

IT SEEMS TO ME  
By Charles A. Sprague

It was characteristic of the late Charley Wilson, long-time secretary of the Salem chamber of commerce, to keep himself in the background. He always maneuvered so that some one else, the president usually, served as spokesman for the chamber. It must have been that same modesty which made his name in Salem regret that news of his passing last April came so belatedly. Businessmen of the chamber of commerce, the Cherrians and Rotarians would like to have given him a final tribute.

Charley Wilson was a very capable secretary of the chamber of commerce — anyone who could hold down that job as long as he did, about 15 years, had to be good. During his tenure notable expansion came to Salem, the largest being the Salem Linen mills. Politic in handling people, good at writing and newspaper work, a careful and frugal business manager, interested in music, Charley was popular and deserved a real funeral. But he is probably chuckling now in the Elysian fields that he slipped away without anyone's knowing, anyone of his Salem friends.

After he retired as secretary of the chamber of commerce, Charley went to Portland to reside. I saw him occasionally and noted that he was aging. His step grew halting and his face more lined. But he still wanted to be active, wanted some kind of employment, and did take a turn doing a special edition for the Coos Bay Times. A year ago he got the idea of making a trip by boat down the Mississippi. He found there was no passenger service, that he would have to obtain permission of army engineers to make the trip. I tried to help him, but the war was used as an excuse against granting the permit. So he spent the winter instead in Los Angeles, returning to a Portland hospital where he died, three months ago.

Death came suddenly and accidentally to L. M. Ramage. (Continued on Editorial page)

## No More Bean Pickers Now Needed

Until further notice, no additional bean pickers will be needed, personnel of the emergency farm labor service announced Tuesday. For the first time this season, there was an over-supply of pickers on hand Tuesday morning when growers' trucks appeared at employment service offices.

One woman, finding no grower's transportation available, offered her own truck and left the office with a group of enthusiastic pickers, and the group apparently found work. However, regarding maturing of the beans and the "fine response on the part of city people" indicates that the pickers already working can handle the crops for the time being. Emergency farm labor authorities have announced they will notify pickers through the press when more are needed.

## Housewives Stock Up by Community Canneries

PORTLAND, Aug. 3.—(P)—Oregon housewives are stocking up against a rationed winter, via the state's nine community canneries, the state advisory committee for war production training reported here today.

At a Portland meeting the committee voted to tour the canneries, located in Salem, La Grande, Milwaukie, Molalla, Woodburn, Silverton, Albany, Cottage Grove, Grants Pass and Myrtle Point. They were set up to enable rural residents to process fruits, vegetables and meats at minimum cost.

## Interference in Oyster Co-op Affairs Is Charged in Action Here; \$50,000 Damages Asked

Litigation of direct personal interest to more than 450 Willamette valley residents was commenced in the Marion county circuit court Tuesday when the Coos Bay Farmers Cooperative filed suit for \$50,000 damages against 32 persons, most of whom are members, alleging that these defendants over a period of three months "have induced or attempted to induce members of the plaintiffs cooperative to breach their marketing contracts" and that as a part of defendants' plan "rumors have been circulated bearing on the honesty and integrity of some of the members of the board of directors of plaintiffs cooperative."

Members of the cooperative, chiefly Willamette valley residents, have purchased or are purchasing on contract oyster beds in the Coos Bay area and the complaint sets forth that each member is bound to deliver all oysters produced on these beds to the

# Axis' Sicily Force Almost Encircled

## Ring of Steel Is Drawn Around Foe Near Etna

The Oregon Statesman FOUNDED 1851

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## Two-Day-Old Albany Infant Kidnap Victim

### Motive Is Mystery; Aid of Physicians Asked by Police

ALBANY, Ore., Aug. 3.—(P)—Police appealed to Oregon doctors tonight for aid in solving what they said was the kidnapping of the youngest child ever abducted in this country.

The child, two-day-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Gurney, was taken from the Albany General hospital early today by an intruder who crept into the hospital nursery, lifted the baby from a crib and flew via a fire escape.

State Police Sgt. Earl Houston asked all radio stations in the area to appeal to doctors to report anyone asking medical attention for a newborn baby. The tot was believed wrapped only in a light blanket when carried from the hospital.

