

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

IT SEEMS TO ME that Salem has a good chance to be neighborly today when the highway commission comes to town, completing its tour of highways in western Oregon. The commission is building its list of projects for post-war construction, about a fifth of a billion dollars worth; and at every stop has been furnished with long lists of urgent highway needs. Maybe its money is all spent by the time the commission arrives. So we can do the grand gesture here and tell the commission we don't want any of its money.

You see, people are entirely satisfied just to live in Salem. It's a bee-uh-liful city. It has just everything: good stores, schools, a university, churches, street buses, paving, electric lights and telephone, manufactured gas, several service stations. In fact people like it so well in Salem they postpone dying just as long as possible. They're not sure that heaven will be much improvement.

Well, with that frame of mind in our citizens, what do they want roads for? The only reason is so they can drive out a bliss and see for themselves what lays it is to live in Salem, and then hurry back.

But do we realize the great desire on the part of people in other parts of Oregon to get to Salem. Every two years swarms of politicians yearn to get here, and if possible to remain here. In between times people come here just as often as their conscience, and purse, and gas rations will permit. The people of Salem, in a desire to be neighborly, want to help these people to get to Salem as comfortably and as quickly as possible. This point should be emphasized to the highway commission today. We don't want anything for ourselves, just want to help our friends!

There are the people of eastern Oregon, for example, for them the quickest access to the state capital is over the North Santiam highway which has a bottleneck in which the corkscrew got stuck, between (Turn to editorial page.)

More Highway Requests Made

Commission to End Inspection Tour Here Today

EUGENE, July 16 (AP)—Lane county added its nominations Friday to the growing list of post-war projects under consideration by the state highway commission. The commission, nearing the end of its western Oregon tour in which the projects are being lined up, heard requests for a \$500,000 job to improve the Pacific highway from Eugene to Springfield junction. Also proposed were improvement projects for the Willamette highway between Eugene and Oakridge and the McKenzie highway.

Highway commissioners attended a luncheon here in which they formally accepted a deed from Ben F. Dorris, prominent Lane county resident, for a state park site on the McKenzie river 30 miles east of Eugene.

The commission will complete its tour tomorrow, proceeding through Corvallis to Salem.

The Linn county court made only three proposals, although it indicated more might follow. Included were improvement projects for the Pacific highway on each side of Albany, the South Santiam route between Sweet Home and Cascadia, and a secondary road between Linn and Mill City.

The highway commission (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Farm Machinery Ration 'Bugs' Being Alleviated

WASHINGTON, July 16 (AP)—Farm machinery rationing restrictions, which plagued farmers into a nationwide chorus of irate squawks, are expected to be relaxed almost to the vanishing point.

"Supply and demand, those supposedly 4-F economic twins, have been reclassified 1-A and drafted to iron out grievous kinks in the farm equipment distribution system," said D. C. Speaker, unofficial authority who speaks for authentic but unquotable sources.

The farm equipment program now in the WFA works tentatively calls for unrationed sale of a large percentage of the machinery output in the stepped up production year, which begins July 1, Speaker disclosed. He outlined the situation this way:

1. WFA, on recommendation of WFA, made available 900,000 tons of carbon steel for farm machinery, plus sufficient critical metals to assure production of 80

Axis Disaster Looms in Catania Battle

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Soviet Scores New Gains

Smash Enemy Reserve

Germans Frantically Strengthening Orel-Bryansk Defenses

LONDON, Saturday, July 17 (AP)—Smashing through new German reserves hastily rushed into the threatened Orel area, Russian forces added six to ten miles Friday in their advance on the vital city which the Germans have been fortifying for a year and a half.

The Soviet midnight communiqué and a special bulletin earlier said the advancing Soviet troops met 11 counter-attacks with concentrated fire power and repulsed the Germans with heavy losses.

Previous announcements had told of gains of 12 to 28 miles on the Orel front, and one Russian broadcast, recorded by Reuters, said the Soviets had reached a point within 15 miles of the city as they pushed in from three sides.

The British radio said that the plight of Orel was so desperate the Germans were forming a "taxicab army" using every type of truck and automobile to rush troops northward and eastward of Orel in an attempt to stem the Russian drive. The broadcast was heard by the United States foreign broadcast intelligence service.)

The Germans were reported frantically strengthening their lines on the Orel-Bryansk railway, which also was menaced by the Soviet counter-offensive.

The Reuters Moscow correspondent said that Premier Stalin made a special visit to the Orel front recently where he personally directed the plans for the present Soviet drive.

