

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER... Editor and Publisher: William F. Baker... Managing Editor: William F. Baker... News Service: Associated Press, United Press... Entered at the Post Office at Eugene, Oregon, as second-class matter.

These Few We Can Answer

When the editor's away, the Mailbag fills up and overflows causing him to wish that he had tarried longer by the roaring surf or the tumbling waters of the McKenzie. However, on this occasion we find a few questions which we can answer.

A writer who signs himself "E. C." questions the recent 15-day suspension of a city fireman on charges of insubordination, and the civil service commission's action sustaining the punishment on appeal, and he argues:

"The punishment for the alleged charges was a suspension of 15 days (approximately a fine of \$115). Is this a justified fine for such a small alleged offense when drunks, violators of traffic laws receive smaller fines... I'll be surprised if the RG ever prints this."

Ordinarily we disregard any such complaints which do not carry the name and address of the complainant. Comment:

The firemen in question had a full, fair hearing before the civil service commission, as prescribed by charter.

On the evidence submitted, they decided that the punishment was warranted and not excessive. Any person who joins a fire or police department must expect and accept strict discipline and insubordination, however subtle or seemingly harmless cannot be tolerated.

We wish that the punishments of civilian offenders, particularly drunken drivers, were more rigorous, but the two kinds of discipline cannot be considered in parallel.

Mrs. W. T. Marshall of Noti wants to know what about "that one and one-half miles of gravelled road connecting the highways out on West Eleventh—the road to Veneta, Elmira, Noti—where the overhead across the Southern Pacific Coos Bay line has remained uncompleted since before the war:

Building of this much needed improvement depends on some settlement as to what portion of cost shall be borne by SP.

This depends on completion of a nation-wide agreement with American railroads association on grade separation costs generally.

We have talked to R. S. Baldock, chief highway engineer, also to John Carlin, till recently public utilities commissioner, have suggested re-hearings so that new evidence of traffic and train increase might be submitted.

PUC reluctant to reopen question for various legal and technical reasons.

Real difficulty seems to be in fact that since war federal government no longer provides any portion of cost for grade separations, leaving it for states and railroads to fight it out.

New and strong representations from Eugene and from Veneta-Elmira-Noti recommended.

Mrs. G. C. Johnson, 1074 Third Avenue West, who says she has seen Willamette street "grow from a muddy cowpath to a beautiful modern street", wants to know why our city engineers and city manager can't "drain the Amazon into the Millrace, only a distance of six or seven blocks". Several reasons:

1. Only the upper portion of the Amazon (roughly east of Willamette street) could possibly be handled.

2. Peak runoff of Amazon is about 1500 cubic feet per second, about four times capacity of Millrace channel.

3. Improvements would make cost of any large canal or covered tunnel prohibitive, much more costly than dredging and widening to Fernridge reservoir or Long Tom at Cheshire.

4. West side and a huge area all the way down the Amazon to Cheshire would get little relief.

Nature did some strange things in creating the Amazon. Actually there is a low ridge between the Willamette river and the Amazon, approximately on the main line of the Southern Pacific and the early railroad engineers evidently discovered that ridge and followed it into Eugene.

Furthermore, soon after getting down out of the Spencer foothills, the channel of the Amazon is actually lower than the channel of the Willamette. Where the SP's bridge crosses the Amazon on the line to Coos Bay, the channel of the Amazon is actually 15 feet lower than the channel of the Willamette a mile away.

Only practical answer is widening and dredging. Congress has now brought federal appropriations for this work almost to \$400,000. The City of Eugene has voted \$400,000 bonds for its right of way costs and new bridges. If property owners on the lower Amazon could be persuaded to participate the work could get under way.

Some day that freak of nature which has made the Amazon channel lower than the Willamette channel can be turned to great advantage — because unlimited water for industrial uses could easily be piped from the Willamette to the Amazon at a point near Bethel, insuring continuous flow in dry seasons.

Finally we have this inquiry from Beulah Bennett, registered nurse, at Harrisburg:

"Will some doctor please prove me to be wrong in the statement that 'helminthoforum' of that schizomycetes class of fungus' is the cause of cancer, polyomyelitis, arthritis, allergies, common colds and other virus diseases. The parasite is known by the medical profession as acarus scabier?"

