

Youngsters Aladdin Play

Wonder of "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" came to life today morning for more than 100 Eugene grade and junior school students who attended two performances at the McDonald theater.

The youngsters responded with giggles and whistles which indicated the production was as interesting as an animated cartoon, and some said they liked it better than "Heidi," last year's junior programs presentation. Mrs. Laura Nidever, Eugene high dramatics instructor, directed the cast of EHS students.

Favorite "character" of the crowd was Nuphed, Aladdin's droll dromedary, the joint efforts of Craig Beeson and Jerry Smith. Other characters who left the kids goggle-eyed were Aladdin, played by Leon Lay, who behaved much more like an American boy than a child of Baghdad and thus was credible immediately to the youngsters; the princess, Mary Ellen Mahany and Virginia Bailey; the wicked magician from Morocco, George Northam; Scheherazade, Marilyn Blair and Diane Barnhart.

There were frequent changes of scenery to keep the energetic audience from growing restless, and each intermission time was taken over by Glenn Griffith, Eugene high music instructor, who led the group singing. Selections included everything from "I Got Sixpence" and "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," to the most popular number of all, "Pistol Packin' Mama," which the youngsters seemed to

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Mustering-Out Pay Passed by House

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Legislation providing for payment of a maximum of \$300 to men and women of the armed forces upon their honorable discharge was passed today by the house and returned to the senate.

Beaten down in two days of debate were amendments to boost the maximum to an aggregate of \$1120, to raise it to \$700, to include merchant seamen and to make men discharged because they were over 38 eligible for the payments.

Huge Bridge Falls; Many Feared Dead

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Dispatches from Porto Alegre said today that the giant bridge across the Rio Das Antas in Rio Grande Do Sul province had collapsed, killing and injuring a number of persons.

The bridge is one of the largest in South America, and early reports indicated a heavy loss of life. There were no immediate details. The huge structure, still under construction, was virtually completed when it collapsed.

Reds Take—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Liri valley approach to Rome—and sent patrols probing into the south German Gustav line. Across the peninsula Canadians of the eighth army engaged the nazis in "fierce fighting" on the approaches to Pescara.

REDS FIGHT TO END SIEGE OF LENINGRAD

The Russian offensives west and south of Leningrad ground through thick German defense lines in a squeeze calculated to end the long siege of the half encircled city. The focal points of battle were west of Oranbaum, on a 20-mile Gulf of Finland bridgehead beyond Leningrad, and north of Novgorod, 100 miles southeast of the old czarist capital.

A little to the south, another Russian drive five miles north and four miles south of the rail crossroads of Novosokolniki swept up 40 towns. Fresh gains were scored in the western Ukraine despite mud and rain as the Russians encroached on the old Polish rail center of Rovno. The railroad between there and Shepetovka was cut with the capture of Slavuta.

Ikkes Aid Sought In Letter Inquiry

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Secretary of Interior Ikkes said today he had been informed that George N. Briggs, his aide who has been linked with the "Hopkins letter" affair, cannot be found.

Ikkes, whose name was linked by Sen. William Langer (R., N. D.) to circumstances surrounding publication of the letter, was ushered into the grand jury room by justice department attorney Henry A. Schweinhaut.

The jury is inquiring into the authorship of a letter purporting to be from Harry L. Hopkins, President Roosevelt's No. 1 adviser, to Dr. Humphrey Lee, president of Southern Methodist university.

Ikkes' name came into the affair when Langer read letters, purportedly from George N. Briggs, an assistant to Ikkes, which said the Hopkins letter had been examined by Ikkes before its publication in the book, "One Man—Wendell Willkie," by C. Nelson Sparks.

Drive Opens—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

who are seeking not only a cure, but a prevention of polio-myelitis.

William Ayers is president of the Eugene chapter and Loy Rowling is secretary-treasurer. Captain F. R. Brockshink is chairman of the committee in charge of collections. Working with Captain Brockshink will be Mrs. Ethel Furnish who will have charge of the northeast section of the city; Mrs. Jules Geiger, who has the southeast district; Mrs. Marie Bolte, who has the southwest section, and Mrs. Cleo Beeson, who has the southeast section. Dick Strite will have charge of collections at all games.

Eugene labor organizations are making preparations for the dance on the president's birthday, January 31, at the Wintergarden which will be the windup of the 1944 drive.

Oskridge and Westfir communities are also making plans for special collections to add to the polio fund, and Warlick reports that the staff of the Eugene hospital is arranging for a special party to raise extra funds to be contributed also to the fight against the disease.

