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POPULATION GAINS

LaGrande Observer

Some of the American people may think the population experts are talking through their hats when they predict a U. S. population of 220 millions by 1975. But the figures for 1954 certainly make the experts look good.

Last year the number of Americans increased by 2,830,000, the largest yearly gain in the country's entire history. For eight straight years, we have added more than 2,500,000 people annually to the population.

How do these astonishing figures come about?

In the first place, in 1954 we had around 4,060,000 births, the most in any year on record. Secondly, tentative indications are that the death rate dropped to an all-time low of 9.2 per 1000 population.

The great boom in births is by now an old story. Not so well appreciated is this continuing improvement in the national health, as reflected by declining death rates. The death rate has now been below 10 per 1000 for seven successive years, an especially notable thing in the light of the steady rise in the proportion of older folk in the American population.

In addition to these factors, of course, we get each year a small increment from immigration. Last year it came to some 200,000.

But obviously, in projecting population prospects for the next two decades and beyond, the experts are deeply impressed by the continuing remarkable trends in birth and death rates.

Trends are not sure-fire. They can be radically altered by unforeseen factors. Another great war, a real depression, such cataclysmic events could upset all predictions. World War II and its aftermath certainly threw out of the window the experts' forecasts made during the 1930's.

As a sidelight on the gains that have brought our present population total to approximately 164 million, it is interesting to note that the Pacific Coast states still are climbing at a rate higher than the national average, though not as fast as during the 1940's. Florida is still pushing upward with gains of around 6 per cent a year, three times the U. S. average. Nevada and Arizona have even higher rates of increase, but they start from a low total population base.

Let's hope that our planners, from the White House down to dusty little township offices, are reading these figures and acting upon them. If they do not, the United States by 1975 will be the most tangled civilization on the face of the globe.

APPARENT COVERUP BACKFIRES

Oregon Statesman, Salem

We aren't taking sides in the immediate controversy as to whether Circuit Judge East of Eugene has done anything to mitigate his chances of possible appointment to the federal bench. But the fact that such a controversy has arisen out of a minor traffic accident, that apparently could have been briefly publicized and forgotten three weeks ago, gives rise to an interesting point.

It appears that three judges, including Judge East, were in a car which sideswiped, or was sideswiped by, another car at Reedsport, Jan. 23. Nothing was heard of the incident until the Reedsport Courier reported editorially, without naming names, that "three very high officials of Lane County" were in a traffic mishap in which drinking was involved.

Douglas County Sheriff Cal Baird said last week there had been such an accident and quoted a deputy sheriff as having said the three men had been drinking but their condition did not warrant arrest for being drunk. That well could have been the case, for all we know. The point is that if news of the accident had been made public at the time, and the accident properly disposed of, the subsequent adverse publicity need not have accrued to the three men because, with no arrests made and no charges filed, there would have been no occasion to delve further. Now, the cat's out of the bag, if there is a cat and if there is a bag.

If there was an effort to cover up an accident merely because public officials were involved, the resultant future has not only pointed out the fact that public officials have no more right to escape public knowledge of their activities than anyone else — it has also shown that it is a disservice to them not to have such activities on the record before someone starts suspecting skulduggery.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — George Washington, born 223 years ago, remains the least understood of famous American Presidents.

He became known as "The Father of his Country" even in his own lifetime. But few of the 164 million who now dwell in the American republic he did so much to found feel any temptation to call him "daddy." None speak fondly of "Papa" Washington.

He is revered more as a human temple than loved as a fellow human being.

Why? The 19th century agnostic, Ariens Ward, gave one reason long ago when he said:

"The prevailing weakness of most public men is to stop over."

G. Washington never sloped over.

The humorist wrote of him: "Washington is now only a steel engraving. About the real man who lived and loved and hated and schemed, we know but little."

But modern research has uncovered the warm man beneath the formidable legend. It has shown him to be a man with many faults, but with the greatness to rise above them.

