

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Hotel for the Ghost Riders

If there were any ghost riders following the red-eyed cows across the ragged sky and up a cloudy draw over north-central Montana this week, as related in a popular song they probably stopped a-chasin' the devil's herd long enough to watch the historic Overland hotel in Fort Benton burning down.

The old hostelry was a familiar landmark to the cowboys and, equally, to many pioneer settlers of Oregon who slept in their bedrolls on the dirt floors and warmed themselves over buffalo-chip fires in the first building erected in that Chouteau county seat. For Fort Benton was an important station in the long trek from eastern states to Oregon as well as the stamping grounds for Indians and traders.

Never a U. S. military encampment, Fort Benton was first a trading post of fur companies. An adobe fort for protection against the fierce Black Foot Indians was built there on the upper Missouri river in 1850 and named after Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri whom Benton county in Oregon also honors.

First settlers along the Missouri were half-breed fur trappers and the Kentucky and Tennessee mountain men like Boone Caudill and Jim Deakins, so vividly described in "The Big Sky" by A. B. Guthrie, jr. For them Fort Benton (or Fort Mackenzie in "The Big Sky") was the backdoor to civilization; there they peddled their beaver skins and returned to their squaws, like Boone's Piegan Teal Eye, with provisions and whiskey.

Benton's primitive status was short-lived after a mountaineer showed up in 1857 with a buckskin sack of gold dust. Soon steamboats churned up the river from St. Louis, carrying prospectors and miners bound for the diggings and families bound for the Pacific Coast. From Fort Benton the pioneers went overland along the Mullan road, crossing the mountains near Helena, through the Missoula valley over the Bitter Root range into the Spokane country to Walla Walla with the Columbia river a few miles farther on.

Though thousands of easterners were funneled through the old post on their way west, Fort Benton held to its frontier ways until long after "Jim Hill's Road," the Great Northern railroad, brought the latest refinements from St. Paul and put the steamboats out of business. As late as 1882 visitors to Benton were warned to "walk in the middle of the street and mind your own business." It was a tough town — as tough as the buffalo hunters and wolves that preceded the equally ruthless organized cattle rustlers and horse thieves who made their headquarters in the Band Lands. It was frequently "shot up" by cowboys in for a oarouse and sometimes the sidewalks were so lushly carpeted with discarded playing cards that the wood planking was completely covered.

So the old Overland did not really belong in today's modern Fort Benton, a market-place for wool growers. Now it has gone up in smoke and maybe the cowpokes who didn't "change their ways" will sit around its ghostly tables with their fare and poker and talk about the days under the earthy sky when men like Boone Caudill led the way to the winning of the West.

## Mainland Opportunities

Another transport plane in charter service between Puerto Rico and the New York district crashed with heavy loss of life. Fifty-four persons perished when the plane dived into the sea.

The significance of the news story is not just in the loss of life but in the revelation of

## Age-Old Problems Still Plaguing China

By Stewart Alsop  
HONG KONG, June 8 — Even at ten thousand feet you sense it — too many people, too little food. Most countries look almost uninhabited from the air. But China, with its scratched and scabbed land, its scarred mountains, its endless jumble of mud villages, its brick red rivers carrying precious topsoil to the sea, looks like some vast hungry antheap.

The communists are inheriting the antheap. Now they are faced with the ancient, unanswered question which has faced all China's rulers: How are the ants to be fed?

This is the central fact. China's ageless ills have not suddenly disappeared with the substitution of one political power for another. When the communists took over the big cities, they also took over China's deficit economy, and they are beginning to suffer the consequences.

Now, for the first time, they are having trouble with the peasants. The reports of peasants' resistance to food collection come from so many sources that they must be based on fact. The reason is obvious — the peasants are no longer forced to share their production with the hungry populations of the great cities. Partly because of peasant reluctance to share the food, and partly because they lack skilled technicians, the communists are also having trouble with their newly won urban industries.

A European recently returned from the Great Kailan coal mines in the north told this reporter that production fell off almost

50 per cent after the communists took over. There are other reports of the same pattern being repeated elsewhere.

Not enough food and not enough industrial production spells inflation. In Peiping the "peoples' banknote" was officially pegged at eighty to the dollar. It has slithered down to hardly a tenth of that value.

In Shanghai the communist currency is reported to have depreciated by half in a single day.

Inflation begets corruption, because honest officials starve. The communists' chieftains are believed wholly incorruptible. But corruption is already attacking the lower reaches of the new officialdom. According to one reliable firsthand witness, for example, "You can buy your way through Tientsin right now, if you've got the money."

