

# The Oregon Statesman

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

Statesman Publishing Company  
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Published every morning, business office 280 North Church St., Salem, Ore., Telephone 2-2441

Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Ore., as second class matter under act of Congress March 3, 1879.

### To Liquidate the RFC

Under congressional sentence of death the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is preparing to liquidate. It is making no new loans, will offer for sale the assortment of assets—\$700,000,000 worth—which it owns for the U. S. government. A new lending organization, the Small Business Administration has been set up to help finance small business, its loans being limited to a maximum of \$150,000 per borrower.

The RFC was established during the Hoover administration. Originally its function was to shore up banks and railroads which were in financial straits following the big market break of 1929. Under Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, it became a general dispenser of credit during the depression, and a source of financing for war industries later. In its life of 21 years it has made 240,000 loans with a total of \$13 billion. Its books show a profit of over \$600,000,000; but the final figure of gain will not be known until remaining assets are disposed of.

The chief investment of RFC is of course in bonds and notes. Some of its loans went sour, so it became an owner of lands, buildings, factories which it had to take on default of loans. It will take a long time to convert these mixed assets into cash; and the RFC may have to take losses on some of them. The prospect, however, is that, given continued good business conditions, the realization will be close to the book values.

What helped to seal the death knell for the RFC was the finagling that went on between its lending officers and some of the political entourage of the Truman administration. Stuart Symington did a good, quick job in cleaning up the scandal, but the scent remained, so there was little argument against the measure to wind up the RFC.

It served a good purpose in its time but its operations were unduly extended under the New-Fair Deal. It furnishes an example, however, and it is safe to say that in event of severe depression or war another government credit agency will be set up to ease the strain on established business or to finance war enterprises.

Electronics, reports the Albany Democrat-Herald, is coming to the rescue of salmon trying to get upstream over the dams. Direct-current waves are "squared" and run through the water and seem to attract salmon to fish ladders. When the invention comes in small sizes to fit around a fishhook maybe we'll resume fishing.

## Germans Started Working at War's End, Bringing 'Miraculous' Economic Gains

By ROYCE BRIER  
(in San Francisco Chronicle)  
David M. Nichol, a correspondent, went to Bonn and began wondering what had happened. He contrasted West Germany with France, the final victor, France which had been sitting on its hands and watching millions of workers enhance the country's stagnation.

He might also have gone to Rome, where postwar government never seriously attacked mountainous land problems, but like a bird motionless staring at its communist masses. He might have gone to London, where the Churchill government has been unable to disentangle from collectivist planning, where food is still short, taxes killing, trade and production sluggish, and where everybody has security without progress.

But Bonn is different, and the West Germans are different. They did not win the war, but all Europe, all the world, is talking about the West German economic "miracle." The Russians are a little nutty over this spectacle, so different from their own economic swampland. The British are jolly well bewildered. The French are envious and fearful of new German power, the Italians distract themselves with Irredentist trifles like Trieste.

But there is nothing miraculous about it. Let us go back.

A year after the thundering collapse of the Third Reich, the Germans were still a stunned people. Their cities were down, their money was no good, millions of them were garbage scavengers, more millions dulled-eyed DPs.

We and the British and French occupied the zones, and our people would show the Germans how to rehabilitate themselves. Now we were the Master Race. No few of our Atlantic people were proto-socialists who would help the Germans organize a collective community of controlled production and markets, meet to the New Time. It was to be a genteel planned society, supplanting Hitler's villainous planned society.

The Germans, however, had an instinct against this. A superbly competent people technically, it occurred to them they had never got anywhere

plus, is pleasant to squander it. It hurts to go to the polls and vote sane accomplishment, instead of voting for utopia tomorrow.

Of course this philosophy and practice infuriates many. You are greedy and oppose the greatest happiness of the greatest number, they say. Only the Welfare State, so-called, can confer that.

