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So Joe McArthur Will Retire

For so many years has J. W. McArthur been identified with the Eugene Water Board and the operation of our city owned power and water utilities that it is going to be difficult to think of him as "retired." And of course, he will not be completely retired.

Ray Boals will take over the arduous duties of superintendent and general manager. Mr. McArthur will be available for counsel and consultation. But he is going to have some time for those long trips to Huckleberry mountain (out east of Medford) with his old friend Mahlon Sweet.

Many people have had a part in making Eugene's municipal operation what it is, but in the history of this achievement two names will always be remembered—the late C. A. McClain and Joe McArthur.

There has been none of the "funny business," so often found in public ownership, where rates are cut to make a great play for votes while burdens are accumulated which eventually come to rest on the taxpayers.

It has been almost notorious that Joe McArthur never gave anything away (not if it belonged to the Water Board). Our city power department now pays 3 per cent of its gross annual revenues back to the city government.

He has had to endure no end of "ribbing" for his "Scotch proclivities." One of fondest memories will always be a three-sided "battle royal" between Joe and our former mayor Elisha Large and Junction City's Angus Gibson over some small item of public expenditure.

What kinda guy is that for a public official? mused the promoter (but he paid and liked it).

It may be of interest to know Joe McArthur served as a member of the Water Board, way back in 1913, when he was a young man just out of the University of Oregon. Later he went to Cornell, took a masters degree in engineering.

So Joe McArthur is going to retire. It's almost as if somebody were to move Spencer Butte.

If Misery Loves Company . . .

If it is true that misery loves company, then veterans and others attending the University of Oregon, who think they have housing troubles, should read the story on "Housing—The Intercollegiate Dilemma" in the latest issue of The Harvard Bulletin.

Of course, Harvard's magnificent system of dormitories does very well for the single men. And Cambridge, being a city of more than 100,000 population and "across the bridges" from Boston, has no such shortage

of ordinary rooming houses as we know here. But Harvard has waked up to the fact that it is going to need accommodations for 1,000 to 2,000 married veterans, and that the need may continue for a long time.

In the meantime, Harvard has 562 married non-veterans and 370 married veterans who are crying aloud at "the gouge." Rents for the married are running from \$60 a month for a single room up to \$70, \$80 and even \$100 for tiny "suites," many of them in shabby old houses, without adequate heat, light or sanitary facilities.

The Harvard report gives a partial review of the situation at other big schools. Wisconsin has two trailer villages with accommodations for 190, hopes to convert an old hospital and a "surplus" ordnance works into housing for some 500 more married students and 2,000 singles.

When Dean Virgil Earl predicted last spring that the University of Oregon would need 500 units for married students within the year and possibly 1,500 units at the peak, many thought he was unduly alarmed.

Nor is the problem of housing married students likely to disappear when the last veteran has been graduated. Times and customs have been changing. Many of us can remember when it meant immediate dismissal if a student married during his undergraduate years, and even graduate and professional students were urged strongly to "postpone it."

Wise counsel will say that student marriages are not to be undertaken rashly but they are no longer considered a hopeless folly or a sin. Indeed, there is considerable evidence to prove that for many it is an excellent thing.

WASHINGTON LETTER BY PETER EDSON Register-Guard Washington Correspondent HOUSING CRISIS WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—(NEA)—Big objective of new Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt, Jr., is to "Build as many houses as possible, as fast as possible, to rent for as low a price as possible."

Today's housing shortage began back in the 20's, when more new families came into being than new houses to shelter them, Wyatt points out. In 1925 and '26, building prices reached their peak. They got so high people practically stopped building houses.

"There can be a recurrence of that situation," says Wyatt, "so people shouldn't be frightened out of housing today."

All through the depression 1930's, with from eight to ten million people unemployed, there was little new housing built. Over a million families lived doubled-up with relatives.

In 1940 there were a million marriages, but only 700,000 new housing units. The 300,000 unit shortage was typical of the past 20-year period.

