

The Oregon Statesman

“No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe” From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Railroads and Competition

The railroads of the country are on trial in U. S. courts for violating the Sherman anti-trust act. Attorney General Biddle accuses them of fixing rates through mutual agreement...

When the country adopted the policy of policing railroads as to rates and practices, and now as to wages, it made a change in the basis of railway operation.

Under this plan of strict regulation, railroads are cribbed more and more in uniformity. They ask congress to make it lawful for them to agree on rates and practices subject to the approval of the ICC.

One of the ablest authorities on transportation was the late Joseph B. Eastman, long member of the ICC, who died while serving as director of ODT.

I am wholly convinced that if the carriers of the country are to respond to the duties and obligations imposed upon them by the Interstate Commerce Act, and if the rate structure is to be reasonable, free from unjust discrimination or undue preference and prejudice, as simple and consistent as may be, reasonably stable, and sufficient for the minimum needs of private ownership and operation, the carriers must be in a position to consult, confer, and deal collectively with many phases of the matter, and that while the ultimate right of individual action should be scrupulously preserved, it is desirable that such action should not be taken without prior notice to fellow carriers and shippers and an opportunity for them to express their views.

This statement is a clear and convincing declaration of policy which offers strong support to the Bulwinkle bill (HR 2536) pending in congress. This would permit the roads to make agreements and register them with the ICC. If approved by the ICC the agreements would stand and the roads would not be haled before the court as violators of the Sherman act.

For years our government policy and our popular thinking have headed in opposite directions. We cherish the old idea of competition; but more and more we pass laws which limit the area of competition. Wage-fixing, price control are examples of government intervention with free competition.

But the ICC itself needs some overhaul. It has grown moribund through the years, loaded down with duties, lacking in imagination. If the Bulwinkle bill passes—or if it doesn't—the ICC ought to get some new blood so it will do a better job of bossing the country's transportation system.

A rubber company suggests mounting houses on rubber piling to absorb noise. Specially prepared rooms for the navy, says the company, have been made so sound-proof a man can hear his heart beat. What a pounding there would be if lovers courted in a room like that, with two hearts beating as one.

The state forestry publication says the Soviets have grown pine trees so they produce lumber without knots. What, no knots for the ball park fence? You can't do that to kids in America.

Editorial Comment

SCIENCE AND RECONVERSION For the last two years engineers, chemists and physicists have been urging military deferment of scientists in the national interest. Now comes the American Council on Education and the National Research Council with a joint report which reinforces the argument and reaches the conclusion that industrial progress will be retarded by at least twenty years, unless enough young men are permitted to complete university courses in science.

We have pointed out in these columns that British and Russian universities are packed with students of science. No one can maintain that either Great Britain or Russia has failed to draft the last necessary man to fight this war. In 1940 about 110,000 students of engineering were enrolled in this country; today the number is only 38,000. Physics and chemistry are now studied chiefly by an inadequate number of women, with a small percentage of men classified as 4-F.

Kamikaze Damage

Navy losses in the Okinawa campaign were 9731 with 4907 killed or missing and 4824 wounded. These figures make it one of the most costly naval operations in our history. The navy had to stay in those waters to cover the invasion, shell surface enemy positions and guard supply lines.

We can't laugh off these kamikaze planes. They blasted the carriers Franklin, Saratoga and Bunker Hill. They have sunk 31 ships including 11 destroyers. They have damaged 54 other vessels of the navy standing guard off the Okinawa beaches.

These losses will not be decisive because of our overwhelming superiority. But they are serious, as the totals show. We can expect them to continue as our fleet closes in on the home islands.

The experience indicates the necessity of blasting the factories where these planes are produced and the bases where they are launched. The superforts will have to drench the islands with bombs and fire to cut down our losses from enemy action and make safe the final invasion.

All this adds up to time. We must settle down to putting victory over Japan a matter of years not months.

Foreign Tours

Great Britain is planning to appeal for the postwar tourist trade. This would be a great source of income to help the islands maintain a balance of trade. Other nations doubtless will make similar efforts to lure American dollars their way.

When we think of postwar tourist travel we must realize that foreign lands will attract more Americans than ever before, just as soon as accommodations for travel and residence are made comfortable.

