Capital Journal

SALEM OREGON
ESTABLISHED 1888
An Independent Newspaper Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday at 444 Chemeketa St. Phones—Business Office 3571; News Room 3572; Society Editor 3573

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
BY CARRIER: Weekly, $.18; Monthly, $.75; One Year, $9.00.
BY MAIL IN OREGON: Monthly, $.60; 6 Months, $3.00; One Year, $6.00.
United States Outside Oregon: Monthly, $.60; 6 months, $3.60; Year, $7.20

Communists As Army Officers?

The question whether American communists should be given army commissions has brought a clash between the war department and the house military affairs committee. The former has instructed all commands that persons should not be denied advancement because they were communists, the vital question being whether the person concerned was or was not loyal to this country, while the latter hold that the communists' foreign ideology prevents loyalty to this government as constituted, and that there are enough red-blood Americans to run the army. The new Dies committee will investigate the subject.

American communists were certainly not loyal to the United States government before Russia entered the war and openly denounced American participation, preached sabotage of the defense effort, and even picketed the White House in protest. Moreover our laws forbid employment of communists by the government, though communist fellow travelers fill the payrolls.

In ordering the deportation of Harry R. Bridges, west coast labor leader, Attorney General Francis Biddle held in 1942 that he had been a member of the communist party. Biddle ruled, further, that the party "from the time of its inception in 1919 to the present time is an organization that believes in, advises, advocates and teaches the overthrow by force and violence of the government of the United States."

During his fourth term campaign, when the communists endorsed him and were loud in his support, President Roosevelt said: "I do not welcome the support of any person or group committed to communism or fascism or any other foreign ideology which would undermine the American system of government." Between elections, however, the president shows no such antagonism to the reds, as witness his appointments of them to high administrative posts.

If communists are being, as said, commissioned as army officers, how can the policies of the war and justice departments be reconciled? Judging by their past record, the communists are attempting to bore within the army organization as they did in the merchant marine and into industry before Russia was in the war and first we know these human termites will be spreading the same chaos that they have in industry.

Penicillin Dosing by Mouth Achieved

The current issue of Science, official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, contains a technical report of a new process by Dr. Raymond L. Libby, its discoverer, of the perfection of a method that makes it possible to administer penicillin by mouth. Hitherto this most powerful of germ killers could only be given by injection into muscle or vein, which required hospitalization and repeated injections because the injected penicillin is rapidly excreted by the kidneys. The chemical could not be given by mouth because the acids in the stomach destroyed it.

Research has been in progress in laboratories since 1941 to prepare penicillin in a form that could be given orally and Dr. Libby, working in the laboratories of the American Cyanamid company, is the first to succeed in achieving the goal.

Dr. Libby solved the problem by suspending penicillin in cottonseed oil, which is digestible, and placing the suspension in a gelatine capsule. He made use of the well-known fact that fats and oils are not split up and digested in the acids of the stomach, but are emulsified and digested in the small intestines.

As a result, when this double-deck capsule reaches the stomach, the gelatine-covering dissolves, but the penicillin, suspended in its protective oil coating, passes safely down the small intestine, where the oil breaks up and releases the penicillin for absorption by the bloodstream.

Clinical tests have proven satisfactory in oral treatments of humans for pneumonia, streptococcus sore throat, staphylococcus infection and gonorrhea, though slightly larger doses are needed than in injections. Furthermore less highly refined pencicullin can be used orally thus simplifying the present procedures for the production of suitable material.

Thus medical science marches on.

Too Much Good News

Contending with a steady stream of reports of Allied successes on both the Pacific and European fronts, War Mobilization Director Byrnes is going to have a hard time convincing the American people of the need for such drastic action as he has taken in ordering the midnight curfew for night clubs, theaters, dances and other forms of amusement and entertainment. He is in the same predicament as are the president, military leaders and heads of war production agencies in selling the nation on the need for increased inductions into the armed forces, a work-or-jail act or the drafting of nurses.

The need may exist and probably does, but it must be proven—the tone of the news does not reflect it.

Certainly there is no good reason why the night spots should not be suppressed if allowing them to go uncurbed is in any manner going to endanger the success of the war effort. They are not essential to life, liberty or pursuit of real happiness, and they assuredly do contribute to absenteeism, waste a certain amount of manpower and squander essential fuel and electric power as well as food.

