

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Tragedy in the State Hospital

In the Oregon state hospital's sixty years of existence there has not been, so far as can be recalled by long-time Salem residents, a comparable precedent for the tragedy which occurred there Sunday night or early Monday morning when three patients in a ward occupied by supposedly non-violent inmates were strangled to death by one of the others.

There is little that needs to be said concerning the tragedy. It merely serves to emphasize the problem of which many persons in contact with state affairs have long been cognizant; that the state hospital is over-crowded and understaffed for efficient care and protection of the mentally ill. The condition at the Oregon state hospital is not however more serious than that in other states' similar institutions. At the hospital here there are approximately 2700 patients—almost one-tenth as many human beings as there are in the city of Salem. There are nine physicians—one for every 300 patients. And these are sick people!

It so happened that, possibly at the exact time of the tragedy, the present writer whose hours of waking and sleeping are based upon more than a decade of morning newspaper work, was reading an article by Joseph Harrington in Cosmopolitan magazine which delved into this general condition among the state hospitals. Only in one state, New York, are mental patients served by physicians at the ratio of more than one to 200; the average is one physician to 350 patients so that Oregon is somewhat better than the average.

The Oregon hospital bears a good reputation among institutions of its class. Under the direction of Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner for more than a quarter of a century, a capable staff, up-to-the-minute in latest methods of treating mental and physical disease and devoted to the service of these unfortunate was built up, and its standards have been maintained under the superintendency of Dr. John C. Evans.

All this has been done at comparatively low cost to the public and to the relatives of non-violent patients who are required to contribute toward their support in the institution. The monthly cost per patient is around \$15. In the treatment of no other type of illness is it considered possible to keep costs so low. The question is, should they, in fairness to the patients, be kept so low?

There will be a thorough investigation of the triple tragedy which should bring out all facts with relation to the degree of supervision that is possible with an employed staff of approximately one worker for each ten patients; and there is no intention here to deny in advance of this investigation the possibility that human failure somewhere may have been a contributing factor.

But it is true that in Oregon as elsewhere there is need for a changed public attitude about the insane, necessary before really adequate provision for their care and treatment may be generally approved. That change must involve realization that mental illness is essentially no different from physical illness, that the percentage of cure and restoration to normal activity is high under present conditions and can be made higher, and that mental patients should have every opportunity and every consideration accorded to a pneumonia patient or to the person who has broken a leg.

## Gateways to War

The stalemate on the western front which has made war a matter of pot shooting at other peoples' loudspeakers and apologizing for unnecessary injuries suffered by scouting parties has given rise to a considerable volume of speculation on the mode in which the end to the waiting period may come, and how the war may be transformed between dark and dawn from a ditchdiggers' field day to the mass slaughter so ardently promised. Quite sincerely nobody wishes to see the transformation take place, but the nervous strain of waiting for a decision one way or another involuntarily makes guessing about the future everybody's sport.

In this atmosphere of hazard and speculation the report of Douglas Johnson, member of the geology faculty of Columbia, on "Geology and strategy in the present war" (Geological Society of America) is worth referring to. Its author is a former major in the American army intelligence service during the last war, and is thoroughly acquainted with the fundamentals of military strategy as well as with the topographical character of the region in which conflict may be expected to develop.

Johnson notes that in effect the German nation is in a state of siege, with Allied armies shutting off the west, and eastern supply sources either unproductive or highly precarious. He does, however, give Germany due credit for her strategic position won at the expense of the allies during the last four years:

The opening battle of the new world war was fought and won by Germany, without a shot being fired, when Hitler defied the Allies and broke the Treaty of Versailles by entering the Rhineland with his military forces. This gave him possession of an important part of the natural defensive barrier of the State Mountains and other areas of the low mountain and plateau belt, thus greatly strengthening Germany's defenses on the southwest. The second battle of the war was won also by Germany when her massed military forces crossed across the frontier of Austria. By forcibly annexing Austria, Germany gained the magnificent defensive barrier of the high Alps, placed her armies on the strategic Brenner pass to hold her uncertain ally Italy in awe, and surrounded on three sides the mountain ramparts of the rich Bohemian plain forming the western part of a major military defeat. This defeat robbed the democracies of a million and a half of the finest soldiers in Europe and took from their control a great natural fortification reinforced by artificial defenses works similar to those of the famed Maginot line of eastern France.

