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Salem, Oregon, Thursday, June 16, 1949

Fantastic Tale of the Tucker Car

A federal grand jury at Chicago has returned a 31-count indictment against Preston C. Tucker and seven associates, directors of the corporation, promoters of a novel "revolutionary" automobile that never got into mass production. The charges include mail fraud, SEC violations and conspiracy. The grand jury spent 12 weeks in investigation. The company is now in the bankruptcy courts.

This promotion was one of the most amazing frauds ever perpetrated and illustrates the crookedness of some would-be entrepreneurs and the gullibility of the general public. There is still a sucker born every minute, both promoters and investors were activated by greed.

The current issue of Colliers tells the amazing account in an article, "The fantastic story of the Tucker car," by Lester Velie. The auto, Tucker told the world, would revolutionize the automobile industry with a rear-engine car in the low price field. But nearly \$26 million is gone and only 49 cars built by hand—which adds up to over \$510,000 per auto.

The "first completely new car in 50 years" had its world premiere one June day two years ago. In the world's largest factory, the \$171,000,000 government owned Chicago plant where Dodge made B-29 engines, 3,000 car dealers from all over America and abroad strained for a glimpse of the Tucker Torpedo, a "truly modern automobile departing from race track champions." Velie continues:

"Reports and rumors had told of a car that would weigh 1,000 pounds less than ordinary cars and whose revolutionary rear-end motor—the most effective power plant ever built—would deliver up to 35 miles per gallon of gasoline and permit continuous cruising at 100 miles an hour." It would make all other cars, obsolete, said the reports.

Nobody had ever heard of the 43-year-old Tucker before but he staged high pressure vaudeville salesmen shows and his advertisements and press notices described him as "one of the nation's top designers and inventor of many automobile improvements." But guards always prevented backstage examination of "The Blue Goose" as the new auto was called. What became of some of the \$26,000,000 big and little people's money subscribed is thus described:

Officers and promoters took approximately \$4 millions of which Tucker got \$750,000. The Tucker corporation spent \$1,010,000 in advertising. Some \$350,000 was paid Tucker's machine shop, for engine work. \$40,000. Tucker's extravagant family expenses were paid at a swank hotel. Tucker's old airplane cost \$15,000 for rentals. His private yacht cost \$44,000, etc., etc. Engineers stated that months of additional engineering and \$50 million additional money was needed to put the Tucker car into production.

Mayor Dorothy Lee's Hats

The controversy raging in Portland over the "outlandish" hats worn by popular Mayor Dorothy Lee has reached such a stage that the Oregonian prints a long editorial in her defense. It claims that "the piquant, photogenic pulchritude of hers is more than a match for any hat, not that we mean maybe," asserting:

"It is not the remarkable chapeaux of this redoubtable woman we are defending, but rather her inalienable right to pick her own hats and wear them when, as and if she chooses. For our part we would not want a mayor so invertebrate as to allow the snickering gossips to decide which hat she should wear. The implications, as respecting the broader aspects of her administration, would be of gravest dubiety. Nor is it in hats alone, we would say to you—meadames of either sex—that Mayor Dorothy long since proved her shining courage.

There is no question of Dorothy Lee's courage—she demonstrates as much in her headgear as in her war against slot-machines. In this, however, she has no monopoly of feminine courage, they are a courageous sex when it comes to headgear, as the present as well as the past amply demonstrates. Just walk down any street for proof.

The fair Dorothy as a public official is following a distinguished precedent. It will be recalled that during her over 12 years as secretary of labor, "Ma" Perkins continuously wore an outmoded hat of about the vintage of 1890 and became famous for it. It made her the butt of as many jibes and jokes as formerly showered the old Model T Ford. But they never fazed her or disturbed her serenity and poise. And the same holds good for Dorothy and her headgear which may also become her trademark.

The fair sex in this land of the free have one advantage in picking out their headgear—they don't have to see themselves in it—an advantage over the rest of the people. And of course, Dorothy is enjoying her inalienable right to pick out her chapeaux. It is a right that exists only in democracies, and is lost to the sex in the socialized and totalitarian states where the hierarchy of bureaucracy prescribes what women wear. Portland's mayor proves that rugged individualism still prevails in "the land of the free."

