

In One Ear

—Paul Hauser's Column

Saturday reverie—Cruised out of the Statesman printery under slow bell and wary of pirates, cut purses and small dogs. Set a course north-northeast, which by the way Commercial street runs and if you don't believe it look at a compass. Went past the ruins of the Cantol hotel and noted that the workmen have built a fence out of old doors from the hotel. One still bears a notice advising passers-by that garbage shall be properly disposed of and that the regular night for bath water is Saturday. Other days an extra charge will be made.

Rooted for a crossing and steamed into Ladd & Bush bank, where we noticed many sad faces. Nothing unusual about sad faces in a bank, but couldn't help thinking of the last days of Pompeii. We hear rumors the bank belongs now to the United States National, so it's all their fault.

Quit looking at the end of an era and backed water. Crossed State street and noticed that the buildings on the corner where the buses stop look nude without their recently removed marquee. Lack of shelter did not deter us, since it wasn't raining and we proceeded up Grocery Store Lane.

Around the corner onto Court where we found the most decorated automobile we have ever seen. It was from Wyoming. One radiator ornament wasn't enough. It had another hooked on top of the first one. There were ornamental gadgets on the fenders and an Indian, shooting an arrow, at the back of the hood. Bob Patton helped us admire it and then proceeded down the street.

Made the Liberty street circuit and found Glenn Wade, petitioner par excellence, saying "Well, we put McNary over, didn't we" and wondering about beads. The one he described as his choice sounds like a surrealist's dream.

Cruised down High street, happy the barometer was up again as we didn't have to hold our hats, for it was on this street that disaster struck Friday and we were forced to "chasse le chapeau" as the French have it.

Dropped into the State street pie foundry and confectionery and found R. Nohlgren, the pie-maker, humming, "Wagon wheels" and in good company (Jim Nicholson).

Left there and to the city hall where in the fire station we found Glenn Wilbur talking about monkeys, which it seems strange for when Wilbur's gas depot at Valley Junction burned down a space ago about the only thing saved was Jocko, Glenn Wilbur's monkey.

Woman Is Slain; Police Hold Son

WASHINGTON, March 30—(AP)—The blood-stained body of Mrs. Bessie C. Howard, 62, was found today in a drab, gray-shingled house where her son, Jerome, 23, apparently had remained locked up with it for two weeks.

Police called at the house today after neighbors had become puzzled by the darkened windows and had failed to see Mrs. Howard or her son for some time. Police Lieut. Howard Beall said the son met them at the door and mumbled: "I did it—days and days and days ago."

Police, Howard's body was sprayed on the bedroom floor, her face and neck slashed to ribbons. A bloody butcher knife was nearby.

Jerome Howard was held for investigation. Police said that documents in the house indicated he had been adjudged insane and committed to an institution in Colorado several years ago.

Don't Kick Brick Or Reach to Pick Up Coin (a Trick)

"What's that on your tie?" "April fool!"

It's an old cry, but one that will be heard on every side tomorrow, along with its more complicated counterparts, as the first day of April is observed in the time-honored manner. On this day practical jokes have their field day, and even the most austere citizens can safely lay aside their dignity.

Fooling others people is referred to in English literature for the first time in the 19th century, but the custom is worldwide. Even the Hindus have a similar festival of practical joking, known as the "huli," which occurs on March 31.

Significance of the day is further enhanced here by being the last date for political candidates to file and the deadline on filing state income returns. Implication of foolishness on the part of taxpayers has not been fully established, however.

Enumerators Assigned For Census in County

88 Will Start Work Tuesday, All Precincts

Housing Conditions Will Be Reported on Here, Late Instruction

Entire Task Allotted 14 Days in Cities and 30, Rural Areas

Assignment of 88 Marion county census enumerators to particular precincts in which to start to work on Tuesday morning was announced yesterday by Mrs. Natalie Panek, deputy district director, following an all-day instruction session at the chamber of commerce auditorium for which chief speakers were Mrs. Panek and former State Senator Byron G. Carney, Oregon census head.

Enumerators assigned represent the greater part of 115 originally selected to serve in Marion county. Those not immediately allocated to precincts will be held in reserve for assignment in case of need. Mrs. Panek indicated appointment was made in accordance with a competitive examination held last week.

