

Eugene Register-Guard

LANE COUNTY'S HOME NEWSPAPER

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

EUGENE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1945

NO. 80

Wood Research Funds Dropped by House Group

Action of the house appropriations committee in eliminating \$300,000 for wood waste research...

Local reaction to the house committee's blow at wood research...

Ellsworth further made known his intention to work for some arrangement for regular funding of wood waste research...

The house committee approved total agriculture budget of \$1,800,932, compared with \$753,962 for 1945.

An administration request to reduce the \$300,000,000 AAA loan program of 1945 to \$200,000 for 1946 was rejected.

The committee increased loan authorizations for veterans and for the rural electrification administration.

Portland Eases Up 'Conchie' Terms

PORTLAND, March 21.—(AP)—Liberalized policy in dealing with conscientious objectors was force in the Portland federal court today.

Federal Judge Claude McCulloch revealed the new procedure placing 27-year-old Kenneth Taylor of Farwell, Tex., on probation for the duration of the war and six months thereafter, but not to exceed 10 years.

Officers of this sort previously received county jail or military terms and have been committed to the custody of the U. S. attorney general.

Judge McCulloch said in the case that conscientious objectors in Portland will be turned over to the federal probation office of the U. S. district court and their activity will be determined by probation officials. In some cases, he is being assigned to a tuberculosis hospital in the Dalles.



STILL SERVING—Here is the old city hall safe, just sold, and beside it is City Recorder John Fields, in whose office it stood. The safe was used by the city as early as 1909 and probably earlier. It still bears the name of Underwood Brothers—Ben and David—who used it back in the seventies. (Wiltshire photo and engraving.)

Venerable Safe Retires From City Hall To Take Private Job

By ROCH BRADSHAW The mammoth old safe at the city hall, which has served Eugene business firms and the city since very early days, has been sold to Irish and Swartz. It required an "engineering job" by the Couch Trencher and Towing service to move the massive affair from the office of City Recorder John Fields, down a stairway to the ground outside. City Manager Deane Seeger advertised for bids and Irish and Swartz won the deal with a bid for \$310, Seeger said Wednesday.

City records which had been kept in the safe are now housed in the reinforced concrete vault in the office of City Engineer W. C. Clubb. This vault extends down to the basement and the lower portion is used by the water board, in charge of J. W. McArthur.

Lester Hulín and Darwin Bristow dug back in their memories and old records and provided a sketch of the old safe's history.

Used In Seventies The earliest recollection of its use was back in the seventies, and unconfirmed rumors say that it was brought to Eugene around the horn in a sailing vessel. There is no authority as to accuracy of these reports, however. The name of one firm of early users—Underwood Brothers—is still painted on the safe. Hulín recalls that Ben and David Underwood came to Oregon before 1860. Ben came to Eugene in 1880 and practiced law. He was one of the most brilliant attorneys of the time, Hulín recalls, representing the county in the state legislature and being active in civic affairs. He built one of the finest early-day residences here, about where the Oregon hotel stands, in the center of spacious grounds. It cost approximately \$20,000.

David Underwood was in business in Cottage Grove before coming to Eugene, after which the brothers were connected with the Eugene flour mill, where they probably used the old safe in the seventies.

David Underwood died Aug. 14, 1882, only 11 days after brother Ben had passed away. Served Wells Fargo The safe also was used at one time by Wells Fargo, which had an office in the old Wilkins drugstore building located in the general area where the Tiffany and Babb blocks stand. The drugstore was run by former Mayor F. M. Wilkins, pioneer druggist who died a few years ago at the age of 93.

R. J. Bryson of the Oregon liquor control commission here recalls that the old safe was used in the city hall when he took office as city recorder about 1909. It was in the office of City Treasurer Frank Reiser, now deceased. The city hall then was located on a site just west of the county jail. The city offices were located upstairs and below was the fire department.

