

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Is Boycott So Bad?

We note with interest and arched eyebrows that the Western Livestock Journal of Portland has blamed consumer boycotts on meat on "politicians and big city newspapers." It has gone on to say that "nice old ladies," also in big cities, are being encouraged to carry on such boycotts, although why they shouldn't be is not made clear.

What the Livestock Journal seems to suggest—at least to a newspaper which is neither "big city" nor a proponent of boycotts—is that the press and public figures who have urged buyers' strikes, etc., against high meat prices are doing something which in some obscure way is irregular, exceptional and unjustified by conditions which confront every meat customer. It seems to attribute an element of pure cussedness to anybody who would recoil at paying a full buck for a pound of tired brisket (as happens in the stores of Chicago, New York, Washington and like places daily), and to imply that such a person is the victim of demagogues or the lackey press.

Not so. Every merchant, meat dealer or purveyor of five car-at diamonds—knows that if he raises his prices too high, his customers will refuse to buy. In effect, they boycott his product. He may even have his prices so high that nobody will buy from him. Then he has a mass boycott, and he needs to look for another occupation.

That is precisely what is happening in meat markets in other parts in the country; not, happily, in Oregon as yet. The red stuff in the coolers simply costs too much. It is not the dealer's fault, necessarily, or the packer's, or the stock grower's. All have high costs to contend with, and a greedy market to supply. It is simply that a combination of economic circumstances have forced the price of meat so high that many customers feel forced to withdraw from the market, and are convinced that the only way in which the price of meat can be reduced for themselves and their neighbors is by letting the entire meat industry know that their product is unsalable at the prices asked. There is nothing un-American or exceptional or demagogic about this: it is simply the law of supply and demand at work, with demand saying "no" to supply. The alternative would have been government price-fixing and rationing long since as President Truman more or less diffidently asked, and that would almost certainly have meant instant shortages in the butcher shops, and a sudden, noxious flowering of all the black and grey markets in the country.

The Livestock Journal goes on to note that the campaign against high meat prices, "if successful," would turn attention to all high-priced commodities and bring on "a major depression." Well, it wouldn't be a bad idea at all if a great deal of attention were paid to all high-priced commodities, with a view to altering the conditions which have made them such. That it would necessarily bring on "a major depression," is highly questionable. That it would stimulate a healthy readjustment in the pricing of consumer goods in general is rather more likely, and earnestly to be hoped. Meanwhile, don't blame the nice old ladies. They can't help it if they like to eat 50-cent beefsteak. We all do.

How to Walk Up a Hill

Mountain-climbing tragedies, like airplane crashes a short time ago, are becoming all too common. Throughout the summer there have been reports up and down the coast of sudden and violent death in the peaks and crevasses of the west's outstanding scenic attractions. The stories of happy-go-lucky jaunts that ended in "no survivors" are legion.

Mountaineering is more than good clean sport. It is dangerous and beautiful and habit-forming; its fans, if they live long enough, become addicts who gladly pay the price of physical stamina, courage and technical know-how that the more seductive ranges demand.

Evidently, however, some would-be conquerors of the lonely crags and icy fastnesses act as though mountain-climbing was merely an overgrown hiking trip. It is much easier to talk about the inspiration of superlative scenery and the exhilarating thin air at 10,000 feet than it is to cover many miles of lava, shale, ice and granite. What looks from the valley like a short, easily negotiable trail often turns out to include scaling perpendicular "chimneys" with the use of rope and ax. And getting down is as laborious as the ascent; most climbers don't just sit on their canteen and slide.

Since mountaineering is becoming an increasingly popular pastime in this country, it is good to know that a school to teach the safe rules of the game has been established at Grand Teton national park in Wyoming. It is the only institution of its kind this side of the Alps and is operated by two guides who have 40 years of climbing experience in the Alps, Rockies and Himalayas between them. Courses begin with instruction on how to walk up a hill and end with field trips using overnight camping equipment at 11,000 feet on the upper saddle of Grand Teton mountain.

