

The News-Review

CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager
ADDY WRIGHT, Asst. Bus. Mgr.
GEORGE CASTILLO, Asst. Editor

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NEED IS DEMONSTRATED

By Charles V. Stanton

The current slump in Oregon's lumber industry is stimulating thought of secondary manufacture.

There is no denying the fact that our lumber industry is in bad shape at present. The condition doubtless is temporary but it points up the importance of changing as soon as possible from our one-industry status.

The entire state relies upon the timber industry for its economy. Today Oregon is an island of economic recession in a sea of unprecedented prosperity.

Because the Federal Reserve Board tightened up money for home construction, the lumber industry has taken a beating. Unfortunately the regulations hit chiefly this one segment of the economy so that Oregon, as the leading lumber producing state, is the most adversely affected.

It is anticipated that corrective measures will soon restore prosperity to the lumber industry, but in the meantime we are suffering from what appears to have been an error in economic planning.

Diversification Needed

But not all departments of the timber industry have been hurt.

A good friend of mine is very happy with current conditions. He operates some mills engaged in specialty cutting. He produces stock for toys, furniture, cabinets and other special uses. He buys his lumber from neighboring sawmills. The drop in cost of his basic supply is giving him very handsome profits on his operations. He is taking full advantage of the opportunity by increasing his production.

His experience illustrates the importance of diversifying our timber industry as rapidly as possible.

Too much of our production now is in timber and boards. We should have numerous secondary manufacturing plants to cushion our economy when lumber prices are down.

We have made progress in that direction. Plywood now uses a considerable percentage of our raw product. Plywood, however, all too often follows the same pattern as lumber. We have seen some advance in the field of chip board, particle board, handles, crossarms, etc., all of which could be expanded. We could use many small specialty plants, cut-up mills, fabrication units.

Chemical Field Neglected

Our big opportunity for diversification, however, lies in the chemical field, in my opinion.

Except for lack of competitive transportation, Douglas County offers the outstanding opportunity on the Pacific Coast for pulp and paper production. If we had rail competition, which would bring rail cooperation in opening industrial sites suitable for manufacturing purposes, we undoubtedly would soon have a large pulp and paper industry. Several concerns have looked at our area. Some still are investigating. But, while we have a better material supply than other areas, plenty of water, and all other requirements for pulp and paper manufacture, we haven't competitive rail transportation, nor do we have good mill sites tributary to the existing rail line. We could, however, open many thousands of acres suitable for industrial use if we had a railroad willing to build needed spur tracks.

There is every indication that great quantities of wood pulp will go into the manufacture of plastics. The plastics industry is reported to be turning from cotton and other cellulose products to wood pulp for raw material.

Various chemicals, adhesives, medicines, sugars, etc., are being produced from wood. Eventually we will be engaged in manufacturing those things here in Douglas County.

Secondary manufacture will come of its own accord in time. If we are to speed development, however, we must do a lot of promotional work. The current economic slump shows how essential diversification is to our future welfare.

Bruce Blossat

The Middle East crisis has demonstrated that a great force how difficult it is for a nation in this present age to pursue a course which is both moral and practical.

From the outset the United States has opposed the use of military means by Britain, France and Israel, arguing that the only proper moral position is not to condone shooting by friend or foe alike.

Following this same line, we have urged the belligerents to pull out of Egypt, and have delayed shipping needed oil to Europe on the ground this might be interpreted as aid to Britain and France as attacking nations.

The sad part about all this is that while it has increased our stature among the Afro-Asian nations it has been a blow to the North Atlantic alliance and has served poorly our practical interests in the Middle East.

OUR renewed support for the Baghdad pact countries — Turkey, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq — has helped a bit toward redressing the balance. So has our late-incoming decision to step up oil supplies to Europe.

But big dilemmas remain, and they are not to be solved by simply saying we are against shooting.

President Nasser of Egypt, a political adventurer of the worst sort, is still getting away with murder. He shows no sign of dealing reasonably with either the Israeli election or the problem of operating the Suez Canal fairly and effectively.

His answer to any kind of real pressure on these issues is to threaten to invite Russian "volunteers" to assist his feeble military establishment.