So what happens. So the West Germans have food, money, jobs, a sound government. So they aren't quailing before the Reds, having a system that outpaces the Red three-to-one. So they are emerging as the foremost producers and sellers of Europe. You ought to have seen them in 1944 when the Master Race—Americans, British, French and Russians—thought the Germans wouldn't get to their feet for 50 years.

## Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers  
OFF THE BOOK BEAT... A book, any book, has a lot of chances. Biggest one is sales. But if the public won't bite, maybe some jury will crown it so that the author's reward is at least an award. He may have empty pockets, but will stagger under laurel and myrtle. Maybe we haven't as many honors, empty or with cash, as in France, but we have a lot, among recent ones being: Marianne Moore, Bryn Mawr's \$5,000 M. Carey Thomas prize given to an eminent American woman, David John Mays, for "Edmund Pendleton," not only the Pulitzer but also the \$500 Early American History prize of the Institute of Early American Culture, in the Williamsburg, Va. Jared van Wageningen Jr., "The Golden Age of Homespun," to be published in July, written with the help of the Dixon Ryan Fox Memorial Award of the New York State Historical Association. For straight honors: Early Morse Wilbur, "History of the

### Sports Writers Are People

Contrary to a lot of opinions, including some of their own, sports writers are just plain people. Some such writers sit up on their own little thrones, murdering the king's English, tossing out barbs and pontifically predicting that Ye Auld Campus Whingding will wallop Joe Doakes College nine goal posts to three. And every once in a while they're right. But not Saturday. In fact, they were off the beam almost as badly as editorial writers sometimes get.

This week's newspapers will be full of pre-emptive explanations as to why things happened like they did. So by next Friday night the sports experts will be right back in good graces and their prognostications again will be the basis for four-bit bets. But not today.

"Willamette Heir Apparent to Northwest Grid Crown," sez one just before last week end's game. Mebbe so. But Willamette gets trod on 14 to 0 by CPS. "It's Nebraska, of course," sez another regarding the U. of O. fracas at Lincoln. So U. of O. promptly treats Nebraska to a 20 to 12 lacing. As for Colorado and Washington—"A nice break for Washington to get a practice game right at the start." So Colorado comes up with a 21-20 win. And as for Baylor and California—"Baylor has an up-and-coming eleven this season but there should be little doubt of the outcome." There wasn't. California lost 25 to 0. And Stanford? Let's just say COP won that one 25 to 20.

We don't profess to know what will happen when high-riding Oregon meets slow-starting OSC (the 41-0 victim of UCLA Friday), nor are we taking any bets. However, regardless of what the sports writers say about it the youngsters on the firing line will pay little attention, and the outcome could well prove once more that sports writers are just plain people. But we'd hate to be without 'em.

### A Loss Can Be a Gain

Lively little Jefferson, which would like to have a bank but doesn't need much else, is sound evidence that by-pass highways need not sound the death-knell to rural towns.

The reason was well presented in Sunday's Statesman by Gladys Shields, who with Husband Les Shields runs the Jefferson Review:

"If a town has honest, congenial merchants, giving personal, friendly service, it will keep the trade of its community, whether a national highway bisects it or not. It's the warm feeling of knowing one's grocer, druggist, filling station attendant, and having confidence in his service, that keeps the buyer coming back."

Many a town has found that losing a highway means losing a serious traffic hazard without marked effect on economic prosperity. Jefferson is one of them. And so far as Gladys' observations go, they can apply to the attitude of any community and any merchant—the successful of which already have put them into practice.

Editor Bob Ruhl of the Medford Mail-Tribune, sojourning in New York City, repeats his charge that it is the dirtiest city in the country. We fear he hasn't spent much time in Chicago outside the Loop, or he would reserve his superlative.

## ADVICE TO THE HUNTER



## A-Blasts Used To Bolster Russ Prestige

By THOMAS P. WHITNEY  
(Ex-Moscow Correspondent)  
LONDON — It looks as though Georgi Malenkov has had to shoot off a string of atomic firecrackers in order to prop up his prestige at home and abroad.

