

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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Member of the Associated Press

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## Upland and Lowland

A contributor to the Safety Valve today expresses the desire that Bush's Pasture be left "as is," and in particular does not like the thought of holding university athletic games in that area.

The upland, whose purchase is to be voted on, and which fronts the contributor's home, is not to be used for athletic park purposes. That is one thought behind the idea of its purchase, that it be kept as native woodland and meadow for the most part. The lowland, which is to become the city's in any event, is almost certainly destined to be used for active recreation whether the university has anything to do with it or not.

Consider this: Salem has 400 boys organized in a league for baseball. They have been playing at Waters field. Due to differences with the owner they have quit using the field. Half of them are being accommodated at Leslie high playground, the other half are being transferred to the West Salem ball park. Were the lowland available they most certainly would go there. We may be sure that the lowland of the Bush pasture will be used for playgrounds principally, because of its level character, its good drainage and its fine location. The pasture is spacious enough to accommodate these playgrounds and the university's stadium as well. A negative vote Friday, therefore, would not stop the cheering and noise of men and boys and girls in competitive sport. An affirmative vote, on the other hand, preserves the upland for what is termed "passive recreation" and for its natural beauty.

Boys and noise are inevitable companions. There are many who believe, however, that outdoor sports events which provoke the noise are a valuable aid in juvenile training and an excellent preventive against juvenile delinquency. These people welcome playgrounds, in spite of their noise, because of their value for good citizenship and physical well-being. Let them have the lowland of the pasture; and save the upland for those with different tastes.

## Shrinking Army

The army is to be reduced by about two million men. Discharge will be welcomed by most of the eligible privates who have borne the heavy end of the fighting. It will be welcomed also by many officers who left civilian life to do a job, and now that half the big task is done, are getting anxious to return home. Other officers, of whom there will be many, will not be so eager to step out of service. They have been drawing pay often much higher than their peacetime earning power. Their living scale has gone up accordingly; and the old job and the old pay are not at all attractive.

Career men in the army who have been in the teeth of the war in Europe are coming to realize that in many cases they are surplus as far as the Jap war is concerned. The best many of the brigadiers and colonels see is garrison duty in Europe or post duty in the USA or in outposts where army units are left stranded by the war. The high command must realize what it is up against in placing higher-ranking generals. By happy inspiration the president found a spot for General Bradley, General George Patton, though, who was ready to run his tanks through the Jap rice paddies, is sent back to his army group in Europe to sit the rest of the war out, perhaps, as an occupation officer. Other generals will get the call for the Japanese war, and younger men, on the make, who have fought their way up from New Guinea to the Philippines, will be given the opportunity they have earned.

And when V-J day comes so many generals' stars will fall people will think they are seeing a shower of meteors.

In spite of their loyalty to Speaker Sam Rayburn, democrats in congress may hesitate before putting the speaker in line for the presidency. They recall how close republicans were to a majority in the house in the preceding congress. Shift of a few votes would have put Joe Martin, stalwart republican of Massachusetts, in the speaker's chair, and an aging president in the White House. Memories of democrats are long, like their ears. They'll think of this as they ponder over the president's recommendation for a change in the succession.

## Editorial Comment

**IN 35 HOURS**  
The big story at Washington yesterday was the welcome to General Eisenhower—home from the great victory in Europe and entitled to acclaim—but the flight to Washington of Major General Curtis E. LeMay is also a thriller.

LeMay flew from Guam to Washington in 35 hours and with but one stop, at Hawaii. From Honolulu to Washington, a distance of 4600 miles, he made a non stop flight in a Superfortress.

People did not do that way in 1898 when the American forces, including men of the Second Oregon, "captured" Guam during the Spanish-American war. The Spanish commander at Guam did not know that there was a war going on, though it had been underway for months. He thought the cruiser Charleston had fired a salute and was embarrassed because he had no ammunition, so could not return the courtesy.

The fact the B-29s can fly half way around the world with but one refueling stop shows how air power and air traffic have advanced. What will the sirren do in the years to come?