Japan Fears Invasion After Attacks On Fleet

By LEONARD MILLIMAN Associated Press War Editor A thousand or more American carrier planes trapped the elusive Japanese fleet in the Inland sea, crippled 17 warships, sank or damaged 13 merchant vessels and destroyed 475 aircraft in a two-day foray that jolted the enemy into excited preparations today for the inevitable battle of Japan.

A jubilant communique from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced "crippling damage was inflicted on the Japanese fleet" without loss of a single American warship.

Radio Tokyo reported Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier forces were within 80 miles of the homeland and would return for further attacks. Government spokesmen said new fortifications were being built throughout Japan to repel an invasion, the army was preparing to take over private property, factories were being rushed into underground fortifications, and newly evacuated areas of Tokyo would be demolished as firebreaks to lessen damage from Superfort raids.

In Philippines Conquest of the Philippines quickened. Guerrillas captured San Fernando, important port north of Manila. The U. S. 40th division on Panay advanced 25 miles to join strong guerrilla forces, reached the edge of Iloilo and captured its airport. Conquest of Basilan island was completed with the capture of Isabela in a combined amphibious and overland operation.

The months-long hunt for Japan's fleet reached a climax Monday when carrier airmen found principal units of the surviving imperial navy hiding in the 240-mile long Inland sea.

Many enemy aircraft were brought down in persistent attacks on Mitscher's ships. One American warship was heavily damaged and a "few" others received minor damage. All withdrew under their own power.

Bomb Formosa Philippines-based aircraft carried their supporting heavy raids on Formosa airdromes, 500 miles to the southwest, into the third day.

Heavy air attacks were also made on main Japanese concentrations in northern Luzon. It was in this general area that guerrillas seized San Fernando on Lingayen Gulf.

British and Indian troops had reportedly reached as far as 20 miles south of Mandalay.

Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, commanding army air forces in the Pacific, intimated that long-range Mustang fighters, already based on newly conquered Iwo Jima, would soon be escorting Superforts in raids on Japan.

Russia Denounces Treaty With Turkey MOSCOW, March 21.—(AP)—Soviet Russia last night denounced her 1925 treaty of friendship and neutrality with Turkey and declared "serious improvements were needed in the pact."

Admitting the value of the Soviet-Turkish treaty for the purpose of upholding friendly relations, the soviet union nevertheless considers it necessary to state that as a result of deep changes occurring, especially during the second world war, this treaty does not correspond any longer with the new situation and it is necessary to make serious improvements," said an announcement from the soviet commissariat of foreign affairs.

West Lane Merger Meetings Called County Superintendent L. C. Moffitt announces a series of public meetings next week in western Lane to discuss the proposed five-district merger of elementary schools in that area. The schedule: Westlake, Monday March 26; Florence, Tuesday, March 27; Cushman, Wednesday, March 28; Portage, March 29. Idlewild people are asked to attend any one of the other meetings most convenient. All meetings start at 8 p. m.

None On Route F, Eh? Well, We Wouldn't Bet Last Route F has to admit a deficit—it has no maple trees for maple syrup. And to kinda rub it in, J. M. Nighswander, route 3, Hadleyville area, sent a jug of the maple syrup to Billy Maddaugh and a report on the take for the season.

Reds Crowd Toward Stettin In Berlin Drive

MOSCOW, March 21.—(AP)—The 1st White Russian army, now in possession of virtually the entire east bank of the Oder from the Baltic to its confluence with the Neisse, crowded siege artillery to the very edge of Stettin today after wiping out the enemy's Alt-damm bridgehead.

The menace to Berlin grew hourly as Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov probed many places along the river, seeking springboards for his next big attack east and northeast of ruined Berlin.

Marshal Ivan S. Konev still is engaged in liquidating trapped garrisons in Breslau and Glogau on the upper Oder, but has moved additional units of his 1st Ukraine army group to the Neisse line southeast of Berlin.

In East Prussia, Marshal Alexander M. Vasilevsky, for two years chief of staff of the red army, was staging the final kill in a dwindling German pocket along the coast southwest of Königsberg.

Disclosure that Vasilevsky had taken over the 3rd White Russian army front after the battle death of Gen. Ivan Cheriakhovskiy was made in Marshal Stalin's order of the day yesterday saluting the capture of Braunsberg, one of the two German bastions in the pocket.

