

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Bonds for Roads?

An idea which merits consideration is offered by the Eugene Register-Guard for a state highway bond issue. The R-G has dug up statistics on the heavy cost of highway maintenance and argues that modernizing the highway system with new, wider and heavier roads would lighten the repair cost as well as reduce the cost of transportation. Here are the figures on maintenance as furnished by the state highway commission:

State Primary Highway System		
Year	Mileage Maintained	Total Expenditures
1930	3,672	\$2,117,233
1940	4,717	2,517,308
1949	4,818	7,482,267

State Secondary Highway System		
Year	Mileage Maintained	Total Expenditures
1935	1,975	\$ 429,824
1940	2,308	709,731
1949	2,473	2,362,453

For this year the outlay may run to \$12,000,000 for maintenance which will leave only \$15,000,000 from all sources for construction.

Bonding has been considered numerous times in recent years. It has not been done because of the burden the original road debt was in the 1930's. Also contractors and labor were quite fully occupied as it was. Lack of an adequate engineering staff was a handicap just after the war. The new war may bring similar conditions back.

The Statesman has been on the conservative side on this question; but can see where it would be economically sound to issue bonds to expedite our program if the work and material situation is anything near normal. The proposal should be explored when the legislature meets.

Freight Car Shortage

The shortage of freight cars is really putting the brakes on the Oregon lumber industry right at the peak of the producing season (except when fire danger calls for shutdowns). Affected particularly are the mills in western Oregon where the Southern Pacific lines are the chief rail outlet. Some mills have had to lay off men for lack of cars to carry away the product. A similar situation has prevailed in former years, but this year it has been worse because of the jump in production.

A representative of the SP told us last week that his road had bought more freight cars since the war than any other road and still was short. Normally cars leave the area loaded, but the westbound freight movement of less bulky materials does not equal outflow. Thus it is necessary to haul empties across the country to Oregon for the lumber cargo. Connecting roads if they need cars may be slow in making the turn-over, but regulatory bodies have given orders for the proper distribution of rolling stock.

The imminent increase in railroad freight due to the war has encouraged the roads to buy more freight cars and large orders have been placed in recent weeks. Prior to that carmakers were hungry for business because the poor railroad business last year scared out the roads on putting out money for new equipment. Why buy more cars when carloadings are falling?

That is what is wrong, the feast or famine business of the railroads. When business really is rolling there is a scramble for cars as at

neither the need nor the incentive is there. If the roads enjoyed adequate earnings on a fairly consistent basis then they would be better able to plan the purchase of rollingstock. As it is they buy by jerks.

The number of cars is not the sole criterion. New cars are larger in dimension and the more rapid train movement frees cars for reloading faster. But it is up to railroad managers to have on hand plenty of cars to take care of the country's business and company earnings should be maintained at levels to warrant their keeping plenty of cars and engines for the peak periods of peace and for the necessities of war.

Legion Yields on Bonus

Withdrawal of support for the veterans' bonus initiative by the American Legion is predicted by State Commander Samuel M. Bowe of Grants Pass. Action to this effect probably will be taken at the state convention in Grants Pass in September. It will accord with policy approved by the national organization of the Legion, to support extension of GI benefits to those fighting in Korea but to withhold support from bonus measures. The state VFW which jointly sponsored the Oregon bonus initiative will continue its support.

The action of the national organization of the Legion is both patriotic and timely. With a fresh burden rolling on the taxpayers because of the new war and necessity for rearmament it does not seem proper to put on Oregon taxpayers a burden estimated to run around \$55,000,000. This bond issue would run over a long term of years and would be borne in large part by the very men and their families whom it was supposed to benefit. Men would get and probably most of them would spend in a comparatively short time an average of say \$350. They would be paying back on it with interest added for a 20-year term.

Conservatism in public finance is the first protection for sound private finance. The Oregon bonus on top of other demands would weaken the state by adding greatly to its debt incumbrance. Withdrawal of support for the bonus by the American Legion is a sign that the measure is not demanded by a large group of veterans themselves; and is a definite recommendation to voters to vote "no" on the bonus bill.

