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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, fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

WHEN IS IT "MUDSLINGING"?

Our old friend and columnist, Olive Barber, was in town the other day, and she asked a question which a good many people always ask during an election campaign:

"Why do they have to do all this mud-slinging, on both sides. Why can't the leaders of the day discuss the issues without getting into the dirt?"

The answer is that in any major campaign, the competition is hot and feelings run high, and people are people, whether they are Republicans, Democrats or what-not.

Compared with many of the campaigns in American history this one is very clean. (Did you see that array of historic campaign cartoons that Life dug up in a recent issue?)

Usually the men at the top, the candidates for president and vice-president, are quite decorous. In spite of Tom Dewey's frequent reference to "an administration which is old and tired," and in spite of Mr. Roosevelt's vaudeville act for the Teamsters union, we would say (after 30 years on the sidelines) that the top men have kept pretty well within bounds.

The "mud-slinging" usually comes from the lower ranks. Party managers are not noted for ethics, but they could not control the mud-slingers and scandal mongers and whisperers, if they would.

In the last few days we have seen two rather shocking documents. Neither one is signed. One, from the Roosevelt side, seeks to demonstrate that Tom Dewey is a "fascist" and a German bundist at heart. The other purports to be a Communist circular in favor of Roosevelt, because Communists are much more subtle. True, they are for Roosevelt, but they hire good cartoonists and they buy good printing and this thing is obviously counterfeit. Where did it come from? Probably some Republican ignoramus thought it would be a smart trick. You have heard the old adage:

"You can deal with your enemies but God save you from your well-meaning friends."

In both parties are a lot of well meaning friends who ought to be locked up. But—forget these sideshows, the filthy stuff which is always circulated by both sides:

"Would you want your top men to pull punches?" Mr. Dewey thinks, and quite sincerely that the Roosevelt regime which started out as a star spangled reform movement has grown power-mad and corrupt. Would you want him to pat 'em on the wrist? Mr. Roosevelt is naturally irritated, and if he swings a few rabbit punches at the ghost of Herbert Hoover, why should Republicans yell?

It's sort 'o like those rasslin' matches the late Herb Owen used to stage. Herb used to swear that after the first few socks, you couldn't tell a "cleanie" from a "meanie." You can try that out in your own way. Go into a roomful of New Deal fans and say:

"I saw a picture of the president in the news reels. Gosh, he looks old and tired!"

You try it next time. We are getting "old and tired." Or you can go into a room full of Republicans and say:

"We mustn't know horses in mid-stream, and only Roosevelt knows Churchill and Stalin enough to prevent future wars."

The next war will start at once! Sure, we regret "mud-slinging," if you mean the real dirt, the obscene stuff, but we must confess we enjoy an honest brawl, and in the remaining 22 days we hope the opponents slug it out.

MORE ON BATTLE OF STATLER

Although Senator Green, of Rhode Island, is obviously unwilling to tell more than he has to tell about that "Battle of the Statler" (the Navy-Teamster brawl after the Roosevelt speech), he has admitted to the press that his investigating committee knows the names of the teamsters involved. Possibly he knows the name of the other naval officer who was with Lt. Dickens. Why should the names of any of the brawlers be withheld from the public?

Equally important is the question—why was this story held back from the public nine days after the event? We have asked AP and UP for a complete report on the circumstances of the story. Some people have been doubting that any brawl occurred. Some have alleged the story to be merely a fabrication of an "anti-Roosevelt press." At this distance we are utterly dependent on AP and UP to vindicate the press. At least the Green report gives a partial vindication. There was a brawl!

The partial report of Senator Green seems designed to clear Dan Tobin, president of the Teamsters and friend of the president. Senator Green affirms that it was not "a personal friend of the president" who was involved.

As we said a few days ago, the whole thing would be trifling and not worth much

notice if there had been free and frank publicity at the beginning. Some union men, all hopped up by the president's speech, tried to question some navy men as to their voting preference. The navy men told 'em where to go and a fight started. That could happen anywhere in almost any group.

It is quite possible and even probable that no news reporters saw the fight. (They would be scrambling for phones after the president's sensational speech). Probably the first "break" came with street rumors a day or two later. But it took nine days to crack the story, and then only a small part of it. To a newshound that signifies that there was an official cover-up. There was an effort in high places to suppress.

When that happens news men usually round up the pieces. In this case they probably gathered every scrap they could find from every bellhop or hanger-on who might have witnessed the fight. Then they probably went to high places and said:

"Give us a reliable story or we will start shooting with what we have got, incomplete and inaccurate as it probably is."

