

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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Vital Cowtown

If we have a truly national culture, it stems from the small town and the nearby farms. E. R. Jackman of Corvallis contends in this week's Saturday Evening Post with a profile of Burns, Oregon current article in the "Cities of America" series.

"The cowboy's horse tied to the hitching rail the courthouse sign, 'No calls allowed'; the gold scales in the bank — such things are probably far better symbols of Americanism than the dim night club, the offensively white and gleaming restaurant, and the morning and evening traffic jams of the cities . . ."

Jackman says. He thinks the citizens of Burns prove that the most worthwhile people are found in the most remote places:

"Solitude seems to be a great developer both of character and individuality. City life teaches one to get along with people, but also teaches all people to think more or less alike . . ."

Jackman's thesis would be pretty hard to prove. The tension and technicolor and pace of city life is as much a part of the American scene as the unhurried existence in the sage brush although the former has not been romanticized as often as the latter. It is no doubt true that Burns residents think differently from San Franciscans, but Burns residents tend to think like each other and the non-conformer encounters ostracism more quickly in the small town than anywhere else. Anyone who has lived in cities knows that there are as distinctly individual characters hidden in the concrete canyons of New York as the sandstone canyons of Eastern Oregon.

Nevertheless, the writer, an extension specialist in farm crops at Oregon State college, is probably right when he says:

"This country is still the West, and the cattle business is still carried on from the storm-swept hurricane deck of a sorrel horse. In many of the Western books . . . there is a throb of sadness — feeling that one is reading of a past age, a sort of heroic yesterday. But in Burns and the country round about, there is nothing of this gentle nostalgia. The country isn't gentle, and nostalgic isn't the word for a bucking bronc . . . Things at last report were still sort of vital around Burns."

State Building in Portland

The effort of the East Side commercial club of Portland to capture the proposed new state office building in Portland for the east side of the Willamette is an example of narrow aggressiveness, an attempt to promote strictly local real estate and business advantage. Using as arguments the fact that more people live on the east side than on the west side and the further fact that open land was available where off street parking could be secured the representatives of the club drove hard to sell the board of control on their idea.

Countering this presentation is the recommendation of the Portland planning commission which urges placing the building on the west side. This body is composed of men who have an understanding of the problems and possibilities of good city planning. Also they look at the matter from an unbiased standpoint, not from the point of view of some one trying to sell real estate.

The Statesman believes that the office building should be put on the west side in Portland, and thinks it has a right to speak since it is a building to be paid for by the state and to serve the people of the state, not Portlanders alone.

While the east side is the big dormitory for Portlanders, the west side is the center for banks, retail business, public offices, professional offices. It is the nexus of the street transit system, the terminal for railroad and stage lines, and the usual terminus for out-of-town motorists. During the working hours of the day, when offices are open, a place in the downtown west side is convenient to the majority of people.

The board of control should not be hung up on the horns of an east-west side dilemma, but should grab the animal by both horns and throw it over their shoulders, and locate the office building on the west side, following the advice of the city planning commission for location as closely as possible.

Gold out of Black Sands

More money has been made out of the black sands between the mouth of the Coquille and Crescent City than out of any similar stretch of beach on the coast, barring the pleasure resorts. Latest dated netted the promoters nearly a quarter of a million dollars, and that without disturbing the sands: there are there for future deals between the imaginative and the gullible.

Only it is more accurate to say that more money has been lost in those black sands than elsewhere, because they are a quicksand for investors, as the latest case shows.

In the early mining days Chinese worked the sands at the mouth of the Rogue and took out considerable gold. At intervals since then numerous attempts have been made to revive a mining industry there, generally for gold, and often with fraudulent intent. Then the sands of the black beaches came into prominence during the late war. Private investors sank hundreds of thousands of dollars in an attempt to reclaim chrome from these black sands. Just when they got going good the government stopped its buying — chrome was again available for overseas, and the investors who were legitimate operators lost heavily. (The black in the sands, it may be said, is garnetite).

The recently exposed promotion linked the word "atomic" with the black sands of Crescent City with gold as the promised value. A Richland chiropractor became the "scientist" who discovered the formula for the recovery of metals, and the suckers fell for the fake. Thanks to government agents the fraud was stopped before it rolled in more money. There is some gold in the beach sands, but too little to pay to work them, and atomic energy has not yet gone so far as to transmute gold from garnetite.

