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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 public affairs. 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.

"AB" Penetrates Day's News

The headlines in Wednesday's issues of The Register-Guard were interesting because at two points the problems of world peace penetrated the news. Plain Citizen H. H. Arnold, the General Arnold who commanded American Air Force in World War II comes to Eugene and demands "realistic" dealing with the threat of the atom bomb. From Washington comes the report of an agreement with Canada on a program for mutual defense.

These stories emphasize and highlight the two contradictory phases of American policy in world affairs:

1. Appeasement of Russia by our diplomats and representatives in United Nations in an effort to establish a basis for cooperation.
2. Preparations for what will certainly happen if some basis of understanding cannot be achieved.

We invite protests every time we mention war with Russia as a possibility. There are many who feel that such a dire disaster should not even be mentioned, just as there were many in the early days of the last decade who deplored every possibility of another war with Germany. Nevertheless it came to pass, and for lack of realistic thinking and realistic preparation we had a narrow escape, for had Germany developed the atom bomb or its rocket projectiles in time we might not be complacent victors now.

"When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."

With a certain cynical twist that line of Scripture just about describes our present policy. We have been doing alms—and appeasement—in a big way. We have also been making some preparations for what might happen, of which our agreement with Canada is a sample.

It is difficult to say at what point patience ceases to be a virtue, but even with the so-called "strong policy" followed by Mr. Byrnes (and Secretary Marshall will probably carry it on) there has been an obvious failure in our relations with Russia.

We shut our eyes to territorial and political encroachments by the Russians on the rights of smaller nations. We waive our demands on lend-lease and other commitments. We offer every inducement for friendship. We promise to put the atomic bomb and atomic energy under international control when we can be assured of an open door for adequate inspection systems. Yet Russian policy continues to be "a one-way street", and it is the fear of what can happen that forces us into obvious preparations for war.

There is need to harmonize and coordinate the two-handed policy which we have been following. There is need for unified policy, couched not in threats but in terms which the Russians understand, that is, if we mean business about preventing future wars and making the entire world a place which is safe for democracy.

37th Anniversary of Scouts

This is Boy Scout Week, and the 37th anniversary of scouting in the United States. In the United States we have more than 2,000,000 active Scouts, and more than 13,500,000 men are "graduates" of Scout training. In Lane county we now have 2293 Scouts and our Oregon Trail Council (comprising Lane, Lincoln, Benton, Douglas, Coos and Curry counties) has 4485 boys enrolled. It is leading the nation in growth and percentage of membership.

These are merely some of the factual indications of the importance of the Scout movement. Scouting began in England in 1908, almost two years before it took hold

in this country. Many a man now full grown and a leader in his community is familiar with the works of Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell, commonly acknowledged "father" of Scouting.

But Scouting is not the work of one man but of thousands of men and boys. It is not national but international in its scope. During the years of Hitler and Mussolini we saw youth movements perverted and distorted in many lands, and both boys and girls regimented into militaristic parodies of scouting. Scouting has survived and Hitler and Mussolini and most of their evil companions are dead.

Scouting resumes its mission to the youth of all the world. Its principles are those of enlightened democratic citizenship, of common decency. It recognizes no barriers of class, color or creed. It presents duty to country as duty to mankind. It is a type of educational cooperative endeavor necessary to an "urban age" when men must learn from earliest youth the arts of working and living together.

In Lane county we may take great pride in our leadership in Scouting. These bright eyed youngsters we see tramping through the hills, competing for honors in the various crafts and requirements which lead to the coveted rank of Eagle Scout, doing their community "chores" on every civic occasion—these will be the men who will lead when our generation has little to offer except "advice and reminiscences". They are learning the great lessons of self-reliance and cooperation—the balanced approach to life and living which the world sorely needs.

OUT OF THE WOODS

By JIM STEVENS

The Satsop Squirrel Case

Not since I let loose with Paul Bunyan in 1923 has any story of mine raised as much hallelujahs as this one about Mrs. Cliff Rice, her tree-seed business in the Satsop woods, and the squirrels.

So many letters to Mrs. Rice have blazed in from such far spots as Penobscot, Pasadena, Baltimore and Bogalusa that another newspaper yarn has been made from them and sent around the world. I mean, "blazed." The original story of Mrs. Rice and her contribution to the restocking of burned-over forest lands had three hooks. One was the theme of reforestation—my own main interest. A second was that of "the better mousetrap," with the world beating a path through deepest woods to the maker's door. The third was the animal theme.

A Seattle reporter was interested in the story with the part played by squirrels in the business which Mrs. Rice has built up for herself out in the Satsop woods. Actually it is a trifling part. The cones of fir, hemlock, cedar and spruce are, of course, the raw material of the business. People pick cones for pay by the bushel or pound. When a picker finds a store left by squirrels for winter in a tree or stump hollow, it is like finding money. This does not happen very often. It means nothing to the squirrels' outside natural indignation.

