

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Shows Us, No Fear Shall Ave"
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Coming: The 4-Power Conference

So it came about just as was suggested in this newspaper: a simultaneous announcement that the Berlin blockade would be lifted and a conference of foreign ministers held to discuss the German situation. Simple, wasn't it, and sensible. But what a long tug-of-war took place before the deal was made. Not for a long time will we know what behind-scenes dickering went on preceding this denouement — perhaps there was none, since Russia doesn't play its marbles according to old rules of diplomacy.

Also, as this paper has said before, time was on the side of the western allies. Their position steadily improved once it was demonstrated the airlift could supply at least the minimum in food and fuel for the western zones of Berlin. If the United States determined to play "hard-to-get" in the various moves of last year, especially in the Moscow conference over Berlin, the policy has paid off. Not only is the blockade about to be lifted but the western powers have more clout at hand when the new poker game starts.

Some publicists are raising warnings about a trap. These seem ill-founded. Our diplomatic eyes are open and we walk into no traps; and Russia is not now in good position to set traps. But just because of fresh meeting of foreign ministers of Great Britain, France, the USSR and the United States will be held soon we should not assume that an overall settlement of the dispute over central Europe is at hand. Russian diplomats will be tough and still argue for a unified Germany (on their terms). But the west doesn't have to accept those terms. What the west should do is to develop a sound program for a restored Germany and be persistent in urging it. It should be ready to make concessions if they are not too costly and should make every effort to arrive at an agreement.

We can lead now from strength, not from weakness. It is important that we lead.

Film the Bergman Triangle

Some one should make it into a movie: the Ingrid Bergman-Dr. Peter A. Lindstrom-Robert Rossellini triangle. It has what once was regarded as the essential for every play or novel: the triumph of virtue. In later years love was allowed to win plenty of contests with virtue often coming out a poor second-best. In the case of the delectable Ingrid love may have had to take a back seat that fidelity to marriage vows might prevail.

Think what a producer could do with this affair: what began as a professional association between the Swedish actress and the Italian director developing into an affair of the heart... rumors of divorce... a cozy cottage (with chaperonage of course) overlooking the blue Mediterranean... the quick flight of the doctor-husband from California to Italy... the meeting of the three points of the triangle, each with accompanying lawyers... reporters from Rome and New York haunting the scene... photographers. Then the announcement through the

Reds Also Seeking Peace in Greece

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst
WASHINGTON, May 5.—Reports that Greek communists are seeking United Nations mediation in their war with Athens carry a strong suggestion that Russia really is making a general change in tactics.

The Berlin blockade negotiations created an air of expectancy regarding Russian policy, but with widespread western recognition that one swallow does not make a summer. Two swallows, however, double the chances.

In Prague, the minister of justice of the Greek rebel government announced that he had written Herbert E. Smith, president of the U.N. assembly, suggesting mediation.

No mention was made of previous communist demands that negotiations be preceded by withdrawal of Anglo-American military units, lending significance to what might otherwise be mere propaganda.

Terms suggested were for an interim government composed of non-political figures acceptable to both sides, pending U.N.-supervised elections.

The minister (who presumably speaks for his associates, although that is not entirely definite yet) is Miltades Porphyrogenis, former member of the Athens government who shifted to the guerrillas several years ago.

He is quoted as saying that "The atmosphere of appeasement that has developed in recent weeks in the European scene makes peace seem impossible."

He thus intimates that Russia has switched to a policy of appeasement. If there should now be some break in the deadlock

office of the film company that Miss Bergman would remain Mrs. Lindstrom "for the protection of my family." Now for the fadeout of the reunited couple!

For once virtue has triumphed over love, Hollywood style. Surely it is worth a filming.

Market Basket Economics

The average housewife probably thinks of economics in terms of the price tag on her pork chops and mashed potatoes. That's why this week's cover picture on the U. S. News and World Report magazine is more striking than a list of statistics showing how the cost of living has declined.

This mouth-watering colored photograph illustrates the groceries a Washington, D.C. housewife who shops carefully for bargains can get for \$7.93. Included are 2 lbs. hamburger, 2 lbs. pork chops, 1 lb. sliced bacon, 1 lb. butter, 2 qt. milk, 1 doz. eggs, 3 loaves bread, 5 lbs. flour, 1 lb. coffee, 5 lbs. sugar, 3 lbs. apples, 1 doz. oranges, 10 lbs. potatoes, 2 lbs. green beans, 2 lbs. cabbage, 3 tomatoes, 1 lb. onions, 1 bunch carrots. The same items cost \$10 in July, 1948. That means the shopper in the nation's capital has "saved" \$2.07. Theoretically, she can now use that "surplus" to buy other things for better living or save it for future use.

Price comparisons are always hazardous except on staples or brand goods; but Salem housewives could run up a comparison with Washington prices if they want to.

One thing is evident and that is competition has returned in the grocery business, as in other lines, and with a bang. One has only to shop the ads to see that merchants too are price conscious, responding to the pressures of the times.

The federal treasury is concerned over the same problem that the Oregon legislature's taxation committee wrestled with: tax exemption for charitable or religious concerns which engage in business enterprises. Some cases are in the works now which will probably wind up in the supreme court. Some of these organizations are said to be running commercial businesses quite unrelated to their own work and claiming to be tax-free. Not only does government lose revenue but the competition with private tax-paying business is unfair. It isn't cricket, but how to write a law that will separate good sheep from "black sheep" is a tough assignment.

