

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Santa Answers His Mail

Yes, Santa does answer his mail, many times, and this saga of the Christmas spirit in our postal department is well worth the telling.

It is estimated that 100,000 children directed mail-order pleas to Saint Nicholas in the few weeks before the Yuletide this year. And it would be surprising to know how many were answered. Of course, if the scrawled missives were illegible, or signed only with "Little Sister" or "Your friend, Bobby," not a great deal could be done with them. But if a return address could be read, and if need and sincerity were unquestionable, none was ignored.

For several years now, postal authorities have been legally able to turn over such letters to philanthropic organizations and individuals for reply. In fact, in many instances postal employees have been known to take up their own collection and respond to particularly plaintive notes—especially if they ask for something for "dear mama" or request "a toy truck for my brother."

Sometimes, in addition to baskets which may be their own answer on Christmas morning, actual replies are sent to the little correspondents. Such replies usually are forwarded to Santa Claus, Ind., or Christmas, Fla., for remailing so the letters will bear the kind of a postmark to delight the heart of a child.

This year, many laboriously-written letters asked that Santa "please bring my daddy home," and replies, of course, had to explain that this was a bit outside of St. Nick's province. But the heartening factor is that so many such letters were answered at all. Some, of necessity, find their way to the dead-letter office. But not when postal employees can help it.

It is a richly-endowed nation which can and does engage in a labor of love to lift the faith of little sisters and Bobbies at the sacred Yuletide.

Holt to Manage Livestock Show

Persons interested in the Pacific International Livestock show at Portland will be pleased to learn that Walter Holt of Pendleton has been picked to manage the 1946 exposition which will be the first show held since 1941. Holt at one time was county agent for Clackamas county and later for many years held the same position in Umatilla county. A few months ago he resigned to manage a farming enterprise.

A different type of man than the late O. M. Plummer who directed the show ever since it was founded, Holt is exceedingly capable. He knows agriculture and livestock and long had a hand in running off the Pendleton Round-up. While the announcement refers only to the 1946 exhibition, it is presumed that if it goes off satisfactorily he will become the permanent manager of this important show.

Another chapter in the controversy over Coos bay oyster lands was written with the filing of a suit in federal court at Portland by Tideland Development company against 24 residents of Oregon and one Californian. The suit asks for \$300,000 damages alleged to have been suffered by the plaintiff corporation on account of "false and malicious statements intended to ruin the oyster business of plaintiff."

The Tideland concern is said to be a promotion of Robert Erion and J. R. Barton who are under federal indictment for using the mails to defraud.

The Oregon defendants are principally residents of the Willamette valley. Many of them are connected with the Coos Bay Oyster Cooperative with which Erion and Barton were once identified. They are: Charles B. Davis, Walter Winslow, W. C. Cate, Warren Gray, George Coffey, Ernest Werner, Cornelius Stuy, Alvin Manning, Ralph Dodson, Ralph Shepard, George Weirich, J. A. Ryan, George Beckner, Fred A. Roberts, Clarence Moser, Ernest Hoisington, William T. Hatleberg, Lowry H. West, C. M. LaFollet, Claralee Hargrave, Guy E. Ervin, Joe J. Walker, F. L. Folsom and Ray Joslin.

The complaint alleges that defendants represented to purchasers that titles to beds offered by the plaintiff were defective, also that the beds were worthless.

Up to last night process had not been had on any of the local defendants.

Senator Cordon in a talk in Portland said he feared that housing of veterans would become a critical domestic issue. It is critical already. Not only do veterans have a hard time finding a place to live but some can't even stay where they are. We heard of one case in Salem where an apartment house owner is evicting a veteran, his wife and baby. Whether the eviction is made to oust the baby or to increase the rent on the next tenants we do not know; but the family is ordered out and can find no place to move to. A war veteran ought to be spared such treatment.