Progress Edition

The Spokane Spokesman-Review's 1948 progress edition is a 184-page report to the world at large on the state of the Pacific northwest's inland empire covering parts of three states and British Columbia.

Through eight sections of the tabloid publication the wonders of the Columbia river basin, the dams, the "world's greatest power," "world's richest mines," "world's finest farms," logging operations, transportation centers, vacation opportunities and "the world's greatest secret" — the atomic energy plants — are described and illustrated with natural-color photographs.

The report shows much painstaking work, imagination and justifiable pride in the great northwest, and the staff may be commended for their efforts. This is the type of public relations material that most effectively displays the tremendous growth of the northwest in recent years as well as the resources which invite — yes, demand, further expansion and progress.

We have been irked at eastern writers who moved Crater Lake or Multnomah Falls into California and had the Columbia river empty in Puget Sound. But we hardly expected a Statesman caption-writer to be so turned around that he put Mt. Jefferson "west" of Salem and Mt. Hood "northwest." For punishment we have required him to pick the mountains up and put them back where they belong, east and northeast.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

smaller outfits come in, pick up the short stuff that was discarded in the main operation, and work it up in small mills located on or near the tract.

Power saws, driven by small gas engines, do much of the cutting and bucking. In steep or rough terrain high lead logging is still employed by which logs are picked up and pulled by high cables to a yarding point at the foot of a spar tree, a donkey engine still furnishing the power. In some setups tractors drag the logs to the yard. There they are loaded in trucks for the haul to the mill or the rail loading point.

The Gerlinger interests, whose main base has been at Dallas for many years, have two operations in Linn county. One is the Snow Peak logging operation in the Crabtree creek drainage basin. The other is a new mill at Foster, the Willamette National Lumber Co. which is milling timber logged on federal forest lands and on the Hill lands up Sheep creek east of Cascadia. Logs from Snow Peak come down the private road to a pond south of West Scio where they are sorted, then loaded on cars. Peeler logs are sold to the plywood mills, cedar logs to cedar mills; the regular fir and hemlock logs are shipped to the Dallas mill for manufacture into lumber. A similar sorting is done at the Foster pond, but except for the special sales the logs are milled there.

A unique thing about the logging both at Snow Peak and on Sheep creek is the patchwork type of selective logging. A logging plan is laid out and roads constructed. The logging however is in patches of around 120 acres. This is logged clean leaving only some seed trees standing. Then the jump is made to some distance where another tract is logged. Ten years or more later they will come back and log parts of the remaining stand.

The purpose is to let the green timber serve as firebreaks, and to insure quicker and more complete restocking. This, the managers believe is the best way to obtain a sustained yield, giving permanent life to a forest industry.

The Foster mill, which was started only a few months ago, seeks maximum utilization of logs, down to sticks 2x2s if long. Except for timber squares all the product is kiln-dried and planed. A log chipper is to be installed with a slab debarker, and both hemlock and fir waste will be chipped and shipped to paper mills.

Logging camps with bunk-houses and cookhouses are pretty much a thing of the past. Loggers live in communities adjacent to the woods and either drive in their own cars to work or are hauled in buses. At Foster there is a cookhouse, the quality and quantity of whose food lives up to the Paul Bunyan traditions.

Progressive lumbermen, and Bill Swindells certainly is in that group, are making great efforts to get the maximum use of the timber, provide steady employment, insure stability to the timber industry and protect communities dependent on the forests. Great changes have come within the industry and more will come in the future. The main thing now is to recognize that our forests are not a resource to be exhausted, and not one just to be preserved, but a resource to be used wisely and renewed.

Farmers State Opposition to River Control

(Story also on page 1)

Farmers and other landowners of the Pudding river area rallied their opposition to a proposed water control district Wednesday as the Marion county court conducted a hearing prior to rejection of petitions seeking establishment of such a district.

With Manton Carl of Hubbard leading the opposition, many men detailed their various objections to the plan for obtaining \$110,000 federal grant, and many asserted that the original petition stressing only flood control was misleading.

