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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication of the 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.

WHAT IS THE CENTURY FUND?
From many parts of the United States have come inquiries about the Century Progress Fund, the plan for an endowment "for the benefit of the community within 12 miles of the foundation landmark known as Skinner Butte." This embraces the cities of Eugene and Springfield and more than 30 other communities.

There have been many community endowments in American cities, many of them highly successful, but the plan adopted here has two very distinctive features:

1. **Democratic**—any child with a few pennies can have his part in the program for the home town, and his name will stand with the richest giver.
2. **Voluntary**—the trustees are forbidden to organize drives or fix quotas or "dine" for money.

The prosperous citizen who wants to "do something for a community that's been pretty good to me" has a reliable agency through which he may direct substantial gifts or bequests of money or property to useful works, but the poor man who has only a few cents or a few dollars and just as much "feeling for the place" is not left out. To those who write in, this answer is being made:

"Maybe it will take a longer time to get results by this plan, but we believe that democracy is one of its most important features. Here in Oregon we have very few 'rich people,' but everywhere the old Americanism is very strong. We believe that if thousands of people have a share in our Century Fund, it does something for citizenship, for pride and independence and self-government."

Why Century Fund? Well, its the end of Oregon's first century of pioneering and the beginning of a new one. Besides to keep talking about Eugene-Springfield is a mouthful. We are all one, anyhow.

COUNTY-CITY BUILDING PROJECT?
A year ago, when Lane county first began to talk about the post-war and "taking care of our own", a county-city building was one of the three main proposals for sponsorship by Lane county. The other two were the new Ferry (High) street bridge and the county-wide program to rebuild and restore roads and bridges, both of which are conceded "prime priority."

However, May 19, the primary election is approaching. At that election, the county MUST submit whatever levies it is going to submit to build up its CASH SINKING FUNDS for the post-war. Tentatively it has been agreed that county voters should be asked to approve at least 3 mills a year for 5 years for county projects. Each mill voted will raise approximately \$50,000 a year, or \$250,000 over the 5-year period.

Now comes this question from a great many different people:

"Why shouldn't we vote at least 1 mill out of the county's 3 mills for a new courthouse or county-city building? That would still leave 1 mill for the county-wide road and bridge program and 1 mill for the High street bridge."

The Register-Guard would like to have some expressions from taxpayers in all parts of the county to pass on to the Central Lane Planning Council which has been created to study all proposals and recommend "first things first." Everybody knows the old Ferry street bridge is going to fall down if not rebuilt. Likewise the county-wide road and bridge program to repair damage done by war traffic is imperative. It stands to reason that when we finally build a new courthouse, it will be a saving if we can get the city of Eugene and the schools and Water Board to sell their old "rat's nest" and come in as county tenants. Is a county-city building urgent? Those who want it offer these arguments:

1. More than 140,000 property deeds and records, and as many more records of mortgages and other transactions which would cost huge sums to replace if lost by fire—irreplaceable.
2. Overcrowded unsatisfactory housing of nearly every department of county, city school and Water Board activity.
3. That awful jail.

What would a county-city building cost? Horseback guess is \$750,000. Nobody will know till some accurate figures can be compiled on how much space for each unit. Site? The original Mulligan gift fixes that: the courthouse MUST be somewhere in the present "park blocks", but it would not add greatly to cost to open out the park block to 7th avenue and the main highway across town.

How does the county feel about it? Shall we start saving up for a modern county-city center? How many think county and city should get together and present some figures?

WASHINGTON LETTER
By PETER EDSON
Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

HEADACHES OF RECONVERSION

Trying to plan reconversions from war to civilian production so as to cause minimum confusion, unemployment and moving about of manpower presents a hatful of pretty little headaches like these:

Here is a typewriter factory, here a washing machine factory, and here an automobile assembly plant. All three have been making, say, light machine guns, and doing a good job of it. But along comes the time when the army has all of this particular type of weapon, it needs for original equipment of troops. All it will need for the future will be replacements for guns worn out, lost or damaged in battle. Question—How shall the cutback be handled?