New York claims to be the diamond-cutting center of the world, succeeding Brussels. New York, the slicker city, has to import its diamonds-in-the-rough, however.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON Associated Press War Analyst

The rise in the surrender rate by trapped Japanese troops on Okinawa and in the Philippines is impressive both because of the trend and the circumstances rather than that the figures show as yet any symptom of an impending general collapse in army morale.

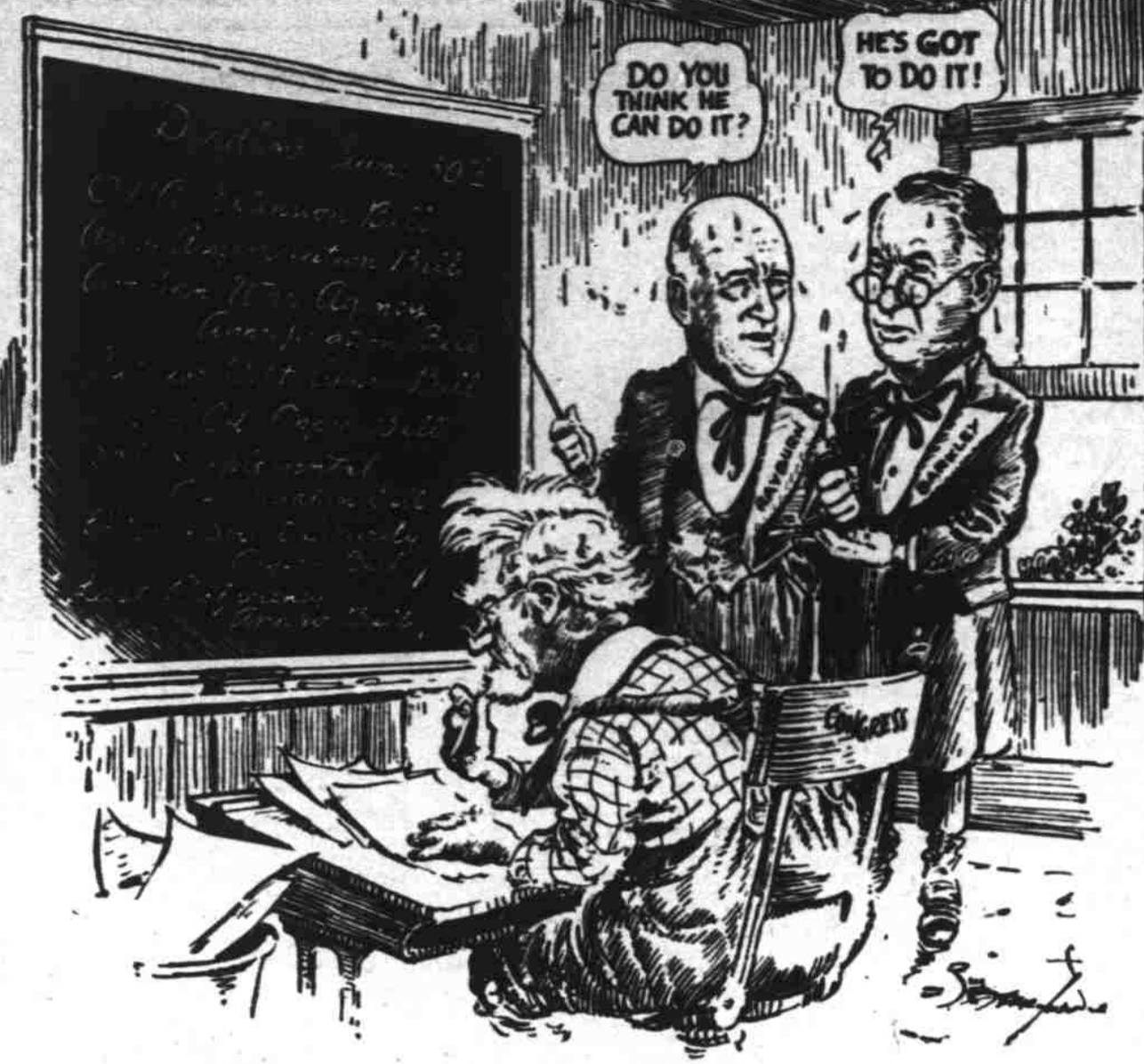
That was the point accentuated by war undersecretary Patterson in revealing that in the closing days of both campaigns the surrender ratio to counted enemy dead had gone up from a previous one per cent to substantially ten per cent. Many prisoners came into American lines in both cases waving "surrender passports" dropped from planes.