The Square Dance

Our professor of biology used to recite over and over: Play is the rehearsal of ancestral work. So, he said, the desire of people to fish and hunt is just an instinctive response to what in the history of the race were demands for survival. But we stumble in classifying the square dance, now enjoying a great popularity, in any such way. What work did our ancestors do whose vestigial germs start oldsters to frolicking like that? No matter what the origin however the square dance is satisfying throngs of people from Central park New York to the shores of the Pacific. We haven't taken up with the craze—just to us it looks too much like real work instead of just a rehearsal of what great-uncles grandpapa did centuries ago.

The Dalles reports a unique outbreak of hoarding. Amid sizzling temperatures, reports the Chronicle, a run began for anti-freeze. Motorists want to be ready for their own cold war.

Continental U. S. Found Woefully Weak So Far As Defense Against A-bomb Attack Is Concerned

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, July 29—In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, a general war in the near future is improbable. But no sensible man can doubt that a general war is now possible. In case of war with the Soviet Union, it is only rational to assume that atomic attacks would be attempted against this country.

This is an unpleasant subject, but nothing could be more stupid than to treat it as taboo. And it is now time to ask how well this country is prepared to deal with such attacks.

One air force general who has been close to the subject for a long time answered this question by remarking that the continental United States is about as ready as Hawaii was on Dec. 6, 1941. Much has been written about the inadequacy of civilian defense. But all the discussion of civilian defense serves merely to obscure the obvious fact that civilian defense can only be a palliative — "like treating cancer with aspirin," according to one gloomy authority.

The job of defending the continental United States against atomic attack is, of course, essentially a military job. And what deeply disturbs the general quoted above, and others who have been close to the problem, is the simple fact that the military forces of the United States are simply not organized to do this job.

This is not merely a question of equipment, although, partly because of a psychological hangover from the period of

American atomic monopoly, and partly because of "economy," defense equipment is wholly inadequate.

Research and development, particularly in the field of atomic energy, has been allowed to lag, and the funds needed for an effective radar net were not requested even in President Truman's \$10,000,000,000 program. But it was the lack of an efficient command organization, rather than lack of equipment, which brought disaster at Pearl Harbor. And American military forces in this country are still organized for the traditional war of the past — a war fought exclusively on foreign soil.

Thus the only organized "theaters" are those outside the United States, in Europe, the Far East, Alaska, the Caribbean. These theaters are commanded by a single commander (like MacArthur in the Far East). This commander has authority over all the forces in his area, air, sea and ground, and he can use them as he sees fit in order to accomplish missions assigned to him by the joint chiefs of staff. In brief, the forces in these theaters, however inadequately manned or equipped they may be, are organized for war.

The forces in the United States, by contrast, are organized as though an attack on the United States were unimaginable. The army field forces are organized into six armies in six distinct areas. The continental air command is organized into four air forces, in four entirely different areas. And the navy is organized into nine naval districts, in still another nine areas. These continental forces are separately commanded by the three joint chiefs — there is no over-all command, since General Omar Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs, has no command authority.

Imagine an atomic attack on this country under this system of organization. All three services would immediately be involved in the most complicated and overlapping operations, in order to deal with the attack. Army troops would be essen-