Cutting back all three of them would seem to cause a maximum of confusion in three places and break up efficient mass production techniques. The smart thing would be to cancel two of the contracts, keeping the third plant going.

Multifold Objections

All right, which two? Question—which of the three items does the civilian economy need worst? Answer—Washing machines. But there's a shortage of fractional horsepower electric motors and washing machines need electric motors, so that's out.

How about the typewriter factory? Well, if they let this one plant get back into civilian production it will have the jump on all the other typewriter manufacturers who are now making fire control instruments, shells, heavy machine guns, radio sets and all manner of munitions which are still needed in quantity by the armed services. Even letting the one company make a nameless "victory" model typewriter for all the others is objected to because that puts this one company back in the typewriter business, where it can perfect post-war models and get a trade position advantage over its competitors.

The same objection applies to the auto plant. No one auto maker can be permitted to get back in production ahead of the others. So what do you do, Mr. Bones, in predicaments like these?

Look at the problem from another angle. Which plants could be cut back with a minimum disturbance to working forces? The typewriter and washing machine factories, as such, would employ only a fraction of the people they are now employing on expanded production of light machine guns. Cancelling out their war contracts might cause a lot of unemployment. Question—How many of the people discharged could be employed immediately in other near-by war plants having labor shortages?

If there were a radio equipment factory near the typewriter factory, surplus labor forces of any kind could be absorbed with the loss of scarcely more than a week's work. In the case of the auto plant, if the working force there could be shifted to a neighboring works with a fat but unfilled aircraft contract, the auto plant's light machine gun contract could be cancelled and its factory closed down until such time as materials could be allocated to resume manufacture of automobiles.

Many Such Cases

Now all these cases, though disguised and over-simplified to emphasize the points, are none the less real and they are case histories which will be repeated thousands of times before readjustment and reconversion are achieved with anything approaching maintenance of full employment.

Supplies of steel and copper are now greater than demand, though there are not the surpluses such as in aluminum. But do you suppose it would be possible to give this light metals revolution a head start by resuming the production of ice boxes, stoves and such consumers' durable goods, making them out of aluminum instead of steel? Only over the dead bodies of all the steel magnates and their relations.

Society, Women's Groups

By MARIAN LOWRY

ZONTA MEMBERS GO TO SALEM

Seven members of the Eugene Zonta club journeyed to Salem, Monday afternoon, to attend conferences with Miss Winnifred Hughes, Syracuse, New York, president of Zonta International, and to attend the banquet held in the evening for the Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene Zonta clubs.

In her talk, Miss Hughes stressed the program of service to be carried on by all Zonta clubs, which are classified service groups for executive business and professional women. She also told the need for each group to select one general project and build it up. Classification also was discussed for the organization.

Those going from Eugene to the meeting were Mrs. Fanny Marlette, local president; Mrs. C. A. Huntington, first vice-president; Mrs. L. M. Orchard, treasurer; Mrs. Elizabeth Romane, Mrs. Eva Collins, Mrs. J. C. Marshall, Mrs. Ralph A. Hope.

From Salem, Miss Hughes went on to visit the Zonta club at Medford and from there will go on south. She visited the Portland group on her way to Salem.

BETA SIGMA PHI

Miss Clara Nasholm and Miss Martha Foster were hostesses at the home of the former on Monday evening for the meeting of Beta Sigma Phi. Mrs. R. Wilson Hutchison had charge of the program.

Miss Wilda Parrish will be hostess to the group in three weeks.

MRS. KEENAN ENLISTS IN AIR WAVES

Newest enlistee from Eugene in the air WAVES is Mrs. Robert R. Keenan, route 3, Eugene. She has qualified as a supply clerk, reports Lt. Barbara Smith, who has charge of the air WAC recruiting here.

Mrs. Keenan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. McFadden, being the former Jane McFadden. Her husband is also in the service. She is a graduate of Eugene high school.

P.E.O. GROUP IN CHARGE AT USO

Chapter AY of P.E.O. Sisterhood will be in charge this week at the Eugene USO, reports Mrs. Omar Fendall, secretary.