They got a release of the Dickens interview and since then little else. That is why we are curious to know the story of this story. Most newshounds in Washington, D. C., are rabid New Dealers and leftists. But to the great credit of the trade let it be said that "a newshound is always a newshound." Nothing sets 'em baying like an official "shush."

OUT OF THE WOODS

By JAMES STEVENS

PONTON BRIDGE LORE

Pontoon bridges of wood have been used to cross streams for thousands of years. There are instances of their use in the writings of Homer, around 900 B.C. The Persian kings, Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxes used them. The Persian army engineers under Xerxes built the first pontoon bridge of actual record in 537 B.C. Xerxes made his famous crossing of the Hellespont some 50 years later using one row of 360 boats, and a parallel line of 314. The flooring was "made of tree trunks sawn into planks and cut the width of the bridge."

With military use as old as the pontoon bridge itself, each war has seen its higher development. Today is a far cry from Xerxes. It is even somewhat removed from the time when the Union army was stopped at the Rappahannock, had to wait 20 days while a pontoon bridge was secured and assembled—a delay that cost them a resounding defeat in the battle of Fredericksburg. In this war, pontoon bridges are on the spot and ready when needed. Blasted out bridges are sometimes crossed by superimposing prefabricated structures on the wreckage, whereas pontoons come in handy for cross-country work, and fighting in primitive areas and islands.

The pontoons are lined up, frequently kicked into place with little outboard motors, anchored, and the decking quickly laid down, and the crossing effected as heavy mobile guns, troops, and supplies roll forward. The same bridge can cross as many streams as necessary. The allies don't burn their bridges, they take 'em with them.

A Job For Douglas Fir . . .
To match the exacting demands of this up-to-date military precision, the behind the lines story reaches back to the lumber mills and to the forest itself. Douglas fir pontoon lumber has a specification and science of its own. No other species will serve as well.

With a deviation of straightness of grain that cannot exceed one in 15" in slope, the first job is to find areas where Douglas firs could yield a high percentage of suitable logs. There is no precise rule to locate such an area. The lumber companies did it by noting where their straight-grained logs came from. Only those who found a good supply of them undertook to produce pontoon lumber. In some cases, special devices at the sawmill's headrig were used to check for straightness of grain. Others were for testing texture.

Wood Chemistry . . .
After the mill has discovered a green candidate for a pontoon baulk (stringer) or chess (plank), the next concern is to reduce its water content to 19 percent or less without developing more than four moderate surface checks "not more than 1/4 inch deep, 12 inches long, and well distributed." Specifications like this, on top of hungry war demands, made air drying too risky and too slow. Kiln drying at proper humidity is also slow and delicate. The manufacturers turned to chemical seasoning.

West Coast mills are now using a powdered urea salt with good success. Before trying chemical seasoning losses through checking degrade were running as high as 40 to 60 percent, where the same mills are now holding under 3 percent loss.

Our men have a good many more rivers to cross between here and Tokyo and between home and Berlin. Douglas fir will help.

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

ABOUT LAUGHTER
Laughter has done a lot for the human race but it could be made to do a lot more. In its natural state a good belly-laugh can put a whole group into a joyous explosion whether they see the joke or not. We laugh at ourselves, at our failures, at our hardships and by so doing we beat back defeat.

So laughter becomes a strong constructive factor. It can also be used destructively, as any politician knows who has been laughed out of office when no amount of serious attempts to out him could succeed. I learned when teaching school not to give the misbehaving child the importance of seriousness. Get the group to see his conduct in a ridiculous light and he soon became amenable.

I wonder we haven't used this type of laughter as a weapon against drunkenness. We laugh at intoxication but it is the wrong kind of laughter. Our stories of drunks are always funny ones. Anything a man may say or do is funny—if he is intoxicated at the time. People who are inwardly disgusted will not amuse because it is the accepted thing to do. Many a man who feels socially inferior courts the attention he craves by doing the one thing he's seen will provoke laughter—he gets drunk.

Yet were this laughter the kind we give to a man finding himself the only one of a group unshaven and dirty, or any of the other social errors at which men cringe, then how different would be the results.

A friend who traveled in Russia just before the war says the Russians are gradually laughing the drunk out of the picture. Since alcohol lessens the efficiency of a man and so makes him an enemy of the general welfare, drunkenness is in great disrepute. But instead of a lot of "thou shalt nots," derisive laughter is used. Even children are encouraged to badger the intoxicated with hoots of jeering mirth. He's silly; like a man with his shirt tail out; or a boy in girls' clothes; etc. He's being, so this man said, laughed out. It's an angle we might at least try.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By MARIAN LOWRY

AAUW TEA MEETING EVENT OF SATURDAY

A large group attended the season's first tea and meeting for the Eugene branch, American Association of University Women, Saturday afternoon, Gerlinger hall. For the program, Rev. Wesley Goodson Nicholson sang, accompanied by Mrs. Nicholson; Miss Marilyn Miller gave solos, accompanied by Miss Pat Metcalf; and Mrs. Frances Newsom outlined the history and purposes of the organization. At the tea, Mrs. E. E. De Cou and Mrs. V. N. Freeman presided.

