

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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The Register-Guard's policy is to 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.

WELCOME THE SELF RELIANT

"What has Lane county to offer to the men and women from all parts of the United States who came to Oregon to work in war industries?"

This question comes from Marshall Dana, editor of The Oregon Journal, who states that a good many, who might make excellent citizens, are heading for home, either because they fear the insecurity of war industry, or because they just haven't "taken" to Oregon. He asks us to prepare a "guest editorial" stating what this community has to offer prospective settlers.

We appreciate the invitation. However, what we say in this matter is NOT the voice of the community, only our idea of what the attitude of an intelligent community should be. We are going to try to speak very plainly:

Lane county has a great deal to offer to the SELF RELIANT and INDUSTRIOUS settler, the man who has a real skill or talent which is needed here, the man who is willing to GIVE as well as GET. But this is NOT A SOFT SPOT and we advise all who are looking for soft spots to stay away!

Lane county is now "the capital of the nation's lumber industry"; we are cutting more than a BILLION feet a year, more than Minneapolis cut in its heyday. On Monday we will break ground for our first wood sugar (alcohol) plant. We know we are on the eve of great things in wood chemistry, wood fabrication and many NEW USES of what we have—if we can prevent depletion and waste of these resources.

For rail, road and air transport, Eugene is a natural center, and transportation is a great and growing industry. Eugene also is a natural merchandising and distribution center. Our agriculture is rich, diversified, stable—except for the marginal land promotions of skinfint promoters, of whom we have far too many! In the post-war, thousands of travelers will come here to fish and hunt and play and rest by our mountain streams and lakes and ocean beaches. Ours is a University town, and we are rich in music and art and intellectual and cultural opportunities. Our county, city and schools are virtually debt free, which means that so long as we keep good government our taxes can be controlled. Our municipal power rates are cheapest in the United States—but we EARNED them the hard way.

Ours is a beautiful community, a good place to live in and establish a home.

But—we do not subscribe to the idea that growth is always a blessing, or that population increase automatically brings prosperity. The job of our Central Lane Planning Council is to encourage healthy growth and prevent the kind that breeds slums. We would say to the undecided warworker at Portland:

"Maybe you'd better take a trip back home before you decide. And if you still hanker for Oregon, then come back and take a 'good look around' before you decide. Talk to THOSE WHO KNOW THE COUNTRY! If you are thinking of business talk to those who have been successful in business here. If you hanker for a farm, read CAREFULLY the warnings of the Lane Agricultural Council.

"It is desirable to have some savings—although this is not nearly so important as the right attitude! At the moment, almost anybody can get a job and with thrift and intelligence he can get ahead. But even in the best of times, the indolent and incompetent go broke here, and although we have all the customary agencies for relief and charity, this community is just as TOUGH as any other to be broke in."

This is a community where we have very few "rich people," thank God! We have our quota of snobs and would be high-binders, but "social lines" are indistinct. You may wear greasy overalls to get your living, but if you can sing you can join the Gleemen or take part and lead in almost any activity to which you have something to contribute. You may be "poor as church mice," but your wife and kids will be "accepted"—according to their abilities. We could cite hundreds of cases. In this part of Oregon we are still close to the pioneers—who judged a man not by what he "came from" but by what he could DO.

This community is not smug; it is not "resisting growth"; it is merely trying to understand the problems of development when it says:

"We are not bidding for population, but if you have something to offer, if you can lend a hand to make this a better place, this will be a good place for you."

Census estimates released this week show that Oregon has gained some 145,798 population since the war boom began; Washington has gained 296,758; and California, 1,539,135. To us, at a Pacific Coast crossroads, these figures spell "problems."

NEED CONTROLS BE SO COMPLEX?

One day last week, when the excitement over price ceilings on berry crops was at its peak, OPA sent one of its best "price specialists" to Eugene. All afternoon we had a "ringside seat," while this gentleman from

Portland, and Hoke Smith of the local ration board, and Ray Bauer, manager of our Public Market talked it out.

