

In The Day's News By Frank Jenkins

As this is written, President Kennedy has just ordered 1800 U.S. Marines into Thailand, where they will join an Army battle group of about 1,900 men who are already there. The Defense Department says U.S. military forces will be raised to about 5,000 men. The landing is being made from a U.S. carrier task force in the Gulf of Siam, just off the Thailand coast. The dispatches this morning say the President's order makes it plain that U.S. forces will fight if the communists in Laos cross the Mekong river, which is the border between Laos and Thailand.

Why the show of force in Thailand now?

The President's order this morning explains that action is being taken in order to enable us to fulfill our obligations under the Manila Pact of 1954. In addition, it is understood that at a meeting of SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) about a year ago in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, the military leaders of SEATO agreed that the final last-stand defense of Southeast Asia must be made at the Mekong.

President Kennedy directed this morning that United Nations be notified of the actions this country is taking.

Question: Are we writing off Laos as a bad debt?

A lot of people who are familiar with the situation in Southeast Asia think that is the sensible thing to do. Laos, they say, is torn by power struggles among competing leaders. The PEOPLE of Laos, they add, have little interest in the struggle and are not particularly concerned as to whether they shall live under communist rule or otherwise. All they want is to be left alone.

On the other hand, these people say, the Thais are a competent people who know what they want. They want FREEDOM. They interpret freedom primarily as freedom from communist domination. They want no part of communism.

That seems to be about the size of what is happening this morning. If the picture we get from the news today is an accurate picture, our action appears to make sense. We are drawing a line in the dust and daring our communist opponents to cross it. We are interposing our forces between a country that appears to want no part of communism and the communists who are seeking to control all of Southeast Asia.

If we have to fight in Southeast Asia, we can at least feel that we are fighting in a good cause.

Evergreen Grange Votes 4-H Summer Scholarship

A potluck dinner was featured at the last meeting of the Evergreen Grange, reports correspondent Mary Welkum.

The group voted to donate a 4-H summer school scholarship to be given to some worthy boy or girl. This is a part of the community service work sponsored by the organization. Also as a part of this work is the benefit dinner to be given for the Knights of Pythias Girls Drum and Bugle Corps. Sunday, May 20, from noon to four p.m. The public is invited to attend and assist this group in its endeavors.

It was announced that Evergreen Grange lost the recent membership contest with the Riverside Grange and will honor the winners at a "Hobo Dinner" May 25, the regular meeting date.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fearnow spoke on their trip to Corvallis where they attended a school held for Fair booth exhibitors.

The program included music by the three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Miltard Lemon and a short talk by Margaret Burt on the treatment and care of flowers and garden plants.

Zenith Club Plans Service Programs

Projects for the coming months were discussed and voted on at the recent meeting of the Roseburg Zenith Club held at the home of Mrs. Galen Matthews.

Members of the club voted to bake cakes for the monthly party for the patients at the Veterans' Hospital and for another project will contact Community and Mercy Hospitals about making layettes for new babies born at the hospitals.

EDITORIAL PAGE

4 The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore.—Wed., May 16, 1962

THE GOOD OL' DAYS

By Charles V. Stanton

Roseburg residents taking advantage of the city council's invitation to visit the new municipal building are receiving a folder containing some interesting information. It is reported, for example, that Roseburg has one of the lowest crime rates for any city of its size in Oregon. It is stated that one reason is the thoroughness of investigation and the training of its police officers.

Roseburg, according to this folder, has 23 persons in the police department. Of this number 18 are policemen, three are meter maids, one is a court clerk and one is a meter repairman.

A few days ago an "Old-Timer" was recalling the days when Roseburg had one policeman.

The Roseburg Daily News, one of the newspapers consolidated to form The News-Review, had a humor column known as "Prune Pickin'." The column was written by Bert Bates, son of the editor and publisher, B. W. (Bill) Bates. Bert today operates an advertising and public relations business in Bakersfield, Calif.

"Prune Pickin'," the nickname Bert enjoyed in those days, had a great time writing about Roseburg's one policeman and making a play on his name, Ike Ketch, to "I. Ketch."