Committees Named
Mrs. Alfred L. Lomax announced committees for the year as follows:
The arts, Miss Pauline Conrad; book group, Mrs. H. F. Willoughby; international relationships, Dr. Edna Landros; Miss Lois Greenwood; recent graduates, Miss Blanche Thompson; education, Dr. Leona Tyler; fellowships, Mrs. Carl C. Webb; historian, Miss Pauline Walton; junior programs, Mrs. John C. McCloskey; Lane county planning commission, Mrs. V. N. Freeman; legislation, Mrs. R. D. MacLay; membership, Mrs. Frances Newsom; program, Mrs. Wesley Goodson Nicholson; social, Mrs. R. P. Sutton; social studies, Mrs. R. E. Smith; publicity, Mrs. Frederick M. Hunter; Mrs. Robert M. Fisher, Jr.; youth council, Mrs. W. S. Love.

Copies of the new year's programs were handed out at the meeting.

Next event will come November 11, the topic for the meeting to be The Old League of Nations and the New.

RIVER ROAD CLUB

River Road Women's club is meeting Wednesday at the clubhouse. The group will gather for work and sewing for Doernbecher hospital at ten o'clock. Each member is to take her sandwiches for lunch and this will be the regular dessert meeting at twelve-thirty o'clock.

DELPHIAN CLUB

Delphian Women's Study club is to meet Wednesday morning, nine-thirty o'clock, Eugene hotel, those to lead the study to include Mrs. Ed Goodenough, Mrs. H. F. McDaniel, Mrs. L. C. Nichol, Mrs. Rodney Brown, Mrs. Charles J. Childers.

Students Lauded For Harvest Work

School children of Eugene have done an excellent job in assisting with the harvest of the filbert crop this fall, declared Miss Lovina Wilson, farm labor assistant, Monday. Groups of children from the schools have been allowed to go out under the supervision of their class room instructors, each group going out for three days. In this way a group of children have not missed enough instruction to fall behind in their studies.

In the elementary schools whole class rooms, with the exception of those who did not have parental permission, were taken into the orchards.

"The attitude of the children in making this contribution to community service has been that of simply doing a job which needed to be done," Miss Wilson said. The students have not been able to make large wages, no one child has been able to pick any great amount of nuts, but at the end of the day, when weighing in takes place, there have been hundreds of pounds of nuts ready for the drier. There has been no attempt to do the complete harvesting with school children. Instead, the platoons have been used in orchards to speed up the picking. Sixty children in one orchard picked up 4200 pounds in one day to aid in getting the crop taken care of."

Platoons of children are helping in the W. A. Piquet, Howard, W. D. Dunn, Lottelmacher, R. Boehm, L. W. Manerud and Ray Smith orchards. These children have been under the supervision of Joe Nee, Herman Rasmussen, Emily Gropp, Edith Coleman, Marie Tinker, Roberta Graves, Marie Mitchell, Mrs. Jo Hayes, Clara Beitel, Zenna Moughner, Mary Magens, Zella Pierce, Margaret Bergendahl, Mrs. Edith Hayes, and Mrs. Edna Huff, all Eugene classroom teachers.

Mrs. Dorothy Renfro, a Eugene housewife, who successfully handled a bean platoon during the summer, is supervising one filbert crew. Other leaders will go out this week.

Beet pulling platoons have been under the supervision of Mrs. Veri Hoover and Hugh Stewart.

The school administrators and classroom teachers have cooperated "wonderfully" in making this program a success, Miss Wilson said. The parents have cooperated also in allowing their children to help in this part of the harvest season.

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EHS P-TA MEETING TO BE WEDNESDAY

Eugene high school P-TA announces its first meeting for Wednesday evening, seven o'clock, school auditorium. Invitation is extended to all parents and patrons of the school to attend.

Dr. Henry M. Gunn, city superintendent of schools, is to talk to the group on school plans. Dean Mickelwait, principal, will discuss school problems, and Paul Potter, dean of boys and assistant principal, and Miss Minerva Griffin, dean of girls, will talk on school activities.

The school orchestra, directed by Douglas Orme, will play.

New teachers will be introduced at this meeting and all other staff members welcomed back.

IN PORTLAND

Miss Marjorie Winchester spent the week-end in Portland and attended the wedding of Miss Marcella Dineen and Sergeant Thomas Everman there. She was accompanied home by Miss Thelma McCormack, who will be here for a few days visit before returning to her duties at the Pendleton air base.