The political reasons may well have been more important than the technical and scientific ones in the Soviet government's decision to hold a recent series of tests of atomic weapons, which, judging from latest Soviet atomic bulletin issued Thursday, now have been completed.

June and July of this year were bad months for the Russian leaders.

In June the world was treated to an interesting spectacle of Soviet tanks quelling a worker's demonstration in Berlin.

Then immediately afterwards, in July, Malenkov had to publicly demonstrate to Russians and foreigners alike, by his arrest of Police Chief Beria, that sharp conflicts existed within the top Soviet leadership. Having undermined the purge technique by the release of doctors who were accused in January of plotting to assassinate Soviet leaders, he had adopted the purge medium himself.

These developments are rapidly spoiling the picture of monolithic unity of the Communist world and the immense Soviet strength which the Soviet government propagandizes so vigorously to help maintain its position inside its own country and outside among both its Allies and its foes.

In this setup Malenkov needed something big and dramatic to impress Russians and the outside world with Soviet might and to distract attention from the seamy side of Soviet politics.

What more useful than atomic weapons, particularly the hydrogen bomb?

Maybe this is why Malenkov ordered a puzzling last-minute postponement of the Supreme Soviet meeting originally scheduled for July 28-Aug. 5—so as to give Soviet atomic weapons experts more time to organize their explosions so they would follow immediately on the heels of his announcement that the

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page One)

escape to a foreign country. He is too dangerous a man to be abroad. Not only did he head the secret police, but he was also the administrator of the Russian atomic energy program. A man with such intimate knowledge of Russia's secrets surely must be confined under heavy guard.

But here comes the theory that Beria has such personal control of the police apparatus that surely he had a trusted chain of command which could effect his release and escape. Against this theory, however, may be posed this fact, that the

Russian system has destroyed any conception of personal loyalty. Fear is the ruling emotion and ambition, first for keeping one's neck on one's own head; second for holding one's position in the hierarchy; and third for climbing on top of the shoulders and heads of those on higher rungs of the party or government ladder. Beria's own swift downfall has been attributed in part to the disloyalty of his close associates and subordinates in the police apparatus.

So before accepting the wild rumors that are afloat one would do well to apply for a writ of "habeas corpus" on those who propagate it. Bring Beria dead or alive within the purview of critical observation. If indeed Beria has escaped from Russia it seems quite improbable that he would expose himself anywhere; and likewise improbable that he would seek asylum in the United States, the arch-foe of Communism and of the USSR which he served so long and with such wicked competence.

Popular credulity reaches often to great extremes. There were those who persisted in the belief that Hitler had escaped to Argentina. And John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, was kept alive in rumor for many years. Until some real evidence is introduced I would put down the Beria rumor as the "flying saucer of 1953."

## Gale Sweeps India Troops Overboard

HONG KONG — The 5,233-ton Indian troopship Jalagond enroute to Korea with custodial troops radioed Sunday that three soldiers were swept overboard when the ship encountered the typhoon that passed south of here on Friday.

More than 2,000 persons whose homes were burned down in fires in January and February lost their temporary shed homes due to winds that accompanied passage of the typhoon. They have been moved to hangars on Kaitak Airfield.

In their previous tests they had contented themselves with one announcement only for each.

## Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I ought to be of known that the man with the cane was him."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "mosaic"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Hammock, sumac, pestilence, atmospheric.

4. What does the word "hyperbole" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with co that means "a surmise; a guess"?

### ANSWERS

1. Say, I ought to have known that the man with the cane was he." 2. Pronounce mo-zai-ik, o as in no, a as in day, accent second syllable. 3. Pestilence. 4. Evident exaggeration. "The writer's work was marked by hyperbole." 5. Conjecture.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"Answer Junior's questions about the 'Boes and Flowers,' Otis!... you aren't justified in refusing on the grounds you might incriminate yourself!"