Many very interesting points were brought out:

1. There is no "historic differential" between berry prices in Oregon and those in California and points south (as alleged by the Washington office of OPA in fixing the prices which have virtually drained berries out of Oregon markets).

2. California growers have always had much stronger organization, and it is logical to suppose they "sold" this idea at Washington.

3. If men in the field, in this region, who know the facts, had authority to make decisions most of these troubles could be avoided.

In all good will, the price specialist (a veteran of the fresh fruit business) set out to try to show what the local grower may or may not do, according to whether he is — (a) selling at the farm to a wholesaler; (b) at the wholesaler's warehouse; (c) to a retail outlet; (d) to an individual at the farm; (e) at the individual's door; (f) over the counter of a farmer-owned stall in the Public Market.

It is infinitely complex, this series of calculations and regulation references. To be sure, each farmer does not need to figure this out for himself. OPA publishes the "ceiling" for each type of transaction, and theoretically, all the farmer has to do is keep "under that ceiling"—if he can remember which ceiling is which. But after listening to this performance for more than three hours, we are inclined to agree with Ajax McGurk who proposes:

"What we are going to need for a post-war project is the biggest jail in the universe."

This paper has never opposed rationing or price controls. They are very necessary in wartime. On the whole a good job has been done, and the proof is in prices which are far less than at this stage of the last war. In this community our local boards have been pretty fair and reasonable, but this question keeps popping up:

"How can even the most honest person be sure he isn't breaking the rules?"

The object of price control is, or should be, to catch and punish wilful and persistent profiteers, but this objective seems to be lost in the effort to regulate everything and everybody down to the last picayune detail, and even the wise men on the Potomac are not wise enough to foresee all details, such as:

"In a 'one-price market' such as our Public Market how do you adjust between the farmer who sells his own berries over his own stall and the one who sells through somebody's 'else stall' which is technically a 'retail outlet'."

Maybe the Wise Men of the Potomac are justified in the premise that all of us are crooks, but the regulations as they come down are so complex, so ignorant of actual conditions that we have been moved to ask:

"Won't this thing break of its own weight, like prohibition, because it is impossible to regulate humans in such infinite detail?"

The first and most needed step toward efficiency in price control is DECENTRALIZATION and along with that SIMPLIFICATION of the rules. The cockeyed differential on berries (which no experienced fruit man on the Coast would have sanctioned) did NOT prevent profiteering, but merely encouraged truckers and others to raid the Oregon crop for the high price California market. Housewives, deprived of expected canned supply are fuming. Farmers, disgusted, have been tearing up berry fields which took years to cultivate. Not the least of the hazards is:

"How can I know when I'm selling at the right price? How do I know somebody isn't going to jump me next week for a 'rollback'?"

However, maybe McGurk is right and the simple answer is bigger and better jails.

The Order of the Buggy Ride has saved a special hobbled cushion for the reckless guy who bet his entire "July ration" that the war would be over by the Fourth.

"Sixty at 60" is the slogan of Oregon's "Little Townsend movement," but that idea can't be carried much beyond 106.

Do you remember, once upon a time there was a guy named Willie who set out to save the Republican party for itself.

The esteemed Oregonian congratulates Mr. Dewey on inviting Ralph Cake, manager of the late Willie campaign, into his camp. But not to the "pie counter," you can bet!

Ike Eisenhower told Paratrooper Bill Steele that "Oregon is also my favorite state." Looks like a lot of generals might be planning a post-war invasion on the McKenzie front.

WAC Sgt. Blanche McCleish is a champion softball pitcher with the soldier team at Perin Field, Tex. We might add that all the WAC's are in there pitching.

Things are looking up. An old fashioned guy came in the other day to ask for the latest stock market report.

Are you proving you're a red-blooded American by helping the Red Cross stock up on plasma?

One nice advantage poor folks have is they can pick their own friends.

You don't have to investigate before you invest—buy more war bonds!

