

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

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Power Rate Revolution

For 30 years the Portland General Electric company, officially designated at times by other names but essentially the same institution, had adhered to a "postage stamp" rate policy. Except for brief periods in localities where it took over other companies' facilities, its charges for the same class of service have been identical throughout its territory.

The cost of serving patrons in different localities was not identical. Persons who studied the hydroelectric commission's report on the proposed Marion county PUD last year, noted that rural patrons were served, in the aggregate, approximately at cost; the company's only profit was derived in the cities. On a strictly equitable basis, rural customers would have paid more and city customers less; but city customers never have complained, or not loudly and in unison. Yet when PUD elections were held, city folk preponderantly opposed them—often persuaded in part by a feeling that the rural people would, unfairly, get the best of the deal.

Now, impelled by the pressure of potential public ownership competition, Portland General Electric has filed a rate schedule which departs from the "postage stamp" policy. Rural patrons' charges will not be increased; city patrons' charges will be lowered in an amount dependent upon actual cost of serving them.

In Salem the cost will be the "Bonnevillie objective" rate plus 5 per cent. This "Bonnevillie" rate is in effect only in Forest Grove's municipal system, which pays no taxes but does constitute a fixed sum to the city treasury. Thus the Forest Grove system avoids county, state and federal taxation, which would amount to more than 5 per cent. In every comparable case, rates paid by a Salem patron to PGE, less taxes, will be less than rates paid by a Forest Grove patron to the municipal utility. The Salem patron will benefit from the economy of a large operation.

Since rural patrons will still enjoy the benefits of previous rates reductions effected within the past year, they are not in position to complain. City rates will stop at the city limits; patrons living just outside will feel hurt, but they have the option of voting themselves into the city to take advantage of this economy and the various municipal services.

The policy change is dictated by necessity for meeting the challenge of the public power movement. The private company, fighting for its existence, cannot be blamed for its endeavor to avoid extinction. We suspect that company officials, recalling the impetus to rural electrification which the "postage stamp" policy has been, feel some degree of regret at the necessity for abandoning it. For the sake of the principle—the while recognizing that in practice, no one is hurt—the public probably will share in this regret.

But on the other hand, it is difficult to imagine what effective argument public power advocates will hereafter be able to offer in the cities, assuming that this rate schedule goes into effect.

Whose Hoop?

They're fixing to take the basketball tournament away from us again. Every year for more than half of the years that the state high school hoop classic has been a fixture in Salem, someone has had this bright idea. This time "they" are the high school coaches, a majority of their number who happened to be in Eugene last weekend. "They" don't have the final say; that is up to the state high school activities association, which holds its meeting in December. Most of its voting delegates are high school principals and they have, on occasions when the matter has come up before, had different ideas.

There is more substance behind the movement this year than heretofore. There was that regrettable episode following the last tournament, though its aftermath—the revelation that out-of-town partisans were responsible for most of the unseemly antics, including the throwing of dead fish—robbed it of any legitimate weight in determination of future tournament sites.

More substantial is the admitted inadequacy of the Willamette gymnasium to handle the crowds which more than 20 years of well-conducted tournaments have built up, and to afford, when tightly packed with spectators, ample playing space in the light of present basketball court standards.

In recent years, in order to save the tournament for Salem, the university has surrendered the financial stake it once had in the affair. Now the OSHAA gets all the profits. Salem benefits from the four-day presence of the out-of-town crowds. For Willamette's own purposes, the present gym is adequate. Thus the responsibility for saving the tournament, if Salem wants to save it, is up to the community as a whole.

It's a long time until next March, but it isn't so long until December when the issue will be settled. There is time, but not surplus time, for Salem to decide whether the tournament is worth keeping. There are ways and means—if the desire is strong enough.

The scrap between the new dealers has encouraged the committee to indulge along the same lines. The bill may not be whipped into final shape for three or four weeks.

Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones has picked up evidence that a Nazi agent tried to buy the British control in the Brown and Williamson Tobacco company when the British were getting ready to sell. This evidence largely inspired the government policy of lending the British money on their investments here instead of letting them liquidate.

The Nazis apparently have large sums of money in this country accumulating from their investments. As they cannot buy products from us, the money is believed by government officials to be going largely into propaganda.

Zamzam

Loss of American life at sea was the most obvious factor in this nation's decision to enter World War I. The Kaiser guessed Americans wouldn't fight no matter what his U-boats did. He guessed wrong. It is logical to assume that Hitler knows better. Judging from recent maneuvers to keep the United States out, he is more impressed with the possibility that it will get in, than is the average American.