That one we cannot answer, and we leave it gladly to the learned doctors.

"Confusion Worse Confounded"

Those European nations which are "under the guns" of Russia are in a panic over the possible results of the Berlin crisis. There is evidence in the fall of the Schuman coalition government in France — over the issue of increasing the French appropriations for military defense — and in the jittery appeals of the Benelux ministers at the conference with

Britain and the United States at The Hague to avoid any armed conflict with the Russians.

Naturally the smart operators at the Kremlin have chosen this moment to offer to feed the Berliners in the blockaded zones of that city which are under French, British and American administration. And you may be sure that the agents and operatives of the Communist party have been very active in France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

Apparently our American representatives have been unwilling or unable to promise the spokesmen of these little nations any very substantial military aid—in event of a Russian surge to the west. Dispatches indicate that our representatives have held that military aid would be "a matter of several years". That is not very encouraging to people who have just emerged from long years of Nazi occupation, although it is fairly obvious from what has happened in Eastern Europe that Russian and Communist domination is just as bad as Nazi rule or worse.

The little nations want us to resume "four power negotiations" (on the fate of Germany) regardless of the fate of Berlin. Our position has been that we will not resume four power negotiations with Russia unless or until the Russians keep their treaty pledges which give us a foothold in the capital city. In other words they want appeasement for the time being.

If we have learned anything from the experience of the Hitler years, we should know that there is nothing to be gained by appeasement. Also we should know by this time that whether we have war now or later, the United States will bear most of the burdens.

"Shall we let the Russians surge down through Europe and establish another Fortress Europa, or shall we try to 'contain' them and keep them from absorbing and destroying the last of our allies?"

So very grave is that crisis that whatever President Truman's original motives for calling a special session of Congress, the session is warranted now, because upon the decisions of the next few weeks the whole future may depend.

If you're never able to make up your mind you really haven't much to work with.

WASHINGTON LETTER BY PETER EDSON NEA Washington Correspondent

Taft-Hartley Law Has Added To Maritime Labor Problems

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The Taft-Hartley labor law is headed for its biggest test case yet in the current fight between seven maritime unions and the West Coast, Great Lakes, Atlantic and Gulf Coast ship operators. Principal issue is the hiring hall — the place where seamen and longshoremen go to get jobs.

Under labor practices now firmly established, only union members can get jobs in hiring halls because the maritime unions have all had "closed shop" contracts, and they have been running the halls.

But the Taft-Hartley act outlaws the closed shop and says it's an unfair labor practice for an employer to discriminate against union members or non-members. So the operators now say they can't sign renewals of their contracts which expired on June 15—continuing the hiring halls as they have been operated in the past — without breaking the law.

Five CIO unions, one AFL and one independent maintain that this stand by the employers is a concerted effort to do two things. First to do away with the hiring hall. Second to bust the closed shop at sea and along the waterfront, returning to "open shop" hiring of men without regard to union membership.

Employer ship operators and shipping agents are far from united on what their future hiring policies should be, but in general they deny both these charges.

Problem: Who Runs Hiring Halls? With regard to the first point, most employers say they want to keep the hiring halls, but they want them run differently, to comply with the law. On the east coast, hiring halls are now maintained by the unions. On the west coast hiring halls are for jobs in the hiring halls are now all union men, jointly run by unions and employers. The "dispatchers" who assign the men waiting their turns. Most employers say that in the future they must maintain the hiring halls just as employment offices are run in other industries, and that the dispatchers should be neutral—which to them means non-union men.

On the second point, some employers say they are willing to make a "union shop" contract with the maritime unions. This means that employers could hire whom they pleased, with the understanding that all employees would join the union if there was an election in which a majority of the employees voted that they wished the union to represent them in collective bargaining.

From a practical operating standpoint, this presents a number of problems in the maritime trades not common to other employment. Jobs are exceedingly irregular. Loading or unloading a ship is a matter of days. Berths at sea last weeks or months. Crews change constantly from voyage to voyage. The difficulties of holding elections to determine bargaining agents under such conditions are obvious and could easily lead to union busting.