Over in Syria the Russians appear to have gained their invitation and to have moved into positions of powerful influence.

THE overriding question is: "When you are determined as a nation not to use force yourself and to oppose its use by others, how do you control the petty adventurers who flout law and morality and even risk their own independence by inviting help from Russia, the greatest of all outlaw nations?"

The decent citizens who prevent a lynch mob from dragging off a man charged with murder do not then set him free. He still must be held for fair trial on the charge.

Similarly, Nasser does not deserve the Nobel peace prize for his provocation against the British, French and Israeli. Somehow we must find the course which will hold him to account for the wrongs he has committed.

If we can do that we may better serve our practical concerns — peace in the Middle East and a restored Western alliance — and at the same time serve a larger morality in which other wrongs than shooting are dealt with resolutely.

Yoncalla Livestock 4-H Club Elects Officers

The Yoncalla Livestock 4-H Club met recently at the home of Leader Orval Allen. Paul Mill was re-elected president; Wanda Johnson, vice president; Jean Mill re-elected secretary; Kay Churchill reporter, and Francis Allen, yell leader. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

PROTEST BROADCASTS

BAGHDAD — Iraq Wednesday formally protested to Egypt and Syria that they permitted "hostile" radio broadcasts from their countries aimed at the Arab League.

PROTEST BROADCASTS

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — Some day Johnny Marks would like to write a hit song about the 4th of July — or maybe even the 29th of February.

"Any day but Christmas," he said.

It is unlikely, however, his public will let him. For better or worse, Johnny has become as identified with Christmas songs as Stephen Foster is with sentimental ballads of the Old South.

Putting the Christmas spirit to music isn't exactly a chosen career with Marks. It's a kind of strange doom he tries to escape but can't.

In 1949 Johnny was a moderately successful song writer (he has published 75, written about 150) when he composed a little ditty entitled "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Johnny, who had struggled for as long as two years to get some of his songs recorded, had to struggle for two months before Gene Autry agreed to gamble on the novelty number.

The recording has now sold more than 5 million. Some 94 other recordings of Rudolph in 45 different arrangements have sold 20 million more discs.

Little Rudolph, now an established world-wide Christmas classic, has earned Johnny better than half a million dollars, will probably earn that much again by the time Marks' copyright expires 48 years from now and the little reindeer gallops into the public domain.

In the first three years after Rudolph appeared on the scene more than 300 imitative Christmas novelty songs appeared, but quickly tinkled into oblivion.

"Time after time people have tried to get me to write sequels about 'Rudolph,'" said Marks, "but I never will."

"It took me only a week to write the song—or a week plus 20 years, if you count the time it took me to learn what to throw away. I still rewrite it now and then in my mind—changing a word here and there—until it drives my wife crazy."

"The funny thing is that it was only by accident that the song had a Christmas theme. Anybody who sits down and says he'll write a Christmas song is welcome to try."

—but I'll guarantee it won't be a good one."

Johnny, who is 47 and looks like a Greenwich Village poet (he's actually a Greenwich Village landlord), says all his Christmas songs have been accidents. His other hits on this subject were "The Night Before Christmas Song," "When Santa Claus Gets Your Letter," and "Everyone's a Child at Christmas."

"Last year I made up my mind definitely I would never write another one," he recalled.

Then, last February, while reading some poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, he came across one called, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

Its semi-religious theme, the victory of hope over despair, haunted Johnny, who broods about the way the world is going. He put the words to music. The result: A recording by Bing Crosby which Variety, Billboard and other trade magazines predict may last as long as Rudolph.

While making the recording, Bing, noticing that Longfellow was the author, told Johnny dryly: "You had a pretty fair lyric writer on this one."

Johnny who now operates his own publishing firm (by an odd coincidence it's called the St. Nicholas Music Co.), says: "This is it. I hope I'll never write another Christmas song!"

He says it fervently — and means it. But along Tin Pan Alley they say it's too late. Johnny can't help himself. Christmas is no longer just a holiday for Rudolph's father. It's a life sentence.

