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 The Register-Guard's policy is the 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.

ACTION URGENT IN RENT CONTROL
 If Eugene's effort to control its runaway rent situation is to succeed, swift action is imperative—and this is said without any criticism of Col. J. H. Tierney and the local rent control committee who are laboring against considerable difficulties to get the program setup. It has been difficult to find competent secretarial help. These days it takes time to get the necessary forms printed. Mayor Large says this work has now been completed.

But, the housing problem daily becomes more acute. Complaints continue to multiply. Many landlords have been very decent, but there are too many who have set out to get all they can get. The pressures for federal rent control are increasing, and they come not only from the railroad brotherhoods and other labor unions but from a great many others who are feeling the pinch.

The Eugene city council adopted its rent control ordinance on July 25. A day later it was announced that a survey of the situation in the Eugene-Springfield area had been ordered by the Department of Labor's bureau of statistics. Since then OPA rent control officials have indicated a disposition to hold off long enough to see what can be done by local effort. There has been hope that the situation here might be relieved somewhat by:

1. End of the fighting in Europe.
 2. Relaxation of restrictions which now limit home building.
- Against this hope, however, is set the repeated warning that on the Pacific Coast, the housing and transportation situation may get worse before it gets better and the Army and Navy shift their major operations to the Pacific theatre.

But, federal rent control is AT HAND, unless action under the city's ordinance is swift and courageous, and unless all concerned, landlords and tenants give the effort prompt and complete cooperation. Col. Tierney and his committee are going to need all the help they can get in the big job they have to do which includes:

1. Registration by the landlords of every property which is being rented, including the schedule of past and present rents.
2. Investigation and hearings on the hundreds of complaints which are piling up.
3. Enforcement of the fines and (if necessary) jail sentences against those who refuse to comply.

When this ordinance was passed, it was pointed out that any effort by a municipality to "regulate business practice" is on doubtful constitutional footing, and that its only hope of success depends on universal cooperation and compliance. A city does not share in the "war powers" under which federal agencies such as OPA can act. Therefore the performance under the city ordinance must be something much more than a gesture or a stall. We know that Col. Tierney is sincere, but his sincerity won't do the job alone.

A temporary office for city rent control has been set up in city hall adjacent to the recorder's office. As soon as possible regular office hours must be established. It probably will be necessary to provide some setup whereby those who can't get to city hall in the daytime can file their complaints and statements in the evening. Likewise we heard demand for the committee to establish regular "hearing dates."

It might help also, if a committee were appointed to see what can be done to release more men and materials for housing construction in this area. In many of the larger cities a great deal of home construction is going on, and we have been told most of this is private housing. If such permits can be arranged for other cities they can be had for this area—if prompt and forceful representation is made.

The problem in this area is peculiar. Because we have not had any military establishments or "war industries," as such, we have not been classified as a "critical area." So far it has been our good luck to be considered "a sleepy college town," unworthy the attention of busy bureaucrats. But this is not like to continue.

Actually, this area has become one of the most "critical" in the west—due to the shifting of the lumber industry to this center, and to the amazing increase in rail and highway transport through this center. Maybe this condition will abate with the end of war in Europe; maybe it will not.

Meantime, speculation in real estate values is running riot. Actually the 28 percent increase in rentals since January 1, 1944 which is reflected in complaints is mild compared with the fantastic boom prices on sale property.

We cannot find it in our hearts to quarrel too much with the property owner who grabs the chance to sell at boom prices some house which has barely paid upkeep and

taxes over the years. But this does not help the tenant who suddenly finds the house "sold over his head," or his rent raised far beyond his present means to pay (not all of our workers are getting war wages; many of them are "frozen").

This community is facing a situation which challenges its intelligence. Last call has sounded for home control of this situation. Action must be swift and fearless.

Apparently Old Daddy Warbucks is in a bad way, and we are very sorry, but we can't help hoping that now maybe even Orphan Annie will grow up.

WASHINGTON LETTER

HOT ISSUE, THAT GEORGE BILL
 Any lack of a new, red-hot domestic issue to fight over in the presidential election campaign has now been taken care of by Senate passage of the George bill on reconversion policy. Major public interest in this bill was centered on the amounts of unemployment compensation to be paid discharged war plant workers, but that's only a smidgen of the stuff that's in this "War Mobilization and Reconversion Act of 1944," to give it full title.