Actually the ten per cent surrender trend could be misleading. It is figured on the basis of counted enemy dead. That does not include the unquestionably high Japanese losses at sea, both army and navy, which would reduce the ratio. There is small chance for surrender in modern naval warfare in any case and when a troop-laden transport is sent to the bottom there can be few survivors.

The rising trend toward surrender is not to be ignored, nevertheless. It must be measured against the fact that troops and naval personnel ashore on garrison duty in the Pacific campaigning probably were hand picked by the Japanese command. They were taken from younger and fully indoctrinated army and navy groups.

There is some justification for assuming that the pick of the Japanese army has been and still is in China and the Pacific and Dutch Indies islands leaving the home defense largely to reserve elements. Tokyo has never had opportunity to recall island garrisons for home defense and there is no intimation first line troops from China have been replaced on any substantial scale in expectation of the coming siege of the home islands.

However that may be, it seems certain that isolated Japanese forces in bypassed Pacific or Dutch islands, in Malaya, Indo China and even in southern and central China are under an extreme nerve strain as well as military attack. They definitely know they have been abandoned. They see little or no air support to aid them. They must overhear Tokyo radio ravings calling for a suicide defense of the home islands confirming American broadcasts or plane-dropped leaflet reports on the actual progress of the struggle.



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The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

MURDER—either of fact or fiction—has fascinated man since the birth of time. You have only to go as far as the fourth chapter of Genesis to note how soon murder makes its appearance in the Biblical account of creation, and to read of probably the most famous of all murders—the Cain-Abel story.

The bibliography of homicidal criminology is probably the vastest of all. To many readers the word "murder" in a book's title inevitably suggests a murder novel. But to the murder connoisseur it means a real life case.

At any rate, there are thousands of volumes dealing with actual murders.

Some of the finest writing artists of the British Isles have chosen murder for their subject—from DeQuincy to William Rougemont, the latter an erudite Scot who is the present kingpin of the clan.

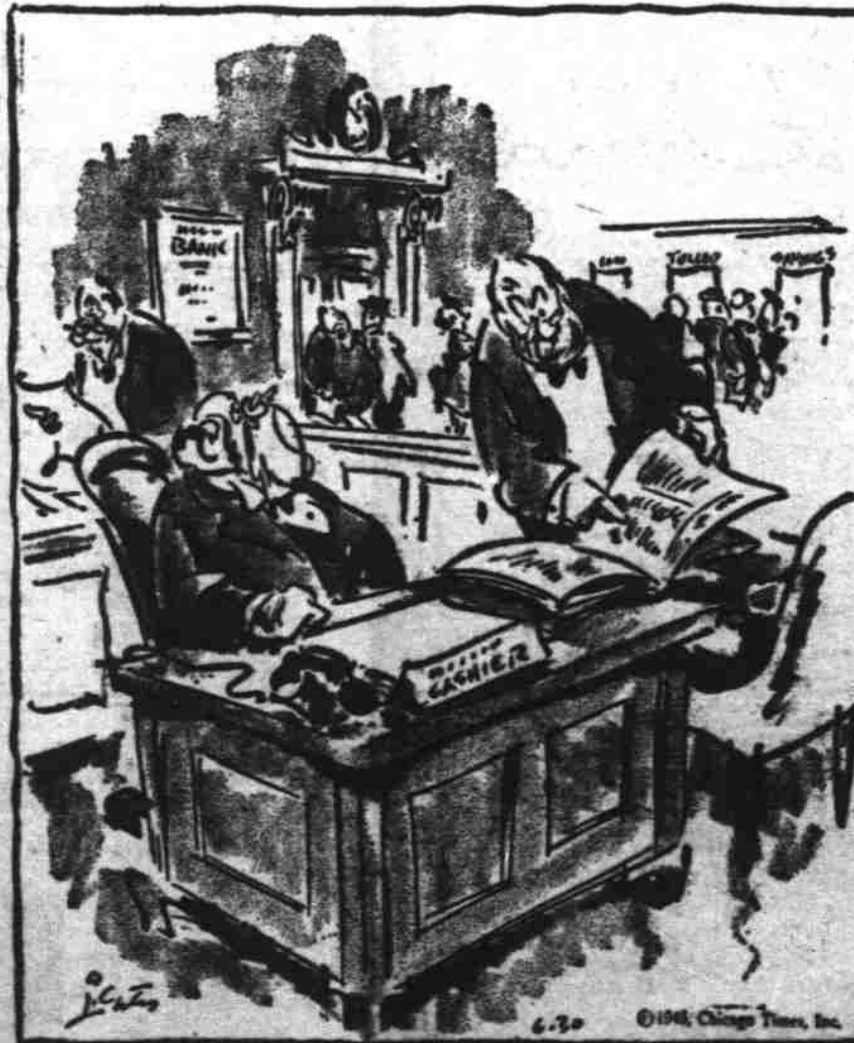
A decade ago an American publishing firm started a somewhat similar production under the general title of "Notable American Murders," but the series came to an end.

