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NEWS SERVICE
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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, fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

In "The Northwest Corner"

There comes to the editor's desk an unusually attractive and interesting book—"Northwest Corner" (Doubleday, \$3.95)—photographs by Henry Sheldon, brief introduction and commentary by that old war-horse Stewart Holbrook. Mr. Sheldon has set out to preserve for posterity the Oregon country (including Washington) as it has been known to "old timers" (anybody with more than 20 years residence), the Oregon country that was before this last "boom" began. As Mr. Holbrook writes:

When the Corner's population doubles, and triples, then doubles again; when roads and highways line all the valleys and reach for mountain peaks and back countries; when timber is grown to order in tree nurseries and set out in tree farms; when homes or mills or factories or auto courts dot every other acre, then the country out back of beyond, and the people of it, will have disappeared. They will have disappeared along with the stake-and-rider fences, the covered bridges, the corduroy roads, the homemade irrigation plants. In such an industrialized region as our prophets now predict there will be no room, and no place, for the bearded and grizzled lads who live on bear and elk meat and trap mountain lions, or push and haul their own covered wagons a thousand and more miles a season.

Sometimes Ajax McGurk has advocated building a tall fence around Oregon and "setting up immigration quotas." Old Rosybeak still maintains that the ideal Oregonian was that inhabitant of Fiddle Creek who maintained (some years ago) that:

"... in this hyere country any man what eats fer more'n 50 cents a month fer a little eatin' tobacco is just a plain damn hawg."

Adrian Fuddle is more attuned to "progress" but of late he has been heard to complain:

"Even Mortgage Ridge is gettin' too dern crowded."

In the high Cascades and other not-too-habitable parts of Oregon there have been efforts to set up "primitive areas," but since the Obsidians have succeeded in popularizing mountain climbing and collateral sports, we've heard some of the ancient Chieftains grumble:

"So many people climb the Three Sisters that we're developin' traffic problems."

Fortunate indeed is that citizen of Oregon who can "remember when." Last week we journeyed in to Clear Lake and the falls of the McKenzie with a newcomer from the East who had never seen such country. It was rejuvenating to see the country through his eyes. He was not aware that several hundred campers on the lake had taken anything from its charm, or that the convenient trails which have been built down to the falls have any disadvantages. The McKenzie (in those parts) is still the incomparable McKenzie (can't say so much for the lower river).

But there came a memory of an ancient time when "a scientific expedition" organized by the late Eric Allen headed in to Clear Lake over the old San Mountain trail—a terrific undertaking, or so it seemed at the time. There was only one small hut, a ranger's cabin, at the lake. It was ... it is "a possession."

Sometimes we have envied the trappers who came into the country with the Hudson's Bay Company. They were rich in "possessions."

Were we mentioning a book? It's that kind of book. It captures fragments of the Oregon which many cherish, but it cannot recreate it. That each "old timer" will do for himself—not only places but persons, events, the few and enduring possessions of living.

Will Berlin Be "A Munich"?

Even to the point of fighting, it may be imperative for the United States, Britain and France to cling to those pieces of Berlin which were allocated to us—as administrative centers—in those happier days of victory when we assumed that we could work in partnership with the Russians. There is much more at stake than the immediate fate of the 2,000,000 Germans trapped in those sections of Berlin along with our military people and government representatives. The question might be put this way:

"Will Berlin become another such symbol of democratic indecision as Munich in 1938 with its misleading doctrine 'Peace for our times'?"

What is happening in Berlin cannot be divorced, we believe from what is happening in Yugoslavia (where Tito's people show signs of resistance to Moscow domination); or in Czechoslovakia (where people have dared to cheer Benes and wave American flags); or Finland (where anti-Communists have made some progress at the polls); or in any of those other troubled parts of the world where people are looking eagerly for some signs of positive and courageous democratic action.

"Do you want your war now, or will you have it later—and hotter?"