Portland Chamber of Commerce directors are fighting city taxes on personal incomes and business receipts. They urge the city to drop these levies and have asked Commissioner Bean to cut the budget to where the deficit will be under \$1,000,000. Will these business men explain why Portland should operate under any deficit—or how it can, legally?

On the Wood labor bill the house thought at first it would, then it wouldn't.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

A HOUSE IN THE CEVENNES.

By Jeanne Saleil (Macmillan; \$2.75)

"You start with one thing in mind," says this author, "and you get waylaid by another." Her book is a perfect demonstration of it. One story trips over a second and a third until, by the time you finish these delightful memories of a French childhood, you have met and hazarded the mayor, the priest, the doctor, the constable, the baker's family, the handyman, the ironing woman, the wash-woman, and the Saleil family itself: Father, mother and daughters.

You would have been lucky if you had met them as the author did, in the upper town or the lower, in shop or store, in the square, across the garden fence, on a hunting or fishing trip. But it's too late for that, and they come alive here, in Miss Saleil's prose and her quick, informal sketches.

The Cevennes is the hilly region in central France, south of the Loire; and the village of Fougyrolles, we are told, had 1,011 inhabitants. The Saleils were looking for a house, and sooner or later, practical natives assured them, death would take the owner of a place they would want. It needed repairs, it had no toilet, it seemed late to have little to make it attractive except a hillside location, garden space, and a roof which, though it leaked, was a pretty sight from railroad tracks or highway.

The deaf boy whom Rosa loved, but who loved the baker's sickly daughter; the man that escaped to have a meal instead of being the meal; the poor old man who didn't know he was

IT SEEMS TO ME

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small tax. Some had even lost a base because they got enough money from the state and county to maintain a small school or send their children to a neighboring school. The total of this budget to be raised by taxation was \$1,218,365. Of this \$1,120,671 was in excess of the 6 per cent limitation. In other words the amount they could levy except by vote of the people was only \$97,694—an absurdly low sum, it must be admitted.

Many of the districts where the school tax has risen sharply under the law are very critical of it. The theory of "levy the tax where the wealth is and spend it where the children are" proves painful to them.

I can see where the theory falls short of being entirely fair. You have in some thickly populated districts like Keizer and Salem Heights really urban situations. There a great many of the people work in the city, enjoying urban incomes. Their property is largely residential which on a per-child basis is usually relatively low in assessed value. So the cost of maintaining their schools is comparatively heavy. Spreading this over rural areas where the per-child assessed valuation is high throws a considerable burden on the country people.

More state aid is suggested as one solution; but that merely throws more of the burden on the "unlucky" counties which are not too happy with the present state school support law. The mistake Salem Heights and Keizer made was in not voting to come into the Salem school district a few years ago, for the margin of 364 votes is not one to insure confidence that the county voters will continue this level of support if an economic pinch comes.

There needs to be some "heavy thinking" about problems of school finance, and it should not be left alone to the Oregon Education association.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Wait until the novelty wears off and they want a sinner for him... THEN they'll notice that I'm alive..."

"PARTY WHIP"



The Safety Valve

Appreciates New Lot for Parking To the Editor:

Mr. Snider of the Blue Lake cannery should be commended for fixing a parking lot for cannery workers.

In the vicinity last year two small pre-school age children were almost hit by dashing out from between parked cars.

During canning season this section is very busy. With such narrow streets, it is quite hazardous to pedestrians. Cannery workers can help by parking in the lot provided so their vehicle won't obstruct the view.

Thanks, Mr. Snider, for your fine cooperation in this matter.
Mrs. Orland J. Watts
1011 Elm St.
West Salem.

Plans Progress For Special Salem Mail Cancellation

Near final approval are plans for a special cancellation which will adorn letters out of Salem next fall, to observe the 100th anniversary of the local post-office's establishment, according to Postmaster Albert C. Gragg.

The special marking, suggested by the postoffice department as "100th Anniversary, PO Salem, Oregon, Est. Nov. 8, 1849," will be used from October 15 to December 31. It will be sponsored by Salem Chamber of Commerce, Salem Stamp society and any individuals who add to funds already contributed to purchase the necessary die, which would be made by the postoffice department.

Better English

By D. C. Williams

worth a fortune; Caroline who ate twice a week to save the trouble of cooking every day; the parsimonious wife who hoped to secure for her husband the dead bishop's high collar... the book is filled with stories for fun and, once a while, for sadness.

Writing in an adopted language, Miss Saleil sometimes drops in a word that violates her mood, or uses a French phrase that may baffle some readers. But in the whole this is an imaginative evocation of a town full of people who'd rather not be at all than not be individual; and if you want a vacation, "A House in the Cevennes" is the next best thing to a house in the Cevennes.

Early French and Spanish settlers of New Orleans built their houses on stilts.

Roth Holtz, New YM Boys' Work Director to Arrive

Roth Holtz, new boys' work director at Salem YMCA, is due to arrive here today and to begin his duties tomorrow. He comes from the YM at Evanston, Ill., where he assisted with boys' activities.

Holtz will direct the six weeks of boys' camping at Silver Creek this summer as well as activities at the YM. He succeeds John Gardner who became general secretary of the new Tillamook YM on March 1.

Mrs. Holtz will remain in Evanston until housing is arranged. They have no children.

1st Anniversary

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