

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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Flood Destructiveness

In a strong editorial which uses the recent flood losses as evidence, the Oregon Journal boosts the early completion of the Willamette valley flood control project. It says that the "latest Willamette valley flood . . . left in its wake six persons dead and property damage amounting to 11 million." The flood did add visual evidence of need for protection, but the Journal has fallen into error. The seven deaths reported during the late storm and high water, included three adults who were drowned in the crossing of the Rogue river, one man in Olalla creek near Roseburg, two children who were drowned in rain-swollen ditches at Eugene and one child in a similar ditch at Stayton. Construction of all the proposed dams would not have prevented a single one of these drownings.

As to estimate of loss, Colonel Walsh of the army engineers before the flood crest had reached the ocean made an estimate of \$11,800,000. This must have been based on an "airplane" survey. It is quite impossible to make an accurate estimate of loss except by careful mapping and comparisons. That would take many weeks. The figure used by Colonel Walsh must have been largely a matter of guesswork based on past experience. We question its accuracy.

The program embraced in the Willamette valley project is urgently needed, but it will not prevent flooding of basements and drownings in water-filled ditches. Every care should be taken that the assertions made are susceptible of proof. A fair offset against damage would be the enrichment of lowland soils by silt which is deposited. We know of no way of computing this value.

Fruitgrowers Run into Market Slump

The fresh fruit industry which has been traveling in high gear has hit heavy grades this season and is struggling to move its 1947 pack of pears and apples. The Hood River News gives a review of the situation on information supplied by J. E. Klahre, manager of the Apple Growers association there. The increased storage holdings of pears on January 1 as compared with a year ago was 801,000 boxes and of apples 4,651,000 bushels. This reflects a decrease in domestic consumption and the loss of export outlets in Europe.

Fresh fruits being something of a luxury in midwinter suffered because of the high prices of foodstuffs regarded as more essential. With more money going for meat and bread and potatoes the thrifty housewife curtailed purchases of pears and apples. This is what normally happens when economizing starts. Some part of the structure "buckles."—The weakest part always. And this time fruits have experienced a slump.

The fruitgrowers thereupon rushed to Washington for relief and induced the department of agriculture to buy 125,000 boxes of pears for school lunches, but Klahre declares "this is wholly inadequate." Rugged individualism and free enterprise sentiments ooze quickly after contamination with new deal paternalism.

Aggressive merchandising programs and lowering of prices are being used to move the stored pack. Markets are sluggish but not demoralized. The experience of the fruitgrowers shows that the law of supply and demand has not been suspended.

When Attorneys Write Letters

The wrecking of Lumker's bridge was just too bad. The bridge was destroyed and a log truck was badly damaged. But we find the seriousness of the situation greatly lightened by the interchange of letters between Otto Heider, Sheridan attorney representing the truck owner, and Miller Hayden, Marion county district attorney. To Heider's assertion that the bridge was feeble and supported by gas pipes, the DA enters a vigorous denial and turns the gas (pipe) on the Sheridan lawyer with the comment that if the trucker found any gas pipes about the bridge it must have been a piece of his truck's exhaust pipe. And to the attorney's claim on damage to the truck the DA counters with a claim for loss of the bridge by an overload.

Now comes Heider's answer which serves notice of intent to file suit unless the county pungs up \$2000 to the truck owner, and accuses the county court of letting traffic use the bridge though they knew its condition was dangerous, "hoping the laws of gravity would not operate and the bridge might become a suspension bridge rather than rest on piers on each side of the river."

We hate to think this interchange of letters will come to an end; but if the case goes to trial we certainly want to hear the forensic appeals of Heider and Hayden to the jury.

Art Perry, who fired the Smudge Pot column in the Medford Mail-Tribune for a span of 35 years, is dead. He was an authentic humorist, original, incisive, who found in the southern Oregon country ample material for his daily grist of witty paragraphs. The lure of the "metropolitan field" never attracted him, but his unique column attracted the newspaper folk of Oregon and the coast to the Mail-Tribune. He had none to match his style, which never seemed to lose its freshness. They say no man is indispensable; but readers of the Mail-Tribune will vigorously dispute that adage as far as Art Perry is concerned; and so will his contemporaries in Oregon newspaperdom.

Westerners scoff at the wisp of a man, Mohandas Gandhi, with his simple loincloth and his philosophy of civil disobedience and his practice of fasting. Yet he is revered as perhaps is no other man. His late fast induced leaders of the Indian religions to pledge their lives as an earnest of peace in that troubled subcontinent. This action shows the tremendous hold the Mahatma has on the tens of millions who inhabit that portion of the globe and rather effectively silences the western scoffers.