What kind of a man was George Washington? Was he a stuffed shirt—or fun to know?

Well—teen-agers might be cheered to know that he couldn't spell too well. At 16 he wrote "thread bare" when he meant "threadbare."

But he was a great boy for self-improvement. He wrote down his own principles of conduct, and tried to live up to them.

In youth and middle age he loved parties. He liked to flirt. He also liked to drink, gamble on the races and at cards, and enjoyed dancing until he was 64 years old. He also liked to play billiards and ride to the hounds.

As many teen-agers now become self-conscious because of acne or pimples, young Washington suffered because of an attack of smallpox left his face deeply pitted. But he learned to become a sprightly conversationalist with the ladies. They enjoyed his company.

Of course, even in those days the girls liked a man who had a good figure, and George "trew to be 6 feet 3 and weighed 220 pounds."

As a soldier he made many errors. In his first fight with the French he and his entire command had to surrender because he had built a fort in the wrong place. He made other bad mistakes as leader of the Continental Army that cost him battles, but he won the war.

He was a good farmer, practiced crop rotation, experimented in breeding plants and cattle. As a statesman, he spoke sel-

Pandora's Box



Bruce Bioassat

Correspondents traveling about Europe and Asia keep talking about the continuing current of anti-American feeling that exists in many places. We would be foolish if we were not disturbed at this.

Basically the catalogue of complaints is all too familiar. We're imperialistic, our policies are confused, we're rattling the sword, we're insensitive to the real needs of other nations, we won't take advice, we're brash and inexperienced, and so on.

Much of the criticism is unfair, but not all of it. And just because we know a good deal is unsound, we must not fail to search out and seek to meet the reasonable complaints. We are not the perfect people some congressmen like to say we are.

Still, we are not as bad as some unhappy foreigners would paint us. Their tendency to overstate our failings, and even to manufacture some, is gravely puzzling unless we look hard at these peoples' history and their current difficulties.

Some of these nations once were great leaders in their own right. They cannot help feeling resentful at the young America which now has become world leader. Prodded by envy, bitter at their lost power and status, they assail what seems to them the symbol of their troubles, though it be a country avowedly their friend and helper.

Other nations never had had power and have either just cast off or are trying to cast off the yoke of outside rule. As the colonial grip on them has weakened, they have been chagrined to learn they are moving into a tense world where two colossi — Russia and the United States — stand at the head of great rival forces contending for dominance.

dom—but when he spoke he made sense.

He lacked the genius of Benjamin Franklin, the oratorical ability of Patrick Henry, or the statescraft of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

What did he have then that made him admired, even by his own contemporaries? Courage, energy, judgement, commonsense, modesty, and granite character. In a time when many men were bought, Washington's honor was never for sale.

"On the whole," wrote Jefferson, "his character was, in its mass, perfect—in nothing bad, in a few points indifferent, and it may truly be said that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great."

The evidence is that Washington became colder only as he grew older. After he became President he shook hands with no one, acknowledging introductions with a formal bow. He attended no parties outside his own home because he felt the head of a nation should never be a guest, indebted even for hospitality.

If this seems to us bending over backward, we must remember the intrigues Washington had survived and his desire to avoid showing the least sign of partiality. But in spite of this, he suffered so from the attack of vitiligo launched against him during his second term he refused to run again, declining to remain longer the target of a mob he never pandered to.

He died as bravely as he had lived, saying serenely: "I die hard, but I am not afraid to go. I feel myself going. I thank you for your attentions, but I pray you to take no more trouble about me. Let me go off quietly. I cannot last long."

Then he calmly gave instructions for his burial—and died. Of him, Abraham Lincoln said later:

"To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and its naked deathless splendor leave it shining on."

They can see America only as the friend of the colonial powers. They are unimpressed by argument that the Communist conqueror is a greater threat than any they ever knew.