It would seem that people who wouldn't dream of deep-sea diving without the proper equipment or instruction, would have sense enough to take the same precautions before attempting to hike up Three-Fingered Jack or the North Sister. The only way an amateur mountaineer ever becomes an expert is to develop early a healthy respect for the impersonal cruelty of the mountains.

The Masaryk Case

The current issue of the Saturday Evening Post contains an interesting article by O. Henry Brandon, an English journalist on "Was Masaryk Murdered?" It is based on the report given him by Dr. Oskar Klinger who was personal physician to Masaryk and President Benes of Czechoslovakia. The story is that Masaryk had decided to fly from Czechoslovakia and had an appointment to meet Dr. Klinger at an airfield near Prague the morning he succumbed. The doctor's conclusion is that Masaryk was murdered by the communists on direct orders from Russian agents.

The theory is that the communists learned of Masaryk's plan to escape and they simply moved in the customary Byzantine manner to prevent it.

Circumstantial evidence is that shots were heard in the palace the night before his body was said to have been picked up after his plunge from a third-story window; and four coffins are said to have left the palace before the foreign minister's body was removed, indicating that others may have been liquidated.

Th Brandon story will occasion no surprise anywhere. For it is universally believed that Masaryk was a victim of the communist coup. He may have been murdered as Dr. Klinger believes. But if it was suicide he was driven to it out of despair for his country.

The Belgrade conference adopted the Russian draft of a convention to govern the Danube, western delegates dissenting. Russia draws too much water there for the west to exert much influence.

A couple of jerks bumped an old pensioner at Roseburg last week to lift his \$30 pension from him. He died; now they face murder charges. Stupid business, as well as criminal.

Navy Holds Up Marriage Over Loyalty Inquiry

The Case of Mrs. Smith: I
WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—Mrs. Ann Smith, a former clerk-stenographer for the U.S. navy in the Canal Zone, is not herself an important political figure. But what has happened to her, and the way in which it happened, is important—deeply important—in these times.

Mrs. Smith (which is not her real name) is a personable young woman in her late twenties, a Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California, mildly liberal, mildly intellectual, mildly interested in the problem of race relations. After an unhappy marriage in California which ended in divorce, she took a job in 1945 in the Panama Canal Zone as a navy clerk.

Her interest in the race question was partly responsible for her also taking on a part-time job teaching English after working hours at the University of Panama. She had received permission to do so. But the classes she taught were largely colored, and racial feeling in the Canal Zone runs high. There were certainly those in authority who frowned on Mrs. Smith's after-hours work and on her tolerant racial views. Whether this had something to do with her subsequent experiences, no one knows. At any rate, in 1947, she met Petty Officer Robert Brown, and they decided to marry. Brown applied for permission to marry from his commanding officer, Admiral J. F. Shafroth. Then the blow fell. Permission was refused, on the grounds that the intended bride was suspected of disloyalty to the United States.

Personal Papers Read

This was in August, 1947. In September, Brown's locker was searched in his presence, his personal papers were read, and a copy of "Generation of Vipers," a rather dull but by no means Marxist book by Philip Wylie, was confiscated.

Nothing more happened until January. Despite repeated requests for a decision, permission for Brown to marry Mrs. Smith was still withheld. Then, on January 30 of this year, Mrs. Smith was presented with an "interrogatory," consisting of some 21 questions.

Some of these questions are routine, others are peculiarly interesting. Mrs. Smith was asked whether she read, among other publications, "The New Republic"; whether she was acquainted with "persons you know to be connected with labor activities and labor leadership in the Canal Zone"; whether she had "exchanged views on political, governmental, or international subjects with persons connected with the University of Panama"; and whether she had in her possession "books or literature concerning the government of the U.S.S.R."