Census-taking which starts Tuesday morning is required to be completed with 14 days in urban areas, and in 30 days in rural precincts. Mrs. Panek indicated the deputy director also pointed out that census takers in this county will be required to investigate housing conditions as a result of last-minute orders from Washington. Decision on the matter (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

Multiple Pension Efforts Deplored

Federation Fears Result Will Be Damaging to Age Relief Cause

Criticism of other pension-proposing groups was expressed in a statement made by the executive committee of the Oregon Pension Federation at a meeting here yesterday.

The statement read: "Since neither Tom Monks, sponsor of a gross income tax bill, or R. A. Freeman and others sponsoring the so-called Peoples Bank bill, responded to the request to try to find common ground on the basis suggested by the committee, it is presumed that at least they and the Oregon Commonwealth Federation will each be trying to enlist an army of petition circulators and to gather funds with which to carry on separate campaigns for their respective ideals. The result of this will, in the judgment of the committee, be very damaging to the pension movement and would very likely in the end make it necessary for the legislature to take the whole pension matter in hand."

Delays Initiative
The committee also decided to recommend that petitions for an initiative measure be held in abeyance until after the primary and that all energy be concentrated until then on the promotion of the initiative (Turn to page 2, col. 3)

First Lady Changes Mind

SEATTLE, March 30—(AP)—Striving to avoid northern California floods, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt revised her plans for a trip to Los Angeles tonight, deciding to go by airplane tomorrow morning. She had planned to leave by train tonight.

Hamilton Is not Candidate; Robertson out for Congress

The impending contest for the Oregon attorney generalship was clarified yesterday with the announcement that Ralph S. Hamilton, Bend attorney and one-time speaker of the house of representatives, had decided to stay out of the race.

Hamilton advised The Oregon Statesman he was not prepared this year to wage "the vigorous and well-financed campaign" he felt would require to defeat "the present incumbent," who is I. H. Van Winkle.

Hamilton's announcement, barring last minute entries Monday, left Van Winkle alone on the republican ballot and District Attorney Bruce Spaulding running by himself on the democratic ticket.

Unopposed to date on his own ticket, Representative James W. Mott found a general election opponent yesterday in the person of Lieutenant Colonel C. A. Robertson of West Salem, who announced he would file for the democratic nomination for congressman from the first district.

Robertson declared he favored early completion of the Willamette valley project, aerial and naval bases for Oregon, extension of highways, constitutional treaties restoring foreign trade, maintenance of neutrality and "an adequate national defense."

PORTLAND, March 30—(AP)—Colonel C. A. Robertson, West Salem, announced his candidacy today for the first district democratic nomination as United States representative.

Other developments today, with only one day left in which to file for the May primaries: Former Governor Charles H. Martin announced he would not run for mayor of Portland because "it would be futile to be only a spoke" in the wheel of the city commission.

Three Who Seek Favor of Voters



Roy S. Melson who announced Saturday he would file for renomination for county commissioner on the republican ticket.

Melson was first elected county commissioner on a business administration platform in 1932, without democratic opposition. Four years later he ran for reelection and defeated David C. Bloom, democratic nominee, to date in the lone contest for the borough bid for the job again this year.

Four Workers Die In Oil Well Blast

Four Others Are Injured Seriously, Explosion at Centralia, Ill.

CENTRALIA, Ill., March 30—(AP)—Four men were killed and four other persons were burned seriously today in the worst oil well explosion and fire in the three years of the current Illinois boom.

Seared when a pocket of escaping gas ignited and exploded at the well west of Centralia, the dead were John Smith, about 19 years old, and Dave Hardin, both of Hominy, Okla.; Charles Underwood, 54, of Drumwright, Okla.; and D. E. Bevan, of Tulsa, all oil workers.

They died in a hospital a few hours after the gas, captioned "one big sheet of flame," set fire to the well and a house.

The others burned in the sudden intense flash of the explosion were Joe Butrick, of Hominy, and Carl Lyette of Avant, Okla., also oil workers, and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Stow, formerly of Kilgore, Tex.

Butrick had been employed only this morning at the well, which was being completed in the backyard of the house occupied by the Stows and two other families.

Mrs. Stow saved six persons from injury. Familiar with oil wells, she realized the danger of an explosion when she smelled the escaping gas. Running upstairs, she warned the other families in the house, enabling them to escape.

Before Mrs. Stow and her husband could reach the front door, the explosion occurred and flames enveloped the building. Mrs. Stow's stockings were burned from her legs and her jacket caught fire.

Firemen extinguished the well fire with chemicals, but the house was a total loss.

