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ABE MARTIN



The criminal news in the papers is too high soundin'. Instead of sayin', "A darin' bandit held up the Acme fillin' station single-handed in broad daylight, backed the attendant in a closet, scooped up a large sum of money an' escaped," it should say, "A cowardly bum sneaked up on the unarmed boy attendant of the Acme fillin' station, backed him in a closet at the point of a gun, grabbed \$11, an' escaped." I don't look fer any serious international complications so long as we've got wet embassies.

LEVEL OF FARM PRICES DECLINES

Period Between March 15 and April 15 Witnesses Two-Point Drop

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP)—Department of agriculture figures show that the general level of farm prices from March 15 to April 15 declined two points from 133 per cent of the pre-war level.

The decline was the result of a general decline in farm prices of all crops, livestock products, eggs, and wool, which was only partly offset by increases in the price of hogs, beef cattle, sheep, lambs, horses and chickens.

The department also announced that farm work had been delayed by bad weather in northern areas, that there had been an early season in the south and the general outlook on the livestock situation was favorable.

The spring program in the northern areas was slowed up considerably by bad weather but resulted, the department said, in a good supply of moisture in the soil, particularly in the western wheat belt.

Cotton planting in the south has been completed in the northern section, and plants in the southern portions are making rapid progress under favorable conditions.

The department found fruits have had a bad start. The April frosts having cut to one fourth and one half the California peaches, cherries, plums, prunes, almonds and pears. Local damage from frost also was suffered in the eastern sections.

She Names Mom'n Pop's Cat



Submitting the name "Ooglesnops," Mrs. E. A. Weisner, above, of Pittsburgh won the \$25 prize in the contest to give a name to the pet cat of the Mom'n Pop comic strip by Wood Cowan. Mrs. Weisner also has christened her doll, "Ooglesnops."

EAST RAILROADS IN BIG BATTLE

Millions of Dollars Are Involved in Struggle for Control of Lines

NEW YORK, May 1 (AP)—The New York Times said today that a battle of millions for control of strategic railroads in the east, comparable to that waged between the Pennsylvania and the Gould interests in the early part of the century, had been started between the Pennsylvania railroad on the one side and the Baltimore and Ohio and the Chesapeake and Ohio on the other.

The Times said it is understood the Pennsylvania had sought to win the support of the New York Central by offering control of the Lehigh Valley in return that the Central refuse to the B. & O. full control of the Reading and the Central of New Jersey, both of which the B. & O. desires. The paper said the Pennsylvania's new plans are interpreted as indicating it has relinquished hope of active support from the Central.

In 1904 George Gould, an successor to the railroad dynasty founded by his father, Jay Gould, began assembling a transcontinental railroad. The battle with the Pennsylvania started when the Gould interests bought the Pittsburgh & West Virginia and extended it to Pittsburg. Only a short gap between that road and the Western Maryland, also acquired by the Goulds, remained to complete the transcontinental system. Recently the Pittsburgh & West Virginia received permission from the interstate commission to bridge this

The Last Word

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Nothing will retard a community's progress quite so much as petty jealousies and competitive animosities that prevent co-operation for a common good.

Our collective opinion about the Hefflin family proves correct. The Alabama senator's son, arriving in New York drunk and ending up in a police station, seems to have inherited his father's capacity for making a complete ass of himself at every opportunity.

Another month and the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show at Union will be the center of attraction. Everything indicates the greatest show in the history of this territory—livestock of a quality that will be worth going many miles to see. The program will be high class and the show should draw record crowds.

Comments on Saturday's automobile parade have been extremely favorable, not only by spectators who found much of interest in the new cars, but by business men who report benefit from the large crowd attracted to the business district. People all over the LaGrande territory enjoy a community event of that kind, unpretentious as it may be, and would welcome more frequent efforts in that direction. Contests, special sales efforts, parades and co-operative merchandise exhibitions could all be engaged in to the mutual benefit of community buyers and community business firms. It is a public co-operation but the united effort is well worth the while.

WHERE OUR TAX DOLLAR GOES

Citizens who concern themselves with problems of taxation find much information in the last issue of the Oregon Voice wherein tax compilations are made for all Oregon counties and cities. That portion pertinent to LaGrande and Union and Wallowa counties is being reproduced in The Observer.

On a comparative basis the LaGrande taxpayer seems to be getting his money's worth in city and county government, and in schools—and these items take in more than three fourths of the total cost. LaGrande schools cost \$141,896, while in Salem, a city more than twice as large, the cost for schools is \$336,421 and in Medford, slightly larger than LaGrande, the school bill is \$211,376. Only percentages of the tax dollars are shown for Pendleton and Baker, both being higher though the total is less.

In the matter of city government a comparison is interesting. LaGrande, paying for a new water system, sewage disposal plant and other matters of general improvement voted by the people in the last five years, pays \$119,885 for municipal purposes, and Oregon Voter figures show, while Salem pays \$68,171 or nearly three times as much. Portland, a city thirty times as large, pays nearly fifty times as much for city government with a municipal tax bill of \$5,512,179. Medford's city government costs \$139,243. Baker pays \$97,989 and Pendleton \$90,633, both cities being slightly smaller than LaGrande.

Comparison of county general taxes is favorable for the LaGrande taxpayers who contribute \$16,052 to county government costs while Salem pays \$49,842 and Medford \$36,069. In a LaGrande property owner's tax bill is \$100, only \$4.62 of it goes for county general purposes while in Pendleton the county gets \$5.35 and Baker \$5.11.