What will constitute effective defense for the United States? If we retain all of the islands we have taken from the Japs will they be of any value to us or will they be as useless as was the Maginot line to France?

In the event of future wars it is logical to believe that air strength, including the carrier planes, will be the decisive factor. Why should time be wasted fighting over remote outposts when great fleets will be capable of striking right at the heart of a foe and with incredible speed?—Pendleton East Oregonian.

## AP Loses Case

The supreme court split in a variety of ways on the important question of whether the by-laws of the Associated Press operate to restrain trade as prohibited by the Sherman anti-trust act. A majority (5) upheld the lower court's decision against the AP. They were Justices Black, who wrote the opinion, Reed, Rutledge, Douglas and Frankfurter. Douglas and Frankfurter wrote separate concurring opinions. A minority (3) composed of Chief Justice Stone, Justices Roberts and Murphy, dissented, the latter two writing separate opinions.

The majority held that the by-laws which restrict membership in the Associated Press, which is a cooperative news-gathering agency, are in violation of law and must be amended. The ruling is specifically directed against any veto of application for Associated Press membership with a view to preventing competition with a present member. As the Associated Press developed, the members whose efforts and money contributed to its development held veto rights against competing papers. This has now been modified through the years, but the court now bans members from considering the competitive factor in voting on new members.

Members of the Associated Press frankly feel that the high court is depriving them of genuine property rights, some of which have been acquired at high cost. They know of no other line of business where a concern is forced to admit a competitor to enjoy a valuable service. There was no evidence introduced and no finding made that the AP held a monopoly. Other news services are in active competition with AP. The court thus would offer to competitors the fruits of the efforts of an individual or a company. That is what seems a rank injustice to most members of the Associated Press.

The practical effect of the ruling cannot be foreseen. Mr. Justice Roberts in his dissent said the ruling "threatens to be but a first step in the shackling of the press." Whether it is or not depends on what ensues. Goodness knows there have been enough efforts by government agencies to put halters and blinders on the press. As far as making news any more free or papers any more numerous, that result is very dubious. A very few papers like the Chicago Sun which aspire to AP membership may become members, but the cause for limitation of number of newspapers is not lack of news service, but economic. Publishing a daily paper is so costly an enterprise that few are able to survive. Radio offers new competition for advertising revenue, further restricting the field of newspaper operation. It is not without significance that the only two large city newspapers to start in late years, New York's PM and the Chicago Sun, are both Marshall Field newspapers, backed by his great fortune.

While AP members will voice their own disappointment over the ruling they perforce will accept it. It would be a major catastrophe if the great news-gathering agency of the AP were to dissolve. It will have to adjust its by-laws to meet the court's verdict. Some may feel that the new dealers (all the five justices in the majority were Roosevelt appointees) have gotten the last, sardonic laugh at the newspapers, particularly at Col. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune. One need not impute malice in the findings of the majority; their new dealish trend of thought gave them that slant originally. AP members will have to make the best of the situation that has arisen and try to maintain high standards for completeness and fairness of news reports.

Mamas and papas and dogs and cats again can face the Fourth of July without flinching. The law reiterates "no" on fireworks.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Surprising earlier advices from China that Japanese forces were evacuating Hainan island, a pivotal strategic position at the mouth of the gulf of Tongkin, appear at least premature if not wholly unfounded. Yet there are evidences of growing enemy uneasiness in that sector.

Chungking reports of Nipponese offensive activities on Hoihong peninsula in southern Kwangtung indicate Japanese fears that Hainan might be isolated. If that were done it could fall into allied hands as an advance base for the merging east-west air attack nemy mainland and sea communications.

In Chinese hands Hainan would offer glittering possibilities. It lies due west of northern Luzon some 700 miles and within close air striking distance of the China and Indo-China coast line along which run highly vulnerable Japanese land communications with forces to the south. For that reason if no other a desperate enemy stand on Hainan would seem indicated. Chinese military spokesmen now report that while an enemy detachment was withdrawn from the island, presumably for the action in progress on Hoihong peninsula, the main garrison on Hainan still is intact.

