

Cupid Recognizes Manpower Shortage

(IT'S LEAP YEAR) What with war conferences, party conventions and such, 1944 is expected to be a year of declarations—and since it's Leap Year, Feb. 14th will see a lot of American girls making some pretty firm declarations of their own! It used to be that when a girl sent a Leap Year valentine, she'd wait around for results—but not any more! A 1944 valentine bluntly announces: "Listen, Man, it's Leap Year. And I haven't got much time!"

There are others which, if they don't mention Leap Year by name, are certainly inspired by it. One very plaintive card asks, "Hey, Valentine, watcha waitin' for—a BLACKOUT?" and another one, showing a heart equipped with a thermometer near the boiling point, says "I gotta heart that's plenty warm."

For a certain guy in uniform!

Leap Year valentines in general survive from the days when Leap Year was a serious matter. Cities and towns were largely self-sustaining, and since too many unmarried people were considered an economic disadvantage, the Leap Year custom was enforced by public opinion. In Scotland, in the thirteenth century, a man was fined if he refused a Leap Year offer of marriage, and laws applied in certain cities of France and Italy as late as the seventeenth century. Although such drastic enforcement has long since disappeared, Leap Year is still regarded as the time for a lady to have her say. These days, should a bachelor be ungalant enough to turn down an offer, his customary penalty is a new silk dress—if he can find the silk.

Although the 1944 Leap Year valentines are guaranteed to bring chuckles, it seems certain that they will not offer serious competition to the purely sentimental type of valentine to which the war has given more widespread use than ever before. Some of the Leap Year variety are sentimental in their own way, as is one card on which a wistful little miss is busy tacking up a number of small red hearts, each saying "I Love Ya—I Love Ya."

To judge by their current popularity, the biggest job that valentines have been assigned to do—serving as remembrances to the boys in the armed forces, and vice versa—is being carried out by all valentine varieties—Leap Year included.

At the beginning of 1943, the air transport command of the U. S. army air forces operated over 90,000 miles of air routes.

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Allies Step Up Rabaul Raids

By Associated Press At least 42 Japanese planes were wiped out in devastating new aerial sweeps against Rabaul and Kavieng, standing between American south Pacific forces and the fortress of Truk. Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today (Sunday).

Thirty-two definitely were shot down and nine probably in aerial dogfights over Rabaul's Vunak-anau and Tobera airdromes, even as allied bombers from the Solomons blasted their runways and gun positions with 174 tons of bombs. American fighters lost only four planes as they cut in half the fleet of 80 interceptors that tried to halt them.

Ten Japanese planes were wrecked on the ground as the air offensive returned to Kavieng on New Ireland. No enemy interceptors tried to halt the attack. Many fires were started in installations around the airfield, blasted by 187 tons of explosives.

Far westward American sky dragons sank three Japanese freighters in the South China sea while other units of the 14th U.S. air force destroyed two trains, including one loaded with troops, hit bridges and strafed rivercraft in sweeps over China.

In southern Burma numerous casualties have been inflicted on Japanese forces persistently attacking British positions on the Arakan front for nine days, Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten reported. The British are holding against simultaneous attacks from many directions and at the same time showing ahead their spearhead in the Kalladan area. Patrols scouted north Burma.

Renomination Date For FDR Forecast

By LYLE C. WILSON WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(U.P.)—Franklin Delano Roosevelt's renomination for a fourth term can be expected with some confidence to become an accomplished fact at about 9:30 p.m., CWT, on Friday, July 21 next.

But if you want to bet and play it safe, make it not later than the same hour on the following day, Saturday, July 22. Chairman Robert E. Hannegan of the democratic national committee announced yesterday that the streamlined democratic national convention would meet on Wednesday, July 19, in Chicago.

The democratic national committee, which chose the site at a meeting here last month and solicited Roosevelt to run again, left to Hannegan the fixing of a date. Hannegan would have liked to delay the convention until August, but the hard facts of the soldiers' ballot compelled a July selection. The ballots cannot be distributed to the armed services until it has been established officially who the republican and democratic candidates will be. And if the democratic nomination were delayed much beyond mid-July, it probably would not be possible for the troops to vote and get the ballots back to be counted on election day.

It has been calculated that Brazil, home of 42 million people, might support 900 million; while the United States, home of 130 million, might support 500.

Eugene Would Be In Big Building Boom—If

If the war had not interfered, Eugene now would be in the midst of a building boom which would eclipse the construction records of the middle '20's, it is indicated in a report on the past 30 years of Eugene building, released by Twin Oaks Builders Supply company. As it was, not one house was built here during 1943.

The two years which preceded Pearl Harbor showed mounting construction figures, comparable to the peaks which came within a few years of the close of world war I.

