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CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager

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PROTECTION REQUESTED

Charles V. Stanton

Newspapers may be subjected to fewer "nuisance suits" through passage by the legislature of the so-called "Libel Bill."

The Act applies to accidental error by the newspaper, provides procedure for correction, and limits penalties to actual damages.

No change is made in liability of the newspaper for malicious damage. Deliberate or malicious libel still can be prosecuted for both actual and special damages. But, if libel occurs entirely by accident, the measure provides that a correction may be demanded by the damaged person, and that damages collected after correction shall be confined to the actual damage suffered.

Few newspapers have escaped suits resulting from innocent error.

Suit now is pending, for instance, against a Salem newspaper because a typesetter passed over a line of copy in a story on accusations against several persons and caused the plaintiff to be listed as accused of one felony instead of another. An almost identical suit has been filed against an Oregon City newspaper. A fellow editor told us recently he is threatened with suit because a mistake was made in the initials of a person charged with crime.

Plaintiffs Seek Settlement

Plaintiffs in these actions seldom expect to collect in court. When such cases are brought to trial verdicts usually are in favor of the newspaper. But it costs money to fight a libel action. The newspaper is put to a good deal of trouble and expense. So the plaintiffs generally suggest that the newspaper settle for a much smaller sum than set up in the complaint, the settlement proposed being less than the expense of fighting the charge. Some lawyers will take such cases on a contingent fee, but with the plaintiff paying the court costs.

Several years ago, as an example, *The News-Review* was sued for libel. The plaintiffs had stolen some turkeys off their roost near a county road. They were arrested and notation was made on the sheriff's docket that they were accused of turkey theft. It was so reported in the newspaper. When they were brought into court, however, it was on a charge of wanton destruction of livestock. Turkey theft was a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine or imprisonment in the county jail. Destruction of livestock, on the other hand, was a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary. Although the newspaper had reported a lesser charge, action for libel was instituted.

The case never came to trial. It remained on the docket for several years and was finally thrown out of court for lack of prosecution. But, in the meantime, the plaintiffs had paid a considerable sum to their attorney.

In such case the new law will not only be a protection to the newspaper but also to plaintiffs who might otherwise be led by an unscrupulous attorney.

Constitutionality Attacked

Constitutionality of the bill was attacked by some legislators. There is a decided sentiment on the part of the judiciary that its scope of operation should not be limited by the legislative branch of government. The court prefers that a jury be left free to use its own judgment as to damages.

But in many other fields awards of damages are limited by legislation. The Industrial Accident Act is a good example. Legislation sets limits on damages to be awarded for loss of life, loss of an arm, a leg, etc., it is pointed out in the *Salem Capital Journal* which adds, editorially, that "what the attorneys say cannot constitutionally be done as to reputation has been done for many years in this state as to personal injury."

Newspapers strive to avoid error. But when news comes from so many sources, when it is handled in many forms and by so many people, errors cannot always be avoided.

Newspapers are not seeking escape from liability for actual injury inflicted by error or otherwise. Nor are they attempting to shield themselves from liability for malicious libel. But they are asking protection from excessive penalties for innocent and unintentional mistakes.

Bruce Blossat

The Reds will never win the Battle of Bandung. The kind of propaganda excesses reflected in their wild charges of "American sabotage," after the crash of an Indian plane bearing Peiping's underlings to Indonesia.

Investigation of this accident will go forward, as it should. It is customary, however, to wait until completion of an inquiry before announcing findings. The Chinese Reds didn't even wait for the sketchiest preliminary report before jumping on the "sabotage" theme.

Even India's Prime Minister Nehru, whose search for a neutral course often leads him down some strange byways, declared that the crash in the South China Sea had some "very unusual features." This is pure, unfounded guesswork, since he could not have known any significant details when he made the comment.

The government at Hong Kong the plane's last stop, said the Air India craft was under heavy guard during its one-hour pause, and that fuel and baggage loading were handled by the Communists and the Indian crew. No one else went aboard and no item of cargo was taken on that was not checked by the Reds and the crew.

Therefore the chances of sabotage by anybody would seem very remote. A moment's thought would convince any sensible person that sabotaging part of the Chinese delegation to Bandung is no way to win a propaganda war, anyway. The Red charges presume vast stupidity on America's part.

In truth it is the Communists who are being stupid. The Moscovite Peiping axis has heard for years that Communists make wonderful propaganda, that they can't be matched. Evidently they think they can lose out on any weird tale and it will score somewhere among the world's gullible millions.