A lot of political nobodies are greasing the wheels for the Eisenhower bandwagon. If the machine seems to gather momentum there will be plenty of big shots to appear to subsidize the movement and grab the driver's seat. Ike's increasingly indefinite renunciations suggest that he is running for the White House while keeping the pose of an army man who isn't interested in politics. So far nobody knows what party he belongs to, if any, or what policies he stands for, if any. Politically speaking he's a sort of Friday surprise.

Bernard Baruch outlines a program to stabilize our economy. He would postpone tax reduction and restore excess profits tax at least 50 per cent. He also would stabilize wages and cut back food prices. In fact his program is so good it will not get very far.

All doubt as to whether John Hall will run for governor should be dismissed with the news he was to introduce the babies at a popularity contest Monday and Tuesday nights at Leslie school auditorium. If he kisses them all that is sure proof.

Railway brotherhoods have picked February 6 as S-for-Strike day. Why not February 2? That's groundhog day and appropriate for engineers and conductors to "hole up."

Nazi Atrocities Conclusively Proved, Justice Brand Says

By Marguerite Gleason
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Looking a little grayer, speaking very earnestly, very patiently that what he said might not confuse non-legal minds, Justice James T. Brand told a crowded Salem Chamber of Commerce forum luncheon meeting Monday, first, he was glad to be back in the United States; second the atrocities charged to the Nazis were conclusively proved by their own witnesses and documents; third it could not happen under the United States constitution because no provision is made under the U. S. document for suspending the rights guaranteed by it.

The Oregon jurist who has just returned from nearly a year spent in Germany as one of the presiding American judges on the war crimes court, expressed the hope that no intelligent person would disbelieve the atrocity charges which have resulted in war crimes convictions.

No law existed in Germany for the control of Hitler, the speaker said, as he told of the methods used to put Hitler above the law, and to make sure Jews and Poles were exterminated.

The "night and fog" regulation, known simply as that, enabled the Nazis to pick up anyone they wish to destroy. In case the court released them, the person was picked up at the court door as he departed and his family never heard from him again.

These laws under which the Nazi party officials operated were outlined in some detail by the Oregon jurist as he told of the evidence in the form of documents which was presented against the criminals. Little of the testimony was presented by Americans and none of any substance, the speaker said.

Justice Brand, who has resumed his place on the Oregon supreme court, after a leave of absence, was introduced by Chief Justice George Rossman.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

Petrillo vs. Disc Jockey

To the Editor:

The Statesman editorial of Jan. 11 in which you state "no one blames the musicians for howling because everyone from disc jockeys to network big wigs has hands in the musicians' pockets," is the fairest comment on the Petrillo ban in many a moon.

The banning of "for Free" record playing is a step forced upon Petrillo and the American Federation of Musicians by the "whole hog or none" tactics of the juke box monopoly and screen and radio re-production.

A complete understanding by the public of the vital issues involved in this situation would raise such a storm of protest and condemnation that organized labor would have little trouble in putting an end to "canned control" of musical entertainment.

Every boy and girl who dreams of musical education and ability to earn a living as artists; every parent who encourages this ambition — and pays the bills; every teacher of the musical arts and every dealer and manufacturer of equipment is a victim of this heartless control of technical reproduction.

How many times in Salem and elsewhere have we stood along lines of parade and admired the fine high school and college bands giving freely of time, effort and long preparation to make the Memorial Day, Armistice Day or civic celebration a success.

Or the young singer or musician who gives freely to public entertainment.

Yet when ASCAP or AFM causes a radio silence in efforts to expand the field for bonafide musical talent and remunerative employment, what happens?

One turns on his radio and hears the undying word of Stephen Foster who was paid a pittance for his efforts and who died of starvation.

Foster's story would have been much different had there been such a protective set-up as ASCAP, AFM or Writers' Guild in his day.

The writer never hears a certain Western song without thinking of two Salem men who wrote this and published a limited edition in 1909. Years later (1920) this song

popped up under authorship and scored a run of several million copies. The real authors were robbed of recognition and remuneration.

Oregon is one of 30 states where the juke box and recording monopoly walked quietly and effectively into our legislature and brought about legislation limiting professional entertainment in public places but leaving them wide open to juke boxes. Many people believe that taverns and small places of recreation for working classes should be encouraged to provide entertainment by talent.