The midnight bulletin recorded by the Soviet monitor said that in one sector of the Orel area the Red army shattered 36 of 80 tanks flung at them by the Germans and routed two enemy regiments.

An "advance to some extent" in the Kursk area south of Orel was reported in the special bulletin while the midnight communiqué said the Germans lost 2,000 men in a Russian attack that resulted in the capture of an enemy defense sector.

Grocers Get Price Lists

Lists of the uniform ceiling prices on staple grocery items, lacking in some cases for more than 24 hours after they became effective in Salem on Wednesday, now have been received by all grocers in the area, it was announced Friday. The prices are uniform only within each of the four classifications of stores, based on annual volume of sales.

per cent of the 1940 farm equipment put.

(Farm machinery needs for 1942-43 were underestimated in WFA, by official admission. Output was originally set at 23 per cent of 1940 totals, but hastily revised upward to 40 per cent when the food crisis became apparent in March. A supplementary allocation of materials also permitted additional manufacture of harvesting equipment during the July 1-October 1, quarter.)

2. The WFA program for the next crop year calls for "unlimited" production of spare parts, end unrationed distribution via supply-and-demand channels.

3. Only two relatively minor checks will slow the "free distribution of the four-fifths normal farm machinery output. First, 1942-43 county quotas still unfilled under the present rationing allocation must be met. Second, a fraction of the total output, after these quotas have been filled, will be held back as a cushion against unforeseen requirements of the next crop year.

Bombing Lashes Munda

Over 100 American Planes Drop 82 Tons of Bombs

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Saturday, July 17 (AP)—Over 100 American planes dropped 82 tons of bombs Friday on the Japanese air base of Munda, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced Friday.

The aerial onslaught was intended to soften up the Japanese foxhole and log bunker defenses now being approached cautiously by American jungle fighters.

On the other arm of the Pacific offensive in northeastern New Guinea, allied planes bombed Japanese positions at Bobduri, which is only five miles from the ground objective of Salamaua, enemy air base.

The ground situation around Munda, which is on New Georgia in the central Solomons, was reported as unchanged.

Above Australia on the Aroe islands, Hudson bombers started large fires at the enemy seaplane base of Tuberfane.

The night raiders on Taberfane were followed in daylight by long range fighters who strafed barges and villages in the area. One enemy floatplane tried to intercept, was damaged, driven off and its rear gunner was believed killed.

The air raid on Munda, virtually a daily performance in the Solomons sector, exceeded in extent even that of July 10, when over 100 American planes plastered the air base defenses with 70 tons.

McCormick Takes 'Chip' From Willkie

NEW YORK, July 16 (AP)—Col. Robert H. McCormick, editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune, replying to Wendell Willkie's challenge to run in the Illinois preferential primary next April, said Friday "I don't think that foreigner can carry the state of Illinois."

Willkie disclosed Thursday that he would be a candidate for the 1944 republican presidential nomination provided Col. McCormick entered the Illinois primary.

Arriving here by plane from Montreal, Col. McCormick said of the Willkie report: "I won't pay any attention to that story and advertise that joke. I just won't talk about him.

"He and his backers only couple his name with mine to get it in the newspapers. Why, anybody can beat him in Illinois. I just won't say another thing."

Moscow Airs Plea Given to Italy

NEW YORK, July 16 (AP)—The Moscow radio Friday night broadcast in full the Roosevelt-Churchill manifesto asking the people of Italy to rise up against their Fascist leaders, the British radio said in a broadcast recorded by CBS.

Post Changes Hands



CHANDLER P. BROWN



HOWARD JENKS

It was Lt. (jg) Chandler P. Brown who Friday night submitted his resignation to the Salem city water commission, which he has served as chairman this year, for Brown was last week commissioned in the navy and plans to leave August 3 to enter naval officer's supply school at Wellesley, Mass.

Howard Jenks, member of the commission since 1941, was elected to replace Brown as chairman. The resignation from the commission proper goes before the city council at its meeting Monday night.

Brown has been a member of the commission since his election in 1940. He is a partner with James G. Walton in the Boeler Electric company, and associated with the Clifford W. Brown wool and mohair business here. Son of Mrs. Clifford W. Brown of Salem, he is a graduate of Salem high school and of University of Oregon.

Allied Leaders Ask Italian Capitulation

WASHINGTON, July 16 (AP)—On the point of a sword, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill Friday offered harried Italy the choice of "honorable capitulation" or utter defeat—and the world watched eagerly Friday night for any sign of a crack-up in Mussolini's regime.