These are signs, too, that in the particular case of the Afro-Asian meeting at Bandung they are frantic to register a propaganda triumph. In their peculiar world they imagine their far-fetched version of the plane crash will help.

They should take a lesson from the recent Communist experiences in far-off Italy. Ever since the war, northern Italy, especially cities like Milan and Livorno, has been a Communist stronghold. But respected correspondents have found the Red tide ebbing where it should be strongest.

The Communists have suffered losses in factory union elections. Many other evidences of diminishing power can be found. The observers report that large numbers of Italians who once were Red sympathizers have grown weary and disillusioned with Communist tactics. Endless political strikes, host of unfulfilled promises and senseless propaganda have contributed to this attitude.

This is a big story. It is a proof that the Red magic is not perpetually effective even where it seems to have fastened its greatest grip. It shows that peoples not trapped behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains can in time detect the sham

"Let's Play Blind Man's Buff!"



Report States Chiefs Would Use A-Bombs

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York Times story by Hanson W. Baldwin said this week that the majority of the Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that atomic weapons should be used if Quemoy and Matsu are to be defended.

"However," the story added, "Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Army Chief of Staff, who apparently is opposed to U.S. participation in the defense of the Nationalist-held coastal islands, also is opposed to the use of atomic weapons in their defense."

The Baldwin story also said: "It cannot be said with complete accuracy...that the majority of the Joint Chiefs of Staff favors the defense of Quemoy and Matsu and the minority, Gen. Ridgway, opposes it. But the considerations advanced by the joint chiefs of the military factors involved clearly reveal an affirmative and negative split."

None of the joint chiefs believes Quemoy and Matsu can be held indefinitely by the Nationalists without aid by U.S. armed forces. All believe that the supply of U.S. weapons and equipment to the Nationalists should be continued and expedited.

But apparently only Ridgway believes that the Nationalists should concentrate their defenses on Formosa and the Pescadores.

Eastern States Daylight Saving Starts Sunday

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sun won't be up as high as usual when millions of Americans go to work next week but it'll stay up longer after they get home.

Reason for the change is daylight saving time, which goes into effect in the most populous sections of the nation at 2 a.m. Sunday. At that moment, it suddenly will become 3 a.m.

The household will have to get up and stir around an hour earlier, but they'll have an extra hour of sunshine when the day's stint is done.

A national survey by the Elgin Observatory, Elgin, Ill., shows nearly 70 million Americans will go on the new schedule. The other 81 million will stick to standard time.

The shift will be made in New England, New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Delaware, California and Nevada, virtually all of Maryland, Pennsylvania, most of Illinois and major cities in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

The South and the great central region of the United States will stay on regular time. Farmers say the cows don't come home until sundown, and there's no point in changing clocks if they can't change milking time.

Although daylight time customarily has ended the last Sunday in September, there are plans to extend it until the last Sunday in October this year in the North-eastern states.

Oregon Must Adjust To East's Time Change

PORTLAND (AP) — Daylight saving time arrives in many parts of the United States early Sunday morning. It will make some changes in Oregon where standard time is mandatory.

Portland television stations will present their shows on a schedule adjusted to the fast time. Most Portland radio stations will tape network shows and rebroadcast them at the regular time—but some changes may be made in this.

Some airlines expect to operate on daylight time. Railroads and buses will continue on standard time.

of communism and turn from it. Excesses like the frenzied plane sabotage charge might help a lot of Asians and Africans to see the sham before they ever think seriously of embracing it.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

communist China and Communist Russia.

Maybe the situation in Asia isn't as bad as it looks.

In a rather interesting little newspaper feature that lists what happened when, it is mentioned that on April 22, 1955 — five years ago — Charles Wilson, then president of General Motors, got some \$600,000 in salary and bonuses from his company.

Wait a minute.

What the item fails to mention is that out of his \$600,000 income in that year Wilson had only about \$60,000 left after paying his federal taxes — and out of that he had to pay his state and local taxes.

Back in 1950, Wilson was working for General Motors as its president.

Now he's working for Uncle Sam as secretary of defense.

Question: When he was working for a big corporation and getting \$600,000 a year and kicking back some \$540,000 in federal taxes, wasn't he working MOST OF HIS TIME for Uncle Sam?

Didn't the government maybe lose money on the transaction when it took him over as secretary of defense?

But let's drop the subject of taxes and talk for a moment about another course of modern life — SMOG.