What an America this would be with the Juke Box and Disc Jockey in full control?

Will Carver
2250 S. Winter St.
Salem, Oregon

CRITICIZES BUS COMPANY

To the Editor:

As an interested party in the suburban bus controversy I like to say a few things concerning it. The Oregon Motor Stages has no one to blame but their own greed and selfishness. They knew what would happen when they sent their buses out on the other fellow's territory. Their purpose was to put him out of business and then pull out themselves. They did this once before.

If the Oregon Motors is losing been and still is a sick and whining baby in the ears of Salem people. When they sent their buses out on the other fellow's territory last October, they were running every half hour, but as soon as Wyatt suspended service, they immediately cut down to one hour service. Why? If their intentions were good, why did they want exclusive franchise? Doesn't this prove that they wanted the other fellow out of their way?

If the Oregon Motors losing money the best thing they can do is get out of town and let some good company come and serve the people. The people of Salem got sick and tired with the Oregon Motor's cheap nature. Can the Oregon Motors give a satisfactory answer as to why they sent their buses out to Liberty, Four Corners and other districts which they had no business in doing so?

I am sure that they were not invited. And I am equally sure that they did it not for the interest of the people, but to satisfy their own greed. For the past 25 years we had nothing but trouble with this outfit and it is about time that they withdrew and let some one else come in.

A. N. Drawson, Liberty Road.

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

shows that both the Hungarian and Russian armies rely heavily upon horses for military operations and in view of the fact that Hungary is a Russian satellite state the sending of these horses back to Hungary would amount in fact to strengthening the military forces of Hungary and Russia.

The horses are still in this country, eating their heads off at the remount depot at Front Royal, Va., while statesmen argue over their fate. Nations, it seems, are eager to get hold of fine horses, but the displaced persons are left to languish in Europe's camps, stateless, unwanted. It is a fairly safe prediction the horses will not go back to Hungary. Though our cavalry is unhorsed the war department plus Senator Morse will prevail against the state department. To the facts and the law the addition of the Russian bogey is enough to tilt the case for our keeping and feeding the horses. Only they may all die of old age before the issue is decided.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"Our distinguished colleague gets domestic and foreign affairs confused—in his aid to Europe speech he's promising them lower taxes."

A Russian Journal

By John Steinbeck
Photographs by Robert Capa

Scars of War, Farm Loss, Still Apparent

(Editor's Note—The Russian collective farm described here is near Kiev, in the Soviet Ukraine, through which John Steinbeck and Robert Capa traveled last summer as special correspondents of the New York Herald Tribune.)

CHAPTER VI
In the morning, we looked up the date, and it was August 9. We had been just nine days in the Soviet Union. But so many had been our impressions, and sights that it seemed like much more to us.

Capa awakens in the morning slowly, and delicately, as a butterfly comes out of its chrysalis. For an hour after he awakens, he sits in stunned and experimental silence, neither awake, nor asleep. My problem was to keep him from taking a book or a newspaper into the bathroom, for then he would be there for at least an hour. I began to prepare three intellectual questions for him every morning, questions in sociology, in history, in philosophy, in biology, questions designed to shock his mind into awareness that the day was come.

Questions Asked

On the first day of my experiment, I asked him the following questions: What Greek tragedian took part in the battle of Salamis? How many legs has an insect? And finally, what was the name of the Pope who sponsored and collected the Gregorian chants? Capa sprang from his bed with a look of pain in his face, sat staring at the window for a moment, and then rushed to the bathroom with a copy of a Russian newspaper which he could not read. And he was gone for an hour and a half.

Every morning, for two or three weeks, I prepared the questions for him, and he never answered one of them, but he got to matter to himself most of the day, and he complained bitterly that he could not sleep in anticipation of the questions in the morning. However, there was no evidence, except his word, that he could not sleep. He claimed that the horror created in his mind by my questions had set him back intellectually forty years, or roughly minus ten years.

Farm Interesting

On this day, August 9, we went to the farm village called Shevchenko. We called it in the future Shevchenko number one, since another farm village we subsequently visited was also called Shevchenko, named after a much beloved national Ukrainian poet.

For a few miles our road was paved, and then we turned to the right and went into a dirt road, cut and torn to pieces. We went through pine forests and over a plain where vicious fighting had taken place. Everywhere, there was evidence of it. The pine trees were ripped and ragged from machine-gun fire. There were trenches and machine-gun placements, and even the roads were cut and jagged by the tracks of tanks, and the road pitted by shellfire. Here and there lay rusting bits of military equipment, burnt out tanks, and wrecked trucks. This country had been defended and lost, and the counter-attack had fought slowly over every inch of territory.