Moreover, they have not found the uses of their long-sought freedom so easy as they may have imagined. Confronted by today's harsh realities, they have been plagued by frustrations and defeats. As most men do — especially including Americans — they have sought a scapegoat. The United States, rich friend of the hated colonial oppressor, was the logical choice: we are to blame for all their ills.

As France worries more about her ancient despoiler, Germany, so the lands of Asia can find scant room for fear of a new enemy in minds crowded with the old colonial hatreds.

We are loved even less because we, having been burned twice in great wars, are alert this time to the menace to peace, and are pressing these peoples to join old enemies — whom they know firsthand — to stand against a new enemy whom they know only secondhand.

In all this they are showing themselves to be terribly human. Probably these attitudes will change only with the long passage of time. All we can do to assist the change is try unflinchingly to show these peoples what we really are, and extend to them more understanding and more generosity of spirit than they seem willing to offer us in return.

Reader Opinions

ROSEBURG —According to latest available statistics, approximately 800,000 Americans succumb to heart disease annually, as compared to about 230,000 from cancer, the second largest cause of death, with tuberculosis running a poor third at about 20,000 per year. In other words, heart and circulatory disorders are responsible for over half of all the mortality in this country.

While we have become accustomed to donating large sums of money to fight cancer, tuberculosis and polio, heart research has suffered from a large dose of under-financing. Even in spite of this, great strides have been made by medical researchers in recent years and we are beginning to find that the heart is capable of withstanding operations of a quite radical nature.

Research, it is expected, will eventually all but completely control such diseases as tuberculosis, polio, cancer. A lot has been done already.

Conducting successful research, according to a professor of medicine at the Oregon medical school, is something like building an atom bomb. You have to assemble a "critical mass." In research, a critical mass would be first, capable scientists; second, a place to work which is suitably equipped; third, capital to spend. This last item is what we as insurance underwriters are trying to raise during February and March. So if we call on you, will you please give what you can. The life you save could be your own.

E. V. LINCOLN, President, Umpqua Basin Association of Life Underwriters.

HEARINGS SLATED

SALEM —A Legislative Ways and Means Subcommittee will hold a hearing at 7:30 p. m. March 2 on bills to create a State Parks Commission, a Columbia Gorge Commission, and a State Recreation Commission.

Sen. Francis Ziegler, Corvallis, is chairman of the subcommittee.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

cheap tax-subsidized power with which to ATTRACT INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY AND TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

If the rest of the country is willing to stand for that, we out here can't afford to complain about it.

President Eisenhower has designated May 21 as Armed Forces Day, and in proclamation he says the armed forces have always served as an instrumentally of a free people who cherish peace and security with honor.

He directs the armed forces to give public displays and demonstrations on May 21 of their teamwork and technological advancements and he calls on the American people to display their flag on Armed Forces Day.

What are our armed forces? They are the POLICE FORCE that protects our nation against international crime and banditry and disorder.

How could you run a town without an efficient police force? How can you run a NATION without efficient armed forces?

A question: If the forces of disorder ever come to the conclusion that they can run over the forces of law and order, what will happen? That one's easy.

The result will be anarchy and confusion.

Another question: IF COMMUNISM DECIDES IT CAN SAFELY RUN OVER THE FREE WORLD, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

That one also is easy. In such an event, this will soon become a communist world. Come May 21, let's show our honor and our respect for the members of our armed forces. They stand between us and those who would destroy our free way of life.

Jackson Favors Cutting Budget 10 Per Cent

SALEM — Here is the way the Joint Ways and Means Committee lined up Tuesday on the proposal to cut the governor's budget 10 per cent:

For the cut — Sens. Howard C. Belmont, Canby, chairman; Charles W. Ringler, La Grande; G. L. Brown, Grants Pass; and George Ulett, Conville; and Reps. Henry Semon, Klamath Falls, chairman; V. T. Jackson, Roseburg; E. E. Cone, Eugene, and W. W. Chadwick, Salem.

