bottom 43 years ago as a freight handler.

Today the firm he directs as president has about 45,000 employees, rings up some 400 million dollars a year in making 90 million air and rail shipments to 23,000 American communities.

"It's a big mistake for young men to look only for the glamor jobs," he said. "Anybody who is afraid to get his hands dirty isn't likely to go very far."

"The jobs that have the least glamor on the surface often afford you the opportunity to get the most know-how of the business you're in."

Hammill got the glamor dreams out of his own system young.

Rep Reed Makes a Few Last-Minute Preparations



Bruce Biossat

One of the more dismal developments of recent years has been the tendency of a few American colleges, under outside pressures, to ban any study of communism at all. It was reassuring, therefore, when a congressman stood up in the House and offered a proposal that would help counteract this attitude.

The lawmaker was Rep. Daniel Flood, a Pennsylvania Republican. He wants to see Congress set up a presidential commission to prepare a textbook devoted to the facts of communism.

In this part of his proposal, Flood is thinking specifically of the need to strip away the bawling confusion that surrounds the issue of the current Communist menace in this country.

He would require the commission to rely fully on material gathered under oath by committees of Congress. Fundamentally this is admirable caution, but even sworn congressional testimony has many pitfalls. Evidence of perjury is often widespread.

Responsibility for sifting such material would bear heavily on a commission. Undoubtedly they would have to conclude that in some areas the facts were hopelessly clouded. But the prospect is that they could still assemble enough well-copied facts to produce a story of essential value to all Americans.

The commission would not stop at this, but would prepare suggested curricula on communism which schools and colleges could use to underscore the basic differences between the theory and practice of communism and the American democratic system. Here Flood is treading on more doubtful ground.

Insofar as this would mean that a government commission was encouraging U. S. schools to study the vital details of an alien philosophy, it would seem to be highly desirable. Such encouragement

around smattering of the business.

Hammill rose step by step in the organization, moved himself and his family to 11 cities before becoming president 6 years ago. He feels young men are sometimes too reluctant to pull up roots and go wherever their job calls them.

"It's important not to be too particular about what your job assignment is, or where it takes you," he remarked. "Any new assignment gives you a chance to learn more about your business."

Hammill, a gruffly genial, bearded man weighing 240 pounds, enjoys rough-and-ready battling. Right now he's waging war with the U. S. post office. It currently handles parcel post packages weighing up to 70 pounds. He wants it to go back to its old limit of 11 pounds.

"The post office today is in the freight business, and losing money," he said. "We're in the position of a free enterprise competing against a government tax subsidy."

At issue is millions of dollars in freight volume now sent at parcel post rates by mail order houses and gift shippers.

Hammill directs the movement of shipments ranging from a package of live lady bugs to entire freight train loads of fresh strawberries.

"We handle a surprising volume of white mice," he said. "And around Christmas we were bringing in 50 gift burros a day to the metropolitan area from Mexico."

Racehorses, fish, bees, elephants and wild animals now travel by express. Milking cows and goats in transit are all in the day's job with express agents.

Hammill keeps an ear close to the telephone on his desk, and prides himself that nobody has to go through a dozen secretaries to reach his ear.

So if someone shipped you a tropical fish and it arrived with one of its fins bent, just dial Murray Hill 6-7900 and ask for Mr. Hammill. He may not know how to bend the fin back in shape himself, but he probably can find some one who can.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

able number of mistakes, because our errors of judgment are comparatively inexpensive.

The executive head of the great nation on earth, with the lives and the fortunes of a billion people (in our own country and elsewhere in the world) hanging on his decisions, can't afford mistakes.

They are too costly.

That's what we call responsibility.

In every waking moment of his life, crushing responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the President of the United States.

More significant news:

In New York, the stock market raced ahead at the opening from its new all-time high base established Wednesday. Gains went in between one and two points in leading areas. Losses were small and infrequent.

In Chicago, wheat advanced a little, but all other gains slipped off. Selling pressure in cereals other than wheat wasn't unusually heavy, but it was enough to cause fractional declines with very limited demand in all pits. The firm lone in wheat followed a sharp break in the closing hours of yesterday's trading.

Why is that significant?

This is why: Stock sales tend to FALL when it looks like war is imminent. Grain prices tend to RISE when war seems near.

Why are security and commodity prices MORE significant than what high-up people in government SAY?

Well, high-up people in government are apt to say what they think OUGHT TO BE SAID. People who buy and sell on the great bid-and-take stock exchanges and commodity markets back their judgment WITH MONEY.

Money talks. And when it talks it TALKS TURKEY.

Ellsworth Gives Backing To Veteran's Voting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Ellsworth (R-Ore.) has assured Gov. Paul Patterson of Oregon of his cooperation "in every way that I can" to extend voting rights to servicemen and government employees who cannot be at home for elections.

He gave assurance in a letter enclosing copies of legislation now before Congress to set up uniform procedures for such voting.

Ellsworth predicted early passage of the bill by the House and rather prompt action by the Senate. He told Patterson he was sending the copies to him now "so that plans for introducing and passing such legislation by the Oregon Legislature can be made early."