The Germans now admit that they sank the neutral Egyptian passenger liner Zamzam, but report that they saved all passengers and crew members. For confirmation we can afford to wait, as also for better evidence as to the justification for the sinking—that there was contraband aboard. Are hospital supplies and ambulance units contraband? Practically speaking, in the new concept of a "war of peoples" everything is contraband. But this is a matter in which American public opinion is involved, and the harsher definitions of modern war may not apply.

Proof that no American lives were lost and that those citizens who were rescued are being treated as disaster refugees and not as prisoners, will perhaps mitigate resentment here despite the dubiety of the original act's justification.

At the outset of the war congress passed a "neutrality act," the title of which is now a misnomer; but the act itself has served, so far, to prevent the inflammation of resentment which characterized the pre-war-entry period in 1915-17. It is hoped that this picture will not change. There may be reasons why the United States should be "at war," rather than merely "in the war." But it is better that we calculate the validity of those reasons calmly in the light of the national interest, rather than in the heat of passion.

A syndicate of insurance companies is charging the government \$82,000 for one minute's million dollar coverage on a new 80-ton bomber. That's the first minute and it's a 13-to-1 shot. After that the insurance cost is sharply reduced, to \$3000 an hour. The first minute is the hardest.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, May 20.—Those congressmen and other officials who have been consulted by Mr. Roosevelt the past ten days have apparently all come away with the impression he has been working that long on a substitute plan for conveying—to go much further than conveying. A fairly well-rounded-up consensus of their opinion has suggested he wanted to sweep the seas clear of submarines and raiders.

The recent new trend of official remarks substantiates these deductions. Mr. Roosevelt had broadly likened the German blockade to piracy. His state secretary, Mr. Hull, followed with a speech emphasizing the next German threat would be directed toward domination of the seas.

Details of how this sea defense line is to be built up in the new Roosevelt plan are supposed to involve further extension of air and surface patrols based on experiments conducted by the head of the Atlantic fleet. These experiments have already carried the American flag within sight of Dakar.

State Secretary Hull's generalized picture of trade disruption to be expected from a Nazi victory has been focused down in grim detail by his assistant, Adolf Berle in a local extemporaneous speech which was sparsely reported.

From Mr. Berle's speech it is evident he expects first a Nazi repudiation of our gold and its value, but he did not think this would be the worst. We could discard gold without danger. If you read at the breakfast table that all the gold at Fort Knox had been swallowed up, you would be surprised but would probably continue your breakfast.

More serious would be Germany's challenge to our prices. He thought heavy taxes would be necessary to subsidize cotton exports, for example. We would be required to take manufactured goods from the German dominated world as payment for any of our goods they wanted, and the resultant unemployment in our factories would also have to be financed by the government, he thought.

Hitler promised in Mein Kampf he could throw this country into revolution by these manipulating trade processes plus propaganda, according to Berle.

The strange backing and filling of the administration on its own tax bill has now been clarified by the latest testimony before the house ways and means committee, both on and off the record—mostly off. It was Mr. Roosevelt himself who led the opposition to his own treasury bill, at the instance of Messrs. Henderson and Eccles. This opposition led to the new dealers getting together with the treasury on a halfway compromise as represented in the new excess profits proposal by Treasury Assistant John L. Sullivan.

The compromise will hit the large established corporations hardest. Jim Farley's Coca Cola, for instance, is it earned 15 per cent the last 4 years, would be exempt only on 10 per cent. Everything it made above 10 per cent would be taxed 60 to 70 per cent.

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The Unsolved Mystery—Quick, Watson, the Needle!

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Yes, in printshop 5-21-41 parlance, "they would surely vomit a snipe," these history hickstricians:

This is a continuation of the matter under the above heading which ran in this column four days last week, from the Tuesday to the Friday issue, inclusive.

The first reason for its appearance, in the four days, was a news item in the Portland Journal, making this statement: "It was on May 2, 1843, when the first American government west of the Rocky mountains was established at the little village of Champoo, long since gone, but the memories of it are kept alive by these annual meetings."

That was a lie, or rather a stack of lies; two of them inexcusable lies. In the first place, there was no village of Champoo there, or anywhere, on May 2, 1843.

In the second place, the first American government west of the Rocky mountains was established at the Lee Mission on Thursday, Feb. 18, 1841; established and set in motion, fully officered and with the laws by which it was to be governed.

