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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.

Going Tough for GI Couples

To the grizzled veterans of World War I, the so-called GI Bill of Rights looked pretty good when it was brought out. And, whatever the deficiencies of that measure may be, the Old Timers (and how they love to brag!) can tell the boys:

"Boys, you don't know just how tough a postwar can be. We got nothin' but $60 and bye-bye to start with."

Obviously the allowances for veterans who are trying to complete an education are inadequate—especially the $90 subsistence for those who are married. Housing is so scarce and difficult, all prices are so high that most of the GI couples couldn't make ends meet, without dipping into savings, or without an occasional check from "the old folks," or without both husband and wife taking on part time jobs which interfere with efficient study.

Nevertheless the Old Timers may be pardoned if they do a little spouting. Long before this war came to an end the American Legion and the VFW joined hands to get a "better deal than we got." At the end of the last war, a few men stationed overseas, were permitted to enroll in foreign universities. There were a few "barracks colleges" on this side. Some states voted nominal bonuses" and loan plans (among them Oregon) but it was many years before Congress voted the federal bonus. In the main the 4,000,000 men and women who served in World War I came out of service with $60 and struggled.

The depression of 1920-21 was not pretty. That was when the "apple selling" began. In the big cities, there was thousands of medals for valor hanging in the hock shops. It wasn't pretty. It took the American Legion and the VFW and the other organizations a long time to learn the "how" of doing something for veteran welfare. It took years to get even a basic program of veteran hospitals and decent care for the permanently disabled. The Legion and its associated organization made lots of mistakes, and it is not surprising that the World War II people, many of them, wanted something of their own, as we have "AMVETS."

But there is an entirely new concept of a nation's duty to its war veterans. Imperfect and inadequate as the present program may be it is accepted that the nation owes them opportunity for education, for trade training and low priced loans to take up a farm or go into business and make up the years lost in service.

And this new crop of veterans is responding. In our opinion, they are the finest "age group" this nation has ever had. We believe the billions spent in veteran welfare are well spent and will be repaid in citizenship of the highest order. Nevertheless we cannot refrain from joining the other Old Timers who say:

"After all, there's some merit in a bit of struggle."

Many of these young couples may break on the struggle to live on $90 while "Pop" finishes his education. Many a young wife may dash home to "the folks" after enduring life in trailer camps or "boxcars." It is tough to come down from captain's pay or even sergeant's pay to the GI allowances. But we have an idea that the great majority will find a way, and for those who do, the future years will be much simpler.

Thrift becomes peculiarly difficult along about "the middle thirties and the third baby," according to Crystal Fuddle. She is a very wise woman, in spite of the fact that she never had the chance to start married life in a trailer.

Experiments in Traffic Rules

Sometime soon, if the city council approves Monday night, the people of Eugene will experience a series of experiments in new traffic rules. The first will probably be to clear all parked cars from downtown Willamette street between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.—so that home-bound automobiles and buses can be moved rapidly and without the usual "bottlenecks". At least, that is the hope. Many citizens seem to think this expedient should help, but nobody knows, and nobody can hope to know till we try it.

Chief Pittenger is going to suggest to the city council that at least one week's notice be given before any experiment is put into effect. Then, through the newspapers, the radios and every other means, the public will be advised of the starting date, and asked to cooperate. That seems very wise.

This newspaper is heartily in favor of a series of carefully canducted "fiela experiments" to test out new ideas of traffic management. For years and years, the custom has been to "see what other cities do" and then do the same. That is not so good, because every city's street layout is different and its traffic patterns are different.

For instance, there is one idea which Dick Cahoon brings home from Vancouver B.C., and it might be worth trying here at later date. He says:

"In Vancouver, at the rush hour, a cop mounts a stand at the principal corner and they put the traffic lights on manual operation. First he shoots a great mass of traffic north and south; then he shoots it eeast and west. In the meantime, pedestrians are piling up on all four corners. Then he throws a yellow light and the pedestrians swarm through the intersection in every direction and all motor traffic stops. I don't know if it would work here, but in Vancouver they certainly handle an enormous volume quickly."

In Eugene, we have no one intersection which is "controlling." Recent traffic counts by Buford's office indicate that the Willamette intersections with 6th, 7th, Broadway and 11th are the "hot spots". Likewise the May 15th traffic counts indicate that the east-west flow is at least as heavy as the north-south flow, and it stands to reason that as the new super-highway is completed this lateral traffic flow may become the major movement.

Each city is going to have to find its own answers and we believe most people will approve a series of carefully timed, well advertised, and supervised experiments—with records on results. In time, we shall have to have some "major operations" — street widenings and other costly improvements. Meantime the problem is to get maximum use of our traffic facilities as they stand. Traffic rules should be a composition of ingenuity, common sense, and tests to verify the results.