The father, head of the AFL venter and plywood workers' local union, took up the search for the baby and her abductors soon after a frightened nurse reported her absence to police. The only clues, said Chief of Police Perry Stellmacher, were footprints outside a window of the hospital, near some torn white linen.

The Gurneys, parents of an 8-year-old daughter also, are not wealthy, and the possibility that it was a ransom kidnaping was dismissed.

Chief Stellmacher said a hospital nurse discovered the baby missing about 2 o'clock this morning when she went to the nursery to quiet a crying child. A blanket had been rolled and placed in her crib. Another light blanket was missing, probably taken as a wrap for the girl.

The intruder was believed to (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

## Trusty Makes Prison Escape

John William Purvis, 50, dressed in at the state penitentiary for a term of from one to five years from Polk county on a morals charge last June 24, is at large this morning. The fact that he was missing from the prison annex, where he was a trusty, was discovered at approximately 4 p. m. Tuesday.

Aven Roper, who escaped through a window from the Oregon state hospital for the insane at 10:30 p. m. Tuesday, was taken into custody at midnight by city police and returned to the institution.

## San Marino Ousts Fascist Council

LONDON, August 3.—(P)—The Rome radio tonight quoted reports from San Marino, independent republic 125 miles north of Rome in Italy, as saying San Marino's state council, which "had fascist tendencies," had been superseded by a provisional council.

San Marino, which claims to be the oldest state in Europe and the kingdom of Italy signed a friendship treaty in 1897 and renewed it in March, 1938. The state covers 36 square miles. Its population in 1939 was 14,545.

## Transient Held For Robbing By Assault

Albert Darby, 24, transient, was held in the city jail this morning after he had confessed to robbing by assault Mrs. Lillian Rostell, 340 Evergreen avenue.

Darby told city police, who arrested him in a downtown hotel, that his home was in Pennsylvania but that he had been working at Bremerton. Tuesday night he registered for work at Paulus Bros. cannery, took a city bus shortly after 10 o'clock and got off the bus at the same corner as Mrs. Rostell, who is employed by the cannery.

A personable appearing young working man, he walked beside her to her home, suggested at the walk in front of her residence that he should kiss her, a suggestion she didn't seem to like, he told police. So, according to his own story, related by officers, he put his hand over her mouth, grabbed her handbag and ran.

Mrs. Rostell said he had put one hand partially around her throat, that during their walk he had told her his name. Officers, using the name, same as that signed on work ticket at the cannery, found him registered at a hotel. He went with them to a thicket not far from Mrs. Rostell's house, where they located her handbag, which she said contained several dollars.

## End of Harlem Scuffle



Two Negro soldiers assist a white man who had become mixed up in a scuffle during disorders in the Harlem area Sunday and Monday in New York City. Debris litters the street in the city's largest Negro area. Five Negroes were killed in the riots.

## Heavy Guard Keeps Order In Harlem

NEW YORK, August 3.—(P)—Life in Harlem appeared near normal today after the rioting and vandalism that took five lives, injured 261 and caused the arrest of 504 Sunday night and Monday.

The heavily populated negro district, however, continued under guard of 4000 police as the merchants re-opened their stores and the population came out of their homes. Public works crews practically completed the boarding up of shop windows shattered during the looting.

Supplies of milk, bread and vegetables were moved into the area, with normal supplies expected by tonight. Although liquor sales continued to be banned and the wartime dim-out regulations remained lifted, police extended the 10:30 curfew until 11:30 p. m.

Traffic except for emergency vehicles and food trucks, still was detoured from the area, but Mayor F. H. LaGuardia said the ban would be eased somewhat tonight and would be removed tomorrow.

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## Bombard-Deer?

GRESHAM, Aug. 3.—(P)—Rasp-berry growers, their havoc-causing worm identified at last, were searching today for a cure for the larva of the oblique banded leaf roller.

Dr. Don C. Mote, Oregon State college entomologist, identified the insect which had prevented fields through the Willamette valley from turning their crops into commercial canneries. Its appearance, Mote suggested, was probably traceable to weather, or other favorable conditions.

Mote explained that the larva do not actually eat the fruit, but only cling to it. After careful cleaning, he said, the berries are completely normal.

Many growers, said County Agent S. B. Hall, are selling their crop to home canners.