Valley Project Progress Report

Over the past week-end visitors to the projects of the Willamette valley basin commission were amazed at the progress being made on those projects. Particularly noteworthy was the speed of construction work at the Detroit dam site on the North Santiam river.

These yearly inspection trips bring out so clearly the annual progress on a program which was started with an idea back in 1935. The purpose of the series of dams, whose original number of seven has grown to 19 proposed dams, is fundamentally flood-control. The other purposes could be stated as power, irrigation, domestic water supply, and lowering of flood tables so proper outlets can be secured for drainage.

Seven dams were in the original authorization by congress in 1938. Of those, two have been completed: Fern Ridge and Cottage Grove. Dorena will be completed this fall. Two more are under construction: Detroit and Meridian. The two others in the original authorization have been abandoned and others substituted in the plans. Big Cliff, below the Detroit dam, was authorized this year. Those remaining in the proposed 19 for the Willamette river basin are contained in the Army engineer's "308" report but have not been authorized yet.

When the dams are constructed, it is proposed that the Army engineers put into effect a hydrological reporting network for flood warning and reservoir regulation. Left out of the calculations, however, are the advantages the state and its people will take of this network of dams in the fertile and beautiful Willamette valley. That is for the people to decide: How and in what manner they wish to develop the rich area that is here.

BY BECK

Life At It's Lowest Ebb



SIPS FOR SUPPER

Shut the Door

BY DON UPJOHN

Local weather experts seem to be baffled at the cause of the sudden cold spell which seems to have temporarily turned our customarily balmy valley into shivery, frigid habitat quite inviting to polar bears and Eskimos. The most logical explanation advanced so far seems to be that somebody with a new home freezer plant unaccustomed to its operation absent-mindedly when departing from home left the door open. If such is the case they also, incidentally, must have left an electric fan on yesterday afternoon and last night. The sooner they get home and shut the freezer door and turn off the fan the happier everybody will be in these parts.



Don Upjohn

A new twist came in the great national sport when a Chicago girl shot a big league first baseman just for the fun of it. We always thought that the umpire was the only one who stirred such lethal thoughts in the minds of baseball fans but if this feeling is going to extend to members of the team there'll be a lot more embryo athletes taking up golf.

All business at Mt. Angel will close up tight next Saturday night for opening of the strictly new modern baseball park, Ebner field over there. That's a community that never does things by half and whenever there's something going on everybody takes part and takes part wholeheartedly.

Up Detroit and Idanha way it seems that these days about everything is one dam thing or another.

Try, Try Again—So Thieves Did

Worland, Wyo. (AP)—Patient thieves who skidded into a ditch with the car they had stolen from a local garage trudged back to the garage and stole a wrecker.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Hoover Hits Substituting of Security for Self-Reliance

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

That was a bold and challenging speech which former President Herbert Hoover made at Ohio Wesleyan university during the week-end, when he took a vigorous dig at the brand of "new era" thinking which substitutes security for self-reliance.

It's likely to bring him a good deal of mail, pro and con. Certainly the topic is timely, for there are few corners of the world where it isn't being discussed and in many cases experimented with. Even John Bull, who through the generations has stood for solid conservatism, now is up to his neck in socialism.

Hoover said that while "security" eliminates the risks of life, it "also kills the joy that lies in competition, in individual adventure, new undertakings and new achievements."

This is from a man whose life is a romance of American success. He was orphaned at 10 and was self-supporting by 15. He rose to the top as a mining engineer, working in many parts of the world. Fame came to him for his relief administration work in Europe during World War I, and finally he was elected to the presidency. Previously he had served eight years as secretary of commerce.

And it is recorded that Hoover gave every dollar from his public salaries to help the needy. But let's get back to that speech.

"At all times in history there have been many who sought escape into 'security' from self-reliance," said the ex-president. "And if you will look over the workings of these newest eras throughout the world, you may notice that the judgment of the Lord on Adam has not been entirely reversed, even by the su-



DeWitt MacKenzie

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Bendix Strike Curtails Production of the B-36

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—B-36 slowdown—while congress has been investigating possible finagling on B-36 contracts, the inside fact is that Consolidated Vultee has been forced to curtail production of the giant bomber—because of a prolonged strike in one key plant.