Chief points of opposition, as expressed included:

Fred Schwab, Mt. Angel—The Pudding river channel should be cleaned of debris but not straightened. Creation of a district with right of easement granted and tax assessments would place a cloud on farmer's land titles in the event of sales. Federal law governing the Pudding project authorizes the easement project only and nothing more.

Don Matheny, Labish Area—Drainage badly needed on his land but could not favor other aspects of district such as expenditures, tax levies or irrigation.

A. D. Boyd, Hubbard—Pudding finest river in state because it provides drainage without erosion. Straightening out hair-pin curves in river would speed up the river and cause erosion.

F. C. Wadsworth, district—Owns farm on river. An underground capillary system pushes the water up in flood-time and then carries it away. If certain areas are not inundated every year, top soil would be lost. Flooding does no appreciable damage anyway.

Albert Overlund, Bethany district—Proper place for flood control would be in upper reaches and tributaries of the river and not in the lowlands.

John Snyder, Central Howell—The project would be too expensive. If "hard times" come again the farmers would be stuck with the project's upkeep.

W. J. Thompson, Willard district—All 42 voters in district unanimously opposed to creation of the control project.

COOS BAY, Jan. 28—(P)—The Evans Products company said today it would begin large-scale manufacture of Douglas fir plywood here late this year, with a new unit having a capacity of 3,000,000 surface feet of plywood a month.

A Russian Journal

History Shows Russians Always 'Difficult'

By John Steinbeck
Photographs by Robert Capa

(Editor's note—How both Russians and foreigners lived in Moscow on the eve of its 800th anniversary last summer is reported today by John Steinbeck, special correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune. Robert Capa, a photographer, went to Russia with him.)

CHAPTER XIV

Moscow was in a state of feverish activity. Great gangs of men were hanging the buildings with gigantic posters and portraits of the national heroes. The bridges were strung with electric light globes. The walls of the Kremlin and its towers, and even its battlements were outlined in electric lights. In every public square, dance stands had been put up, and in some of the squares little booths, made to look like Russian fairy tale houses, had been erected for the sale of sweets and ice cream, and of souvenirs. A special little metal dangle but-tonhole ornament was official and every one wore one of them.

Delegations from many countries were arriving almost hourly for the celebration of the eight hundredth anniversary of Moscow. The buses and trains were loaded. The roads were full of people coming into the city, carrying not only their clothes, but food for several days. They have been hungry so often that they take no chances when they move, and every one carries a few loaves of bread. Bunting and flags and paper flowers were on every building. The individual commissariats had their signs on the buildings housing their offices.

Crowds Attracted

The subway trust put up a great map of the subways of Moscow, and at the bottom a little subway train that ran back and forth. This attracted crowds who stared at it all day and late into the night. Wagons and trucks loaded with foodstuffs, with calves, with melons, with tomatoes, with cucumbers, rolled into the city—the gifts of the collective farms to the city on its eight hundredth anniversary. Every public building was floodlighted.

Every one in the street wore a medal, or ribbon, or decoration reminiscent of the war. The city boiled with activity.

I went over to the Herald Tribune office and found a note from Joe Newman. He was held up in Stockholm and he asked me to cover the party for the New York Herald Tribune since he couldn't get back to do it.

Capa was working feverishly over his films, criticizing his work himself, the quality of development, everything. He had an enormous number of negatives by now and he spent hours in front of the window looking through the negatives and hitching badly.

'Nothing Was Right'

Nothing was correct, nothing was right. We called Mr. Karaganov in Voks office and asked him to find out exactly what we had to do to get the films out of Russia. We thought there might be some censorship, and we wanted to know that it was enough in advance so we could make preparations for it. He assured us that he would go to work on its immediately and would let us know.

On the night before the celebration we were invited to the Bolshoi theatre, but we were told what it would be. By some fortunate accident we were unable to go. We heard later that it was six hours of speeches and no one could leave, for there were members of the government in the government box. It was one of the happiest accidents that ever happened to us.