Against the cut — Sens. John Merrifield, Portland; Francis W. Ziegler, Corvallis; and John P. Hunsell, Hood River; and Reps. Alfred Corbett, Portland; Leon Davis, Hillsboro; and Orval Eaton, Astoria.

Merrifield, however, opposed this average cut because he favors reducing every department a flat 10 per cent.

Sweeping Investigation Of Wire Tapping Ordered

ALBANY, N. Y. — The Legislature Tuesday ordered a sweeping statewide investigation of illegal wiretapping in a move spurred by disclosure of a wiretap center operating in New York City.

The Senate and Assembly both unanimously adopted a resolution to establish an inquiry by a joint legislative committee.

The action came after Dist. Atty. Frank S. Hogan of Manhattan had announced grand jury indictments had been brought against three men accused of wiretapping in New York City.

New York police Feb. 11 raided an east side apartment they said was the center of an illegal wiretapping operation. The raid was not disclosed until Feb. 17, when the New York Anticrime Commission, a private agency, called attention to it.

Bookkeeper Wins Annual Pancake Racing Contest

LIBERAL, Kan. — A 28-year-old Liberal bookkeeper turned in a record-breaking performance Tuesday in keeping the international pancake racing title in the United States.

Mrs. Binnie Dick scurried over the 415-yard S-shaped course here in 1 minute 5.1 seconds to better by 13.4 seconds the time turned in by Mrs. Doris Millward, winner of a similar race held earlier in the day at Olney, England.

Mrs. Millward, a carpenter's wife, beat eight Olney women in the dash from the village pump to the church door flipping her cake in a skillet three times en route as the regulations require. Her time was considered slow. The streets were slippery.

Sawlogs Price, Demand Steady During Past Week

CORVALLIS — With demand for sawlogs steady, the price in Western Oregon was steady through last week, Oregon State College reported in its weekly farm market summary.

Long No. 2 second growth sawlogs were mostly \$43 to \$48 although some mills offered up to \$55 for 15-inch logs over 32 feet long. No. 3s were \$5 to \$10 under the No. 2 prices.

In Douglas County, camp run logs were mostly \$45 with No. 2 second growth \$35 to \$45. No. 2 old growth brought \$45 with select pebbles \$52.50.

In other fields, swordfern was priced at 14 cents a bunch. There was limited demand at Coos Bay for salal at 20 cents a bunch and buckberry brush at 22 cents a bunch.

SALEM MAN ELECTED

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. — Cliff Robinson, Salem, Ore., director of secondary education for the Oregon Department of Education, Tuesday was elected to the executive committee of the National Assn. of Secondary School Principals.

Leland N. Drake, Columbus, Ohio, was named president.

It marked the third time in the six years of competition between the women of Liberal and Olney that this Kansas town has captured the title.

Mrs. Dick, who is employed at a laundry, won the race last year in 1 minute 7.7 seconds. Her time Tuesday topped the previous record of 1 minute 7.2 seconds set by Mrs. Isobel Dix of Olney in 1953.

"We did it! We did it!" Mrs. Dick panted after crossing the finish line.

"We broke the world's record and I can retire now."

Mrs. Dick now has won the Liberal leg of the Shrove Tuesday race three times. Under rules of the contest, she is not eligible for further competition.

Handy womenfolk of Olney have been running this race every Shrove Tuesday for 510 years. As the story goes, a local lady was so busy making pancakes back in the middle ages that she forgot about the Shrove Tuesday church services until the bell rang. In her ex-

citement—she disliked being late for church—she dashed off to the services with a loaded skillet in hand.

I.O.O.F.

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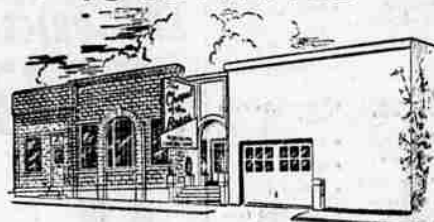
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