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

AGAINST RENT CONTROL

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—By the action of the Eugene city council Monday evening on local rent control it looks as if one American principle—the principle of home rule—will be salvaged to the community, although a second American principle of free, cooperative community action goes into eclipse.

Under the stress of war, in order to control a few gouging landlords, reported to be newcomers unfamiliar with the Eugene tradition of fairness, the community is now forced to one or the other of the following alternatives: Either at this time to yield to unresponsive, arbitrary and generally robot techniques of distant bureaucracies, or now to set up our own local agency, giving to it arbitrary powers in respect to rents; but reserving and cherishing the hope (b) that, by nearness and facility for adjustment, equities can be reasonably dispensed, without wearisome delays or miscarriages of justice to either tenant or landlord; and (2) that when the emergency of war is over the agency, without the shadow of doubt, can be abolished.

Now in the face of emergency let Eugeneans be not conditioned to arbitrary political machinery which, as a permanent way of life, is un-American. The invoking of dictatorial techniques must be limited to the great emergencies of starvation, flood, fire, pestilence, war. Let us not forget that though we abhor it, it is nature, as the poet has warned, later to endure and then to embrace.

By insisting on local controls we can help to hold the home front for the principles in defense of which American boys on the far-flung battlefronts of the world are mutilated and slain.

Furthermore, our national government is deep in the problems of prosecuting foreign wars; and, presumably, it is likewise deep in the problems of building a peace. OUR NATIONAL MACHINERY IS WEIGHED WITH BURDENS. The central government should not be called upon to wipe the nose, to diaper, any of its thousands of communities. Let this community maintain its dignity and let it be allowed to solve its quota of national problems. Federal control and administration of rents is out of order for any self respecting community.

The good boys in the Brotherhoods and elsewhere who clamor for Federal bureaucracies on every occasion know not what they do. Will they now, or will they not, line up with their own community, on its own little sector of the home front in its sincere efforts to hold that sector for America. It is an obligation imposed by tradition, by experience, by reason and by necessity of peace, and of life. Philosophers of all parties long ago removed the subject from the field of partisan politics.

American communities cannot be European in their thinking and in governmental techniques and America be preserved. Can not good citizens realize that modern Europe is sick unto death, perhaps dying. FROM ITS WAY OF THINKING?

Because of the clear thought in America, reflected in her traditions and institutions; because of the spiritual greatness and the enormous economic and physical power springing out of that thought, America finds herself able to feed, to clothe, to house, to educate and to care for her own while her industries, her armies and her navies go to the rescue of stricken continents. Our running infections which have sprung out of the thought and the institutions of sick nations. How mad and how pitiable it is to think that we, or any people, can perpetuate character, institutions, vigor and strength by tolerating and embracing any portion of the philosophies and techniques of nations sick and dying actually because of those philosophies. These matters are fundamental. They were well understood by the philosopher mechanics who fashioned America. Tinkerers and

political opportunists, now, either are unaware or do not care.

Let not the hot partisans and disciples of any political party further jeopardize the principles by making them subject matter for partisan politics. Let the American community distinguish between fundamentals and partisan dogmas. Let us "hold fast to that which is good."

ROBERT W. PRESCOTT

TRUST

Guide me O thou great Jehovah, I dare not trust myself alone; I need Thee ever by my side, To lead me to Thy heavenly home.

My footsteps falter without Thee Just like a wandering sheep I stray

O keep me ever by Thy side And guide me in the narrow way.

I fear no ill when Thou art near, I'm happy in my trust and faith; My heart rejoiceth all day long, To know that I am saved by grace.

I heard Christ say "Come unto Me," Thou weary one, find Peace and Rest;

I went to Jesus as I was And now I am supremely blest.

O sinner heed that pleading voice, Believe on Christ His sacrifice; He will forgive and take thee home, To dwell with Him in Paradise.

PERCIVAL RUST, Eugene, Ore.

DECEPTION?