Both Sides Are Reluctant The position of employers is not wanting to sign new contracts that violate the Taft-Hartley law can be appreciated. The reluctance of unions to sign contracts that lead to their destruction is also understandable. In this situation, it seems only fair to say that the Taft-Hartley law is certainly not helping labor and management reach agreements to renew working conditions that have operated satisfactorily in the past and have become established practices.

Neither the Curran nor Bridges union is in compliance with Taft-Hartley requirements on certification that their officers are not Communists. NLU is now testing this non-Communist oath section of the law in the courts. CIO Marine Engineers are in compliance. Other unions involved are the Independent Firemen and Oilers, AFL Electrical Workers, CIO Marine Cooks and American Radio Association. All this union politics complicates settlement of current disputes.

Another disturbing factor is a National Labor Relations Board complaint filed by Great Lakes tanker fleet operators who charge that maintenance of the hiring hall is violation of fair labor practice. An NLRB decision on this case may be appealed to the courts and a final decision on this phase of the law may not be made for months. This case is cited by the unions as evidence that the employers' real aim is to rub out the hiring halls.

All parties are now supposed to be negotiating under an 80-day cooling-off period imposed by Taft-Hartley law during which ends Sept. 5. If no settlement is reached by then, Harry Bridges says there will be a strike against the law and it will be a lalaloosa.

Thugs Ambush Entire Family

LAKE GROVE, Ore. — (U.P.) — Four masked gunmen ambushed night club owner Lonnie Logsden and members of his family at his home here early Wednesday, tied them up, threatened Logsden with torture and escaped with \$2000 in cash and valuables.

Logsden told police the bandits beat him about the face, held a knife to his abdomen, a revolver to his temple and, removing his shoes, threatened to burn his feet unless he told where his money was hidden.

Logsden said the men ransacked the house and left with \$1000 in cash and \$1000 in jewelry.

The men were discovered by Bob Logsden, 16, a son, when he returned home at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday night and found the front door jimmied. The four men, dressed in coats and hats from the Logsden hand closet and masked with handkerchiefs, tied up the boy.

Next to enter the ambush was Lila Winslow, Oswego interior decorator, who was locked in a separate room.

Logsden said he and his wife, Lila, arrived home at 1:30 a.m. and were seized by the bandits. He told police they threatened him with torture and death if he refused to tell them where he kept his money. He said he told them nothing.

After ransacking the house the gunmen tied up Logsden and his wife, put them in separate rooms and threatened to set the house afire on leaving.

Logsden freed himself within five minutes and phoned the Clackamas County sheriff. He said he could give little description of the men who kept their faces, heads and hands covered. He believed two accomplices had been posted outside the house as look-outs.

Tragic Story Is Repeated

DETROIT — (P) — Twenty-three years ago a rookie cop died in his wife's arms of a bandit's bullets. Wednesday the woman sat again in the hush of a big city hospital, holding another rookie policeman tight as if trying to keep him from following his father in death.

The woman was white-haired Mrs. Helen Kaliszewski, 46. The prayers she breathed softly were the same ones she said in vain a generation ago.

The boy she held this time was her son, 22-year-old patrolman Casimir Kaliszewski, Jr. He was shot down early Wednesday by unidentified assailants as he walked an East Side beat.

He was given only a slight chance to recover after receiving seven blood transfusions.

Rural Traffic Mishaps Show Big May Increase

Rural traffic fatalities for May of this year increased 195 per cent compared to May of 1947. The Oregon State Motor Association presented these facts with a plea for caution on the highways during the much-traveled summer months.

Thirty-seven people have been killed in rural accidents this year compared to 18 a year ago. While rural fatalities increased 155 per cent, urban fatalities increased only 25 per cent. Of the 37 deaths, 33 were on primary or secondary state highways.

UNDERCOVER MAN

A thief with a flair for stealing unmentionables from closets was being hunted Wednesday by city police. R. M. Pedden, 1621 Agate St., informed headquarters that lines at the university veterans' housing project repeatedly have been stripped of such garments. But no other articles ever have been missed, Pedden added.

Stewart's BEAUTY SHOP 2025 E. Main St. Springfield Phone 7009

OPERATED BY — Harold & Lena Stewart Permanent Waving Haircutting - Hair Tinting

Appliance CENTER

for the Water Heater that's Guaranteed for 20 Years



Easy Terms 70 West Tenth - Phone 6245



DOUG BRINKMAN rests from his labors in the "Iowa" number from Very Little Theater's variety show, "Stuff 'n Nonsense." To relax he surrounds himself with beautiful milkmaids Arletta Wendel, Marge Whalley, Gloria Kells, and Elmarie Wendel. The object of their affection is Chen Poul's creation, "Suzie Belle." (Staff photo, Wiltshire engraving.)