The boom years were 1923 through 1928, when construction exceeded \$1,130,000 annually. The two top years were 1924 with \$2,734,705 and 1925 with \$2,610,805. The year 1925 heads the list for number of new residences built—485.

The year 1941 is believed the highest in total number of permits issued (new buildings plus repair permits), when 1,283 were taken out, for work valued at \$1,330,504. New residences numbered 222.

Construction valuation in 1940 was increased sizably by building of the east wing for Sacred Heart general hospital. That year's record show \$1,009,322, total permits 1,233, new residences 194.

Following war production board restrictions which started early in 1942, building declined rapidly. In that year, although 26 new homes were constructed, permits totalled only 838 for an estimated valuation of \$191,807. During 1943, there were 1,033 permits filed at the city engineer's office, for work totalling \$141,911. Only three other years in the past 30—1915, 1917, and 1918—saw less building activity. There was "a war on" then, too.

L. C. Scharpf of Twin Oaks comments that 1943 probably is the only year in Eugene's history that a new residence was not built. However, a number of garages—to be used as temporary residences—were built during the past year. Previous low in this respect was at depth of the depression in 1933 and 1934, when only six or seven new homes were built here.

More Steel Seen

By T. W. KIENLEN NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—(U.P.)—The possibility of greater supplies of steel for construction of railroad cars, farm tractors and beer cans was indicated this week, but this does not mean any letup in war production, which must meet rising demands for invasion equipment.

As a result of cutbacks in many parts of the armament program and changes in specifications for other items, a stockpile of steel has been built up, from which reserve allocations are being made to farm equipment makers, builders of railway equipment and producers who will turn out beer cans intended for off-shore and foreign consumption.

The magazine Iron Age pointed out in its weekly summary of steel industry developments that in the year starting next July 1 approximately 1,200,000 tons of carbon steel will be needed for production of farm equipment, as well as sufficient raw material for 28,000 new freight cars urgently needed by the roads.

With the American industry equipped to produce a greater volume of steel than ever before in history, it was interesting to note during the week that the west coast is expected to become one of the greatest domestic consumers of steel after the war.

Iron Age said estimates of the possible increase in consumption in the 11 western states range from 400,000 to 1,000,000 net tons. According to that periodical, the Henry J. Kaiser interests are active in surveying the possible increase and results of such studies are said to indicate larger potential post-war consumption than had been expected earlier.

RATION CALENDAR

Clip this rationing calendar and attach it to your ration books.

MEATS AND FATS
February 13—Brown stamp Y, Book 3, became valid.
February 26—Brown stamps V, W, and X, Book 3, expire.

PROCESSED FOODS
February 20—Green stamps G, H, and J, Book 4, expire.
March 20—Green stamps K, L, and M, Book 4, expire.

SUGAR
February 1—Sugar stamp 40, Book 4, became valid for five pounds' rationing sugar.
March 31—Sugar stamp 30, Book 4, for five pounds, expires.

SHOES
Stamp 18, Book 1, and Airplane stamp 1, Book 3, each good indefinitely for one pair of shoes.

FUEL OIL
March 14—Period 3 coupons expire. Period 4 coupons, also good now, expire September 30.

GLASSINE
March 21—No. 10 stamps in A Book expire at midnight.

TIRES
February 29—Next tire inspection deadline for holders of B and C books. A-book deadline March 31. T book tire inspection every 6 months or 5,000 miles of driving.

NEW ADDRESS
The local war price and rationing board is located at 29 Eleventh Avenue west. Telephone 4597.

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Little-Known Autobiography Of Lincoln Displayed Here

By CHARLES POLITZ "I was born February 12, 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia of undistinguished families."

So begins with characteristic homely simplicity the little-known autobiography of Abraham Lincoln. The two and half page document written in the cramped, curlicued quill pen scrawl that is familiar to all Americans, inscribed on stained, aging grey-white paper, is on display in the window of a downtown Eugene store.

The glass-encased facsimile of the original autobiography is the property of Walter P. Fell, Eugene merchant. It was Fell's great-uncle, Jesse W. Fell, who prodded

Army-Navy Tests Set

The third army-navy college qualifying test for the army specialized training program and the navy college program V-12 which will be given throughout the country on Wednesday, March 15, at 9 a.m., will be administered at the Crow high school, J. A. Starkweather announced today. A leaflet of general information which contains an admission-identification form may be obtained at Crow high school. This form properly filled out will admit to the test students between the ages of 17 and 21 inclusive who are high school graduates or who will be graduated by July 1, 1944. Intent to take the test should be made known immediately to Genevieve Beaman, principal at Crow high school in order that the necessary test supplies may be ordered.

The same examination will be taking the test does not obligate candidates. The examination is designed to test the aptitude and general knowledge required for the program of college training and all qualified students are urged to take the test. At the time of the test each candidate will be given a choice of service preference, but taking the test does not obligate the candidate to enlist in the service.

