

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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New Edition of Irving's "Astoria"

The true "nor'westers" of this century are Binford & Mort, book publishers of Portland, who help greatly to preserve in printed form the history and lore of the northwest and lend encouragement to northwest authors.

Latest addition to their shelf of books on the northwest is a reprinting of Washington Irving's "Astoria." It is beautifully done, with readable ten-point type and well bound with striking cover design. Illustrations by Harold Cramer Smith add much to its attractiveness, particularly the end papers, one showing the routes of overland travel of the Astor parties, the other the routes of the vessels sent out from New York by John Jacob Astor to establish a fur-trading post at the mouth of the Columbia, the origin of Astoria, first white settlement in Oregon.

Alfred Powers has written a foreword to this "Clatsop Edition" in which he relates the history of how Washington Irving took from Mr. Astor the assignment of writing the story of his business adventure which came to an end when partners, learning of the war between the United States and Great Britain, hastily and perhaps treacherously sold it out to the rival British Northwest company. For a long time, historians looked on Irving's work with a jaundiced eye. H. H. Bancroft regarded it as the work of a hireling to give "maudlin praise" to Astor. A later view is much more charitable, and Powers finds that Irving went at the work "with immense enthusiasm."

As for complaints of its inaccuracies, it should be recalled that Irving did not represent it as a factual journal, but gave it the subtitle of "Anecdotes of a Great Enterprise," and said his source material was the Astor papers and such conversations as he had with those still living, nearly a quarter of a century after the events.

With whatever its defects "Astoria" may have as history, it is still very interesting reading. The weaving of the narrative of the several parties and individuals is expertly done. How the parties were the first to make the full crossing along what later became the route of the Oregon Trail is a tale of high adventure. And the disasters of the blowing up of the Tonquin and the wrecking of the Lark were facts no matter how vivid Irving's imagination was in describing them.

The only defect we find in this otherwise admirable edition is the poor proofreading. Typographical errors are so numerous as to mar one's pleasure in reading this graphic narrative of what was in truth a "Great Enterprise."

Growth in Plywood Manufacture

Every little while one reads of the setting up of another mill in Oregon to manufacture plywood. Only a few years back the state had only two or three such plants. Now they are dotted over the timber region and more are going in, one at Astoria, another at Cottage Grove. "The Timberman," trade organ for the timber industries, has just issued its annual special number dealing with plywood. It reports that there are now 85 plants turning out plywood in the three coast states and British Columbia. Their production in 1950 was 2,400 million square feet with a value of over \$275,000,000. Fifteen years ago, 18 plants turned out 480 million feet annually. The magazine predicts an increase of 200 million feet of capacity in 1951.

Uses for plywood are spreading, and that builds up demand. It is used extensively in construction for forms for concrete. Besides indoor panelling it is used now also for flooring and ceiling on occasion and very generally used in cabinet work. Improved weather-resisting glues for binding the veneer has extended the range of use for plywood.

Manufacturers have learned how to conserve supplies of choice lumber for plywood by making the front of superior quality and the back and "sandwich" of lower grade. Skilled patching of panels also stretches the supply of peeler logs.

Veneer long ago came in to replace solid woods in furniture making. Now in plywood panels hardwood veneer is used on softwood base, and makes attractive wall finishing for homes and offices.

Coming in to compete with plywood is hardboard which is made by pressing sawdust or finely shredded wood into panels, using special chemicals for binder. This will utilize wood waste about sawmills.

Thus, the lumber industry is refining its manufacturing. It extends the recovery from logs and thus prolongs the life of our supply of virgin timber. Plywood manufacturing has become one of the important special industries of Oregon and the west coast.

Summer Street Preferred

The recommendation of the city planning and zoning commission offers a satisfactory immediate solution to the problem of routing of highway 99E through Salem. It proposes use of Summer street to Chemeketa for southbound traffic, as in the present plan. Later, when state capitol buildings are erected north of Chemeketa and west of Summer street, the traffic could be diverted at Marion to Commercial. Still later, when the capitol zone is extended north of Marion southbound traffic could be diverted to Winter at some point north of Marion.

The Statesman agrees with the first two provisions, but would leave for future decision the routing when the capitol zone reaches to D street. That is a long time off. Let those who are responsible for managing affairs then make the decisions. It does not seem advisable to us to use Winter street at any time because of the complication it would give to the one-way pattern of travel. But that matter can be deferred to the future.

We trust the city council will agree to retain the present plan of using Summer and Chemeketa, and suggest the use of Marion when it becomes desirable to divert traffic from the capitol zone.