The strike is at Bendix, South Bend, Ind., which supplies vital airplane parts throughout the industry. Effect of the strike has been so severe that the air force is running short of spare parts for some of its most effective squadrons and may be forced to cut down on flying time.



Drew Pearson

Meanwhile, the FBI is checking reports that strike leaders are communists, infiltrating into this key industry because of its power to paralyze the air force.

Federal mediator Arthur Vist fears a sympathy strike may now spread to the Studebaker plant. All the fault has not been on labor's side, however. Management has been bull-headed and strikers are sore at Bendix industrial relations manager, Millard Stone, whose handling of the famous Auto-Lite strike branded him as a labor-hater.

Unemployment Jitters — The president's council of economic advisers last week sent him a confidential memo pointing to increasing unemployment at a time when it should be decreasing.

The council is also worried about wage negotiations of 3,000,000 workers in the steel, coal, transportation, electric and auto industries in which the unions are demanding more wage increases while profits are dropping.

The economic council's chief battle is with Secretary of Treasury Snyder, who tell Truman that business will continue good, with nothing to worry about for the next 12 months.

Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing does not share this view. He called at the White House last week to urge an immediate federal works program to calm unemployment jitters.

Despite the unemployment trend, only a meager public-works program is now before congress—a bill to authorize 575 new public buildings.

Backstage With the Diplomats — Secretary Acheson has been trying to arrange another foreign ministers meeting for New York in September. Still not discouraged, he is willing to try another conference before giving up hope for some kind of deal with Russia on Germany.

Acheson has told Vishinsky he is willing to appoint Bob Murphy, American ambassador to Germany, as his deputy to work with the Russians, British and French until the New York meeting rolls around.

Real fact is that President Truman was a bit worried in advance of the Paris conference about the way Acheson would stand up under pressure from Vishinsky. Now he is satisfied Acheson is a tough negotiator, and even if the Paris conference ends in failure, Truman thinks Acheson has done a wonderful job. He told him so in a telephone conversation last week.

Negro Improvements — It's largely obscured by senate filibusters but white leaders in the south are taking more responsibility regarding Negro betterment.

Jackson, Miss., recently held a significant vote on waterworks improvements, additional fire equipment and a new Negro auditorium. All three were voted

favorably, and the new Negro auditorium got almost as many votes as the additional fire equipment and improved waterworks.

White citizens of Richmond, Va., some time ago took the lead in electing a Negro to the city council. It was white votes that put him there—not colored.

Anonymous Vigilantes — The FBI is investigating a mysterious outfit calling itself "The Vigilantes" which has been bombarding congress with threatening letters demanding that all Masons and Jews resign. About 50 congressmen have received letters.

Authors of the letters have brazenly used the local telephone numbers of the Sons of the American Revolution, which caused the Sons to tip off the FBI.

G-men advise congressmen who receive such mail not to open the envelopes, on the chance that the writer's identity can be established from fingerprints.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Dwight Palmer, under White House consideration as head of the national security resources board, is an active battler against bigotry and discrimination. Head of the General Cable corporation, he practices what he preaches among the 5000 employees of his firm.

The Vinson committee to investigate the B-36 will subpoena all records of the Navy league to find out where the money's coming from to battle the B-36.

Senator Johnson of Colorado is holding hearings on installing radio telephones in trains—an important safety measure.

Landlords by the hundreds of thousands are applying for rent increases under the new law guaranteeing them a fair return. Many are entitled to raise rents.

Bill O'Dwyer will rejoin his old law firm, O'Dwyer & Bernstein, when he retires as mayor of New York.

New U. S. Citizens—Attorney General Tom Clark has been waging a quiet, consistent campaign to make naturalization ceremonies more important. He feels that when a foreigner takes on the obligations of American citizenship, it should be accompanied by a ritual as impressive, though not so secretive, as an initiation into a high fraternal order.

Clark has published an enlightening book, "Gateway to Citizenship," on the obligations of American citizenship. It's worth reading.

A nine-judge panel in California does one of the best jobs of naturalizing citizens. In Washington, D.C., Judge Alexander Holtzoff rates high.