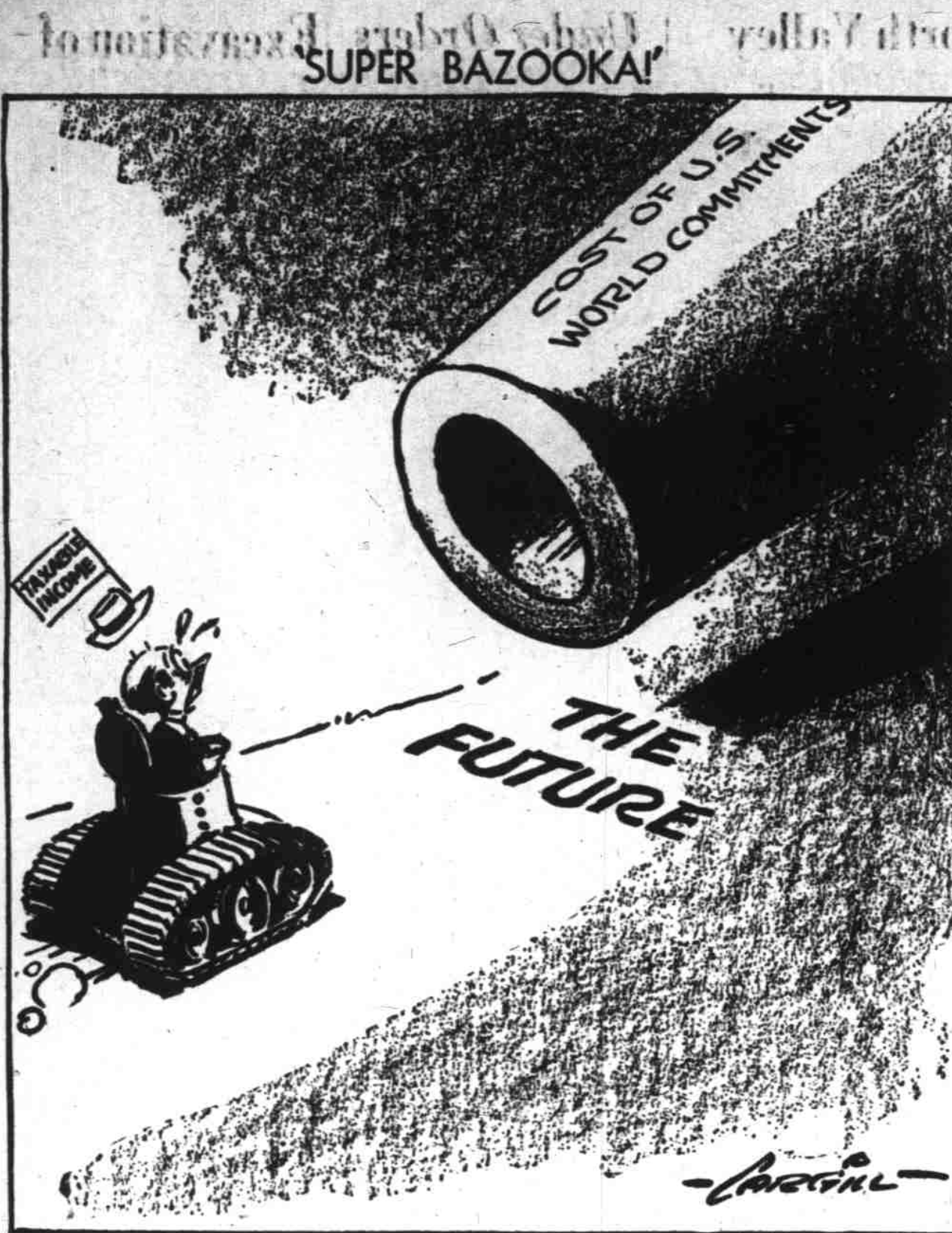
tial to impose martial law, deal with civil disturbances and refugees, and direct disaster operations. Army anti-aircraft and air force fighters would go into action against enemy bombers while air force transports would be urgently needed to airlift army troops to vital points. Naval units would be necessary both to provide picket ships for radar and to protect coastal ports against bombs lobbed by submarines or brought in by ships. And these navy units would have to work very closely with the air force and the civilian authorities.

The effort required would be as great and as complex as that in a major theater in wartime. Yet who would command this great effort? The joint chiefs of staff could not do so — this is simply not their function. The president would presumably appoint an over-all commander of the American theater. But under present circumstances he would assume his duties under the worst possible conditions.

He would have no staff trained to work together. And even if he had, his job would still be virtually impossible — aside from other contradictions, the simple geographical contradictions in the organization of the three services would lead to fantastic confusion.

All this was clearly recognized three years ago, when former Secretary of Defense James Forrestal ordered studies looking towards the organization of an American theater, under a single commander. The project soon died of a familiar disease — inter-service jealousy. But that was in the days when the United States still enjoyed its atomic monopoly. Those days are gone forever. So is the time when we could afford petty squabbles about what service should supply the American theater commander.

Fortunately there are those, particularly in the newly organized secretaries, who are fully aware of the urgency of the problem. Obviously, the sooner this awareness is translated into action, the better. Copyright, 1939, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.



Note to potential draftees . . . don't become unduly encouraged if, when you call Marion county draft board number, operator says: "That number has been disconnected" . . . because it really isn't so . . . board just uses another number—same as state selective service records office (listed under U.S. in phone book—just ahead of social security and army recruiting) . . . Sgt. Hugh Smith of army recruiters issued dispatch other day noting that nearly half the men seeking enlistment now are veterans of World War II . . . fact that most of them are married may have something to do with it.