Ketch, serving as the sole city marshal, was on call 24 hours per day. One never knew when he would be on duty. Of course, in those days, there was little work of a criminal nature demanding the time of a peace officer.

Had Tough Name

Later the police force was increased to two men — strong arm characters — and Roseburg got a name of being a tough place for transients.

Times were hard. A good many men were "riding the rods." Roseburg, being a railroad terminal, received a major share of transients. The hobo jungles were well populated. Petty thievery was growing.

Roseburg's two-man police force handled the "traveling public" in a rather rough manner. Some citizens of the city were quite critical because of the occasional complaints from a transient who claimed he had been "worked over" by one or both of the policemen. But "jungle" population decreased and the petty thievery incidence dropped off. Roseburg was known as a place to be avoided by "gentlemen of the road."

The advent of the automobile, construction of highways, and other factors forced substantial increases in the police department personnel.

The report concerning the last year's work reports 125,000 miles of travel, and investigation of 325 traffic accidents.

Then there's the statement dealing with the city's fire department.

Growth Reported

The report says that the department last year answered 192 alarms and that the value of property exposed amounted to nearly \$10.5-million.

It doesn't require too much memory to recall when \$10-million was the assessed valuation of the whole county.

In one of our historical editions we published a picture of a Roseburg Fire Department team which won the Southern Oregon speed contest.

In those days hose was wound on a two-wheeled reel, pulled by hand.

Fire departments were strictly volunteer organizations. Hose reels were centered in each of the city's four wards. The alarm was sounded by all the railroad locomotives steamed up in the S.P. yards. Later the city installed a siren at the roundhouse.

When the alarm sounded these volunteers sped to the hose cart and raced to the scene of the fire, pulling the cart. If a team from a neighboring ward beat a home crew to the fire, that was a grand occasion—one to be celebrated at the nearest saloon as soon as the fire was extinguished.

Later the city contracted with local teamsters to pull a reel behind horse-drawn drays from the City Hall. There were two draymen in the city at that time and it was quite a sight to see these outfits speeding to see which could get to the City Hall first to pick up the cart and the \$10 the city paid.

Finally the city bought a fire truck—a truck with hard rubber tires. One "engineman" served as driver and fire chief.

Today the city has 20 full-time firemen and an equal number of volunteers. Apparatus includes a car for the fire chief, two pickups, a salvage truck, four pumpers and the latest acquisition, an 85-foot Snorkel, one rescue boat and a crash truck.

Some difference from the "Good Ol' Days!"

DEAR ABBY

Abigail Van Buren

Then It's Usually Too Late

DEAR ABBY: I strenuously disagree with your advice to NO CHOPIN. There is no better way to kill a child's interest in music than to force him to take lessons and practice when he would rather be doing something else. As a boy I had considerable talent and might have made music my career, except for the seven years I was forced to take lessons. This prevented me from ever becoming a decent pianist. I think "No Chopin" should be allowed to forget the piano until he has a natural desire to take it up.

MIGHT-HAVE-BEEN CHOPIN

DEAR MIGHT: The best years for learning are the youthful years. And if children are permitted to put off the study of math, science, history, grammar, religion AND music until they have a "natural desire" to learn, many would never learn. I would like to know how a child with musical talent can develop it without instruction and practice. And so would millions of parents.

DEAR ABBY: We have a problem with our women's bowling league. We want to know how long a woman, who is pregnant, should be allowed to stay on the team. We want to set down a rule, but find it very difficult. Can you, or any experienced lady bowlers help us?

LADY BOWLERS

DEAR BOWLERS: The very thought of a pregnant woman bowling makes my back ache. Why must you have a rule? Let each pregnant bowler bow as long as her doctor allows her to.

DEAR ABBY: Congratulations on your opinion of the athlete who cried when he lost. You said, "There are no good losers. Just good actors."

Having participated in, coached and watched athletic competition for almost 20 years, I can back you up. The old cliché, "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, but how you played the game," makes about as much sense as the doctor saying, "It doesn't matter if you live or die, but how I perform the operation."

