

Capital Journal

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

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
BY CARRIER: Weekly, \$20; Monthly, \$7.50; One Year, \$90.00.
BY MAIL IN OREGON: Monthly, \$5.00; 6 Months, \$30.00; One Year, \$60.00.
United States Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$5.50; 6 months, \$33.00; Year, \$72.00

Vets Form Housing Co-ops

Disparaging of ever being able as individuals to unravel the red tape incidental to a solution of the housing problem, New York City veterans are organizing themselves into non-profit cooperative associations in order to obtain living quarters by rent, purchase or construction of housing units. The most recent of these groups to incorporate is the Veterans Cooperative League of Brooklyn, which is composed of World War II veterans only.

Other groups embrace a selected 100 federal civil service employees and still another is made up of student veterans. In each of them the basic idea is the pooling of loan benefits and priority rights accorded veterans by the federal housing agency.

The basic idea is to secure control of composite housing facilities by consolidating the assets of individual ex-service men to enable them to develop residential housing tracts and to build, purchase, lease or otherwise acquire apartment houses or buildings which can be remodeled into apartments. With a little revamping the idea could be applied to the solution of the problem faced by returning members of the armed forces here in Salem and other valley cities.

The Veterans Cooperative League was incorporated under New York laws similar to those in effect here in Oregon as regards a consumer-producer, non-profit corporation with authority to operate as a retail, wholesale and operating builder for the welfare of its members. It will not own any property, but act only as an agent for the member veteran.

Each member pays \$5 a share and no member may own more than one share. All may vote for officers and directors, who serve one year without pay. Membership is restricted to veterans of World War II so that they may obtain, without consideration, priorities on materials, loans, etc., which they could not do if their membership were open to everyone. The corporation does not retain title to any property, but gives parcels to each member.

Private banks are cooperating with the co-ops in financing them in their dealings and are advancing money for the purchase of surplus materials and land upon which to build housing units. This bank financing enables the co-ops to buy materials at wholesale prices and land at figures which could not be matched by individual purchases. On the surface it would appear that the idea could be put to advantageous use by groups of Salem veterans who might thus be enabled to buy tracts close to the city limits and develop them by the construction of homes on a wholesale scale.

Dollars Outweigh Human Needs

The combined State Board of Control and the State Emergency Board by a vote of 5 to 5 has rejected the proposal to proceed with the construction of a custodial building for the state hospital farm on a bid of \$511,930 against an estimate made a year ago of \$350,000. The reason given by their voting to delay the building was that there would be a reduction in the cost of construction within 60 or 90 days.

Under the plan approved the board of control will ask for new bids on the custodial building, along with any other structures in the \$10,000,000 state building plan approved by vote of the people last June. They may deem an emergency at this time. When bids are received, the emergency board will be called into session to consider approval.

All members of the two boards agree that the custodial building is an emergency, along with some other state structures, including a ward building at the main hospital to cost \$500,000, patients cottage at the Fairview home to cost \$140,000, employees' dormitory, \$295,000, cottages at the boys state training school, \$75,000, dormitory at Hillcrest school \$150,000, and physician's cottage at the Eastern Oregon hospital, \$10,000.

It would be interesting to know where the members of the emergency board got their information that building costs would decrease in the next few months. There are many building projects being delayed not by costs, but by lack of building materials and as long as demand exceeds supply, costs of material will increase. Nation wide strikes are placing a brake on production. Wage increases are increasing production costs and despite the "hold the line" anti-inflation policy, general increases in prices are being authorized in order to start production.

Within the past few days increases of from \$2 to \$10 a ton has been authorized by the OPA in steel prices, a major factor in construction. Other building material increases have also been authorized, including lumber as well as fuel, apparel, sugar, butter and other foods and material. On top of it all more wage increases are being demanded—all of which increases construction as well as living costs. And the uncertainty of the future created by the government central agencies has destroyed confidence. No contractor is taking a chance.

Voting to award the custodial building contract at the joint board session were Governor Snell, Secretary of State Farrell, State Treasurer Scott, Senator Belton and Representative Pier. Voting against it were Senators Walker and Fatland, and Representatives Marsh, Snyder and Semon.

More Russian Diplomacy

Pravda, the official Soviet government newspaper, has bitterly denounced Winston Churchill for advocating an Anglo-American alliance for world peace. Not satisfied with assailing Britain's war leader, Pravda also denounced Senator Vandenberg of Michigan as making "false speeches on democracy." Russians evidently figure that the way to make friends is to alienate them by abusive tactics. But it only makes enemies out of friends.

Since the war, Russia has done little but try to stir up enmity toward her former allies. Cooperation in international affairs has been conspicuous by the absence. Though Russia labels its totalitarianism "democracy," it is as far from it as her aggression on small nations is against Atlantic charter principles.