The army specialized training program is aimed to meet the army's needs for specialists and technicians in certain critical fields of study. Academic work is at the college level at government expense.

The navy college program also enables students to continue academic training at government expense. Successful completion of the prescribed courses may, following further officer training, lead to a commission in the navy.

Motorist Killed

Alfred Hoffmeister, Swishome, was killed early Friday night about two miles west of that place when his car suddenly left the highway, crashed into a telephone pole and overturned. Hoffmeister was caught in the open door of his car as it turned over and died instantly.

O. E. Dutcher of Swishome, who was following the Hoffmeister car, reported that just before the crash he suddenly noticed the car ahead began to weave across the highway. According to his statement Hoffmeister was not driving fast.

The deceased, whose age has been reported variously as 58 or 59, was employed by the Consumers Cooperative mill at Swishome, where he lived. Survivors include his mother, Mrs. E. Rickman, Seattle, and one brother, R. H. Hoffmeister, Portland.

'K' Rations Given As 'Overtime Pay'

FARRAGUT, Ida.—(U.P.)—The only overtime pay for a 12-hour shift of hard labor in the Gilbert and Ellice islands is maybe some extra "K" rations, if they are available.

Lt. John P. Mohair, medical officer until recently assigned to duty with a Seabee construction battalion in the south Pacific, told here how the Seabees built a vitally-needed flying strip within 10 days after landing on an island by working a 12-hour shift while living on "K" rations.

He told of the apparent surprise of Jap bomber pilots who made daylight raids from a nearby island when American fighter planes took off to challenge them upon completion of the flying field.

The Seabees then constructed a camouflaged underground operating room for Mohair, reinforcing it with coconut logs and equipping it with emergency lighting.

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Storm Moves East

By United Press The season's worst snowstorm moved eastward today, centering over the Atlantic seaboard with five to 12 inches of snow in the northern states, while the midwest shivered in zero temperatures.

At least 15 deaths were attributed to the storm and sub-zero temperatures.

The heavy snowfall in New York and New England slowed transportation, while the cold snap did the same thing to travel in the midwest.

Official weather forecasts left little hope for warmer weather Saturday night and Sunday, but a general lessening of blizzard conditions throughout the east was predicted for Monday.

Midwest cities reported temperatures ranging from zero to 30 below at northern points. Nine persons lost their lives because of the storm in the north central states earlier this week. Swirling snow that cut visibility was blamed for a railroad wreck near Ashabula, O., where the New York Central's southwestern limited sideswiped a Pennsylvania freight train, killing an engineer.

The storm, described as the worst in three years in the east, claimed at least six lives in that area.

Platte Center, Neb., reported a low of 30 below zero, Omaha had 19 below, but the prospect for Sunday was for warmer weather.

Kansas City, Mo., reported eight above and expected slowly rising temperatures. Iowa had below zero weather, and forecasters said it would continue tonight.

He described his defeat in the campaign for the Illinois legislature in 1832 as the "only time I have ever been beaten by the people."

The United States might never have benefited from the services and understanding and humanity of one of history's greatest leaders and fighters for the rights of free men had it not been for the Missouri compromise, for Lincoln reveals that "I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri compromise aroused me again."

The final paragraph of the autobiography is a masterpiece: "If any personal description of me is thought desirable—I am in height six feet, four inches. It may be said, Lean in flesh—weighing on an average of one hundred and eighty pounds. Dark complexion with coarse black hair and grey eyes. No other marks. Yours very truly, A. Lincoln."

Wallace Tells Stand

Lew Wallace of Portland, who recently filed as candidate for democratic national committee from Oregon, declared his stand on three points, when he came to Eugene Saturday to attend the Oregon Elks midwinter convention. He is exalted ruler of Portland Elks.

"First," said Wallace, "I am not looking for any political appointment myself."

"Second, I have no relatives to ask or receive appointments through me."

"Third, I feel that political appointments in Oregon are not the property of their present occupants and should be passed around among deserving democrats. I do not refer to civil service posts, but purely political appointments to the better-paid jobs."

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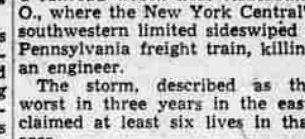
Five home extension units are scheduled to meet in Lane county this week, Miss Nellie Lyle, county home demonstration agent, announces. Two will meet Wednesday, one Thursday and two Friday.

Siltcoos unit will meet Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Lyla Scott, where Miss Lyle and Miss Lois Lutz of the state college will give a demonstration of how to make kitchens more livable.

Walnut Acres unit will meet on that day at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Rose Dickenson. The topic will be "furniture repair" and it will be handled by Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Harper.

North Fork unit will meet Thursday, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the home of Mrs. K. H. McCord.

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