

**AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER**  
(Published Every Evening and Sunday)  
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MANAGING EDITOR: William M. Tugman  
NEWS SERVICE: Associated Press, United Press  
Entered at the Post Office at Eugene, Oregon, as second-class matter.  
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.

### New Setup in Oregon Athletics

Harmony marks the first step in the reorganization of athletics at the University of Oregon. From the Athletic Board, long the policy determining body comes the first move:

**RECOMMENDATION**—for the appointment of a full time Director of Athletics with wide powers and responsible directly to the president of the University.

The Athletic Board—composed of alumni, students, faculty delegates—submits its resignation to clear the way for this important change. President Newburn is out of town, but when he returns in a few days, there will be specific information on the new setup.

"Goodbye to 'the Mexican army'" That was the reaction of one very active Oregon alumnus and we think it is a good sign. In spite of all the good work that has been done under the old setup, it has had many of the faults of "a Mexican army"—too many "generals."

"Will there be anything to replace the old Athletic Board?" Probably! It is entirely probable that there will be some new and much more widely representative group, but—in an advisory and not in an administrative capacity. If we understand President Newburn's policy it calls for the widest possible consultation with alumni, students, faculty in the development of the athletic program, but—so far as administration is concerned, a fixing of AUTHORITY and RESPONSIBILITY.

This is as it should be and as is common practice in nearly every well run University. At Oregon State, for some years Percy Loyce has had the powers and the responsibilities of Athletic Director, and to that fact you can attribute a large measure of Oregon State's success and progress. There has been some friction. There always is. There will be here. We hear rumors of uprising against Loyce at Oregon State, but Oregon State will make a sad mistake if it departs from sound management.

The old Athletic Board steps down, leaving behind it a cash balance of some \$150,000, proof that on the financial side it has done a good conscientious job. And the recommendation for change comes from this old Athletic Board because they know better than anybody the need of such a change. Even "the wolves" should be happy.

### Still A Very Good Story

So the "mysterious rock" which descended in "a shower of ice particles" upon the parade ground of Hill Military Academy while "the troops" were lined up for inspection turns out to be only some plaster out of an old souvenir shell case—not fragments of a "rocket missile".

Whee! And again, WHEE! There will be some gloating in the senior "editing class" in the University of Oregon's School of Journalism. For, on Tuesday afternoon, they were selecting topics for editorials for "a great metropolitan newspaper", and the question was put to them:

"How would you deal with the story of the 'mysterious rock'?"

There was a deal of animated discussion, with the almost unanimous conclusion:

"We would deal with it lightly and humorously, and with a word of warning that the whole thing might prove a hoax. We would certainly pooh-pooh any suggestion that this might be a missile from foreign lands."

For as one young man pointed out, with regard to the elaborate spectroscopic analyses and military and scientific diagnosis of "the fragment":

"Somebody's face is apt to be mighty red before this is over."

No doubt there are some very red faces in the great city of Portland. It would seem that the esteemed Oregonian, long known to the up-state press as "the dear old lady of Alder street" had its neck well out. And it would seem that the commandant and other big-wigs of Hill Military might do some blushing because apparently it never occurred to them that the ice and plaster fragments might have been shot into the air over the parade ground by the ancient device of the catapult (which Caesar used with some success). And the spectroscopic boys—well they talked learnedly of calcium con-

tent and other mineral items, but omitted to identify common plaster.

And the rest of us—well, we printed the "news" as it came over AP and UP, and we can still say that it was a good story, and that it is a better story than ever with this "denouement". All the world loves a mystery. All the world loves a good joke. We can only hope that the young rascals who perpetrated this joke are not made to suffer too much. This really rates the "hall of fame" for schoolboy pranks.

As for the oncoming crop of Oregon editors—they have a flair for "diagnosis". The world should be reasonably happy and safe.

Not enough attention is being paid to educating the pedestrian, according to a police judge. So the pedestrian steps out and gets knowledge bumps.

Any time you discover you're on the wrong track it's time to make new connections.

Some people who think they're up to their neck in work, just haven't their feet on the ground.

