

## IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Squire

The National Institute of Arts and Letters at its annual ceremonial last week awarded to Willa Cather, American novelist, its gold medal for fiction. To Theodore Dreiser went the American Academy's award for merit for fiction. But these seem like echoes from the past. For Miss Cather's most famous work, "Death Comes for the Archbishop," was published in 1927, and none of her subsequent work rates near it in quality. As for Dreiser his greatest work, "An American Tragedy," was done in 1925, and now he is down to literary hackwork.

The significant thing however is that no other authors of fiction are appearing with much better claim to recognition. In fact there has been a drought or killing frost in the garden of novels, so while there are still "best sellers" the current production does not rate high as literature. This situation is reviewed quite well by Dana Trilling in an article in the May Harpers on "What has happened to our novels?" and she finds that "this moment has no Dreisers or Cather." That explains why the Institute and Academy reached into the past to find worthy recipients of their honors.

Miss Trilling says: "These best of our current novels are simply not alive. The one quality which all first-rate novelists or novelists who aspire to the first-rate have in common—an energy of creation which touches everything and enlivens everything it touches—is not to be found in the novelists of the present day for whom the most is being claimed." Of the authors of the 1920's "only Hemingway has continued to sustain and mature his talent."

Thomas Wolfe burned out with his native Asheville; John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" was more like a political tract than work of fiction; and the religious novels like "The Robe" and "The Apostle" are temporary shelters in the present tumult. Miss Trilling finds that books of journalism—of graphic reporting—are crowding the novels in (continued on Editorial page)

## PGE Users Will Receive Cash Refunds

Customers of the Portland General Electric company and the Northwestern Electric company will receive a refund in excess of \$1,000,000 under an order issued by Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg here yesterday.

The announcement followed an agreement reached Tuesday between officials of the two companies and the independent trustees of the Portland Electric Power company.

Cash refunds of \$310,000 will be made to customers of the Northwestern Electric company within the next 30 days and reductions of \$807,000 in bills of the Portland General Electric company for the current month. The cash refund and reduction means an 86 per cent discount in one month's bill, Flagg said.

The reduction applies to all bills with the exception of a few customers of the Portland General Electric company under special contract.

"It is clearly understood," Flagg declared, "that this is a temporary (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

## Loyang Still Holds Off Japs

CHUNGKING, Thursday, May 25 (AP)—The Japanese forces besieging Loyang in northwestern Honan province attacked the ancient city fiercely from all sides Tuesday, but were repulsed with more than 1000 of their troops killed, the Chinese command announced today.

Another 500 Japanese were killed in fighting near Sunghien, 40 miles south of Loyang, field dispatches said.

A communique said the Chinese made further progress in a counter-attack "in the Loyang sector" and that fighting continued unabated on the outskirts of the city.

However, the bulletin contained nothing to suggest that the big Chinese province-wide counter-offensive in Honan announced yesterday by the high command was making further headway.

Chinese planes bombed Japanese trains at Kuan-yintang, a Lunghai railway town about 70 miles east of Tungkuang—a significant admission as it indicated the Japanese-occupied stretch of this important east-west railway already was in operation.

## Weather

Maximum temperature Wednesday 59 degrees; minimum 43. No precipitation. River 5 ft. Fair Thursday. Friday cloudy with rain late Friday in northwest portion. Little temperature change.

# Allies Score 3 Victories in Italy

## The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR

12 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Thursday Morning, May 25, 1944

Price 5c

No. 58

## 7000 Allied Planes Blast Nazi Europe

### RAF's Night Raiders Follow Up History's Greatest Day Attack

LONDON, May 25 (AP)—The Luxembourg radio gave the air raid warning signal and left the air just after 8 a.m. today, indicating that the allies were carrying their aerial offensive into its seventh straight day.

By W. W. HERCHER

LONDON, Thursday, May 25.—(AP)—Berlin was bombed just after midnight—its second blasting within about 12 hours—as RAF night raiders followed history's greatest aerial assault by 7,000 bombers and fighters upon Hitler's Europe yesterday from bases in Britain and Italy.

The tremendous daylight offensive spread all the way from the English channel to the Balkans and early today, after fresh waves of RAF bombers had been heard roaring toward the continent, the German radio reported that Berlin was attacked anew, along with the Rhineland industrial city of Aachen, 35 miles west of Cologne.

### 6th Army Units Battle Toward Jap Airfields

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Thursday, May 25 (AP)—US sixth army units battling toward the airfields of the Japanese near Sarmi, Dutch New Guinea, have crossed the Tor river, headquarters reported today.

The Yanks are advancing on Maffin bay, a region which embraces one of the two airfields.

Today's communique also reported a strike by southwest Pacific planes at Truk in the Carolines during which two of 40 enemy interceptors were shot down and 84 tons of bombs were dropped by attacking Liberators.

The big bombers, one of which was lost in the midday assault, engaged the interceptors in a 30 minute running fight.

The raiders, which flew to Truk from the Admiralty Islands, probably shot down three more interceptors and damaged others.