When it took a week for a pack of letters containing unemployment compensation checks to go from Salem to Portland the UCC hired its own truck to make the run so the checks might be delivered on time. It's the Christmas rush which has engulfed the postal service here and elsewhere. Deliveries of first class mail are retarded, and second-class and parcels drag along still later. Cold weather and blizzards have added to the delays in transportation. All those who wanted an old-fashioned Christmas ought to be satisfied.

Denmark has made General Eisenhower "knight of the elephant." There's a hope for republicans.

A Great General

An entire nation will mourn the death of Gen. George Patton, one of the most able officers—and certainly the most colorful figure—of World War II.

His mistakes were many—he slapped a soldier he suspected of cowardice, and there was a glaring lack of diplomacy in his London remarks on Russia—but an intrinsic ability, an utter disregard of danger or overwhelming odds, and a driving will-to-win sends him into history as one of our greatest field commanders.

There are not many men who could err as Patton erred and still come back to win the hearts of a nation and of the men he led. His mighty drive to relieve the beleaguered heroes of Bastogne will never be forgotten.

"George," "Two-gun," Patton was cut down in a car-truck accident long after the victory to which he so greatly contributed. He was gravely injured, but scorned to meet the death which many felt would come. As days went on, hopes rose that a fighting heart would see him through. But George Patton was a tired man. Providence had let him live to help lead his beloved country out of danger. Now he is at rest and his memory is one to be treasured along with those of other great men who have died in the service of this nation.

A few days ago an operation was performed to remove a detonating cap from a serviceman's bladder. He must have felt himself prematurely embombed.

A Warrior Dies—George S. Patton

By the Associated Press
Gen. George Smith Patton, Jr., warrior for more than 30 years, poet with the tongue of a muleskinner, elegant disciplinarian of the "spit-and-polish" school, was a legend long before his spectacular job was done in Europe.

(Patton died yesterday—story of his death on page 1.)

His job was war, and he did it with a skill that often amazed his colleagues. But as a diplomat the hell-for-leather cavalryman who brought tank warfare to a peak of perfection failed completely. He was constantly in hot water.

The story of Patton in World War 2 is the story of a lightning series of allied victories from Africa through France and Germany to Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Danger Was a Privilege
The Patton legend flowered in the African campaign, when the roaring, cussing tankman, two-pearl-handled six-shooter swinging from his hips, led American forces in the conquest of Tunisia.

To showman Patton, danger was the privilege of an officer, and he was constantly at the front. His doctrine was expressed pithily: "We shall attack and attack until we are exhausted, and then we shall attack again."

He carried out this doctrine with spectacular success in Europe, when his Third army was born after the invasion.

Patton himself narrowly missed being a casualty on a number of occasions. Once, when a huge railway gun was being employed by the Germans, a 700-pound shell landed within eight feet of him. It was a dud.

Leads His Army Across River
Patton's legend was built upon incidents like these:

The Third army was about to cross the icy Sure river in Germany, into a hail of enemy gunfire. Patton himself, ignoring the enemy bullets, leaped into the stream ahead of his men and swam across.

Once during the North African campaign, he ordered a visiting major general to "get to the top of the hill so you can get shot at a bit."

Patton's pomp made him the awe of native populations. Besides the pearl-handled pistols, he often wore a leather-encased, needle-pointed French sword. He was garbed in fancy-cut riding breeches and puttees much of the time, and wore a shiny helmet.

Known as a lover of sartorial elegance himself, even in the field, he was the bane of those who were careless in such matters. Infantrymen who knew him as "Old Blood and Guts," "The Green Hornet," "Gorgeous George," or just plain "George," were well aware of the sharpness of his tongue.

Soft Side Shows Through
Patton cursed out enlisted men and officer alike. But his soft side showed often. Once, informed of the death of an aide at the front, he broke into tears, mumbling: "I'm acting like an old fool."

A sparkling success in war, Patton was constantly getting in difficulties because of his thunderous pronouncements, or his quick temper.

