

"It Says Sharks Won't Attack Unless Provoked"



EDITORIAL PAGE

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These Things He Notes . . .

One of Oregon's best-known newspapermen is a fellow named Giles French from Moro, editor of the Sherman County Journal.

This is perhaps surprising. One might suspect that such a designation would go to some writer or editor of one of the big-city dailies. But, aside from a few widely-known men from the smaller cities, Brother French stands almost alone.

The reason is a weekly column he writes, "These Things We Note."

It's quite a collection of short items. Some are straight comments on the news. But, oh boy, the others!

They are pithy, and often astringent, comments on issues and personalities.

As French put it one day in a speech: "There is nothing quite so satisfactory to me as the hiss of escaping hot air from a stuffed shirt into which a needle has been pushed."

Following are some recent examples from French's typewriter:

Prospects for a big wheat crop seem poor at the moment. Maybe nature will take care of the problem and if it does there will be no politics to it.

The present furore over welfare will amount to little unless there is a resurgence of morals. Those who accept no responsibility for their acts should be taught some.

If the hours of labor get a little shorter almost everyone can hold two jobs and then work less than grandpa.

Anyone who has lived in Oregon 60 years can get a fishing license if he'll swear he can't pay for it. Not so generous.

Cheap eggs are sixty cents for the producer and 30 cents for the consumer.

Horse shoe pitching gets into the

news but we don't think it will be a serious competitor for popularity. It doesn't cost enough, now you take a swimming pool.

"Everybody has a hobby these days," said Uncle Emmett. "In my time I had one, too. It was earning a living."

People look to the future when they have no past and look to the past when they have no future.

A preacher marrying some of these fast stepping movie folks must feel like a bush league pitcher throwing to Willie Mays. He doesn't expect his work to be very successful.

One of the things England is afraid of is the trade alliance between the continental countries. England would not join because of a former alliance with its dominions. Now it opposes Adenauer and De Gaulle with an apparent idea of some concessions.

Before long we may be buying other things from abroad as well as automobiles. The United States is pricing itself out of its own market.

The weather this year seems determined to be "peculiar" and Wednesday was remindful of the day the east wind blew the country apart back in 1930.

The wheat situation has arrived at the point where nobody is going to like it whatever is done. We have certainly proved that the government cannot manage agriculture.

If the government delays long enough the construction of Snake river dams they will not be built. Already Canada has estimated that atomic power will be available before dams can be built.

Diverting Attention From Berlin

An ominous build-up of Communist forces along the Formosa straits is reported. The Nationalists say the Reds have concentrated two thirds of their air force within striking distance of Formosa.

Formosa, like Berlin, stands as a spot where the Reds can create a crisis at their convenience. Now their strategy may call for a crisis at both points simultaneously. By threatening a brush war on the China coast, they may reason,

the West's attention will be sufficiently diverted from Berlin to let the Russians get away with something there.

Barbs

Today's fairy tale: An author of a "How-to-Get-Rich" book got rich.

How can you possibly put the cart before the horse in this mechanical age?

Keep smiling! Oxygen is good for the teeth!

DREW PEARSON SAYS:

Congress Begins Probe Of Military Manpower

WASHINGTON.—While Gen. Maxwell Taylor, recently retired chief of staff of the Army, was testifying before congress regarding the need of more military manpower, a record number of enlisted men in the armed forces were serving as cooks, orderlies, houseboys, and handy men for the top brass of the U.S.A.

This column has uncovered the fact that the total for the Washington area alone is 1,500. The 35 Air Force generals assigned to headquarters command have 88 airmen to wait on them as cooks, drivers, flight stewards, mess attendants, and orderlies. The army has 67 GI servants to wait on 143 general officers. The Navy has 54 enlisted men serving 165 admirals. And the Marines have 20 enlisted men assigned to 25 generals.

This does not include 103 Army, 98 Navy, 55 Air Force, and eight Marine servants who work in the officers' dining rooms and quarters. In addition a total of 368 Army, 17 Navy, and 306 Air Force enlisted men are assigned as chauffeurs in the Washington area.

Here is a typical notice circulated in the Washington area by General Taylor before he retired last month. "Attention enlisted personnel. All regular army enlisted personnel, grade private to E-5, interested in working in the dining room, office of the chief of staff, department of the Army, should call the Military Personnel Division, Building 216, for interview. Enlisted men should be eligible for clearance, neat in appearance, able to meet high officials with ease and confidence."

General Taylor issued this notice at the same time he was complaining that the Army doesn't have enough fighting men.

Congressman Frank Kowalski, Connecticut Democrat, has become a hero to thousands of GI's because he has focused the spotlight on the "servantude" of enlisted men. Kowalski spent 30 years in the army, worked his way up to colonel, was first commander of the U.S. Army management school. Being an Army man he wants to be fair to the armed services. He also wants to be fair to the GI.

