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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: William M. Tugman
MANAGING EDITOR: William M. Tugman
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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.

Central Lane Council Has Job

It was to be expected that some of the citizens of the Glenwood area would resent the publicity on unsafe and unsanitary conditions in their district, but we regard that as a good sign, a sign of stirring pride. There are plenty of other areas adjacent to both Eugene and Springfield where conditions are equally dangerous. Glenwood deserves due credit for the recovery it has made after last year's flood.

But the question which confronts all of us whether we live in Eugene, Springfield, Glenwood, East Springfield, Bethel, River Road and some of the many localities which have not yet developed a name is:

"What are we going to do about it?" That leads us to suggest that the Central Lane Planning Council could perform a real service at this juncture. As you know it is a very loosely organized group of people—entirely unofficial—but with representatives from most of the more than 30 "communities" which make up the Eugene-Springfield area. It has served as a sort of clearing house on common problems of the area and it has accomplished a great deal. The studies which are now under way for an area water supply, and for an area sewage and sewage disposal system, and the major school consolidations and most of the post-war projects of Eugene and Springfield have resulted from its discussions and recommendations.

But—we believe it could improve its service by arranging for this fall a series of meetings to be held in EACH COMMUNITY, where all the neighbors can come in and hear FACTS about the intricate problems we all need to solve. What are some of these facts we need to understand? Well, here are some stickers:

In 1943 we had 35 DIFFERENT local governments within 6 miles of the courthouse; today we still have 23 and "they don't mesh." In a general way county government takes over where city boundaries end, but there are a great many things which need doing which county government is FORBIDDEN to touch. We have a maze of water districts, fire districts, school districts, but they are limited to special purposes.

What are the laws which govern each area? What are its taxable values? What things can it do? How much can it afford to do? Is there a point at which suburban areas should seek annexation to the nearest and strongest city, or is it possible, or cheaper to incorporate new cities?

The problems will never be solved by "blaming." The only way we will ever find the right answers to these problems will be by digging up all the facts and sitting down with the neighbors to talk them over. Lots of people in Eugene say:

"Oh, we wouldn't want to take in Glenwood or Bethel or River Road or any of those fringe areas with all their headaches. Why should we help to pay their bills?"

That is not the right attitude any more than is the complaint of many suburbanites that "Eugene just bleeds us."

In this entire Eugene-Springfield area we need to wipe the veil of prejudice away from our eyes and see that we are ONE COMMUNITY, economically, socially and in every vital interest no matter how many political divisions there may be.

There should be meetings held in every schoolhouse so that the people of every neighborhood can look at some of the facts. Nobody knows any of the answers yet but they are largely problems in arithmetic and common sense.

"Merely a Firecracker?"

It would appear, on scanning the front page, that Henry J. Kaiser will be "a tough hombre," if his vast operations are investigated by congressional committee as suggested by Senator Bridges, of New Hampshire. Kaiser proclaims that he will welcome investigation and promises to throw plenty of dynamite at some of his competitors, notably United States Steel.

The public is about to be regaled and refreshed, and we think it might be interesting to quote from a recent comment by our Congressman Harris Ellsworth, after viewing Washington's "scandal front":

"The May investigation is just a dress rehearsal for what is to come. Even if the political control in Congress does not change, further scandals will be revealed, and if the Republicans obtain control of either the House or Senate or both, the May affair and even the Teapot Dome scandal will have about the same rating relative to future revelations as a firecracker would to an atomic bomb. It is rumored that wartime transactions in ships and shipping, when revealed to public gaze, will shake the Capital to its foundations."

Of course, Congressman Ellsworth may be merely hoping for enough stench to drive out the Democrats and elect a Republican in 1948. Every good Republican has longed for years for an antidote for Teapot and the embarrassing history of the Harding regime. Unfortunately we fear that Mr. Ellsworth may be entirely correct in his prediction of super-scandals. That sort of thing seems to be inevitable when any party has been in power too long.

