

Editorial Page

4 The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore.—

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1963

Man Is A Dangerous Creature

We all know that fire is one of our best friends. But uncontrolled it can become our dispassionate enemy.

We all know it, so why the continual campaigning by mass communication media. They aren't reporting something we don't know already. A lot of people apparently think the repeated threats and cajolery are just something to fill time and space.

The reason, simply, is that everyone knows it but a lot of people need reminding to keep their guard up. Man is most responsible for allowing the friendly fire to become the rampant enemy.

The proof appears in virtually every day's newspaper with reports from the fire stations. Because someone was careless or let his attention stray from potential fire dangers, blazes broke out. The result was useless waste.

Fire is one of those dangers against which precautions are far more valuable than the cures of rebuilding, redecorating or in some cases hospitalization.

Douglas County residents could have spent a lot of time and money in precautions and come out far ahead last year. The proof is in the state fire marshal's annual report just published for the year 1962.

In its many summaries, it shows that the waste of fire in buildings alone amounted to more than three-quarter of a million dollars — \$790,503. The county had a good fire year in the forests (not included in this summary), but it certainly can't say the same about its manufac-

turing plants, houses, apartments and other dwellings.

Within its 13 local fire protection districts, the total damages amounted to \$325,489. The figure was this low only because the fire protection forces were available and alert. In the unprotected areas of the county, the figure was \$465,014, the second highest in the state, ranking behind only Multnomah County.

The fire marshal said these damages in both protected and unprotected areas were caused by 477 fires.

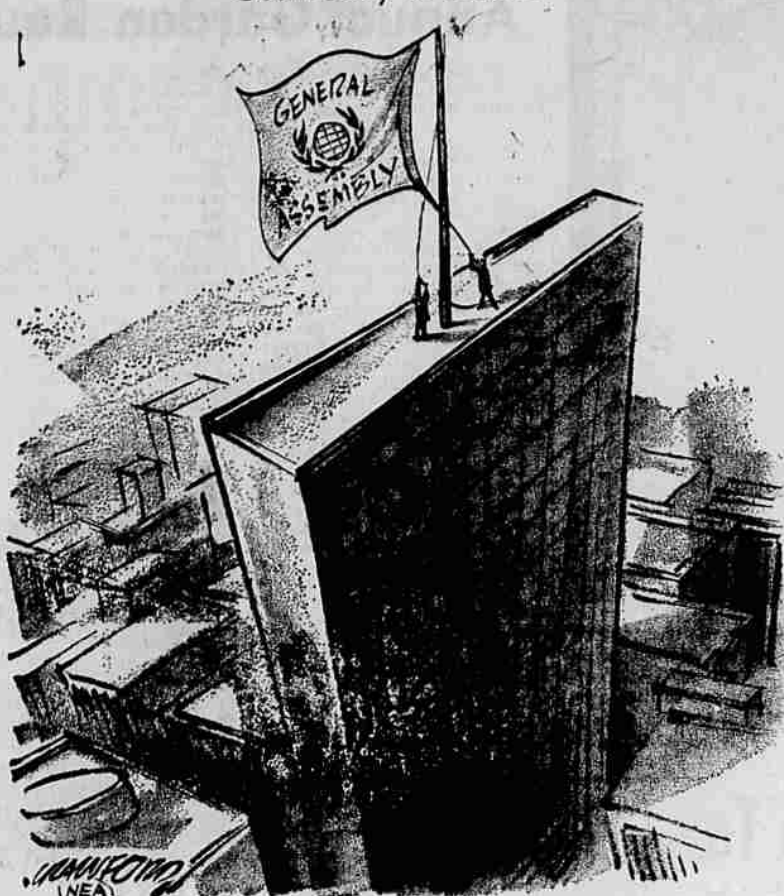
The causes of the specific fires in Douglas County weren't analyzed, but an analysis is given for the state. It shows an amazingly small percentage caused by what might be called "acts of God." Lightning, for example, caused only half a per cent of all building fires. Electricity and defective wiring caused slightly over 10 per cent.

But the greatest single causes were matches and careless smoking. They accounted for almost 22 per cent of all structure fires. Ignition of hot grease, oil, tar or other inflammables accounted for another 18 per cent.

