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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

HOME DEFENSE REGISTRATION

The rather disappointing returns from the first county-wide one-day registration for home defense should not be permanently discouraging. So far as we can learn people failed to flock to the usual polling places to sign up because:

1. Didn't quite understand purpose.
2. Polling places after all not most convenient.
3. Confusion with other drives and appeals.

For that reason we are suggesting a more centralized and more continuous and more deliberate campaign till we get the required 10,000 men and women enrolled. Instead of so many registration places, set up registration desks or counters in the principal towns at the banks, stores and other places where people are accustomed to go.

Likewise the nature of Home Defense enlistment needs to be much more carefully explained. For instance, a good many people told Judge Hurd they hesitated to sign because they had the impression they would be subject to army calls.

The Home Defense enrollment throughout the nation is preparation against these needs:

1. Check on sabotage and vandalism during emergency.
2. Check on espionage.
3. Actual behind-the-lines defense if this nation finally is isolated and invaded. (All same Britain)
4. Strengthen support of soldiers and sailors at main fronts.
5. Take place of our national guardsmen and reinforce normal city, county and state police patrols.

The work covers a tremendous range from proper diet for children in towns under attack, the organization and handling of civilians under war conditions, airplane spotting, fire protection, police work, forest conservation, maintenance of all water and electric utilities. Try to imagine any modern city under total war's attack and the problems which arise as normal public services are interrupted. How would you keep your town going? How would you get men and women to the factories and shops which must be kept running to supply troops?

That's the meaning of Civil Defense or Home Defense. Nobody is going to be called upon for any extended duty now, but everybody, according to his ability is asked to take up the necessary training in his line of work. It may involve a few hours a week or one or two days a month. It is not too early to prepare. Nobody can predict which way this war will turn.

Readiness will be worth the cost.

ARMY PAYS FOR PUBLICITY

To old timers, the amusing incident of General Ben Lear and the "yoo-hoo" battalion means just one thing. The U. S. army is beginning to pay the price for its publicity.

A lot of sympathy is being wasted upon the 300 members of the Memphis battalion who had to march 15 miles on foot for the alleged sins of a few. Pothouse politicians in Congress are having a field day at old Ben Lear's expense, and because of these political angles old Ben will have some ("reply by endorsement hereon") explaining to do.

If you could look into the War Department's wind you would find that the only sin General Lear has committed is "unfavorable publicity."

Of course, soldiers on the march must not act like hoodlums. If such outbreaks occur and it is not possible to spot the main offenders two conditions must be assumed—(1) incompetent officers; (2) generally bad morale. A 15-mile hike isn't going to hurt any outfit that is fit and it can do a lot to make every man realize that he is at least partly responsible for that life-saving factor called morale.

The thing that hurt was getting into the papers with a lot of trumped up pictures of "pansy-pad" soldiers looking for blisters. We bleed for old Ben Lear, a soldier of the old school before the army's "military intelligence" was infested with a lot of "public relations men" sending pieces to the home papers.

We can still hear one tough old hellion of the Mexican border period roaring:

"If I had my way I wouldn't have a (x x x x) newspaper man within 50 miles of this army."
That old cuss was tough to take but he was beloved because he was a man's man who made real soldiers.

"HOCUS FOCUS, OR SELF DEFENSE"

The depth bomb incident in the North Atlantic, acknowledged by Secretary Knox, was to be expected. An American destroyer picking up survivors of a British submarine victim felt it necessary to drop "ash cans" to ward off the U-boat. What other course could be expected?

The frank statement of Col. Knox on this incident at least clears away the "scud" of rumors circulated mainly by Senator Wheeler and other last-ditch isolationists. However, if there has been no actual battle between our forces and the Germans, it is merely because we and the Germans are trying to make the other strike first.

It's like the old small-boy chip-on-shoulder stuff. The Germans dared us to come into their "war zone" saying they would shoot at any ship in their gun sights. We promptly extended our hemisphere boundaries and took over Iceland. Maybe the dropping of depth bombs in "self-defense" will provide the necessary provocation. It's like when the chip-on-shoulder boys reach the stage of shoving at each other, not quite daring to take a good healthy punch.

In this country we are making a rather disgusting political spectacle out of a crisis which involves the lives of our young men. Between Franklin D. Roosevelt's habitual evasions of truth and Burt Wheeler's poney heroics, we see no possible choice. It doesn't matter a tinker's whoop whether we call it shooting in "self defense" it is shooting which is as it should be because we ARE AT WAR, as every simpleton knows. The great shame is that the lives of thousands of American soldiers and sailors in the North Atlantic may be put in double jeopardy because of the efforts of these political quacks to make war taste like soothing syrup.

