

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Retirement for Disability

The exposure of the activities of Maj. Gen. Benny Myers, retired on disability grounds, resulted in a study of pensioners, at the instigation of President Truman. A report by Secretary of Defense James Forrestal shows that there are 25,582 officers of the various services who have been retired for physical disability. However an opinion of the judge advocate general is cited to the effect that the army lacks authority to re-examine those whom it has retired. Thus there seems to be no way of checking whether the retirement privileges have been abused or not.

Officers retiring on disability grounds receive pay at 75 per cent of what their rank and grade entitled them to, and their compensation is tax exempt. Normal retirement brings the same pay reduction but in addition the retired officer must pay federal income taxes. So it is to the officer's financial advantage to be retired for disability.

One case was publicized where a retired officer is making \$125,000 a year in civilian life as an engineer, though drawing \$350 per month as retirement pay, tax-free. However Secretary Royall of the war department points to the law which defines physical disability for retirement "any incapacity merited sufficient to unfit him for field service in time of war . . . regardless of the degree to which his capacity to earn a civilian living may have been impaired." So there is no violation in the law for a retired officer to take employment as a civilian, without sacrificing his retirement pay.

There was a natural disposition on the part of officers as well as men to clear out of the military services when the shooting ceased. The big effort was over and military life looked drab ahead. The government had to scale down its forces for lack of work and lack of funds. So it became an easy matter for a man to retire, and perhaps not too difficult to find infirmities, especially among older officers, to base a physical discharge on.

However the current inquiry should not bring all disability discharges into disrepute. We must remember that these men went through fierce fighting on land, sea and in the air. The officers carried heavy responsibilities, and the strain of duty was terrific in many instances. Many squandered their powers in their nation's service; many suffered grievous wounds. So for one bench-warmer who turned out a croak we should not accuse all the others or hold them under suspicion.

The law ought to be changed. The test of capacity for field service is too strict, because many unfit for field duty would still be fit for duty behind the lines. Also there should be the privilege of re-examination, because rest may bring full recovery. Our nation wants to deal generously with those who have sacrificed their strength in the nation's service, but it should not be penalized in its discharge of this obligation.

"Crossfire"

It is not often the motion picture industry has received editorial plaudits. It is not often a film has merited serious recognition.

But one such picture is the RKO-Radio release, "Crossfire," now playing in Salem. Probably it took some courage for Hollywood to make this film. "Crossfire" can boast no blatant sex appeal, no song hits, no slapstick, no bright clever dialogue. Maybe it can boast no boxoffice, either. It should, though. Because it has excellent casting, fine photography and first class direction. Its outstanding factor is the natural dialogue—so brilliant—perceptive that it is easily "just the way people talk."

At its worst "Crossfire" is just evidence that Hollywood is reaching the end of adolescence. At its best "Crossfire" is mature and very real and more true than we like to admit.

"Crossfire" is the first sincere attempt on the screen to deal vividly, in terms everyone can understand, with a condition that threatens in a real sense the so-called American way of life: The "race problem" which certain groups dedicated to undermining democracy are exploiting. It is that attitude which classifies and judges persons only as members of a group (racial or national or religious) rather than as individuals.

"Crossfire" happens to deal with a Jew who was killed by a soldier merely because he was a Jew. But its scope is much wider than the single incident it portrays. In a loose way it points a moral. Not with sloppy sentiment or with purple emotion. There are no pious sermons. There is some significant retort between a police captain and a hillbilly private from Tennessee. Things like that. They get the idea across . . .

The idea that intolerance is a pretty big thing. Yids, niggers, spics, miks, japs, chinks, krauts, frogs, wops . . . Those are dangerous words. Their connotations are of the same breed as war itself; they are sired by hate and born of insecurity.

There is too much of that type of thinking in this country today. Motion pictures like "Crossfire" are valuable because they can explain meanings of things to people who derive their whole patterns for living from whatever they see on the screen.

Portland Symphony Coming

From reports the new Portland Symphony orchestra has established itself as a musical organization of superior merit. Werner Janssen, a noted conductor, last fall undertook the task of recruiting and training an orchestra in Portland, the first effort since the former orchestra disbanded with the coming of the war. Judging by comments of music critics and informed persons he has accomplished wonders in the space of a few months, and the weekly programs of the orchestra are winning high favor for their quality.

Salem music lovers have an opportunity Wednesday night to hear this orchestra when it presents a concert at the high school auditorium. Another concert will be given on February 18. This coming of the orchestra to Salem is made possible through the effort of a local committee interested in the cultural life of the community. Salem and the mid-valley should respond with an audience which completely fills the auditorium. It is not easy for local people to go into Portland for the regular concerts, but when the concerts are offered here at home they can make the slight effort required. Let us make these concert nights gala occasions for this section of the Willamette valley.