This is proof enough that man's most destructive enemy is himself. He knows fire is dangerous. He knows the insurance money received after a fire is not nearly worth the inconvenience, loss and often heartache caused by his lack of attention.

You ask why the continual harping for caution against fire? It's because man must be constantly warned that he is the most dangerous thing he has around the house. Ask any fireman.

"Get Ready to Duck!"



The Editor's Corner

By Charles V. Stanton

President's 'Non-Political' Trip To West Is Misnamed

President Kennedy reportedly is to visit Oregon later this month. He is to dedicate a low-income apartment house for the aged recently built in Portland, inspect a few federal projects in Oregon and make a "flying trip" over the proposed Oregon Seashore Sand Dunes national park site.

The trip is being called "non-political," but it seems to me that anyone who falls for that hogwash is extremely naive. Just why is it necessary to lie to the American public?

He will be accompanied by Sen. Neuberger, possibly by Rep. Green.

In addition to visiting Oregon, he'll be traveling into several states where the party reportedly is having trouble.

He'll be able to paint a glowing picture to the electorate of the several states. He may tell about how, through personal diplomacy, he succeeded in reaching an agreement on aerial testing of nuclear bombs with Mr. K. How he brought about (at least until after election) the halting of a threatened railroad strike. How he is pushing a program of civil rights. How he is assuring a major tax cut next year. How he is planning to provide medical care for the aged. And on and on — a verbal report on the advance of the New Frontier.

It is proposed that his flight shall take him over the proposed Oregon Dunes area. Some of the residents of the area are trying to get a ground inspection—at least a chance to talk with the President.

Earl Sykes, editor of the Port Umpqua Courier, published at Reedsport, said, in part, in a recent edition:

One of the main points the Interior Department has stressed in wanting to take over the dunes is that the area is undeveloped. We know that state and local agencies, as well as the Forest Service, have spent much money in providing facilities and improving recreational opportunities along our coast. Evidently this fact is embarrassing to proponents of the seashore bill. Otherwise, why was the state and county installation at the Lighthouse and Salmon Harbor not scheduled to be inspected by the Senate Committee?

Now, if President Kennedy flies over the site of the park, with Sen. Neuberger on one side and Secretary Udall on the other, he is going to get the impression that there hasn't been much development of the region. You can't see campgrounds from the air, only dunes and lakes and the ocean. It's a cinch that Ray Doerner (county commissioner) won't be along to explain that local money, county and Port of Umpqua tax money, has been spent on Salmon Harbor. Who will tell the President that zoning is taking place, that Honeyman Park and the Lighthouse are state parks of excellent quality and are heavily patronized?

Editor Sykes closes his comment with the statement, "As an inspection trip of the recreational facilities of the area, this proposed trip to President Kennedy over the dunes by air is ridiculous."

The word "ridiculous," it seems to me, doesn't apply exclusively to the President's proposed flying inspection of the proposed site for a national park along the Oregon seashore. The whole thing, I believe, is "ridiculous," if we're to accept the propaganda that it is "non-political."

I question that the President, apparently concerned with most serious problems of state, would take time off to dedicate a bit of public housing, take a look at the Tongue Point property, concerning which Sen. Morse has been quite vehement, fly over Sen. Neuberger's pet project, all with an innocent regard to political aspects.

I suppose this practice of spending huge sums of public money to make "inspection" trips around the country and thus extol the virtues of the administration and its program, is of long standing and common to both major parties.

Nonetheless one doesn't have to like it.

Bruce Bioassat -- Bungling Art Widespread

Worried about how the big boys are conducting the nation's and the world's affairs? Well, let's have a little look at how things are going down in the Department of Small Affairs.

A friend who was going on vacation made the usual arrangements about stopping his newspapers and having his mail shifted to the holiday spot.

One newspaper was cut off two days before the date he requested. The other was continued for two or three days after he left town.

When he got to his vacation hide-out, he found that his first-class mail was being forwarded as he had asked. But so were his magazines, which he had asked the post office to hold until his return.

They, of course, all arrived "postage due." If he declined to pay the charge, they were simply tossed away, not sent back where they should have been held in the first place.

Then the man's wife had to go home early. She quickly requested resumption there of first-class deliveries. For the next 10 days, half such mail came to their home and the rest to the vacation place.