Considered from every angle, LaGrande's tax bill for school, city, county, state, and other special purposes is below the average of other cities of similar size and facilities. Taking into account its equipment with reference to future growth, its position is most favorable. Especially significant is the relatively small portion of our total tax bill that goes for state purposes. Outside of roads we pay only 4.55% for general state revenue and higher education. Local schools and local government take 75.32%—yet they do not receive proportionate public attention.

BEFORE MIDNIGHT

THURSDAY PROGRAMS
The National Broadcasting company program for Thursday night follows: 7:30, symphony hour; 8:30, Memory Lane; 10 to 12, dance music.

The American Broadcasting company program for Thursday night follows: 7, artistic ensemble; 8, humorous sketches; 8:30, male quartet; 9, opera company; 10, "Nite Club" skit; 10:30, piano duo, sax sextet; 11 to 12, Vic Meyers orchestra.

Portland
KGW (620kc) 7:30, NBC; 9:30, features; 11, news summary; 11:15, dance band.

KEX (1180kc) 7, silent hour; 8, ABC; 8:30, Catholic lecture; 8:45, ABC; 11, news, weather; 11:05, ABC.

KOIN (940kc) 7, hotel orchestra; 7:30, features; 9:30, Olson hour; 10:30 to 12, dance frolic.

Denver
KOA (830kc) 7, serenaders; 7:30, Colorado Agricultural college; 8, U. S. Engineers band; 8:30, news bulletin.

Spokane
KHQ (590kc) 7:30, NBC; 8:30, old favorites; 9:50, Amos and Andy; 10 to 11, KOMO band program.

Los Angeles
KFI (640kc) 7:30, NBC; 8:30, musical program; 9:30, concert orchestra; 10, NBC.

KNX (1050kc) 7, Correll's orchestra; 7:30, features; 9, Luboviski trio; 10 to 12, Gus Arnheim's orchestra; 12 to 1, dance hour.

San Francisco
KFRQ (610kc) 7, features; 9, surprise program; 10, Amos and Andy; 10:10, Val Valente's orchestra; 11:10, Annon Weeks' orchestra.

KPO (680kc) 7, concert orchestra; 8, features; 9, Nathan Asch, violinist; 9:30, Tony and Bob; 10 to 12, Trocaderoans, NBC.

Seattle
KOMO (920kc) 7:30, NBC; 8:30, old-time band; 9:30, novelty trio; 10, brass band; 11, news; 11:15, music and Helen McCall, blues singer; 12:15 to 12:30, tenor and pianist.

KJR (970kc) 7 to 12, ABC program.

Oakland
KLX (880kc) 7, news; 7:30, Edna Fisher, pianist; 8, features; 9:30 to 10:30, KLX Hawaiians.

KGO (790kc) 7:30, NBC; 9:30, mystery serial "The Unseen Hand"; 10 to 12, Trocaderoans, NBC.

Salt Lake City
KSL (1130kc) 1, studio program; 7:30, male quartet and instrumental trio; 8:30, tubercular organ and choir; 10, Claude Kiff's orchestra.

Farm Situation Casts Shadow In Twelfth District

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1—Unfavorable developments in the agricultural situation during March and early April cast a shadow over the progress made in other fields of activity in the twelfth federal reserve district during that period.

Severe frosts in northern and central California seriously damaged important fruit crops in that area, and lack of seasonal rainfall in many parts of the district has adversely affected farm crops and livestock ranges. Difficulty in marketing the district's wool clip at prices acceptable to producers has also become an agricultural problem of first importance.

Industry and trade expanded seasonally during March, and continued at the relatively high levels established during the closing months of 1928, and the first four months of 1929.

Industrial production was larger during both March and the first quarter of 1929 than during the similar periods in 1928. Although production of petroleum decreased during the month, daily average output was substantially above the average of recent years. Mine production of copper declined slightly during March, but mines of the district were still operating on heavy production schedules. Following a period of winter curtailment the lumber industry resumed active operation, and output was larger than in any previous March.

Trade activity during the month was moderately above the levels of a year ago. Exports to foreign countries, domestic interstate shipments through the Panama Canal, and sales of new automobiles were substantially larger than last year, while general trade at retail and at wholesale showed only small changes over the year period.

Prices reached a peak for the first three or four months of 1929 during the early part of March, and the general price level has receded gradually since that time. An outstanding feature of the individual commodity price situation was the decline in quotations for refined copper from a high of 24c

per pound in late March to 18c per pound on Apr. 16.

Commercial loans of reporting member banks of the district increased during March, but their security loans and their investments were reduced by a larger amount with a resulting decline in their total loans and investments. The federal reserve bank of San Francisco reduced its holdings of purchased bills and securities during the six weeks ending Apr. 17, while discounts for member banks showed little net change for the period. The amount of Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding at mid-April was smaller than in the previous two months.

One Tennessee county prohibits married men teaching in the public schools. There is plenty of the husband to do at home.

EX-BASEBALL MANAGER 'KILLED'
SAN FRANCISCO, May 1 (AP)—"Denny" Linn, former manager of the San Francisco baseball club, was killed last night when he fell beneath the wheels of a Northwestern Pacific train at Sausalito.

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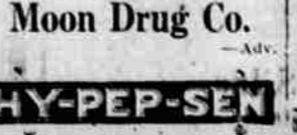
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