Loading Is Halted For Union Orders

MARSHFIELD, Ore., March 30—(AP)—Sailors halted loading of the Coos Bay Lumber Company's freighter Lamberton today pending orders from union representatives.

Harry Provost, San Francisco, sailors' union executive, conferred with company officials and AFL lumber workers in an effort to determine whether a picket line exists.

An independent workers' committee recently signed a contract with the firm after the AFL called a strike and Circuit Judge George Skipworth has under advisement a temporary restraining order forbidding picketing of the plant by AFL members.

PORTLAND, March 30—(AP)—Assistant U. S. District Attorney Mason Dillard said he would ask for a second trial at the Pendleton term of federal court starting April 2.

The tender defendant testified she yielded to threats and cajolery of her husband, William, 32, to participate in the \$1065 robbery because she wanted either "death or medical treatment."

Melson Seeks Third Term as Commissioner

Speculation Is Ended by Announcement: Wray and Jones File

Siegmund not Candidate; Demo Slate Still Shy as Deadline Near

By STEPHEN C. MERGLER
Roy S. Melson answered one of the most-frequently asked questions put at the county courthouse here for weeks past when he announced last night that he would not run for county judge and also that he would not file for county clerk.

"I'll file Monday for reelection as commissioner," the twice-elected republican commissioner announced.

Melson was first elected county commissioner on a business administration platform in 1932, without democratic opposition.

Four years later he ran for reelection and defeated David C. Bloom, democratic nominee, to date in the lone contest for the borough bid for the job again this year.

The next most popular courthouse question of the season met its answer earlier yesterday in an announcement that County Judge J. C. Siegmund, in office since 1927, would not run again.

Wray and Jones file for county offices
Two names in addition to Melson's were added to the county primary listings yesterday. Frank Y. Wray, Silverton, filed for the democratic nomination for county treasurer, pledging himself "to maintain integrity of office and conduct the business of the office efficiently and economically."

Walter Jones filed for the county clerkship.

As the 5 p. m. Monday deadline for filings approached, the democratic slate for the state legislature.

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Canby Bank Theft Guilt Unsettled; Jury Deadlocked

PORTLAND, March 30—(AP)—A deadlock federal jury was dismissed today and new plans made to try Myrtle Mary Jones, 28, for complicity in the Canby Union bank robbery November 9.

The jury was discharged by Judge James A. Fee at 1:40 a. m., after it deliberated 13 hours.

Assistant U. S. District Attorney Mason Dillard said he would ask for a second trial at the Pendleton term of federal court starting April 2.

The tender defendant testified she yielded to threats and cajolery of her husband, William, 32, to participate in the \$1065 robbery because she wanted either "death or medical treatment."

Jones awaits sentence for robbery at Canby bank and the State Bank of St. Paul. He was shot and captured while leaving the latter.

FDR Harpoons Other Bourbon Hopes, Charged

Candidates Torpedoed Is Complaint of Johnson, Backer of Wheeler

First Primaries Slated Tuesday: Dewey Held "Rabble-Rouser"

By WILLIAM B. ARDERY
WASHINGTON, March 30—(AP)—Senator Johnson (D-Col.) declared tonight that President Roosevelt, while keeping silent on the third-term issue, had "harpooned and torpedoed" other potential presidential candidates with the democratic party was "floundering in confusion."

The Coloradoan, who is supporting Senator Wheeler (D-Mont) for the democratic nomination, added in a statement:

"If the president intends to go through with it and accept the nomination, no one can well complain because smart politics are played in that cold-blooded way; but if at the eleventh hour he should abandon the scuttled democratic ship, he must accept the responsibility for the disaster which is so obviously and relentlessly bearing down upon her."

Johnson said that the president "is certain to be nominated for a third term unless he positively refuses to accept the office." The "practical, hard-boiled politicians," he added, want the president to run "for the simple reason that he can win."

Dozen Prospects
Declared Blasted
"A year ago the democratic party had a dozen attractive prospective candidates," Johnson continued. "Had political developments been permitted to take their course, many of these able men would have grown in public esteem with the months."

However, the president, perhaps with the noblest of intentions, has stymied democracy's most dependable sounding board, the primaries, and he has harpooned and torpedoed other candidates for the presidency until now on the very eve of the election the majority party is marking time. Floundering in confusion and trailing in public acclaim."

During the day, another westerner, Senator Schwartz (D-Wyo.) declared he favored a third term for the president.