During the past week, the Victory club of Springfield with Mrs. B. L. Wright in charge, directed activities at the USO canteen.

WOMEN OF MOOSE

Honors at bridge at the Women of Moose card party Monday afternoon went to Mrs. S. B. Strawn and Mrs. N. L. Boroughs; at pinocle, to Mrs. J. L. Oswald and Mrs. F. H. Gorsline.

LADIES OF ORIENT

Ladies of the Orient will hold a called session Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Mae Miller, 1571 High street. They will meet

Bond Resale Curb Seen

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Simeon T. Leland, chairman of board of directors Chicago federal reserve bank, has predicted that if the United States can maintain employment during post-war years the scarcity of consumer goods will prevent wholesale cashing of war bonds.

Leland stated to a meeting of the American Economic association that "when the war ends, production dislocations are likely to be increased."

"During the reconversion period," he added, "when unemployment is probable, past liquid savings and investment benefits from social security will probably be utilized to make up for income shrinkages before savings bonds are redeemed."

And, he added, "if expenditures from current earnings are not sufficient to take off the market the goods which American industry with its productive capacity may offer for sale when reconversion is completed, prices will tend to fall so that reduced expenditures can take up the goods offered for sale."

The former University of Chicago professor of government finance predicted that it is "unlikely taxes can or should be increased" and declared that bond redemption will "depend upon taxation and other costs . . . prevailing after the war."

The Air Service Command of the Army Air Forces employs 300,000 civilians.

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MISS VINCENT SIGNS UP WITH WAVES

Slated to release a navy man for service at sea, Miss Olive Mae Vincent, 1238 1/2 Lincoln street, Eugene, has enlisted in the WAVES, it is announced by Chief Specialist W. E. Bell, who is in charge of the U. S. navy recruiting substation at Eugene, which handles WAVES applications for the Eugene area.

Miss Vincent joins her brother in the armed services, Lieutenant Walter S. Vincent, Jr., who is in the army medical corps, now stationed at Camp White, Medford.

She was graduated from Mapleton high school in 1930. At that school she was treasurer of the student body, was on the staff of the school newspaper, and was a member of the Glee club, Dramatics club, and the National Honor society. She attended Oregon College of Education from 1940 to 1943, majoring in primary education, and is a member of Sigma Epsilon Pi sorority there. For the past four months, she has been employed as a teacher at the Stella Maglady school, Eugene.

Miss Vincent also has been active in war work here, serving as post instructor for the air raid warning service. She is a member of the Baptist church, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vincent, Sr., Monmouth.

TO MEET FRIDAY

Auxiliary to the Disabled American Veterans will meet Friday evening at eight o'clock, at the courthouse, holding election of officers.

Casualties Now 142,289

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Latest available figures on American war casualties total 142,289, including 32,682 killed in action.

The OWI announced the figures today. They cover navy casualties through January 22 and army losses through December 31.

Navy casualties were listed as 35,372, numbering 15,520 dead, 7206 wounded, 8562 missing and 4284 captured by the enemy. (These figures include marine corps and coast guard casualties).

Army casualties to the end of December totaled 106,717, with 17,142 killed, 39,917 wounded, 24,137 missing and 25,521 prisoners of war.

Trial Delay Denied

OREGON CITY, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Three defense motions to delay the trials of Henry W. Merten and Walter L. Wilson on first degree murder charges in the shooting of Ralph Dahlen in an Oak Grove tavern holdup were denied by Circuit Judge Earl C. Latourette yesterday.

One was for a change of venue to Multnomah county, another would have postponed the February 1 trial dates and the third would have required Clackamas county to furnish transcript of testimony of the holdup trial in which the duo were sentenced to life imprisonment as habitual criminals before Dahlen succumbed to wounds.

Point Value Cut Urged

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Arguing that sales of canned vegetables have fallen off acutely because housewives' pantry shelves are so well stocked with the home-canned variety, commercial canners are putting considerable pressure on the OPA to take vegetables off the ration list or at least cut point values sharply.

The nation's housewives, a representative of the canners said, did such an outstanding job of home-canning last year that much of the commercial pack is gathering dust on the shelves of stores and warehouses.

