

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Mainliners vs. Streamliners

All-but-pilotless airplanes; chats between homes and speeding cars; giant machines which lay houses like eggs—if Jules Verne had known of things like these, the French novelist (1828-1905) might have hid his own fanciful stories in shame. He's just outdone.

United Air Lines' latest announcement of the electronic pilot, in fact, just about puts even the weather in the class of things unimportant, so far as aviation is concerned. And when the weather gets in that category, it might as well give up and be nice.

Hydraulic automatic pilots have been in use for some time, but their functions are limited. Not so with electronic devices. W. A. Patterson, UAL's president, says "we are entering a new era — which will lead ultimately to complete automatic flight." But he hastens to add that "this does not mean we are going to dispense with human pilots." The latter will merely "be given more time for flight planning and other light duties."

Under plans now scheduled to be operative within the next few months, planes which pick up localizer radio signals with their new equipment, as they approach an airport, will follow a precise sloping beam automatically to a point just over the end of a runway, where the human pilot will take over. Yet the landing operations in no sense will be "blind." The plane will be under rigid control from the ground as if it were being drawn down on a huge track from the skies. There will be no dependence on variables such as altimeters or the kind of beams from which planes can veer through human error—as in the so-called blind landings of the past.

Already UAL is starting to equip its Mainliner Martins with the new automats, and airport localizers and glide paths are being installed by the civil aeronautics authority on the nation's air routes. A survey of the Salem airport was made last fall by the CAA, and it was understood the contract for new radio localizer ground equipment was to be let. But so far nothing has been done. The same situation obtains in Portland, Seattle, Pendleton and other western cities.

Salem currently has but two north-south flights daily. It is no secret that more stops might be made here if weather did not frequently hem in the field or if equipment was such as to make the weather less of a factor. President Patterson of UAL undoubtedly had the new electronic pilot in mind during a visit here some months ago when he forecast Salem as a major port of call in postwar years. Present indications are that ground equipment for the device may be installed later this year.

Salem's airport now is under city jurisdiction by virtue of an interim military permit, issued by the army pending formal cancellation of its wartime contract. As the site of the capitol, this city already is regarded as a "prestige" link in UAL's main system, and sufficient business to establish it as a major economic asset to the airline is confidently expected as the area grows. If there wasn't such expectation, UAL wouldn't have offered to construct a \$75,000 administration building under conditions which the city has had under advisement several months.

With the advent of electronic pilots which laugh at murky skies, the Salem airport with its roaring mainliners should be fully as interesting a scene as the railroad station and its projected streamline limiteds.

Krug Is Appointed

J. A. Krug, President Truman's nominee for secretary of the interior, is a man with an excellent record in public service. He is a native of Wisconsin, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, worked as research statistician for the Wisconsin Telephone Co., then went on the staff of the Wisconsin public service commission. After a turn with the FCC he became chief power engineer for the Tennessee valley authority. With the outbreak of the war he became consultant on power for the OPM. Later he went with WPB and succeeded Donald Nelson as director. Thus he has had rather wide experience as a public administrator.

Business interests who feared from his connection with TVA that he would be a long-haired socialist found him practical-minded.

Editorial Comment

ATOMIC BOMB LIMITS

What Dr. Leonard Loeb, navy research physicist, says about the limitations of the atomic bomb is apparently inherent in the nature of atomic fission of Uranium 235 and Plutonium. He advances, in a Naval Ordnance Laboratory Bulletin, the opinion that these bounds on size will probably prevent making the bomb many times more destructive than it now is. We should not look for atomic bombs a hundred or so times more devastating than the one that struck Hiroshima.

The chain reaction that causes the explosion does not occur in Uranium 235 or Plutonium unless there is a mass of the metal above a certain size, not yet revealed. Masses under this size do not go off. The tendency of the enormous heat generated by the fission, Dr. Loeb points out, is to throw the metal apart. The heat, he says, runs a close race with the chain reaction; in a mass above a certain size it would probably break up the metal and scatter it in chunks too small for fission to operate. The bomb can be too small or too large. We need not expect a single bomb big enough to wipe out California or even Ohio at a crack.