The air force gives out news that jet fighters in Japan have flown at a speed of 780 miles per hour, with the aid of strong tail winds. Just the thing for high school boys who want to go places.

Railroad freight rates are going up again giving another twist to the price jack-screws.

Los Angeles sets all kinds of records. The Times reports 144 crimes there in one 24-hour period.

That was quite a story of the escape of the polar bear at the Portland zoo. For a time it looked as though the bear might have a man by the tail.

Salem is launching a big program on rodent control; but it mustn't reach Mickey Mouse on our comic page.

There seems to be no closed season for man hunting in Palestine.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

for exploration and exploitation in the industrial field and that new levels in industry would be attained. While probably there will be recessions from time to time and reductions in quantities of goods produced and consumed we are far from a mature economy in this country. For the world as a whole the needs to raise the living standards to reasonably decent levels of subsistence and comfort are quite beyond comprehension. And in achieving these goals there must be constant investment of capital which can come from only two sources: savings and credit.

The only source of savings and credit is the people, whether in an economy of private capitalism or of state capitalism. The essentials for the continued flow of capital (through savings or credit) are political stability and confidence in the economic structure (including currency). In western Europe, whose rehabilitation is a matter of world concern, these are the two important factors. Get honest government firmly established, maintain sound fiscal policies and the flow of needed capital would start either through private channels or through governments.

Any delay in the peace treaties for Germany and Austria is a serious impediment to recovery, but it should not be fatal. Within itself western Europe can accomplish much, with external aid under ERP priming the pump. Unless political stability is established our dollars provide only temporary relief. Fortunately the signs indicate growing stability within the countries of western Europe, giving promise for substantial progress in 1948.

The United States enjoys a high level of business itself. So we have our work cut out for us to keep our economy healthy, and maintain the adequate flow of savings into capital investment which makes production possible.

Livestock Men Name Officers

(Story also on Page 1)

More than 100 people attended the annual meeting of the Marion County Livestock association, held Monday at the Dairy Co-op building here.

During the business session three officers, Claude Steusloff, president, Karl Wipper, vice-president, and Ben Newell, secretary-treasurer, were re-elected, and D. C. Sletto of Lyons was elected to replace Floyd Fox, Silverton, as director. Hold-over directors are Adam Hersch, Salem, and Elton Watia, Silverton.

Steusloff announced members to serve on committees at the Western Oregon Livestock association meeting in Roseburg in February to include: disease committee, E. J. Adams, Hersch, Louis Hennies, Henry Ahrens, Elton Watia, range and pasture improvement, Oscar Los, Karl Wipper, C. L. Taylor, Alvin Hartley and Vern Scott; marketing, Don Cannon, Robert Haden, H. A. Barnes and W. R. Berndt; predatory animal control, Floyd Fox, Henry Davenport, Francis Watkins, John Lambrecht and Paul Jaquet.

Charles Evans announced that the annual Bred Gilt sale, sponsored by this organization, would be held at the state fairgrounds on February 7 and that 57 gilts had been consigned, to be sifted down to 50 for the sale.

Francis Watkins, county trapper, reported between 80 and 90 predatory animals had been caught during the past year, including 66 foxes.

Albert Julian, Lyons, president of the Western Oregon Livestock association, invited Marion county members to the Roseburg meeting.

A panel discussion on pasture seeding and management was directed by Harry Schoth, U. S. D. A. agronomist, with J. J. Inskip, Oregon City, Oscar Los and Floyd Fox, both of Silverton, assisting. W. P. Emery of Silverton and Ed Taylor of Mehama were introduced as pioneer livestock men of the county.

Edward G. Worth Passes; Funeral Here Wednesday

Private funeral services for Edward Geary Worth, prominent engineer and long-time Oregon resident, will be held from the Clough-Barrick chapel Wednesday morning, Dr. Chester Hamblin officiating, with interment in Pine Grove cemetery near Shedd.

Worth died at his home at 248 N. Cottage st., Saturday at the age of 84. He was born at Peoria, Ore., April 3, 1863, and received his early education in Linn county.

After graduation as a civil engineer at the University of Oregon, Worth worked as a surveyor for the Oregon Pacific and Oregon Railway and Navigation company and then as an engineer for the federal river and harbor department. He was appointed superintendent of construction for the U. S. lighthouse service in Alaska and in 1913 was made surveyor general of Oregon. He served nine years in that capacity before retiring.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. A. O. Condit of Salem; a nephew, G. E. H. Worth of Eugene, and a niece, Mrs. R. E. Pulliam of Corbett, Oregon.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"These are the General's last words—He wanted them filed in triplicate!"

MATTER OF FACT

What Do Commies Expect From Wallace Candidacy?

