

# Capital Journal

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"With or without offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

## Red Tape Poor Substitute

It is beginning to look very much as if a majority of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers assigned to Camp Adair are going to have to forego the pleasure of living at home or having their families near them while stationed at the camp. With only a small part of the officers so far assigned and with still fewer already at the camp, living quarters in the cantonment area are already at a premium. Corvallis, Albany, Monmouth and Independence, all of which are within the designated camp defense area and entitled to building material priorities, report that practically every available house and apartment—furnished or unfurnished—is rented, and the overflow demand is rapidly draining the Salem supply. Completion of construction work at the camp and the release of workmen engaged on the job is expected to relieve the situation somewhat in the towns close to the camp but not a great deal. A large part of these men are living on the job in tent camps or in trailers.

The government, seemingly unenthused over the idea of having the wives and families of the officers so close to the camp, is doing nothing to expedite the construction of homes for them.

From both Corvallis and Albany, despite their defense area ratings, come complaints of difficulty in getting building plans approved by federal housing authorities, securing critical materials and of unreasonable limitation of alteration and repair jobs to \$500. Rumors of federal rent control being contemplated with the uncertainty as to future ceiling prices, also serve to discourage construction of houses and apartments as investments.

Priorities on materials to which they are theoretically entitled in a defense area might as well not exist, according to builders. A Portland housing authority official just returned from Washington reports that contractors had better reconcile themselves to using cut nails, if they get any at all; that "only wood, concrete and similar types of pipe" will be available; that steel and iron are out, and that in the future builders will have no choice but will be told what materials they can use.

They might cheerfully give up or share their homes to house the officers and men in training if that becomes necessary, but householders in the area are not going to feel obligated to do so to provide accommodations for officers' families for whom the government is not inclined to raise a hand. There are undoubtedly many home owners in Salem, Albany, Corvallis and other nearby towns who would remodel to make living quarters for one or two extra families if permitted to do so. Vacant store and office buildings could be converted into apartments and auto courts enlarged if WPB would say the word.

The central Willamette valley welcomes the soldiers and their families and, given half a chance, will provide the facilities to make them comfortable. But we cannot build and renovate dwellings out of red tape and priorities that do not provide.

## Giant Flying Cargo Planes

Coming from a leading industrialist, skilled engineer, big contractor and successful ship-builder, the proposal of Henry J. Kaiser, president of the Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation at Portland, that the nation turn nine of its huge shipyards, including his own, to the mass production of the giant Glen L. Martin 70-ton flying Mars for cargo carrying as an answer to the submarine threat may receive the attention it deserves from the president and maritime commission, if not from navy brass hats.

Mr. Kaiser states that 40 such flying cargo ships can be constructed per month from each plant ten months after operations begin. "We can have the assembly line functioning in six months or less." And judging by his record, he knows what he is talking about. He is not a visionary.

The use of giant flying cargo ships is not original with Mr. Kaiser, though he is the first great industrialist to champion it. Their use has long been advocated by leading aeronautical engineers who vision a day when most of the foreign commerce of the world will be thus transported, ships being utilized principally for heavy and low grade goods. Such plans were detailed in full with their possibilities at a recent convention of engineers.

One thing certain is that enemy submarines are still sinking merchant ships faster than the United Nations can build them. Planes are being utilized today by the allies in getting supplies to China, as well as by the Germans as troop and munition transports in Russia and Africa.

Among the possibilities outlined are the use of giant air trailers with motor-powered planes utilized as locomotives to pull a train of cargo trailers.

## The Supreme Boon-Doggie

After years of log-rolling and after repeated rejection both houses of congress have passed and sent to the president a \$93 million measure authorizing the construction of the Florida barge canal and other waterway and pipeline facilities designed to help relieve the east coast oil shortage.

Of the total, \$44 million is to be spent on the canal, \$10 million for a series of pipelines across Florida, \$13 million for a pipeline from North Mississippi to Savannah, Ga., and \$26 million for extension of the Gulf coast waterway, between Appalachee Bay, Fla., and Corpus Christi, Tex.