"The atomic bomb puts up an umbrella like cloud which lingers a little while and then blows away," says a scientist. Adrian Fuddle thought he was describing OPA's price ceilings.

It is a question whether the defeat of Cong. Slaughter in Missouri is a great victory for Pres't Truman or whether the Cong. just got his thumb caught in the old Pendergast machine.

William H. Burton, U. of O. '16, is announced as the new dean of Harvard's graduate school of education. Now Skeet Manerud et als can prove that Oregon really won that Rose Bowl game, although the score was awkward.

In spite of the adoption of "rules." that Peace Conference at Paris sounds strangely like the Order of the Buggy Ride. McGurk says it's amazing how many words mean the same thing in any language.

A gent out in Cheshire offers the city of Eugene 30 acres of stump land for an off street parking facility. Says the farmers are already used to falking a long way.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

As Congress Goes Home

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—(NEA)—With Congress on its way home—you know the rest of that line. If the congressmen don't come back before next January, it will be too soon.

The lawmakers had a tough seven months' grind. They're tired and jittery. So is everybody else. There's an election only three months away.

This election has, no doubt, been responsible for many of the things this Congress has done and failed to do in the last few weeks. But it isn't the only factor involved.

Trying to make a pattern out of what Congress does and doesn't do is an intriguing pastime for political dopesters. Today an analysis to that end reveals no regular pattern, but a few motives stand out.

That this Congress in its last few weeks went decidedly conservative is generally admitted. It took up a position far to the right of the middle road, as compared with its course six months ago.

Russia Has Driven Congress to the Right

Many individual Congressmen feel that this was merely a reflection of the spirit of the country. One sharp observer in Congress expresses it by saying—though not for attribution—that "the biggest domestic issue in the United States today is Soviet Russia."

This came out clearly in discussion of the atomic energy bill in the House. Congressmen were rabid in wanting the military to retain control of bomb production and keep the secret of it.

The principal argument used in pushing over the British loan was that if Britain were not aided in peace, it would be necessary to fight communism.

Yet—and here is an inconsistency in the pattern—Congress refused to pass a strong draft act which the White House and the State and War Departments insisted was necessary to back up U. S. commitments abroad.

A two-billion-dollar terminal-leave-pay bill was passed, however, because there are GI votes in it for campaigning congressmen.

By and large, anything that smells of communism or socialism or New-Dealism or progressivism is suspect.

The House Civil Service Commission probed the loyalty of government employes.

In considering the reorganization of Congress through a reduction in the number of its standing committees, the House Un-American Affairs Committee was made a permanent, standing committee.

Increased social-security payents and increased social-security coverage, easily obtainable at present high-income levels, were put off again.

Controls and Regulations Are Now Unpopular

The science-research bill, born of war necessity and passed by the Senate, was sidetracked in the House for a more conservative bill. The Wagner-Ellender-Taft permanent-housing bill was likewise stopped in the House.

The fate of price control was settled only after a bitter and unnecessarily long legislative battle. Economic controls are unpopular in the present drift of things.

There you have the theme song of this postwar reaction which set in. Controls are unpopular. Quit issuing regulations. Quit passing laws. Let things alone for a while. Stop stirring up the animals.

Today's lack of interest in new movements, today's lack of purpose in Congress, might be considered symptomatic of general public reaction. That does not indicate that there will be a record vote in the November elections. From the present looks of things, whatever changes are made will be changes toward the right.

If that is the wrong way to go in these times, the country will have to learn it the hard way—by experience.

Hearing Set On Soil District

The State Soil Conservation Committee will hold hearings at the Harrisburg City Hall, Monday, August 19, at 8 p.m. to determine the feasibility of organizing the proposed Lane-Linn Soil Conservation District, O. S. Fletcher, county agent, announced Wednesday.

Petitions asking for an election on the proposed district, which were circulated after a meeting of farmers from within the district last June 17, were presented for the consideration of the state committee June 21. The petitions were signed by 56 landowners.

The proposed district would extend north from the Armitage Bridge near Coburg to a point south of Halsey, Fletcher said. If the state committee, after hearing the arguments of landowners at the Monday night meeting, decides in favor of the proposed district the committee will set an election date, Fletcher explained.

The law requires that in such elections the district must have the support af more than half the landowners within the proposed district and the supporting landowners must own at least 50 per cent of the land within the proposed district, Fletcher added.

Gauleiter, Henchmen Die

STRASBOURG — (U.P.) — Robert Wagner, former Nazi gauleiter of Alsace, and three of his assistants were executed by a French firing squad Wednesday for war crimes.

The four men were executed in the courtyard of Fort Ney near Strasbourg at 5 a. m. They were given death sentences by a French military tribunal last May.

Wagner shouted in German, "Long Live Greater Germany! Long Live Adolf Hitler! Long Live National Socialism!" just before he died.

The four men were bound to execution stakes and refused to have their eyes bandaged. They all protested their innocence.