But it is not readily understandable why so much emphasis should be placed on the matter at this late date by an administration which, in darker days than these, soft-peddled its requests for unpopular sacrifices on the home front, pampered labor and played fast and loose with food supplies until election was over. Until that fateful day last November this same administration cherished no thought of offending labor with demands for a draft of its services, uttered not even a hint of more drastic food rationing nor dared intimate—much less order—a ban on racing and curbs on other sports and amusements. Waging military and political campaigns apparently require different techniques.

Palmateer on Loan Committee

O. E. "Mose" Palmateer of Salem has been named a member of the Marion county veterans' farm loan certifying committee, announces Raleigh F. Carothers, county farm security supervisor and secretary of the committee.

Palmateer has been engaged in the Standard Oil business for a number of years and is well-known in the county. He has also been active in veterans affairs and prominently identified with the American Legion and other civic activities. Present farmer members of the loan certifying committee include Rex Hartley, Jefferson; Ray Glatt, Woodburn; John Tweed, Salem, and Wendell Barnett, Brooks. Hartley is chairman of the group.

Amity Realtor Ill

Amity—J. P. Allison, Amity real estate man, who was taken to a Portland hospital for treatment two weeks ago, is now at the home of his daughter in Portland. Mrs. Allison is with him. His condition is slightly improved, according to last reports.

NOT DEAD YET

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Don Wiggins, the well known local gun expert and collector, has busted his lower plate and has been haunting the soup kitchens all the week. Don has only half a start toward our FT & BA but hopes to proceed in an orderly fashion toward full membership after he gets his lower plate back from the foundry.

The order closing night spots at midnight comes along at an opportune time, about simultaneous to the dismal occasion when the pay of the legislators is cut off. However, plans for private parties for the legislators continue unabated so if they are histed out of the night spots at midnight they'll always have some place to turn.

A man is always supposed to be in the most mollified mood on a full stomach. So maybe there's good psychology in cutting off the pay of the lawmakers. If they get hungry enough they may also get mad enough to vote down all of the bills that are left and get back to ma's home cooking.

Ray Finds Peace

Albany—That cigarette that you reach for after each meal and isn't always there, doesn't bother folks who patronize the Elite cafeteria in Albany, because Ray Cox, owner, wearied of trying to pacify all his patrons. Cox has an allotment of eight cartons of "smokes" each week and that didn't begin to go around, so he decided that everyone who patronized his place was entitled to a cigarette. He put a large bowl on the counter near the cash register and attached a card which reads, "Cigarettes Are Free — Take One." You'd be surprised how fast they go," he said, "all day long that bowl lid goes off and on." "However, some folks are a little choosey, for when the popular brands are few, some will peck around until they find their own brand." Cox stated he didn't make much off the cigarettes anyhow, so now the shortage has ceased to worry him as well as his customers and now everyone who smokes and who eats there is satisfied. The cafeteria is open six days a week and he gives away at least 1480 cigarettes during that period.

With Ray it seems to be just another case of more blessed to give than to receive.

"Montgomery Tours His Front in Jeep," says Statesman headline. Another neat-trick-if-you-can-do-it item.

The groundhog must have become sore at our twitting him last night and turned loose today with one of the most miserable days of the season—the ornery little russ. Let's see what he does about that one tomorrow.

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Tags for Dog Owners

Philadelphia — The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals suggests that dog owners be licensed, instead of dogs. Licenses shouldn't be issued, the society says, to persons found unable to provide a good home for their pets.

Fashion Note

Denver—Remember the depression days when jobless men shuffled the streets looking for work?

It's all changed now.

Under the U. S. employment service manpower campaign willing workers are bundled off to jobs—by taxi. More than 100 recruits have been obtained this way in the past two days.

Purple Heart Sent To Sailor's Mother

Mrs. H. K. Stockwell Monday received from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal the Purple Heart medal and citation awarded posthumously to her son, Coxswain Richard (Dick) Terpening.

Terpening lost his life with the sinking of the Liscome Bay in the Gilbert Islands in 1944.

Three Navy Boats Lost, No Casualties

Washington, Feb. 21 (AP)—The navy announced Tuesday the loss of two motor torpedo boats and a submarine chaser in the Philippines area.