It is a vital safeguard for what is left of enemy life line contacts with Indo-China, Thailand and the Malay peninsula; even with Sumatra and Java. Its surrender would represent final abandonment by Tokyo of all forces deployed south of China.

Hoihong peninsula juts due southward from the Kwangtung coast west of Hong Kong. It reaches within a virtual stone's throw of the north coast of Hainan island like a draw bridge and is the route for maintaining contact between the Hainan garrison and Japanese forces on the mainland.

Chungking has disclosed that two Japanese columns were in operation north and northeast of Limkong, an important junction point of the Kwangtung coastal rail system crossing the base of the peninsula.

The motive of Japanese offensive on Hoihong peninsula has stirred speculation in Chungking, turning largely on the assumption that it is a move to protect communications with Hainan. There can be no question about its strategic value, or that its loss would be a blow to Japanese hopes of rescuing any part of the armies to the south.



Their Superfortress

## The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

### Attention Salem Voters

PGE, under the signature of the officers of the so-called Salem Citizens committee, has been spreading much propaganda about the Salem Electric Coop. and mostly about Harry Reed, our manager. Harry Reed put Salem on the map as an up-to-date city when he succeeded in establishing KSLM, though the same bunch who are opposing Salem Electric, opposed KSLM. When Bonneville electricity became available, he applied for electricity and found they didn't retail electricity. He immediately started to promote an Electric Cooperative.

Some of the down town business men of Salem, most of the West Salem business men and industries and some farmers advanced money to help put it over. This was accomplished in spite of every conceivable obstacle put in our way by those now opposing Salem Electric. The war came on and we had no priority, transformers and electrical appliances were frozen; regardless we went ahead and have over 240 members, and many others waiting until more material is available. About 60 of the members are Salem business men. The large industries such as Max Gehlar's Food Products Co. and Blue Lake Cannery have long since had their advance money returned. We smaller users, though we get 20 per cent off each month's bill, still have some coming. Soon we will all have our money back and still own Salem Electric. Harry Reed is hired by the board of directors as manager and has done a good job of it. Present board of directors are L. V. Benson, proprietor of two bakeries in Salem, president; Glen Hogg, farmer in Polk county and president of Willamette Cherry association, one of Salem's large industries, secretary. Other members of the board are Sidney Stevens, jeweler, on State street, Salem, and Mr. Burk, owner of the West side Auto Park, and Mr. Sloper, West Salem business man.

These directors are all successful businessmen and are capable of managing Salem Electric successfully. Are you, Mr. Voter, by your vote, going to tell these

men they can't operate their own business just to let PGE continue to monopolize the electric business? What about the 60 Salem members scattered over most of the territory the franchise calls for, are you going to vote to tell them that this no longer is a free country and must come under a monopoly? PGE tells you "they have lowered rates." This is true; I will recite three times when they did it. The first time we had lowered rates was when we sponsored the seven county PUD. The next time was when we sponsored the Polk County PUD, and the last time was when they lowered their rates to compete with Salem Electric. Every one of PGE patrons have had savings on account of Salem Electric operation. They are not much concerned about what would happen should Salem wake up and want municipal ownership. As far as Salem is concerned, all they would have to do is pay (one red cent) just to comply with the law for a membership and start using Salem electricity.

Has Salem Electric harmed any one in Salem by forcing PGE to lower their rates? We give no special rates, all are treated alike, including the farmers. I guess it was pretty hard for PGE to lower rates; saw in the paper where they asked to borrow \$39,000,000 but Utility said, No, \$35,000,000 was enough. R. W. Hogg

**Opposes Electric Franchise**  
To the Editor:  
We are to vote Friday of this week on several issues and I have been reading the ads and editorials, especially those relating to the power franchise. One that concerns me most is the question of having two electric power companies in Salem. I formerly lived in Portland and some years back the people there voted to allow a franchise to a second telephone company and it turned out to be a sorry mess indeed, with result that in order to give decent service the two companies were forced to consolidate. It appears to me that this proposition is just another scheme by the Reed electric com-

pany to gouge the PGE company at the expense of the people who are using electricity to cook their meals, wash their clothes and light their homes. I have a family and a little home and my power bill has decreased to quite an extent; in fact, I am able to cook cheaper with electricity than with any other fuel. I realize that a second company in Salem is not interested in me or my problems but only scheming to obtain the cream of the business, then sell out to the larger company and let the people stand the loss. Very truly,  
Henry Harrison,  
North Salem, Ward 5.

