

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Stryker

IT SEEMS TO ME that the four northwestern states, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, which have a common interest in the Columbia basin, ought to get together, in conjunction with federal agencies, and work out a compact relating to the waters of the Columbia river.

At present the army engineers and Bonneville Power administration are seeking to increase power production at Grand Coulee and Bonneville by putting in storage dams either on the Flathead river in Montana or the Clark's fork at Alben Falls in Idaho. Montana and Idaho residents are objecting because of the flooding of farm lands which would result. They claim these waters should be used for the benefit of their states and not to their detriment for the benefit of other states.

The problem is similar to that which arose regarding the Colorado river. The southwestern states there formed a compact; Arizona, the hold-out, has finally agreed to it; and a general development of the river for irrigation, power and domestic uses has resulted.

Gov. Bottolfsen of Idaho has called a one-day conference of governors at Boise for July 12 to consider post-war development. The Columbia river is the geographical tie of the four northwestern states; and in many ways their greatest asset. The meeting on July 12 would justify itself if it set in motion plans for an interstate compact covering the use of waters of the Columbia river.

In this connection recognition should be given to the priority of water for irrigation in states like Idaho and Montana, whose future depends so much on application of water to land for agriculture. We who live in the lower portion of the Columbia basin should not stifle the development of the interior by robbing that section of its waters for other and less important uses. The probability is that with study, adjustments can be made to provide for the highest beneficial use of the waters of the Columbia and its tributaries—the life-stream of the great northwest.

Copper Mine Shutdown Threatens

BINGHAM CANYON, Utah, July 7.—(AP)—A complete shutdown of operations of the Utah Copper company, which produces a large portion of this country's supply of the war-vital red metal, was threatened Wednesday because of a walkout by 100 members of the Order of Railway Conductors (AFL).

Approximately 5,000 men are employed in the company's open cut mine at Bingham Canyon, largest in the world, and its mills at Arthur and Magna.

The dispute centered on the question of retirement benefits for the conductors. A union spokesman said these were in jeopardy; the company denied the claim.

The men walked out over demands that the company recognize they are employees of the Bingham and Garfield railroad, not the copper company. Bert H. Richardson, union spokesman, said the company's refusal to classify the men as railroad employees caused them to lose benefits of the railroad retirement act.

Liquor Supply Problem More Acute As Nation Girds for All-Out Effort

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP)—It's going to be a longer time between drinks for the nation's elbow-benders from now until possibly the end of the war.

With production of beverage alcohol now banned by the government, estimates of how long the available liquor supply will last vary from two to four years. Most industry spokesmen set it at three years—on a rationed basis.

A survey of the liquor situation made by the Associated Press shows:

1. There is no immediate likelihood of lifting of the ban on making beverage alcohol.
2. The office of price administration (OPA) says no rationing of liquor is presently contemplated by the national government—considering liquor a luxury item—but evidence gathered throughout the nation indicates that virtually the same thing will be accomplished either by state laws or voluntary rationing systems, many of which now are in effect.
3. For some tastes, the situation may be eased—but only slightly—through increased imports of Puerto Rican and Cuban

Yank Troops Land at Munda

2 Beachheads Won Near Japs' Key Air Base

Kula Gulf Naval Victory Expanded to at Least 9 Enemy Ships Sunk

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Thursday, July 8.—(AP)—American landing troops have won two beachheads near the Japanese air base of Munda, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today in a communique which also expanded our naval victory in the Kula gulf to at least nine and possibly 11 enemy cruisers and destroyers sunk.

Victory all along the 700-mile arc of the Pacific offensive was reported as the drive entered its second week. Australian jungle fighters seized a vital hill on the approaches to Salamaua, new Guinea, after the bewildered Japanese defenders had been pounded from the air by 100 tons of bombs and allied fighter planes dealt more crushing blows against challenging Japanese air forces over the Solomons.

In a pincer movement on Munda, American troops landed above it at Rice Anchorage before dawn July 5, it was disclosed, the same date that American warships were shelling the nearby Bairoko Anchorage. Other American troops landed at Zanana six miles east of the Munda airdrome and now have contacted the enemy along the Barike river.

Jap Destroyers Sunk

Latest accounts of the Kula gulf victory accented the lightning character of the blows dealt the Japanese ships in the darkness of July 5-6. Within five minutes after four or five Japanese destroyers were encountered, all of them either had been destroyed or set afire. Fifteen minutes after our warships came upon light enemy cruisers, the group, estimated at three and possibly four, were "sunk or afire" the communique said.

The other Japanese losses came while rescue operations were in progress around the American cruiser lost in the battle. Two out of every three enemy warships were intercepted and sunk as they attempted to flee the narrow Kula gulf and still another was damaged.