The question essentially, however, is that of a German attempt to break through the French fortifications and march toward Paris after the fashion of 1870 and 1914; and here the major corridors into France become of signal importance. For the purposes of invasion, Johnson thinks that the traditional Lorraine and Belfort gateways from across the Rhine, used with such telling effect by von Moltke in 1870, and his successors in 1914, are now almost useless. Belfort is too narrow for an attacking army which must maneuver rapidly and widely; Lorraine presents too many natural obstacles to quick advance by mechanized forces, and in common with Belfort is very heavily fortified. Use of a Swiss corridor which would enter Belfort gateway via Mulhouse in order to avoid fortifications would also require scaling of east-facing escarpments—a problem of tremendous difficulty for an invading army. The Basel gateway, between the southern end of the German Schwarzwald and the Swiss frontier presents the same problem to an invading allied force as that of Belfort to the Germans; heavily fortified natural barriers complicated by unfavorable political implications with respect to Switzerland.

Alone for a possibly successful attack the conventional approach to France via the Low Countries Johnson believes to offer to the Germans the best chance, particularly if coupled with successful attack on the Channel ports. On the other hand the Allies, considering the Flanders route politically inexpedient and faced with great odds in using the Basel approach or seeking to effect an entry along the Rhine valley and its tributaries, have no practicable means open to their use short of an attack from a Balkan base or possibly from a Scandinavian or Finnish position. The stalemate, in short, is not likely to grow any fresher with the months.

A Safety Valve letter criticizing statements of a service club speaker has been submitted by a citizen who signed his name but requested that it not be used. It seems to us that the fair thing is for persons who wish to throw bricks, to stand out where they can be identified. Controversial letters must carry the writers' bona fide signatures, though there

## Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The first real farmer in the Willamette valley; was he Etienne Lucier? Or was he DeLoar, near site of Salem?

Came to this desk some time ago, and crowded aside on account of matters ahead of it, this letter, dated Corvallis, Oregon, Feb. 27, 1940:

"In a radio broadcast from here on January 10, it was mentioned that the first real farmer in the Willamette valley was a man named Lucier. We now have a letter from J. H. Jacques, M.D., 193 Water street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, asking for more information about this pioneer farmer, and also more about the pioneer missionaries and early farmers of the Willamette valley. I know you have such a wealth of first-hand as well as collected material on this subject that I am wondering if you would be good enough to write to Dr. Jacques and give him the information he desires. I will greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter."

Thanks for the compliments. The letter is from John C. Burner, extension editor of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, Oregon State Agricultural College and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Mr. Burner is worthy and well qualified.

The word "real" in the designation "first real farmer" is perhaps the saving grace of the assertion made in the radio broadcast.

Etienne Lucier was among the French Canadians who came with the Astor party in 1812 who remained in the country and settled on the land, taking for wives Indian women. Lucier was identified, from historical hints the records give of him, a rather unassuming man. He was certainly one of the first farmers in the Willamette valley, but at least two were before him. Francis Rivet and Baptiste DeLoar came with Lewis and Clark in 1805, and remained, and settled in the Willamette valley.

There is some evidence that a third member of the Lewis and Clark party remained and settled on what was called "French prairie" in the Willamette valley—roughly all the country on the east side of the Willamette from the mouth of the Pudding river to the site of Salem. Willard H. Rees, a leading member of the 1844 covered wagon immigration, settled on middle French prairie in 1845 and had the contract to build the Catholic church at St. Louis, said in the chief address at the 1879 reunion of the Oregon Pioneer association that he secured from Father B. Delorme, pastor of the St. Paul Catholic church, a record of the names of the earliest pioneers, among them this notation:

"Philip Degie, born at Sorel, Canada in 1788, died February 27, 1847, aged 103 years. This OLDEST inhabitant first crossed the continent with Lewis and Clark. If that is correct, and there is no reasonable doubt about it, at least three men settled on the land—before Etienne Lucier, who commenced cultivating the soil in this valley.

