



INSPECTING BARLEY — Vance Pumphrey, right, agronomist at the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station, Union, and Bill Raymer, plant pathologist, Oregon State College Extension specialist, examine barley for disease that may affect this year's crop. Raymer and Pumphrey made an extensive study of all crops in the county and found most crops in excellent condition.

Employment Upswing Noted In This Area

Employment is gaining in this area, particularly in the logging and timber industries according to the May report of the La Grande office of the State Employment Service.

Ernest O. Burrows, manager of the local office, said that the recall of workers in logging, lumbering, construction and transportation that began in April continued through May. There were some new hires in retail trade and service. Increased demand for agricultural workers was confined largely to workers experienced in the operation of mechanized farm

equipment, Burrows reported. Burrows, in his monthly report, took note of the authorization to sell \$416,000 school bonds for the construction of a new Greenwood school and modernization of Riveria; the authorization of \$155,000 of construction by Eastern Oregon College; and \$900,000 added paving construction on Highway 30. Burrows reported La Grande building permits at \$92,351 in May compared to \$95,980 in April and \$17,335 in May 1958.

Estimated unemployment by the end of May was 530 compared to 780 a month ago and 720 a year ago.

The demand for both experienced and inexperienced workers is expected to increase during June. A survey of the smaller sawmills in Union county disclosed that operators do not plan to operate night shifts this summer, Burrows said.

Year In Prison For His Failure To Salute Officer

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI) — An Army court martial board sentenced a recruit who refused to salute officers to one year in prison at hard labor yesterday.

The recruit is Lou A. Lennear, 20, of Oakland, Calif., a member of the Jehovah Witnesses religious sect. He claimed his religion forbade saluting.

The court martial board also decreed that Lennear will forfeit all pay and allowances and receive a bad conduct discharge at the end of his imprisonment.

Lennear was found guilty of failing to salute Capt. Henry H. Gaskins last March 12. The next day, as Lennear went to explain why he didn't salute, he failed to salute Gaskins a second time and was sent to the stockade at Fort Sam Houston.

Lennear enlisted in the Army Nov. 25.

Douglas Hails First Air Force Academy Grads

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (UPI) — Air Force Secretary James H. Douglas hailed the first graduating class of the new Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs as a future bulwark against the spread of Communism.

He said the graduates were being commissioned in an Air Force which spans the Free World and has a "major role in holding the Communist world in check." "As the first graduates of the academy," he said in a commencement address, they "may play a critical role in keeping the history of the western world a history of free men."

Four years of intensive training and study ended for 207 young men who were part of the 306-man class that entered the interim academy at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver July 11, 1955. The academy was moved to this still incomplete 17,900-acre campus in the foothills north of Colorado Springs last summer.

At Annapolis, 797 midshipmen graduate.

Red China Is Busy Stirring Up Trouble In The Kingdom Of Laos

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Staff Writer

Red China, having swallowed up Tibet, now is busily trying to stir up trouble in the tiny Southeast Asia kingdom of Laos into which the United States pours about 35 to 50 million dollars aid money annually.

The present Communist tactic is to charge a conspiracy under way among Laos and her neighbors, Thailand and South Viet Nam, to form a military alliance tied to NATO's Southeast Asia counter-part, SEATO.

This alliance, says Red China's official newspaper, the Peiping People's Daily, "would act as an accomplice and a willing pawn of the United States aggressors."

Laos, landlocked "kingdom of the elephants," is just a pinpoint on the map geographically, economically and in population.

It is another of the small nations to which the United States has contributed heavily in the years since World War II, and which, in turn, have, if nothing else, contributed heavily to the average U.S. citizen's awareness, if not knowledge, of world politics.

Common Frontier

Laos' misfortune is its strategic importance in the world struggle between the free nations and international Communism.

Its borders touch Red China, Burma, North and South Viet Nam, Thailand and Cambodia.

Of special interest to the Communists is the fact that Laos has a 620-mile common frontier with North Viet Nam and Red China.

Heightening this interest is the added fact that pro-Western Premier Phoui Sananikone is rooting out leftist influences in the kingdom and is turning more and more to the West.

Hanoi, capital of Communist North Viet Nam, and Peiping fear the next step may be to permit the U.S. to establish bases on Laotian soil.

Laos is a tropical country, with few roads, scarcely any industry and with a population that only can be estimated since there never has been a real census. It is believed to be about two million.

Control Centers On Brothers

U.S. interest in the country goes back to the French defeat in Indo-China and the fear that the weak, newly independent nation would almost fall automatically to the Communists without strong support.

Prior to Sananikone's assumption of office last August and his take-over of special powers in

January, the struggle for the control of Laos had centered on two half brothers.

The brothers represented an irony of Laotian politics. On the one side, frankly pro-Communist if not actually a card carrier, was Prince Souphanouvong and his Communist-supplied 6,000-man army called the Pathet Lao. The Pathet Lao controlled two of Laos' northernmost provinces and was the potential spearhead for a Communist drive to take over the whole country.

In the job as premier was Souphanouvong's half-brother, Souvanna Phouma, a neutralist.

Personally and socially, the two were friends. But their armed forces frequently clashed, keeping the nation in a constant state of ferment.

A year ago Souphanouvong appeared to be winning the upper hand and it seemed the country was about to be swallowed by the Reds.

Souvanna's neutralist policies proved his undoing and it was

into this chaotic situation that Sananikone stepped last August. An early step was to renounce the 1954 Geneva accord which ended the Indochina civil war but which bound the Indochinese nations affected not to join any military alliances.

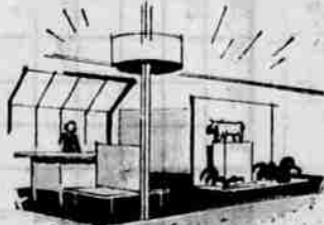
By renouncing the Geneva accord, Sananikone cleared the way for Laos to join SEATO. That's what has the Reds worried.



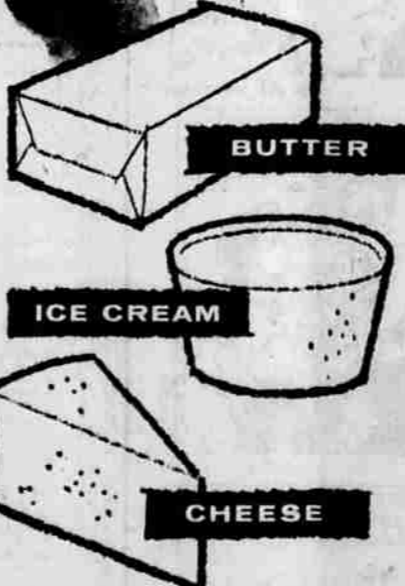
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