Now there is this other matter. A business outfit which is moving its quarters from one building to another was started one Monday morning to discover its telephone service had been prematurely cut off.

For four hours the firm was severed from the outside world. But the telephone company mustered its resources and was equal to the occasion. One of its eager agents stepped into the breach:

"I'll report your trouble. Can you be reached by phone, sir?"

Should you imagine these are isolated samples, ask around. And, by the way, have you tried to change address on any of your magazine subscriptions lately? That'll keep you busy for a couple of months.

So, now, what's all this about the big fellows bungling the Cold War?

'Rocky' Whacking Away At Kennedy

GLENN FALLS, N.Y. (UPI)—Cov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, speaking to a crowd in a campaign spirit, charged this week that the Kennedy administration had weakened the Western alliance through unilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Rockefeller, who has promised to announce by the end of the year if he will seek the 1964 Republican presidential nomination, also renewed his attack on President Kennedy's fiscal policies.

The governor said that in the Eisenhower administration the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles made sure that the United States' position represented that of its allies before engaging in talks with Russia.

"Now we are negotiating and signing treaties," he said. "They are asking our allies afterwards, without consultation, and publicly shaming them into a position that if they don't sign the whole world is looking at them and turning against them."

Portugal Resents Stand On Angola



By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

LISBON, Portugal — In Portugal's marbled parliament building—which began as an 18th Century convent — a high government official sighed with regret.

"Differences between governments are always unfortunate," he said. "But when they come between friends they are especially painful."

For in Portugal there is both a regret and a deep resentment over what the Portuguese regard as United States' abandonment of a friend and ally in NATO and a misunderstanding of Portugal's determination to retain its overseas territories in Africa.

Portugal, traditionally aloof from European commitments, joined NATO in 1949 and announced it did so only because of U.S. participation.

In 1961, Portugal signed a common defense pact with the United States and gave the U.S. free use of an airfield on Santa Maria Island in the Azores.

Also in 1961, because of her own economic recovery, Portugal refused further U.S. Marshall Plan aid and has gone on her own ever since.

It came as a shock then in 1962 when the United States joined the Afro-Asian countries in demanding that Portugal give up her grip on Angola, her largest and most prosperous province in Africa.

Refuses Marshall Plan

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The Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Thursday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 1963 with 103 to follow.

The moon is approaching first quarter.

The morning star is Jupiter. The evening stars are Jupiter, Saturn and Mars.

On this day in history: In 1777, American soldiers won the first battle of Saratoga, N.Y., in the Revolutionary War.

In 1863, Union and Confederate soldiers met in the battle of Chickamauga, Ga. The rebels won the following day.

In 1881, President James Garfield died in Elberon, N.J., from wounds inflicted by a disgruntled office-seeker on July 2.

In 1960, Soviet Premier Khrushchev received a cold reception when he arrived in the United States to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

A thought for the day — President James Garfield said: "This nation is too great to look for mere revenge. But for the security of the future I would do everything."

FARM BUREAU TO MEET

The North Douglas Farm Bureau will meet at the Yoncalla Elementary School cafeteria on Monday at 7:30 p.m. for a potluck supper and business meeting.

Those attending are to bring their own table service.

WASHINGTON WINDOW

Control Seems To Be Lost By U.S. In South Viet Nam

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press International

The word from Saigon is that President Kennedy has lost control of both U.S. policy and personnel in South Viet Nam and that he has ordered Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to help him regain control.

This is discouraging word. It came over the weekend in dispatches from Saigon. These dispatches evidently were based on a closed-door briefing of U.S. correspondents in Saigon, including UPI's Neil Sheehan and the New York Times' David Halberstam.

Both Sheehan and Halberstam attributed their statements about the South Viet Nam situation to informed sources. The evidence indicates that the informed source probably was Ambassador Lodge or someone speaking for him.

Both correspondents reported a state of policy chaos among Americans in Saigon. The United States has become a five-headed monster in Viet Nam. Nobody knows who's keeping score.

Five Agencies Feud

The five policy agencies, apparently now engaged mostly in fighting each other or among themselves, are the:

—U.S. embassy.

—Military Assistance Command.

—Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

—Agency for International Development (AID).