To the slight comfort in this announcement may be added another consideration brought forward by Dr. Loeb, one common to all kinds of bombs. If a bomb of given power has a destructive radius of a mile, one twice as big does not reach out two miles, but only 1.4 miles.

In view of the probable exaggeration in the public mind of what the atomic bomb can do these checks on imagination are useful. The thing is portentous enough without enlargement. — San Francisco Chronicle.

He performed well through the closing days of WPB and then engaged in private business as a consultant. He now is recalled to public service in one of the most important offices in the country. Those who know him vouch for his integrity, which is a prime requirement in this office. A comparatively young man, 38 years of age, he should bring to his job vigor and alertness. If he has mental toughness too, he ought to be successful in this difficult task.

One question sure to arise is what his attitude will be toward valley authorities. Harold Ickes favored regional development but insisted that it be prosecuted under existing agencies, many of which centered in the interior department, and that no separate independent agency be set up, like TVA. Sponsors of independent agencies were bitter at Ickes for opposing MVA. They will wonder what Krug's attitude will be. Private power interests also will be concerned because the interior department under the law manages the sales of all government hydro-electric plants except TVA. A fair guess would be that Krug will take plenty of time to study the problem, and that he will make up his mind on the basis of what he thinks is best for the country.

Some complaint was expressed because a westerner was not chosen. In view of local pressures this paper believes it is better to have some one not definitely tied up with the west and its factions and group interests. Krug has lived in Wisconsin which is near enough the great west to supply him with something of its atmosphere. He will quickly be able to grasp its local problems and needs. The president's choice merits commendations.

Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The announcements said it was a "bold" program which Mr. Truman proposes for the building of 2,700,000,000 new houses this year and next.

It was bold enough in a way, but those who know the inner workings—or non-workings, at present—of the building trades, recognized it, with their more practised eyes, as a familiar, typical program of the Roosevelt type.

It is sure-fire politically; otherwise a blunder bus. (Note: A blunderbus is a noisy gun which does not shoot straight.)

The troubles of the great lagging construction industry are twofold: (A) prices, and (B) labor. The report of Mr. Truman's housing administrator Wilson Wyatt considered the trouble as onefold: A shortage of materials. But materials scarcity is the visible reaction from the two greater, deeper, or causes. Price of materials, in general, have been held at 1941-42 levels. But building labor, in general, has had two or three raises in the war years. Producers of building materials simply could not make money, and were crushed by the pressure of increasing labor costs against a frozen price ceiling, as many another industry in this period. Not being able to make any money, these producers went out of business, curtailed unprofitable production, entered other lines, or retired to the sidelines.

Contracts Fall to Find Bidders
I have heard of contracts for the building of roads going begging today, not because of the shortage of materials, but because no contractor can make any money from them. Incidents of this revealing nature have occurred in New York, Minnesota and other states. The contracts offered by the states, municipalities or others are founded on the 1941-42 price level, and it is impossible for any contractor to get materials or labor at those levels.

In one locality I checked, the common day labor wage, for example, is fixed at 65 cents an hour, but no builder can get common labor short of \$1 an hour—approximately one-third more than the theoretical wage scale yet the actual wage-cost is much higher because labor has slowed down on work in the war years, and productivity per man is incalculably less.

To meet this trouble, the Truman-Wyatt plan, in basic essence, proposed to pay a "premium" (cash bounty) to producers of building materials out of the federal treasury, in order to induce them to go back to production. No set scheme of payment was offered. The opportunities for favoritism and politics are left open by the wide federal power to pay one producer one amount, others another. Indeed, three different brick-yards at the very same city could be handled differently. A high-cost producer could get a government subsidy, a medium cost producer could make an average profit, and a low-cost producer could make a high profit without subsidies.

Price Increase Declared Justified
The theory, thus, is to transfer the farm subsidy plan to the building industry, and take the money of all the people from the federal treasury to pay to unprofiting operators in order to avoid a price increase which is justified by all the facts.