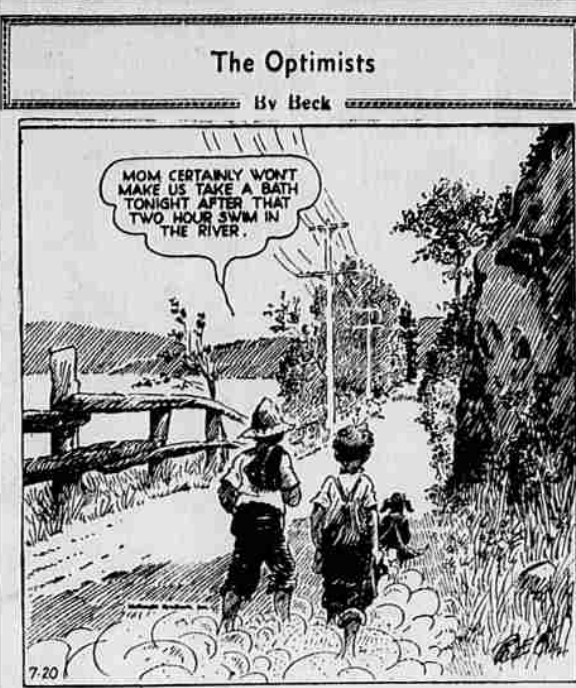
The gas shortage is thus utilized as an excuse "to help win the war" by diverting money, men and materials needed for the war to the bottomless Florida pork barrel. The canal is opposed by a large element in Florida as a menace to the fruit industry by creating a salt water table under the orchards. It can serve no war purpose, for the war will be lost or won long before the canal can be completed.

Senator Vandenberg says "the country looks upon the Florida canal as the supreme boon-doggie of all time." Yet, it seems we must continue boon-doggling "to win the war."

## Crater Lake Travel Off 65 Per Cent

Medford, Ore., July 20 (AP)—Travel to Crater Lake National Park has dropped about 65 per cent this year, according to Superintendent E. P. Leavitt, said Leavitt,

because of the decrease, the cafeteria has been closed, boat service on the lake has been suspended and the bus connection to Grants Pass discontinued. The fire shortage is to blame.



## The Optimists

By Beck

## Canal Protected by Barrage Balloons

By Chandler Diehl

U. S. Army Headquarters, Panama, Canal Zone, July 20.—(Wide World)—Resourceful United States military men have conquered the problems of keeping barrage balloons flying in the tropics—and provided the Panama Canal with a new and important defense.

Today's balloon barrages—denser than those employed by the British in London's defense—hover protectively over vital areas of the Canal defense zone, their lethal cables assuring doom to any axis plane they contact.

In terrifying supplement (terrifying for the enemy, that is) are such death-dealing adjuncts as the giant "killer net" and a series of special gadgets (details of which are secret) which promise close to maximum fatalities among uninvited visitors.

The balloons were brought to Panama soon after the war started. Balloons never previously had been maintained effectively so far south, officers said, in tropic winds and rains and heat.

But a balloon barrage would add much to canal defense, so the Panama coast artillery command (Ma). Gen. Homer R. Oldfield went to work on the problem of maintenance. Today, after six months of testing and experimental adjusting, the barrage is a proved and permanent defense weapon, and correspondents for the first time may report its presence.

"We've definitely proved that balloon barrages can be maintained effectively in the tropics," Lt. Col. Horace S. Van Voast, Jr., of Schenectady, N. Y., told correspondents visiting field positions, "and this gives the coast artillery a sixth weapon for use in defending the canal."

These weapons, the barrage balloon officer of the Panama command explained, are used in varying combinations to meet various types of attacks, and the more weapons available, the better the defense. The coast artillery's list now includes:

1. Fixed seacoast guns;
2. Tractor drawn guns;
3. Railway artillery;
4. Anti-aircraft guns, including machine guns;
5. Controlled mines;
6. Barrage balloons.

