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The Register-Guard's policy is to present complete and impartial news in its news pages of a news and state-
ments 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.

MR. ROOSEVELT CHANGES HORSES

Whatever else history may say about Franklin D. Roosevelt, it will have to accord him the crown as the greatest political stage manager of all time. Masterful was the buildup for the "draft" which has rationalized the bid for a fourth-term—the dramatization of Mr. Roosevelt as the commander-in-chief, and "just another good soldier." There was what the ancients would have called "deus ex machina" in the acceptance speech, with "the voice" coming over the air from "a naval base" far away.

But the real masterpiece of political stagecraft was the great sham battle for the second place on the ticket. It would not be elegant to say that Mr. Roosevelt "ditched" his faithful man Friday, Henry Wallace. No, it might be said that Henry was let down softly upon a "cushion of glory."

Four years ago, Mr. Roosevelt demanded Wallace and forced him upon an unwilling but obedient convention. This time, with the South flaming with "revolt," Mr. Roosevelt gave his Republican rivals a really classic example of how to go about this difficult feat of "changing horses in midstream": "If I were a delegate, I would cast my vote for Wallace, but..."

Then came what the French call "the coup de grace," the authorized statement, through Chairman Hannegan:

"It is not correct that Mr. Roosevelt has set up a second and a third choice. But the president has indicated that he would be happy to run with Senator Truman, and that HE THINKS TRUMAN WOULD STRENGTHEN THE TICKET."

Poor Henry! The Iowa farm boy who took his "liberalism" so doggedly seriously. Crowds are instinctive! It is unlikely that the inadequate Henry will ever again come so near to the presidency. Nevertheless he had his "big moment" during that protracted first ballot at Chicago, when the vast throng paid tribute to "a game guy." (The Russians have a play "He Who Gets Slapped"). Henry took his defeat manfully. He is still standing by loyally. (And so for that matter is old Jim Farley.)

This is politics in "the big time"! Not admirable! "Sure Truman will strengthen the ticket." Missouri is mid-west, yet with a distinct Southern flavor. And Truman is a "workhorse," a mediocrity, little known until he became chairman of the committee which, with the aid of competent technicians, rode herd on war production. If he were to be called to the presidency, he would be "safe enough."

The one issue of the coming campaign is still "the indispensable man." It is admitted in every speech made to the Democratic convention. After 12 years of Roosevelt, the Democrats have NO OTHER MAN THEY COULD WIN WITH. So they tell us, in fervid oratory, that this great nation has nobody else who could lead us to victory, or make a sound peace, or give us prosperity in the post-war. Nobody else!

Mr. Roosevelt is still a powerful character, but his party is decadent. Its arrogant intellectuals from the big cities have made a temporary truce with the reactionary South. As a party it is utterly dependent on one man's will and strength.

How will the Republican party, under the young and aggressive Dewey meet this challenging opportunity? Has it been chastened and disciplined and educated? Can it go beyond "capitalizing discontent" to win confidence? The New Deal is no longer going forward. It has changed horses and it is slipping back.

THERE GOES THE BALL GAME

Although the German censorship has covered most of the details, it is apparent that the long expected "big break" is at hand. The pattern of breakdown in Germany is much the same as in 1918. Germany's fighting men are turning against their political overlords. Hitler may be able, by purge, to prevent an immediate collapse, but no nation can stand up to the pounding very long under such circumstances.

The complete political change in Japan is no less significant, although somewhat harder to interpret. The Japanese "see the handwriting." Tojo is out and a new and allegedly more "tolerant" government is in. Now is the time to beware of "peace traps" which can be as deadly as the infamous "booby traps."

There probably will be overtures for "negotiated peace." Both of the bandit nations will try to save something out of the wreckage. There will be great pretences of "reform." There probably will be piteous appeals to spare them from complete "occupation."

And on our side the greatest danger is the illusion that armistice will bring peace.

Nothing less than complete occupation and protracted "trusteeship" of the Axis nations will suffice, and this may be much more difficult than the home folks think.

If we refuse to compromise there may be much more fighting and perhaps bloodier fighting than we have seen yet. Even if we obtain "unconditional surrender," it probably will require millions of men for several years to prevent chaos.

The upheavals of the week in Germany and Japan mean that the war is almost won, but we dare not relax either on the battle lines or the production lines. You can be sure that our generals and admirals will try to hit harder now than ever before. Now is the time when attack must be unceasing and relentless.

But we cannot expect that "the boys will be home by Christmas," or that we can soon forget all about rationing, price controls, high taxes and the many "hardships and aggravations" of the home front. It is time to speed up post-war preparedness.

When this war has been "won" we will have won only the right to fight the many battles of peace.

EUGENE WILL TAKE LESSONS

From our neighbors in Springfield and its adjacent communities, Eugene can afford to take a few lessons on park and recreation programs. With unanimous support of the city council in Springfield, the Chamber of Commerce, the PTA's and all the other civic organizations of the town and its suburbs, the Springfielders are setting out to create the first comprehensive park district in this state.