**To the Editor:**  
In explanation of the attitude of the people who are more interested in a quiet and beautiful park than they are in an athletic field, I would like to say that we do not want to oppose the majority of the people of Salem. However, there is a general feeling that the question has been presented in such a way that a true expression cannot be obtained. If I vote for the purchase of the upper portion, which I very much want, I must also vote for an athletic field which I do not want. With others just the reverse is true. Is it fair or democratic to have "riders" on the proposition? We should have a chance to vote the two questions separately. Everywhere there is a conviction that a "fast one" has been "pulled." This is not a wholesome thing. Not one I have talked to has been unwilling to accept a verdict against them if a fair opportunity were given both sides.

I am an alumnus of Willamette and I sympathize with her desire for the field. I understand how unpleasant it is for President Smith's family to have the field under their windows. Even we are annoyed by the noise from Willamette's present field and we live way over on the south side of the pasture. But suppose Willamette needed more classrooms and wished to use a part of my house for that purpose, could I be expected to allow her to do it? Well, the pasture is almost as intimately dear to me as my own house. I love it with all my heart. But it isn't mine alone and I willingly bow to the will of others in the matter—if that will can be expressed.

MARY SACKETT,  
1510 S. Winter St.

**By Lichty**  
In my opinion the best argument against granting a franchise to Salem Electric company is contained in the schedule of comparative rates of other cities which is being advertised by Salem Electric. Note that the Seattle municipal system charges considerably more for power than the Portland General Electric company charges in Salem, in spite of the fact that Seattle City Light has dual advantages of not paying taxes and of serving a concentrated city market. The reason for their higher rates is this: Seattle City Light has to compete with Puget Sound Power and Light company and this duplication of service keeps rates higher. It is that same duplication of service that we must avoid in Salem, so the franchise for Salem Electric should be defeated in next Friday's election. I used to live in Seattle and now I am more than satisfied with my electric service here. The lower rates make my power bills lower. I am amazed that a privately owned power company can charge lower rates than the Seattle municipal plant and still contribute substantial taxes and also serve isolated rural areas. WALLACE JOHNSON,  
East Center St.

Kenneth L. Dixon  
AT THE FRONT  
Can You Spell It  
Colonel, Or Do You  
Just Wear It?

IN OCCUPIED GERMANY—(AP)—Some day during the pleasant postwar life of the regular army men, there will be a military dance at Ft. Knox or Ft. Belvoir or some such place and a starchy eyed young thing will look up at a colonel and say: "My, colonel, such marvelous decorations! And what does that pretty red and green striped piece of rope around your shoulder mean?" "Harrumph, harrumph. Well, my dear, that is the Belgian fourragere. The first Belgian fourragere ever given to a foreign military unit, as a matter of fact. Those of us in the second armored division got it in the last war — old (Hell on Wheels) division. Harrumph, yes."

At which information the starchy eyed young thing—not daring to ask what a fourragere is or what it means or how it is obtained and probably not caring anyhow—will murmur prettily: "Ohhhh, how nice. My, you must have been brave." Well, since a colonel always falls for that line, it is obvious that she is not going to be informed about the fourragere unless somebody does it now, so here goes.

In the first place, the fourragere is awarded "as a special honor to units having performed bold strikes during the present war and having been cited at least twice in an order of the day of the Belgian army."