Very truly yours, BERKELEY

DEAR ABBY: I enjoyed the discussion pro and con in your column about double beds and twin beds. My husband kept complaining that I was too fat and I crowded him in our big double bed. So he went out and bought twin beds. Now he sleeps with me in MY twin bed because he gets "lonesome."

REALLY CROWDED

James Marlow

Laos People Indifferent About Who Wins Struggle

WASHINGTON (AP)—Laos is a symbol of America's dilemma in trying to get right-wing leaders in impoverished countries to give them the people some tangible reason for preferring the West to Communism.

In Southeast Asia's landlocked Laos about 80 per cent of the 2 to 3 million people, mostly farmers, are illiterate. Life expectancy is about 40 years. They have a pathetically low standard of living.

Stories out of Laos repeatedly tell two things about the people: They're gentle and also indifferent about who wins the struggle. Pathetic forces of Prince Souphanouvong and the pro-Western U.S.-backed forces of Prince Boun Oum.

There is also a middle, neutralist group led by Prince Souvanna Phouma.

It's no wonder the masses are indifferent. Being mostly illiterate, and never exposed to democracy or communism, they can know little about either.

To the West, communism may be an abomination. It can have no such meaning to the poverty-stricken Laotians, particularly if it promises a life better than the one they have, particularly since now they can expect to die young.

In short, there is a vast gulf between prince and peasant, between rich and poor. It is against this background that President Kennedy has to do business.

Getting American forces directly involved in Laos is undoubtedly the last thing he wants. It would be watched country for war. Yet, in Communist hands Laos would have vital strategic value.

It borders on Red China, Viet Nam, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand. It's like a dagger, and in Communist hands would be, in the stomach of Southeast Asia an area that the United States is anxious to preserve from communism.

Kennedy is sending American forces into friendly, neighboring Thailand. The Communists can take this as a warning the Americans will move into Laos against them if they don't stop pushing there.

But, even though he had no place to go but out if he didn't join the coalition, he wouldn't budge. To try to budge him, the United States shut off economic help to him. He still stood pat.

Finally the pro-Communist Pathet-Lao struck again, breaking the truce brought about by Kennedy and Khrushchev.

If there is a coalition government eventually, and if then the Communists take over gradually, it will be an embarrassment for the United States.

But it wouldn't be quite as bad as if the United States just washed its hands of Laos altogether under Communist military pressure. The other pro-Western nations in Southeast Asia wouldn't then have much hope, either.

But Kennedy ran into a rock in Prince Boun Oum, who would not join the coalition unless he could control the army and police in the new government. The others wouldn't go for it.

Boun Oum is said to fear that if there is a coalition government it will mean in the end complete victory for the Communists through gradual takeover of the whole government.

He's probably right. But it's certain the Communists will take over by direct force if he doesn't join the coalition—he can't stop them—unless the United States go in to help him.

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Opinions From Readers

Fire Marshal Reports On Riddle Accident

To The Editor: A recent tragic accident at Riddle emphasizes one of the many things we, as trained firemen, endeavor to convey to the public.

Mr. Hans Peterson was accidentally killed while seeking to help firemen. While we appreciate aid, we know that firemen are trained in their duties, many of which are dangerous, and people who give assistance with the best of intentions often endanger themselves or others. Assistance should be given only when requested by an authorized person.

Because of the tragic affair at Riddle, I requested a thorough investigation by Robert W. Waters, deputy state fire marshal.

Mr. Waters has reported to me the results of his investigation. His report is as follows:

"Following an urgent telephone call from Fire Chief Kenneth Bond, City of Riddle, and Chief Cliff Thrasher, county fire defense chief, verbally requesting aid of this deputy to determine details concerning the accidental death of Mr. Hans Peterson, on May 12, 1962, this writer proceeded to Riddle and began this report on May 14, 1962.

"Mr. Hans Peterson, age 35, sustained fatal injuries during his attempt to move a 2½ inch fire hose at the fire scene. His help was not requested by any fireman and as this report will show Mr. Peterson had been ordered from the fire area.

"It is indeed a tragic misfortune that so many people have the best intention when attempting to help firemen at the scene of a fire but lacking proper training and knowledge in the technical procedures of fire-fighting create confusion and subject themselves to possible injuries by handling equipment unfamiliar to them.