Vasilevsky's seizure of Braunsberg gathered 4,000 prisoners into the bag. That figure is expected to be more than duplicated when the next resistance in nearby Heiligenberg is crushed.

Zhukov took Alt-damm with one fierce lunge after a series of hard actions had reached this suburb, less than five miles from Stettin proper. Front dispatches said an aviation engine factory with more than 1,000 new engines intact, an airplane assembly plant and a torpedo factory were among the booty.

(Far to the south at the lower end of the eastern front, two or more Russian army groups were reported by Berlin to be driving toward the mountainous area of southern Germany and Austria where the Nazis, according to some reports may make a final stand after defeat on the Reich's northern plains.

Berlin said Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin has hurled 200,000 of his 3rd Ukraine army troops and supporting armor into an offensive through northwestern Hungary, with advance forces already plunging beyond Tat, 10 miles southeast of the big Danube river stronghold of Komarom. This is the direct route toward Vienna.

Veteran Health Officer Retires PORTLAND, March 21.—(AP)—Dr. Harold M. Erickson today headed Oregon's public health activities as Dr. Frederick D. Stricker retired after a quarter-century as the state's public health officer.

Dr. Erickson has been Stricker's assistant and was promoted by Gov. Earl Snell following Dr. Stricker's resignation in January. The outgoing executive will remain on the staff in an advisory capacity for at least a year, it was announced.

Dr. Stricker had a staff of five men when he took office in 1921, but now the department employs about 100. The two-year state appropriation at that time was about \$35,000. The department now administers a million dollar budget in state and federal funds.

In recent years, Oregon has risen to top state for healthy children, has the best infant mortality rate in the nation, and has cut the rate of mothers' deaths in childbirth to one-third.

Lane Farm Labor Camp Okayed; Mexican Help Will Be Imported A central camp for farm laborers will be maintained at Coburg this season as in years past, it was decided at a meeting of the Lane county farm labor committee, held Tuesday afternoon at the 4-H building on the county fair-ground.

Saar-Palatinate Stands Take 100,000 Germans

By JAMES M. LONG PARIS, March 21.—(AP)—The 3rd army, continuing its spectacular race which has turned the German stand in the Saar and Palatinate into a disastrous debacle at a cost that may mount to 100,000 Nazi casualties, smashed into the city of Ludwigsafen today.

The same armored division which has played an anonymous role in the current drive from the Moselle, dashed into Mannheim's twin city, which is one of the greatest chemical producing centers of Germany.

Mannheim, just across the Rhine from Ludwigsafen, is 160 miles from Munich in the heart of southern Germany and 75 miles from the starting point of the offensive.

But as elsewhere Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's men found the Rhine bridge there had been demolished. The structure which connected much-bombed Ludwigsafen and Mannheim was one of the most important along the Rhine.

Two German armies the 1st and 7th, either were wiped out or doomed except for scattered elements.

At supreme headquarters, it was estimated that the swift 3rd army of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., alone had herded an estimated 30,000 Nazis into prison pens in 48 hours as it and Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's 7th army closed new traps which might boost the overall total of captured in the whirlwind campaign to 75,000.

The 7th army, driving up from the southern bases of the Saarland and Palatinate, did not even tabulate its prisoners beyond the first 6,000.

Cities Topped Cities toppled like ten pins. The hard-hitting Americans—27 divisions in all or nearly 400,000 men—were advancing speedily.

The German hold on the west bank of the upper Rhine was narrowed to a 35-mile escape gap between the Karlsruhe and Ludwigsafen areas and it appeared doubtful whether the wounded Wehrmacht could scrape together enough men from the defeat to man properly the Valhalla line east of the river.

The Germans flew their last remaining bridges on the Rhine, leaving stragglers west of the river to death or capture, in Rout.

Except for a 30-mile stretch between Pirmasens and Lauterbourg where the Germans cling to fragments of the Siegfried line, the enemy was in complete rout. Nazi forces were surrounded in three places and threatened with imminent encirclement elsewhere.