Schwartz, previously silent on the third term issue, told reporters that "in view of conditions throughout the world, I think it highly advisable that the president remain at the helm."

The Wyoming senator made plain his belief, however, that there were candidates fitted for the presidency who could be called on if Mr. Roosevelt refused to run again.

Curly Announces Support of Farley
In Boston, meanwhile, former Governor James M. Curley, one of Mr. Roosevelt's earliest supporters in Massachusetts, declared his support of the president.

Fish Asks Probe Into White Book
WASHINGTON, March 30—(AP)—Rep. Fish (R-N.Y.) said tonight that he would demand a "complete investigation" of the German white book and would seek impeachment of Ambassador William C. Bullitt "if the facts warrant."

In a radio address (NBC), Fish said that President Roosevelt and Bullitt owed the American people "a categorical and detailed answer" to every charge made in the book.

It was no answer, he said, "to raise the hue and cry of 'prongs of salt' or to sprinkle a few grains of salt on its tail."

The paper, made public by Germany yesterday, purported to be documents seized in the Polish foreign office and were described by German officials as showing the "United States" part in "bringing on the war."

Fish said that congress probably would wait for publication of the full text of the alleged correspondent "in order to properly examine it and determine its authenticity."

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East and West Facing Serious Flood Perils After Record Rainfall

Turkey to Let Allies Through

To Choke German Supply Line in Black Sea, Bucharest Word

BUCHAREST, March 30—(AP)—Turkey was represented in usual well-informed Balkan diplomatic quarters tonight as having agreed to permit passage of British and French warships through the Dardanelles to choke off Germany's supply line from Russia in the Black Sea.

The newspaper Le Moment, regarded as close to the French embassy here, reported moreover, that Turkey had agreed to place her naval bases at Trebizond, Samsun and Sinope at the allies' disposal for use as contraband control bases.

Official circles in London professed no knowledge of the proposed agreement with Turkey. It was said, however, that if it is true, it will be a strong boost to the allied diplomatic offensive in the Balkans and an important aid to tightening the allied blockade of Germany.

Informants here reported the Turkish decision was reached at a British-French-Turkish military conference a few days ago at Aleppo, although such action is contrary to the Montevideo convention of 1936 to which Turkey was a party.

That convention stipulated that the Dardanelles would be closed to warships of belligerent nations except when they were serving under League of Nations mandate or helping a victim of aggression under a mutual assistance pact concluded within the framework of the league, to which Turkey was a party.

A way for Turkey to get back to the safety of the Columbia river mouth after losing its second mate, Robert Fulton, 35, San Francisco, off Cascade head, south of Tillamook.

Four seamen were sent to an Astoria hospital with injuries inflicted by the mountainous wave which swept Fulton overboard.

Captain Oscar Sala said the boat was hoisted to the stern, Seaman Hugo Isaacson threw a life buoy to the mate but he was swept under. The vessel cruised in the area for several hours, unable to lower a boat in the 70-mile-an-hour gale, before returning to Astoria.

The injured seamen are Nils Willanger, 35, San Francisco; Jack Worley, 42, Portland; Axel Anderson, 45, Alameda, Calif.; and W. E. Ethier, 27, Toppenish, Wash.

The Wheeler was enroute to San Francisco with Columbia river lumber.

The gale toppled several houses and smokestacks. Innumerable trees and communications towers were blown down in western Oregon. Sixty line breaks were reported by the Portland General Electric and Northwestern Electric companies (Turn to page 2, col. 3.)

League Pay Limit Increase Refused

Dick Weisgerber Is Among Neophyte Umpires to Receive Tryouts

Western International league club representatives, meeting at the Marion hotel last night, declined a motion to lift the present salary limit of \$250 to \$2400, announced a Shaughnessy playoff at the conclusion of the regular league schedule, named four umpires who will try out for three vacancies on the staff and moved to transfer the franchise of the Wenatchee Chiefs to the Wenatchee Professional Baseball club, Incorporated.

A \$150 salary limit raise was suggested so that a club hit by injuries during the playing season might have a bunker of \$150 with which to procure replacements. After considerable discussion, the matter was dropped.

It was decided the first four teams will play two out of three games series, with the two winners playing a three out of (Turn to page 2, column 3)

Cars Blocked by Fallen Tree so Drivers Trade, Climb Over, Save Time

ROSEBURG, March 30—(AP)—Paul Jenkins, Roseburg News-Review circulation manager, and Roy Catching, automobile dealer, lost little time yesterday when a huge oak tree toppled across the Roseburg-Melrose road, blocking their automobiles, one on each side.