Few expected an immediate general uprising in a land ridden by black shirt militia and German Gestapo. But as time goes on and allied armies drive closer to the heart of Italy, the high command hopes the Roosevelt-Churchill words will bear fruit among a people already bereft of empire, pounded by blockbusters and retreating before invasion.

The Roosevelt-Churchill message to the Italian people was beamed to the beleaguered peninsula from many broadcast stations and showered in printed leaflets upon Italian cities from allied planes.

"At this moment," the message began, "the combined armed forces of the United States and Great Britain under the command of General Eisenhower and his deputy, General Alexander, are carrying the war deep into the territory of your country."

"This is the direct consequence of the shameful leadership to which you have been subjected by Mussolini and his Fascist regime."

Almost as the message went out, allied bombs were laying the Italian cities of Naples, San Giovanni and Foggia in ruins.

Huge aerial bombs drove home the words of the allied leaders: "Mussolini carried you into this war which he thought Hitler had already won. In spite of Italy's great vulnerability to attack by air and sea, your fascist leader sent your sons, your ships, your air forces to distant battlefields to aid Germany in her attempt to conquer England, Russia and the world."

Prime Minister Churchill, when last in Washington, predicted that "we shall operate upon the flank, in the case of Italy, with a carrot as well as a stick."

Here was the carrot: "The sole hope for Italy's survival lies in honorable capitulation to the overwhelming power of the military forces of the United Nations."

Escort Carriers Beat Subs

Wolf-Pack Attacks Driven off by Scout Planes

WASHINGTON, July 16 (AP)—"Baby flat tops" are playing a major part in driving axis submarines from the Atlantic, the navy revealed Friday in telling how fliers from a single escort carrier beat off two Nazi wolf-pack attacks on convoys, probably sinking ten U-boats.

Two "certain kills"—submarines from which a total of 41 prisoners were picked up by US destroyers—were credited to planes from the sturdy and ugly little carriers. Eight other U-boats disappeared after being straddled by bombs. Presumably they sank without tangible evidence of destruction.

Throughout the battles against the two wolf-packs—approximately 38 hours of fighting—merchant vessels guarded by the little "carrier B" and its planes plodded slowly eastward with vital war supplies. Not a merchantman was damaged.

Navy Secretary Knox, speaking at a luncheon in honor of Brazilian journalists, declared that the campaign against the submarine menace in the north Atlantic has tended to drive the undersea craft south. He said the United States and Brazilian navy now are operating as a unified force off the coast of Brazil "which has become one of the fighting fronts against the submarine."

Dead ahead of the convoy a submarine was attacked by planes in the semi-darkness. Anti-aircraft guns barked as a plane dived (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Post-War Planning Set By Chamber

Appointment of a Salem chamber of commerce post-war planning committee, by Carl Hogg, president, was authorized by the chamber's directors at this week's meeting, the board announced Friday. President Hogg said he would not make the appointments immediately, inasmuch as this is to be a permanent committee whose task will continue for several years.

The directors completed arrangements whereby the junior chamber of commerce will have headquarters in the chamber of commerce, utilizing the Chemawa room.

Resignation of Ilda Bingenheimer as membership secretary was accepted. The position will be filled in September. Meanwhile the membership committee Frank Doerflinger chairman, will carry on the membership solicitation.

Rome Reports British Ships

LONDON, Saturday, July 17 (AP)—The Rome radio in a broadcast heard by the London Daily Mail said today that six British battleships and four aircraft carriers and two American battleships had entered the Mediterranean for an "attack on Europe."

There was no explanation of the phrase "attack on Europe" but the Italians frequently have speculated on allied attacks other than those on Sicily.

Oregon Pioneer Taken by Death

NEWBERG, July 16 (AP)—Gustavo J. Kramenz, 94, pioneer resident of the Ladd hill district, who was credited with founding Oregon's first flour mill at Champeong, died here Friday.

Key Sicily Base Is Flaming Ruin In Allied Path

Yanks Take Six More Towns; Captive Score Hits 20,000 As New Gains Driven Home

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Saturday, July 17 (AP)—A desperate battle raged late Friday within 13 miles of strategic Catania, whose fall would give the allies control of much of Sicily without the immediate necessity of occupation, and threatens the axis defenders with another Cap Bon disaster. Catania was reported in flames.

Twelve more towns have been overrun by the allies, six of them by the hard-driving Americans in the interior, more than 20,000 prisoners had been bagged, and gains were scored all along the front from the Agrigento area on the American left flank to the Lentini sector 13 miles below Catania, where the British collided with the Nazi Hermann Goering division and repulsed it with severe losses.