Intellectuals Suspected
The implication of such questions is both clear and shocking: It is simply that anyone capable of intellectual curiosity is automatically a suspect. If this is to become an accepted principle of American government, it is a chilling prospect. At any rate, Mrs. Smith admitted only that she had once subscribed to "In Fact" some years previously, and that she had occasionally leafed through a copy of "The New Republic." On every other score, she protested her innocence.

A second category of questions concerned Mrs. Smith's acquaintanceship with four individuals. One was a Negro minister in California. Mrs. Smith had, she said, never heard of him, although it is difficult to see how it would have mattered if she had, since the minister is anti-Wallace democrat and a delegate to the recent democratic convention. The second individual was a woman who had been active in radical student movements in California, in the '30s, while Mrs. Smith was going to college. Mrs. Smith asserted flatly that she had never heard of this woman either.

She had known the third individual, though only briefly. On a vacation in Guatemala, she had been assigned to share a hotel table with him and his wife for three meals. More than a year before the date of the "interrogatory" he had sent her some newspaper clippings and a copy of "PM." As for the fourth individual, a woman who lived in the Canal Zone, she and Mrs. Smith had both attended a luncheon regularly. But Mrs. Smith had not, to the best of her knowledge, been introduced to this woman and she did not know her.



'Smoke-Filled Room'

Births

FESCHEL—To Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Peschel, 1745 Mill st., a son, Wednesday, August 18, at Salem General hospital.

DeLANGE—To Mr. and Mrs. Lester DeLange, Turner, a daughter, Wednesday, August 18, at Salem General hospital.

MANGERS—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Mangers, 1715 N. Winchester, a son, Thursday, August 19, at Salem General hospital.

RATHSAM—To Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Rathsam, 3375 Livingston st., a son, Thursday, August 19, at Salem General hospital.

WOOD—To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wood, Jefferson route 1, a daughter, Thursday, August 19, at Salem Memorial hospital.

STAPLES—To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Staples, 138 W. Owens st., a son, Thursday, August 19, at Salem Memorial hospital.

BURKETT—To Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Burkett, Salem route 8, a daughter, Thursday, August 19, at Salem Memorial hospital.

PUC Sets Hearing on Charter Car Service

Hearing on the application of the West Coast Bus Lines, Ltd., and West Coast Trailways for permission to operate charter car service anywhere in Oregon has been set for September 14 in Salem. Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg announced Thursday.

In the Canal Zone has happened to too many others elsewhere. In the year 1948, it is the plain and necessary duty of the American government to protect itself from attack from within. But a great deal, a very great deal, depends on the way this is done. Therefore a second report in this space will shortly be devoted to describing Mrs. Smith's subsequent history.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT



The trouble with Junior is that HE can't compare these with pro-war prices...

Mrs. Steelhammer, 70, Dies Following Five-Year Illness

Ada Pearl Steelhammer, 70, of 850 N. 17th st., wife of John F. Steelhammer, sr., died Wednesday at the residence following an illness of five years which became serious during the past week.

She was born at Heppner, Ore., the daughter of William A. and Rose Hughes Taylor, a pioneer Oregon family. She came with her parents to the Macleay community east of Salem at the age of six months and had since resided in the Macleay, Silverton and Salem areas.

Her first marriage was to Oral Jerman in the early part of the century. Jerman died in 1924 and in 1927 she married Mr. Steelhammer. The couple resided in the Silverton area until 1942 when they moved to Salem.

Surviving besides the husband are stepsons, John F. Steelhammer, jr., and Carl G. Steelhammer, of Salem; three sisters, Mrs. Edith McIntyre of Pendleton, and Mrs. Myrtle Clutter and Mrs. Faye Lichthy, both of Silverton; three brothers, Walter F. Taylor of Silverton, Virgil G. Taylor of Macleay, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Clough-Barrick chapel Saturday, at 10:30 a. m., with interment in City View cemetery.