Wagner's three assistants, named Roehn, Schuppel and Gaedecke, attended religious services by a protestant military chaplain before they were marched to the stake. The gauleiter refused to do so. Then they were given a drink of cognac and final cigarets.

Wagner said at the stake, "we have not been judged by men qualified to judge our mission. Down with French vengeance. Long live German Alsace!"

Band to Play 'Finlandia'

The weekly concert of the Eugene Municipal Band, Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Park Blocks, will include several favorite works, including "Second Hungarian Rhapsody," "Finlandia," and "Blue Danube Waltzes."

Selections from Rose-Marie, including "Indian Love Call," also will appear on the program.

Kay Hadlock will play the solo melody in Richard Rodgers' "With a Song in My Heart." Cole Porter's "Night and Day," and several marches will complete the program.

This is the seventh concert of the series which began on June 27. The season will close with the concert August 22.

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Venus, Mars Cavort in West Sky, Astronomer Pruett Reports

By HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, Extension Division, Oregon Higher Education System

Since late spring both Venus and Mars have shone in the western evening sky, but until recently Venus has been much the farther north of the two. However, in the deepening twilight of August 8 and 9 these planets appeared quite close together above the western horizon. As always, Venus is the brightest of all starry objects, but ruddy Mars, now so distant as to seem quite inconspicuous, is only a ghost of its brilliant self of last winter.

Astrologers may attach considerable significance to the present friendly huddling of Venus, gentle goddess of love, and Mars, fiery old god of war. But professional astronomers, unanimously non-believers in astrological lore, find only a poetic appeal in this cordial gesture. The meeting is apparent only, for the war-loving planet actually is 117,000,000 miles beyond Venus.

Considerably south of this pair we find yellow Jupiter, second in brightness only to Venus. Near Jupiter is Spica, for months such a faithful companion across the blue sky path that we easily might accept the charming version of one little girl that this is Jupiter's sweetheart. Indeed, Spica is the brightest star of the constellation, the Maiden.

For our study of the other bright stars, let us observe around 8:30 or 9 p.m. High in the west-southwest, orange Arcturus, at the lower tip of the Kite, is conspicuous. Low in the south-southwest, red Antares, the heart of the Scorpion, is throbbing. The familiar Big Dipper is sliding down the northwestern sky.

Almost directly overhead, bright Vega in the celestial Harp proudly holds the central place in the entire visible starry hemisphere. A little to the northeast of Vega we easily locate Deneb at the top of the Northern Cross. Very high in the southeast, Altair, flanked by a star on each side, marks the location of the Eagle.

For observers well north and without horizon obstructions, Capella is violently flashing red and green and yellow almost on the skyline only a little east of due north. After an hour or two Capella will be more easily spotted.

Almost due east and not high in the sky there stands before us the splendid Square of Pegasus. This four-starred figure appears quite large when near the horizon. Note that it is not resting on a flat side but is neatly balanced on a corner. This square outlines the fore part of the body of the Flying Horse, now lying on his back. Extending above the star in the upper corner of the square, two lines of faint stars trace the front legs. From the [illegible] ner, a line of stars [illegible] traces the long neck. [illegible] slightly above this, the star Enif marks the [illegible] horse's nose.

'3 Horsemen' Gives Chance To Les White

Les White, who had his first nights at the Very Little Theatre as an olio performer in "Ten Nights in a Barroom," takes to the stage-proper for the group's forthcoming comedy.

A the August 24 opening of "Three Men on a Horse"—and for six nights thereafter—he will have a leading role. It is that of Frankie, a comic spindlebum gambler with upper-Brooklyn accent and lower-Brooklyn manners. He portrays the most persistent in a trio of such gamblers around whom the play centers. On the advice of a henpecked husband from Ozone Heights, these three risk their futures on a single horserace.

Navy Veteran

White, who lives at 2248 Columbia Street, recently established residence in Eugene after spending a hitch in the U. S. Navy. He declines being quoted on his previous dramatic experience, which is notable. However, he does admit that he was in a kindergarten class play in 1912 and that he played the lead!

In discussing his role in "Three Men on a Horse," he said he believes that Eugene's Very Little Theatre is one of the outstanding dramatic groups of its nature in the United States. He complimented the VLT on being the only little-theatre in the country that is entirely self-supporting and a continual success.

Under the direction of Ken Griffith, he will share honors in the new production with Vera Scott, Larry Fischer, Bill Countryman, and others who are in the large cast.

NEW LINE HANDLED

The Flav-R-Pac line of frozen fruits and vegetables will be handled in Eugene and vicinity by the Medo-Land Creamery, it was announced Wednesday by Gordon Coleman, manager. Coleman said that 243 pounds of frozen foods are now sold for every 100 pounds sold in 1939. The creamery has a specially designed truck and will extend present facilities to accomodate the expected demand for the product.

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