

Pessimistic Mencken Optimistic on the Future of America

Baltimore Sage Says Nation Fit, Fat and Full of Sin Despite Cost of Salvation.

In a copyrighted article in the February issue of The American Mercury, H. L. Mencken, America's most pessimistic critic, says: "We inhabit, indeed, a kind of Utopia, and it would be recognized as such if the preaching of bogus Utopians were not so strident. No other nation in history has been so favorably situated, or enjoyed so long a run of good luck. We are as secure against actual famine as the Mesopotamia of Abraham's time, and as safe against foreign invasion as if we inhabited the moon."

Once more he pays his respects to the New Deal. "Were we ridden and roweled by Hopkins and Tugwell, Ickes and Wallace, Ma Perkins and Jim Farley, and a multitude of other such jitney Caesars? Then think of the rulers of Italy and Germany, Russia and Spain, even France and England!"

"The New Deal, to be sure, is a colossal nuisance. It itches awfully, and is an affront to human dignity. But so is eczema—yet very few men die of eczema. We have been through much more dangerous calamities, and survived without serious damage. The Civil war would have wrecked any other country on earth, but the effect here, save in a narrow area of the south, was hardly worse than that of the annual national drunk on New Year's eve."

He believes that the vast debt that was rolled up will be paid off during ten years of normalcy; that we are a tough people and are not easily ruined. As a nation, he says, we go in for silly things in a big way, but somehow or other we always muddle through.

His conclusions are: "This imperial Christian nation, in point of fact, is moving toward neither Communism nor Fascism, though it supports and endures trifling minorities who clamor for both. The great bulk of its people prefer a sober middle course—the traditional American course, hallowed by the Fathers. That is to say, they prefer to follow indigenous mountebanks, bred in the native technique and speaking the native language."

"After four long years of intensive and relentless salvation, carried on by virtue of unparalleled ardor and no visible competence or conscience, the country is still solvent and even prosperous, and the best pickings, as usual, are going to the smartest fellows."

County Seat News Notes As Related by Sentinel Reporter

Sackett Buys Bank of Commerce Building for \$20,600.

Sheldon F. Sackett, publisher of the Eugene News, and highest bidder for the Bank of Commerce building, purchased the building Monday for \$20,600, including taxes.

Twenty-three Infantile Cases Aided in 1936.

In 1936, 23 infantile paralysis sufferers in Lane county received hospitalization, medicine, food, braces and appliances purchased with funds received from the president's birthday ball. Seventy per cent of the money received at this annual affair is to be used locally, the other 30 per cent goes to the Warm Springs foundation.

Judge Fisk Thanks Logging Companies.

Damage to county roads as a result of the recent freeze is not so severe as at first reported, County Judge Fred Fisk and Walter J. Holland, county commissioner believe. Mr. Holland declared that the roads are no worse than after any freeze, and Judge Fisk reiterated this statement, adding that he wished to thank the logging companies for their cooperation in suspending operations while the roads were in bad shape. The roads were not built for heavy trucks, he said, and the damage done by them is especially great at a time like this.

Noxious Weed Meeting Postponed.

The meeting of the noxious weed legislation committee with the seed council, scheduled for January 18 and 19 at Corvallis, has been indefinitely postponed, due to the serious illness of G. R. Hyslop, secretary of the committee.

Pioneer Pageant to Be Held at Fairgrounds.

Eugene's Pioneer Pageant will be held at the fair grounds this year instead of at Hayward field as heretofore. An allocation of \$8,000 in the Lane county budget for

Debutante Aide



Miss Helen Roosevelt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Roosevelt, and a cousin of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is one of the junior chairman for the New York ball, January 30, in honor of the President's birthday and to raise funds for the fight against infantile paralysis.

unemployment relief will help materially in the erection of additional seating capacity at the fair grounds. A seating capacity of 7000 is deemed necessary for pageant purposes. No extra apportionments to secure WPA assistance will be needed, County Judge Fisk declared. This \$8000 goes to unemployment relief through the setting up of WPA projects to absorb the unemployed and will be sufficient to accomplish the necessary work. The pageant will be presented July 22, 23 and 24.

The 4-H club sports program got under way the past week with four basketball games being played. R. C. Kuehner, head of 4-H clubs, announced that the other games had been called off because of the flu epidemic.

A report from the county health office shows the results from diseases in 1935 and 1936:

	1935	1936
Measles	335	549
Influenza	93	148
Scarlet fever	55	127
Pneumonia	51	108
Mumps	269	55
Typhoid	21	21
Diphtheria	17	17
Smallpox	3	3
Infantile paralysis	5	5

Influenza cases for 1937 have already been reported as 327.

District Attorney Ray Continues Drive Against Gambling Devices.

Continuing his drive against gambling devices in Lane county, District Attorney L. L. Ray ordered the arrest of O. I. Ireland, operator of a pharmacy on the U. of O. campus January 21 on a charge of "conducting, operating and maintaining a nickel-in-the-slot machine or similar device." Ireland plead "not guilty" in Justice court Friday morning and was bound over to the grand jury. The charge against Ireland is the same as that against two operators of slot machines indicted by the grand jury last week and to be tried at the March term of court.

Nurses Meeting in Roseburg Saturday.

A meeting of all nurses in the southwestern part of the state will be held in Roseburg January 30, according to Miss Ruth Hinegardner, Lane county health nurse. Mr. Class, instructor in the University of Oregon, and Miss Katherine

Webster, a Portland nurse, will be speakers at the meeting.

