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THE LAW'S DELAYS
This is the week in which spring term of circuit court was to start in Deschutes county, but because scheduled cases were not ready for trial, we learn from a news story in our favorite daily paper, the opening of the term was postponed.

It is probable that no department of government has greater freedom in routine than the courts, that no profession enjoys greater latitude than that of the law. Unfortunately, the very fact that this is so means that there can easily be encroachments upon the freedom of the ordinary citizen when he becomes, temporarily, a part of the machinery of the courts.

It must be remembered that jury service was originally sought as a privilege or right. In the years it has become also a duty and, too often, a burdensome duty. The burden, we feel, should be lightened where possible. Courts and counsel have the power and the opportunity to make jury service less irksome.

Postponement of cases may sometimes be necessary. We wish to emphasize this fact since we have no direct knowledge of the circumstances in connection with the scheduled cases which we have mentioned which were not ready for trial.

Jurors who must arrange and rearrange their personal affairs to suit the changing schedules would, we are sure, applaud the enforcement of a policy of bringing cases to trial at the announced times, of avoidance of postponements except when real necessity requires.

"PUNISHMENT" FOR HITLER

Frank Hemingway of Mutual (once of KBND), who six times a week is heard giving the first news of the day over any western network, is calling for suggestions as to the punishment of enemy war criminals. The question is not a new one, but remains an important one.

First of all, we dislike the word, "punishment," in connection with crime. "Punishment" somehow carries with it the idea of adequacy. It may be adequate or it may not be. In the case of the war criminals any measures which could be conceived would be pitifully inadequate, except for the very minor ones.

However, punishment, in the latter-day theory of dealing with criminals, does not connote retribution. It is for purposes of correction, to encourage reform and to protect society from the criminal.

Were this not so, it might be sufficient to protect society by putting away these malefactors for life. But it is so and the only safe and sure way is to deprive them of life. Unfortunately we cannot so safely and surely prevent the evil that they have done from living after them.

This is our idea of "punishment" for the war guilty. If we seem to err on the side of mercy, let us make plain at once that it is because of no desire to be merciful, but rather because we are disinclined to use the methods (and hence to accept the teachings), of those whose methods and teachings we condemn.

Washington Column

By Peter Edison
(SNEA Staff Correspondent)
Washington, D. C. — Translations of office of war information's Japanese language leaflets dropped over Japanese lines in southeast Asia and on Japan proper by army air force bombers and carrier-borne naval aircraft give a good idea of the psychological warfare now being waged against the Japanese.

the idea sink in that such things might be in store for Japan. "Surrender passes" printed in three gaudy colors have been dropped over the Jap lines in the China and Burma theaters. They have the word "Surrender" printed in big type in English, Chinese and Japanese, with instructions to Chinese and American troops that the bearer of the pass is surrendering, should be treated courteously and taken to headquarters.

Bluebirds in the Springtime



Death's BRIGHT DIAMONDS by Lionel Mosher. AN UNWILLING TOOL? XVI. I went back down into the cellar. Eric had just finished putting coal on the fire and Charley was standing by the corridor entrance scratching his chin thoughtfully.

air was so still that the smoke from our cigarettes hung almost motionless before me. Pat and Brenda had taken the station wagon to Minot for provisions and at the last moment Eric with his self-assured civility had tagged along to do some errands of his own. "Tramps don't wear Blakely and Hodgon shoes," Charley re- flected.

When we got back upstairs Pat had a cup of black coffee for me. "It's the best I could do, darling." She smiled contently. "You've a jaded look." "Thanks, Pat." I took the coffee, but it was strong and brackish. I couldn't get it down. "It was left over from this morning and I heated it over," apologized Pat. "Maybe I shouldn't have."

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this straight: if I thought Pat Hudson was trying to murder me, I'd be out hunting for the best criminal lawyer in the country to get her off. And just remember this. There isn't a single person in our chummy little group except Pat and possibly Brenda, who could furnish a good alibi if he were pinned down concerning this morning's fracas. "You forget me," Charley said mildly. "I was in the kitchen when Brenda heard the scuffle and Pat was cooking the eggs. In order to find a thing, Nick, you have to look where it isn't. I'm not suggesting that Pat Hudson is out for your scalp. But has it occurred to you that she might be an unwilling tool of someone's?"

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FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS MISS CASE, AS A TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD ALLOW LARD TO CROON AGAIN IN ASSEMBLY? I CERTAINLY DO! FOR SOME REASON, HIS SINGING HAS HAD A REMARKABLE EFFECT ON OUR GIRL STUDENTS!

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plain his wanting to beat you down here. "But who the devil could it be?" Charley turned out the palms of his hands. "I don't know. It's only a theory. We have to consider all angles." (To Be Continued)

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