The large Saarland city of Neunkirchen (40,500), where steel and iron works and coal pits abound, was believed to have fallen, although there was no specific word.

The 1st army fighting east of the Rhine lengthened its bridgehead to 25 miles in a push along flat tank country leading 12 miles to the southern limits of the Ruhr—Germany's greatest arsenal area.

The U. S. 9th, British 2nd and Canadian 1st were massed in mighty strength on a lower Rhine opposite the Ruhr, which Gen. Eisenhower said last night "will become a deathtrap." The U. S. 15th and the allied 1st airborne armies were in reserve, so far as was known.

Shell Troops Patton's artillery already was shelling German troops in some places in the Valhalla line beyond the Rhine.

Pace Slows In Red Cross War Fund Campaign

By MARIAN LOWRY Only slight gains were recorded on the Red Cross war fund thermometer here Wednesday, with the figure of \$78,297 reached—nearly \$24,000 below the Lane county goal of \$102,000. This was the total released by the general drive chairman, William H. Lush, and his committees at the third progress report luncheon, Wednesday, with the Lions club meeting.

Of the \$78,297 in to date, \$58,516 are from Eugene city divisions, \$19,781 from county groups.

The Wednesday total was only about \$5000 ahead of Tuesday's.

"It will be a big pull to get that figure over the \$102,000 hump this week, but the committee workers are making every effort to achieve that end," Lush said.

Climaxing the big push in the drive this week will be the final progress report luncheon Thursday noon in connection with the Active club meeting, Eugene hotel. At that time Lush and his workers hope to see the \$102,000 quota mark passed with all divisions, city and county, giving in reports.

Sly To Talk Featuring the Red Cross part of the program will be a short talk by Major Robert E. Sly, who is at his home here now following nearly three years as a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines. Sly states he is not much for this talk business but says he's "been out of it" for quite a time.

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Britain Says U. S. Agrees On Pole Policy LONDON, March 21.—(AP)—The British government declared its solidarity with the United States today in pressing for the formation of a new Polish government.

Minister of State Richard K. Law said the British and American attitudes were identical on the Polish problem. Some observers saw in his statement a confirmation of unofficial reports that Russia is at odds with the western powers on the matter.

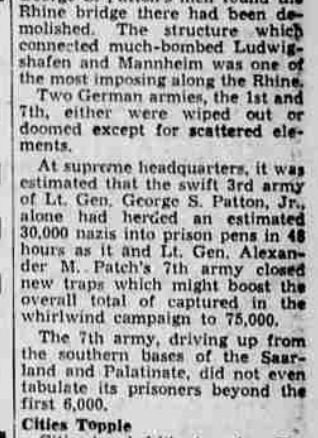
Law was substituting in Commons for Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who was in Glasgow to make a speech on British foreign policy.

The British government and public have been disturbed increasingly over the failure of a Moscow committee to report progress toward the establishment of a new Polish government. The committee comprises Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov and W. Averell Harriman and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, American and British ambassadors to Russia.

Answering a question whether any progress had been made toward forming a new Polish government, Law said: "The government fully understands the importance which the house attaches to these most important negotiations. The prime minister or foreign secretary will make a statement at the earliest opportune moment."

Coal Future Dark WASHINGTON, March 21.—(AP)—The soft coal wage conference went into "indefinite recess" today. Both union and operator forces said it was uncertain when they would resume negotiations. Their present contract expires in only 10 days. Signs of early government intervention were increasing.

Quake In Turkey ANKARA, March 20.—(Delayed)—Several towns in southern Turkey were shaken by earth tremors today. Early reports indicated many buildings were destroyed and the dead and injured might number in the hundreds.



Lane County Goal.....\$102,000.00 Today's Total\$ 78,297

Weather U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain northern portion to Thursday; colder east.

Local Statistics: Minimum temperature, Wednesday morning, 39 degrees; maximum temperature, Wednesday, 50 degrees; precipitation in 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m. Wednesday, .10 of an inch.