The heaviest attack ever unleashed in the southwest Pacific area on a ground target preceded the capture of Observation hill which lies between Mubo and Salamaua. The 100 tons of bombs burst among the Japanese defenders in a 45 minute period.

The delayed reports on the New Georgia activity now can be pieced together into this chronological pattern: on the night of July 4 and in the predawn of July 5, American warships in the Kula gulf battered Bairoko Anchorage which supplies Munda, 12 miles below it. American troop landings at Rice Anchorage followed immediately. At the same time, other troops secured the Zanana beachhead with patrols fanning out quickly to find Japanese forces and engage them.

Helena Only US Loss

The night after these operations, Japanese naval forces moved into the Kula gulf and were decisively defeated with the only American loss the light cruiser Helena.

This account was given of the new landing operations: "Our forces landed at Rice Anchorage four miles northeast of Bairoko harbor before dawn on the fifth. Operations were preceded by the bombardment of the enemy base in the Kula gulf by our surface units (it was in this bombardment that the US destroyer Strong was lost).

"During the same night, elements of our ground forces from Rendova secured a beachhead at Zanana six miles east of the Munda airdrome. Patrols made contact along the Barike river."

The communique announcement on amplification of the Kula gulf naval engagement said the "enemy naval force was decisively defeated with the loss of at least nine warships."

"In the first phase of the engagement, four or five hostile destroyers were struck by smashing broadsides that within five minutes destroyed or set afire the entire group," it said.

"Three or possibly four enemy light cruisers were then taken

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rum, Cuban and Mexican gins. But imports of Scotch and Canadian whisky may be less as time goes on.

4. More and more tipplers are shifting to beer, some to wine. With distillers operating on the assumption that what they have in warehouses now may be all they'll have until the war is over, they have rationed wholesalers in an attempt to stretch out the supplies. The wholesalers, in turn, are rationing the retailers, with this result:

The pinch already is such that some package stores, bars and taverns have closed in certain sections of the country, the highest mortality so far being in Ohio where 1,000 bars and taverns have locked their doors due to lack of supplies.

The survey shows the cut in supplies now available varies by sections, ranging from a drop of 90 per cent in some parts of Louisiana to a 25 per cent lowered supply in New York state. Of all the states only little Rhode Island reports anything resembling a normal supply.

Officials of the war produc-

tion board (WPB), who would have the say on whether the nation's distillers sometime during the war could resume at least limited production of alcohol for beverage purposes, decline to make a flat statement on the matter, declaring that much depends on the agricultural situation—how much corn there is—and the demands of our war machine for alcohol, used in making gunpowder and synthetic rubber.

You could mix a lot of Tom Collinses with 72,000,000 gallons of alcohol, but that is the gallonage estimated as necessary to turn out the synthetic rubber slations for production in a year's time at just one government-supervised plant—the big one at Institute, W. Va.

And WPB men shudder at the mere thought of what would happen if a serious corn shortage should develop while corn was being used for making liquor.

In the majority of the 17 monopoly states, formal ration systems already are in operation, with purchasers compelled to register for permits.

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The Oregon Statesman

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Germans Take Staggering Losses

British Jab At Crete

Move Comes as Bold Surprise; Many Say Invasion Started

ANKARA, Turkey, July 7.—(AP) The bayonet-like jab of British forces against the thin island of Crete which lies as a heavily fortified bastion guarding the smaller island stepping stones to the Balkan peninsula has heartened allied and neutral observers here.

The Germans appear to have centered their defense on Crete, supported by a crescent of outer islands from Rhodes to the Greek mainland and making a continuing defense line with fortifications along the Adriatic coast.

The inner islands of the Aegean are lightly garrisoned by troops which in some cases already are showing unmistakable signs of shattered morale. For the British delivery of the first blow, in what many here believe may be the opening of a major campaign against the heart of German defenses, was a surprise.

Unofficial strategists pictured the drive as beginning with an attack on Rhodes with a quick mop-up of the Dodecanese and the inner Aegean which initially would by-pass Crete but quickly open it for a many-sided attack.

Only after that island's defenses have been neutralized can the allies sweep on into the valleys of the Vardar and Strouma to strike at the heart of the German-infected Balkans.

The Germans have attempted to make Crete impregnable with deep defenses along its whole (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Pickets Keep Miners From Starting Work

PITTSBURGH, July 7.—(AP) Nearly 5000 soft coal miners who planned to work Wednesday were kept from their jobs as roving pickets, including three women, closed eight southwestern Pennsylvania mines. Across the state in the anthracite region the last 4500 holdouts against union orders of June 22 to end their strike returned to work.