Fairly Prosperous

Shevchenko number one had never been one of the best farms, because its land is not of the first quality, but it was a fairly prosperous village before the war, a village of 362 houses, in other words of 362 families. It was a going concern, and when the Germans passed over it, there were eight houses left, and even those these people lost everything, the bedding is whatever they can get now. Pieces of rug, and sheepskin, anything to keep them warm. The Ukrainians are a clean people, and their houses are immaculate.

Opening off this room are one or two bedrooms, depending on the size of the family. And since these people lost everything, the bedding is whatever they can get now. Pieces of rug, and sheepskin, anything to keep them warm. The Ukrainians are a clean people, and their houses are immaculate.

Each Family in House

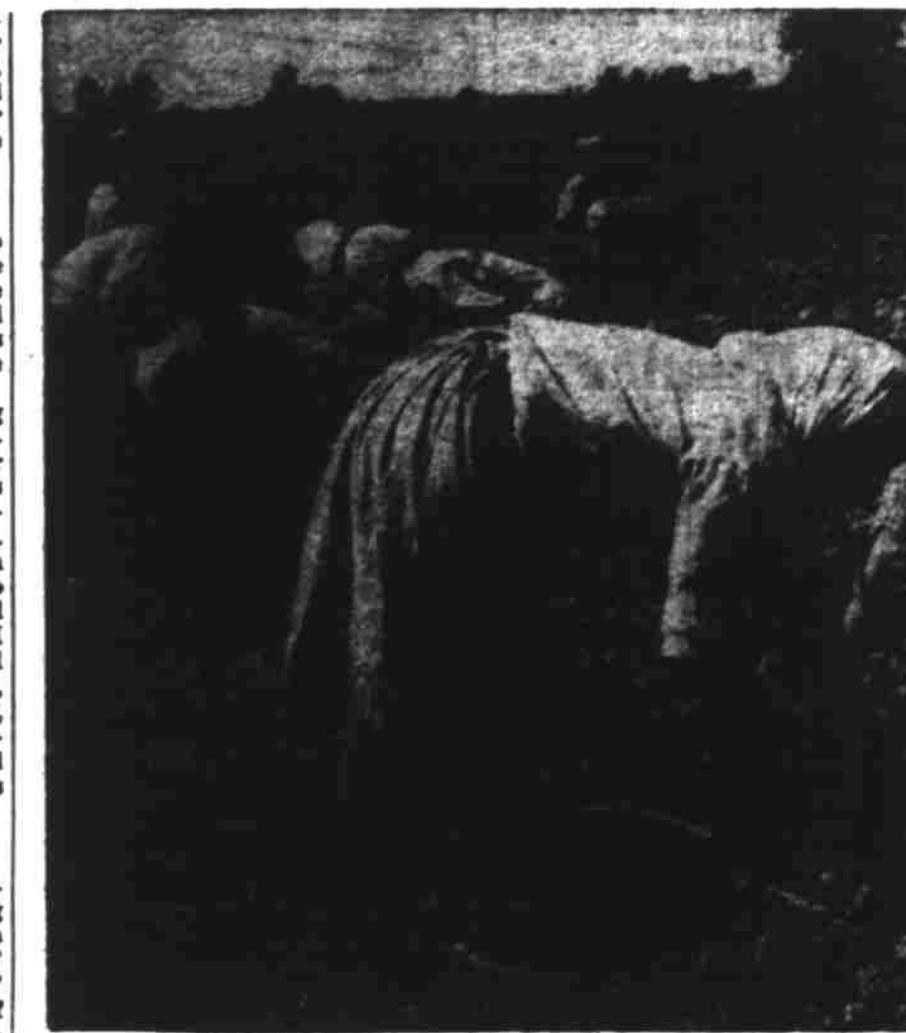
Part of our misinformation had been that on the collective farm the people lived in barracks. But this was not true. Each family has its house and its large garden around it, a garden and an orchard where there were flowers, and where there were large vegetable patches and beehives. And most of these gardens were about an acre in extent. Since the Germans had destroyed all the fruit trees, the new trees were being planted in the gardens: apples and pears, and cherries.

We went first to the new Town Council House, where we were greeted by the manager, who had lost an arm in the fighting, and three elderly men of the farm council.