The motor torpedo boats PT 73 and PT 338 were lost as a result of grounding. There were no casualties.

The submarine chaser PC 1129 was lost as a result of enemy action.

The announcement brought to 265 the total number of naval craft of all types which have been lost since the start of the war.

The submarine chaser participated in the Lingayen gulf operations in the Philippines in January, 1945.

Two Mt. Angel Boys Out of Danger

Portland, Feb. 21 (AP)—Two Mt. Angel boys who were near death for 10 days after being stricken with trichinosis were pronounced out of danger today.

Elmer Huber, 13, and his brother, 8, ate uncooked, home-cured country pork sausage, as did some of the other 10 members of the Alfred Huber farm family. Trichinosis is caused by tiny larvae encysted in pork and released by the digestive process.

The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

Little Joe Goebbels, Herr Hitler's bull-voiced propaganda minister, has been complaining that the allies have ganged up on the reich, and says Germany could win hands down if it could take on its enemies singly.

The last time I saw Joe he was spellbinding 50,000 people in an outdoor meeting in Berlin, just before Munich. I was not much impressed with his line of double-talk at the time—though he put on a good show—but it must be admitted he has something now. The allies not only have ganged, but as I see it they're giving a remarkable display of military unity.

Allied activities on both eastern and western fronts point to early intensification of the big squeeze on Hitlerdom. One of the most satisfactory aspects of this is that it represents a full partnership and concerted action. The big three are going in for the kill together.

Weather at Worst

Now barring a great emergency the western allies wouldn't be attempting an all-out offensive at this time. As I pointed out yesterday, this is the season when the Rhineland weather is at its worst—and that's mighty bad. The vital work of the tactical airforce frequently is suspended for days because of dense fog or rain—it is largely halted today, for instance. The terrain either is a sea of mud or is under water. The allied troops—Canadians, kilted Scotsmen, Britons, French, Yanks—have had to fight in mud and water to their waists at times, and actually have had to use amphibious equipment in some places which normally are high and dry.

Despite all this General Eisenhower has kept on attacking and improving his positions in preparation for the big push, instead of waiting for decent weather with the beginning of April, only a few weeks away. The full weight of our armies is needed on the western front to complement the red drive.

Ike Has to Wait

I said yesterday that progress depended heavily on the weather, and since then we've had the good news that the flooded Ruhr river—last natural barrier between the allies and the Cologne plain—is receding. The Roer was sent tumbling high out of its banks some days ago when the Germans loosed a great volume of water from huge reservoirs in order to stymie the allies.

They say a few days are likely to see the Roer fairly normal again, and then General Ike may send his men across in the Duren sector and start his drive onto the Cologne plain towards the Rhine. Meanwhile Field Marshal Montgomery's forces in the north, and Patton's American third army in the south, are continuing to turn the German flanks, thus creating a great claw which is calculated to squeeze nazi Marshal Von Rundstedt's armies out onto the open Cologne plain where allied armor can destroy them.

However, Rundstedt may try to withdraw across the Rhine rather than make a stand on the Cologne plain. Crossing a great river in retreat, with the enemy in pursuit, always is a most hazardous operation. It would be a massacre if the weather permitted our air forces to operate.

Serving Uncle Sam

(Continued from page 2)

brothers of the sergeant are also in the service. Pfc. Anthony Meissner with the medical corps, is now stationed at an army hospital in Atlanta, Ga. He spent 20 months in Africa and Italy and has received the Purple Heart. Frank Meissner, C.M. 1 c with the Seabees, is now at the home of his mother, Mrs. Sophia Meissner, on a 30-day furlough, following 23 months of service in the South Pacific. He will leave for San Francisco February 26.

Reporting to his new assignment at the Astoria naval hospital after spending a 30-day leave with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Edwards, is Lt. Irwin Edwards of the U.S. navy dental corps. The lieutenant recently arrived in the states from 18 months of service in the South Pacific.

Arley Vane Turnidge has been promoted from seaman 2 c to first class, according to word received by Salem friends. Turnidge is now aboard ship in the South Pacific area.

Jefferson — Mrs. William Knight left last Sunday for New York City to join her husband, Bill Knight, SM2 c. Until his ship arrives, Mrs. Knight will be a guest at the Albany, N. Y., home of Mrs. Lucille Gray, a cousin of her father-in-law, Harold Knight of Jefferson.