But what will be the effect on the American people of this repetitious and continuing story of faithlessness in high places and unending greed? We hear one comment frequently:

"The Communists will make 'hay' out of our national sins." No doubt they will, but recent reports from Moscow indicate that even under Uncle Joe's saintly regime, they are having plenty of troubles of their own. They have just rounded up whole gangs of profiteers and chiselers and shipped them to Siberia for long terms. Honesty in government (or any other business) seems to be a problem as big as human nature itself.

But, we see no reason to be cynical. The old boy who wrote that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" said (as the New York mayor told the queen) "a mouthful." Education marches on! (maybe). In the course of centuries, it may be possible to distinguish a burglar from a "great man."

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON

Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Mead Expose Aftermath

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(NEA)—Congressmen running for re-election this year are afraid of what New York Sen. James M. Mead's committee expose of the Garsson brothers' goings-on may do to them now and in November.

For years the Republicans have been looking for a "Democratic Teapot Dome Scandal." This may be it. Heap it onto the 51 per cent Republican majority reported in the last Gallup poll and you have the making of a good old-fashioned political rout.

A few congressmen are inclined to feel that the lightning has struck already. They point to the fact that up to the time the Garsson investigation began, there had been less than a dozen political upsets in nearly 200 primary contests. Defeat of that many congressmen running for re-election is politically negligible.

But in the recent Georgia primary four of the incumbents were knocked out, and in the Oklahoma primary three more stalwarts bit the dust. To some political dopesters, this is the handwriting of doom upon the walls of the temple.

The test as to whether or not this is a revolt will come in ensuing Southern primaries. If a number of the incumbent congressmen are unseated in these primaries, they may be able to blame part of their troubles on the Mead expose.

Garsson Case Involves Relatively Little Money

Financially, the amounts involved in the Garsson case are very small, compared with the total volume of war contracts. Garsson's 19 companies got only 78 million dollars' worth of business. Stack that up against General Motors' 138 billion dollars' worth of war contracts and it means little. There were over 10,000 war-fraud cases prosecuted by the Department of Justice while the fighting was going on. They scarcely caused a ripple of public interest.

Even the indictment against Congressman James M. Curley of Boston for his connection with the Engineers Group, Inc., war-contracts brokerage racket caused no such national uprising of wrath as has the Garsson case.

The thing that makes the Garsson expose such political dynamite is the fact that it is so human. In and out of the incandescent chair moves a parade of characters right out of something by Ring Lardner.

Benjamin Franklin Field, "Doctor" Henry M. Garsson and his brother Murray, Joe Weiss, Al Jacobson. A couple of good-looking stenographers. Press agents and photographers.

Parties are held at New York's Hotel Pierre. Gals drape their arms about a fat, bald congressman. Over-stuffed generals dance with brides.

Senators. Bribery. There is a plethora of shady deals and criminal records against a Washington backdrop.

Flashback to France, where a few mortar shells exploded too soon, to kill a few GI Joes.

This is Washington Through Hollywood Eyes

What you have here is the Washington that most people tell you doesn't exist. This is the Hollywood idea of Washington. The play is directed not by Senator Mead but by Frank Capra. Character actors aren't needed. The cast can play it straight. Award it this year's "Oscar" as the great American tragic-comedy and you can't go wrong.

The timing is perfect. It comes just at the psychological moment when the people may be looking for someone to blame for all their woes. The first convenient goats for this political Bikini may be the candidates up for re-election to Congress.

Senator Mead is making a lot of political hay for himself by this expose, after a slow and undramatic start as successor to Harry Truman at the head of the War Investigating Committee. If the general resentment against the "ins" which this Garsson probe had stirred up should react in such a way as to include Senator Mead among the "Outs," that would be the unkindest cut of all.

Four Troopships Due In Seattle by Aug. 12

SEATTLE.—(AP)—Four ships, carrying 3494 military personnel and 98 civilians were due to dock in Seattle by Aug. 12 from Yokohama, Honolulu and Alaska, port of embarkations authorities said Thursday.

The vessels were listed as the SS Cape Perpetua, Spindle Eye, Baranof and Cape Cleare.

to prevent her pressing these claims.