The bill, similar to legislation passed by Congress in 1944 and amended in 1950, applies to general elections and leaves to the states the control of the vote in primary and special elections.

\$50 For Prisoners' Bill Wins House Approval

SALEM (AP) — A bill to require the warden to give a convict up to \$50 on his discharge from the state penitentiary ran into unexpected opposition before it won 35-22 approval in the House Thursday.

Opponents said the Senate bill held the possibility that the warden could withhold money from the convict's earnings to make sure the prisoner had all or most of the \$50 on release.

Rep. George Layman, Newberg, said the bill would give the warden control of the prisoners' commissary fund, but he said he didn't think the warden would deny withdrawals by a convict soon to be freed.

For years, discharged convicts have received \$50, and parolees \$25, unless they were being released to begin sentences in other prisons.

PEERY MEDICALS

General Joseph Lane became a community leader in the state of Indiana, after he had moved there, with his family, from Kentucky. In 1822 he was elected to the house of representatives in his state and was re-elected for succeeding terms until 1844, when he was elevated to the state senate. During these years his family operated the farm, and Lane himself operated a flatboat between his home town and New Orleans.

Lane was a crusader by nature, and during these years he sponsored a canal project in the state legislature, a venture which soon lost public interest. For some unknown reason, Lane became obsessed with the development, sacrificing his personal interest in behalf of the canal. When the affair was ended, Lane was in a bad way financially. Moreover, a nationwide depression had set in, and foreclosures were as common as the Mississippi rain.

In desperate effort to recoup his fortunes, Lane took the farm products of his neighbors on consignment, loaded them on a flatboat and set adrift for New Orleans. This proved a disastrous venture. He was unable to dispose of the goods in the delta city for enough money to pay the expenses of the trip. But the loss of his older son, who contracted pneumonia on the trip, seemed to break the father's spirit for the time being.

Lane returned to his home a beaten man. Many of his neighbors who had supplied him with produce for the New Orleans market, were bitter over their losses and blamed Lane. The mortgage on his home was being foreclosed, and his debtors were pressing from all sides. Lane's world had fallen about his ears. The services he had given to his state at such high cost to himself were forgotten. Those who had paid him honor almost to the point of reverence, were among his worst detractors. Lane was humiliated by the necessity of appearing at his home unobserved in order to avoid process servers. The bitter cup he partook at this time was analogous to one other that came later in his life. But at the former period Lane was a young man. His star was destined to rise in new splendor and the inspiration would be the Mexican war.

Joseph Lane was forty six years old when he resigned from the Indiana state senate. Immediately he volunteered, and enlisted, as a private in the Second Indiana Volunteers. In the excitement Lane's detractors doubtless became less troublesome, as Lane turned his home into a recruiting center for men to fight in the Mexican campaign.

The feverish activities connected with recruitment supplied the necessary stimulant to revive Lane's lagging spirits. He threw all his energies into securing men and supplies for the company being raised in his home community. Lane was ever the politician, and he doubtless had an eye to the captaincy of his company, which would be determined by a popular vote of the enlisted men.

Even in his difficult circumstances, Lane was the open handed host. The volunteers had to furnish their own horses, saddles, blankets, guns and other equipment required in the life of a soldier. Many of the recruits brought their families. These Lane fed, as well as the horses.

Neuberger Claims Alaska's Insane Treatment Scandal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) Thursday described treatment of Alaska's insane as "scandalous and shocking," saying it has been "unanimously condemned by leading psychiatrists."

He made the comment at a news conference at which he explained his introduction of legislation to revise present commitment procedures, authorize construction of a hospital within Alaska to treat the territory's mentally ill and transfer such care from the Department of Interior to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Neuberger said that because Alaska's insane have for 50 years been treated at Morningside Hospital, a private Portland institution, he felt it necessary that legislation to change this situation be introduced by an Oregon senator "to neutralize largely any pork barrel, we-want-our-cut opposition."

Neuberger said he was particularly opposed to provisions of the present system which require that Alaska's mentally ill be "incarcerated by force 2,000 miles from Alaska."

In addition to denying such patients the therapeutic benefit of "proximity to their loved ones," he said it resulted in language barriers for some of the Eskimo and natives brought to the Portland institution for treatment.

Neuberger said he was not criticizing operators of Morningside Hospital, who he said have joined with him in proposing revision of commitment procedures.

EASE RESTRICTIONS

SALEM (AP) — The House Thursday approved bills to ease county school boundary restrictions and prevent duplication of school district numbers.

One would let county-wide school districts take in elementary areas in adjoining counties, and the bill's main purpose is to let the Wheeler district extend into Morrow County.

The other boundary bill, which also goes to the Senate, would permit the lone district to take in an area in Gilliam County.

The numbering bill goes to the governor.

PAY MEDICAL COSTS

SALEM (AP) — Rep. Loran L. Stewart, Cottage Grove, introduced a bill Thursday to pay medical costs for persons who are hurt while hunting.

It would be financed by a 31 increase in the annual hunting license fee.

Dr. E. W. CARTER

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