Well, that was a breeze for the Second armored division. They were cited as the first liberating troops to enter Belgium and again as the vital outfit in halting and eliminating the stampede of Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's Ardennes offensive—just to mention a couple. So Prince Charles, the regent of Belgium, signed an imposing document which was stringently introduced with the words, "to all present and to come, salute." Then the minister of national defense signed it and all that remains is to present the fourra-

ger to the Hell on Wheels; which they aim to do in a couple of days. It might be well to mention that only one Belgian unit has been awarded the fourragere up to now. It is the First Belgian Brigade which was formed in Great Britain during the German occupation of its homeland and fought from Normandy through Holland and now occupies a section of Germany. The Second armored division is the second unit of any nation to receive it this war.

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"MISSION BEYOND DARKNESS," by Lt. Comdr. Joseph Bryan III, USNR, and Philip Reed (Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 21). "ACTION TO-NIGHT: THE STORY OF THE DESTROYER O'BANNON IN THE PACIFIC," by James D. Moran (Putnam, \$2.50). If any books may be called packed with action, it is these two thrilling stories about war in the Pacific.

Just one year ago today Admiral Mitscher's scouts discovered a big Jap force running away through the Philippine sea. Bryan and Reed give us the gripping account, more stirring than fiction, of 64 men from the carrier Lexington's air group 16, sent out to attack in late afternoon, returning after dark, their safety depending dramatically on their last few drops of gasoline.

"No word or thought or action has been ascribed to anyone without his authority," the authors say. It's obvious that this account was not made up out of anyone's head. Here are the facts, and they are anything but matter-of-fact; here's how men behave as their chances get slimmer and slimmer; here's what it takes to win.

The O'Bannon, a beauty of a destroyer, was built in Bath, Me., and under Capt. Edwin R. Wilkinson and later Donald J. MacDonald, licked many times her weight in Jap battleships in and around "the Slot" in the Solomon.

The author, assistant city editor of the New York Journal-American, wrote the book without even getting his feet wet, sitting in a hotel room and interviewing scores of members of the crew.

But he gets your feet wet, and you spend your reading time aboard the plucky O'Bannon under bombs and shells, in and out of rain squalls, in those now distant days of tough going when the marines were fighting tooth and nail to hold Guadalcanal.

The actions described include a set-to with submarines, surface battles in pitch darkness when, if the first salvo didn't score, there might be no time for a second, and bombardment of enemy installations.

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## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

strike there. He turned the charter over to some fellow travelers named Kellogg who brought the charter the rest of the way, carrying it in a small, rawhide-covered, cylinder-shaped trunk, arriving in Oregon City Sept. 17, 1848, two and a half years after the petition for the charter had been drawn up. The lodge was called Multnomah No. 84, and its jurisdiction extended from Canada to Mexico and from the summit of the Rockies to the Pacific ocean. The second lodge in Oregon was Willamette of Portland, the third the Lafayette lodge, and the fourth at Salem. When the California grand lodge was instituted in 1850 Oregon came under that jurisdiction, later independent.

Pacific lodge No. 50, which is now 75 years old, has numbered many men of prominence among its members. It has had six of its members elevated to the office of Grand Master. First of these was T. McFadden Patton who officiated at the Masonic ceremonies at the laying of the cornerstone of the old capitol in 1872. Others were Judge George H. Burnett, Lot L. Pearce, George G. Brown, former clerk of the state land office, all of whom are deceased; Rex W. Davis of the state treasurer's office and Milton L. Meyers. On its roll of members were Senator Charles L. McNary, Congressman W. C. Hawley and Governor Oswald West. Admiral Thomas M. Gatch, judge advocate of the navy, retains his membership in Pacific No. 4.

When first organized, Pacific lodge met in the old Griswold block, later the Murphy block at State and Commercial streets. It later met in Rector's hall, an early day meeting place which stood just south of the Statesman building. In 1900 the lodge began meeting on the third floor of the old Reed Opera house, now Miller's store, and in 1913 it moved to the Masonic temple which has continued to be its home.

Present worthy master is Ernest Wagner. Otto Hoppe, past W. M., is chairman of the committee in charge of Friday night's program, which is open to the public.