The daughter said she was sent to the Oregon State Hospital in Salem after her mother's statement to the judge. She was released a month later, the complaint continued, and the commitment set aside.

Suit Charges Insanity Commitment Was False

PORTLAND.—(AP)—A mother was accused Thursday by her daughter, in a circuit court complaint, of having the latter committed to an insane hospital partly to prevent her demanding a share of a million dollar estate.

Agnes McBride, Portland, in a suit asking \$250,000 damages, charged that her mother, Mrs. Agnes L. McBride, notified a circuit court judge on April 24, 1945, that the daughter was "so mentally diseased as to be unsafe to be at large."

D. B. McBride, owner of a marine supply company here, had died three months earlier, leaving his widow an estate estimated at over a million dollars. The plaintiff, stepdaughter of the dead man, contended that she had claims against the estate and was beneficiary in certain trusts.

In the suit she asserted her mother falsely represented her mental condition, partly in order

to prevent her pressing these claims.

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Seeger to Speak On City Taxes

City Manager Deane Seeger will be one of the principal speakers at a meeting of the League of Oregon Cities in Portland Saturday, when the group meets to develop a definite set of recommendations on municipal finance and revenues to be presented to the governor's interim tax study committee later this month.

When the group met in Portland July 13 and 14, preliminary discussion included consideration of recommendations to amend or repeal the six per cent constitutional limitation, to request 15 per cent of the highway revenues, to request 10 per cent of state liquor store profits, to ask the state to repeal its law taxing amusement devices, thus allowing the cities to increase their taxes, and to request periodical reassessments of all property by the county assessors.

On Sunday the group will meet at the home of Mayor Earl Riley of Portland, to consider new local taxes that may be levied by individual cities.

The league's committee, with Seeger as chairman, will make its recommendations to the governor's interim tax committee to form a basis for drawing up recommendations for the legislature.

Seeger will speak at the Saturday session on the annual convention of the International City Managers Assoc. at Montreal, Quebec, which he attended.

Atomic Control to Be Topic at AVC Meeting

A discussion of atomic energy controls will highlight a meeting of the Eugene chapter of the American Veterans Committee in Room 105 Commerce Hall, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The chapter will also discuss participating in the city recreation track meet, to be held this Saturday. Members are scheduled to aid in officiating at the meet.

All veterans of World War II are invited to attend.

Legion Post Plans Picnic

American Legion Post No. 3 of Eugene will hold a picnic at Swimmer's Delight Sunday, Aug. 18. Members of the post and the auxiliary extend invitations to the Willamette Women's American Legion Post, the University Post, the posts of Junction City, Veneta, Springfield, Cottage Grove, Oakridge and their auxiliaries.

Each person is to bring his own lunch and table service. Coffee and ice cream will be furnished. A full program of entertainment has been planned, including a softball game at 11:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 p.m.

Post No. 3 will hold no regular business meeting until Sept. 13, it has been announced.

Forest Fire In Yellowstone

By UNITED PRESS

Forest fires scattered throughout Montana, Idaho and Wyoming burned out of control Thursday, with the major blaze in the southern part of Yellowstone National Park spreading beyond 600 acres after routing 40 firefighters.

More than 2000 acres of valuable timberland already had been destroyed, and forestry officials said rough and inaccessible terrain added to the difficult job of bringing the blazes under control.

The Yellowstone Park fire was the first major one since 1943. Additional firefighters were brought from Glacier National Park to help battle the lightning-caused blaze.

Elsewhere, nearly 300 volunteers battled a 600-acre fire in the Kootenai National Forest bordering northern Montana and Idaho. A fire on Wolf Creek near Helena, Mont., raged despite efforts of 120 firefighters. Three more fires were reported on adjoining private lands and were being fought by ranch hands and hay crews.

Three small Montana fires were brought under control Wednesday on Pitchstone Plateau and Inspiration Point. Smoke jumpers from regional forest headquarters at Missoula, Mont., parachuted onto the plateau.

The Forest Service was seeking volunteers and tourists to help battle the fires.



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