Senator Walter F. George's brain child represents a terrific beating for organized labor, which through the A. F. of L., C. I. O. and railway brotherhoods backed the much more liberal Murray-Kilgore bill. Going now to the more reactionary House, the George bill, if revised at all, stands a good chance of being made even more conservative in committee and the only chance for getting a bill more to labor's liking will be through White House intervention.

From the war workers' point of view, what the George bill says in effect to labor, which has been averaging \$45 a week is: "When your war jobs fold, you will have to look to state unemployment insurance payments for relief, and there you will get from a minimum of \$7 a week in some states to a minimum of \$16 in others." The national average is about \$12.

Here Are Some Unpublished Angles
 But as mentioned above, this is only one phase of controversy in the reconversion act. War agencies will be studying this legislation for days to find what it means for their future. Here are some of the high lights not given much detailed attention:

The bill would kill off the Office of War Mobilization created by presidential executive order in May, 1943, now headed by James F. Byrnes. In its place is substituted an Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion—OWMR for OWM. OWMR is given a lot of assignments to make studies, issue directives, recommend legislation, report quarterly to Congress, abolish war agencies no longer needed. Just how all this would work out isn't any too clear.

Another cute trick in the bill is creation of a three-member Board of Appeals which would probably be swamped as soon as it got going. The act provides that whenever a manufacturer cannot get an allocation of materials for non-war production because of the orders of any government agency, he may present his grievances to the Board of Appeals, which may then report to the director of OWMR and cause him to issue an allocation order to relieve hardship cases.

In the section of the act creating a Retraining and Re-employment Administration, there is provision for paying travel expenses up to \$200 per family to move civilian war workers from their present jobs to their original homes.

Jobless Payments For Government Employees
 The three million or more civilian federal employees would be given unemployment insurance and all other benefits going to employees of private industry.

The National Housing Administration is directed to prepare plans to aid private housing, but no mention is made of public housing.

The Federal Works Administration is authorized to aid state and local governments in planning postwar public works, but there is no mention of federal public works, the intent apparently being to keep the federal government out of postwar PWA and WPA as well as public housing and direct federal unemployment insurance. In other words, this is strictly a states' rights bill. Centralization of government having been carried too far, the pendulum swings.

The final section of the act would direct the secretary of labor to make a six months investigation of guaranteed annual wage payment plans, first broached seriously by the United Steelworkers' Union as part of their plan to break the Little Steel formula.

This puts an unwanted baby on the doorstep of the next administration. More than that, it shoves a foot in the door to make the next administration take this precious bundle and do something about it.

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

NOTES ON HILLSIDE
 Notes of a hillside farm: And from first-hand observation, too. Never was so much observation crowded into three days before and it seemed to me that never before had the cherries on the trees in the back yard been so red; never had the Dorothy Perkins rose vine been so heavy with bloom. Romeo, the bantam rooster, perched in the walnut tree and crowded with the old-time arrogance. Familiar, too, was the fact that the cow had gone to visit the neighbors.

Not familiar, however, were the new built-in in the little farm kitchen, or the cute little cupboards over the sink, all with blue handles. A blue patterned linoleum, too. "And if you'd not come for another week, the black popboards would have been in place," pouted Frank.

"You should have told the Democrats to postpone their convention," I told him. "And if they hadn't held out for Wallace as long as they did, I'd not be here now," for I could be absent only for the duration of the Chicago melee.

Frank and I have always had hard work finding each other, no matter how carefully we planned a time and place for meeting. With no time or place named, the situation was worse than ever. I was told he had just left with a truck load of logging equipment for camp some twenty miles up in the hills. A radio call brought no results save reports as to where various persons had seen him headed south in more than his usual hurry. Not until I'd been in town 24 of the precious 60 hours I had to spend did we locate each other.

How I found him? Driving along the street with a friend, I saw the dirtiest car I'd ever seen before. "Stop," I shrieked. "Only a Barber car could look like that." Sure enough, it was our car.