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—The June 21 issue of Christian Century magazine (on file at the public library) has an eye-opening article concerning Roosevelt and the war. The article is "The Great Deception" by Oswald Garrison Villard. I hope you will read it and perhaps comment on it editorially. I wish that every citizen would read it and ask Mr. Roosevelt to answer the challenge.

It shows for one thing, that our ships had direct war orders to destroy Japanese ships or planes eight days before Pearl Harbor. This is the statement of a naval commander just made public. The writer accuses Roosevelt of gross deception; and the facts indicate that he is correct in his assumption.

I trust you will read the article and give your views on the matter.

Sincerely, STANLEY G. JACOBS

SAVE HIS FEELINGS

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I have read, "Mr. Roosevelt grows candid."

He speaks of "this chap Dewey." It appears to me that he rather lowers the dignity of his position to use the term in reference to a man selected to go before the people to ask for the honor Mr. Roosevelt has had three times, something never before granted.

Washington, OUR GREATEST

EASE DIAPER RASH

Soothe and cool diaper rash, also often help prevent it, by sprinkling baby after every change with MESSANA. This soothing, cooling, medicated powder cools out stinging and itching. A favorite for over 40 years. Contains ingredients often used by specialists to relieve these miseries. Large supply costs little. Get MESSANA.

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PRESIDENT, was unanimously offered a third term and declined—yes—refused.

He pleads that he does not really want it, but feels he is sacrificing himself for the good of the people. Sorry, but it is too much of a sacrifice—he should not be allowed to do it.

He mentions having four sons in the Army. There is an Indian from Oklahoma who has four sons in the Army. That is not a valid plea or reason for such a sacrifice.

There are many millions in the United States who would be thankful if Mr. Roosevelt would not sacrifice his feelings by accepting a nomination for the fourth time.

Respectfully submitted, C. L. ANDREWS, 1734 Villard St.

Alaska Fishing Boats Head Farther South

KETCHIKAN, Alaska — (U.P.) — More than 50 trolling boats have left Alaska for tuna fishing in southern Pacific coast waters because of a poor run in king salmon at the northern banks, it was revealed here.

A spokesman declared the fishermen also had received no assurance from the OPA that promised adjustments will be made for fall fishing.

GERMAN TRAWLER SUNK
LONDON, July 15—(U.P.)—British light coastal forces sank one German armed trawler and severely damaged another off IJmuiden, Holland, early yesterday, the admiralty announced today. All the British ships returned safely, although a small number of casualties were suffered.

In Canada there are more than 130 distinct species of trees.

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West Coast Lumbermen Hit Old Output Mark

SEATTLE — (U.P.) — West coast lumber production has recovered its pre-war production rate with more than half the output going for military requirements, said coast lumber commission officials here.

The weekly June production average was 163,734,000 board feet, or almost 4 per cent over the average for the 1940-1943 years, according to the official figures.

Much of the lumber bought for the services was for packaging and shipping purposes.

DEWEY ORGANIZATION "GROWS"

STERLING, Ill., July 15—(U.P.) — The Thomas E. Dewey Mustachio Club No. 1 of Polo, Ill., is a "grow-

ing" organization, according to founder, Griford G. Terry, publisher of the Tri-County. The only membership condition is a hirsute upper lip.

Dr. J. C. Hildner, VETERINARIAN, River Road, Pl.

CLOSED FOR VACATION July 31 to Aug. 1 LIGHTNING 1151 Willamette

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WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH OUR WATER PROBLEM

BRIEFLY THE STORY IS THIS: In 1941 we had planned to install additional equipment to increase our raw water supply. After Pearl Harbor the government asked us to get by with what we had until the war is over. Now, still more city population, plus our obligations to supply water to Glenwood and other districts have increased our water demand by 12.3% over 1943. We can pump our complete McKenzie pipe line capacity (8 1/2 million gallons daily) to consumers for a short period . . . but we simply do not dare to let our reserves get low in the reservoirs. If we did there would be a critical danger in case of fire and other emergencies because we would not only be short of water but we would not have enough pressure.

Here's