That government was the one

turned off to California. And that is really no argument at all, since the name was well established in the early 1840s, when California was still under Mexican and Oregon was the only goal of the wagon trains. We would not even mention the matter except to bring out how queer Californians get to acting when deprived for a time of vitamin B1.

"Dr. William S. Paden," if correctly quoted, shows himself to be an ignominious ignoramus and a silly sucker. The Old Oregon Trail led to the Old Oregon Country.

Does "Dr. William S. Paden" think Jesse Applegate, one of the leaders of the 1843 covered wagon immigration, was mistaken: that while he thought he was on the Old Oregon Trail all those weary months, he was really on the California trail?

Does Dr. Paden believe that Peter H. Burnett, another leader of that train, was mistaken when he thought he was on the Old Oregon Trail?

Does the Paden doctor think Burnett was "all wet" when he came, and got into the 1844 provisional government legislature and helped enact a lot of the first laws of the Oregon commonwealth, and was elected supreme judge, and then followed the gold rush that was started in California by Oregonians?

Does Paden imagine Burnett was still "all wet" when he became the first governor of the state of California, and gave that commonwealth for its first legal enactments the laws he had helped to make for Oregon?

Does he think James W. Nesmith was mistaken when, as orderly sergeant, at Fitzhugh's Mill, near Independence, Mo., he made up the list of the members of the 1843 covered wagon train, as they gathered at their rendezvous to make the start of their historic journey over the Old Oregon Trail?

(Concluded tomorrow.)

Editorial Comments

From Other Papers

KEEP OFF THE GRASS

Maybe it is because happenings in Europe have caused us to hate dictators that we dislike having our own government imposed, or attempt to impose, conditions that take from the pleasures of the people without doing the least good for the government or anyone else.

Whatever the reason may be, this writer, during the recent legislature, heard several expressions of irritation over the signs displayed at various places on the lawn of the postoffice at Salem. Painted in the national red, white and blue, they carry the warning, "US Property—Keep Off the Grass." Not even the courteous request, "Please Keep Off the Grass."

Of course, we all know there are many who delight in destroying public property. Often it is discouraging to attempt to keep up public places and to beautify lawns, public or private, because of the many who have no regard for anyone else's property, government or private.

However, in the case of the postoffice lawn at Salem, across the street to the west is the lawn of the Marion county court house. There are no "Keep Off the Grass" signs there, but the county lawn is just as pretty as Uncle Sam's across the street. No paths have been worn by the public taking short cuts across the grass. To the east of the postoffice lawn is Willson park. There are no "Keep Off the Grass" signs there. In fact, the public is invited to use the park and seats are provided for those who wish to rest among its stately trees. No injury has come to the grass from this continual use of the park. Still farther to the east are the lawns of the state buildings. There are no "Keep Off the Grass" signs there, yet the state's lawns are more beautiful, if anything, than Uncle Sam's.

So it would seem the "Keep Off the Grass" signs of the postoffice lawn serve no useful purpose.

pose, while they do cause Americans to ask, "Who is this Uncle Sam, anyway, that I can't walk on his lawn?" Then the answer, "Why, he is the fellow who looks after my property for me."

What the Salem postoffice lawn needs is a few seats for the comfort of those whose money helped erect the beautiful new building. Uncle Sam's forest service sets an example the postoffice service might well follow. Incidentally, it could tell plenty about the way guests of the forest abuse their own property.

—Masonic Analyst.

Swim Star Helps to Name Baby



Betty Scanlon, swimming star who'll be remembered by thousands as a performer at the New York World's fair aqueduct, is all wrapped up in a new job, as you can see. She's the corps of girls helping Chlo Young, creator of "Blondie," handle the hundreds of thousands of letters he's received about the name for Blondie's new daughter.

"Lover Come Back"

By BARRETT WILLOUGHBY

CHAPTER 17
"But I can't leave. Not until you give me a chance to tell—"
"I'm not interested in anything you may have to tell me. I despise you. I won't listen to you. Now go!"
"Not at all. I'll stay here—and unmake with the others."
"You wouldn't dare!" Yet Sondra knew he would dare. She saw Kemp's mask slowly turning to follow their every move. Her fingers tightened on Reynold's shoulder. "Look! That's Kemp Starbuck in the Killer Whale blanket. I believe he suspects who you are. Please, oh, please—go, before you spoil my party."
"Sondra!" The sudden gravity and sternness in his tone impressed her, despite herself. "Understand—this is no personal matter. I must tell you something—for your own good. Give me five minutes with you alone, where we can't be overheard."
"But—how can I, with people all over the place? There's not a corner that someone's not likely to barge into."
"Meet me outside, then. Behind the old banya."
She shook her head. "Can't leave my guests. A mob would be searching for me if I disappeared. I shan't have a single minute, unless . . ." Liane's dance flashed into her mind. While it was in progress, there'd be at least ten minutes with these rooms in darkness and all eyes focused on the dancer's dais. Sondra might slip out then, and not be missed. But . . .