That night we went to the Pumpkin Rollers' Ball and it was like old times again. Our "Ball" is not what the term implies. We have potluck dinner, visit, sing; a few play pinocle. Some of the old crowd were missing due to war and war industry. There was a new baby; the women compared canning records; out of courtesy to me, they sang old time songs, not realizing I'd had the latest tunes daily dinned into my ears from the omnipresent juke boxes of the city; or perhaps they did realize this and those last year's songs were given me as a relief.

I liked it that they assumed my own experiences were of secondary importance. To them, I'd been away from the neighborhood and for that time I'd missed out on real living. My heart was in full agreement.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By MARIAN LOWRY

TEA FOR MR. SMITH TO BE WEDNESDAY
 Members of the Democratic Women's organization of Lane county are sponsoring a tea in honor of Edgar W. Smith, democratic nominee for the United States senate, long term, the event to be held in the Osburn hotel at two-thirty o'clock. All women interested in hearing Mr. Smith are invited to attend. He will talk to the group during the afternoon.

JUNCTION CITY MAN WEDS IN ARKANSAS
 The marriage of Miss Dora Wood, daughter of Mrs. G. D. Wood and the late Mr. Wood, 612 South Anna St., Stuttgart, Ark., to S-Sgt. Carnes Schulermerich, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Schulermerich of Junction City, Ore., was solemnized Aug. 5.

Rev. C. E. Wagner, pastor of the First Christian church at Stuttgart performed the double ring ceremony before a background of purple asters and pink gladioluses at twilight at the home of the bride in the presence of relatives and close friends. Music was played by Mrs. C. E. Wagner. The bride wore a street length dress of white eyelet fashioned on princess lines, and in her hair she wore a halo of white flowers. Her shoulder corsage was a purple orchid.

Miss Margaret Wood, her sister's only attendant, wore a dress of printed crepe. Her corsage was of purple asters.

Sgt. Forrest L. Stanfield of the Stuttgart army air field was best man.

At the reception Miss Margaret Aker assisted the bride's mother with the serving.

The bride wore as her going away suit a dress of black crepe trimmed in white lace with matching accessories. She wore her bridal corsage.

Mrs. Schulermerich is a graduate of Hazen high school and school of Western Union and for the past nineteen months has been employed at the Stuttgart army air field. The bridegroom is a graduate of Junction City high school and attended Oregon State college.

After a trip to Hot Springs the couple will be at home at the Riceland apartments, Stuttgart army air field where the groom is stationed as an electrical specialist.

GERHARDS HONORED BY REEDSPORT FRIENDS

REEDSPORT Incentive for much informal entertaining during the past few days are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gerhard of Gardiner who are moving to Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard were entertained on Saturday evening when friends gathered at their home for a farewell surprise party. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Berg, Mr. and Mrs. John Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Richmond, Mrs. William Townsend, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Warren.

Mrs. Gerhard was guest of honor or last week at the meeting of the Wee Sewing club for which Mrs. Pitcher was hostess. Friends of Mr. Gerhard held a stag party in his honor on Friday evening.

RETURN FROM TRIP

Mrs. Ellery Hall and two sons have returned from two months spent in New York and in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The first locomotive ever operated in the United States was hauled in England.

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EUGENE COUPLE WED AT FORT LEWIS
 A wedding of interest to many local people, took place Sunday, August 20 at Ft. Lewis, Wash., when Miss Corinne Adell Croson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Croson of Eugene, was married to Cpl. Lloyd Merle Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Johnson also of Eugene.

The ceremony was solemnized at three o'clock in the afternoon. The couple took their places before a center cross with gladioluses and lighted tapers in candleholders arranged on either side.

Chaplain Lawrence Leonard read the marriage vows of the Evangelical Reform church using the double ring ceremony.

Miss Frances Nichols of Eugene, and Sgt. James Messina attended the couple.

The bride wore a white crepe afternoon dress with white accessories and carried a small white Bible. Her corsage was of white snapdragons and white tuberous begonias.

The bridesmaid's dress was light blue crepe with white accessories. Her corsage was made of pink begonias and blue ageratum.

Eugene people attending the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Croson, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, and Miss Nichols.

The couple will make their home in Tacoma, where the bridegroom is stationed with the Ninth Service Command Unit.

NAVY MOTHERS

Navy Mothers sewing group will meet Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. M. Brakel, 1148 Ferry street.

Monthly meeting of the Navy Mothers club will be held Wednesday evening at the bamboo room of the Eugene hotel, at eight o'clock. Mothers of navy, marine corps, and coast guard men and women, also of navy nurses, are invited.