All this does not mean that communist China is faced with imminent economic collapse, nor that inflation and corruption have even begun to reach the full and hideous flower they attained in nationalist China. Yet an ancient process has started, and for precisely the same reasons that it has always started in China: too many people, too little food.

The central committee of the Chinese communist party has now announced how the party means to attack China's economic disease — by what amounts to a slavish imitation of Russia's five year plans. The whole political and economic emphasis is to be shifted from the peasants to the big city industrial workers. This program has horrified China's pro-communist intellectuals, who like many American intellectuals have fondly imagined that the Chinese communists were kindly agrarian reformers.

For it is obvious on the face of it that the communists plan

of the heavy traffic between the island and New York City. Impoverished Puerto Ricans have swarmed to the big city where they constitute a substantial chunk of population in the mid-city area. As American citizens they are free to enter the United States and reside here. Congested as their living quarters are in the big city they have a higher standard of living than on the island, even if they are on public relief. Much of the travel back and forth is by charter planes which offer lower fares.

The big city swallows up these immigrants, though the Spanish names identify their districts, and though their vote is coming to be reckoned with in city elections. It takes a calamity like this to acquaint the rest of the nation with this migration, with the ambition of our island brown brothers to share in the opportunities of mainland life.

## Another Canol Project?

The army engineers, according to announcement of Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, chief, is off on a new hunt for liquid fuel. This time it is looking for areas suitable for manufacture of synthetic liquid fuel, which means getting fuel from oil-bearing shales or coal or natural gas. A contract has been let to a firm of engineers for \$1,341,000 to make the survey.

Why didn't the army engineers call up the bureau of mines or the geological survey in the department of the interior to get information on this subject. These divisions have made extensive studies of coal deposits, oil-bearing shales, gas fields. The bureau has set up a pilot plant in Colorado to try out the production of petroleum from the huge stocks of oil-bearing shale in that state.

In Pennsylvania an oil company and a coal company are testing a process of producing liquid fuel from coal.

In brief, this field is being fully explored now; so why should the army engineers be butting into it? One would think after squandering \$130,000,000 on the Canol oil project in the northland during the war the army would keep away from the oil business. It hasn't though; and instead of depending on public and private agencies properly concerned with fuel supply it starts spending money on a survey for synthetic fuel for the next war which isn't in sight.

A woman, Mrs. Nellie Ross, former governor of Wyoming, is director of the mint. Now the president has nominated another woman, Mrs. Georgia Neese Clark of Kansas to be treasurer of the United States. One woman runs the plants that mint the coinage; another woman will have her name signed on all the currency. The US is merely catching up with family custom — the wife handles all the money.

The Salem postoffice will celebrate its centennial on Nov. 8th this year, and Postmaster Gragg has received a special stamping die to use on outgoing mail in the fall of the year. The first postoffice was at the northeast corner of Commercial and Ferry streets, diagonally across from the Statesman building. While the center of town has moved northerly it hasn't gone very far in a hundred years. We're slow-moving here.

Our entry for the next Burlington, Vt., liar's contest is Whittaker Chambers — not for quality but quantity.

Corvallis will go on daylight saving time-catching up with Salem and ahead of Eugene.

## Henry Strikes A Sour Note; Treaties — Bah!

By Henry McLemore  
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., June 8.—Private opinions made public: I believe that "peace treaties" are the bunk, pure and simple. If nations are at peace, want peace, and are on the level, why in the world do their statesmen have to put the fact in writing? That's about the same as swearing under oath to a friend that you are his friend and will not do him dirt. Indeed, such a signed pact would indicate, to my way of thinking that both you and your friend had no trust in one another.

Which leads up to an opinion that it is a laugh, pure and simple, if we ever sign a pact with Russia, and then put ourselves on the back for our smartness. I don't know much about history, but enough of it, I believe, to know that probably the easiest thing in the world is to break a treaty. There is always a loophole through which a dishonest nation can leap without touching its head. So before we sign anything in Paris, let us consider the price of ink and fountain pens, if nothing else.

It's a good thing they didn't call me as a juror in the perjury case against Alger Hiss. I would have gone in plumb biased against the government's star witness, Whittaker Chambers. Any man who has admitted, as Chambers has, that he once sold out his country, could never convince me of anything. If a man will do that, my guess is that his word isn't worth the effort it takes to pronounce it. Hiss may be as guilty as Judas, but I surely wouldn't convict him on the say-so of a man who, at one time, chose the enemy against the country he belongs to.