The task of the balloon bar-

## Kelly Says

Pint of Milk Daily For All in the World

That's Objective of Henry A. Wallace

Chaos Created by Too Many Agencies

By John W. Kelly

Washington, July 20.—For several days last year the offices of two representatives from the Pacific northwest were hounded by a man with a scheme which he begged them to sponsor as legislation. The westerners turned down the visitor, but now the same scheme is proposed by Vice President Henry A. Wallace. The representatives were asked to offer a bill which would provide a bottle of milk for every school child in the United States, the cost to be defrayed by congressional appropriation. The vice-president's plan makes that proposal look like chicken feed.

When peace comes, said Wallace, and Britain and the United States start to impose the "four freedoms" on the rest of the world, everyone in the world (United States is to feed the world) would be given a quart of milk every day. Later Wallace revised his statement by reducing the quart to one pint. This would require, roughly, 400,000 gallons of milk daily for Washington and 250,000 gallons for Oregon consumers. While the cows of the northwest produce more than that, the surplus could be shipped to the Chinese and the myriads of India. In Europe goat's milk is the favorite and in Tibet mare's milk is the delicacy, but Wallace holds out for cow's milk.

### Hull in Generous Mood

Cordell Hull, secretary of state, proposes sharing everything in this country with the rest of the nations. No more tariff walls, just free trade, if there is anything to share after the lend-lease and the war. High officials are outlining the post-war program rather prematurely in the opinion of high army officers. Professional soldiers predict it will be a long way, but the chairman of the house committee on military affairs hints that the war may end this year (within six months), or in 1943 anyway.

These post-war plans for a new kind of world are not impressing the senate committee on military affairs. That committee has been combing the Pacific coast to learn what defense preparations have been taken. Senator Walgren of Washington and Senator Holman of Oregon have been picked to head an expedition to Alaska for a look-see. The committee distinctly is not satisfied with what they hear is going on in the Aleutians. Holman has already made a confidential report to the committee on what he has found and did not find on the Oregon and Washington coasts (he was there when the Japanese submarine shelled Fort Stevens), but the committee has not seen fit to release the report. However, this Holman report caused Chairman Bob Reynolds to des-

## Manning Clan Calls Reunion

Final preparations have been made by members of the George and Henry Manning clan to hold the second annual reunion Sunday, July 26, at Champog state park. A special program has been arranged.

Each member is asked to bring a basket lunch sufficient for the family and to notify other relatives.

The committee consists of May Manning, president; Zeta Manning, secretary, and G. J. Moison, vice-president.

## Committeewomen Not All Organized

Portland, Ore., July 20 (AP)—Seven counties have not organized their democratic committeewomen, announced State Chairman Charles Leach in calling the democratic state central committee to meet in Portland on August 1.

The delinquent counties are Lake, Wheeler, Grant, Malheur, Curry, Umatilla and Sherman. Representatives of the other 29 counties are expected to attend the meeting.

Among business to be transacted will be the selection of a new state chairman and other state officers. Names mentioned for the chairmanship include Fred Fisk, Eugene; Oscar Ken-

ignate the special committee to go to Alaska. Reynolds Foresaw It  
Senator Reynolds ("call me Bob") visited the Aleutians three years ago—shot a walrus and a bear—and predicted then that Japanese would attempt an invasion via Attu and Kiska if there should be war between Japan and the United States; suggested fortifying these volcanic rocks. Of all the theaters of war, less has been told the American public of the Japanese invasion than any other combat area. For reasons of military strategy the senate committee may make no statement upon their return from the north.

There are so many different agencies in government having something to do with rubber that northwest senators have been unable to find a single person who can give them any definite information on when there will be material for new tires. The agencies range from Rubber Reserve corporation, a Jesse Jones subsidiary, to the chief of a section of war production board; from department of agriculture to department of commerce. Two oil companies have a single patent but instead of authorizing them to proceed with the manufacture of a synthetic, a government agency has invited another oil concern to investigate the process and report whether it is feasible. At a press conference the president said there would be ample rubber, but tires are growing thinner every day with no relief in sight.

### West Wants Relief

West coasters are wanting to know when they will have relief. Army and navy officers, diplomats and government officials are provided with new tires, but congressmen cannot get a re-tread Gossip says tires and new cars are being sent to South America under the "good neighbor" policy.