Restaurants Jammed

The restaurants and cabarets were packed with people, and many of them were set aside for the delegates who had come both from the other republics of the Soviet Union, and from other countries, so that we couldn't get in at all. As a matter of fact it was very difficult to get dinner that night. The city was simply



One of the main attractions of the Tretyakov gallery of Moscow is a six-foot-high porcelain vase with Stalin portraits.

mobbed with people, and they walked slowly about the streets, stopping in one square to listen for a while to the music, and then trudging on to another square. They looked, and trudged, and looked. The country people were wide-eyed. Some of them had never seen the city before, and no one had ever seen the city so lighted up. There was some dancing in the squares but not a great deal. Mostly the people trudged and stared, and trudged on and stared at something else. The museums were so packed that you couldn't get in at all. The theatres were mobbed.

Stalin Everywhere

There was no building on which there was not at least one huge picture of Stalin, and the picture second in size was that of Molotov. Then there were huge portraits of the presidents of the different republics, and of the other heroes of the Soviet Union, their size graduated down.

Late in the evening I went to a little party at the house of an American Moscow correspondent who has been in Russia for many years. He spoke and read Russian easily, and he told us a great many stories about some of the difficulties of running a house in present-day Russia. And just as with hotel serving, most of the difficulties came from the inefficiency of a bureaucratic system — so many records to be made, so much bookkeeping made it almost impossible to get any repairs.

After dinner he took a book from his shelves and said: "I want you to listen to this," and began reading slowly, translating from Russian. And he read something like this — This is not an exact transcription, but it is close enough.

300 Years Ago

"The Russians of Moscow," he read, "are highly suspicious of foreigners, who are watched constantly by the secret police. Every move is noted and sent into central headquarters. A guard is placed on all foreigners. Furthermore Russians do not receive foreigners in their houses, and they seem to be afraid even to talk to them very much. A message sent to a member of the government usually remains unanswered, and a further message is also unanswered. If one is important, one is told that this official has left the city or is sick. Foreigners are permitted to travel in Russia only after great difficulty, and during their travels they are very closely watched. Because of this general coldness and suspicion, foreigners visiting in Moscow are forced to

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"Our airline schedules are the equal of those in capitalistic countries. Now, a citizen can be hungry in several cities on the same day!"

a book called 'Voyages in Moscow, Tartary and Persia' by a man named Adam Olearius." Then he laughed and said: "Would you like to hear an account of the Moscow conference?"

Not Much Changed

And he read from another book something like this: "Diplomatically the Russians are very difficult to get along with. If one submits a plan, they counter it with another plan. Their diplomats are not trained in the large world, but are mostly people who have never left Russia. Indeed a Russian who has lived in France is considered a Frenchman; one who has lived in Germany is considered a German, and these are not trusted at home." And he continues: "The Russians cannot go diplomatically in a straight line. They never get to the point, they argue in circles. Words are ended up and bandied, and tossed, until in the end a general confusion is the result of any conference." And he paused, then he said: "And that was written in 1661 by a French diplomat, Augustin Baron de Mayemburg."

And he said, "These things make one much less restless under the present setup." He said: "I don't think Russia has changed very much in some respects. Ambassadors and diplomats from foreign countries have been going crazy here for 600 years."

In the final installment of John Steinbeck's Russian journal, to be published here tomorrow, he will describe how he and Robert Capa left the Soviet Union with their notes and pictures.

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MATTER OF FACT Moderation of Red Foreign Policy Said in Offing If Europe Aid Passes

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 — The first evidence that the Soviet Union may be faltering in the course that has plunged the world into a political and economic war is now in the hands of the American government. It suggests that the so-called hard policy, for which Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov is generally given credit, may be reconsidered by the Politburo if and when the European recovery program passes the congress.

The apparent reason for this possibility is the fact that the resources of the Soviet state are already strained to the utmost, making it unwise for the Soviets to continue the present contest when American resources have been fully mobilized on the other side. In other words, the strength of the United States is brought to the task of rebuilding western Europe. The strength of the Soviets will be insufficient to carry through their imperialist plans. Being realistic men, the members of the Politburo will then abandon the attempt to do what is beyond their strength, and seek to make a settlement on the best terms they can get.