W. A. (Bill) Bingham is the governor's choice for member of the liquor commission to succeed Richard W. Reed of Eugene, who has resigned. Reed was the member who took the junket trip to Chicago at distillery expense a year ago. He should have resigned then. Bingham is a capable business man, who was very active in the war bond selling campaign in the war. He formerly managed the Coca Cola business in Portland, but got out of that and went east. Attraction of Oregon drew him back and he is now in the automobile business in Portland. He knows plenty about the soft drink business; now he'll have to learn about the hard—and he will.

Joseph Stalin has agreed to run for election to the Supreme Soviet. What odds would Lloyds of London call for on a wager he wouldn't be elected?

America, Britain Must Lay Plans Now for Combined Action if Indochina Invaded

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 — There is a great deal more than meets the eye in the fact that the Anglo-American relationship, political and military, has been informally reviewed here on high levels during the last week.

The causes of the review are plain. We have proposed a United Nations resolution branding the Chinese communists as aggressors, and the British will now probably join us in supporting this step. If the resolution is passed, punitive measures will presumably be taken. Yet there is no visible agreement in Washington about what these measures ought to be.

And we have certainly not agreed about them with our allies, and particularly with the British, who must join us in taking them.

In the same manner, most American authorities still expect the Chinese communists to drive southward, into Indo-China, before very long. The British and French, although more optimistic, acknowledge the possibility. If the attack occurs, the crisis in Asia will be sharply intensified, and all sorts of urgent efforts will be needed to contain the Chinese onslaught before all of southeast Asia is engulfed. Yet again, these efforts have neither been planned in Washington, nor concerted in advance with our allies.

The western alliance has now to consider the possibility of a Soviet move in Europe in the spring, against Yugoslavia, for example. If such a move is made and goes unchallenged, the entire western alliance will surely disintegrate thereafter. But once more, there is no sign as yet that even this most grave of all possibilities is being considered in Washington. And our allies have simply been left to guess at our views on the subject.

This marked tendency to drift has led to a review of the Anglo-American relationship, for the extremely simple reason that the British would like some answers to the enormous questions posed by the problems listed. No doubt, after a while, answers will be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, however, any sensible American will incline to ask, "Why are we drifting?" which is a question much earlier to answer than "What to do about Yugoslavia?" Here the problem has to do with the peculiar organization of the American government. The difficulty begins in the White House, where President Truman waits for ready-made policy to come up to him from his subordinates, instead of inspiring and directing the whole process of policy making, as most Presidents have done in the past.

In theory, the president can afford to be thus passive and receptive, since the national security council is now charged with the precise task of preparing ready-made policies for all eventualities. But the malfunctioning of the national security council, as now set up, was disclosed at the outset of the Korean war. The council's policy paper, at that time, called for American non-intervention. The danger of general collapse of all forces of resistance to Soviet aggression even more loudly called for American intervention. The ready-made policy paper was torn up.

not be formulated years in advance, and put in pigeonholes until needed. The right decisions on great politico-strategic issues can only be made by the closest and most continuous collaboration between the responsible officials. And since the secretary of state and the secretary of defense have a good many other things to do besides confer with one another, the main burden of this collaboration must fall on the staff men at the so-called "working-level."

What we are suffering from today is the hangover from Louis Johnson's angry rupture of the former close state department-defense department partnership. In the defense department particularly, the men who used to carry on the partnership, like Generals Gruenther and Norstad, are no longer present. With all the good will in the world, the heads of the two departments have been too preoccupied to make sure that the partnership was restored. Thus, while the condition has improved immeasurably since the advent of Secretary Marshall and Under Secretary Lovett, it is still very far from ideal.

There are two remedies that ought now to be adopted. First, the strongest steps should be taken to insure that all the great politico-strategic issues confronting us are considered in good time, and in both their aspects simultaneously. Most probably, in the present, predominantly military situation, state department representatives should be called to sit with the joint chiefs of staff.

Second, since the British are our one essential ally, without whom we cannot act, the formerly intimate Anglo-American collaboration ought also to be revived and strengthened, by re-invigorating the combined chiefs of staff and adding political representatives to them. Thus, with these new rudiments, we may hope that the time of drift will end.

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"PACE THAT KILLS"



Ways in Washington Safety Valve

By Jane Eads

WASHINGTON — When Mrs. Owen Brewster, wife of the republican senator from Maine, first came to the capital in 1941, she didn't meet a republican for a whole week. "It was quite a shock," she told me.

A Wellesley graduate, born in Portland, Me., Mrs. Brewster was her husband's helpmate during his service in both houses of the Maine state legislature and two terms as governor. She was ready to take on the rigorous duties of a congressman's wife in the capital and plunged wholeheartedly into the regime, at that time more demanding than today.