It is a desperate gamble which we are facing, but there is reason to believe that Moscow is not ready for any real showdown. In fact, the Russians are also making a desperate gamble—upon which depends their prestige in all of those countries of Eastern

Europe which they hold captive. Tactically, the Russians seem to have all of the advantages. Berlin is just a small island in the huge Russian zone of occupation, and the French, British and American sectors of Berlin are just small pieces of that island. The Russians could crush or capture the small allied garrisons in a few hours, but the penalties would certainly be:

EXPULSION from United Nations, and blacklisting as an aggressor.
ISOLATION from the western world which would carry with it crippling economic and political quarantines.

EVENTUAL WAR (if not now) in which the Soviets could claim no allies.

Strategically and economically, Berlin has no great importance to us, but morally it has very great significance. In the temporary agreements for post-war, Berlin was parcelled out to the four powers—France, Britain, United States and Russia—merely for administrative convenience, until some plan could be set up for the restoration of German government in Germany. There was a contract between the four powers for the duration of this indefinite period of negotiation and adjustment.

The fact that the four powers have not been able to come to any agreement on the future of Germany does not warrant the breach of that contract between the four powers, or, what is more important, the breach of faith with the long suffering German people.

Of course, the Russians do not have any such concept of "contract," as we do, but the future peace of the world depends upon creating respect for bargains—and the right of humans to bargain.

"Can this crisis be met without compromise, without stumbling into war?"

We believe it can. It may be necessary to make show of force and to run grave risks of war, and we hope the government at Washington will be UNYIELDING. We would fear the consequences of "another Munich" more than fighting.

Ten stitches were taken in the head of an Indiana boy who forgot to use his head while driving.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

Draft Law's 'Small Business' Note Makes Officials Squirm

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—White House and National Defense officials are now in a big huddle trying to decide what to do with one of the unwanted babies dumped on their doorstep by the departing Congress. It's a "small business" amendment to the new draft law.

It would require the President, on advice of National Security Resources Board, to give small business a fair share of the orders for defense materials. It defines a small business as one employing less than 500 workers and being independently owned. Then as a clincher it would require the government to give small business an allocation of steel for any defense orders it may get.

These provisions weren't in the original draft act versions approved by Senate and House Armed Services Committees. White House and Defense Secretary James V. Forrestal didn't ask for and didn't want these controls in the bill. Now that they're in, the lawyers are scratching their heads to decide what they mean and what can or will be done about them. And the steel industry is waiting nervously on the side to find out. Fines of \$50,000 and up to three years imprisonment are provided for any steel supplier who doesn't comply, so it's something to worry about.

Got In As A Sleeper
This steel and small business sleeper was slipped into the draft act by Congressman Walter C. Ploeser of Missouri, Chairman of the House Small Business Committee. It was passed without protest in the House three days before Congress adjourned. Defense officials watching the bill thought it would be knocked out by the Senate. But Senate and House conferees accepted it on the last day of the session and it was approved late Saturday night. When defense officials woke up Sunday morning to read what kind of a draft bill Congress had passed, there was the Ploeser amendment, and were they surprised.

The provision had carried as an amendment to the utilization of industry section of the draft law. This is a pick-up from the draft law of 1917 and the Second War Powers act. It gives the President power to place mandatory orders for defense production with any mine or plant and to seize and operate any manufacturing facility not complying.

This power was not used during the last war, and it could remain unused in the future. The same thing could apply to the Ploeser small business amendment. But if some small businesses complained that it couldn't get defense orders and pointed to this new law as proof of congressional intent to give small business a better break, defense officials would be hard put getting around it.

Further Complication
A further complication is that the steel allocation program may interfere with the voluntary steel allocation system now in operation under the so-called Taft anti-inflation law. An Office of Industry Co-operation under John C. Virden in Department of Commerce is now administering this law.