Also, at least 10, perhaps 11 or 12 men of the Astor parties commenced living on the land in the Willamette valley the same year, or about the same time, when, or before, Etienne Lucier took his claim.

The names of these men, as given by Hasford, and in some cases corrected by this columnist, were: Thomas McKay, William Canning, Madame (Marie) and Pierre Dorion, and perhaps Baptiste Dorion, Jean Baptiste Dubruielle, Joseph Gervais, Wm. McKay, Louis LaBonte, Michel LaFrance, Jean Baptiste Desportes McKay, George Montour, Antoine Revoir.

This columnist believes Madame Marie and Pierre Dorion (and likely their son Baptiste) were in the late winter of 1812 and for several in the first months of 1813 with the party building the lower Willamette Astor fort, a mile to two miles above the site of the present main building of Champeong state park—and the Dorions may have done some farming there when Dorion, with her third man, Jean Baptiste Toupin, a number of years later, in the Mid-diegrove district east of the site of Salem, proved herself a good farmer.

The land claim of Etienne Lucier was a fine one. It was the sixth claim in the Champeong section, counting the Andre Lang-tain claim as the first one, then going south, up the river. The Lucier land was across the river from the present Newberg, below and above the present bridge across the Willamette.

But there is some question as to whether he took that claim, and began farming it, at a very early date, as compared with the beginnings in farming made by DeLoar, Rivet, and perhaps Degie, and others in the list given above. Willard Rees, in the address quoted above, said: "Here (on French prairie) were the homes of Gervais, Lucier, Canning, LaBonte, all Astor men, who came with Captain (Wilson Price) Hunt in 1811. . . . There is a discrepancy in statements with regard to date of commencing the French prairie settlement. Permit me to give in collaboration of what I learned from Dr. McLaughlin and the settlers themselves the proof fixing the date by men yet living."

Under the constitution it is a difficult matter to make fish of one and fowl of the next with regard to the right of franchise. If the requirements of the law and registration, of course, take care of most of these situations. But in instances where abuses of the franchise occur, what of the possibility of voting ex-convicts fraudulently?

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(Continued tomorrow.)

## The Empty Pocket



## "Self Made Girl"

By Hazel Livingston

Chapter 12 Continued  
Not a closet in the place. Just books along the walls and clothes hung, those that weren't on the floor and on the beds and in the chairs, behind filmy cretonne curtains. One room was nearly filled with two beds, two dressers and two chairs. The other held a sewing machine, a work table, on which patterns and silk were littered, two wicker chairs and a packing box and the couch that was to be Linda's.

The bathroom, as large as the bedroom, and criss-crossed with a system of clothes lines upon which hung lingerie, stockings and a collection of colored table-cloths, was like a bit of Greenland.

"They never put a radiator in there," Dora explained, "but if you run the hot water full tilt in the tub for a while, it helps some. We don't have to pay for the hot water up here, but we do in the bedroom, so wash up here, and then it won't matter how much hot water you use."

Soberly Linda unpacked the things she needed, hung them as carefully as she could. Before she had her bed made up the other two girls were in bed and asleep. For a long while, though she was tired and her eyes were heavy, she forced herself to lie awake and think it out. Who ever heard of a business run the way this one seemed to be? There were only a few strangers who came to dinner, nearly everyone was an acquaintance, if not a friend of one of the girls.

The two boys, King Warford and Johnny Lane, seemed to be equally devoted to both girls. May, the neat Negro maid who did the kitchen work was apparently the only paid employee. And who were all these

people? Gladys said she had a mother in California, that she was a graduate of the state university and used to work in an office. Dora, who also came from California and had a mother, father and a couple of brothers in Berkeley, described herself as a newspaper woman, but did publicity work when she wasn't helping out in the tea-room. The absent Nola was an artist.

Linda couldn't quite figure them out. The charming open fire downstairs, the blue silk curtains, the quaint painted walls, the gleaming copper and brass, the order of the clean, shining furniture, the neat and square and mess up here!

It won't take me long to get out and find a better place to live, she thought before she let her heavy eyes close. This will do for a couple of days. Why do people stop dawdling and do the finding work? It's easy. Wait till I really get started. . . . In the morning sunlight the rooms were even dingier than they had appeared the night before.