The picketing in the soft coal district around Brownsville increased the number of idle miners to about 7000. Most of the 11 mines remaining closed are owned by steel corporations.

John P. Busarello, president of United Mine Workers district 5, said the pickets were among the insurgent miners who at a three-hour meeting in Brownsville yesterday decided to try to enlist other miners in their "no contract, no work" campaign.

Busarello described it as "an outlaw meeting by an outlaw group of miners." Federal agents and army officials were known to be in the field closely watching the situation, but a spokesman in the office of US Attorney Charles F. Uhl said any action in connection with the recently enacted Connally-Smith anti-strike bill would have to be initiated in Washington.

Well, Mates, It's This Blasted War

Willamette university navy men impressed by the naval tradition of a gal in every port are a little worried about keeping up naval standards because they have only one port and that is practically gal-less.

Only 58 coeds are aboard at Willamette with more than 265 seamen who bear naval traditions will be reversed in the port where coeds will have a sailor in every class room.

Ex-Policeman Confesses To Hildebrand Murder

Clues From Other Assault Case Led to Rape-Slayer

Washington County Charges Followed By Investigators

Six days before the nude body of Ruth Hildebrand was discovered floating in the Willamette, Lt. R. G. Howard and Sgt. C. Enahiser were seeking Richard Harry Layton, confessed slayer of the Hildebrand girl, on charges of assault filed with Washington county police officials, the two state police officers revealed Wednesday night.

In checking on Layton for the Washington county attack, they discovered that he had been chief of police at Monmouth, that a car had been registered to him at Independence but that his whereabouts were unknown, all of which led them to connect him with the Hildebrand case after the discovery of the girl's body. Lt. Howard stated.

The trail led from two minor girls, friends of the murder victim, who informed Lt. Howard of repeated rides from Monmouth to Dallas with Layton in the early hours of the morning, to the soldier whom Miss Hildebrand visited at Camp Adair on June 7 and to whom she remarked that she had a friend at Monmouth who would take her home.

Layton was selected as chief of police at Monmouth in January, held the position until early March, when he resigned to take six weeks' similar employment at Sweet Home. During his employment at Monmouth, he drove the night patrol car, and according to the Hildebrand girl's friends, made a practice of picking them up at the conclusion of his shift and taking them to Dallas since no night bus ran between Monmouth and Dallas.

Acting upon the information of the two girls and of the soldier at Camp Adair, the two officers confronted Layton, now arrested and serving six months in the Washington county jail, with their suspicions and he "talked very readily," Lt. Howard revealed.

Layton admitted that he had picked up Miss Hildebrand on the night of June 7 at 11 p. m. and had driven her to Independence, claiming to have business there. He made another excuse, according to his confession, continued toward Buena Vista and, in the wooded spot known as Lover's lane, attacked her.

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Normandie Salvaging Near Over

NEW YORK, July 7.—(AP) One of the greatest salvage operations of all time, the righting of the former French liner Normandie, apparently near a completion Wednesday as workmen started construction of an observation platform from which the righting operation will be watched by naval and other officials.

Workmen were under orders to have the 400-foot deck, on the southbound roadway of the west side elevated highway between 48th and 49th streets, completed by July 15. The Manhattan borough president's office gave the navy permission to construct the observation deck on city property.

Further evidence leading to the belief that workmen had almost completed salvage of the old Normandie was seen in the removal of many little shacks and inclosures which have adorned the vessel's hull during the reconstruction.

Dimout
Thur. sunset 9:03
Fri. sunrise 5:29
(Weather on Page 5)



RUTH HILDEBRAND

Subsidy Plan Tieup Break Is Expected

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP) Definite signs of a break-up appeared Wednesday night in the deadlock between the house and senate on appropriations, but prospects of an early summer recess were still clouded by disagreements on the question of subsidizing food price rollbacks.

The biggest change in the outlook came late in the day when senate conferees agreed to recommend to their branch Thursday that it recede from its stand and allow federal crop insurance to die.

Representatives of both houses, however, were still uncompromising on the subsidy question. Conferees met for nearly six (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

D. C. Speaker Says Foe Not Behind Riots

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP) Although it has no intention of making any general public statement to that effect, the federal bureau of investigation takes the view that there has been no direct connection between enemy agents and recent race riots in this country.

That was the assertion Wednesday of D. C. Speaker, mythical capitol observer who represents authentic but unquotable sources.

"Because such riots obviously made good axis propaganda," Speaker said, "the FBI naturally watched for any sign of enemy activity—but it found little or none."

On the contrary, he said, in some instances the G-men learned that varied forces which were at least partly to blame for start of the riots had deliberately fostered the idea of enemy activity—to take the finger of suspicion off themselves.