We told them that we knew how busy they were during the harvest, but we wanted to see part of the harvest ourselves.

They told us how it had been before, and how it was now. When the Germans came, this farm had had 700 horned cattle, and now there were only 200 animals of all kinds.

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Cucumber harvest in the Ukraine. Nearly all the harvesters are women.



The little boy Grisha who told his mother that these "Americans are people just like us."

the walls are the decorations of the soldiers who have come from this family. The walls are white, and there are shutters on the windows to be closed against the winter cold.

Opening off this room are one or two bedrooms, depending on the size of the family. And since these people lost everything, the bedding is whatever they can get now. Pieces of rug, and sheepskin, anything to keep them warm. The Ukrainians are a clean people, and their houses are immaculate.

Fifty Men Lost

The town had lost fifty men of fighting age and fifty others, of all ages, and there were great numbers of crippled and maimed. Some of the children were legless and some had lost eyes. But the town which needed labor so dreadfully tried to give every man work to do that he could do. Thus the men who ran the gasoline engine had no finger on his left hand. The manager had lost an arm. All of the cripples who could work at all were put to work, and it gave them a sense of importance, and a place in the life of the farm, so that there were few neurotics among the hurt people.

The farm raised some wheat, and some millet, and some corn. But it was a light, sandy land, and its main crops were cucumbers and potatoes, tomatoes and honey and sunflowers. A great deal of sunflower-seed oil is used. They were not sad people. They were full of laughter, and jokes, and songs.

Workers Compete

We went first to the fields where the women and the children were

kind. They had had two large gasoline engines, two trucks, three tractors, and two threshing machines. And now they had one small gasoline engine, and one small threshing machine. They had no local tractor. In the plowing they drew one from the tractor station near by. They had had forty horses, and now they had four.

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harvesting cucumbers. And as usual they were divided into battalions, and were in competition with one another, each side trying to pick the most cucumbers. The lines of women were stretched across the field, laughing and singing, and shouting at one another. They were dressed in long skirts and blouses, and headcloths, and no one wore shoes, for shoes are still too precious to use in the fields. The children were dressed only in trousers, and their little bodies were turned brown under the summer sun.

Along the edges of the field there were piles of picked cucumbers waiting for the trucks, and a little boy named Grisha, who wore an ornamental hat made of marsh grass, ran up to his mother and cried with wonder: "But these Americans are people just like us."

How Ukrainian farmers put on a country banquet for John Steinbeck and Robert Capa will be described in this newspaper tomorrow.
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Hall Decision On Execution Readied Today

Gov. John H. Hall announced Monday he would issue a statement probably today as to what action he will take in the case of Wardell Henderson, 25-year-old negro who is slated to die in the lethal gas chamber of the state penitentiary Friday morning for the slaying of Walter Poole, Vancouver, on Dec. 24, 1945.

The governor completed reading the trial record over the week end. Penitentiary officials reported Henderson was holding up well, had displayed little nervousness and had not requested any special favors. In event Governor Hall refuses clemency in the case Henderson will be transferred to a death cell, adjacent to the execution chamber, Thursday afternoon.

Several petitions asking clemency for Henderson have been received at the executive department. The Portland council of churches has asked a stay of execution pending investigation by a board of inquiry to determine whether racial prejudice entered into his conviction and the death penalty.

A petition containing signatures of 100 attorneys, mostly in Portland, has been filed by Irving Goodman, Portland attorney, representing the national association for the advancement of colored people. The Goodman petition asks that the death penalty be commuted to life imprisonment.

Henderson was alleged to have stolen Poole's automobile following the slaying. The prisoner contends he is innocent and said he merely was employed to drive the Poole automobile to Colorado by three soldiers whose names he does not know.

Salem to Name Young Republican Meet Delegates

Further plans for the state Young Republican club convention, to be March 5-7 in Portland, were completed Sunday at a meeting of the state executive committee in Portland. Jack Matlack of that city was chosen as convention chairman.

Attending from Salem were Robert DeArmond, president of the local club; Steve Anderson, member of the state committee, and William Lewis.

Election of new officers for the Salem club is planned for February 9, when convention delegates will also be named.

Salem Oratorio Group Vetoes Spring Concert

Decision to present no concert this spring was reached Monday night at a meeting of the executive board of the Salem Oratorio society. Arlie Anderson, new president, conducted the meeting. The organization gave its approval to presentation of Handel's "Messiah" last month.

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