If you were aboard any vessel in the North Atlantic your life would depend on shooting first and hardest and straightest. No other policy is truthful or makes sense.

A BAS LES WHISKALANTES!

That sterling patriot and veteran of hornet wars, Ajax McGurk, has risen in revolt against what he terms the mob rule of the Whiskalantes. The Black Shirts, he calls them contemptuously, and he declares he will not be regimented, badgered, bulldozed or otherwise intimidated into wearing whisks against his will in hot weather.

McGurk expresses surprise that such staunch individuals as Judge Skipworth and Judge Wimberley should have sought to purchase immunity from the Whiskalante gangsters. It reveals, says he, the low state into which democracy has fallen.

This year's pageant, the eminent curbstone orator points out, is dedicated to FREEDOM. The heroes of the wagon trains, he avers, wore whisks not from fear of man or beast but as free will offerings and as a form of camouflage to deceive scalp-hunting Indians. They would have scorned feeble compromises with nature. McGurk is apprehensive that the Grants Pass Cave Men will round up the whole body of Whiskalantes into their Order of the Dinosaur.

McGurk left yesterday for South Slough where he expects to remain for the duration.

BONUS PLAN FOR FUTURE VETERANS

It was to be expected. A certain member of the legislature, whose name we shall not use because there are times when we draw the line at free advertising, has launched an initiation bill to provide a bonus for future veterans, when as and if the present war ends and the men in service return to civilian occupations. Un-huh, he has the support of the Commonwealth Federation.

Yessir, Representative X has proposed a tax of 5 percent against all dividends paid within the state of Oregon or originating in Oregon. To broaden the appeal and clinch a few more votes, Mr. X proposes that any amounts not used to pay off soldiers (\$15 a week for 16 weeks after discharge) will be transferred to old age pensions, to help get even, he says for the cigarette sales tax which the referendum has held up.

No doubt if the men now in service see active duty, the time will come when there will be a new Legion and VFW and DAV to demand bonuses and special compensations and the new veterans will be just as much entitled to such reward as any of their predecessors, but we think most of the men now in service would agree that we've A WAR TO FIGHT FIRST.

In the meantime the Future Veterans are not particularly interested in the political aspirations (or rackets) of Mr. X, but there is a lot of this half baked claptrap which comes precious close to being a racket.

The only law obeyed by bootleggers is the law of supply and demand.

Lots of snapely girls regard bathing suits as dry goods.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

FROM LOOIE

WILLISTON, N. D.—(To the Editor)—I am leaving Yellowstone valley and its 66,000 acres of irrigable land and last week it had a scattered hail and rain storm. It did a lot of damage but also did a great deal of good.

It has a big sugar factory and a lot of Mexicans taking care of the beets, and, of course, the alfalfa feeds a lot of beef cattle, and when I look at the big fat Herefords and then think of the amount of meat we buy from the Argentine, I wonder what it is all about.

Why don't we take care of our own farmers? They are the backbone of this America. I say, why don't we?

We are leaving Williston, N. D., going east, and a lot of strip farming is here in spots as there has been plenty of rain. The dry land crops are really good so there will be more for the big brains in Washington, D. C., to control. I say—What a Shame!

North Dakota, dry for some years, is sure looking good. This native grass, buffalo grass and niggerwood ripens on the sod and it is the finest to fatten stock in the fall. Cattle are a good price and stock sheep are around \$8 a head for two to four-year-olds. There are not many sheep to be had. There are a few men that sell when the price is high and buy when it is low, and that is O. K. for all things. Don't hold it too long, that is as Wall street is doing, only they force it, and that is where the sucker is caught and we have many suckers on dry land. That is the Great Checker-Game of Life, and in Europe it has turned out to be a grand dog-fight.

There are a lot of snowsheds here. Trees and bushes to protect the railroad and the dry seasons have killed a lot of them but

Lines From The Library

THERE have been many medical biographies added to the shelves at the Eugene Public Library in recent years, but "A Yankee Doctor In Paradise" by S. M. Lambert is one of the best. Dr. Lambert tells his own story and of how he received his appointment to work in the South Seas through Dr. Heiser, author of "An American Doctor's Odyssey." Dr. Heiser visited Dr. Lambert on the job and watched him work and has said, "If any man should write a book, it should be Lambert. He packs it from cover to cover with fascinating, authentic human interest. His work at Suva has been monumental." Dr. Lambert worked chiefly on hookworm. He went over red tape, made friends with the natives of the various islands and tells much of the manners and customs of these fascinating islands.