We're told that horses, like sheep, can be trained to follow a leader. Having visited a race track, we believe it!

An Ohio couple was married and separated in 50 minutes. Good movie talent!

It's nice to believe in yourself, but don't be too easily convinced.

### WASHINGTON LETTER

BY PETER EDSON  
Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

#### Interior Issues Lined Up

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(NEA)—How much restraint the victorious Republicans will show in dipping into the public till will be a matter worth watching in the new Congress. While "Economy" and "Stop Government Spending" were two of the principal battle cries of the Republicans in the last campaign, every congressman likes to do something handsome for his home folks, particularly at government expense.

This activity will show up clearly when Department of Interior appropriations come up for action. In his message of a year ago President Truman came out strongly for development of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway project, and for creation of Columbia and Missouri River Valley Authorities.

Democratic Sen. Hugh Mitchell of Washington sponsored Columbia Valley legislation in the last Congress. He wasn't re-elected. But Democratic Sen. James E. Murray of Montana, who backed the Missouri Valley plan, and Republican Sen. George D. Aiken of Vermont, who was the longest-winded speaker for the St. Lawrence project, are both back and are sure to be heard from.

While there are shortages of building materials and construction labor for housing, there is good reason to hold back on public works. Passage of authorization acts to put these projects on the shelf until building conditions improve, is, however, a distinct possibility.

#### Off Year For Log-Rolling

One of the big talking points for Department of Interior projects in Congress has been to spread them around, getting a number for each state. A national park or monument here, a fish and wildlife preserve there, a dam, forest or reclamation project out yonder. A little simple, old-fashioned log-rolling gets most of them passed.

But this year, under White House and Budget Bureau pressure for down-holding and a general reluctance of the Democratic executive to ask the Republicans for anything they may not give, many of these pet projects may be scratched off the boards.

The legislation to be asked for on behalf of the Department of Interior is representative of the broad field of activities it covers. Most of it was requested from but not acted on by the last Congress.

Creation of an Evacuation Claims Commission to handle claims for property lost by U. S. citizens of Japanese extraction during their detention in War Relocation Centers is one such project. There were 110,000 Japanese-Americans evacuated between December, 1941, and January, 1945. Only about half were able to return to pre-Pearl Harbor homes.

How much damage they sustained through loss of business, abandonment of property, lapse of insurance and so on cannot be estimated accurately. If only \$100 per capita, the loss would be more than \$10 million. Present plans are to ask that all these claims be cleaned up within a three-year period, and adjusted without cluttering up the courts.

#### Territorial Problems Galore

Statehood for Hawaii and Alaska will come up, with a good chance the former may be granted. Secretary of Interior J. A. Krug visited Alaska last summer and has ambitious plans to open up the territory to new settlers—particularly veterans.

Provision for a plebiscite in Puerto Rico to determine the islanders' preferences on statehood, dominion status or territorial government will probably be before Congress again.

Virgin Islanders want a Resident Commissioner in Washington. Extension of soil conservation and some social security benefits to the Virgin Islands is also likely to be re-presented. The Virgin Islands Co., a government corporation which runs the rum business, will require a new charter before July, 1948.

Establishment of territorial government for Guam, taking it out of the hands of the Navy, is another project. Passage of a new organic act providing basic civil government for all the liberated islands of the Pacific will be a controversial issue.

Indian affairs will inspire a number of requests for additional legislation from the new Congress. Among them will be a bill to provide a uniform code of descent for Indians whose estates and wills now have to be settled under varying state laws. Another proposal would permit Indians away from their home reservations to buy whiskey.

## Change in US Foreign Policy Seen Unlikely Under Marshall

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR.  
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

When James F. Byrnes became secretary of state 18 months ago there were those who feared that a mighty good pilot in domestic waters had been carried out of his depth. But Byrnes seemed to grow along with the complexities of his job until, by the time of the Paris foreign ministers conference last summer, he was able to take the lead in international maneuvering which had been held by the Russians and British.

Now, in the flush of major successes during the recent New York conferences, he resigns.