Applications—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

plied to the FHA asking for 25 of the private houses allotted Eugene, but that he was restricted to a maximum of 15. It was further stated that applications from private individuals had reduced the private construction allocation to 15 by Tuesday evening. Paul Campbell, Eugene realtor, Wednesday morning stated that Eugene was in critical need of such a housing project and while it was true that priorities were low and regulations for such FHA building strict, such housing projects were being built in other cities under the same conditions. Material shortages are bad, he agreed, but to contractors familiar with working under such adverse conditions construction can be efficiently done he maintained.

It was Campbell who last fall, believing the housing project would be given Eugene, secured options on city lots for G. W. Miltonberger, Salem contractor, and A. M. Gilbert, Eugene contractor. At the time Miltonberger took options on 25 city lots, Gilbert, who is now working on a war housing project in Corvallis, Campbell said, has his own crew of Eugene men which he could transport to Eugene and thus be unaffected by labor shortages.

In a letter to the Eugene chamber of commerce Wednesday Folger Johnson, state director of FHA, stated the manner in which the private housing projects allotted to the whole Eugene area may be divided up. Of the 45 private units given Eugene proper 35 may be rented to immigrant war workers within the range of \$31 to \$39.99 per month. Ten units will be rented from \$40 to \$50 per month.

The 20 units awarded the Springfield - Marcola sub-locality will be divided into 15 units renting from \$31 to \$39.99 per month with five dwellings renting at \$40 per month.

Veneta, which was awarded 10 units, but which will probably not be designated by the president as a critical war housing area, Johnson said, will be rented at under \$31 per month.

The 10 units allowed Eugene for remodeling by private parties will be rented half under \$31 per month and half at \$31 to \$39.99.

It was pointed out Tuesday by H. F. McDaniel, Eugene lumber dealer, that the 30 public conversions awarded each to Eugene and Veneta, in addition to the private buildings, will be of barracks-type construction and come under the HOLC.

Final determination of all applications submitted to the FHA comes from the war production board which determines the operation of the priority system, it was stated by Johnson.

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Germany Always Economic Power, Says Authority

Whatever is done about Germany at the conclusion of this war, that area can not be subjected economically and politically for any great length of time because of its location and geography, because of its industrial, transportation, and agricultural advantages, in the opinion of Dr. Clifford A. Maser, head of the division of business and industry at Oregon State college, who spoke Tuesday for the Rotary club.

Disregarding Germans as Germans and looking at that area from an analytical point of view, whoever controls that area will be a powerful people, Dr. Maser declared.

The speaker said he was not attempting to point out what should be done about Germany and its people, but was trying to present some facts about that country's geography to show what a "potential" region it is. Americans should get out of the habit of thinking of Europe in terms of one country or another, and think of it as a continent, just as they think of the continent of North America; and they should study their globes, not from a sideways view, but look at it from the bottom of the globe, or from the top.

Building up to his conclusions, Dr. Maser rapidly read a long list of statistics to show what a huge percentage of the world's goods are manufactured in that area, including Germany and a belt through that section; also that a large proportion of produce is grown there. Water reaches in more in that region and touches more points, than on any other continent. This area has the advantage of being the crossroads of Europe, and it has more rivers of useable size commercially than any other section in the world. Speaking of Germany having more countries bordering on it than any other nation, he likewise brought out the point that it is a control area for many people around it. Also, this area faces toward North America on its busiest side, it faces the Atlantic ocean, which is the busiest ocean. This European continent is the only continent without desert lands, and is the only continent which uses all its productive surface.

The European continent has more mountains proportionately than others, but these mountains are so situated that the winds and moisture go along side of them and spread out over a wide area, thus distributing water more evenly throughout the year, a big help to agriculture, he said, and he listed statistics to show what a productive region this area is in agriculture.

Germany may not have the most fertile soil in that area, but it has a monopoly on potash and, through science, has obtained nitrate, these two elements being most valuable fertilizers.

He showed on a map how Germany is the center of an industrial belt which goes through sections of England, then on across the European continent. Many other geographic points were stressed by the speaker to show Germany's strategic location. "Whoever controls this area is going to be a powerful people," he said again, adding, "whatever the world is going to do about Germany, we must keep in mind that no matter what is done that area is going to be an economic power."

One big disadvantage to Germany is its population outlook. The first World war and the present one have "gouged" great chunks out of certain ages to the extent that Germany is destined at times to be ruled by old men and youngsters. On this situation, he pointed out that Hitler had ignored the old men, but was smart in concentrating on the youth in order to build up his regime.

Such a situation brings up a big question for the rest of the world in supplying leadership and in watching developments in that area, Dr. Maser said.

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