## Inside TV

# Canned Laughs Are Worse Than None

By EVE STARR

HOLLYWOOD—TELETORIAL: The dubbed laugh just ain't funny. This frustrating habit of tossing in a canned yuk from a non-existent audience whenever a director thinks it is deserving on film presentations, takes top spot on my list of vexing video.

The men responsible base their gimmick on a sound premise—that laughter is infectious. Unfortunately, however, spontaneous laughter is not available in the close confines of a sound stage where no audience is allowed. Therefore they feel it necessary to tape it in. This, they hope, will cue the home viewers to laugh and convince themselves they have just seen a very funny bit.

But who's to say what Mr. and Mrs. TV Peeker are going to find humorous. It is totally unlike radio or live television programs where the studio audience (human beings, you understand) like the folks at home provides the laugh kick-off. Better no laugh at all than a raucous, badly-timed and entirely forced braying by those too close to the show.

CRITIC'S CORNER: Hollywood took a tighter grip on its standing as the entertainment capital of the world with the presentation of Lux Video's Theater's first live airing from the multi-million dollar CBS West Coast studios. Heretofore, Lux has hung its wares on the East-West line.

Ronald Reagan and Maureen O'Sullivan piloted the initial vehicle, "Message in a Bottle," in their usual excellent form backed to the hilt by capable George MacReady. The 30-minute show lacked the suspense that might have been worked up in a whole hour, limited time forcing swift scripting. Technical excellence of the CBS facilities allowed smooth scene transitions and believable time bridges.

STARR ROUND-UP: Rambunctious Martha Raye will be whooping it up in your living room on the "Show of Shows" once a month this year. Her first starring guests, Maggie Truman and Rocky Graziano, will be in there sparring. . . . Another documentary-type television series will begin in October called "The Turning Point." Producer-writer Douglas Morrow has been assigned the first 13 shows. . . . Checked with Norman Siegel, CBS publicity director in Hollywood but he tells me there is no "Jane" set for "My Friend Irma" as yet, but Mary Shipp will play a "dominant character" in the show along with Marie Wilson. . . .

Robert Montgomery's Summer Theater will be on again next year, you can bet. The tab for each show, \$62,000 per hour, should give you a small idea of video costs. . . . Motion picture producer Eddie Buzzell will direct the first three Milton Berle TV shows. This marks his debut in live video direction. Buzzell is preparing a new teleseries called, "Third Girl from the Right," and may star cute June Allyson now that June is no longer under contract to MGM. . . . Janie Powell, looking glamorous in her appearances on local TV platter panel shows, is a smash success at the Coconut Grove in Hollywood. Joan Caulfield, Marie Wilson, Lucille and Desi, George and Gracie and Joan Crawford were part of the cheering section opening night.

Hoagy Carmichael tossed a shindig for the 250 folks who helped make "The Saturday Night Revue" pleasant work. . . . Choreographer Billy Daniels may do the routines for Betty Grable for her forthcoming stage show with Harry James opening at the Chicago Theater November 18. Following the horses must agree with Betty—she's never looked more beautiful. . . . Fans in New York have asked for "Victory At Sea," NBC's television film documentary and so it will be re-shown for 26 weeks beginning September 22. . . . Droll Fred Allen wonders how the guy who keeps his nose to the grindstone, his ear to the ground and his shoulder to the wheel gets any work done. . . . Heard on the "Half-Pint Panel"; the teacher who asked the 5-year-old to say something in order to test her I. Q. was surprised when the youngster asked her, "Do you want logical, connected sentences or purely irrelevant words?"

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## Time Flies:

From The Statesman File

10 Years Ago  
Sept. 21, 1943

The last Nazi barrier the Russian army slashed across the Dnieper river line, to push the Germans back to their invasion boundaries.

The Oregon State college football squad the most "home grown" in several decades, has a roster of 32 Oregon players, Coach Lon Steiner revealed. On the team from Salem was Norm Sholseth.