Dr. John T. Middleton, a University of California plant pathologist says there is increasing damage to vegetation from smog. He adds that in 1953 smog caused a crop loss of three million dollars in the Los Angeles area alone. This compares, he says, with a crop loss of only half a million dollars in the same area in 1949.

That is to say, SMOG DAMAGE TO CROPS IS INCREASING rather rapidly.

What to do?

Here's a thought: Instead of concentrating everything in the big overgrown cities, which causes the smog and at the same time provides a top target for an atom bomb, why not spread things out into the smaller communities — where LIFE IS BETTER?

Reuther Says \$1.25 Wage 'Morally Right'

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIO President Walter Reuther said this week a requirement for a \$1.25 hourly minimum wage is "morally right and economically sound."

Such a wage, he said in testimony prepared for a Senate labor subcommittee, "is not impossible. It isn't even difficult. It just requires a comprehension of America's greatness and a confidence in America's future to see the reasonableness of the proposal."

Other leaders of organized labor who have already testified also have supported the \$1.25 figure asked by Reuther.

The Eisenhower Administration has asked an increase from the present 75 cents to 90 cents an hour in the nationwide minimum wage. That wage floor now covers 24 million persons. The administration is also proposing expanded coverage to more than two million new workers.

GRAVE MATTER

SALEM (AP) — When Sen. Warren A. McMinnick, Tillamook, took the Senate floor Thursday to oppose a cemetery bill, he said: "I rise in defense of the dead."

Sen. Warren G. Lebanon, who was presiding, banged his gavel, and replied: "Let us have no moribund. This certainly is a grave subject."

VOLCANO SPURTS

MANILA (AP) — Residents of two small villages on Mindanao island began evacuating their homes Friday as Mt. Makaturing spouted smoke and fire. The 3,023 foot volcano has not erupted in 50 years.

Investigation Of Booklet On 'Secrets' Asked

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Price (D-Ill.) called Friday for a full investigation of a booklet put out by Senate Republicans and assailed by House Democrats Thursday as a "shocking" disclosure of military secrets.

Sen. Bridges (R-NH) retorted the booklet "contains no classified military data whatsoever; and expressly says so." He accused the Democrats of raising a false issue "in their anxiety to find something to criticize about the Republican administration."

The controversy raged around a pamphlet, titled "National Defense and the Republican Administration—Today and Tomorrow." It was issued last month by the staff of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, headed by Bridges.

Democrats first criticized the pamphlet on the House floor Thursday during debate on a shipbuilding bill, and amplified their views later in talking with reporters. Bridges replied in a statement.

Bridges said the booklet was prepared "to furnish a rounded picture of the true effectiveness of the national defense program under President Eisenhower."

Democrats attacked it, he said, "because it refuses completely to charge they have been making that the Republican administration is weakening the nation's defenses."

2 State Agencies Oppose Private Power Group Plan

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP) — Two Oregon state agencies are opposing the plan of a private power group to build Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley dams on the Snake River.

John Hodges of the Oregon Fish Commission and V. J. Campbell of the Oregon Game Commission spoke Thursday against the Pacific Northwest Power Co. application for a preliminary permit for the dams.

They were joined by public power and sportsmen's representatives at a hearing held by the Oregon Hydroelectric Commission.

Speaking for the application was Paul B. McKee, Portland, vice president of the company, which was formed recently by the Washington Water Power Co. of Spokane, the Montana Power Co., Portland General Electric Co., and Pacific Power & Light Co., Portland.

McKee said the two dams on the middle Snake would produce 820,000 kilowatts and would help ease the Northwest's power shortage.

Public power spokesmen argued, however, that they would not fit in the comprehensive plan for development of the Columbia Basin. Other speakers objected to the dams on the ground they would damage important fish runs.

Some 50 persons were at the hearing, presided over by George Joseph, hydroelectric commission chairman.

Among speakers opposing the application were Byron Brinton, director of the Baker Record-Courier, and Clarence Carter, La Grande, representing the Union County Grange.

Lutheran Church Merger Would Take All Groups

OLYMPIA (AP) — A resolution urging that any merger of Lutheran churches in America be open to all Lutheran groups was approved Thursday by the Columbia Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

Delegates from five Northwest states and British Columbia said the resolution was in line with the historic stand of their church.

Four major church groups—the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Free Church, and the Lutheran Free Church—have been considering a merger.

The Rev. Oscar Rolander of Auburn, Wash., reporter for the Columbia Conference, said the Augustana Church originally was in the merger group but withdrew because it felt the merger might not include all Lutheran churches.