The animal hook put the story on the front page of a Sunday newspaper. Then a thousand papers throughout the country carried versions and pictures. And then the powerful spirit of folklore entered it.

The Scurious Squirrel Fans
The headlines back in Bangor and Baltimore read, "Squirrels' Winter Caches Looted for Seed Business." And so here we had another oldtime story theme of undying popularity—the pirates and the treasure hunt. But this cast Mrs. Rice, not in the role of a friend of the forest, of a wise woman of nature who knew the ways of providing vital seed for tree growing by lumbermen and foresters, but as a starver of squirrels, a mortal enemy of the Scuridae family.

An amazing number of the letters written to Mrs. Rice plumbed the lowest possible depths of scurrility. Mostly they bore no names or addresses. Some were obviously the poison-pen outpourings of the insane. Others were comparatively temperate and decent in tone, with a few on engraved stationery and from such high-toned dumps as Forest Hills, N. Y., and Rahway, N. J.

While the main body of letters were inquiries on forestry or business, the many that were scurrilous and violent—and all without reason or sense—remain a depressing fact to meditate upon. The number of people who are ready to explode in violent hate from the smallest spark is larger than we think. Cranks keep Communism. Fanatics feed Fascism. And hell pops on.

The Story's the Thing
But to come back to my simple main point, the tried and true, the ever-beloved story themes are the ones to use in getting the facts of forestry, or of any other concern of this region, before the people of the country.

Paul Bunyan was brought out of the woods to give readers a new land of make-believe, an American fairy tale—one in a mackinaw and calked boots. I have been fooling around with animal stories of the Douglas fir for a long time. Looks like I've located me a claim. It's wide-open territory. But forestry ought not to be forgotten in it.

said.

The weather, at first comparatively mild, began to change. Yahnke said his leg got worse and he was unable to leave the packing crate.

The temperature dropped to eight degrees below zero as the worst storm since 1924 struck. The snow piled into huge drifts outside the viaduct.

"All I had to eat was snow," Yahnke said.

Arthur Langdon, a hydrant inspector for the city water department, found Yahnke last Saturday. He called police, who took Yahnke to the hospital. It was days before Yahnke was able to give an account of his experience. His feet were frozen and physicians said he may lose one or both of his legs. They notified Yahnke.

"I guess I can take it," he said.



Chaim Bastowski, 16-year-old Polish war orphan, displays arm on which Nazis branded his serial number. On recent arrival in New York, he said it's his "lucky" number because he escaped death when his parents and sister were shot by the Germans and he was one of few to survive winter march from Auschwitz to Buchenwald camp.

New Type Veneer House in Process

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A project to make prefabricated houses with a new type of wood veneer, made from low grade peeler logs which aren't presently used, has been announced by the Commerce Department.

The department said \$37,000 of its industrial research funds had been allotted for a six-month "actual cost" contract with a private research organization, the Elmendorf Corp. of Chicago, to produce a Kodel prefabrication structure using the new material.

The project, if successful, will "help relieve current building material shortages, release higher grade lumber for other purposes, and speed emergency housing programs said a department statement."

The proposed panel, called "K-veneers", would use a veneer 3/16 inches thick made from western hemlock peeler logs.

The department said endorsers of the project include the Crawford Co., Baton Rouge, La., Harbor Plywood Corp., National, Wash., Plywood Research Foundation, Tacoma, Wash., and Aetna Plywood and Veneer Co. and General Houses, Inc., of Chicago.

Valentine's Day Hop Planned on Campus

The tenth annual University of Oregon Heart Hop will feature, among other things, selection of a "King of Hearts" during the half-time period of the Oregon-Idaho basketball game in McArthur Court.

Selection of the king will be by vote of ticket-holders, whose choice will be made from the following candidates: William L. Abbey, Klamath Falls; Malcolm MacGregor, Eugene; John Burris, Salem; Joseph M. Pond, Jr., and Robert Barrett, both of Portland; and Paul Pierson, Burbank.

Progressive dancing will begin immediately after the game, rotating among four campus living organizations: Pi Beta Phi, Delta Gamma, Chi Omega, and one independent house which has not yet been selected.

Each house will be decorated to represent a phase in courtship from the first meeting through marriage. Dancing will be interrupted at one point for the "dunking" of the king by last year's king, Marvin R. Rasmussen, Portland.

Dating, in keeping with the tradition of the first annual Valentine's Day dance, will be reversed with girls escorting boys.

Joan Williams, Eugene, is general chairman. Tickets are on sale at all campus living organizations and at the University Co-op for the YWCA-sponsored affair.

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Man Tells of Staying two Weeks In Viaduct During Snow Storm

RACINE, Wis. — (AP) — Fred Yahnke, 60, has told authorities how he had lived in a packing case beneath a viaduct for two

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