Rites Today For Mrs. Bort

Funeral services for Mrs. Vilhelma Bort, 59, native of Jefferson, who died at a local hospital Monday, will be held at the W. T. Ridgion chapel today at 2 p. m., with the Rev. Lloyd Anderson officiating. Interment will be at Jefferson cemetery.

She was married to Charles A. Bort in Los Angeles and they came to Salem 35 years ago. He was in the painting and contracting business here until his death in 1941.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Velma Patton, Salem; a sister, Lorenna Townsend, Salem; two aunts, Mrs. Ida Lynes and Mrs. Emma Tharp, both of Salem, and several nieces and nephews.

By Lichty

Civil Service Hearing Set On Dismissal

Hearing on the discharge case of Mrs. Julia Eaton, Portland, will be the first of its type ever handled by the Oregon state civil service commission. The case will be heard by the state commission in its Salem offices next Wednesday.

Mrs. Eaton was dismissed from employment with the state public welfare commission in Portland for alleged activity detrimental to the organization, to the state and the federal government.

The discharged stenographer said she was fired for political reasons because of her progressive party affiliations.

Mrs. Eaton was correspondent for left wing publications Federated Press and Peoples World. For the Federated Press she wrote under the name of Kathleen Cronin and for the Peoples World she collaborated with another name on contributed articles.

Preliminary citation dispatched to the state commission by the welfare organization said to Mrs. Eaton, "You are hereby released for the good of the service on the grounds and reason that your activity and your public utterances reflect on the department, and the United States of America."

New Airmail Schedule Due

When United Airlines resumes occupation of Portland airport and the DC-6's no longer take off from Salem, it will be necessary to have eastbound airmail in Salem post-office by 1 p. m. in order for it to be included on flight 604 from Portland at 7 p. m.

This is scheduled for August 23. Postmaster Albert Gragg has been notified. Many Salem business houses have been taking advantage of the opportunity to post air mail letters as late as 7 p. m. while the DC-6's have been starting from Salem since the Portland flood this spring.

Trapper Starts Work in County

A new government trapper for Marion county, Victor Howard, has arrived to begin his duties today in the killing of foxes, coyotes and other predatory animals, the county agent's office announced Thursday.

Howard gained a reputation of one of the best trappers ever located here when he was stationed in Marion county a few years ago, according to County Judge Grant Murphy. He has taken up residence at 808 N. 2nd st., Silverton. Howard was transferred here to succeed Francis Watkins, Silverton.

The trapper is paid by the U.S. fish and wildlife service, to which the county contributes a total of \$1,340 for 1948-49 fiscal year.

"Abe Lincoln" Greets Oregon



Publicizing Oregon at the Chicago rail fair this month was the Oregon territorial centennial observance pictured above at the Union Pacific railroad's Oregon exhibit. Artistides Capules, the actor portraying Abraham Lincoln at the fair's mascot, chatted with these girls representing five northwest states. Before he was president, Lincoln had turned down an offer of the Oregon territory governorship. The girls pictured are (left to right) Alice Brady, Elaine Reed, Frosty Holop, Margaret Sullivan of Portland Chamber of Commerce and Ann DuSault.

Public Records

MUNICIPAL COURT
Walter E. Collett, Salem route 2, no operator's license, fined \$2.50.
Allen R. Dennis, Woodland, Wn., failure to stay at scene of accident, defective brakes and void license, driving while intoxicated, defective brakes and void license plates, fined at total of \$370, driver's licenses revoked for one year and 60-day suspended sentence, committed to city jail in lieu of fine payment.

Emanuel E. Balla, Salem route 2, failure to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicle and having no sounding device, pleaded innocent to both charges, trial set for September 2.

Glenn Edward Lukinbeal, 440 N. 14th st., no driver's license, posted \$5 bail.

PROBATE COURT
Mary Ethel Lorence estate: Order authorizing sale of personal property; order authorizing executor to settle claim.