Another invitation to join the merger group has been extended to the Augustana Church, he said. The conference elected five new trustees and reelected other church officers.

The trustees are Clarence A. Carlson of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Portland; Perry Leland of Elm Lutheran Church, Ogden, Utah; Reinhold Karlstrom of Peace Lutheran Church, Seattle; the Rev. Alvin D. Mattson of the First Lutheran Church, Anacosta, Mont.; the Rev. Gordon W. Loren of Grace Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Wash.

Officers are the Rev. Carl Sodergren of the First Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Portland, vice president; the Rev. Roland Swanson of Central Lutheran Church, Yakima, secretary; Theodore Nelson of the First Lutheran Church, Tacoma, treasurer.

Dr. S. L. Swenson of Seattle is the president. He was not up for reelection.

Douglas Fir Plywood's Anniversary Program Set

PORTLAND (AP) — The Douglas Fir Plywood Assn.'s 50th anniversary program, to be held here June 19-21, will have a lot of national advertising links, the Oregon Advertising Club was told.

James F. Fowler, directing promotion of the anniversary celebration, said \$250,000 is being spent—and a lot of free publicity for the industry is expected, too.

Portland will have a major place in the celebration, he said, because it was here that the first commercial plywood was produced in 1905.

Society

MRS. BOLING HOSTS LOOKINGGLASS HUE

The Lookingglass Home Extension Unit met Monday at the lovely new home of Mrs. Cliff Boling, Miss Helen Chandler, Home Extension Advisor, had charge of the demonstration of broiling foods.

Election of officers for the ensuing year was held in the afternoon's business session and resulted in the choice of Mrs. Maxine Ellis, president; Mrs. Emma Cooper, vice president; and Mrs. Anna Cornett, secretary-treasurer.

A vote of appreciation was extended to the outgoing officers; Mrs. Mildred Oliviant, president; Mrs. Ann Wilson, vice president; and Mrs. Dorothy Boling, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Neal Myers, Mrs. Lucile Grass and Mrs. Leonard Cooper were appointed to take charge of table decorations for the Home-maker's Festival to be held at the First Methodist Church in Roseburg May 3. Mrs. Lucile Niebaum had charge of the plant sale held at the close of the meeting.

Mrs. Oretta Suloff and small daughter, Susan, of Elkton; and Mrs. Clarence McGraw were guests. Mrs. Suloff is a member of the county committee.

The next meeting will be an all-day affair, beginning at 10 a.m. and will be held in the grange hall. The topic will be flower arrangements. A sack lunch will be held.

OAKLAND PTA HAS OFFICER ELECTION

At the Monday meeting of Oakland PTA the following officers were elected: Mrs. Don Salchenberg, president; Mrs. Ching Somerville, vice president; Mrs. E. Peterson, secretary; and Mrs. Mary Burke, treasurer. President Floyd Ross, appointed Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Ed Lamoreau and Harry Smith on the auditing committee.

Jesse Lee presented a program consisting of saxophone duet, Jerry Brown and Larry Jackson, accompanied by Jean Hewitt; duet by Judy and Jean Hewitt; cornet solo, Tommy Tomlinson; piano solo, Kent Copeland; saxophone solo, Bobby Dorman, accompanied by Yvonne Stueck; skit by Jesse Lee, Clyde Akey, Lyle Stueck and Floyd Ross. A silent auction was held.

CENTRAL JUNIOR PTA WILL MEET MONDAY

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Junior High PTA will be held Monday at 8:00 p.m. The Leadership Class of Central will conduct the meeting.

The short program will include information on Citizen Living by the eighth grade social living class; Seventh grade students will explain the Junior High Core subject program, and there will be pertinent information on the school budget; also election of officers for next year.

ROBERTS CREEK CLUB MEETS ON THURSDAY

The thirteenth meeting of the Roberts Creek Rebels was held Thursday at the home of Mrs. Katherine Bemetz, the leader. Roll call found two members absent.

George Thomas and Larry Haden demonstrated the making of orange floats, after which each member prepared one for himself. The meeting time was changed to four o'clock, and at the next meeting a demonstration on custard will be presented.

CAMAS VALLEY GRANGE SETS MAY DAY FESTIVAL

Camas Valley Grange Home Economics Club will sponsor a May Day festival at the hall Friday evening, April 29, at 8. There will be the winding of the maypole, and the crowning of the queen, Miss Carol Munch. There will be several specialties in folk dancing and after the program there will be dancing for the public.