In short, we are in the position of Elijah, during his celebrated praying match with the prophets of Baal, when the little cloud like a man's hand at last appeared on the horizon. If at that moment Elijah had suddenly lost faith and joined the Baal-worshippers, one suspects that the Lord might peevishly have withheld the rain. But he went right on praying. And after the ensuing downpour, Elijah agreeably indulged himself in a general massacre of the pro-Baal faction. The Soviets are anxiously waiting to see whether we are as persistent as Elijah. If the cloud, which is the European recovery program, turns out to be the real thing, they will ask for terms rather than risk the misfortune of Baal's prophets. Consequently, far more now hangs upon the action of the senators and representatives than the congress even vaguely conceives.

State Department Documents

For this reason, it is tragic that these vital truths must be stated in such general terms. In the nature of things, however, the incidents upon which the foregoing conclusions are based are of the most secret nature. Those who have studied the origins of another great change in Soviet policy, in the state department documents, "Nazi - Soviet Relations," will have noted how guarded were the first overtures. The approaches to the Nazis were all made by the Soviets, in several different and highly delicate ways. But the whole process of rapprochement was so cautious that, even now, it is hard to say when the experimental phase ended and the real business began.

What has recently happened, moreover, may be classified as suggestive rather than decisive evidence that the Soviets may eventually alter their policy. The evidence consists of a series of seem-

ingly unrelated episodes, in which Soviet officials have expressed to Americans all or part of the views set forth above. These episodes have ranged in character from a harangue delivered by a very junior Russian to a junior American in an interlude of the last big struggle at Lake Success, to other contacts of a much more important character.

They have held out interesting indications of the often-rumored Politburo division on Soviet foreign policy. There have even been hints that the test of the validity of the Molotov view will be congressional action on ERP. Anyone who has had the experience of talking to Soviet officials or communist leaders abroad, knows one of their cardinal arguments is that "you Americans are so changeable. You will never carry through the job you have started." Apparently, ERP is to be the test of the sticking-power of the United States.

Behavior in Embassy

Finally, the suggestive evidence of the episodes above-mentioned is further supported by other signs and portents. One such portent is the recent behavior of the Soviet embassy in Washington. Where his predecessor was almost cloistered, Ambassador Panyushkin is behaving much more like a normal diplomat, giving interviews, paying calls upon American officials, and in general making himself much more accessible.

His most notable and surprising call was at the office of Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, who has long been one of the leading devils of the capitalist hell, as daily pictured in the Soviet press. In a system like the Soviet system, this sort of thing has real meaning.

In all this, of course, there is nothing to run up on the roof and cheer about. In the first place, the congress seems entirely likely to mangle ERP out of recognition, in which case present Soviet policy will be pursued unchanged and with much greater assurance. In the second place, even if the Soviets eventually change their policy and seek a settlement, many further proofs of American sticking-power will have to be offered before any acceptable settlement can be made.

Nevertheless, what has happened should give greatly increased confidence that we are on the right line, if we only stick to it.

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WORK HELD TAXABLE
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28—(P)—The ninth U. S. circuit court of appeals in an opinion affecting hundreds of American civilians who worked overseas during the war on contract with the government, held Tuesday that salaries paid for such overseas work is taxable.

Bishop to Talk At Pastors' Meet Friday

Bishop Francis McConnell will speak at the Salem district pastors' conference Friday at the First Methodist church here on the topic of "National and International Trends." It was announced Wednesday by Dr. Roy A. Fedje, district superintendent. The Rev. Ben Browning, Moderator, will open the 9:30 morning session.

Other guest speakers will be Dr. Herbert Smith, president of Willamette University, and the Rev. John Warrell of Portland. A panel discussion will deal with various tasks of pastors.

Chaplain William Bray of St. Helens will speak on "The Natives' Relations to Missions," alluding to the south sea islands where he served in the Bomber-ber division of the U. S. army air corps during World War II. Pearl Sherlock of Portland will lead a discussion on "Our Church Enrollment Crusade," and the Rev. Brooks Moore will talk on "Pre-Easter Plans and Visitation Evangelism." Dr. Fedje will be assisted by Mrs. Alice Chappell of Portland in presenting the Suttle lake building campaign fund program.

Bishop and Mrs. McConnell, Dr. and Mrs. William Wallace Youngson, visiting speakers will be guests at a buffet luncheon at the Fedje home.

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