Behind the Iron Curtain—The Red army high command has just completed a highly secret meeting with army chiefs of staff in the satellite countries. The army commanders from Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Bulgaria all were present. Purpose of the conference was to map coordinated military strategy—just in case.

U.S. diplomats report the Russians have discovered a tremendously important deposit of radium, and possibly uranium, just outside Archangel, Siberia. Hundreds of Russian engineers and geologists have been sent to open up active mining. The deposit is believed to be one of the largest in the world.

(Copyright 1949)

Bit Upset Over Wife's Tardiness

Elizabeth, N.J. (AP)—Radio patrolman found James Christie, 26, sitting angrily in his car with his hand bleeding and his windshield smashed.

Christie said it was all right, police reported—he had just been waiting for his wife and punched the windshield in anger because she was late again.

Doctors at Elizabeth General hospital took eight stitches to close the wound.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

First Sight of Ireland Touches Hal's Semi-Professional Status

By HAL BOYLE

Shannon, Ireland, June 16 (AP)—Oh, it was high up in the air we were, 8,000 feet above the great Irish Sea.

Inside the cabin of the American overseas airlines flagship

America, were some 30 correspondents returning from a tour of the European battlefields and outside was a thick cloud making a mystery of the land below and the sky above.

We had run into the clouds after taking off from London. Some of the passengers dozed in their seats, quietly digesting one of Merrie England's post-war austerity meals and wondering if God ever made anything more courageous than the English.

But some of us were looking out impatiently waiting for the clouds to clear. We were semi-professional Irishmen in the crowd, seeking to know with our eyes the thing our mouths had gabbled about all our lives.

A jeering sophisticate raised up and wanted to know: "If Ireland must be heaven, boys, why aren't there any angels out there playing harps in the clouds?"

And, to that, there was only one answer. The Irish are so sure of heaven they play their harps on earth.

Just then a starboard engine gave a tug at a cloud and swallowed it whole, and through the mist there gleamed a river beneath us. And faraway, sure it was a fair river—as if the lord had taken the milky way and poured it star by star between the green banks and all the stars had melted and ran together in a silver flood.

Looking down at the map of Ireland, they saw it through the

hearts of forebears who had left this beautiful land for something better but carried the memory of it wherever they settled.

There was one among us, Cornelius Ryan, who had been born here and was seeing his home land again for the first time in eight years.

"There is Ireland's tallest mountain—Cahirciveen," he said.

"It looks more like a New Jersey swamp with the mumps," mumbled a sleepy cynic whose father certainly hadn't come from Ireland.

"Now over there, the Irish central plain," said Ryan. "See how few roads there are and notice how small the farms are."

Around each farm is a long wall. They were built in the days when the Irish used to say, "We may not have any ammunition to fight the British, but we have plenty of rocks to throw at them."

I looked at the pinched green farms and I realized why my mother and all her sisters had come to America, leaving their only brother to inherit and till the small family farm.

Ireland had exported its bacon to Europe. Crowded beyond the power of its land to support it had exported its sons and daughters to the United States.

They had followed a westward sun that sank in hopelessness on them here, but rose like a morning star on the wide fresh land of America—a land where every Irishman could join a police force and walk a beat bigger than the farm he had left behind.

All meat—seasoned just right!

Frankfurters advertisement featuring an image of a Frankfurter and text: "Frankfurters are! They're made fresh every day in Portland—seasoned just the way you like 'em here in Oregon. Armour Frankfurters are all-meat, too—nothing but fine beef and pork and seasoning! Portland-made to Oregon's taste. U. S. GOVERNMENT INSPECTED. ARMOUR Frankfurters—a leader in America's finest line of sausage."

HEIDELBERG beer advertisement featuring an image of a beer bottle and text: "HAVE A HEIDELBERG beer. THE OREGON MUTUAL FIRST INSURANCE CO., OF McMinnville, have had special low fire insurance rates for farmers since 1894. Be sure to see us before renewing your next Farm Policy. Ask us also about Farm Liability Insurance It is a MUST Coverage for Farmers Scellers, Foley & Rising, Inc. A Progressive Insurance Office. 143 South Liberty Street Telephone 2-4143. COLUMBIA BREWERY, INC. CROTONA, WASHINGTON."