Death Goes Native

A bespectacled, middle-aged bachelor stumbled on a colony of gifted but temperamental white people on one of the lesser islands of the Hawaii group. There's a murder and every one including the newcomer has a plausible motive. There's color and excitement—you'll eagerly await each chapter.

Tells How Girl Screamed When Thrown in River

PORTLAND, Ore., July 7.—(AP) A burly six-footer, Richard Harry Layton, 36, who once served as police chief at Monmouth, Ore., confessed the rape-slashing of Ruth Hildebrand, 17, Dallas, last June 7, State Police Captain Wayne M. Gurdane disclosed Wednesday.

Layton, itinerant town and farm worker who boasted of his prowess with women, told Gurdane he struck the girl and knocked her into the Willamette river after the assault.

He did not attempt a rescue, he said, because he could not swim. Gurdane said he signed a confession Tuesday night.

The Hildebrand girl's nude body was recovered from the Willamette river by three fishermen on June 20, 13 days after she bought a bus ticket at Dallas for Camp Adair and disappeared.

Investigators found her blood-stained clothing on the river bank near Wells Landing in Polk county. Dr. Joseph Becman of the state police crime laboratory said an autopsy showed that she had been raped but that she was still alive when thrown in the river. Death he ascribed to drowning.

Gurdane quoted the former Monmouth police officer as admitting he picked up the girl in the Monmouth bus depot on her return from Camp Adair where she had visited a soldier friend. He said he agreed to drive her to Dallas where she resided with her mother, Mrs. Martha F. Hildebrand. The attack took place en route.

Layton was in the Washington county jail serving six months on a simple assault charge when the Hildebrand investigation centered suspicion on him, Gurdane said. This charge grew out of an unsuccessful attack on another girl, the state police captain continued.

No formal charge has been filed against Layton, who has been returned to the Washington county jail at Hillsboro pending a Polk county application for his release for trial.

Miss Hildebrand's father is Abe Hildebrand of Woodburn. The parents are divorced.

Layton said he became frightened after he knocked the girl in the river.

"She screamed as she struggled in the water," Layton was quoted by Gurdane. "But the water was deep—18 feet right by the bank at that point—and I couldn't swim. I got scared, ran back to the car and went home."

Community's Cannery Under Way; Installation At Bonesteel Building

Installation of equipment for a community cannery in Salem, one of 12 projected throughout the state, already is under way in the Wallace Bonesteel building at 3000 Portland road, at the corner of Lana avenue, it was announced Wednesday by Neal Craig, Salem high school agriculture instructor.

Priority problems are involved in the acquisition of some equipment not yet on hand and for this reason a definite date for commencing operation could not be set Wednesday. It was indicated that the cannery might be in operation within 15 days.

The project is sponsored by the Salem school district and financed by the federal government through the state department of vocational education.

Canning of produce for individual families is the purpose. OPA has limited the quantity to be canned for any one person to 100

30,000 Dead In 3 Days

Red Force Attacking To Reestablish Old Line Positions

LONDON, July 8.—(AP) The German army in three days has suffered the most staggering losses in its history—30,000 dead, 1539 tanks destroyed or damaged, and 646 airplanes shot down—and has failed to achieve a major breakthrough in its gigantic gamble in Russia, it was announced early today in Moscow.

The axis hurled 30 divisions, of approximately 450,000 men, against the Russians on the Orsk-Kurak-Belgorod sector, but "did not catch our troops unawares," said a special soviet announcement broadcast by Moscow and recorded by the soviet monitor.

"Only in a few sections of the Belgorod area has the enemy, at the cost of enormous losses, succeeded in driving insignificant wedges into our defenses."

The regular midnight bulletins had acknowledged the German capture of an additional "few villages" Wednesday in the Belgorod sector. At the end of the flaming 200-mile front where two villages advanced, had been taken by the enemy during Tuesday's fighting.

The later soviet announcement made no attempt to minimize the power of the German thrust, but said flatly that "in the first three days the Germans, despite the size of their offensive had met with no success."

"Hitler's headquarters' liars" also were taunted in this confident Moscow broadcast for their original assertion that the red (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Shipbuilding Industry Faces Wage Dispute

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP) Representatives of employer and employe groups in the nation's private shipbuilding industry clashed Wednesday at hearings before the war labor board over whether a general pay increase for the workers is warranted.

The board, in its first wage review under the nationwide shipbuilding stabilization agreements, is confronted with deciding whether the government, in persuading the unions to surrender the escalator clauses in their contracts in 1942, assumed a moral responsibility to guarantee wage increases if the cost of living was not held down.