The secretary of Henry A. Wallace slit open a couple of envelopes and out fell a petition from the Chehalis Women's Christian Temperance union and another from Port Ludlow and Bellingham (latter signed by 234 people) asking that congress legislate to abolish and prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of alcoholic beverages for the duration. They were sent to the committee on judiciary and filed with similar petitions from Tacoma, Seattle, Salem, Hillsboro and a score of other Washington and Oregon towns. The committee, which has several hundred of these petitions from everywhere, is taking no steps with them yet.

## Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

### Choosy Robbers

Philadelphia—Two men held up Leroy Shields, garage attendant, took \$11.60 from his cash register and picked out a new automobile.

"We'll take that too," Shields was told—"after you replace those two worn tires on the front."

Shields replaced them, and the bandits drove away.

### Pigeon Potpie

Pittsburgh—William Snyder, 58, was haled before Magistrate John J. O'Keefe to explain why he hadn't complied with a sanitary officer's order to get rid of 40 pigeons.

"I've been eating them as fast as I could," Snyder told O'Keefe, adding he had only 20 pigeons left.

O'Keefe gave him three days to dispose of the remaining pigeons and suggested Snyder move them away—not eat them.

### Sweet Tooth Banned

Pontiac, Ill.—Threshing dinners won't be the same in downstate Illinois this summer. The hot and thirsty harvest hands aren't going to get any iced tea or lemonade and there won't be any pie for desert. Farm wives say it's all on account of the sugar shortage.

### Spots

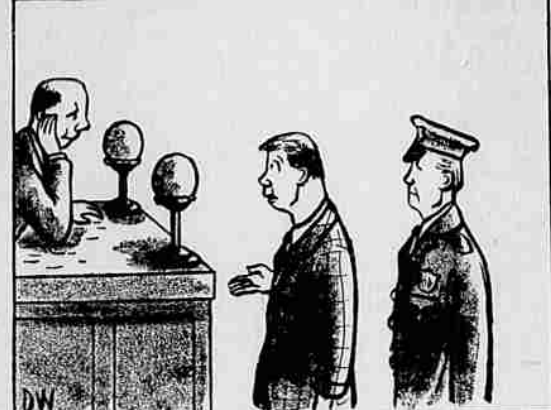
Spring Valley, Ill.—Spring Valley has 179 licensed dogs and 11 of them are named Spot. Second place, official records show, goes to the 10 named Pal. Other popular canine cognomens are Brownie, Duke, Poochie, Trixie and Blackie.

### Catholic Day at Champog

Stayton, Ore., July 20 (AP)—Champog Catholic day, an event which in the past decade has brought Catholics from all sections of Oregon to take part in the program, has been cancelled due to the restrictions on travel, according to information given out here.

The event is sponsored annually by the Marion County council of Knights of Columbus.

## Salem Sketches By Will Danch



"Believe me, Judge, I wasn't trying to steal Mrs. Arthur Dickman's silverware. My wife just wanted me to find out what kind of material she used in her new kitchen at Silverton!"

## Labor Situation in Britain Described

Editor's Note—Here is the first of two dispatches showing how Britain has dealt with its war time labor, production and living cost problems. The author returned recently from a tour of war battle-fronts which included six weeks in the British Isles.

By Virgil Pinkley

New York, July 20 (AP)—Wage controls, subsidy payments to keep down the cost of living and price ceilings are an old story in wartime Britain. Through all the changes that have taken place in those economic and so-

cial fields since September 1939, the permanent rights of British labor have been protected.

Labor leaders assured me that the workers have approved temporary suspension of certain rights and privileges in the knowledge that an axis victory would wash them away completely and permanently.

In turn labor has demanded, and obtained to a large degree, such contributions from capital as limitations on profits, higher income taxes, improved social and health facilities, increased state control of raw materials, and a stronger voice in factory operations.

As insurance that old rights would be preserved, the government sponsored and passed in January, 1942, a bill specifying that pre-war standards and practices regarding classes of laborers employed, spreading of labor, and wage-overtime standards shall be restored by employers, where required by trade unions, within 18 months after the end of the war.