Yoncalla PTA Hears Program From Students

By Mrs. George Edes

A meeting of the Yoncalla PTA was held Monday evening in the Yoncalla High school with Mrs. Charles Timmons president presiding. The high school band played six selections, marches and one overture before the meeting. The band was under the leadership of Don Loftus, music supervisor for Yoncalla schools.

The meeting was opened with the flag salute, led by Cub Scout Den 2, Pack 44. The treasurer reported a balance of \$461.36 after bills were paid. Motion was made to buy four dozen cups to be kept at the grade school for use in serving at PTA meetings. Mrs. Bob Smith volunteered to take care of the Christmas treats for the children of Yoncalla with the assistance of the grade school mothers. Mr. Lewellen reported that each room in the grade school would hold its annual Christmas party Friday afternoon, Dec. 21. The program consisted of a moving picture, "A Musician in the Family."

The next meeting will be held at the grade school Jan. 14th with the fifth grade mothers serving. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

C. H. Boniols, Building Inspector, Courthouse, Room 123, Roseburg, Ore.

Copilot Who Quit Job Missing in West Indies

WASHINGTON — The disappearance of a Eugene, Ore., man who resigned as copilot for a Dominican Republic airline has prompted the State Department to ask for help in locating him.

The pilot, Gerald Lester Murphy, has been missing since Dec. 3 the day before he advertised household effects for sale in a Ciudad Trujillo newspaper. The State Department said Murphy's automobile was found abandoned on the outskirts of the Dominican Republic capital.

The American consul in the Dominican Republic said police, at the State Department's request, were making an exhaustive search for Murphy. The department said it had no information indicating a reason for his disappearance.

There is a new straw in the wind. Polish students clashed with police and army units in a mass anti-Soviet demonstration in the Polish city of Stettin. The Warsaw radio (communist-dominated) first said the riot was touched off by "hoorlans." Later it admitted that the street brawl turned into a march on the Russian consulate, where hundreds of demonstrators smashed windows and tried to break in.

Poland comes next after Hungary in hatred of the Russian oppressors—and over the centuries the Poles have often demonstrated their willingness to die fighting oppression.

Competent observers offer the opinion that what is happening in Hungary and to a lesser extent so far in Poland marks the beginning of the break-up of the Russian communist empire.

Does that mean that the danger of a world war is diminishing? Not necessarily.

We must remember the position of the Kremlin despots — Kruschev & Company. They must be badly frightened men. All this has happened under THEIR leadership. THEY will be held responsible. All despots have their enemies. In this case, the enemies of Kruschev & Co. MIGHT UPSET THEM.

Such an upset wouldn't mean mere loss of power and political disgrace — as is the case in less brutal and savage regimes. In their case, it would probably mean getting stood up before a firing squad.

They might start a world war as the lesser of two evils. Cornered despots have done that before.

These are grave days. Cool heads and steady hands are needed if another world war is to be avoided.

Reader Opinions

Misinformation Regarding Inspector's Office Cited

There seems to be an over-abundance of misinformation and misapprehension as regards the functions of the office of building inspector of Douglas County, and as to why the office was conceived to start with.

Its conception and eventual inception was and is in keeping with good county government practices throughout these United States.

Many states in which building codes and inspectors for counties are compulsory and others, while not compulsory, have a vast majority of their respective counties participating in an active pattern of adherence to a workable code.

The endeavor of this office has been and will be to establish such a workable code, being flexible enough to be applicable to all cases whether suburban or fringe. However, in doing so it should be realized that while codes are designed as a protection and guidance for individuals, one cannot discount the protection of a general populace of a given area.

The question arises as to how severe are restrictions when there has been only one building inspector in the county of 5,962 square miles of area and with a ten million dollar activity. In a more congested area, this ratio would be appalling considering a like figure would require five active inspectors.

Since its start there have been only two cases reviewed by the department's Board of Appeals in regard to refusal of building permits or condemnation of an existing building, and the results were: (1) The potential builder did not submit a revised plan as requested by the board and (2) The owner agreed that his construction was unsafe and dismantled an awkward unsightly building which was in an area of attractive homes.

While most grievances have been attributed to the building inspector's office they have, for the most part, been because of the requirements of the health department concerning waste disposal facilities in a fast growing community.