Russia has taken the attitude that whatever she wants is hers by right of conquest and every agreement must be interpreted as she considers it. The one way to materialize an Anglo-American defense alliance is for Russia to continue its aggressive and offensive tactics. Russia has never given either Britain or the United States any credit for winning the war and saving the Soviet union from destruction. Had the United States remained neutral, the Nazis today would be ruling in Moscow. There never was an example of greater ingratitude.

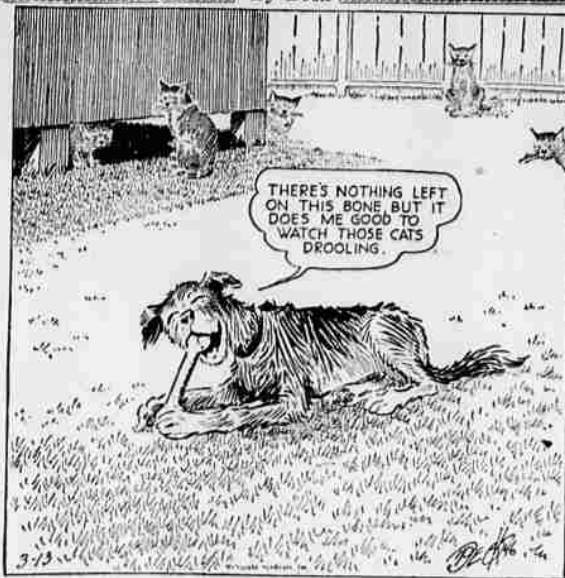
Bread Cut Will Violate State Law

Portland, March 13 (AP)—President Truman's famine emergency committee suggestion to reduce size of bread loaves 10 percent is in violation of Oregon law, a bakers association attorney said today.

Ranson Meinke reported the state law sets loaf weights at one pound, one and a half pounds, two pounds and multiples of those weights.

A Dog's Life

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

The Ideas of March are just around the corner and you'd better beware same if your income tax report isn't ready.

Now comes the clarion call in the national food emergency for folks to eat more buckwheat cakes. For our taste this would be okay if there was plenty of syrup on hand to drown out the taste of buckwheat but it's been so long since there has been any syrup on hand we've begun to figure it must be used for motor oil.

From Cal Tinney comes another clarion call for folks to join the National Dunking association and he includes a little

booklet of cartoons linking up dunking with a move for international unity. The doughnut, he points out, became known all over the world where it was carried for our armies and while 1,263,000,000 of them were consumed in 1933, 3,969,000,000 in 1939, there are now 7,200,000 doughnuts being eaten every year. "Down the years," writes Cal, "the donut has remained the traditional symbol of good fellowship, friendliness and good humor. Millions have enjoyed the happy companionship of getting together over donuts and coffee, and dunking." And yet, in the face of this, the government wants us to eat more buckwheat cakes.

As one who has a record of having eaten over 20,000 doughnuts in our day we join with Cal in his great crusade for friendliness among common people brought about by soaking up a hunk of dough in a cup of Java.

Help! (Adv. in Our Favorite Paper) School teacher with university daughter and junior high school son urgently needs to rent house or apt.—will drown son if necessary—

A chap was telling us the other day that he's given up raising chickens and had no more than evacuated them from their domicile than he began having calls from folks wanting to rent same.

If you don't happen to find a chap in his office or at work these days, don't worry. He'll be back next Monday, probably, after the tournament is over.

Also, we feel somewhat relieved. Some high school students we know who were certain they would die if they did not get tournament season tickets were still alive today and showed indications of possibly living out the week.

Barracks Future Still Hangs Fire

The future of Klamath Falls marine barracks is still hanging fire.

The state board of higher education voted Tuesday in Portland to ask the war assets corporation to appraise the barracks, as a step in possible use of the plant for emergency schooling of veterans. Willard Marks, board president, said the plan to utilize the plant was still "under serious consideration."

Capt. Lowell Coggeshall, barracks chief medical officer who appeared before a closed board session Tuesday, said he would submit to Governor Snell a complete report of his findings in Washington, D. C. Coggeshall returned yesterday from working on the project in Washington.

Vic Meyers Rejected By Seattle Voters

Seattle, March 13 (AP)—With a margin of 70,542 over 54,249, incumbent Mayor William F. Devin swept the polls last night to defeat Washington state's Lieutenant Governor Victor A. Meyers for the position of mayor of Seattle. Meyers conceded the election.

The lieutenant governor, who bobbed into politics 13 years ago from a spot as dance band leader, will continue in his position as state executive at Olympia.

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MACKENZIE'S Column

Vienna, March 13 (AP)—Present day total war is synonymous with obliteration in the minds of most folks and the destruction wrought in the late conflict certainly goes far towards sustaining that idea, but it's amazing to see how life flows on and cuts new channels for itself amidst the ruins of Europe.