Ward Case Against WLB Being Heard

CHICAGO, Aug. 22.—U.P.—The war labor board's authority to order compulsory arbitration of union grievances was under attack in federal court today as Judge William L. Knous of Denver sitting as an arbitrator appointed by the WLB, prepared for a hearing of grievances of Montgomery Ward and company employees.

Judge Knous and the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, local 20, (CIO), were named as defendants yesterday in a suit filed in federal court by Montgomery Ward, which asked the court to declare that Knous does not have the power to make binding awards.

Montgomery Ward previously sued the WLB, attacking the validity of the board's orders, and the suit was dismissed by the court of appeals for the District of Columbia on July 19 at the WLB's request on grounds that WLB orders are advisory and are not enforceable or legally binding. Today's hearing was ordered by the WLB on July 29.

Obsidian Outing at Yachats Successful

Twenty-six members took part in the activities of the annual summer outing of the Obsidian club at Purdy's Inn, on the Coast highway near Yachats last week. Members declared it to have been the most successful summer outing held in recent years. The weather was ideal, with little fog and wind, and the sun shone most of the time.

The time was spent with hikes on the beach and into the mountains and other pastimes incident to these outings. The entire party slept and ate at the inn.

RAY IN NEW POST

PORTLAND, Aug. 22.—(P)—Tom Ray, who was ousted as business agent and financial secretary of the Portland AFL boilermakers after a bitter fight with the international union, is new personnel director at Albina Engine and Machine works, navy shipyard here.

MISS BELTZ NOW IN NEW ORLEANS
 Selection of Miss Marilyn E. Beltz, former student at the University of Oregon, to serve as specialist (S) at the receiving station, New Orleans, Louisiana, is reported here by Chief William E. Bell, recruiter-in-charge of the Eugene U. S. navy recruiting station which handles WAVES applications here. Miss Beltz has just completed the basic training and indoctrination course at the naval training school for waves, New York city, with a rating of seaman, second class.

Miss Beltz is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Beltz, 1893 Alder, Eugene.

Selection of Miss Beltz for this specialized work at New Orleans was because of her training at the University of Oregon, before she enlisted in the WAVES. Miss Beltz is a member of Phi Beta music honorary at University of Oregon.

LOYAL FRIENDS

Loyal Friends class of First Christian church held a fellowship dinner around the outdoor fireplace in the grounds of the church annex, Monday evening at six-thirty o'clock. Mrs. Kendall Burke, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Z. M. Cox, had charge of the dinner. Paul Brabham, new class president, conducted a short business meeting, at which plans were made for fall work.

MRS. MCCONNELL OFF FOR WAC TRAINING

WENDLING — Mrs. Burt McConnell, who enlisted in the women's army corps to serve with the air forces, left Friday evening, Aug. 18, for Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, for basic training, after which she will be stationed at the army air forces redistribution center at Santa Monica, Calif. Mrs. McConnell is the fifth member of her family to serve in the armed forces. Her husband, Burt R. McConnell, M 2-c, is in the navy and is now stationed overseas. She also has three brothers in the service, Arthur Dillon, coxswain in the navy, and Wayne Dillon, S 2-c, also in the navy, both serving in the South Pacific. Another brother, T. Sgt. David Dillon who was here recently on furlough, is stationed at Camp Rucker, Alabama. He recently enlisted as a paratrooper and will be sent to another training station.

RUGS CLEANED
 Electric Cleaners — Phone 300

Northwest Stores Penalized, Says OPA
PORTLAND, (P)—The district office of price administration director has announced that four Oregon and Washington stores have been penalized for violating rationing regulations.

They include:

Sixty-day suspension, Aug. 21 to Oct. 20, Rickles grocery, Longview, for overdrawn ration banking account.

Ten-day suspension, Aug. 21 to

31. Hazell store, Warrenton, overdrawn ration bank account.

Fifteen-day suspension, Aug. 21 to Sept. 5, A. E. and Nellie K. Rud, store proprietors, Astoria, Ore., failing to return ration stamps representing excess inventory.

These persons are prohibited from dealing in food items in point values except as authorized consumers, during the penalty suspension, Franz Wagner, attorney, said.

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