The committee now has before the Attorney General a request for approval on allocating steel for the Economic Co-operation Administration, handling Marshall plan supplies, and for the armed services. Assuming these voluntary allocations are approved, there would be no need for compulsory controls under the Ploeser amendment to the draft law. The Taft law expires Feb. 28, 1949, however, and unless renewed, there might be some need for draft law allocations.

President Truman has of course repeatedly asked Congress for stand-by powers to allocate all scarce materials in the interests of the civilian economy. And just as often, Congress has turned down these requests.

The whole mix-up reflects a curious Congressional state of mind. Congress has been unwilling to grant any government controls for the protection of civilians. But for the military, Congress is apparently willing to submit to the toughest kind of controls.

In a letter just sent to Secretary Forrestal, Congressman Ploeser has denied that his amendment will restore American industry to full wartime regimentation, as some elements of the business press had charged. Ploeser says he was interested in just two things. First to see that small business got its fair share of war orders. Second to see that small business could get steel it needed to fill those orders.

The White House will probably be forced to issue some kind of executive order to carry out the intent of the Ploeser amendment. It is entirely possible, however, that it will be allowed to remain a dead letter until there is a specific need to revive it.

U.S. Steel Corp. Brings in FOB

PITTSBURGH — U. S. Steel Corp. Wednesday night reluctantly abandoned of its historic "basing point" method of selling steel.

Corporation president Benjamin F. Fairless said "big steel" soon will quote prices on all its products F. O. B. the shipping point. The customer will pay all freight charges.

Under the present system, a customer pays the same delivered "basing point" price regardless of which mill he buys from, its location, or the actual freight charges.

Fairless said the shift to F. O. B. pricing was the result of a U. S. Supreme Court decision holding a similar pricing system in the cement industry was an unfair trade practice.

Sheriff Arrests Three

Sheriff C. A. Swarts reported Thursday that three youths had been arrested in connection with a series of thefts from automobiles in recent weeks.

Donald Orrie Northey, 23, of Wendling, William Harold Stanley, 19, of Mabel, and George Frank Long, 21, also of Mabel, were arrested on warrants charging larceny from autos. Northey was arraigned in district court Thursday morning and returned to jail after bail was fixed at \$1000.

There are at least 35 orders of living birds, such as penguins, loons, hawks, pigeons, parrots, songbirds, and others.

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12:15 P.M.
INQUIRING MIKE
12:45 P.M.
JOHNSON FAMILY
1:15 P.M.
HEART'S DESIRE
2:00 P.M.
BIRTHDAY CLUB
2:30 P.M.
AT YOUR COMMAND
3:15 P.M.
FULTON LEWIS
4:00 P.M.
FRANK HEMINGWAY
4:15 P.M.
PASSING PARADE
4:30 P.M.
PACIFIC COAST
ROUNDUP OF NEWS
4:45 P.M.

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Two Workers Injured In Mill Accident

Mill accidents injured two men Wednesday. Eugene Hospital reported. Burl Gafford, 24, Jasper, was in good condition Thursday after falling backwards into a saw. He suffered lacerations of the back, upper left arm and right forearm. He is employed at Lewis Lumber Co.

Also in good condition Thursday was Albert Mundi, 45, of Florence. An employee of Siuslaw Forest Products, he broke both wrists and received abrasions while working on the green chain.

Most of the higher groups of birds had been evolved by the end of the Cretaceous period, 60 to 70 million years ago.

'Sabre Dance' In Concert

The regular Thursday night concert of the Eugene Municipal Band in the park blocks will feature Byron Miller as cornet soloist in the selection "Carnival of Venice."

The band, under guest conductor Arthur S. Haynes, will also play Khatchaturian's "Sabre Dance"; a portion from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess"; "Roman Carnival Overture" by Berlioz and "Tarantelle" composed by the guest conductor.

A number featured by Sousa in many of his tours, "Northern Lights" from the Looking Upward Suite will also be included in the concert. The 38 piece band is presented by the city under the sponsorship of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

DEXTER DAM SITE

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