The first big wave of criticism was the soldier-slapping incident in Sicily. Then, in the spring of 1944 in London, he made a speech in which he said: "It is our destiny to rule the world—we Americans and British and, of course, the Russians." The war department quickly disavowed the remark and said it was Patton's personal view.

Even home on leave, Patton exercised his facility for getting into hot water. His remarks to a Sunday school class that there always would be wars drew bitter criticism.

It was this facet of his personality which caused censorship to forbid publication of his statements from the drive across France until V-E day.

Comments Lose Him Command
Later, he was removed from the command of his beloved Third army and the eastern military district in Germany after Sept. 22, 1945, when he expressed impatience with the de-nazification program. He was quoted as comparing "this Nazi thing" to the "democratic and republican fight back home." He then took over the 15th, a paper army whose duty was to prepare reports on lessons learned during the war.

The softer side of Patton's nature displayed him as a poet and an intensely religious man. His poem, "God of Battles," has been set to music. He was fond of Biblical quotations, liked to sing in church, and knew the Episcopal order of morning prayer by heart.

Considered one of the wealthiest men in the army, Patton could have retired after the European war ended. Instead he wanted intensely to fight the Japanese. He never had the opportunity.



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It's Been a Long, Long Time

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

MR. PETUNIA, by Oliver St. John Gogarty (Creative Age; \$2.50).

Petunia is the name of a watchmaker, though it may not sound like it...any more than it sounds like the title of a very appealing novel.

He had a niece whom he kept under his thumb and with whom he had relations which she confesses are prudent but repugnant. He had a friend, LaTouche Plantagenet, over whom for a time he lorded it. But when Ann Lord, at his invitation, entered his life, though without entering it as far as he would have liked, he got his come-uppance.

He was a man little in spirit, skillful with anything as small as the inside of a watch but baffled by a full-grown, independent woman. It's true he wasn't the only one Ann baffled, but the repulse affected him more profoundly. The only large and ample thing in him was the revenge he plotted.

Though this novel, Gogarty's first on an American theme, is laid in Virginia a century and a quarter ago, it has a strangely convincing atmosphere of contemporaneity. It's an odd mixture of horsehair and grandfather's clock and Freud and psychiatry.

Admitting it has its faults, such as a slow start and a few too many of the semi-philosophical cracks for which the witty Gogarty is noted, I still think it builds up into a story you might like.

FRENCH FAIRY TALES, by Charles Perrault, retold, with foreword, by Louise Untermyer, illustrated by Gustave Doré (Dider; \$1.75).

Here are five stories age-old and popular: "Puss in Boots," "Sleeping Beauty," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Hop-o'-My-Thumb" and "The Fairy," embellished with 15 pictures by Doré. You'll like reading them again, and the children will be glad to hear them.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK 1945, 1945-46, by American Jewish Committee under editorship of Harry Schneiderman and Julius B. Miller (Jewish Publication Society; \$3).

This 47th annual of nearly 800 pages includes reviews of the year and a number of special articles; in its field, an essential reference work.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Overdraw?—but the best authorities keep assuring me my money is getting more and more inflated!

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

Black sea coastline then it would look very definitely as though Russia was determined to round out its southern frontiers and dig a firm toehold in the near east which is rich in petroleum and strategically important.

The professors say in their letter to the press that "in far antiquity the Georgian people lived, toiled and struggled on this territory...creating new centers of civilization and government." The Turks seized southern Georgia in the 16th century, and in 1921 occupied the southern section of Batumi. The professors may have their history correct, but where is the stopping place if we try to rectify the title to territory as far back as the 16th century?

Claims such as the Georgians make are familiarly classified as irredentism, and there is no end to them. They have been the cause of wars without number. It is to prevent such wars that the United Nations organization was set up. Armed seizure of territory would be defined as aggression. There is nothing in the charter however that directly applies to civil war and to independence movements like that in northern Iran, which the Teheran government blames on the Russians.