While she hesitated, she saw Kemp weaving toward them through the dancers. Something purposeful in his stride set her heart thumping with near-panic. She knew, instinctively, she must avert any meeting between Kemp and Jean tonight.
"You must go—now! Quick, before Kemp—"
"Do I get that five minutes?"
"Yes, yes, yes! But let's get out of here. Swing off into the reception room as soon as you can."
He flashed a look about, then smoothly maneuvered to place a group of dancers in the path of Kemp's advance. A moment later they were part of the chatting crowd in the reception room. Jean bent his head to hear Sondra's tense directions. "We'll go together to the front door, as if to step into the garden. Then you go out alone. When the coast is clear—just after Liane's dance starts—I'll slip out and meet you at the banya."
But just as they reached the front door, it swung open and a hilarious group of girls and men were marshaled in by a laughing pair of O'Moore's boat captains. One of the pair ushered their charges toward the dining room, exclaiming, "Right this way, ladies and gentlemen, for the big show!" The other closed the door and placed himself before it. When Sondra motioned him aside so Jean could go out, he spread his arms, grinning good-naturedly. "Sorry, Miss Sondra. Captain's orders. Nobody to leave the house till after Miss Boot-rin's act. Look, the waltz is ended, so it won't be long now."
Sondra turned to look. The musicians were leaving their dais, and Kemp, thank heaven, was mounting it to set the stage for the climax of Liane's dance. Pola's boys were placing canvas chairs for the audience. A few minutes more and the reception room would be deserted. Jean couldn't stay here without attracting disastrous attention. She must get him out of sight until, unobserved, he could leave the house for the banya.

As her mind desperately shuttled expedients, she remembered the locked library, and the key Pola had put behind the potted fern. That was it! She'd let Jean into the library under cover of the chattering, expectant crowd now pressing toward the doors of the dining and drawing rooms. After those doors were closed, and the overture to Liane's dance well under way, it would be safe for him to slip out. She drew Jean in front of the library door and explained the plan in a hasty undertone. "Got it?"
He was chuckling behind his mask. "Okay. Do I slug the guard on the way out?"
(To be continued)

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(To be continued)

Radio Programs

These schedules are supplied by the respective stations. Any variations noted by listeners are due to changes made by the stations without notice to this newspaper.

KSLM—WEDNESDAY—1390 Kc.
6:30—Sunrise Salute.
7:00—News in Brief.
7:30—Classical Music.
7:30—News.
7:45—Clarence Williams' Orchestra.
8:15—Kenny Baker's Orchestra.
8:30—News.
8:30—Tomb Raider.
8:30—Pastor's Call.
8:35—Popular Music.
8:45—The World This Morning.
10:15—Prescription for Happiness.
10:30—The World in the News.
10:35—Variety Program.
11:00—Melodic Moods.
11:30—Willie Postell's Chapel.
11:45—Value Parade.
12:00—Market Reports.
12:05—Jean Dilmars at the Organ.
12:15—Noontime News.
12:30—Hillbilly Serenade.
12:35—Sun Haven's City Opinions.
12:50—The Song Shop.
1:00—Town House Orchestra.
1:15—Idle of Paradise.
1:30—Western Serenade.
2:00—News.
2:15—US Marines.
2:30—Modern Melody Trio.
2:30—Crooners Troubadour.
3:15—Concert Gems.
4:15—News.
4:30—Teatime Tunes.
4:45—Singing Saxophones.
5:00—Popularity Row.
5:30—Dinner Hour Melodies.
6:00—News Headlines.
6:15—War Commentary.
6:30—Freddy Noble's Orchestra.
7:00—News in Brief.
7:05—Interesting Facts.
7:15—Top Hatters.
7:30—State Safety Program.
7:45—The Elton Boys.
7:45—The World Tonight.
8:15—Arnold King's Orchestra.
8:45—Wes McWain at the Piano.
9:00—News Tabloid.
9:15—Harold's Orchestra.
9:30—Edward Oldtimers.
10:00—Hits of the Day.
10:30—News.
10:45—Let's Dance.
11:15—Dream Time.