#### Comforting Factors

Although known to be needing a rest, Byrnes had been expected by the public to carry on for a while longer. Only the presence of General Marshall to take over prevents considerable shock. That plus Byrnes' development of a firm, continuing and non-partisan

foreign policy which should lose nothing through being administered by a man who has never had political connections.

It is a policy, too, whose success is its own best safeguard against change. The concessions which Russia has made across the conference table, her lessened pressure on the Danube, the Dardanelles, Iran and elsewhere, match too closely the pattern of U. S. counter-pressure to be mere coincidence.

There will be speculation and some outcries. The change, making General Marshall a part of the civilian administration and putting him next in line for the presidency should anything happen to Mr. Truman during the next two years, probably will reverberate in domestic politics. Foreign quarters will be alert to the possibilities of the "military mind" at the State Department. The next anti-American propaganda from abroad probably will link "military diplomacy" with "dollar diplomacy" and "atomic diplomacy."

#### Marshall Qualified

But the announcement that Byrnes is retiring because of health is well documented. And his standing in the administration was attested only a short time ago when Truman ousted politically-powerful Henry Wallace from the cabinet to preserve the prestige of Byrnes and his policies in Europe.

Then, too, the fitness of Marshall for the job is generally acclaimed in this country. With Franklin D. Roosevelt and Cordell Hull, the general was one of the very few men intimately acquainted with every facet of America's foreign relations from 1939 on.

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### Jap Freezes While Pondering Suicide

TOKYO — (AP) — A Japanese colonel accused of wartime atrocities pondered how to destroy himself for nine days then froze to death at the foot of Fujiyama, the War Crimes Division of Allied Headquarters disclosed Wednesday.

Col. Masao Kusonose, about to go on trial for ordering the bayoneting and shooting of 140 Australian soldiers and some civilians on New Britain, was found in his boyhood barracks where he fasted for a nine-day death watch ending Christmas Day, officials said.

Near the body was an open diary in which the colonel wrote to the end. His neatly folded overcoat and carefully aligned boots lay nearby.

Entries in the diary showed that the Japanese officer spent the entire period mulling over how to kill himself.

#### Motorcyclist Hits, Derails Freight Cars

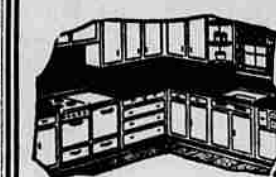
ALBANY — (AP) — Jack the Giant Killer had little more to boast than Motorcyclist Stanley Ellison, 16, Wednesday.

State police reported Ellison escaped unhurt when his motorcycle crashed into a wheel truck of a Southern Pacific freight train flat car here Tuesday night, derailing two of the flat cars. His own vehicle was ground to a mass of metal beneath the train.

Police said he apparently had leaped from the cycle just before it struck the train. He was taken to a hospital but dismissed shortly afterward.

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With all the new legislation the Republican Congress promises to work up, Charles S. Murphy, above, of Wallace, N. C., will be a busy man. Former assistant legislative counsel to the Senate, he has been appointed administrative assistant to the President on legislative matters.

### Session Procedure Change Proposed

PORTLAND — (AP) — Multnomah County Representative J. E. Bennett said Wednesday he would introduce a bill the first day of the state legislature to change session routine.

His bill would require committee meetings in the mornings and both House and Senate to debate and act on measures only in the afternoon. Brief and early morning sessions would be reserved for introduction of bills.

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After the close of business December 31, 1946.

| ASSETS                              |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| First Mortgage Loans and Other      | \$429,281.29 |
| First Liens on Real Estate          | \$116,300.00 |
| Investments and Securities          | \$101,523.37 |
| Cash on Hand and in Banks           | \$ 346.08    |
| Office Equipment, less Depreciation | \$647,450.74 |
| LIABILITIES                         |              |
| Members' Share Accounts             | \$611,876.05 |
| Loans in Process                    | \$ 2,548.72  |
| Other Liabilities                   | \$ 1,321.80  |
| Specific Reserves                   | \$ 930.85    |
| General Reserves                    | \$11,000.00  |
| Unallocated Reserves                | \$ 6,500.00  |
| Undivided Profits                   | \$ 30,773.32 |
|                                     | \$647,450.74 |

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