Consequently, the building industry is largely laughing within its sleeve at the program, inwardly calling it "just another Washington proposition," while willing to take any money Washington wants to throw around. The politicians in congress, on the other hand, are taking it up eagerly, as they do all this type of spending, and no doubt legislation setting the program in motion will be enacted without much opposition.

After all the defects, then, the only live, remaining question is: whether the program will build the 2,700,000,000 houses which are needed. Will it do the job? It may.

Mr. Wyatt, who will be in charge, is a promoter rather than a builder. As a former Louisville mayor and new dealer, he is what the administration boys call "a live wire." He may build that many houses, as Greenbelt, Arthurdale and other places were built, but at an uneconomic cost.

What the industry would prefer is a continuance and expansion of the federal housing administration, which has worked out well by making loans to encourage homebuilding, and a realistic upward revision of the price ceilings to make the construction of building materials profitable.



Just a Preliminary of the Big Fight

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

of the war was of the best quality, blames the poor reporting on the censors. In an article in February Harpers he tells of the news vacuum of the war, with instances like this:

"Censorship succeeded beautifully in concealing the name of the commander who asked for reinforcements to quell 2000 Japs on Attu when he had only 15,000 men and the support of a fleet. . . . No one was allowed to hint that the famous V-mail device was detested by the men at the front and was usually so incompetently managed that ordinary letters and postcards beat V-mail for speed."

Praet says that the navy censorship system showed improvement in the progress of the war but that "the army clung throughout to Brigadier General Surles, retired, who—whatever his talents were in other directions—simply lacked the background to be anything more than one of the glorified lackeys of the army system produced."

Praet doesn't put all the blame on military censors. To quote: "Far too many of the representatives of the press were old political, police beat and district men, trained in the spot news tradition, who failed completely to realize that reporting a war is a business of writing a continuing series of feature stories. Under the official repressions most of them turned into 'handout men' waiting around headquarters for the communique and any attached releases, then simply putting these in their own words for the cable."

The war is over now, and we can look back on it with improved perspective. The press thought it was doing a pretty good job. Now it sees great deficiencies, attributable in part to the vastness of the war to be reported, the difficulties of getting the facts, the impediments of censorship and communications, and inadequacies

The Literary Guidepost

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.

THE CIANO DIARIES, by Count Galeazzo Ciano (Doubleday, \$4). The interest which attaches to someone else's mail remaining what it always has been, "The Ciano Diaries," recording the purported reactions of Mussolini's young foreign affairs mouthpiece during the years 1939-43, undoubtedly will stand as one of the most interesting books of the year.

Aside from that, the value of the diaries in fixing responsibility for the history of the period is little more than corroborative.

Sumner Welles vouches for Ciano's authorship. Authenticity of content is another matter, when it is considered that Mussolini knew of the existence of the diary and that Ciano was well aware of the proclivities of his dear Duce's secret police.

It must have been much like writing on the walls of the Colosseum in broad day. Like so many diaries which display great prescience concerning events which occur long after the date of entry but long prior to publication, one comes to wonder if a little hindsight may not have helped the author before he smuggled the notebooks to his wife, who brought them out of Italy.

Either that, or young Ciano was one of the most farsighted men of his time, who saw the future of the Axis more accurately than anyone else.

With regard to the hinges upon which the events of his days turned, there is no reason to doubt Ciano's familiarity, and his version is extremely interesting if seldom importantly revealing. Principally he serves to emphasize how well the world at large was informed regarding the inner workings of the Axis. The psychology of Mussolini and Hitler, the methods of the Nazis, the relations between Italy and Germany, their war aims, all appear much the same as they did during the war.