"We lived at a hotel when we first came here, and the first republican wife I met was Marguerite Church, wife of the late Rep. Ralph Church, now herself a member of congress," Mrs. Brewster said. "In those days we had to call on everybody. Mrs. Church and I went out together, starting early and we did everything correctly. First call was at the White House, then the vice president's wife."

After that congressional wives had to call first on wives of members of their husbands' state delegations. Tuesdays, they visited wives of house members; Thursdays, senate wives. On Mondays, they called on wives of supreme court justices, who held "at homes" that day; Wednesdays on the cabinet, and Fridays, the diplomatic wives.

Until this calling business was terminated after World War II started, Mrs. Brewster herself set aside one Tuesday a month for an "at home," held particularly for Maine people. In addition to her calling, like most congressional wives, she joined the Congressional club made up of congressional wives, served once as treasurer and is now a member of the advisory committee. She also joined the Senate Ladies club, which is active in Red Cross work, and she belongs to the 74th Congress club made up of wives whose husbands came to Capitol Hill at that time. Mrs. Truman is a member of this group. Her husband went into the senate at the same time as Mrs. Brewster's husband.

Mrs. Brewster says her first duty has been to constituents. She used to personally conduct them about on sight-seeing junkets around the capital in her own car.

"I had three tours I took them on. It seemed as if I were always climbing monument steps." She continues this activity today as much as possible.

To the Editor: I attended the reception honoring Albert M. Patrick on his 90th birthday at Zena last Sunday and it brought to my mind a 4th of July celebration held at Zena 55 or 60 years ago.

Professor Crawford, father of Frank, at whose home this reception was held, gave the oration and I never heard a better one. After that we had sport contests grouped in different ages, with prizes. We wound this up with a free-for-all spoon and egg race. Some dropped the eggs the first two or three steps but eggs were cheap. I saw my mother sell eggs for eight cents a dozen.

Mr. Patrick, father of Albert M., who was then quite an old man, just ran away from everybody, won the race, handed the spoon and egg over to the judges and walked away with the prize. When they tried to remove the egg from the spoon it was held firmly in place with a stick of chewing gum. Irish ingenuity. We had fun in those days.

F. J. A. (Frank) Boehringer

Thinks Barber Bill Would Be Unjust To the Editor: Is it any wonder people have such little confidence in our state government when our representatives carry personal peeves into our state government such as the bill requiring barbers to have a high school education?

I am sure the readers of this column will agree with me; had this not been personal this bill would have been written to require a high school education for anyone before entering a barber college, instead of this bill that would outlaw many who have been successful barbers for years, who have put in two years, and some two and a half years in barber college, and apprenticeship training, besides having passed four state board examinations to qualify for a master barber's license.

I understand when the federal government approved the barber college, and other trade schools for the World War II veterans for G.I. training program, it was primarily for those who did not finish high school. I ask why undo all of this if the federal government has done for our veterans? I think this would be a terrible injustice to pass legislation that would outlaw barbers, causing them to lose their jobs and many of them to sell their shops and equipment after they are established.

In reference to the article that made front page headlines in The Statesman, Saturday, January 13: If this bill and the remarks made by some of our lawmakers concerning it represents the intelligence derived from their education I am sure the eighth grade education now required before entering barber college is more than sufficient for all discussion with them on most any subject of their choosing.

Why should the high school education be required by the barbers only? Why not have it for all? There are many in other walks of life that have much more time to converse with their patrons than the barbers, such as beauticians, elevator operators, bootblacks, bartenders, hotel clerks, and others that it is unnecessary to mention. Then intelligent conversationalists would be available to the politician around the clock.

Charley Stephens, 840 Vista Ave.

Stamps in The News

Korea also comes to the fore in the philatelic news. Three new stamps have arrived in this country from the Republic of Korea. They were issued last November when United Nations troops were in control of almost all the Korean peninsula.

The 100 weon light green shows an ROK flag flying over the White mountains. These mountains, incidentally, are in the northern part of the country where U. N. forces never reached. The 100 weon blue bears a portrait of President Syngman Rhee. The 200 weon dark green depicts a ROK flag and a U.N. flag flanking a map of Korea.



PRAGUE PEANUTS — Czechoslovakia has started importing peanuts from China. Fats will be made from them. Prague radio, reporting the first delivery, said such shipments "will help to lessen our dependence on capitalist states."

After the Korean island of Cheju was occupied by Mongol troops in 1272, it formed the base for two attacks on Japan, both of which were reputedly stopped by the "Kamikaze" or divine wind.