They are acting under a law which was passed by the last legislature. The procedure is not easy. It involves getting the consent of at least 25 per cent of the property owners before you can start, after that establishing boundaries before the county court, after that an election which must win a majority from all the registered voters in the area, after that the election of three good commissioners, and after that some years of what you might call "paying and patience."

In the Springfield area they are starting from scratch! With an industrial population well in excess of 6,500 (and it may be close to 9,000 in the area proposed) today they have not a single playground or park (except an undeveloped tract which the city owns). However, Springfield has learned two big things out of its magnificent accomplishment in building its fine new union high school:

1. How to look ahead.
2. How to do things without waiting for Santa Claus.

One time last fall, we saw a meeting in the beautiful auditorium of the new high school where this park matter was discussed. There was something in "the atmosphere," a tremendous change from the dark days of depression when debt-ridden Springfield was "fumbling for help." You could only describe it this way:

"Springfield acts like a woman who has saved up her pin money and gone down and got a hairdo and a new hat." Our guess is that Springfield will get the park district and that all the neighbors in Maple and Mount Vernon and Glenwood will cooperate wholeheartedly. This is no fine spun "aesthetic" proposition. It will make the community much more beautiful, much more liveable. But that is also GOOD BUSINESS in more ways than one.

If the Springfield area gets proper parks and playgrounds NOW, before open spaces are swallowed up, it will check "living off a Springfield payroll and spending it in Eugene"; it will increase all property values; it will add to industrial stability and content. And it will hit at the big problem of "delinquency."

Eugene has many fine parks, mostly suffering from neglect, a recreation program which has stumbled along for years, no real plan for the future. Some day Eugene and Springfield and all their adjacent communities should be part of one comprehensive park and recreation district. The leadership comes out of Springfield. They are tackling this program with brains and—what it takes.

Both party platforms are evasive. They have failed to say when Milady will be able to get some new "nylons."

It is too bad that bomb didn't get Hitler, but maybe it will pay dividends anyhow—if Hitler keeps on shooting his own generals.

The guy down on the corner suggests that the Democrats should retain Albert Einstein to keep tally when they ballot for vice president.

On the other hand Ajax McGurk maintains the vp contest was a very good thing because it gave the Democrats the first real practice they've had in years in ordinary counting.

And then there is that Old Black Republican who refuses to believe that any Democrat knows how to count, much less handle fractions.

Mailbag

STATEMENT
(To the Editor):
Referring to the letter by C. L. Andrews in the Sunday Register-Guard of July 18, he says that he has read "Mr. Roosevelt Grows Candid." And he accuses the President of speaking of "this chap Dewey."

It is evident that Mr. Andrews did not read that editorial, very carefully or he would have understood that those were not the words of President Roosevelt at all. Those were words by the editor inserted in fine print between the lines of the real letter. The President would not talk that way.

Another misstatement in Mr. Andrews' letter is that the President mentioned having four sons in the army. The fact is, he did not mention specifically his own sons in that letter, but "our sons" serving in the war, meaning everybody's sons.

For the sake of fairness, I think these things should be corrected.
Yours very truly,
L. C. WILSON.

Alert Boys—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Guard reporter and photographer to camp to meet the crew and get an idea of a typical camp day.

Typical Routine

Warden Walker's demonstration started off "right" with a woodmen's dinner in the camp mess hall, which dinner the crew and guests put away in no time. The highlight of the noon meal was wild-blackberry pie, first of the season, the berries for which were painstakingly collected by the boys from among the countryside's plentiful green ones. All done, Camp Cook Alice Simpson revealed, in anticipation of Boss Jim Walker's guests.

After the hearty meal an inspection of camp buildings took place. The boys sleep in a neatly revamped CCC building in what might be called a military atmosphere with the impersonal army touch decidedly lacking. Their sleeping bags and toilet gear are kept in apple pie order ready for any fire call that will take them, on the run to any part of the Lane timberland where they may fight fire for days or weeks until their objective, suppression, is obtained.

True to the military atmosphere there was a splattering of pin-up girls on the walls of a few lockers, possibly the property of last year's veterans, who were among those imploring the reporter, "For gosh sakes, promise you won't write that we're a whippersnapper bunch as they did last year." They got the promise. In the face of some beautiful sprouting whiskers, the pin-up girls and all, there was nothing else to do but promise.

Keep Busy

The boys are paid \$100 a month and board, and while their main job is fire suppression, they do not lie around just waiting for fire calls. They've made an impressive record of cleaning up nearby old camp grounds, building fireplaces on such sites and making picnic tables and benches out of old discarded logs. They've made fire trails, roads and bridges in their off fire-fighting time. It's only during hazardous fire weather that they stand by at the camp waiting the call from Warden Walker to grab their fire gear and be off.