Elizabeth Janz estate: Hearing on final account set for September 21.

Frank Frazer estate: Hearing on final account set for September 20.

Fredrika Frey estate: Order for sale of real property.

Lola A. McMechan estate: Appraisal of estate at \$5,685.59.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Jim Phillip Hall, 35, fireman, and Madonna Marie Meyer, 19, salesperson, 2161 N. Front st., both of Salem.

J. R. Peck, 18, farmer, and Beverly White, 16, laborer, both of West Stayton.

Alvin K. Dahlen, 24, student, 990 N. 17th st., and Lois Marie Hill, 21, domestic, Pendleton.

Alvin E. Hollin, 23, farmer, Brooks route 1, and Betty Ann Craft, 21, clerk, Silverton.

Richard S. Vincent, 21, purchasing agent, route 4, box 423, and Maxine Wollesen, 20, clerk-typist, 735 N. Capital st., both of Salem.

Robert Lee Scott, 23, student, route 6, box 288, and Kathleen M. Secord, 20, student, 145 S. 14th st., both of Salem.

CIRCUIT COURT
Helen McMillin vs Ernest McMillin: Divorce decree modified to award custody of two minor children to plaintiff rather than to defendant.

Selma Fones vs Richard Fones: Complaint for divorce alleging cruel and inhuman treatment asks that plaintiff be awarded custody of minor child and \$75 monthly support money and \$300 lump sum alimony. Married March 8, 1947, at Salem.

Grant C. Rogers, administrator of Betsy Lou Rogers estate, vs Southern Pacific Co., Harvey E. Holzkamp and Lloyd L. McKenzie: Motion filed by defendant McKenzie for judgment for him, notwithstanding verdict against him, based upon alleged errors in jury instructions and upon alleged lack of evidence of negligence on part of defendant.

State vs Keith Morris Pratt: Charged with forgery, waived indictment and pleaded guilty; continued to August 23 for sentence.

Clarence Endres vs Mildred Endres: Order sustains demurrer to file amended complaint within 10 days; plaintiff ordered to pay \$45 monthly support money for minor child.

Edith Linda Lunt vs John Henry Lunt: Complaint for divorce alleging cruel and inhuman treatment asks custody of two minor children be awarded plaintiff. Married Sept. 10, 1924.

Clifford D. Gesner vs Jarmilla M. E. Gesner: Complaint for divorce alleging cruel and inhuman treatment asks custody of two minor children and \$70 total monthly support money.

Willie A. and C. W. Hill vs C. H. and Edna Sanders: Complaint seeks judgment of \$259.30 for allegedly unpaid debt for labor and materials.

DISTRICT COURT
Joseph Williams Brown, Woodburn, pleaded guilty to charge of being drunk on a public highway, continued to August 20 for sentence, held in lieu of \$150 bail.

Dorothy Cartney, 225 Hollywood ave., preliminary hearing began on charges of burglary not in a dwelling and receiving, possessing and having stolen property.

Kenzie for judgment for him, notwithstanding verdict against him, based upon alleged errors in jury instructions and upon alleged lack of evidence of negligence on part of defendant.

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Rainier PUD Verdict Given

The proposed people's utility district for the city of Rainier would be feasible provided the district could purchase the existing power system for less than \$234,000, the state hydroelectric commission reported Thursday in Salem.

The city of Rainier is now served by the Pacific Power & Light company. The proposed new district would use Bonneville power.

The commission's report shows that 529 customers in the proposed district pay \$52,700 a year for electricity. The city has a population of 1,300 with an assessed valuation of \$628,570.

Geographers estimate that Ontario, Canada, has more than 100,000 lakes, less than half of which are named.



WAR VICTIMS SEE POPE—Pope Pius XII gives medal to Vittorio Mori, war-mutilated boy, at Vatican City where he received 190 children of "Houses of the Little War Victims" of Milan. All lost eyes, legs or arms in the war.