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 The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements of 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.

**Ten Days That Shake Eugene**

Many years ago, John Reed, the Portland boy who became a Communist hero wrote a memorable book "Ten Days That Shook The World" (a description of the Russian revolution) and it is a book well worth reading, and re-reading in light of current events. But that is beside the point because, for no very good reason, we are reminded of the coming ten days which will "shake Eugene"—the last ten days before we go before the world with the Centennial Oregon Trail Pageant.

Be forewarned! The pageant is much more than growing a beard, electing some queens, going through some motions. It is much more than holding endless committee meetings. Only those who have lived through the last ten days before a pageant can appreciate what we mean.

We admire Horace Robinson greatly (just the same as we admire Joe Stalin). We love Dorris Smith, and who can help it (but in the next ten days she can make you wish you'd never been born). We think Leon Ray should be the next First Citizen because he has the finest beard since General Grant (but in the next ten days we shall want to shoot him).

These will be the ten days of whipping the Pageant into shape, and that means that the thousands who will take part must get down to business on rehearsals. As usual, there is a frightening lag in rehearsal attendance. Of all the hundreds who have said "I will" only a few, relatively have got down to business. But they don't know Dorris! Some hides are going to be tacked to the Fairground flagpole. This is going to be the ten days of "hurt feelings"—and why not?

You know, you have to get away from Eugene to know what the great public out there is expecting. Travellers on the Cascade and other Southern Pacific trains have an idea that all SP engineers are members of the House of David (especially if they saw Virg Parker). Even in Portland a "Sissy Card" is not a good explanation.

These are the ten days which make or break a pageant, and frankly there is reason to be worried for fear that the surface enthusiasm for this great show will not be followed by performance. The RG has sacrificed a lot of valuable news space to pure baloney, but from now on we emphasize the REHEARSAL SCHEDULES, because even Goodwin Thacher can't write a script which acts itself without people.

These must be ten days of sacrifice on the altar of patience, of endurance, of pride in Eugene's tradition. Can't you hear Dorris yelling:

"Cal Young, get those ox teams off stage, and where's that nitwit Adrian Fuddle driving his horse car?"  
 There is only one Dorris. They say there is nothing quite like the Eugene version of "Oregon Trail." But these are the ten days which "shake Eugene" (and foxy to the rest of the world). Are you booked to be a "neked" Indian, or a cowboy, or a Gentleman Jim? Give Dorris a break, or we can promise she will break you. These are the ten days of putting a show together, and John Reed was modest when he thought only of shaking the world.

**Moscow Strategy is Revealed**

Refusal of the friendly Czechs—under Moscow pressures—to participate in the Marshall program for economic restoration of Europe is certainly no surprise. Neither is the reluctance of pitiful Austria to make commitments which will probably be blocked by the Russian member of the military tribunal ruling Austria. Those nations of Central Europe and the Balkans which are under the Russian guns have little choice.

But the logic of Russia's uncooperative policy has been obscure to most Americans until this last week with the discussion of detailed plans for the "pooling of resources". There is such a logic, although it does not fit into any logical plan for permanent peace Russia withholds from needy Europe:  
 Coal and grain from Poland.  
 Machinery and manufactured goods and timber from Czechoslovakia.  
 A wide variety of foods and raw materials and manufactured goods from all the areas under Russian domination.  
 It is Russia's evident intention to weave these highly productive areas into the Russian economy, leaving much of Western Europe crippled, cut off from normal sources of materials, normal markets for products. Russia gambles that the crazy-quit of Western Europe cannot be put together even with generous aid from the United States. Perhaps there is the Russian hope that the demands of Western Europe will bankrupt either the patience or the resources of the United States.

The strength of this country is in its "continental economy" (although World War II demonstrated quickly that we are far from self-sufficient). For generations Europe has needed a "continental economy" and has

achieved it in some measure in spite of the political divisions and tariff barriers which have frustrated orderly development.