Camp Foreman Sellers stood around after the memorable camp meal commending the boys. "They can pitch in and do anything that needs to be done," he said. "They're fast on drills and they can run any fire team in the state. Why, they can be on the way to a fire within a minute and 20 seconds after the call comes in." Ray had no sooner made his proud boast when the camp's portable radio blared forth, "GET your crew for a fire! Lowell Butte's on fire!"

Fast Action
With a few crisp orders from Sellers the Mosby Creek boys flew into action, visitors forgotten. Hoes, shovels, axes, bed rolls, fire hose, extinguishers and other paraphernalia came swiftly and orderly out of barracks and implement shack and found their rightful places in the fire truck. At Seller's nod the R-G reporter and photographer scrambled aboard the truck with the 20 crew members all within the 1 minute 20 second deadline, and were off to a fire more than 35 miles away.

It is said that our boys overseas go into the battlefield with a song or two on their lips. It's an

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American custom. The Mosby Creek crew go out to the fireline with the same tradition. The fire truck had been on the hot asphalt of the county road but a few minutes when the boys burst into "We've been working on the fireline, all the living day" and from then on they swung into other familiar. Serious business ahead and they were keyed up to the task that faced them, but they still had time for song and an occasional wolfish shout when the truck passed feminine cyclists on the road to Lowell.

"Git Thar Fustest with the Mostest." That's Jim Walker's motto for his fire fighters but in this case the Mosby Creek crew wasn't there "fustest" thanks to a rotten dual tire that blew out four miles from the fire scene. Beaten by Jim Walker's smaller crew from Camp McKenzie, who had the fire not only under control but out, the Mosby boys hid their chagrin and fortified themselves for the long ride home with ice cream and candy from the local store.

Study for Job

Members of the Mosby Creek crew received fire-fighting theory and other forestry knowledge in the spring classes at their respective high schools, classes arranged by Jim Walker and sponsored by the Oregon state forestry department. Thus, they have a background of theoretical knowledge along with their practical work. Each week they put in eight hours of drill with axe, shovel and hoe under the supervision of the camp foreman.

It's not all work at camp. There's still time for play; play with Hank, the six-week-old cocker-and-shepherd pup, who goes only tentatively by the name of Hank because "He's a girl," swimming in Mosby Creek which they dammed up into a dandy swimming hole. They can only swim after 8 o'clock, however, because if a fire call should come during the daytime while they were in the pool it would add precious seconds to that jealously guarded record of getting off in one minute, 20 seconds.

Grace at Meals

The boys have their own camp rules of conduct which if not controllable by camp opinion is by fine. Among their customs is the taking of turns at saying grace.

The noon the Register-Guard representatives were at camp young Gene Miner, Eugene high school sophomore, was taking his turn at rendering thanks.

"Dear Lord," Gene prayed, "Thank Thee for this food that was prepared for us today and please take care of the boys and girls overseas and help bring this war to quicker end."

Before saying a heartfelt "Amen" to Gene's prayer, any Lane citizen would add gratefully "God bless these boys, who stand by to keep our forests green."

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Pair Caught Behind Jap Lines Escape

By MAC R. JOHNSON

WITH THE ARMY'S 27TH DIVISION, SAIPAN, July 7.—(Delayed)—Two New York sergeants spent 35 hours behind Japanese lines on the eastern slopes of Mt. Tapochau, survived the most concentrated American artillery barrage they ever had seen and fought their way back to their own lines, killing six Japanese on the way.

Sgt. Herman Salisbury, 27, Garrattville, N. Y., and Sgt. Herbert Odell, Schenectady, N. Y., told me today they were with four other men when the order came to withdraw from advance positions on the mountain slope.

"We were unable to find our lines and we didn't dare scour the area for fear we would attract Jap fire or be killed by our own," Salisbury said.

"The six of us had decided to use guerilla tactics to harass the enemy behind their lines, but we gave up this plan when American artillery opened up with the most concentrated barrage I've ever seen."

"We learned later our outfit had given us up for dead and called in the artillery to clean out the many Japs holed up in caves and other natural defense positions."

Salisbury said when they were blasted out by their own artillery they shot and killed two Japanese, then took over their cave and killed two more of the enemy.

"I spotted a Jap machine gunner and shot him," Salisbury said, "then Odell and I ran down the ridge and bumped into two more Japs in a foxhole."

"Odell shot and wounded one who was cracking a grenade against his helmet to activate it. I lunged and bayoneted one, then dropped back so the grenade wouldn't hit me. It was a dud, so I lunged in again and bayoneted the other Jap. I can't see why the Japs didn't kill us both, but I guess surprise was in our favor."

Salisbury said the two men who were wounded were located later and would recover. Their names were not available for publication.

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Portland Waterfront Activity Climbing
PORTLAND — (P) — The CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union said here that Portland waterfront activity was approaching the peak period of several years ago when longshoremen were employed.

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