—United States Information Agency.

These agencies are disputing whether the United States should continue to support the incredible Ngo Dinh Diem family administration of Viet Nam. Underlying this row is serious disagreement between military and civilian officials over whether the war is going well in Viet Nam or so

badly that the Communists are likely to win the end. The military claims the war has been going well. The optimistic reports of the military from Saigon largely have determined Kennedy administration policy.

Now the civilians are faulting the military reports as phoney optimism. This has enraged some of the generals. Sheehan reported that one of the military brass was so angry with one of the civilian officials that the general was overheard to say: "I'll get that S.O.B. it is the last thing I do."

Reports To President

The weekend dispatches said Lodge had been ordered to report to President Kennedy the true situation in Viet Nam. That report is coming up or may already have been received. Meantime, the five-headed monster representing U.S. policy in Viet Nam remains on the job, a symbol of a spectacular frustration in President Kennedy's administration of foreign policy.

U.S. foreign policy has been blotted with such spectacular administrative debacles many times before this. Some of them led to loss of China to the Reds; misplays at Yalta; division of Germany by Communists; U.S. aid to Castro in taking over Cuba.

These were costly. A Communist triumph in Viet Nam and extending through Southeast Asia could be even more so. How could it be then that the supposedly experienced and able Americans assigned in Viet Nam to the various U.S. agencies came in time to act like a clutch of pouty teenagers.

And how long will that continue? And what were the State and Defense Departments doing when U.S. actions in Viet Nam began to become self-defeating?

rica, and permit self-determination.

Portuguese officials freely admit that Portugal's current refusal to sign a new agreement on the Azores base springs from U.S. and Portuguese differences over Africa.

And Portuguese-U.S. relations plunged to a new low in August when Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar accused both the United States and Russia of pressing African liberation for their own individual advantage in control of African markets.

Blasts Colonial Policies

In the United Nations, Salazar charged, self-determination had become synonymous with independence regardless of a people's ability to rule themselves.

And in Lisbon there is a conviction that if independence were to come now to Angola, it would fly into tribal pieces with the whole rich area up for grabs.

The winds of change blow slowly over Portugal and change also has been slow to come to its overseas provinces in Africa.

It is a source of pride to Portugal that on the bloody "night of the long knives" on March 15, 1961, black African troops turned back the first wave of terrorism that saw the butchering of Europeans in settlements of northern Angola near the border with the Congo.

It was the start of the Angolan revolt which focused world attention on Portuguese overseas territories.

For the sake of the Portuguese position it is unfortunate that im-

portant reforms giving the Africans equality with European workers and a greater voice in their own affairs have come only after the "night of the long knives."

But the Portuguese not only are determined, they are confident.

There are hints that forthcoming months may see a referendum to prove that Africans in the overseas territories prefer to remain Portuguese. Meanwhile, both for the Afro-Asians and the United States, it is hands off Portuguese Africa.

Meeting Slated Tonight For Scout Unit Leaders

A Boy Scout "Round Table" meeting for all unit leaders in the Douglas Fire District will be held at 7:30 tonight at the Riverside School. The Douglas Fire District extends from the Yoncalla area south, to and including Riddle.

According to Jim Fowler, spokesman for the district, all Boy Scout and Cub Scout leaders and Cub Scout Den mothers are urged to attend this special meeting.

Annual Recorders Night Set By Women Of Moose

The annual Star Recorders Night of the Women of the Moose will be held Monday at 8 p.m. at the Moose Hall. Proceeds will go to Moosehart for scholarship purposes.

-In The Day's News-

By FRANK JENKINS

The news today?

Well, here's a sample:

Pittsburgh (Pa.) teachers say a Pittsburgh boy can read 10,000 words a minute when he is just skimming along at average speed. He has been clocked at 30,000 words on several occasions, and once he hit 40,000 words per minute.

His name is Bill Carmack. His age is 17. He attends Pittsburgh's South Hills High School. The other day, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette quoted his school principal as saying: "He's just one of those people who can GLANCE at a page and tell you what's on it."

Question:

Can he remember what he reads?

The Post-Gazette says: "Last week Bill demonstrated his reading ability for a reporter. He was handed a magazine story about Alexander the Great. He started reading. The reporter had just barely opened his notebook to record the time when the test began when the boy said: 'I've finished.'"