Another medical book, but of an entirely different type, is "Toughen Up, America" by Dr. Victor Heiser. It is a book calling the people of this country to account for our poor health record. It is written in the author's usual vigorous style and he makes frequent comparison with his experiences in other countries. A list of the partial contents follow: Facts about foods; if you are under thirty; Outwitting the years; Sleep and refueling; Habits; Assets and liabilities.

A book which is to a certain extent the history of the cattle trade in the west is "The Longhorns" by James Frank Dobie. It is "a history" of the Texas longhorns, a breed of cattle that was an important factor in the economic development of the west. Details of the great cattle industry, natural history of the longhorns, and plenty of western legend and anecdote are included. Illustrated with striking drawings and photographs.

For the mystery fans there is "N Or M?" by Agatha Christie. The book is fast moving and tells of Tommy Beresford and his wife, Tuppence, who did their bit in the last war and who were invited to do a job of spying for England in 1940. The scene is a summer resort on the British coast. There they become heavily involved with the German fifth column in England. D. E. Stevenson has written "Mrs. Tim Carries On," as a sequel to "Mrs. Tim of the Regiment." In this book Mrs. Tim tells of the amusing and pathetic routine of life during the last months of 1939 and early 1940 in a small Scottish town. It is light, humorous and at the same time a courageous "carry on" novel. The author will also be remembered for having written "Miss Buncle's Book."

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since last year and this, they have started to grow again.
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The few farmers here are trying to do as the railroad as for snow-breaks. We are rolling toward Minot and it is the typical Dakota prairie. Minot is a sort of in-between prairie and farming country, busy, but not big payroll as Eugene is enjoying now and that grand pageant coming on.
More next week as I roll toward St. Paul.
LOUIS JOSEPHSEN.

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—Mrs. Nellie Petersen (Florence) missed out on Beecher and Tilton Rocks on the Old Siuslaw Stage road. They were named for the Beecher-Tilton trail of 1874. Chris Beck, Tom Neely, Chas. Harwood, Jim Furnish or former County Judge Fred Flisk might verify this. I well remember my father, F. M. Nighswander, telling of this. **J. M. NIGHSWANDER.**

OUCH!
JUNCTION CITY.—(To the Editor)—Just a little information for the much worried firemen and Mr. McGurk.

Now I hesitate just a little in the morning and especially early enough at this time of year to be when the hornets begin to wake up or better still just a little before they start.

If the worried one will make it a point to get up early and assemble the wife's Hoover vacuum cleaner (maybe he will have to get up early for two reasons if he gets the cleaner). The Hoover does have good suction and the dusting tools are light enough that it is no trouble to hold the nozzle of the cleaner up to the door of the hornets nest and there is sufficient suction that Mr. Hornet just can't resist going in the bag. One at a time or as many as can come out the opening of the nest. Very simple and short operation with no regrets. They are perfectly harmless after going through the fan of the cleaner into the bag.

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Mrs. Pitcher Dies Friday at Hospital

Mrs. Mildred Pitcher of Springfield died at the Sacred Heart hospital Friday afternoon.

Miss Mildred Purkhiser was born at Hiawatha, Kansas, and at the age of eight years moved with her family to Payette, Idaho. In 1910 she married Bert R. Pitcher at LaGrande, Ore., where they lived until 1917 when they came to the Willamette valley. The Pitchers made their home in Salem for 10 years before moving to Springfield two years ago.

Besides her widower, she is survived by three children, Mrs. Helene Powers, of Grand Ronde; and Richard and Bert, both of Springfield; two sisters, Mrs. Belva Jones, of La Grande, and Mrs. Helen Dement, of Eagle, Idaho; two brothers, Clarence Purkhiser

of Caldwell, Idaho, and Ross, of Salem.

She was a member of the Episcopal church. Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Rose Lawn funeral home in Salem and interment will be in the Belcrest cemetery. The Phil Bartholomew chapel is in charge of arrangements. Friends wishing to send flowers may leave them at Bartholomew's any time before 10 o'clock Monday morning.

BEANS GET BOOST
BASIN, Wyo. (AP)—Attention, drafters! Farmers in the center of Wyoming's navy bean-growing industry—aroused by reports that beans are a luxury at New York army posts—have written their congressmen urging that beans be included on the menu at training camps.

Big Bean Harvest Will Employ 7000

Harvesting of the big bean crop in Lane county the latter part of this month to 7500 persons to be employed during the season which throughout August. Lane is the largest bean growing in the state. The Eugene Growers association has contracted for 6500 tons beans this year, nearly 1000 being signed up in the 20 tracts.

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