The Chicago selections are what might be called the "classics" rather than cases stemming from the fantastic gangster era. Nevertheless, the editor notes that "the selection... was a monumental task because of the richness of the field... Chicago is, and always has been, a lusty, bawling, violent city; a polyglot city, a rich city, a city powerful and unafraid."

The combined switchboard system at the Boulder dam power station contains more than 8,000 meters, relays and switches. A treaty signed by Czechoslovak prime minister Zdenek Fierlinger and by foreign commissar V. M. Molotov provided, that the area "is by mutual agreement and the desire of its peoples returned to the Ukraine Soviet socialist republic."

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



“What with meat, butter and cigarette shortages, I’d think by now you wouldn’t get excited about a shilling money shortage!”

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

be alert to their employment, realizing however that the device used in peace may become a weapon of war. Certainly it becomes highly important to keep our scientific research abreast of, any ahead of, that of other lands.

One reason why I am skeptical about compulsory military training is because I feel it puts emphasis in the wrong place: the drilling of great bodies of men. Would we not do much better for our defense to divert just a part of the cost of a program of universal military training to scientific research?

The complaint has usually been that generals are always fighting the last war over again. The aggressive-innovator blitzes through the old tactics and machines to gain early victory. In 1940 Hitler was victor in western Europe. Had he stopped there and consolidated his position Germany might well have proven impregnable.

Czechs Cede Ukraine Sector to U.S.S.R.

LONDON, June 29.—(AP)—Czechoslovakia has ceded the Carpatho-Ukraine, a mountainous 4,871-square mile sector of extreme eastern Czechoslovakia, to Russia, the Moscow radio said tonight.

From 50 to 75 children from the ages of 2 to 12 years old are in regular attendance at Engelwood, one of the larger Salem playgrounds. Children in the age group 2-7 are given special direction in the morning hours from 9-11:30, and the older group is given instruction in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4.

On Salem's Playgrounds

By Donna Carr

Engelwood boasts two softball teams that receive instruction each week by Bob Metzger. Several times during the year children and parents alike enjoy themselves at outdoor picnics.

Due to the increased number wishing to swim on Sundays, both pools will open an hour earlier July 1, staying open from 1 until 9 p.m.

Both Leslie and Olinger picnic grounds have been frequented regularly of late, with a group of 175 from the Lutheran church visiting Leslie, and the Women's Press club, 35 in number, at Olinger last Sunday.

Eagles Urge FDR Birthday For Holiday

Designation by congress of the late President Roosevelt's birthday, January 31, as a national holiday, was urged in a resolution unanimously adopted by the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

The resolution declared that "during the most critical period in modern history the hopes, the aspirations and the ideals of his fellow countrymen and the oppressed peoples of the entire world."

The late president was a life member of Buffalo (N.Y.) Aerie, and was closely associated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles in its campaign for state old age pension laws and the national social security act.

House Conversions Approved by WPB For Medford-Ashland Area

PORTLAND, June 29.—(AP)—Investigations by war production board and housing officials have resulted in the approval of priorities for an unlimited number of residential conversions in the Ashland-Medford district.