Mrs. Mack and I had that impressed on us again during our trip here from Switzerland by train, for the curious mixture of people who fight for places on the crowded Vienna express and the country through which it passes gives a cross section of this Austria which is trying to reassert itself. There were on the train refugees returning with their few belongings in Alpine packs which they carried aboard on their shoulders, and this I take it tells of longing for what once was home and a hope that fortune will deal kindly with the motherland.

Confidence Displayed
Along with them was an entirely different class which also radiated not only hope but confidence and a determination to get the best out of a bad situation. They were the tanned young men and women skiers who seize every opportunity to pursue their favorite sport in the Tyrol.

There were a few obvious war profiteers who travel back and forth making a profit out of their country's suffering, and there were honest tradesmen who still believe in Austria and are taking a hand in her reconstruction.

There were, of course, the inevitable army officers, for at one time or another during the 24-hour journey you will encounter British, American, French and Russians.

Passports for All
These represent the forces of occupation, which for years will maintain order while Austria is undergoing rehabilitation and reform. There also were numerous UNRRA workers of various nationalities, representing humanitarian efforts to help the fallen country.

The trip into the occupied zones of Austria is filled with thrills and some anxiety. Not only do civilian passengers have to carry passports, which are up to date in every detail, but both civilians and military have to provide themselves with permits to pass through the American, French and Russian control zones.

Lehman Leaving UNRRA Office

Washington, March 13 (AP)—Herbert H. Lehman prepared today to bow out as director general of the United Nations relief and rehabilitation administration.

In a letter of resignation to the UNRRA central committee, Lehman said it was only because of ill health that he was leaving the agency he built up into an international instrument of mercy during the past three years.

Eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were foreign born.

Mama Can Work—So There! Says Gloria V. Stokowski

Mexico City, March 13 (AP)—"Poor Little Rich Girl" Gloria Vanderbilt Stokowski said today she would use her wealth to give the unfortunate children of the world some of the childhood and received her full inheritance.

"When I became of age I decided to discontinue the allowance made by the court to my mother because I am certain she can work as she had done in the past, and as I am doing at the present," she said.

Mrs. Stokowski said, however, that as long as any of her \$4,000,000 remained, she would support her grandmother, Mrs. Gloria Kilpatrick Morgan, and that her former nurse, Emma Sullivan Kelsch, need never know want.

The 22-year-old heiress denied angrily that her 64-year-old husband, Symphony conductor Leopold Stokowski, had exercised "undue influence" on her as her mother charged this week in New York.

Mrs. Vanderbilt said she was selling her jewelry because her daughter had suddenly reneged on a promise to pay her \$21,000 a year when she became of age.

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Chinese Mining Engineer's Tortured Body Recovered

Northeast China Command Headquarters, Chinchow, March 13 (AP)—The tortured, scalped body of Chang Sung-Fu, noted Chinese mining engineer who was bayoneted to death with seven others

by unidentified assailants in mid-January, has been turned over to municipal authorities in Mukden by the Soviet command, it was learned today.

Photographs showed the victim had been bayoneted at least eight times. Medical examination also indicated Chang had been dipped into scalding water, his left eyeball gouged, and a stick forced down the wind pipe into his lungs.

Medical examiners said he was still alive when the tortures were committed.

The case of Chang has become the basis for some violence and much dispute in Manchuria recently.

Before turning over the corpse to Mukden's mayor Tung Wen-Chi this week, Russian authorities issued a formal statement declaring that Chang's death at the hands of bandits was intended to stir up anti-Soviet feeling among the Chinese. Chinese officials taking over asserted the assassination was the work of Chinese communists.

Slide Closes Wilson Cutoff

The Wilson river highway, between Portland and Tillamook, was closed today by a slide a half mile west of McNamar's camp, which is 27 miles east of Tillamook, State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock said.

He could not estimate when the South Santiam highway, closed Tuesday by snow and a soft roadbed west of Santiam junction could be reopened, as the severe snowstorm continued today. There was 17 inches of new snow at Santiam junction.

The heavy snowfall made travel hazardous in all mountain areas.

The road report:
Government Camp — Snowing lightly, 27 degrees, 10 inches new snow, total snow 101 inches. Packed snow on road from milepost 50 on Mt. Hood highway to milepost 22 on Wapinitia highway.
Santiam junction—Snowing hard, 30 degrees, 17 inches new snow. Total snow at summit 150 inches, at junction 84 inches. Packed snow on road throughout district, chains required.
Odell lake—Snowing lightly, 23 degrees, 139 inches snow at summit, 8 inches new snow. Packed snow east of McCreddie Springs. Flows operating, chains required.

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