### Overtime Much Reduced

During the war, however, British workers draw no overtime on shifts of 48 hours or less weekly, and in many plants overtime does not start until a total of 54 to 56 hours, ranging from one-fourth to one-half above normal. In some instances double pay is given for Sunday work. Permission has been given for women and young persons to work longer than previously if the national welfare requires.

In more than two score factories I visited in Britain the shortest shift worked was 48 hours and in most plants the weekly total was 54 to 62 hours.

In one factory I saw women working 77 hours a week, on night shifts as well as by day. It was not light work. They operated huge cranes 45 feet above blast furnaces. Oil smeared their faces and grime worked into their hands. Blackout precautions forced them to labor in intense heat and bad air. Yet they maneuvered huge buckets containing tons of molten steel and white-hot ingots with the same skill that might have been expected of women shifting pots and pans in their kitchens.

Living costs have increased 32 to 34 per cent, while basic wages have increased 26 to 29 per cent and extra pay for overtime about 30 per cent. The percentage of increased pay, including overtime, from July to October, 1941, compared to the corresponding period in 1938, was 42.4 per cent. Requests for higher wages are decided by boards equally representing labor and industry.

### Freezing Successful

Freezing of living costs has been most successful in rents, up 1 per cent, while food has risen 21 per cent, clothing 91 per cent and fuel and light 26 per cent. In the year ended in April, 1942, the government spent \$500,000,000 in subsidies to control prices and hold living costs down.

There is no statutory limit to profits or dividends. The curbs and checks have been applied in the excess profits tax, the income tax and the surtax so that it is indeed rare for any individual to have a spendable net income exceeding \$25,000 in any one year.

One of the workers' gains has been protection against dismissal for trivial cause. By agreement of labor, industry and government no essential worker may quit his job without permission of the national service officer of the ministry of labor and no employer may discharge him,

except for serious misconduct. Provision is made for appeal. No worker may be suspended for more than three days as a disciplinary measure.

Under these conditions production is booming. Since the collapse of France in May, 1940, industrial production lost through disputes between employers and employes has equaled one working day for each employe every 15 years.

### Strikes Cost Little Time

Since the beginning of the war total time lost because of strikes has averaged half an hour a year for each worker, according to the British ministry of labor. Such a record offers a ready contrast to World War I. The best year of that period saw strikes cost almost 3,000,000 days of labor. In 1914 10,000,000 work days were lost.

What strikes have occurred were settled through the national arbitration tribunal, which receives the dispute after a "cooling off period" of 21 days. Until several months ago only 146 men, five women and 14 firms had been prosecuted for refusing to accept the tribunal's rulings. Disputes decreased sharply after Germany invaded Russia.

(Tomorrow's dispatch will tell how British labor is disciplining itself in the interests keeping production geared to the needs of the country's fighting forces.)

## 25,000 Japs Said On Islets

Washington, July 20 (AP)—Anthony J. Dimond, delegate from Alaska, expressed the opinion today that the navy long ago should have given the public a resume of Japanese activities in the Aleutians.

Referring to the navy's communique Friday giving account of operations in the northern Pacific, Dimond said:

"The Japs sent altogether too much power into the Aleutians for that move to be a mere operation. I wonder why we had to wait this long to find out the facts. It all could have been made public without giving any information to the enemy. As far as the enemy's power is concerned it doesn't help them if we are told what they have."

Dimond said it had been reported to him that the Japs have 25,000 troops on the captured islets in the western Aleutians but that he had been unable to confirm the report.

Chile is trying to induce more fishermen to cast nets along its 3,000 miles of coastline.

Mexico will build four additional schools for soldiers' children, making a total of 20.



Russ Army Halts Nazis at Voronezh—Red army counter-attacks in the Voronezh resulted in the recapture of an important point on the northern anchor of the defense line against the nazi drive for the Caucasus oil region and a stubborn defense was maintained by Marshal Timoshenko's troops in the vital Boguchar-Migulinsk, Voroshilovgrad and Pokrovsk areas. A withdrawal in the area south of Boguchar, increasing the middle sector threat by the nazis, was admitted by the soviets.—Associated Press Photo.

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