Fire Closes Santiam Road

SALEM, Ore. — (U.P.) — State police said Wednesday the North Santiam Highway near Detroit was closed because of a forest fire.

District Ranger S. T. Moore said the fire still was not under control Wednesday morning.

The highway was closed because of the danger of falling snags, debris and rocks.

The blaze, Moore said, covered approximately 40 acres in the Willamette National Forest two miles west of the Detroit dam site. About 160 men were on the fire line Wednesday morning, Moore said.

State police warned drivers to stay away from the area.

VLT Entertainers Concede Hot Weather

Very Little Theater fans are being treated these warm summer night to free, ice-cold punch instead of the usual hot coffee.

The community theater, which serves free refreshments during intermission, this week is presenting a summer variety show entitled "Stuff 'n Nonsense." The show has a large cast and runs about two hours, starting at 8:15.

Reservations are available at Willamette Street Market, phone 126.

Jumpoff Joe Creek in southern Oregon was named when a pioneer named Joe jumped off a bank into a mountain stream for a swim.

Advertisement for Beltone hearing aids. Includes text: 'I Found a New Way to HEAR! And, Believe Me, I'm Grateful to Beltone'. Features an image of a man and a hearing aid device. Text: 'FREE BOOKLET - Learn what modern science is doing to solve problems of hearing loss for people cruelly handicapped. New, tiny, electronic device gives new hope. Precision-fitted to your individual needs. Send coupon today! S. C. MITCHELL 305 IOOF Bldg. Ph. 4141. Mr. Mitchell is with J. N. TAFT and Associates of Portland who have been serving the hard of hearing since 1934.'

Advertisement for Bulova watches. Includes text: 'If It Comes From Skeie's It Must Be Good'. Features images of several Bulova watches with price tags: Senator 17 jewels \$39.75, Goddess of Time 17 jewels \$37.50, Her Excellency 'A' 21 jewels \$49.50, Franklin 17 jewels \$42.50, Squadron 17 jewels \$55.00, His Excellency 'M' 21 jewels \$71.50. Text: 'America's Greatest Watch Value'. Skeie's Jewelry Store, 1027 Willamette. Includes text: 'Ask for--Insist on--a Bulova. Here is everything you want in a fine Watch--accuracy, styling, dependability and value!' and 'CONVENIENT BUDGET TERMS'.

Land Bureau Spreads Out

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — secretary of Interior J. A. Krug said Wednesday that within three months he expects to have his Bureau of Land Management decentralized.

The transfer of functions from Washington to six regional offices and 25 district land offices in western states and Alaska began July 15.

The decentralization was authorized by the fiscal 1949 Interior Appropriations Bill. It is designed to avoid delays in the consideration of public land matters, and to compensate for a 20 per cent cut in funds for Washington operations, Krug said.

Negotiations Krug said field offices were ordered on July 15 to take over

cases involving small tract reclamation homestead and settlement negotiations. He said field offices should have the job of issuing land-use permits and of settling Alaskan matters. By outside federal grants, gas leases also will be handled by field offices.

Exclusively At PENNY-WISE Warren Watkins White House Choc. 36 E. Broadway

ITCH (Advertisement) is immune to ordinary itching. Only three days' EXCELLENCE required. Mail Orders Given Prompt Service. FRED MEYER, EUGENE.

Advertisement for Northwest Corner. Text: 'HERE'S a real book for you! As stimulating as the outdoors itself! From the capped peak of Mt. Rainier to the crystal depths of Crater Lake -- It's all in... "NORTHWEST CORNER" Photographs by Henry Sheldon Introduction and Commentary by Stewart Holbrook Now at Cressey's 864 Willamette Ph. 14'

Advertisement for Robert C. McCracken Insurance Agency. Text: 'This Insurance Agency Stands Between You and Loss Robert C. McCracken INSURANCE AGENCY 83 West Broadway Eugene, Oregon Phone 1W'