(A Vichy radio broadcast said Agrigento, an important axis troop center, had fallen; Rome radio, heard by NBC, also said that the Americans had reached that city in a 10-mile gain in the extreme west; and Rome radio also said the battle of the Catania plain probably would decide the issue in Sicily.)

(In London, the Daily Express said that it had learned that American and Canadian troops were pouring into the Catania plain after the capture of Vizzini to attack the main axis flank defenses while the British Eighth army continues its frontal assault.)

Virtually all German forces thus far officially identified as being in Sicily now are concentrated on the Catania plain, seeking to stave off the strategic catastrophe that would be implied by the quick fall of the city itself.

Unsupported by their own air units, the Germans were reported (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

fighting doggedly against growing odds.

Encountering units of the German Goering division north of Pentic, where they had gathered to attempt a counter-attack, the battle-wise eighth army veterans of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery hurled them back and inflicted severe losses to continue their northward surge up the island's east coast to the edge of the Catania plain.

After dumping hundreds of tons of high explosives on Sicily and the Italian mainland, allied planes Friday dropped leaflets bearing the message of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, who told the people the time had come "to decide whether Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler—or live for Italy and civilization."

Hundreds of thousands of the leaflets, carrying to the Italian people the virtual ultimatum of the allied leaders to surrender honorably or be blasted out of the war, fluttered down from the skies now largely dominated by allied air forces.

Observers who believed the enemy had staked everything on the success of a counter attack, were confident that the allies, with an "appreciable number of tanks" already in Sicily, could deal successfully with the armored forces sent by Hitler to help the Italians resist invasion.

Thereafter, observers declared, (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Observers Say Wallace 'Through' in Politics

WASHINGTON, July 16 (AP)—Some members of congress commenting on President Roosevelt's reorganization of the economic warfare set-up, were ready Friday to write off Vice President Wallace as a 1944 political factor whether or not Mr. Roosevelt should agree to seek a fourth term.

"Henry Wallace was already dead politically," Senator Smith (D-SO) told reporters, "but this thing buries him."

Senator Nye (R-ND) commented, "It looks to me like the end of Wallace's plans for milk routes all over the world."

Central State War Maneuver 'Warming up'

CAMP ABBOT, Ore., July 16 (AP)—Troops from all army camps in the Pacific northwest were trickling into a huge triangle of rugged central Oregon country Friday to start the biggest war maneuvers ever held in this section of the west.

The area in which the war games will get under way is between Sisters, Redmond and Bend, and comprises mountains, valleys, timber and sagebrush country, briers and lava fields. It is a variety of terrain chosen as a proving ground for almost any type of inland warfare.

The headquarters of Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, veteran of Guadalcanal, who will command the maneuvers, announced today that the first problem would take about four weeks. Ultimately the war games will draw several divisions and spread over millions of acres of central Oregon's varied country. In places, the army will test out innovations born on actual battlefields but in need of refinement. Practically every type of troops will participate.

Headquarters warned civilian motorists that roads would soon be congested with convoys of trucks and urged particular care after dark, since many units will move at night under blackout conditions.

Two units already have been stationed on the outskirts of Bend. Headquarters are located here.

Offices Set To Open Days

Salem-Marion county civilian defense headquarters Monday go onto a full-time basis. In operation on a night schedule since July, 1941, the offices are now to be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with the exception of the noon hour, County Coordinator Bryan H. Conley announced Friday night.

In charge of the headquarters during the day will be Miss Hazel Harper, who leaves her position with the office of the secretary of state but retains the post of county block leader.

Observers Say Wallace 'Through' in Politics

administration, the same element that Jones represents."

In evening the office of economic warfare, Mr. Roosevelt abolished the board of economic warfare (BEW), headed by Wallace, and also placed under Crowley's new agency a group of subsidiaries of the reconstruction finance corporation, supervised by Jones, which have been concerned with foreign purchases.

On second reading Friday of Mr. Roosevelt's order, many at the capitol and in the government were impressed with the grant of power it gave to James F. Byrnes, the war mobilization director.

A spokesman for the now-abolished BEW, unwilling to be quoted by name, said it appeared to him, in fact, that Byrnes would have most of the powers formerly exercised by Wallace and that Crowley would be in about the position formerly occupied by Milo Perkins, right-hand man to Wallace.

Dimout
Sat. sunset 8:57
Sun. sunrise 5:38
(Weather on Page 5)