The tragedy of the "division of Europe" is not merely in the political antagonisms which are created, but in the economic frustrations which may develop. The Russians want a "continental economy" in Europe, but not on the Marshall plan—only on Russian terms. In other words they want and expect to have Europe.

That is a somewhat greater challenge than winning a war for democracy. The Russians are laying odds that democracy can't be made to work.

**Lewis Drives "A Hard Bargain"**

There has been a good deal of wonderment concerning the amazing bargain which John L. Lewis has driven with the hard-bitten coal operators, led by none other than Benjamin Fairless, of U. S. Steel. It not only sets a record for pay increases; it doubles its royalties to be paid to the miner's health and welfare fund; and by contract it defies the Taft-Hartley Act by writing into agreement—the "checkoff" for miner's dues to their union, a provision that miners need work only when "willing and able" (and to hell with injunctions!), a virtual waiver of any damage suits against the union for practices declared unfair in the new legislation.

So there is great wonderment as to just what John L. did to hypnotize Mr. Fairless, who, you may be sure has no great love for unions.

(On account of the increased cost of coal the nation is already threatened with a sharp rise in the price of all steel products, and this might start a new spiral of inflation).

It may be necessary to recall that the tycoons of coal and steel have always been opposed to "government meddling" in labor relations. In the early days of the post-war they were quite vocal in demanding that employers and employees be allowed to slug it out with a minimum of government interference. Since the Taft-Hartley bill proposes not less but more control of labor relations, it may be that Mr. Fairless and Mr. Lewis have united for a first great test of the Taft-Hartley bill.

Congressman Hartley has sounded off to the effect that both the coal operators and the mine union should be investigated and prosecuted, if necessary. For once we are inclined to agree with Mr. Hartley. We do not favor the "slugging theory" for collective bargaining. There is a public interest in these matters which can only be protected by government. In coal and steel, the public faces monopolies of both labor and management and they both seem inclined to say:

"The public be damned!"  
 The constitutional tests of the Taft-Hartley Act might just as well start at this point as at any other.

**Bus Service to Skinner Park**

From a lady who wishes to have her name withheld (although she says she has addressed a similar communication to the City Council), we have a letter proposing bus service to Skinner Park, the area back of the butte and along the river—at least during the summer months. She points out that many who would like to enjoy this park do not have private transportation, and . . .

"Of course the butte cannot be turned around . . . the River Road bus stops closest to the park but you still have to walk three blocks and part of it is uphill . . . if it is not feasible for a city bus to run through the park every hour or so, then could it not be arranged for an hourly bus to stop at each end of the park, nearest to the camp facilities . . ."

This is a very healthy sign of interest in park use and development. We do not know what the bus company will say to this suggestion. They have a great many difficult problems of routing to meet the needs of this rapidly expanding community, and they have to deal with some very stubborn facts of mileage costs in relation to actual cash returns.

However, it is our experience that they are "good guys", and they might be persuaded to make an experiment with a "park loop" just to see how it works out. Unfortunately Skinner Park is badly placed for bus operations. A park loop involves two grade crossings and a circuit from High to Lincoln.

But it's an idea. Some day when the Amazon park and the Millrace park and the various neighborhood parks and playgrounds are fully developed, the transportation system will undoubtedly include those places where thousands will play. Frankly Skinner park "ain't much" as it stands, but it gets an enormous seasonal use for lack of other facilities.

The suggestion of an experimental bus loop through Skinner park deserves serious consideration.

Not less than 472 people have suggested that instead of this cockeyed world we should not say saucer-eyed, but we say the saucers only prove its cockeyed.

One of McGurk's lady friends comes forth with the flying discs may be only silver dollars trying to keep up with prices (but the reported disc speed is only 1000 miles per hour).