Mrs. Halfner Heads WPA Women's Activities.

Miss Ruth Haerner, Eugene, has been appointed head of all WPA women's activities in the third district, according to Victor P. Todd, WPA head. Her office will be in Salem, and she will supervise the 17 cooks employed in Lane county schools and 40 women employed at the Lane county sewing factory. The women employes in this factory are usually the heads of families and are either on the relief rolls or are in need of relief. Clothing is made at the factory and distributed to people on relief.

County Fairgrounds Improved.

Swings have been installed, buildings repaired, and a new grandstand built at the Lane county fairgrounds during the past year by a WPA crew of 12 to 15 men.

March 1 Deadline for Dog Licenses.

One-hundred fifty-two dog licenses have been issued so far this year from the county clerk's office. March 1 is the deadline for obtaining licenses. The penalty for non-payment is 25 cents the first month, increasing 25 cents each month until it reaches a dollar, where it remains for the rest of the year.

Bounties Paid.

Bounties totalling \$89 were paid out by the county clerk during the past week on 24 bobcats, 6 coyotes and 5 adult female coyotes.

London

Mrs. W. L. Townsend

The young people's Bible study group held a social Wednesday evening after the study hour, at the Roy Goodwin home. Refreshments were served at the close of the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hunt of Black Butte entertained a group of high school students Thursday evening in honor of Mr. Hunt's sister, Marjorie Hunt, who left Saturday to make her home in Portland.

Mrs. Felix Ems entertained the Friendly Neighbors club Wednesday afternoon. The time was spent with needlework and visiting. Mrs. Glen Banton received a birthday gift from the club. The next meeting will be February 3 at the home of Mrs. J. E. Banton.

Mrs. Julian Small will entertain the Merry Makers club February 4. Harry Brewster of the Row River community has taken possession of the sawmill on the Will Lively place. He will make improvements and expects to start sawing within the next few weeks. Mr. Brewster as well as some of his workers, have moved here.

Mrs. Richard Garman, who recently visited her husband at the Veterans' hospital in Roseburg, reports Mr. Garman is not doing so well.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Funk is reported to be seriously ill. The baby daughter of Mrs. Dora McKay is also reported to be ill.

The Harold Abeene family moved to camp A Saturday. The Claud Abeene family moved to the house vacated by Harold Abeene.

Mrs. Rose Rennie of Lebanon spent the week end at the Will Lively home.

Mrs. Claud Abeene, who spent last week with her mother, Mrs. Thena Miller, in Cottage Grove, returned home Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Murry Newton and daughter Ethel spent Sunday at the Dick Dickinson home near Eugene.

Word was received here Sunday that Mrs. J. E. Stout of the Wilkenzie district had died that day. Mrs. Stout had many friends in this community.

Alvin Funk is confined to his home by illness.

Little Wantads Do Big Things.

Thornton Corners

Mrs. J. W. Fisher.

Mrs. O. H. Lyons, who is staying with a daughter, Mrs. Mearl Wright, went to her home in Eugene for two days of last week and returned here Sunday, accompanied by another daughter, Wanda, who will remain until the last of the week.

B. F. Bowers of Philomath visited over the week end with cousins, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Premazzi and Joanne Premazzi visited Sunday evening at the William Whitlock home at Gowdsville.

Joe Tonole, who had been in the veterans' hospital in Roseburg

convalescing from an appendicitis operation, returned Thursday to his home here.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Keene accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Claude Willey of Cottage Grove to the Howard Keene home at Delight Valley Sunday. Robert Keene returned with them for two days' visit.

John Allen of Tillamook visited over the week end at the C. R. Trent home.

Mrs. Wright of Cottage Grove stayed at the home of a son Mearl two days of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Frost and grandson Fred, Mrs. Jean Long and Mrs. Jessie Wright and daughter of Cottage Grove, John Allen of Tillamook and C. R. Trent spent Saturday evening at the J. W. Fisher home.

Lloyd Premazzi, who was re-

ported quite ill with pneumonia last week, is now recovering.

Floyd Fisher of Saginaw was a visitor Monday at the home of an uncle, J. W. Fisher.

\$5 Tax on Radio Sets.

A measure which is being drafted to be presented to the legislature would place a \$5 tax on all radio receiving sets.

Several Acts Still in Hopper.

Sunday closing, conservation of the state forests, repeal of the anti-syndicalism act and several acts designed to aid irrigation districts, school district and state departments are matters before the lawmakers.

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Arcade Theatre Weekly Chat

Coming Soon

"THE JUNGLE PRINCESS"

"WOMEN ARE TROUBLE"

"PENNIES FROM HEAVEN"

"CAMILLE"

"NORTH OF NOME"

"THE PLAINSMAN"

We feel proud of the fine entertainment we have been able to offer you during the past week, and feel that our coming attractions will prove just as entertaining. Here's the program: Friday, January 29th, "HIDEAWAY GIRL," Martha Raye, Shirley Ross, and Robert Cummings. Saturday, January 30, "CALIFORNIA MAIL," Dick Foran, and Linda Perry. Matinee at 2:30 P. M. Admission 10c and 15c. Sunday - Monday, January 31 - February 1, "THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE," with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland. Tuesday, February 2, "CHARLIE CHAN AT THE OPERA," with Warner Oland Boris Karloff and Charlotte Henry. Wednesday - Thursday, February 3 - 4, "LOVE ON THE RUN," with Joan Crawford, Clark Gable and Franchot Tone.