Silverton—Lt. and Mrs. Harvey Christenson left Tuesday for Santa Barbara following a 30-day furlough before which Lt. Christenson had been in the South Pacific area for nearly three years. Lt. Don Christenson, Mrs. Christenson and their two small daughters, have written his parents, the George Christensons, that they have reached Big Creek, their former home, and continued on to Lt. Chrisenson's location.

Unionvale—Pvt. Luther Stacy has arrived safely at an English base, according to word received by his wife, who visited him just previous to his departure from a point in Missouri.

Navy Enlistees Reach Peak

Applications for enlistment in the navy thus far in February reached the peak figure of 31, with Tuesday's announced filing of initial papers by four Salem 17-year-olds. The quartet will be sworn in some time this month following completion of enlistment procedure at Portland's main station, then will be placed on an inactive duty status for an indefinite period. Their boot training and assignment to trade school received at the San Diego naval training center.

Despite record-breaking enlistment attainments throughout the Oregon district during the last nine months, and the enrollment of 353 17-year-old volunteers in January, many radar men are still needed. Men between the ages of 17 and 50, inclusive, are eligible for radar training, and no obligation is incurred when an applicant seeks information or takes the aptitude test.

Dallas—Louis H. Nicol, son of Mrs. Rosa Nicol of Dallas, has received a promotion from fireman first class to motor machinist's mate third class. He has been stationed several months at the amphibious training base at San Diego, Calif.

Ray McKey, Dallas attorney, recently received a promotion from first lieutenant to captain in the army quartermaster corps at Washington, D.C., according to word received here. Captain McKey was transferred to the Washington station from Seattle. His wife, the former Dorothy Minnich, and child are with him.

Oak Point—Robert De Armond, motor machinist 1 c, arrived in Salem, January 25, after two years in the South Pacific for a 30-day leave with his wife and daughter of Salem and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy De Armond of Oak Point. He will report back for duty at Camp Park, February 27.

Mary Alderson, seaman 1 c, has completed her training at Hunter college, New York City, and is stationed at the U.S.N.A. station at Moffitt field, Calif.

Mrs. Z. Bartell received a letter from Joan Bascu of Rosslyn Studio, Mwrivillwmbah, Australia, stating that she had met S.C. 3 c William David Deihm, brother of Mrs. Bartlett, at a navy rest and convalescent camp at Coolaugotta, Australia. Seaman Deihm enlisted in November, 1942, and has spent one and one-half years overseas. A younger brother, Donald, is in training at Farragut.

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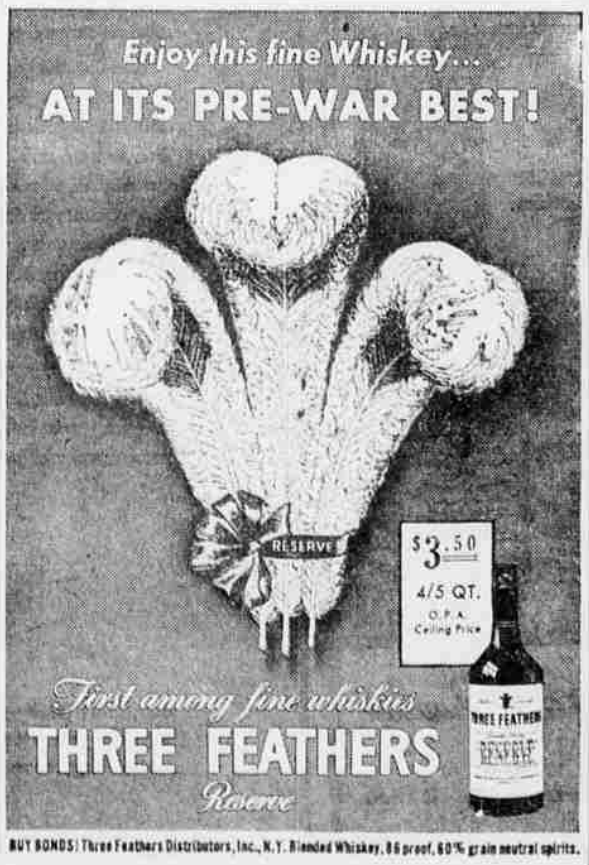

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