In five years of war, during which the population increased eight million, little new permanent housing was built. People had the money to pay for it, but the materials weren't available.

Shortage of 2,500,000 Foreseen in '46 Today five million discharged veterans have been piled in, and by the end of 1946 it will be ten million. Housing authorities estimate a minimum shortage of two and a half million houses by the end of 1946, three million by the end of 1947, then 600,000 more every year after that.

It is to clean up this mess that Expediter Wyatt is bringing forth his new program to get housing construction started again. He will have four major approaches.

First will be to get materials flowing so that a house won't have to be stopped once it's started. Increased production of substitutes and new materials will be encouraged. Mass production techniques learned during the war will have to be used.

Second will be the labor problem. There is no shortage of construction workers today. But as materials begin to flow, there will be a labor shortage. Apprentice training will have to begin immediately.

Transportation Is Big Problem Third, every available bit of shelter will have to be used. Temporary war housing will have to be used. Where remote from urban centers, transportation lines will have to be extended to them.

Fourth, every community will have to work out a local program of its own. Building codes, which are wild but sacred cows, will have to be broken where they interfere. Home sharing will have to be continued and encouraged. Veterans should be given first call on any vacancies.

More rental housing will have to be built. More materials will have to be channeled into low-rent housing projects.

Housing priority, subsidy and price control problems are particularly ticklish. Authority for these controls will expire June 30 and will have to be continued if the housing job is to be done in an orderly manner.

All these emergency measures tie-in, says Wyatt, and they have to be balanced in relation to each other. It is a two-year job at the least. It will cost money.

Rotary Hears About Life In Alaska

Although Alaska has been described variously by Bob Hope and Joe E. Brown as "miles and miles of miles and miles" and "the biggest saloon in the world if there was just a roof over it," this fascinating country offers a lot to persons privileged to travel in it, according to George Hall, recently a colonel in the army in Alaska.

Speaking before Rotary club Tuesday noon at the Osburn hotel on the "GI View of Alaska," Hall pointed out that some of the soldiers were stationed for two years in the Aleutians, and "could not be expected to have a friendly outlook toward Alaska."

"Sometimes men had to crawl on their hands and knees, the wind was so fierce," the speaker continued, "and again, when they were standing and leaning into the wind, it would stop so fast they would fall flat. At times like this the men would say that the Russians had turned off the wind."

On one island, Hall reported, the engineers made a tree of wire and burlap, put a small fence around it and hung a sign on the fence saying, "National Forest."

During his stay in Alaska Hall was in charge of the educational activities of the army and navy forces. "Just to show what we didn't know about Alaska, when we first went up there we took along golf, tennis and football equipment for the troops. None of it was ever used," he laughed.

Although life in the Aleutians was dreary, there was a bright side to the picture for those able to view the territory by dog sled, train and plane.

"Alaska is unique in that people up there don't use pennies," the former army officer revealed. "In the cities there are few locks on the doors, and credit is granted to everyone. The merchants gave credit to the soldiers too, and in a short while we noticed that this was the first way that Alaska changed after the army moved in. The merchants became a little more careful in extending credit."

The speaker described two of his favorite "characters," who live in a ghost town south of Fairbanks so isolated that the single road in is open only 60 days in the entire year. One is Fannie Quigley, 74, and the other a man of 50. They lived two miles apart, and live almost entirely off the land, shooting and curing their own game, making their own home brew, and shopping for staples in Fairbanks once a year.

Fannie Quigley went to Alaska in 1898, Hall said, working first as a dance hall girl. Later she opened a restaurant where she sold hot cakes for a dollar a plate. When competition forced her farther away, she at one time took a dog team across 500 miles of dreary Alaska terrain, and was the first woman to make this trip. For that reason she became known as "Fannie the Hike."