Three Germans Hang For Killing Flier

RHEINBACH, Germany, June 29.—(AP)—A triple hanging of German civilians at dawn today avenged an unidentified American army flier who parachuted into Germany from a flaming plane last Aug. 15, and was shot, clubbed and hammered to death.

The three Germans, Peter Back, Peter Kohn and Matthias Gierens, were hanged by U. S. army executioners carrying out the verdict of the first civilian war crime case tried on German soil since the nazis surrendered.

Bond Premieres Get \$162,525; 1875 Pennies Buy Baby Picture

The two movie premieres Thursday night and Friday afternoon at the Elsinore and Capitol theaters raised \$162,525 for the Seventh War Loan drive. Manager Carl Porter reported to bond headquarters yesterday that this brings the theaters' total for the campaign close to the half-million dollar mark.

Working to reach a \$3383 bond quota, the Chemawa Indian school has reported purchases of \$5086, or 14 per cent of the entire pay roll.

State employees yesterday went past the half-million mark, far past their allotment, and more will be added when final computations are made early next week, according to Chairman Roy Mills.

New corporation allocations included General Petroleum \$20,000, Calpack Corp. \$7000, Blake Moffitt & Towne \$1000, and Standard Oil \$105,000, divided among five towns of Marion county.

NBC Radio Show Here Built Around Salem Boy's Friends

With Pfc. Alfred K. Phelps as principal participant, the "Truth or Consequences" program of the National Broadcasting company will originate today in and around Perry's drug store, where the family and friends of Phelps will talk to him; in Honolulu, where the Salem soldier is hospitalized with shrapnel wounds in one leg, and in Hollywood, where Master of Ceremonies Ralph Edwards will direct the program over its nation-wide hookup.

The program for eastern radio listeners is scheduled for 5:30-6 p.m.; that for the west from 8-8:30 p.m. Although Phelps, a Statesman printer who left the backshop for army service two years ago, knows that he is to have the privilege of talking via radio to home town folk, he is due for a surprise when the first of the broadcasts is staged.

Many school chums of Al's are in uniform, and, through The Statesman, NBC is seeking to learn of young men in Salem today who can qualify for such a role on the broadcast.

UAL Given Safety Award

A three-year record of operating more than one billion passenger miles without a fatal accident has won for United Air Lines the National Safety council's highest wartime citation—the distinguished service to safety award.

In addition, United Air Lines has been voted the 1944 aviation safety award for airlines flying more than 100,000,000 passenger miles annually.

The double citation was made by the National Safety council "in recognition of the outstanding wartime safety record of United Air Lines." Only a few organizations in the United States, such as the army air force, the army service forces, General Motors and the Studebaker corporation have received the distinguished service to safety award.

Oregon Highway Standards Equal Best, Says Baldock

Standards for highway construction in Oregon compare favorably with those approved for regional or national highways by a committee of the American Association of State Highway Officials in Washington, DC, last week, R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, reported Friday.

Where peak-hour traffic is 200 cars or less the minimum width of the highway would be 22 feet. Grades would be under five per cent. Divided highways would be provided for peak hour traffic of 800 cars. Two lane highways would have a right-of-way of 120 feet; while four lane highways would need 220 feet.

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Portland Fights For Ship Repairs

PORTLAND, June 29.—(AP)—More repair work for Portland's harbor is the object of "the hardest fight ever made by a chamber of commerce" here.

The port commission has asked Oregon's senators to cooperate in the drive for heavier repairs and another 14,000-ton drydock.

Supreme Court Begins Vacation After Decisions

The state supreme court Friday handed down two decisions and then recessed for its summer vacation until September 4. At least one judge will be in Salem during the vacation interim to handle any emergencies that may arise.

F. Meyer Suspension Is Reversed by OPA

PORTLAND, June 29.—(AP)—A national OPA hearing commissioner has reversed a regional order suspending a Portland grocery chain charged with accepting invalid ration stamps last Dec. 26.

The district OPA said the order, suspending sale of rationed foods for 180 days by Fred Meyer Inc., has been cancelled by the Washington, D. C., office. Eleven other Portland firms were cited in the same case arising from the Christmas day OPA order.



DIAMONDS Store Hours 9:30 - 6:00 329 Court Street