A tenement couldn't be worse. Linda thought, looking with disgust at the stained brownish wallpaper patterned with funeral urns sprouting what appeared to be wilted cabbage leaves. There were even cobwebs in the corners, and cracks in the ceiling. What a place!

But may had coffee and fluffy yellow cornbread ready for them when they came downstairs, and the day started off as gayly as the night before with only a few moans from Gladys, who simply must stop dawdling and do the marketing—when she'd had just a drop more coffee and another cigarette.

The missing Nola, full of apologies for last night's absence, came in at 11, to serve lunch, and brought with her the boy friend Paul Ponatowski, who explained to Linda as though it were a point of honor, that he was not a Russian but a Pole.

"If you like him," Nola said, "you can have him. I've been trying to get rid of him for years. He eats too much. Keeps me broke feeding him."

"I assure you," he told Linda, "it's not so. I am a very light eater. We will dine together very soon, and you shall see. The cost will be negligible."

"I never go out," Linda said laughing, trying not to be embarrassed by his bold admiration, and the way Nola disapproved of the right of a former felon to hold public office should be prohibited. The restoration of the ballot to one who has paid for his transgression is properly open to consideration.

Oregon is not alone in having many residents, how good citizens, who have had the experience of one misstep that resulted in a prison term. Balanced against that group, however, is the floating criminal population which every state also has. There always are in circulation numbers of men and women who are out of stir between crimes. What about the vote for this element?

The requirements of law and registration, of course, take care of most of these situations. But in instances where abuses of the franchise occur, what of the possibility of voting ex-convicts fraudulently? Either all or none of the former felons will have to be restored the right of the ballot. Before the subject is closed, a bit of studying and straight thinking will be desirable.—Walla Walla Union Bulletin.

## News Behind Today's News

By PAUL MALLON

### "WHAT KIND OF PRESIDENT WOULD HE MAKE?"—GARNER

WASHINGTON, March 11—John Garner's personal conversations with his colleagues around the senate have established more definitely than the public yet knows what kind of a president he proposes to be.

His position has kept him from submitting a platform. As vice president he cannot very well undertake to take the same against certain new deal policies or offer his remedies. He has fully respected the requirements of his office in developing his campaign. Not a word of public comment on the issues of the day has escaped his lips in seven years.

But he has energetically tried on the inside to alter the course of some new deal policies, always to the president's face. News of his self-effacing and courageous stands was bound to leak out of the party councils. Indeed the campaign for him was started because the country understood through the press the general outlines of the positions he has taken which found favor in many minds. But among his party associates and closest friends there exists a more detailed and emphatic understanding of what he would like to do, which can here now be set forth with some assurance.

Garner would devote himself first to three major corrections of policy on fiscal affairs, unemployment, and farm relief.

The vice president knows the budget cannot be balanced overnight. Nor does he follow the glib contention that a painful balancing would automatically restore prosperity. But he seems to have more determination and courage to tackle the problem, regardless of political results, than most of the other candidates. For one thing he would favor giving the White House authority for the veto of appropriation bills, whereby he would take full responsibility for cutting down. First thing needed to balance the budget in his mind is to have a president who wants to balance it, and he certainly wants to see the other thing needed is to keep a politically minded congress from thwarting the president's desires.

His 37 years experience in congress have centered mainly in fiscal affairs and he undoubtedly is determined that anyone else in the race in either party.

Garner would unquestionably try to cure a multitude of unemployment sins by administrative changes, without material alteration of basic laws. His theory on this seems to be the same as on the national labor relations board, securities exchange commission, social security, and many other new government setups. These all represent absorption of power in too-ambitious executive hands. If some of them were handed back to the courts, others to the states, and others to congress, the decentralization of authority would automatically cure many of the existing evils now surrounding them.

Employment would be aided by sheer stabilization of government action. Business would be given a clear statement of what it could expect from government, and upon which it could depend. Correctives on farm relief, last of the major Garner trio, would undoubtedly be assigned

to satisfactory experts on the problem. But Garner's criticism of existing farm policies has been caustic and rather complete. He certainly would not continue to "let crops spoil and be eaten up by weevils" in home farm bins unequipped for storage.