Will Margaret O'Brien ever quit crying about her mother's marriage? The first two or three million gallons of a child movie star's tears are newsworthy, but after that they get as tiresome as the steady rain on a South Pacific island during the monsoon time. One more tear out of Margaret and I, like Prince Aly with the photographers, am going to cane her. Frankly, that's what I think she needs. Besides, with an

## Your Health

Accidents to the ears occur rather frequently and here, as in other accidents, proper treatment may do much to ward off permanent damage and to prevent future complications.

One of the most common effects of injury to the ear is bleeding into the external ear, with the formation of a blood clot in the tissues. When this occurs, there is a smooth, tender swelling which obliterates the normal outline of the ear. The skin over the swelling becomes darker in color and there may be some throbbing and discomfort. This condition does not cause any disability, but, if not treated, the ear becomes thick and unsightly. This is commonly known as a cauliflower ear.

It is suggested that, if the material under the skin is fluid, it may be withdrawn by using a syringe and needle. Unfortunately, the fluid reforms and, to bring about a cure, it must be sucked out daily for a week or more. Putting pressure on the tissues with a dressing after the fluid is withdrawn may keep the blood clot from re-forming.

The pressure may be applied in various ways. A plaster cast may be used for a large swelling. A more easily applied dressing is one made up of a pad of cotton, which is firmly bandaged against the side of the head. This is replaced after three days, at which time the fluid which has accumulated within the tissues is withdrawn.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT



"No question about prices dropping... I offered only \$10,000 toward a new gym and without further shopping around they granted me an honorary degree."

## BOTTLE BABY



income estimated at \$3,000 per week, why should anyone cry? Shut up, Margaret! Not only that, dry up!

I must go for a man named Hickenlooper. Never met the Senator from Iowa, and he may be all wrong in his charges against David Lilienthal. But with a name like that a man has to have class to rise above the laughs of his grammar school mates, much less reach the senate of the United States.

There are only two great jobs

in the world. One is that of a weather forecaster. The other is that of a horse handicapper. They need not be right to hold their jobs.

If men in any other jobs were as wrong as often as the fellows who predict the weather and those who call the winners at the tracks, they'd be fired faster than a machine gun can be fired.

McNaught Syndicate, Inc.  
Some types of banana must be cooked before they can be eaten. The Babylonians developed banks as early as 2,000 B.C.

## Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "She typewrote the letter for me."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "illustrate"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Nineteen, evergreen, gangrene.
4. What does the word "profanation" mean?
5. What is a word beginning

with as that means "constant in application"?

ANSWERS  
1. Say, "She typed the letter." 2. Accent on second syllable is preferred. 3. Gangrene. 4. Act of profaning; especially sacred things. "The profanation of the name of God." 5. Assiduous.

## Oregon Payroll In '48 Highest In State History

Oregon's total payroll in 1948 was the largest in the state's history—\$962,749,620.

Figures released Tuesday by the state unemployment commission reveal, besides the overall gain for the state, that every county except Multnomah established a new payroll record during the year.

Multnomah's payroll was larger than in 1947 but below the record year 1944.

Marion county's payroll was \$40,449,626, compared to \$26,630,469 in 1947, an increase of 10.4 per cent. The Marion county payroll ranked third in the state behind Multnomah and Lane counties.

Figures released pertain to all workers covered by the state unemployment commission.

## Capital Electric Open House Set

Grand opening in its new place of business is set for Friday and Saturday by Capital Electric, now at 1480 Fairgrounds rd., according to Mr. and Mrs. Lowell W. Hann, owners.

The enlarged store, housed in a building erected especially for it, will be open until 9 p.m. on those days. Special features will include gifts for women visitors, refreshments from 2 to 3 p.m. and display of equipment.

The firm specializes in refrigeration sales and service, but also handles other electric appliances and repairs. Hann has been with Capital Electric since 1941 and the owner for the past three years.

## Board to Receive Bids On Woodburn Project

Bids for two building projects at the state training school for boys at Woodburn will be received by the state board of control until June 17.

The projects consist of construction of a five room residence for the superintendent and building of an addition to the employees' dining room.

## Remember — FATHER'S DAY is June 19th At The Man's Shop



## SURPLUS SALE OF SUN GLASSES

Polished optical lens! Gold-plated frames!  
\$2.98  
A Terrific Value

This is exactly the same kind of glasses our army fliers wore -- made to the same rigid specifications, made of the same top-grade materials: gold-plated frames with mother-of-pearl brow rest and nose clips, colored ground and polished optical lenses. These are the same glasses we sold at a fast clip last summer for \$3.95. Now a special purchase sends the price down to \$2.98! These glasses are practically indestructible -- and they come in their own protecting case.

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