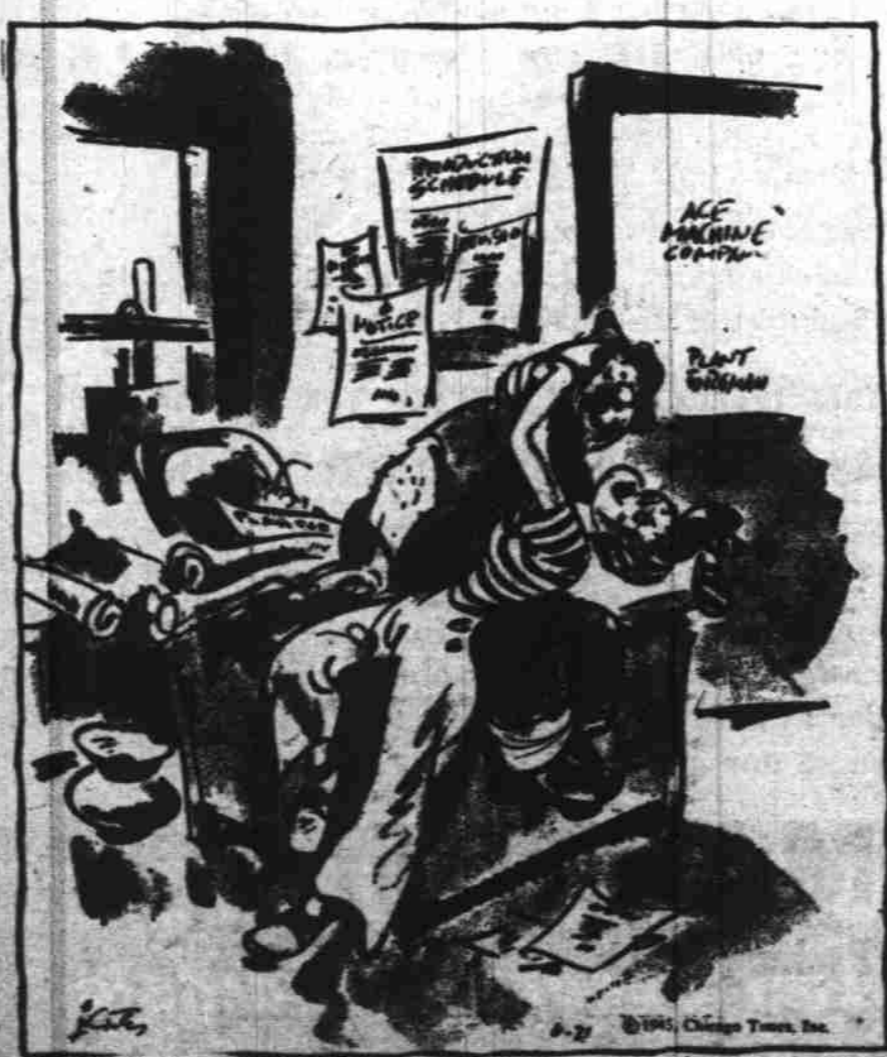
The Masonic order, as is well known, traces its history back through many centuries. Being a body whose members are bound by oaths of secrecy, it was long subject to criticism and suspicion. At one time about a century ago anti-Masonic agitation spilled over into politics, particularly in New York state. That flare-up did not last long, but it is significant that Masonic bodies have been among the first to be dissolved by totalitarian rulers.

A non-Mason myself, I feel free to say that I have observed that the Masonic order has attracted to its membership a large share of the men of substance of the community, the leaders of affairs and men of good reputation.

Society owes a real debt to the Masonic order because it has consistently upheld the principle of intellectual freedom. Some have confused this with "free thinking" from the standpoint of religion, but that is incorrect. The lodge still clings to the broad principle of freedom to think, and without doubt its secret character has enabled it to survive as a haven in countries under the heel of foes of civil, political and religious liberty. This 75th anniversary of Pacific lodge gives me an opportunity to express this view of an organization which has survived for many centuries and still thrives.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Think of me as an individual, Miss Point— not as foreman in charge of reconversion!"

SWEETHEART  
LOCKETS  
All sizes and shapes.  
TERMS  
Conveniently  
Arranged  
339 Court