We were afraid this would happen... A gloomy sort of message from the Bicycle Institute of America, Inc., says the national emergency has put the brakes to bike manufacturing. What with shortages and all, velocipede makers are finding the going about as tough as pedaling uphill with a stick in the spokes. However, the bi-wheeled big-wigs feel it is "their patriotic duty" to produce as many bicycles as possible with available materials.

In case of gasoline shortages, note the pedal people, bicycles may well become the chief source of transportation. We can already foresee several drastic results of a bicycle riding society: (1) If you were late for work you could tell the boss you caught your pants-cuff in the chain (this excuse will work best for male employees), (2) A man could take a trip downtown without being forced by his wife to drag all the kids along, (3) You could share a parking meter space with several other bike-riders, (4) The standard excuse in police court would be "I couldn't see the other bike approaching, your honor, because my wife was riding on our handlebars," (5) Women riders could, at last, signal with both arms at once, (6) Fathers would, on occasions, be reduced to asking their sons if they could use their bikes for the evening, (7) The confusion at State and 12th streets at 5 p.m. would be a sight to behold.

Seven members of the legislature are Willamette university alumni. They are Sens. Frederick Lampert of Salem and William Walsh of Coos Bay, and Reps. Speaker John Steelhammer and Mark Hatfield of Salem, Melvin Goode of Dallas, Paul Geddes of Douglas county and Carl Francis of Dayton... Hatfield these days is busier than a two-headed legislator at a night-club. He starts out his day instructing early morning classes in political science at Willamette... then over to the legislature where HE is the student... and after adjournment back to school... all this leaves Mark little time to raise anything stronger than students' grades.

The fact that Charles Ireland, Statesman staffer, is home with the mumps isn't so odd when you consider that Charlie handles most of the school news—it's STILL probably pretty odd to Charlie, though... Although that big steam whistle atop the state heating plant was tested about five years ago (during WW II), civilian defense officials can't find anybody who remembers how loud it sounded... the whistle, according to legend, is supposed to frighten women and livestock 15 miles away... but when it was tested Wednesday it could hardly be heard above the secretaries' chatter in state offices.

Silverton residents are wondering if city fathers there hope the Christmas tree, erected at Main and First streets, will take root. The big tree was put up for the Yuletide by the chamber of commerce smack in the middle of one of Silverton's busiest intersections. And there it stands yet. Residents have suggested the limbs be lopped off and the tree used for a flag pole, or that traffic lights be placed on it, or that it be left standing and decorated for July 4th or used as an air-raid spotter's perch.

Literary Guidepost

THE POLITICS OF MURDER, by Joseph Bornstein (Sloane; \$4)

Accustomed as we are to doing nothing worse to an unpopular politician than vote him out of office, we find in this shivery book numerous examples of the cruder, bloodier methods to which less disciplined foreigners have resorted more and more frequently in our times.

The author, former Berlin editor and a fugitive from Hitler, sees an ominous significance in the increase in political assassinations, and is able tragically to present an impressive list of them. If the 20th century began with World War I, it began at Sarajevo, where the murder of Archduke Francis Ferdinand by Gavrilo Princip touched off the outbreak of hostilities that summer. As in some other dramatic incidents, highly placed government officials did not seem over-eager to protect the victim, and if there was not official connivance, there was at least criminal indifference.

Bornstein's point is not merely that blood was shed, but that the course of history has been vastly changed by such brutalities. He believes that Pearl Harbor, for instance, was the final link in a chain the other end of which was the assassination of Japan's conservative Prime Minister Inukai in 1932, when the military started to usurp civilian authority. Hitler's purge of Roehm and his associates persuaded the army to stand by the Fuehrer. The murdered Dollfus was succeeded by Schuschnigg, the murdered Barthou by Laval. Bornstein even argues that, since Stalin gained so much by Lenin's death, he may have been guilty of it.

The connection between some of the assassinations and the thesis that knife, bomb, bullet and poison affect history is occasionally remote, and the author might have done without some of the men done away with. No doubt they were included for good measure, and it all makes the most exciting reading.

POOR FOUNDATION

FLIN FLON, Manitoba —(AP)— Roadbuilding is tough in the Muskeg country. Forty feet of road disappeared into the Muskeg south of here, sinking six feet. Big trees were felled and put in the hole and finally there was enough to make another platform of sand and clay.

Advertisement for Stevens & Son, Jewelers - Silversmiths, State of Liberty. Features a diamond ring and text: 'Mark a Precious Moment with — A DIAMOND FROM Stevens & Son. Divided Payments No Extra Charge. Give her the diamond of her dreams. Make it doubly wonderful... select it at Stevens and Son.'