They traded cars and proceeded.

Over two Million Paid, Income Tax

State income tax payments for 1940 up to Friday night aggregated \$2,096,000, members of the state tax commission reported Saturday. The time for filing 1940 returns, based on 1939 incomes, expires April 1.

Tax commissioners estimated that this year's income tax payments would exceed \$5,200,000.

Taxpayers who fail to file their returns by the night of April 1 will be subject to both penalty and interest.

McNary Foresees Reversal of Tariff Policy by Voters

WASHINGTON, March 30—(AP)—Senator McNary (R. Ore.), the republican leader, contended tonight that the people would override the senate in November on the reciprocal trade issue.

Pittsburgh Menaced by Rising Water, Families Marooned at Scranton; Upper New York Has Threat

Three Deaths Occur in California as Major Flood Develops; Nearly 8 Inches of Rain at Kennett

(By The Associated Press)
Rain-choked rivers rolled their floods through widely separated sections of the nation today, menacing life and property.

Rapidly thawing snows added to the hazards in northern states. National guardsmen and volunteers stood ready in upstate New York to throw relief machinery into action as the Chenango river passed flood stage and the Susquehanna kept rising.

Pittsburgh stood in the path of flooded western Pennsylvania streams and prepared to combat inundations of low-lying city areas.

The Lackawanna river lapped over its banks at Scranton, Pa., marooning families as waters poured into a part of the city.

Between the two sudden sections, rains fell on the lower lake region and the Ohio valley. Gathering disturbances gained intensity elsewhere, moving northeastward from Texas into the upper Ohio river regions.

Fog delayed shipping and air travel on the east coast, rain damped Boston, New York, Memphis, Tampa and Mobile; a whole gale left trees and power lines in Washington and Oregon in a soggy mess; while in northern California, a flood major proportions was developing.

At least three deaths were attributed to the California storm and one to the Pacific northwest blow.

A federal meteorologist, E. H. Fletcher, described flood conditions in the Sacramento valley as "critical," he said, "a flood of major proportions is rapidly developing on the Sacramento, Feather and American rivers."

The danger was in the same area where a flood a month ago inundated thousands of acres, forced 6,000 persons from their homes and caused damage estimated at \$15,000,000. Nine persons died in the February flood.

About 10,000 acres were inundated in the Marysville area today. At Napa, about 100 homes were isolated when the Napa river broke its banks in the town. The danger of the flood crest meeting a high tide added to the danger there.

New Cloudbursts in Sierra Region
In the Sierra foothills, new cloudbursts continued to pour more water into the tributaries of the Sacramento; and Fletcher said additional rain was in prospect. He said the Feather and American rivers would have more water than in February.

Emergency calls for additional help in patrolling dikes and repairing levees were sent out yesterday.

At Kennett, where the Shaasta dam is being built, a rainfall of 7.92 inches in 24 hours was recorded. At Bucks, in Plumas county, the total was 6 1/2 inches; Stirling City, Butte county, had 4 inches; Quincy 4 inches; Santa Rosa 3.20 and Soda Springs 3.11. San Francisco had its heaviest downpour in 16 years as 3.13 inches fell between 2 p. m. Friday and 10 a. m. yesterday.

California Trains to North Delayed
Several main highways were blocked by slides and washouts; and Southern Pacific trains to Oregon and Washington were delayed as much as eight hours. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, at Seattle, cancelled a train trip to Los Angeles, determining to take a plane today instead, changing to a train at San Francisco.

The all-day fog along the east coast delayed the Italian liner Conte Di Savoia, as she sailed from New York. An incoming liner anchored all day at the entrance of Ambrose channel, near New York, fearing to enter the harbor. A total of 143 airplane flights were cancelled.

Only in the middle west was the weather kind. Temperatures at Kansas City, Chicago, and Minneapolis were in the upper spring registers.

Fight for Badger Idol Blocks Road; Students Injured

FOREST GROVE, March 30—(AP)—An intra-school struggle for Boxer, a Chinese idol representing the "spirit of Pacific universality," blocked traffic on the Forest Grove-Banks highway yesterday.

Several students were slightly injured in the two-hour melee, which continued after police moved the battlers off the highway.

Additional text from the right edge of the page, including a small advertisement for a book.