

# BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

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## Boy Scouts Have Birthday This Week

Starting tomorrow, and running through next Thursday, the Boy Scouts of America will observe the thirty-eighth anniversary of founding in the United States. Perhaps many of us might profit from a little scout history to appreciate more fully the movement known as scoutcraft.

While the scouting movement originated in England, the idea came, actually from experiences which happened during the Boer war, early in the 20th century.

While there are many stories connected to scouting, all historians agree that of British soldiers going to South Africa during this



war, few knew anything about camping in the wilds, and less about caring for themselves. The legend goes that returning soldiers gave rise to this training program for the youngsters from 12 and older.

Scouting came to America in February, 1910, and for a time did not interest too many. However, when Dan Beard became the chief executive over scouting in this country, the movement took hold and the Boy Scouts have become as national as the flag of the country.

Scouting is no secret organization as many people have erroneously conceived the idea. Scouting is as open as the wide open spaces which make up the domain of scoutcraft—all lessons in scoutcraft are based on nature, in the rough.

Boys, through the training handed down by forefathers, know that they are to become the heads of families. They know, from instinct, if no other way, that heads of families are expected to know many things about nature, and these lads know well that these things cannot be learned from books.

Boys, by their natures, like the outdoors—the foundation of all scouting. Boys like scouting the way they like games, and by and through scouting become leaders of men.



By Harris Elsworth

The undebated enthusiasm, like unto a frenzy and shading on hysteria, of the all-out Marshall plan boosters is making difficult a serious and realistic consideration by Congress of the request for and made by the 16 cooperating European nations. The insistent "all or nothing" complex of the boosters tends to create an atmosphere which hampers the serious and responsible committee members who are endeavoring to prepare the legislation for action by congress.

Few people are willing to deny that we have assumed a position of leadership in world affairs, and that we therefore have a responsibility. Pulling as a part of this responsibility is the necessity to help our free neighbors on the other side of the Atlantic get on a self-supporting basis. But it will not be fair to them, and certainly it would be most unwise to our own people and to our own economy if we agree-

our limitations and our own slightly precarious financial position. We cannot just let go on a sort of "rah rah" basis and ship Europe food, dollars and everything else they happen to ask for.

The above outburst was touched off by a letter I just received from the "Committee for the Marshall Plan" signed by former Secretary of War, Robert Patterson. The letter urges support of the plan and is too long to quote here. However, the following sentence stands on its own without need for reference to the rest of the letter—and it really "stopped" me: "Enough of our aid should be in the form of grants so that Europe will not be saddled with a hopeless load of debt."

The United States right now is "saddled" with the heaviest debt load of any government on earth. Our per capita debt is almost \$200—every family of four is obligated for \$800. This debt demands staggering annual interest payments and we have other continuing obligations from the war such as veterans payments. These requirements are causing us to eat our economic heart out with taxation. High prices, high incomes (and inflation) are now required to bring in a large total tax income or this government would

become bankrupt. Then we could not help anyone.

Yes, we can survive but only by reducing unnecessary government expenses, by taking some of the tax load off the necks of our people, and by a systematic reduction of the debt. While doing all this we can help our neighbors, too—as a part of our own system of defense. But both we and they must be made to realize that there is a limit to our ability and that our help must be parcelled out carefully and in a manner that will be most effective in a permanent future way as well as immediately helpful.

The question not only as to how much we shall aid Europe but the manner in which it shall be done, is the most vital problem before us this year. It requires searching inquiry, and the most serious handling. The present "hurrah" technique of administration leaders and self-appointed Marshall plan "boosters" is both disturbing and destructive.

## Crucial Game Is Due, Friday Eve

As far as the Bruins are concerned at the moment, Curry county basketball league is closed, but certainly the interest has not diminished one bit.

With their win over Port Orford last Friday the Bruins are now in first place in the league, this being due to Langlois' upset of Gold Beach to put the county seat out of the contention. Since the Bruins draw a bye this week and will play at Florence, the championship of the county hangs in the balance in the Ophir-Gold Beach game, Friday.

Should Ophir win, the league will again be tied between Ophir and Brookings. Gold Beach's win

would give the Bruins undisputed title.

While the Bruins have always enjoyed winning from Gold Beach at every opportunity, certainly the local squad will root for a Gold Beach victory.

## Income Tax Expert Due In Gold Beach

Those required to file state income tax returns, according to a letter to the Pilot from the state tax commission, will have assistance from a state agent, who will be at Gold Beach on Feb. 19,

from 9 to 11 a.m.

The state tax returns will be received in Salem on or before April 15.

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