The crossed Tor river flows into Maffin bay about 10 miles west of the Wakde-Toem area of Dutch New Guinea, invaded May 17-18. The Japanese along the river had put up a bitter defense until blasted out of their positions by artillery and shells of off-shore destroyers.

In another invasion sector 250 miles southeast, an American outpost 30 miles below Aitape, British New Guinea, broke up a sharp attack by bypassed Japanese.

A Liberator ranging northwest along the Dutch New Guinea coast sank a small enemy merchantman off Monakwari. A coastal vessel was sunk off Biak in continuing softening up attacks on that principal island of the Schouten group north of Geelvink bay.

### Sgt. Duane Beck Wounded in Action

The name of St. Sgt. Duane H. Beck, route 3, Scio, was among the list of nine Oregon men wounded in action in the Mediterranean area.

### Harold Wright Dies at 72

SAN DIEGO, Calif., May 24 (AP)—Harold Bell Wright, who left the pulpit to become one of America's famed fiction writers, died today in a LaJolla, Calif., hospital. He was 72 years old.

Wright became ill about two weeks ago and entered the hospital last week. Death was attributed to bronchopneumonia.

Only last month he sold his \$70,000 ranch home, known as "Quiet Hills Farm," near Escondido, 30 miles northeast of here, and moved to San Diego.

### Clark Inspects Wrecked Town



Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, Fifth army commander, who narrowly escaped death when a booby trap exploded near the jeep in which he was riding, strides along a battered street of a town between Formia and Liri, Italy, during a tour of scenes of his troops' victories. The street is a link to the Appian way to Rome. (AP Wirephoto via signal corps radio)

### Army Orders Many More Heavy Guns

By WILLIAM FRYE

WASHINGTON, May 24 (AP)—A tremendous increase in the heavy artillery program has been ordered by the army on the eve of the invasion of Europe, officials disclosed tonight.

For weapons of 155 millimeter size and greater, ammunition requirements have been stepped up an average of 400 to 500 per cent, with the increase for some sizes running as high as 1000 per cent above present schedules.

The production schedules for the weapons themselves have been advanced correspondingly, with emphasis on the 155 howitzer, the 155 gun or "Long Tom," the 8-inch gun and the 240-millimeter weapon.

Instituted within the past few weeks, the ammunition program alone represents a dollar-volume increase of approximately \$750,000,000 for the balance of 1944 and 1945.

Some phases of the program already are underway, and by mid-summer it will require the reopening of some of the TNT production lines, the powder plants and the bag-loading plants previously closed by the army or placed on a standby basis.

The program will place a new strain on the Nylon industry to provide the bags for powder charges for the big guns, and alcohol required for the stepped-up powder presages a continuance of the whiskey drought.

Already the revised program has sent army production officials scouring the country for additional forging, machine and heat-treating capacity in industry to make the shells and the various component parts, such as fuses.

The production changes reflect a significant shift from lighter to heavy artillery in the combat areas, particularly Italy, where the rate of fire has greatly exceeded expectations and battle tests have concentrated the attention of commanders on the larger guns.

Few units now are using significant (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

### Lumber Strikes Increase

#### Wood Suffers Big Cut in Northwest

SEATTLE, May 24 (AP)—Pacific northwest lumber production has been cut an estimated 5,500,000 board feet a day, a spokesman for the industry reported tonight as the general shutdown of lumbering activities spread in Washington and Oregon.

Some 32,000 workers were idle in 85 plants, logging camps and boom operations in 30 cities and towns.

Daily manufacture of 50,000 ammunition, powder and ration boxes was stopped in Spokane when 1500 more workers in 15 plants joined the mass walkout.

A spokesman for the logging industry in the Puget Sound area said it could be generally expected that more boom men would be joining the exodus shortly, automatically forcing the closure of still more mills. The last of the mills in the important Grays Harbor area of Washington shut down with the closing of the West Star Lumber company.

Also joining in the closure was the Western Cooperative company in Seattle, manufacturing barrels and tubs. Every plant and mill in Seattle was closed.

The walkout, termed wildcat by union leaders, was in protest of the war labor board's action in refusing to grant a requested wage increase of 15 cents an hour to \$1.45 as requested by the AFL.

Both AFL and CIO union are involved.

PORTLAND, Ore., May 24 (AP) (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

### Russians Hint New Offense

LONDON, Thursday, May 25 (AP) Possibly signaling a big new offensive on the eastern front, the Moscow radio said in a broadcast to the red army today: "Soon you will be called on to accomplish the liberation of soviet territory and also to liberate other European nations from the German fascist oppressor."

A Russian communique early today announced that four German attacks northwest on Tiraspol, on the lower Dnepr river, were repelled yesterday by soviet artillery, mortar and machine gun fire.

The assaults cost the Germans 400 dead, 20 tanks and four self-propelled guns, said the communique recorded by the soviet monitor.