H. J. Glover, columnist for Enumclaw (Wash.) Courier-Herald, in Salem July 5 . . . his calm about slaughter here on July 4 reads like war communique . . . he says: "Twisted automobiles and twisted human bodies . . . acrid fumes of liquor and gasoline . . . thick-tongued ravings of drunken men and women and pitiful pleas of the wounded and dying . . . pavements splashed with pools of deep red that would dry to a salmon pink in the rays of next day's sun."

Don't know where Mr. Glover got his fireworks but news reports (and memory) say Salem "spent quiet Independence day," with only minor injuries caused by firecrackers and careless hands . . . about only serious auto accident happened when motorist crashed into parked car and cut his forehead.

Eric Bergman swears he was crossing street other day when auto narrowly missed him . . . driver leaned out and hollered: "If I knew you were coming I'd applied a brake." . . . someone called up newsroom other night to inquire about reports of "accident" at Waters field . . . deskman, who had heard no such report, figured caller had heard of Senators finally winning ball game.

Maybe one answer to why we have shortages is habit of some wholesalers of using war scarce to boost sales . . . example—one dealer here recently received huge shipment of a winter-time item which was hard to get during last war . . . dealer hadn't asked for shipment . . . but wholesaler, in accompanying letter said in effect: This stuff might be scarcer than hen's teeth if the emergency gets worse. So we're loading you up now . . . so now the local retailer is using the same line to sell the stuff to customers . . . and no one knows for sure whether the item will be scarce.

Safety Valve

Likes News Reporting On Billy Graham To the Editor: We can't tell you how glad we are to see in print, in your newspaper, articles concerning the Billy Graham campaign.

It seems as though there is always so much strife and so many unlucky happenings recorded daily that it does our hearts good to see something cheerful and uplifting once in a while. Thank you for these articles and all others of an uplifting quality that you have edited. Sincerely, Mrs. Harry Keller. (on behalf of the Deacon Sunday School Class of the First EUB church.)



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

the earth will become like the moon, a waterless, treeless uninhabited globe, a mere dot in the vast universe.

At least, out of the void, matter has taken form, and on earth we live and move and have our being. No scientist makes a forecast of just how or when the earth will come to an end, whether by exploding into a mass of fragments or by contracting into a cold ball or blowing up into another gas cloud. We take the earth as it is, plow its fields, scatter seeds and reap harvests or mine its soil or cut its trees, actually raiding this great storehouse for our own sustenance. As for the ultimate mysteries of matter and time and the end of things man can do his best to probe into them but each discovery seems merely to push back the mystery. For his working arrangements he just has to accept the earth "on trust."

Local Motor Trips: Take south River road to site of new Independence bridge. Cross on ferry and return via Independence, Monmouth, Rickreall. Or take the road on this side of the river, following the base of Ankeny hill and out on Ankeny bottom to Sidney and across to Highway 99E and home.

Eola Hills — Cross the river at Salem and take Orchard Heights road to top of the hill and then down and return on Dallas-Salem highway. Or take Wallace road north and turn left over the hills to Amity or McCoy and back by Rickreall.

BECK TO MOVE TO USC PORTLAND, July 29 —(AP)—Dr. Lester F. Beck, producer of the educational film "Human Growth," has accepted a post with the University of Southern California.

Ways in Washington

By Jane Eads
WASHINGTON —(AP)— Congress has to consider almost everything under the sun—taxes, the cold war and trees, for instance.
Tall, gaunt Senator Saltonstall (R-Mass.), who in his long years of public service has earned a reputation for "plain" horse sense, brought up trees.

"I thought it would be extremely interesting if appropriate markers could be placed on historical trees not now identified on the capitol grounds," he told congress recently. "I also think identification markers should be placed on other trees so that the many people who visit the capitol each year from all over the country will know where the tree came from and have some information about it."

In response to the senator's suggestion, David Lynn, the architect of the capitol, seemed more than willing to prepare the plaques and identification markers for the trees. He said no additional appropriation was required for the purpose, the markers being made from wood in the capitol carpentry shop.