## Hamburg Again Rocks Under Terrific Bombing

LONDON, Wednesday, August 4.—(P)—A force of British bombers so great it took hours to pass the coast droned out toward the continent Tuesday night apparently in the direction of north-west Germany where flaming and desolate Hamburg still shuddered from a new attack Monday.

Hamburg has cowered under nine allied raids in ten days and Hamburg police, via Stockholm dispatches, were quoted as saying 30,542 people were dead, wounded and missing, including 8347 known dead. A Danish consular official estimated the dead at 200,000 but officials in London were skeptical of this estimate.

The air ministry said "a great weight of high explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped" in the last raid by the vast avenging armada striking through smoke-laden clouds which partly obscured the fresh destruction. Thirty bombers and two fighters were lost.

A correspondent of Aftonbladet of Stockholm quoted the Danish consular official as estimating that 200,000 were killed in Hamburg before last night in the most concentrated air raids in history, frankly aimed at blotting Europe's greatest port off the map. The estimate was regarded with skepticism in London, although the air ministry has said that virtually every part of Hamburg's 50 square miles has been pocked with sprawling ruins.

## New Fighter Called Fastest Ever Flown

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Aug. 3.—(P)—North American Aviation company took the wraps today off a new fighter airplane which its pilot said is the fastest ship ever flown.

The craft is the P-51B Mustang, now in quantity production for the US army as a high altitude fighter.

Aircraft officials, when asked by reporters how fast the plane would go, told newsmen they could guess at it. But the reports couldn't guess that fast.

The streak of mechanized lightning, with Engineering Test Pilot Bob Chilton at the controls, flashed twice across the field at an altitude of about 25 feet. In 15 seconds it was out of sight.

Chilton dived at the field from an altitude of about 8000 feet. Diving, incidentally, is nothing new to 31-year-old Chilton. In 1936, 36 and 37, while a student at the University of Oregon, he was Pacific Northwest intercollegiate springboard champion.

Details of the plane, of course, are restricted information. North American officials said it is powered by a 1510 h.p. Rolls-Royce engine and reporters could see for themselves that it had four-bladed propeller and a long, mean-looking nose.

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## Yanks Reach Edge of Air Base at Munda

ALLIED PLANES BLAST BARGES IN NEW GUINEA, HIT JAP WARSHIP

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Wednesday, Aug. 4.—(P)—The east end of the Japanese air base of Munda on New Georgia island has been reached by hard fighting United States invasion forces in their yard-by-yard battle against cave-entrenched enemy jungle defenders, General MacArthur announced Wednesday.

The slow progress against this key objective of the central Solomons campaign was a part of a general advance, the second such reported in as many days. Yesterday's communique had told of advances of from 500 to 1200 yards which placed the Americans in some instances within 700 yards of the bitterly defended air strip.

At the other end of the 700-mile battlefront in the Pacific, allied planes in the New Guinea-New Britain sector destroyed or damaged 29 barges, bringing to nearly 200 the number of such supply boats of the enemy wrecked in the past 10 days, and one bomber scored a bomb hit at night on an enemy ship, believed to have been a destroyer, in Dampier strait.

The barges hit were found concentrated in Borgen bay. Heavy explosions set off on some of them indicated they carried ammunition.

Borgen bay is in the Cape Gloucester area of New Britain. Twenty barges were attacked there and the other nine near Finsch-Hafen.

The communique, in announcing the 10-day toll of barges, said "many were undoubtedly used as troop carriers, some being 145 feet in length."

The total destroyed was estimated as capable of transporting a division of troops if used solely for that purpose," the communique added.

The enemy's losses both in personnel and material cannot fail to have been heavy."

Of the Munda fighting the communique said:

"Our ground forces advancing along the coast have reached the eastern end of the airfield. Further inland, our troops have occupied the northwestern slopes of (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

## Salem Army Plane Crashes

LEBANON, Aug. 3.—(P)—An Aircobra fighter (P-39) army plane from the Salem air base fell smoking from a formation of four ships and crashed into a plowed field five miles southwest of Lebanon today. The fate of the pilot was not learned here.

Children who witnessed the crash from a distance said it was followed by several explosions.

At the Portland army air base it was reported that the plane was on a routine flight out of the Salem air base. The public relations office said it had no information on the fate of the pilot.