EVERGREEN LADIES HAVE CLEAN-UP DAY

Evergreen Grange HEC met Thursday morning at the grange hall to clean the building. A delicious potluck luncheon was served at noon to seven ladies. Next meeting will be at the hall Thursday, April 28. A kitchen shower for the grange will be held.

BOYS GIVE TALKS AT SUTHERLIN PTA

Sutherland Parent Teachers Association met Monday evening with the president, K. W. Knechtel, presiding.

Mrs. Bassett's seventh grade room received the attendance prize for the month of March. A report on legislation was given.

The PTA voted to participate in the forthcoming Jaycee carnival, and that funds raised would be used to purchase lawn seed for the west elementary school grounds.

Officers elected for the year were: president, Mrs. Nancy Diedrich; first vice-president, Mrs. Francis Smith; second vice-president, Mrs. Kenneth McCord; secretary, Mrs. Rowena Gurney; treasurer, Mrs. Robert Williams.

A high school band concert was announced for Friday, April 29. The May PTA program will be in charge of Ardell Loerts, and it is urged that as many as possible attend this meeting.

The program consisted of two speeches by boys that have entered the contest, sponsored by the Toastmaster group. Larry Boes spoke on the "High Cost of Friendship" and Clark Gilson on "The Versus the Squirrels."

The mothers of third graders served refreshments after the meeting in the home economics room.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday night, May 9, at the senior high school building, and at this time the new officers will be installed.

ELKTON OES IS HOST TO DRAIN CHAPTER

District meeting Order of the Eastern Star was held Tuesday evening in Elkton with Elkton Chapter 143 as hostesses to North Star Chapter 121 of Drain.

Out of town guests were Louise Irving, worthy grand matron of Grand Chapter of Oregon; Elsa Hiecock, grand committee member; Mary Haines, grand representative of the State of New Jersey in Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nelson, worthy matron and patron of Cottage Grove chapter; Miriam Ward, worthy matron of Reames Chapter 66, Medford; and Dorothy Bradden, associate matron from Cacheville Chapter, Yolo, Calif. Mrs. Bradden flew from California to see her sister, Norma Thomas, initiate at district meeting. Marian Johnson was also initiated with North Star Chapter giving the initiatory work. Gertrude Whipple sang during the degree work.

A clever addenda consisting of a wishing well to present the worthy grand matron with a gift was presented by the Elkton Chapter. At the close of the meeting, refreshments were served.

MRS. MELTON HOSTS EAST DOUGLAS HUE

The East Douglas HEC met Wednesday at the lovely home of Mrs. William Melton on South Deer Creek. Miss Helen Chandler gave a most interesting demonstration on boiled meals. After a delicious potluck luncheon, Mrs. Willis Erickson gave a talk on Mexico, which was greatly enjoyed.

The business meeting followed, presided over by the chairman, Mrs. Iola Mathis. There was an election of officers and Mrs. Vera Standley will be the new chairman; Mrs. Gertrude Ballou, secretary treasurer, and Mrs. Ada Melton, vice-chairman.

ACCORDION BAND ENTERTAINS AMARANTHS

Amaranth Social Club met Friday at its regular potluck dinner, which was followed by a short business meeting with president, Pearl Young, in charge.

Entertainment of the evening consisted of numbers by the accordion band, conducted by Gene Smith. Pictures of Amaranth installation were shown by FloAnn McDonald and Carmen Clark. Committee members in charge of the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Withers, Ines Van Horn and Lou Simons.

BANQUET-PROM SET BY GLIDE SCHOOL

The Glide High School Junior and senior annual banquet will be held at 7 p.m. April 29 at the high school gymnasium, followed by the prom at 9 p.m.

The banquet will be prepared by the members of the Glide Parent-Teachers Association and served by Glide Kiwanians. Members and wives will be guests at the banquet and prom. Ollie Fosback's orchestra of Roseburg will furnish the dance music.

ROSEBURG

Chamber of Commerce MEMBERSHIP FORUM

Monday Noon Hotel Umpqua Civic Room

Program

Program: "The What And Why of Freight Rates"

Speaker: Mr. Ed Ordway, Manager Freight Traffic

Portland Division

Southern Pacific Company

Mr. Ordway will welcome questions either during his discussion of the subject or after.

This announcement is sponsored by

ROSEBURG GARBAGE DISPOSAL

227 Sheridan St.

As a service of good will to this community.