It is too early to jump to a conclusion and jump on the Russians and blame them with up-setting the applecart in the near east. Their hand will be disclosed sooner or later if it is dipping into that trouble-spot. But all of these incidents add to the difficulties of the foreign ministers at Moscow. With the best will in the world to get along with Russia it becomes embarrassing to run into situations like this at so many of Russia's frontiers. Byrnes and Bevin might well get from Molotov a statement of intent from the USSR, so they and the world may know what Russian policy is: nationalism or honest cooperation in the United Nations organization.

'Y' Christmas Party Draws 756 Children

Over 756 grammar school children and parents participated in two hours of singing and entertainment in the YMCA gymnasium at the annual "Y" Christmas party last night. Over 600 cellophane bags of candy, oranges and nuts were given the eager children who have just begun their school vacations and holiday festivities.

Christmas carols were sung by both children and adults and were led by the "Y" swimming instructor, Chester Goodman. Miss Alice Crary Brown accompanied at the piano. Magician "Houdini" Jack Spong provided 30 minutes of baffling entertainment with his many tricks of magic.

Dr. David B. Hill, who with Bishop's Boys' store and the YMCA sponsored the party, showed a series of fine comedy movies, which concluded the entertainment. Old Saint Nick met the wide-eyed grammar school boys and girls and personally handed them the bags of candy and nuts.

The Christmas party is the first of a series of Yule time events which have been planned by the "Y" staff to provide activity for the vacationing youth. Although there will be no program on Christmas day, on the morning of Dec. 25th a series of educational trips will begin. The first trip will leave the "Y" at 9 a.m. to visit the state penitentiary and the forestry building.

Grants Pass Talks Collapse

GRANTS PASS, Dec. 21-(AP)—Conciliation efforts to dissolve a picket line at the Redwood coffee shop failed today as a meeting of the principals fell through.

George Brewer, department of labor conciliator, said after talking separately to union leaders and the shop manager, Mrs. Coral Robertson, that a meeting of the two could not be arranged at present.

Brewer came here at the request of the Central Labor council. The picket line was established by the Culinary Workers' Alliance Tuesday after failing to reach an agreement with Mrs. Robertson on a proposed contract.

State Veterans Advisory Board, Meets Recedes

The advisory board of the state veterans department met in Salem Friday, discussed a few veterans' problems, and then recessed until after Christmas. The board passes on all policy problems of the veterans department.

More than 100 applications for farm and home loans under the 1945 veterans' aid act of the 1945 legislature already have been received and many are in process of execution.

REINSTATEMENT
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21-(AP)—Reinstatement, with back pay, has been ordered by the national labor relations board for 10 men discharged last March by Cape Arago Lumber Co., Empire, Ore.

OPA OFFICIAL RESIGNS
PORTLAND, Dec. 21-(AP)—Sol Stern, district OPA enforcement official, said today he had resigned, effective Dec. 28, and would practice law here.

In the days of Richard II, steaks, chops, etc., were never used but fish, fowl were chopped, minced or hacked into pieces and served as soups, potages, ragouts, stews or hashes.

Seattle Union Turns Down Mayor's Plan

SEATTLE, Dec. 21-(AP)—Mayor William S. Devin announced tonight the strike committee of the Typographical union (AFL) had rejected an offer of arbitration in the 33-day-old dispute involving the three Seattle daily newspapers.

He said, however, that he had appointed a citizens' committee to "make a fair examination of the facts involved in the dispute and present those facts to the public." The striking printers have held firm in their demand for a daily wage increase of \$2.95, turning down a counter-offer of \$1.65 by the publishers.

The mayor said he had offered the services of the committee "to act as an arbitration committee to make recommendations for the settlement of the dispute, provided that both sides agreed."

Indicative Willingness
"Both groups indicated their willingness to submit their sides of the case to such a committee," the mayor said. "The publishers agreed further to be bound by the recommendations made by such a committee. The union representatives stated that they would have to submit such a proposal to their membership, which they subsequently did and the strike committee of the union unanimously rejected such offer of arbitration."