## Berry Worm Identified

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## Lewis, Quiet and Retiring, Says Other Civilized Lands Give Portal to Portal Pay

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—(P)—Quiet and self-effacing, in contrast to months of roaring defiance, John L. Lewis submitted to war labor board (WLB) authority today and sought to convince the board it should approve a new contract between his United Mine Workers (UMW) and Illinois soft coal operators.

He argued that portal-to-portal pay would only bring the compensation basis of American miners up to the standard universal in civilized countries.

Soft spoken and so retiring that he did not even enter personally into the discussion until direct questions were addressed to him, Lewis made his first appearance before the board in "anti-climax" to the months in which he has ignored WLB orders.

American miners, Lewis said, are "the only mine workers in any civilized country who do not receive compensation for travel time at each end of the shift."

He told the board that only the name "portal-to-portal pay" is new and the UMW has held for more than 40 years that its members were entitled to such compensation.

Under the agreement with the Illinois mine owners, the workers would receive \$1.25 a day for underground travel time. That figure was arrived at in negotiation to pay for time spent currently between the mine gate and the working face, and to liquidate within the two-year life of the contract the back pay for such time to which the miners contend they have been entitled since October, 1938, under the wage and hour law. They also would work an additional hour a day at the coal face, at the overtime rate of time and a half or \$1.50. Free tools and equipment previously approved by the WLB would bring the daily increase in miners' earnings to about \$3.

## Legion Convention To Get Jap Question

PORTLAND, Aug. 3.—(P)—The Japanese question will be a "hot subject" at the American Legion's Baker convention August 19-21, Oregon Department Commander Hugh Bowman predicted today. He is here organizing convention plans with Adjutant J. L. Vallant and department officials.

The fined income group he wants protected is composed largely of "white-collar" workers, such as teachers and office employees.

After conferring with Morganthau, Doughton handed newspapermen a note outlining his tax policy, in relation to the present revenue problems, saying:

"I believe that the new revenue bill should be a program to do two things: to raise revenue and to combat inflation. It should be more than just a revenue-raising bill."

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## Nazis at Orel Give Ground

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, August 3 (P)—American and British troops have cracked the enemy's Mt. Etna line at two points and Tuesday night surged forward to draw a ring of steel around Sicily's volcanic bastion where many German troops now face entrapment.

The crushing American attack threw back the whole German northern flank. Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton's seventh army occupied Troina Monday, it was disclosed, and rolled on to within 40 miles of the east coast behind Catania.

By breaking through along the Troina-Taormina road on the north side of Mount Etna, the Americans threatened the German positions on the western slopes of the volcano, including those at Broletto.

Canadians from Regaluto and the men of the British 78th division—the heroes of Tunisia's Long Stop hill—from Centuripe shattered the Germans' western defenses in the Catania plain in one of the best "left hook" blows of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's career.

Severed by the Americans to the north and the Eighth army to the south, a big chunk of the nazis' Mount Etna line was left dangling. The allied offensive which got underway Sunday in accordance with plans, achieved all its initial major objectives on time and continued to sweep on.

The shortest American route to the eastern Sicilian shore runs inland through Casaro—virtually at the Seventh army's fingertips—off-bombarded Randazzo, and Castiglione.

The Americans also swept triumphantly onward along the steep bluffs of the north coast, and the Germans were expected to withdraw toward San Fratello.

The smashing strategic success achieved this week by allied arms was shaping up literally into another "Cape Bon" disaster for the out-flanked, out-powered, out-manned German corps of three divisions—plus several battalions of paratroops.

## Solon Urges Easier Tax on Fixed Incomes

WASHINGTON, August 3.—(P)—Chairman Doughton (D-NC) of the house ways and means committee took the position today, after a conference with Treasury Secretary Morgenthau, that persons with fixed incomes should be protected against undue burdens when congress writes a higher tax bill next fall.

He said he and Morgenthau were not in complete agreement on the amount of revenue to be sought. The treasury has indicated it will ask for \$12,000,000,000 in new revenue.

Doughton said the revenue obtained through any new taxes would be "within the limitations of taxpayers to pay," and reiterated a previous statement that he did not like setting a definite goal, but preferred to consider taxes on the basis of ability to pay.

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## Dimout

Wed. sunset 8:37  
Thur. sunrise 5:58  
(Weather on Page 5)