Ciano completely adopts what allied writers were saying of the disparity and dislike between Italy and Germany, the sure awareness of the Italians,

of reporters. We can admit failures; but we do not ask for another war to demonstrate we have profited by past mistakes.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

PROTEST OVER DEATH OF BOXER

To the Editor:

Many people were shocked this last week, when they read of the brutal killing of the young man in the boxing bout otherwise prize fight in our local armory. And now many are more shocked at the complacent way the tragedy has been received without any individual or group uttering a protest. What has happened to our fair city of Salem, meaning Peace, which was founded by Christian missionaries. Has human life become so cheap that it can be snuffed out without any protest? Have such fatalities become so common that they are taken for granted? Is this licensed barbarism another "sacred cow" that must not be touched or spoken against? Or are we waiting for those guardians of our morals, the elect ladies of the WCTU to voice our sentiments in their usual protest?

Some of us who do not applaud such lethal blows would like some information. The verdict by the coroner's inquest was that death came from a "subdural hemorrhage" which was caused by a blow struck by his opponent and that his opponent was "exonerated." On what grounds "exonerated"? Was it an accident or in self-defense or was it licensed murder? Had the lethal blow been struck in some dark alley would there have been a negro lynching instead of an exoneration. What hope is there to check juvenile crime when a 16 year old is almost commended for such a crime. What about those who promoted this tragedy being contributors to the delinquency of a minor.

Now it is proposed to hold another similar performance to raise money for the bereaved widow. Is that the price to be paid her for the life of her loved one? Will that assuage her grief? Will that exempt those responsible for the death from all claims in a suit for damages? Who will be the next victim to be given a "subdural hemorrhage"? For the sake of decency and the sacredness of human life let us have done with this kind of entertainment in our city. It is too costly.

FRED C. TAYLOR, Salem, Ore.

Dr. Fairham Notified District First in Area To Pay Cash on Pledges

Dr. Silas E. Fairham, former superintendent of the Cascade district of the Methodist church, has been notified by the Portland office that his district was the first in the Portland area to meet in cash its pledges to the Crusade for Christ program. The amount was more than \$40,000. The Portland area includes Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Dr. Fairham was recently released, at his own request, from the leadership of the district because of ill health. His place was taken on February 1 by the Rev. Oliver J. Gill of Pendleton.

AVC Schedules Meeting with Vets at YMCA

Any man or woman who was honorably discharged after service in the armed forces, merchant marine, or in allied forces in World War II, is invited to the first Salem meeting of the American Veterans Committee, at the YMCA at 8, Thursday night.

Leslie D. Renniger, Spokane, Wash., who is a field secretary of the organization, will attend the meeting to advise veterans on the formation of a local chapter. A Portland chapter, the only one in Oregon, was formed February 12.

The committee started with a group of friends of Gilbert Harrison, army corporal, who corresponded about their ideas on how to secure the peace, jobs and freedom for which they were fighting. The group grew until a headquarters was set up with Charles G. Bolte, a Dartmouth graduate, who lost his leg at El Alamein while serving with the British army, as chairman.

The statement of intentions of the AVC includes: adequate financial, medical and vocational aid for every veteran; thorough social and economic security; active participation in the United Nations organization and the establishment of an international veterans council for the furtherance of world peace and justice.

Salem Scout Troop 4 Wins Discabobolus

Eighty-three boy scouts and leaders from Salem troop 4 of the First Christian church and from troop 8 of the First Presbyterian church took part in a scout "discabobolus" held Monday evening at the social hall of the Presbyterian church.

Troop 4, with the Rev. Clay Pomeroy as scoutmaster, won the "discabobolus" by taking first place in Morse signaling, dressing race, O'Grady drill and troop inspection and by tying for knot tying and semaphore signaling.

Host troop 8, with Scoutmaster Don Douris directing, won the box-the-compass contest and rooster fight. A return meet is set for next month at the First Christian church with troop 4 as hosts.

Scout leaders present Monday included Roy Burns and Francis Chambers, troop 8 assistant scoutmasters, and Rex Wirt and Leslie Morris, troop 4 assistant scoutmasters.

Red Cross to Hear Talk by Milton Boone

Milton C. Boone, Portland, who trained with an outfit for the Okinawa invasion and landed there on April 9 of last year, will be guest speaker for the annual meeting of Marion county chapter American Red Cross Thursday at 8 p.m., Willamette university music hall. He will highlight some of his experiences as field director there, also during the time he served later as a field director with the 10th naval construction brigade.