Governor A. B. Langlie of Washington was a house guest at the home of Governor and Mrs. Earl Snell.

25 Years Ago  
Sept. 21, 1928

A fire at Lake Labish near Brooks, swept through 25 acres of valuable timber. Salem and Mt. Angel firemen saved buildings in the farm areas.

Directors of the Oregon Pulp and Paper company held a meeting to consider abating the cin-

der nuisance that has afflicted Salem for years which has caused Salem to be called the "cinder city" of the West.

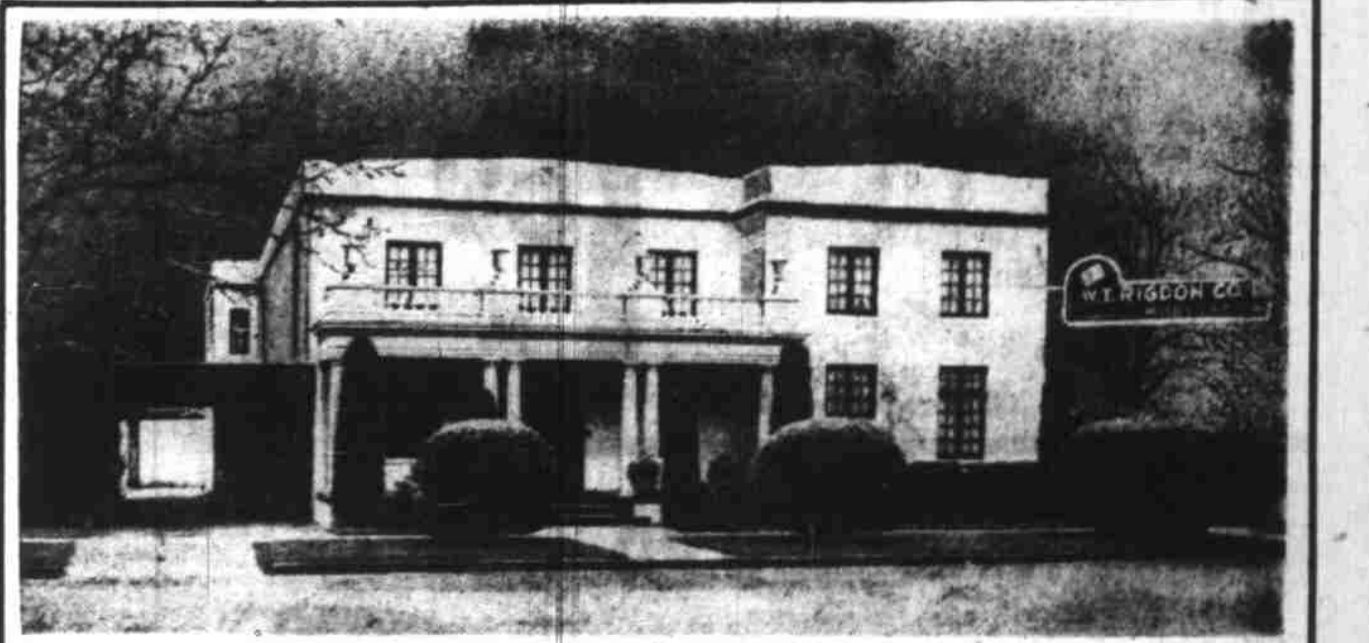
Karl Hinges, drum major of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps for four years, participating three times in winning the state contest, resigned "Mutt" Williamson will be the new leader.

40 Years Ago  
Sept. 21, 1913

M. Pegoud, the daring French aviator, startled the world by his remarkable "loop the loop," which he performs while traveling at a fast speed a thousand feet in the air.

Nine standard prunes grown by William S. Walton, secretary of the fruit union on his place in the city, weighed 21 1/2 ounces, an average of seven to the pound.

Harvey M. Slater, son of Judge W. T. Slater of this city left for Baltimore, Md., to enter the junior class at Johns Hopkins University.



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