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—What do the communists really want from Henry Wallace? That is the question which Wallace's third-party candidacy poses. As Wilson Wyatt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., Leon Henderson and Hubert Humphrey, leader of the left wing Americans for Democratic Action, have pointed out, the communists are the machine behind the third party.

The communists, like Wallace himself, know that Wallace will never be president of the United States. Then what do they expect to get out of him?

The answer is two fold. It has been previously outlined in this space. It has now been conveniently documented in two articles published side by side in the same issue of the "Daily Worker," the communist bible, the day Wallace coyly announced.

These instructions to the faithful were signed respectively by a Max Gordon, and by no less a person than William Z. Foster, grand panjandrum of the American communist party.

Mr. Gordon's effort, though perfectly explicit, and remarkably free of the usual communist gobbledegook. He says, in effect, that Wallace candidacy should be used as an instrument of blackmail on the left wing democrats. He instructs the lower-echelon communists who will manage the third-party machinery in the technique of effective arm-twisting.

The local democratic politicians, he writes, "must come to some terms with this third-party movement whereby it (the Wallace candidacy) will not play the communist game on its own for all local offices." Moreover, the democratic nominees "must conduct their campaigns in such a way as not to come into sharp collision with the mass of the pro-Wallace voters in their precincts."

Blackmail Or Defeat
Mr. Gordon points out that Rep. Chester Hollifield, a California liberal, has denounced the Wallace candidacy, but that Hollifield is in a virtually impregnable political position. "Other liberal democrats," Mr. Gordon concludes, in a smugly threatening tone, "are not in that apparently secure position and so have shut up, at least for the present."

In other words, the communists will use Wallace either to blackmail non-communist liberals into submission, or to defeat them. If the local machines and the local nominees play along—that is if they play the communist game on the vital foreign-policy issue—all well and good. If not a "Wallace candidate" will suddenly emerge, thus, the communists reason, insuring the defeat of any non-communist liberal by splitting the left-of-center vote.

Example Of Strategy
A specific example of the way in which this arm-twisting technique may be expected to work may be found in the case of Prof. Paul Douglas, a liberal democrat who has just accepted the democratic senatorial nomination in Illinois. He will oppose Col. Robert R. McCormick's isolationist fair-haired boy, Sen. C. Wayland (Cur-

ley) Brooks. Douglas is a strong supporter of the Marshall plan. Unless Douglas suddenly begins to soft-pedal the foreign-policy issue (which he will not do), he will be confronted by a Wallace candidate. According to the communist strategy, he will be defeated and Senator Brooks re-elected.

Mr. Foster makes it wholly clear why the election of men like Senator Brooks will not displease Mr. Foster and his followers. Mr. Foster quotes with evident approval an interview with Sen. Robert A. Taft, most isolationist of the Republican candidates. "Today there are many indications," Mr. Foster quotes Mr. Taft, "that some Americans have become imperialists . . . But imperialism in any form has behind it the thought of using war as the instrument of foreign policy. In such thoughts there is no will to peace."

Mr. Foster comments triumphantly that this is exactly what "we have been telling the people for a long time." Senator Taft is dutifully castigated as a "reactionary," and a representative of "the capitalist interests." Yet throughout Mr. Foster's article there is an odd note of barely concealed affection for the Ohio senator.

An Insurance Move
Thus the pretty little game which the communists mean to play with the embittered and easily deluded Wallace becomes more clear than ever. The third-party movement is meant to insure, first, that whatever liberals and left wingers remain in Washington after November, 1948, are communist captives on the dreary Pietro Nenni pattern. The Wallace candidacy is meant to insure, second, that the American government be dominated by fastidiously nostalgic isolationists who will neutralize the United States in world affairs.

It remains to be seen whether this squeeze play will work. The communists, applying the doctrines of Marxist holy writ to the odd working of the American democracy, have been consistently over-egging the American non-communist liberals with a long native tradition of American radicalism behind them, may not be easily bullied. It is hardly likely that the republican party, whatever the immediate political advantages, will play the communist game. Senator Taft is in the last analysis both an intelligent man and a patriot. And the American people are not fools.

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Burglars Loot Firm of \$150

Thieves who broke into the Truax Oil company, 205 Columbia st., Sunday night escaped with loot valued at more than \$150, city police reported Monday.

Merritt W. Truax said the intruders took a .32 calibre revolver, an electric shaver, portable typewriter, 15 cartons of cigarettes, green stamps and several boxes of candy bars.

The thieves gained entry by breaking through a lavatory window, police said. Floyd Meyers, a store employee, told officers that the burglary must have taken place after 5 p. m. because he visited the premises at that time and found everything in order. The theft was discovered Monday morning when Truax opened the store, police stated.

Approximately 3500 people on farms die every year as a result of fires.