**In The Editor's Mailbag**

**SECOND GROWTH TIMBER**

**EUGENE (To the Editor):** Have read your recent articles in the Guard on above subject:

Much money has been spent on reforestation. Much ignorance has been displayed in spending this money. I would like to have someone show me one tree, planted under the reforestation program that will ever grow up to be good saw-timber. But take a look at a fine stand of young growth on a side hill where once was a clearing, but now left to go back to nature, in her own way of doing things. The young stand grows thick, very close together. As the years pass the lower limbs drop off, then the meat of the tree grows over the lower part where the limbs dropped off, and in a matter of two or three hundred years you have the same fine old growth yellow fir meaty clear timber, now being peeled in plywood plants. But remember, that thick stand of second growth was planted by an old yellow fir seed tree which was left standing in or near one corner of the clearing. The wind does the job of spreading the seed and the best job is done when the old seed tree is left at either the northwest or southwest corner of the clearing, or both.

The so-called second growth timber being sown by the smaller type of mills on the West Coast, was seeded that way, some of it only within the past fifty years. It is not suitable for good lumber now but just let it stand another two hundred years, protected from fires, and nature does the rest.

My folks sawed up the hardwood and white pine timber from 40,000 acres of land in Potter Co., Penn. Later moved up to the northern part of New York State and resumed sawing on 125,000 acres of virgin timber. I dug the first hole for Gifford Pinchot to plant his first tree on his plan for re-forestation. Think that was in 1910. Later our folks gave him permission to try out his plan on the 40,000 acres in Penn. He did not plant chestnut on the chestnut ridges, nor paid any attention to planting as nature had. The net result of the plantings of Norway Pines he imported, as well as other woods, is substantially a lot of brush. Any con-

ferous tree, if planted by man, must be planted by compass, i.e., the roots of the seedling must be set in the ground pointing in the same directions as when the seed started them in the ground. Now just watch a gang of young high school kids setting out seedlings on ground set aside for reforestation. Then note the results a few years later. Money thrown to the birds.

If the original seeding of trees is not close together, i.e. if there is plenty of open space around each tree, the limbs which always grow to the bottom of the tree do not fall off, with the result that the whole tree is knotty, no clear grows on the outside and you have, what is known in cruising, as culls or No. 3 grade timber. I know of a stand of 20 million feet of this latter type of timber which, under ordinary market conditions, cannot economically be sawn and none of it will produce clear lumber which is necessary for an economic logging and sawing operation.

I thoroughly agree, after watching the progress of reforestation for forty years, that the only way to continued successful lumbering in the Northwest is the protection of the so-called Second Growth Timber you are writing about as now being sown by the smaller mills. Remember however, that much of the smaller timber now being logged is not second growth. In some very thick stands, particularly in higher altitudes, I have found trees 325 years old which measured only thirty inches on the stump.

It should be quite clear to anyone who has studied the timber situation in Oregon, or any other state for that matter, that protection of any timber, young or old, is the main essential item toward a continued harvest. Also, that this selective logging program is not the answer to conserving the younger growth. When you take out the selected trees from a certain stand of timber, you leave the rest with wide open spaces around them and there again you have the start of inferior or un-economic timber.

O. A. PRINCE.

**WORRY, WORRY!**  
**COTTAGE GROVE (To the Editor):** It seems to me that in all the excitement and confusion

over the so-called flying saucers one of the possible and to me most logical explanations is that some enemy may be scattering disease bacteria which after a short period of time may break out into a deadly pestilence. Perhaps some have thought of this, but one seldom hears it mentioned, so it might catch us altogether unprepared. They might also be scattering radio active particles.  
 J. C. BUKER.  
 (Editor's note: Let's stop worrying!)

**SOLUTION!**

**EUGENE (To the Editor):** Shay I (hic) have been reading all about the flying saucers—thash nothing new. I have been sheeing them for years, colored onesh too. My old lady has been throwing them at me and she don't give a hoot what color they are. And I stee steeh also.  
 Yours,  
 SHOBER SHAM

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