On national defense he is nearly as strong an advocate of a big navy as Mr. Roosevelt. But he would have no peace plans for a new world order, although he has been devoting two or three hours nightly reading to the subject lately. The issue of our involvement in the war has already been settled by the people in his opinion, and that fully satisfies him.

For a cabinet, he would run the scale of political emotions, from a type of liberal like Mayor La Guardia of New York, to a type of intellectual conservative like Representative Jimmy Wadsworth of New York. (These names are mentioned, only for illustration as Mr. Garner himself once used them in this way in a conversation with a senator.) The only other requirement he would insist upon from cabinet officers is that they tell him the truth.

All of this makes it even more apparent than it has always been that the efforts to classify Garner as a conservative are merely political arguments for a political purpose. He is the only man in the Roosevelt government who has had the courage to stand up continuously for what he believes, even if it entailed an argument with the boss. He alone also refused to flee in the face of third term rumors. Consequently, he has aroused the antagonism of the leftist groups within the administration, and they have been circulating rather vicious personal attacks upon him because they feared him. (John Lewis' characterization of Garner as a "poker playing, whiskey drinking, labor baiting, evil old man" was the worst of the unintended compliments from this school of thought.) The reward of courage in politics is abuse.

But Garner was a liberal while most of these boys, not including Lewis, were in romps. He voted for all the reforms of the Wilson administration, led yearly scraps in the house against what he called the three M's—Mellon, Morgan and Mills.

If it were not for the bitterness from this source, he would be the unquestioned, outstanding candidate for the Democratic nomination. He qualifies for it by all other considerations: His successive steps upward from Texas legislator to the house, to speaker of the house, to vice president; his expert background in fiscal and foreign affairs committees in the house; the respect for his judgment on government and politics as evidenced in the continuous private calls of democratic legislators to his office for counsel and advice. He was even born in a log cabin.

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Rev. Daniel J. Quinn  
NEW YORK, March 11.—(AP)—The Rev. Father Daniel J. Quinn, 76, former president of Fordham university, a noted Jesuit scholar and orator, died tonight after a protracted illness of heart disease.

## Radio Programs

- 6:30—Musical Melodies.
- 6:30—Milkman Melodies.
- 7:00—The Big Broadcast.
- 7:45—Sing Song Time.
- 8:00—Breakfast Club.
- 8:30—Keep Fit to Music.
- 8:45—News.
- 9:00—The Women in the News.
- 9:15—Musical Interlude.
- 9:30—Erwin Vex, Organ.
- 9:45—Four Friendly Neighbors.
- 10:15—John Duffy, Organ.
- 10:45—Williamette U. Chapel.
- 11:15—Value Parade.
- 11:45—Newspaper.
- 12:30—Williamette Valley Opinions.
- 12:30—Kiwiana Club.
- 1:00—Musical Melodies.
- 1:30—McFarland Twins.
- 1:45—Melodic Moods.
- 2:00—Salem Art Center.
- 2:15—David Harum.
- 2:30—Johnson Family.
- 3:00—John Agnew, Organ.
- 3:15—Bill McGuire Orchestra.
- 3:30—War Time Melodies.
- 4:00—Pulton Lewis, Jr.
- 4:15—Haven of Rest.
- 4:45—Ten Time Melodies.
- 5:00—Melody Mart.
- 5:15—Unsung Americans.
- 5:30—Salon Echoes.
- 5:45—Little Orphan Annie.
- 6:15—Tonight's Headlines.
- 6:30—Dinner Hour Melodies.
- 6:30—News and Views.
- 6:45—Dinner Hour Melodies.
- 7:00—Covered Wagon Days.
- 7:30—Don't You Believe It.
- 8:00—American Family Robinson.
- 8:00—News.
- 8:15—Hits and Encores.
- 8:30—Salem Y. Giesmen.
- 8:45—Twilight Trails.
- 9:00—Newspaper of the Air.
- 9:15—Wrestling Matches.
- 9:30—Will Osborne Orchestra.
- 11:00—Tomorrow's News Tonight.
- 11:15—Jim Walsh Orchestra.
- 11:30—Joe Reichman Orchestra.
- 11:45—Midnight Melodies.

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