Mr. Lynn told the senator there are more than 2,000 trees on the capitol grounds, and he gave Mr. Saltonstall a list of their botanical and common names and where they are native. The senator had this inserted in the Congressional Record. "We still have an American elm planted prior to 1800 by George Washington," the senator remarked. "There is a red oak planted by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, sr., of Massachusetts on May 4, 1912. There is another red oak planted by the late Senator McNary of Oregon on April 20, 1923."

"In 1913 Speaker Joseph G. Cannon of Illinois planted a red oak. Vice President Thomas R. Marshall in 1912 planted a hickory tree. Rep. Joseph Walsh of Massachusetts planted an American birch. There is a tree to honor the mothers of America, a Boy Scout tree, an Arbor Day

tree. There is a war memorial tree — and so it goes."

The senator added that 22 states are represented by 21 varieties of trees. Also that nearly all parts of the world are represented — Europe, Asia, Japan, Canada, Persia, China, for example — that there are nine kinds of maples, five kinds of birch, three kinds of ash, 19 representatives of the magnolia family, 13 kinds of oak trees and nine kinds of elms.

'Fun in Sun' Prize Awarded

The right words said to the right person Saturday brought Betty Causey of Salem \$50, as the grand prize in downtown merchants' week-long "Fun in the Sun" event.

The winner said "fun in the sun" to Robert Wagers, who turned out to be the bearer of the grand prize. The merchandising specials are to continue through Wednesday.

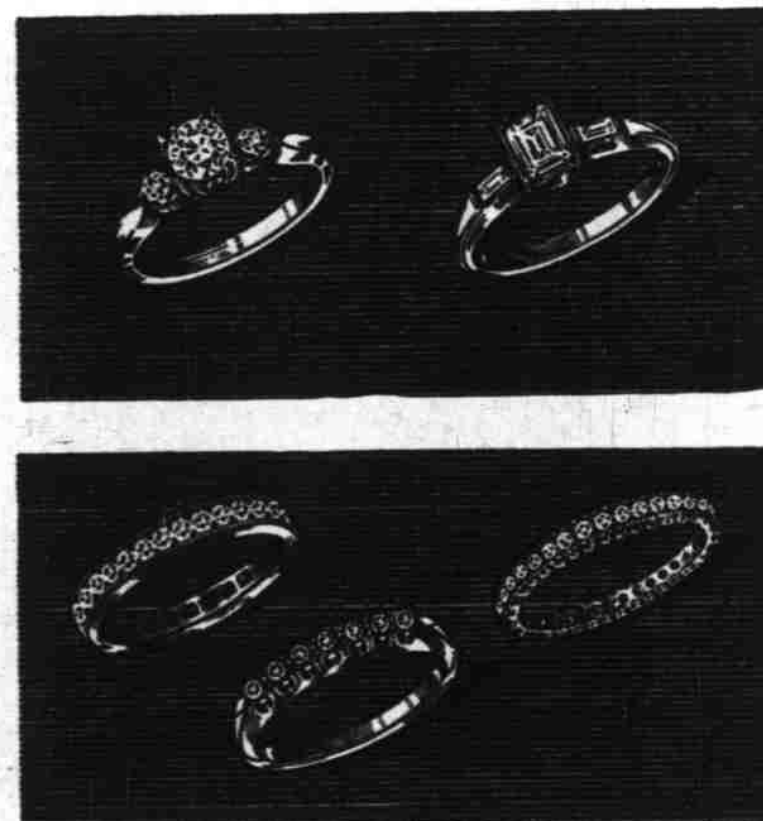
Teenage Salem Girls Missing

Law officers have been alerted to watch for two teen-aged girls who are missing from their home Thursday in Salem.

The girls are Sharon Jarms, 15, who is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds and has light brown hair and blue eyes and Dorothy Wagner, 16, who is 5 feet, one inch tall, weighs 90 pounds and has long blonde hair. Both girls have suitcases and possibly a portable radio, and the Jarms youngster may be wearing an engagement ring and a wedding ring.

HOT POET IN THE COOLER

BEIRUT, Lebanon —(AP)— A poet displeased a president and is now serving six months in jail. The poet is Omar Zainny, known throughout the Arab world. The president is Bechara el-Khoury, head of the Lebanese Republic since 1943.



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