Federal Cabinet Post For Education Urged

PORTLAND, Oct. 16.—(AP)—Addition of a new secretary in the president's cabinet—in charge of a department of education—was urged in a resolution adopted by Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana educators.

The group, meeting here last week-end under auspices of the National Education association, was told by C. C. Wootton that emphasis on education is necessary to a lasting peace. Wootton, NEA official, recommended an international education office be established as part of peace plans.

Mother Saves Sons From Icy Waters

OLYMPIA, Oct. 16.—(AP)—A 24-year-old mother, Mrs. Ivar Carlson, plunged into the icy waters of the bay here Saturday and saved her two boys, age 7 and 8, after a rowboat in which the pair were playing overturned. Firemen of the resuscitation squad were called to bring the younger lad back to consciousness.

SEABEE PAINTER HOME

Al Thorsfeldt, petty officer with rating as painter, 2-c, is home on leave, having been overseas for the past two years. He saw action in New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands. His outfit, the 40th construction battalion, received the presidential citation for action in New Guinea when they went in with the army, at a ceremony held at Camp Parks, Calif., September 19.

COMPLIANCE ANALYST

Applications for the position of chief compliance analyst for Oregon, Washington, and parts of Idaho, are being sought by the U. S. civil service.

Salary for the position is \$4428 a year. There is no written test and no maximum age limit. Complete information may be obtained from the postal savings window at the Eugene post office.

Ruhndorf
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"KNOWS EYES"

KWAMAS TO FETE OREGON STATE GROUP

Kwama, sophomore women's honorary at the University of Oregon, will entertain members of Talons, counterpart organization for Oregon State College women, on the campus the week-end of October 27.

Members of Talons are expected to arrive here Friday evening, and will be guests of the Kwamas at the university play "The Skin of Our Teeth." They will be entertained informally Saturday and in the evening will be special guests at the all-campus party sponsored by Mortar Board, senior women's honorary.

Twenty-five Talons are expected to visit, Miss Roseann Leckie of Portland, Kwama president, announced.

WOMEN OF MOOSE INITIATE THREE

Mrs. J. L. Copenhaver, associate dean of the local chapter of Women of the Moose, was presented with her graduate regent's pin and certificate at a recent meeting of the chapter, Mrs. L. V. Falon, Mrs. Albert H. Anderson, and Mrs. Esther Schooling were initiated at the meeting.

Plans were made for collecting waste paper and also used clothing for present drives, the materials to be left at the lodge hall, where they will be gathered on the first Friday of each month. Warm clothing for war refugees is particularly solicited. Mrs. Harold C. Sparks is war relief chairman in charge of this.

One guest from San Pedro, Calif., was present.

LOYAL STAR

Loyal Star of America will hold a potluck dinner Wednesday evening at six-thirty o'clock at the cottage at Skinner Butte park.

Pleasant Hill Man Back

With 27 months' overseas duty in the southwest Pacific accomplished, First Sgt. G. J. Arney, formerly of Pleasant Hill, arrived in Los Angeles recently, to spend 21 days with his wife, the former Margaret Jameson of Eugene. Mrs. Arney has been making her home in Los Angeles while he was overseas. They were married at El Paso, Tex., in May, 1942.

Following his leave, which was properly a "delay en route," Sergeant Arney was to report at Camp White, Medford, Ore. He enlisted with the coast artillery in November, 1941, but later joined an airborne battery in Fort Bliss, Tex., and went overseas with the latter outfit.

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Rodman Tells Thanks For Bricker Rally

A statement of appreciation to all who worked on plans, and a special tribute to the young people who staged a torchlight parade, were expressed by James A. Rodman, Sr., Lane county republican central committee chairman, in commenting on the recent Eugene meeting and address of Gov. John W. Bricker, GOP vice-president nominee.

"One of the most gratifying things about the Bricker meeting was the enormous interest manifested by the young people. The injection of a student parade and demonstrations at the meeting were something new and delightful, not only to the audience, but to Gov. and Mrs. Bricker as well," Rodman said, adding, "Governor Bricker said the torchlight parade took him back to his university days when he himself had participated in such a parade. University students are organized on the campus for this election. Harry Skerry and his assistants really know how to put on a show."

"University students singly and in groups, as well as high school

students, are at every day asking for literature. Their wholesome sign for the While Rodman said disappointed that the Court was not overruled, he said "I believe one-day county's voting good showing."

MAYER INCOME HIGH
WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—Top salary earner in the motion picture industry for the fiscal year 1944, Mayer who received \$900,000 of which some \$900,000 government in taxes, was revealed today.

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