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WEDDING RECENT EVENT AT VAUGHN

VAUGHN—An event of Wednesday evening, January 19 at the Vaughn Church of Christ was the wedding of Miss Norma Reams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leeman Reams of Vaughn, and Elvin Bacon, U. S. Navy, son of Mrs. Carrie Bacon of Corvallis.

The bride wore a wedding dress of pale blue with dark blue accessories. The couple were unattended. The ceremony was performed by Rev. George Whipple, before a group of relatives and friends.

An informal reception was held at the home of the bride following the ceremony, and luncheon was served by the bride's mother, Mrs. Leeman Reams, assisted by the bride's grandmother, Mrs. A. C. Matthews of Eugene, and her aunt, Mrs. Gladys Holm of Springfield.

Those attending the wedding and reception were Mr. and Mrs. Harley Ream of Loran, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Matthews of Eugene, Mrs. Melvin Keibelbeck of Eugene, Mrs. Gladys Holm of Springfield, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Dial, Dale Dial and Doris Dial, Dallas Hohn, Mr. and Mrs. Emery Rauch, and the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leeman Reams, all of Vaughn.

Mrs. Bacon accompanied her husband to Bremerton, Wash., where she will remain with him until he leaves on duty with the U. S. navy.

Tanker Fools Nips

WASHINGTON — (AP) — If an enemy submarine captain has chalked up the American tanker W. S. Rheem as a "dead duck" he had better wipe the dust off his periscope.

The war shipping administration has related how the 22-year-old tanker limped 8500 miles across the Pacific to make port after a torpedo had blasted a hole in her bow big enough to admit a locomotive.

After quick action by her master, Capt. G. A. Johnson of Alameda, Calif., had saved her from two torpedoes, the W. S. Rheem took one in the port forward section. She emitted a blistering sheet of orange flame which apparently convinced the enemy submarine commander that the vessel was headed for the bottom, the WSA said. The submarine fired no more torpedoes and apparently left the scene.

Just before the crew abandoned ship, Johnson appraised the damage and decided he could take it to port. All but 315 of the 850 iron barrels of lubricating oil in the cargo were delivered to the navy and the W. S. Rheem got to port after traveling at a snail's pace through the Pacific. Only two men of the crew were injured, neither seriously, WSA added.

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Victory Quartet to Sing Here



The Victory quartet of Spokane, Wash., will present a service Thursday at 7:30 p. m. in the First Baptist church. The musicale will consist of vocal arrangements by the quartet and instrumental numbers on the electric vibraphone and piano accordion.

Rev. C. A. Cooper, leader of the quartet, is the director of the World Wide Monthly Tract club. This group is carrying on tract and testament evangelism of the armed forces and has received special commendation from General Arnold, chief of chaplains, for the work it is doing. Brief addresses will be given by Rev. C. A. Cooper and Rev. J. L. Newman.

Oregon Has Road Like Appian Way

SALEM, Ore., (AP)—The Appian way, ancient road to Rome which is an objective of allied troops who are moving inland from Nettuno, served as a model for Oregon road-building technique did not produce R. H. Baldock said here.

Because ordinary modern road-building technique did not produce satisfactory results, a 25-mile section of highway between La Grande and Pendleton through the Blue mountains was patterned after the ancient Roman highway.

"The old Romans went right down to hardpan and built up from there," Baldock said. "The usual Oregon highway is prepared to a depth of 30 inches, while the Romans used a minimum depth of 37 inches and a maximum of about 55 inches."

"We were troubled with ground conditions in the Blue mountains and on the Meacham-Pendleton section of the old Oregon trail. We

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Timber Man Sent

ROSEBURG, Jan. 24.—A year's imprisonment and fine were imposed on a timber cruiser sentenced by the Douglas court, yesterday on accepting money in a county-owned land.

Circuit Judge Carl E. Ly stipulated that the paroled after three months fine is paid.

District Attorney J. V. accused Howser of value on a county tract. A Drain logging firm \$9000 after Howser had a Roseburg teacher chase it. However, the repaid the county and was cancelled, Long said.

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PICTURES

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