KOIN—CBS—WEDNESDAY—970 Kc.
6:00—NW Farm Reporter.
6:15—KOIN Clock.
7:00—Treat Time.
7:15—News.
7:45—Consumer News.
8:00—Kate Smith.
8:15—When a Girl Marries.
8:30—Romance of Helen Trent.
8:45—Our Gal Sunday.
9:00—Life Can Be Beautiful.
9:15—Woman in White.
9:30—Right to Happiness.
10:00—Big Sister.
10:15—Aunt Jenny.
10:30—Fletcher Wiley.
10:45—Kate Hopkins.
11:00—Martha Webster.
11:30—Hello Again.
11:45—Woman of Courage.
12:15—Myrt and Marge.
12:30—Bess Johnson.
12:45—Stepmother's Story.
1:00—Betty Crocker.
1:15—Singing Sam.
1:30—The O'Keefe.
1:45—Scattergood Baines.
2:00—Young Dr. Malone.
2:15—Heddy Hopper's Hollywood.
2:30—Joyce Jordan.
2:45—The World Today.
3:00—The Secret of Santa Burton.
3:15—We the Abbotts.
3:30—News.
3:45—Ezmer Davis.
4:00—Buddy Malville Orchestra.
4:30—Big Tom.
4:45—Glenn Miller Orchestra.
5:15—Public Affairs.
5:30—Adventures of Mr. Meek.
5:45—The Secret of Andy.
6:15—Lanny Ross.
6:30—Dr. Christian.
6:45—News.
6:50—Fred Allen.
7:00—News.
7:15—Leon F. Drews.
7:30—Baker Theatre.
7:45—Five Star Final.
8:00—Nightclub Terna.
8:30—Carl Ravara Orchestra.
8:45—Manny Strand Orchestra.
11:30—News.

KALE—MBS—WEDNESDAY—1330 Kc.
6:30—Memory Timekeeper.
7:00—Weather Forecast.
8:00—Haven of Rest.
8:30—News.
8:45—This and That.
9:00—Helen Golden.
9:15—I'll Find My Way.
10:00—News.
10:30—Woman's side of the News.
10:45—Buyer's Parade.
11:00—Concert Lights, Jr.
11:30—Johnson Family.
12:45—News.
1:00—John B. Hughes.
1:30—We Are Always Young.
2:00—Captain Sally.
2:30—News.
3:00—Voice of American Women.
3:15—Here's Morgan.
4:00—Sunshine Express.
4:30—Gaylight Harmonies.
5:00—Shafter Parker's Circus.
5:45—Captain Midnight.
7:00—Ray Gram Swing.
7:15—Fulton Lewis, Jr.
7:30—Gabriel Heatter.
7:45—Jimmy Allen.
8:00—News.
8:30—Music for Moderns.
8:45—Northwest Salute.
9:00—News.
9:15—Today's Top Tunes.
9:30—Ted Fio Rito Orchestra.
10:30—News.
10:45—Leighton Noble Orchestra.
11:30—Henry King Orchestra.

KOAC—WEDNESDAY—530 Kc.
9:00—News.
9:15—The HomeMaker's Hour.
10:00—Weather Forecast.
10:15—Excursions in Science.
11:00—School of the Air.
12:00—News.
12:15—Farm Hour.
2:00—AAUW Study Club.
2:45—Feature Page.
3:00—US Navy.
3:15—Book of the Week.
3:45—News.
4:30—Stories for Boys and Girls.
5:00—On the Campuses.
5:15—News.
5:30—Farm Hour.
7:00—Business Letter.
8:15—Dean Victor P. Morris.
8:30—Radio Workshop.
8:45—School of Engineering.
9:30—Department of Music.
9:45—Department of Engineering.

KEX—NBC—WEDNESDAY—1190 Kc.
6:30—Ed's Up.
7:00—Western Agriculture.
7:15—Breakfast Club.
8:00—Ames Corner.
8:30—National Farm and Home.
9:15—Between the Bookends.
9:30—Homespun.
9:45—News.
10:30—Charmingly We Live.
11:30—Orphans of Divorce.
11:45—Arnold of Hibernian Hill.
11:50—John's Other Wife.
11:55—Just Plain Bill.
12:00—Mother of Mine.
12:15—Market Reports.
12:30—News.
1:15—Cordelia Quiz.
1:30—The Quiet Hour.
1:45—Gasoline Alley.
2:00—Country Jamboree.
2:15—Mr. Keen Tracer.
2:30—Living Literature.
2:45—Mother of Mine.
3:15—The Barton.
3:30—Roy Shild's Revue.
3:45—Drama Behind the News.