This column having battled for the enlisted man beginning even before Pearl Harbor, has talked to GI servants whose only duties are menial personal services for the brass. Some do little more than shine shoes, pour liquor, press pants, and run errands. Here are some case histories:

SP-4 Elwood Hooten, second armored division, Fort Hood, Texas, kept a record of over 250 hours spent in domestic service for his commanding officer, Col. John Hector, now a staff officer for the sixth army at the presidio in San Francisco. Hooten washed and waxed the car; swept, mopped and, waxed the floors; mowed the lawn; cleaned teen-age son's quarters; waxed and polished furniture; cleaned the bathroom; scrubbed porches.

Two days prior to being detailed to this domestic duty, he had submitted an application for an overseas assignment. This was disapproved by the division headquarters on the grounds that a critical shortage of trained personnel existed in Hooten's specialty.

His orders were "to keep Colonel Hector happy." To do this, he was obliged once to wash the colonel's car while the rest of his unit received the day off.

Colonel Hector acknowledged to this column that Hooten had

been assigned as his driver, and had been used "off and on" to help around the house. The colonel recalled asking him occasionally to water the lawn, mow the lawn, and once move some furniture around.

The colonel claimed that most of the housecleaning chores had been assigned while he was away from Fort Hood for three months and that subordinates assigned Hooten to keep the house in shape while he was gone.

Housecleaning in Oklahoma At Fort Carson, Okla., Capt. Carl Pruett assigned a 26-man detail to help Col. Lynell Green, the commanding officer, clear and clean his house, prior to his reassignment this month to Iceland. Captain Pruett's orders declared: "The 26-man detail picked from Company C in the bivouac area 25 June 1959 will remain in the company area Thursday night so they will be available for the same detail Friday 26 June 1959." They were ordered to report for "work at Colonel Green's quarters." In addition, a 2½-ton vehicle was requisitioned, plus "all available power mowers and grass-cutting equipment."

Colonel Green acknowledged to this column that the detail had reported for work as ordered, but he claimed he had sent the men back. He acknowledged using "a few GI's" to help clear out the house. Their help was charged up as official duty.

Those who reported for lawn-mowing duty, he claimed, worked during their spare time and were paid out of his pocket.

More on waste of military manpower in an early column.

PRISON BILL SIGNED WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Eisenhower Monday signed a money bill allotting one million dollars to begin construction of a new federal prison for hardened criminals near Marion, Ill. The bill provided \$648,941,000 to operate the State and Justice Departments and the federal courts in the current fiscal year.

Wilderness Bill Opposed By Cole As 'Unnecessary'

OLYMPIA (UPI) — Bert Cole, state land commissioner, said Monday that a bill in the U. S. Senate to establish a national wilderness preservation system is "unnecessary and highly undesirable."

Cole said he does not oppose setting aside certain limited areas to remain forever in a natural state.

But he said the scope of the pending wilderness legislation "represents a grave danger to the economic wellbeing of the State of Washington by threatening to lock up vast areas of land rich in timber and natural resources."

"Should the legislation be enacted, we in the State of Washington stand to lose more than perhaps anyone else."

Wyatt Attends School Workshop

Dale Wyatt, vice principal, counsellor and social studies teacher at La Grande junior high school, is one of 15 junior high teachers and principals participating in a special one-month junior high school workshop at Oregon State College.

The teachers were selected by the state department of education to prepare a handbook on organization and operation of Oregon junior high schools. The workshop runs through July 17.

The number of junior high schools in Oregon has increased rapidly in recent years, it was pointed out but only limited material has been developed in the area of junior high school organization and operation.

Oregon now has 32 junior high schools that are on a seventh, eighth, and ninth grade basis and 22 operate for the seventh and eighth grades.

Chinese Red Official Asks Burmese Help

RANGOON, Burma (UPI) — A Chinese Communist Embassy official has asked the Burmese government for asylum after being stabbed and seriously injured in his flight to escape the Red embassy, it was reported today.

It was the third report of defections by Soviet and Red Chinese officials in Burma in recent months.

The Chinese, identified as Liu Ping-yi, 30, knocked on the door of the home of U.S. Air Attache Col. Roy Ahalt Sunday night to ask for assistance.

Liu was bleeding from a stab wound in the side. It was reported that he had scuffled with Chinese in the commercial counselor's office at the embassy who were said to have learned of his intentions to defect.

Ahalt summoned a physician and then informed the Burmese Foreign Office. Burmese police and troops took Liu to the hospital. He was reported in "critical" condition after an operation for his wound.

Hospital sources said that during a brief period of consciousness this morning he told nurses he wanted the protection of the Burmese government.

Strout Realty Appoints Charles Chase Manager

Charles Chase has been appointed manager for the Strout Realty, Inc. here.

The company is a multiple sales organization with offices from coast-to-coast dealing in ranches, farms, homes, and businesses, both town and country. Its operations cover most of the Western States with 21 branch offices in Oregon alone.

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