The mayor said his fact-finding committee went into session at once and "would complete its work within the next 72 hours." A short time later the publishers announced they had advanced their own arbitration proposal with a committee different from that named by the mayor.

Suggestions
They suggested Vice President Dave Beck of the International Teamsters union (AFL), Judge Lloyd L. Black of the U.S. district court, and W. Walter Williams, Seattle business man, "or any two of them or any one of them," with both sides to be bound by the decision.

This proposal also provided that the printers return to work during the process of arbitration so the strike "could be settled before Christmas, and the people of Seattle would receive a welcome Christmas present."

The publishers' statement said the printers' representatives had agreed to submit the proposal to its strike committee of 15 members.

No Poison in Carlan Case

BOSTON, Dec. 21-(AP)—A medical examiner's report of "death by asphyxiation and pneumonia" and a Massachusetts chemist's statement that there was no evidence of poisoning tonight released the body of tiny Ronald Carlan to his parents.

Funeral services for the six months old son of Machinist's Mate and Mrs. James Carlan, originally scheduled for today but postponed pending the medical finding, will be held tomorrow.

Mrs. Rose Carlan, 23, who said she found her baby dead on the night of Nov. 24 when she returned from a party in her mother-in-law's flat upstairs, is free in \$2500 bail on a charge of murder.

Oceanlake Population Total Fixed at 557

The population of Oceanlake is 557, according to a report released Friday by Robert S. Farrell, jr., secretary of state. Oceanlake recently voted to incorporate, and as a result the city will participate in the distribution of state liquor and highway revenues on the basis of the census.

GI Wins Auto In Bond Drive

TACOMA, Dec. 21-(AP)—Cpl. John M. Reitz, 33, of Willows, Calif., was about the happiest GI in Fort Lewis today although he won't be home for Christmas.

The corporal became the owner of a 1946 de luxe model sedan which today became his in the Pierce county war bond campaign.

"I nearly fell off my chair when I got the telephone call," he said. "I have been buying bonds regularly for two and a half years but I never thought I'd get such a dividend."

He is the son of Mrs. W. P. Belieu of Willows and will drive the new car home when he is discharged, as he expects, after New Year's day.

Shipbuilding Property Sold

COOS BAY, Ore., Dec. 21-(AP)—Sale of the 30-acre Kruse & Banks Shipbuilding company property here to Weyerhaeuser Timber company was announced today by Robert Banks of the shipbuilding firm.

He said the timber company was considering the property as a sawmill site. It has wharfage space on one side and trackage on the other.

Weyerhaeuser also is negotiating for adjacent properties owned by W. T. Culver company and by Coos county. Some timber is believed included in negotiations with the Culver company mill which burned 12 years ago.

PLAN 10 AIRPORTS

PORTLAND, Dec. 21-(AP)—A proposal that eight airstrips be built within the city limits and two on the outskirts was made today by Portland chamber of commerce and planning commission representatives.

Today's Needlecraft

860



Start a little girl embroidering with this colorful needlework! The jumbo cross stitch brightens towels or other kitchen linens.

This large cross-stitch works up fast and is so effective. Towels are a welcome gift. Pattern 860 has transfer of 6 motifs 6 1/2 x 7 1/2 in.

Send FIFTEEN CENTS in coins for this pattern to THE STATESMAN Needlecraft Dept., Salem, Ore. Print plainly PATTERN NUMBER and your NAME and ADDRESS. Fifteen cents more brings you our new 1945 Needlecraft Catalogue—25 illustrations of designs for embroidery, toys, knitting, crochet, quilts, handicraft—a free doll pattern printed right in catalogue.

Hours set in Gold for Christmas giving



Give Her one of these perfect little gold watches. Beautiful as jewelry in their exquisite cases, but with fine mechanisms on which she can rely. Some set with diamonds; others gaily modern.

Budget payments.



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