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Public Records

CIRCUIT COURT

Jeanette Everetts vs Robert L. Everetts: Defendant demurs to complaint.
Edward F. Baesue and Attila E. Baesue vs Anor A. Loeschner, Bob Green and Velda Edwards: Suit for enforcement of contract of sale on real property and for a decree quieting plaintiff's title to the property.
Della E. Overman vs Arnold Overman: Decree of divorce awards custody of a minor child to plaintiff plus \$25 per month support money.
Dorothy Mae Marshall vs Clarence J. Marshall: Order of default filed.
Gardner Bennett vs City of Salem and others: Plaintiff files reply.
Dorris Kniesing vs Friedrich K. Kniesing: Decree of divorce restores plaintiff's maiden name of Dorris Clark.
Lura Ethel Brown vs Raymond Brown: Decree grants divorce.
Ola Virginia Alderman vs Carl Emery Alderman, Jr.: Decree of divorce awards custody of minor child to plaintiff and \$40 per month support money.

Grace I. Buell vs George C. Buell: Decree of divorce awards plaintiff custody of three minor children and \$17 per month support money for each child.
State vs Blaine Ogle and Erwin Speer: Each pleaded guilty to two charges of burglary, and matter referred to state jury board.
State vs Landon McCracken: Plead guilty to charge of obtaining money by false pretenses, sentenced to one year in county jail and parole revoked on former sentence.

PROBATE COURT

Dora E. Rogers estate: February 9 set for hearing on final account.
Charlotte E. Schmitt, Lois Eleanor Schwab, Marlene Irma Schwab and Ronald Edward Schwab guardianship estate: Order of new annual report.
Veronica Cadwell estate: Estate appraised at \$660.
Carrie Young guardianship estate: Guardianship dissolved because of death of ward.
William F. Marine estate: Estate appraised at \$9,500.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Eugene Earnest Durschmidt, 22, service station employee, and Maryann Francis, 20, dental assistant, both of Silverton.
Edward J. Gier, 22, laborer, route 1, and Coletta Thomas, 19, domestic, route 1, both of Silverton.

DISTRICT COURT

Russell Leroy Cameron, Salem, no motor vehicle license, fined \$5 and costs.
H. E. Lahnheer, 623 Brooks st., writing a check with insufficient funds, continued for plea to January 8, held in lieu of \$250 bail.
Homer A. Offert, Dallas, parking in restricted area, 30 fine suspended on payment of court costs.
Robert R. Bea, Portland, charged with larceny, preliminary examination set for January 13 following plea of innocent, released on \$500 bail.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Clarence W. Williams, 154 Columbia st., charged with driving while intoxicated, fined \$200, 90-day jail sentence suspended and driver's permit revoked for one year.
Cecil C. Curt, 451 N. 21st st., illegal possession of liquor, fined \$25.
Vincent A. Nordone, 1155 Sage st., West Salem, illegal possession of liquor, fined \$25.

Carl Baesue, 50 Beach ave., violation of noise ordinance, fined \$2.50.
Ernest L. Gile, 370 N. 20th st., violation of basic rule, fined \$5.
Donald Jenkins, Dallas, Ore., breaking glass on a public street, posted \$25 bail.
Leslie Gear, Everett, Wash., violation of basic rule, posted \$7.50 bail.

Glenn Grimes, 672 N. 17th st., Bernard Phillips, YMCA, Howard Girod, 905 Market st. and Bruce Hamilton, 622 N. 17th, charged with disorderly conduct, posted \$50 bail each and case continued to January 8.
Virgil W. Norwood, Salem route 4, box 208, charged with reckless driving, pleaded innocent, posted \$50 bail and trial set for January 8 at 1:30 p. m.

City's Anti-Rat Program Called Supplementary

Salem's new civic program stressing rat control does not replace the existing efforts of businesses and individuals to exterminate rats, it was made plain Monday by Mayor R. L. Elstrom.

He said inspection and advice are the major duties of Rodent Control Officer L. M. Cheney, although the new city manager will set bait at such city properties as dumping grounds. Cheney will inspect any property upon request by the owner through the city-owned health office in the Masonic building (telephone 9285).

The mayor said the current rat campaign is designed to make Salem fully conscious of the destruction caused by rats. He added that the work of the new rodent officer will not replace or overlap projects of rat exterminators employed in Salem.

Mayor Elstrom's comments followed the Monday noon Salem Chamber of Commerce forum luncheon at which rodent control was discussed by city Commissioner Fred Peterson of Portland and Sanitarian Peter J. Lauritsen, just returned to Portland from

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Peterson asserted that the amount of food destroyed annually by rats in this country would easily feed the hungry peoples of Europe. He also pointed up the rat dangers by declaring that one pair of rats could possibly multiply to 2,500,000 rats within a year.

He advised that the city should require rat inspections and extermination in buildings about to be demolished—before the rats move to some other "home." Salem ordinances on rat control do not include that specific requirement, Mayor Elstrom said after the meeting.

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