"Fannie struck it rich," Hall continued, "and is a wealthy woman now. She weighs only 90 pounds, but she still kills moose and bear, dresses the pelts, and does all her own work."

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Teen-Age Theater Pickets Win Fight For Lower Prices

VERNONIA, Ore. (AP)—Vernonia's theater, closed by picketing high school students who demanded lower prices, is running again with a special 40-cent rate for youngsters.

Jack Riley, spokesman for the teen-agers who locked arms around the box office of the Joy theater Jan. 24 and closed the show house, said the 40-cent price—10 cents below the adult rate—had been agreed to by Mrs. Zeina Dow, theater manager.

The two week long shut-down also drew a promise of "better shows," Riley reported.

Sheriff Seeks Girl For Friend In Crete

Sheriff Tom Swarts' duties are very varied. One of his incidental details right now is to try to locate Miss Virginia Gamble, who lived at 522 Eleventh Avenue east, in Eugene. That was before the war.

Sheriff Swarts has received a letter requesting assistance in locating Miss Gamble from Ino Papamarkakis, a girl friend who lives at Ionias Street No. 3, Canea, Crete, now under the protection of Greece.

"As soon as we were liberated," Miss Papamarkakis wrote, "after four years of slavery under our common enemies, the GERMANS, I hastened to send her a letter, informing her that we are SAFE, and that our house has been entirely ruined by the enemy's bombs."

Her first letter to Miss Gamble was returned unclaimed and the sheriff has asked that anyone knowing the address of the girl supply it for him.

Sheep, Cattle Men To Meet Feb. 14

Sheep and cattle men of western Oregon will meet at the 10th annual meeting of the Western Oregon Livestock association at Coquille, Feb. 14 and 15. Those from Portland who will speak at the program include R. L. Clark, secretary of Portland Livestock exchange, who will talk on "Future Livestock Markets" and R. A. Ward, general manager of Pacific Wool Growers, who will talk on the "Wool Situation." The annual banquet will be held Wednesday evening at which the principal speaker will be Dr. A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State college.

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Ancient Jap War Relics To Be Shown

An exhibit of ancient Japanese Samurai fighting equipment, the showing of which has been authorized by Gen. A. A. Vandergriep, commandant of the marine corps, will be in Eugene Thursday, according to an announcement from marine corps public relations headquarters.

The collection has been mounted in a trailer, which will be located beside the McDonald theater on Tenth Avenue west Thursday afternoon and evening. Friday morning the display will be shown at the Eugene high school.

The equipment was recovered by the fifth marine division during its occupancy of Kyushu, Japan, and is being routed through various parts of the country. Access to the trailer is from the rear, with a passageway extending around the entire exhibit.

It was pointed out that the exhibit is in reality an historical collection recovered as a result of the defeat of Japanese imperialism.

BRITISH OFFER

LONDON, Feb. 13.—(AP)—Official British sources said tonight that their delegation to the security council's military committee had proposed abolition of military conscription in all of the United Nations when the peace agency's international police force is established.

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Youth For Christ Elects Officers

Warren Korstad of Eugene was elected a director of local Youth for Christ rallies at a recent meeting in the Miner building here, it was announced Wednesday.

Dave Connelly, Bremerton, Wash., was elected paid assistant director and the committee for selection of speakers is as follows: Guy Delamarter, chairman; Rev. E. J. Fulton, Duane Poplin; Mrs. Lee Gay and Harold Olson.

The program committee includes Lottie Anthony, chairman; Rev. Vance Webster, Rev. G. Roush, Elnora Chamberlain and Rev. C.

Fogg. The publicity committee includes Korstad as chairman, Rev. H. Powers, George Holman, Joe Chamberlain and Mrs. Roy Reed, Wally Hall, John Holman and Arlene Holman. Miss Elnora Chamberlain is elected secretary of the organization. Next meeting of the committee will be at the Assembly church in Eugene March 6. The teaching and supervising staff of New York City schools numbers about 25,000.

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