Elsewhere along the eastern battle front the five-week lull in major fighting continued but the Germans said a renewal of powerful assaults by the red army could be expected momentarily.

(Turn to Page 2—Story F)

### Dam Will Be Named After Charles McNary

WASHINGTON, May 24 (AP)—The memory of the late Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon was honored today by the senate commerce committee. An amendment to the omnibus rivers and harbors bill changes the name of the proposed Umatilla dam on the Columbia river to "McNary dam."

The dam will be "dedicated to his memory as a monument to his distinguished public service," the amendment reads.

### Albany Officer Dies In Crash of His Plane

ALBANY, May 24 (AP)—Lt. William L. Frager was killed today in the crash of his plane at the Pocatello, Idaho, army air field, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Frager, were notified here.

Frager, a graduate of Albany high and the University of Oregon, is survived by the widow and a son, William L. Frager, jr.

### Warren Asks Delegates Not to Present His Name

By D. HAROLD OLIVER Associated Press Staff Writer

Gov. Earl Warren asked California's 50 republican national convention delegates yesterday not to present his name to the convention "for any position" — a move interpreted in Washington political circles as leaving Warren still subject to "draft" for second place on the ticket.

However, Rep. Gearhart (R-Calif.) classified Warren as of "presidential caliber" and added if he continues in the governorship "he'll be running for president at the proper time — four years from now, or even eight."

## Terracina Falls, Appian Way, Hitler Line Cut

### Canadians Break Nazi Line With Tank Assaults; Yanks Recapture Strategic Town

By EDWARD KENNEDY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, May 24.—

(AP)—Canadian tanks broke through the heart of the Hitler line today and swept up the Liri valley to the Melfa river, 13 miles from Vassino; American troops recaptured Terracina on the coast, and a Yank armored avalanche burst from the Anzio beachhead and cut the Appian Way barely 25 miles from Rome.

(A dispatch from Daniel De Luce, Associated Press war correspondent with the Fifth army at Anzio, indicated that allied troops had cut the Appian Way both north and south of Cisterna.)

### Local Lumber Workers Join In Big Strike

More than 150 employees of the sawmill division of Oregon Pulp & Paper company here walked out at noon Wednesday, and a few hours later men of the Silverton AFL sawmill union principally employed by the Silver Falls Timber Company defied officers and voted to "go fishing" Friday morning.

Three hundred twenty-five men are involved in the Silver Falls employees' action. Another 35 at the Winlock broom handle factory in Silverton will follow suit unless the surging tide of Pacific northwest lumber workers turns back to the mills before 8 a.m., May 26.

The Silverton vote was taken last night at a second meeting of local No. 2527. At the first, a session called by President E. J. Bosch, officers recommended that workers remain on the job. The membership at large called another special meeting at the close of the first and cast their votes for the "fishing trip."

The ash and door factory of the Salem mill will continue to operate but planing mill operations ceased with the big saws.

### Planes Help Allied Drive On Myitkyina

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, May 24 (AP)—Allied fighters and fighter-bombers have shifted the weight of their attacks to direct support of ground troops which have bottled up the eighteenth Japanese division around its big bases in north Burma, it was announced today.

Their blows fell on Myitkyina, where besieged Japanese still had a foothold, on Katkyo, on the Irrawaddy river bend four miles southward, and on the main Japanese base in the Mogauing valley at Kamaing to the west.

The trapped Myitkyina garrison and Japanese forces in the Zig-yunkaykyo area counter-attacked but were repulsed by Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill's Chinese combat troops.

(The Chinese high command in Chungking said troops in the western outskirts of Myitkyina had captured the uncision of a railway and a road leading into the town from the Allied-held air strip.)

The airborne Chindits continued pressure south of Mogauing, killing (Turn to Page 2—Story I)

### Berlin, Reds Predict War Developments

LONDON, May 25 (AP)—Broadcasts hinting at imminent war developments were transmitted from both Moscow and Berlin tonight as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower sought to mold Europe's restless millions into a vast espionage force to support the invasion.

German editors were ordered in a DNB statement recorded by the Daily Herald to stand by at 1:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m. eastern war time) Sunday for "a possible special announcement."

Red army troops, after a five-week rest, were advised by the Moscow radio that "soon you will be called on to accomplish the liberation of soviet territory and also to liberate other European nations from the German fascist oppressor."

From Eisenhower's headquarters concise spy instructions were broadcast to the European underground.

In the third such broadcast via the allied radio, a spokesman for the supreme commander called upon peoples of the occupied countries of western Europe to supply complete and accurate information on the enemy's movements when the invasion gets under way.

The broadcast stressed accuracy but warned the people, however, to "do nothing active now."

"Meanwhile, he (Eisenhower) (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

### Oral Fitts Wounded In Naval Action

BROOKS, May 24 — Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fitts have received a letter from their son, Oral Fitts, seaman second class, USN, telling that he was wounded and is now a patient at the navy hospital in Fort Pierce, Fla. He enlisted in the navy last January and after training at Farragut went to sea with the Atlantic fleet.