It has recently been recommended that the requirements of the health department be severed from the building inspector so that building permits, though still required, may then be granted whether or not inadequacy in sanitary facilities exist.

Should we not try to more thoroughly realize the magnitude of this complex problem of building soundness into the houses of today so that they will be desirable as homes of tomorrow, that coming generations can be proud of the accomplishments of those who have preceded them?

Let us work together on a common project to help make Douglas County a better place in which to live and support legislation that will lead to its soundness and aesthetic beauty.

EDWARDS, Calif. — A Navy guided missile somehow broke contact with the jet plane that was guiding it on a test shot Tuesday. It streaked wildly across the desert and crashed 120 miles away on the edge of Death Valley.

The 33-foot Regulus surface-to-surface missile was undergoing a routine test under electronic control from the accompanying plane when it got away. The jet traced it to its crash site and a crew was sent to pick up the pieces.

The devices are being tested at this Mojave Desert base under the accelerated missile program.

Base officials said the guiding mechanism apparently failed after launching.

Education Board Chooses Names For Buildings

PORTLAND — The State Board of Higher Education convened here Tuesday to put its approval on business it completed Monday while sitting as a building committee.

The board chose the name Cordley Hall for the new agriculture and biological science building at Oregon State College, and also selected on Weatherford Hall as the new name of the five-unit men's dormitory at Corvallis.

The board said two of the present five unit names—Cauthorn and Poling—will be given to two new dormitories under construction.

Cordley Hall honors the first man to head OSC's agriculture department, the late Dean Arthur Burton Cordley.

The board approved a 1957 summer session budget of \$332,043, an increase of \$46,186 from 1956. About half the increase is for salary adjustments.

Trustee Wrecks Stolen Automobile On Highway

KLAMATH FALLS — A Klamath County jail trustee who wanted to be home for Christmas was held in Bend Wednesday after he wrecked a stolen automobile on Highway 58, 95 miles north of Klamath Falls.

The escapee, Gary Lawrence McKercher, 27, who was serving six months here for attempted larceny, disappeared Tuesday afternoon from the county law library in the courthouse where he was working.

Sheriff Murray Britton said he posed as a prospective buyer at an automobile agency. He told a salesman he wanted to drive a 1954 sedan around the block to test it.

A few hours later he was pulled out of the wrecked sedan by state police. He said he was planning to spend Christmas with his wife in Portland.

McKercher will be returned here to face charges of auto theft and escape.

Mrs. Winston Gives Program To Art Assn.

Mrs. Ullah Winston presented a program for members of the Roseburg Art Assn. at its last meeting. She took them on a trip down the Rhine and across country through villages of Germany, Switzerland, France, Austria, England and other countries with the slides that she had taken.

Mrs. Victoria Ploss was in charge of the program and introduced the guest speaker.

Two paintings were donated to the association by Arthur Selander of Portland who had taught painting classes for the art group. These have been framed and one will hang in the new county library.

Also the librarian invited the members of the association to hang pictures in the library. One painting from a member will be hung there for a month. This month Carla Lee Taylor will have a painting on exhibition.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Jack West on Riverside Drive. She was assisted by Mrs. Victoria Ploss and Mrs. Esther Gilliland. The next meeting will be held in January at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Ford.

Tass Says 'Volunteers' No Longer Necessary

MOSCOW — Tass announced Saturday that agreement by Britain, France and Israel to withdraw troops from Egypt has made it unnecessary to send Soviet "volunteers" there.

The declaration by the official Soviet news agency placed an official stamp on the softer policy line the Soviet Union has been following in the Middle East crisis for the last two weeks.

(There was no mention in the Tass statement that there has been a lack of demand on the part of Egypt for the "volunteers." Neither was there mention of the fact that the Soviet Union is concentrating heavily on the Hungarian problem and its ramifications.)

Navy Orders Received For Guided Missiles

WASHINGTON — The Navy said Wednesday that Chance Vought Aircraft, Dallas, Tex., has received new Navy orders for guided missiles totaling 26 million dollars.

The new orders are for additional missiles of the Regulus I and the Regulus II. The Regulus I is an operational attack missile, launched from ships at targets several hundred miles away. The Regulus II is an advanced version, capable of supersonic speed.

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