"On May 12, 1962 at 2:20 P.M., the Riddle Volunteer Fire Department was notified by telephone of a dwelling fire at the corner of Mary and "L" streets. The dwelling was a frame structure, two story, single roof, no basement. The dwelling is owned by Mae and Bud Crow of Roseburg, Oregon. The occupant was Mr. Leo Humington. There was no one at home at the time of the fire. The dwelling was heavily involved by fire at the time of the alarm and was a total loss as a result of the fire. Details covered in this report are recorded as verbally described by the person stating the details. Information in this report was obtained at the City of Riddle Fire Station, May 14, 1962.

"Fire Chief Bond said that Riddle Fire Department, Captain Don Holcomb drove Engine No. 91, a 750 GPM pumper, to the fire scene accompanied by one fireman. Fireman Ray Miller drove the salvage truck to the scene of the fire. As other firemen arrived the rural fire engine and rural tanker were driven to the fire scene. Fire-fighters at the fire scene totaled twelve.

"Captain Holcomb stated that he drove Engine No. 91 to the fire, activated the pump, then went to the rear of the truck to unload 1½ inch and 2½ inch fire hose. It was his intention to lay the 2½ inch hose to a standpipe. The fire hose was found to be in a mess caused by some person wrongfully pulling the fire hose from the hose bed. The fire hose was untangled and 250 feet of 2½ inch fire hose was hand carried and connected to a standpipe at 2nd and "L" St. When the standpipe was turned on there was some water but no pressure.

"The fire hose was abandoned. Captain Holcomb said there were many people getting in his way and moving equipment, he said he told the people to quit trying to help, unless asked to.

"Captain Ivan Puz, Riddle Fire Department, said that when observed there was no water at the 2nd and "L" Street standpipe he directed firemen to disconnect the 2½ inch fire hose and lay the fire hose to a standpipe on Front Street.

"The fire hose was disconnected and the end placed over the rear bumper of the salvage truck in order to move said fire hose to Front Street. Riddle fireman Dan Kennedy proceeded to drive the salvage truck northwesterly on "L" street dragging the 250 feet of 2½ inch fire hose across the black-topped parking lot of Pitt's Golden Eagle Service Station.

"Riddle Chief of Police John Kasten said that prior to moving the salvage truck he cleared "L" street of cars and people. Police Chief Kasten said his night officer

Soper had prior to this time ordered Mr. Hans Peterson from the burning dwelling.

"The time of the alarm was 2:20 P.M. Chief Bond left his place of employment and arriving in Riddle proceeded to the fire. Arriving at approximately 3:30 P.M. and as it happened, witnessed the accident to Mr. Hans Peterson, as he stepped from a pick-up truck at the fire scene. He observed Mr. Peterson inside the loop of the 2½ inch fire hose with his hands holding the fire hose about waist high. Chief Bond said there was no time to call out a warning and then the hose pulled tight striking Mr. Peterson violently to the ground in a backward fall and it appeared that the back of Mr. Peterson's head struck the service station paving. The fire hose drug Mr. Peterson about four feet. Chief Bond summoned a Doctor Jones who accompanied the victim to Forest Glen Hospital at Canyonville, where the victim expired at 6 P.M. May 12, 1962."

This tragedy at Riddle is indeed deeply regretted. We sincerely hope no such similar accident will occur again.

Cliff Thrasher
Douglas County Fire Defense Chief
Roseburg Rural Fire Dept.
278 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, Ore.

Now, let's suppose for the sake of argument, that we set our clock ahead, not one, but four hours. That would bring sunrise at 12:55 a.m., or barely after midnight. And the sun would set at 3:25 in the afternoon. That's a lot of hours change in time, but really, when you figure it out, it still leaves only 14 hours and 31 minutes of possible sunshine. But it would be pretty tough to have to get up at 12:55 in the morning, regardless of what the clock said. We simply don't think we could survive such early rising. So we still vote for standard time, and we can easily set our alarm an hour, or four hours earlier, if we really need to get up in time to see the sun rise.

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