The general public interested is invited to the Thursday meeting, especially all those working with the Red Cross program. Miss Carlita Drebbel, recreational director with the Red Cross at the U. S. naval hospital at Corvallis, is to sing Justice George Rossman, chairman of Marion county chapter, will preside, and at the short business session new chapter directors will be elected.

Portland Phone Workers To Determine Policy

PORTLAND, Feb. 27.—(AP)—United telephone employes of Oregon were among Pacific coast union organizations voting not to join a nationwide telephone strike called for March 7, but "what others do concerns us," Edward T. Healy, union president, said today. He said the executive board will meet tomorrow night to determine its policy.

Supreme Court Offices Closed for Funeral

The state supreme court offices here were closed part of Wednesday afternoon out of respect for H. L. Kloeping, deputy clerk of the court, whose funeral service was held from the W. T. Rigdon chapel.

Kloeping had been employed as deputy clerk since 1920. He was 65 years old and a member of the Methodist church.

EDGAR SMITH RE-APPOINTED
Governor Earl Snell Wednesday announced re-appointment of Edgar W. Smith, Portland, as a member of the state board of higher education. Smith's nine-year term will become effective March 2.

Court Hears Arguments On Special Election Case

The state supreme court Wednesday heard arguments of attorneys in a suit brought by W. J. Seufert against George P. Stadelman, mayor of The Dalles, to compel the city council there to accept petitions and call a special election to vote on the question of creating a people's utility district.

The council previously refused to call the election as urged by the petitioner. The lower court held for the plaintiff whereupon the city appealed to the state supreme court.

College Plans Changes for Spring Term

The new spring semester opening March 11 will bring new changes in curriculum and two new faculty members and a return appearance of a former member.

First term courses open to freshmen and new students are available in the biology, history, English, psychology, and physics departments.

Heading the list of new faculty members is James E. Simpson, former associate professor of psychology at Chico state college, Chico, Calif., who will become head of Willamette's psychology department. He will offer a course in first term psychology and take over the two second term sections now being taught.

The biology department will have a new addition in Dr. Ralph W. McCoy, member of the botanical research staff at the University of California, who will take over the present classes in biology and offer a first term course to new pre-medical and science majors.

Of interest to former students of Willamette is the fact that Mrs. Margaret Ringnald will return to the faculty to teach two sections of freshman composition. Mrs. Ringnald, wife of Professor Muro Ringnald, head of the journalism department, was drama coach at Willamette in 1941 and 1942, and last year taught several literature courses during the summer session.

Elks Cribbage Champions Win Victory Bonds

With all the pomp and glory befitting a champion S. G. Hinkle has proved by actual contest against a most worthy opponent, R. W. Southwick, that he is the best cribbage player of the Salem Elks club for the year 1945.

As a reward from the Salem Elks club and the other tournament players Hinkle will receive a \$50 war bond and a gold, especially-made Elks card case with proper engravings. Southwick, as the runner-up to the champion, will also receive a \$50 war bond.

The following tournament players, for winning and going past the third round of the play-off, will each receive a \$25 war bond: Walter M. Cline, George D. Henderson, Manth E. Gedwa, A. C. Gerlinger, W. D. Evans, John Dorcas, R. W. Ohmart, Romeo Gouley, William G. Hardy, Homer H. Smith, William Schlitt, Edward Rostein, A. W. Crocker, G. B. Wynkoop.

These bonds will be handed to the respective winners by the exalted ruler at the lodge meeting tonight. All winners are expected to be at this meeting to receive their bonds and all other tournament players also have been urged to be present.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I think girls develop much faster than boys! Notice how our appetites always far outstrip their allowances!"

Stevens
for
"Fine Jewelry" Items

Exclusive Costume Pieces

Pins, Earrings, Bracelets, Necklaces, Brooches, Pin and Earring Sets, Pearls, Lockets and Crosses.

Budget Payments

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