Fifteen seconds had elapsed. The article was 1500 words long. Bill then correctly summarized Alexander's military strategy and even gave two dates correctly."

Let's put it this way: An average week-day issue of this newspaper contains somewhere in the general neighborhood of 100,000 words of reading matter.

Which is to say: If young Bill Carmack picked up an average issue of the News-Review on some evening when he was going good he would read and digest the whole reading matter

content of it in approximately two and a half minutes!

Suppose you were a newspaper editor. Or a newspaper reporter. And suppose further that you had worked the whole live-long day digging up the news and putting it together. And suppose that EVERYBODY could read as fast as Bill Carmack can when he lets out a few nothings.

How would you feel when you sat back at quitting time and reflected that what you had worked all day to produce would occupy your customers only about two and a half MINUTES.

You'd feel a bit LET DOWN, wouldn't you?

Bill Carmack isn't alone. The Chronicle told the other day about a California whiz kid who reads "Gone with the Wind" in less than two hours and gobbles up average length novels while he's waiting for his bus.

Well, he's MISSING a lot — including the savoring of good writing.

Imagine reading Dickens' "Oliver Twist," or Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe," or Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" in a casual five minutes or so!

And take the case of Bill Carmack. Suppose he read fairly constantly, and finished every book in five minutes, or such a matter. The first thing he knew, he would have read all the books in all the libraries and then he would be in the sad fix of Alexander the Great when he conquered the known world and had nothing left to do but sit around and sigh for more worlds to conquer.

This speed reading isn't everything it's cracked up to be.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Symphony Hails Furniture Firm

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — I was cheered by the announcement that one of the new works to be performed by the National Symphony Orchestra this fall was commissioned by a furniture company.

The piece is a concerto by Robert Evelt, who was commissioned by Basic-Witz Furniture Industries of Waynesboro, Va., to write a symphonic composition commemorating the firm's 75th anniversary.

As Howard Mitchell, conductor of the orchestra, pointed out, the

contribution of business firms to the library of symphonic music has up to this point been rather meager.

There have been compositions commemorating such things as Napoleon's retreat from Moscow and rainbows over the Grand Canyon.

But as far as could be said, Basic-Witz is the first furniture company to have itself glorified by a concerto.

Hopes For A Trend

"This marks a new departure for a business firm, which we hope will start a trend," Mitchell commented.

I certainly subscribe to that sentiment, although I was a bit disappointed by Evelt's choice of a title. He calls his composition "Anniversary Concerto, 75."

I should think something like "The Bedroom Suite" would have been more appropriate.

It would be interesting to see how Evelt would interpret symbolically the squeak of a chair-fitter with a drawer that sticks.

Nevertheless, the commissioning of the concerto was an encouraging development and, being a forward looking chap, I have been doing some projecting of the trend that Mitchell mentioned.

I foresee a time when all major U.S. business firms will have their own resident composers.

Composer's Career

A typical composer's career in the future will include five years in the Juilliard School of Music and 15 years at the McCormick-Deering Tractor Co.

General Motors will retain a team of composers who will produce assembly line symphonies, one scoring the sharps, another adding the flats, etc.

Staff composers in the construction industry will create such things as "Fugue For Flute, Hardscap and Riveting Machine."

Composers in plumbing supply will give us "The Leaking Faucet Overture," featuring three trombones and a sump pump.

It all adds up to an exciting prospect, musically speaking. I'm just sorry that Beethoven couldn't have lived to see it.

OSU To Test Foods For Fallout Shelter

CORVALLIS (UPI) — Oregon State University announced Wednesday it will soon begin a five-year program to test foods for use in fallout shelters.

The school received an \$88,000 grant last year to study storage of a dried whole wheat wafer that had been developed as a survival ration. A \$32,900 federal grant was added recently to allow the school to study 12 foods that might make the wafer taste better.

They include raspberry jelly, a strawberry spread, cream of chicken soup, beef soup, oriental sauce, curry sauce, paprika gravy, chili sauce, apple topping, butterscotch topping, chocolate pudding and wild cherry frosting.

The foods will be stored at various temperatures for five years, with panels of students tasting them every six months and registering their likes and dislikes.

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