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4— Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, August 9, 1949

Hoover Deserves a Tribute

Herbert Hoover, the only living ex-president of the United States, will celebrate his 75th birthday Wednesday at Stanford University. Not only because his boyhood was spent in Salem, but because of his long record in public service both before and since his presidency, we echo the suggestion made by Governor Douglas McKay that he "be made aware of the gratitude of the state and nation for his intense generosity as a citizen and public servant."

In his public statement, the governor says: "For more than 35 years, Mr. Hoover had dedicated his entire time and energy to public service at home and abroad, in war and in peace, constantly striving to make the world a better place for mankind."

"His contributions toward furthering the highest ideals of our American way of life have played an important part in our social, economic and spiritual advancement as a nation."

Mr. Hoover served as food administrator of the United States during World War I and single-handedly did a much better job than the great army of snoopers under the OPA in World War II. He organized and administered European relief after the armistice of 1918, efficiently and economically and without hint of the scandals and bungling extravagance that featured the complex relief work after the fall of Hitler.

As president, Hoover courageously faced an acute worldwide depression and an unprecedented smear campaign that installed the New Deal with its orgy of deficit spending and left the nation deep in debt without curing the depression. The billions spent by Harry Hopkins in trying to pull the nation out of the slough of despond by costly tugging at the bootstraps alleviated, but did not remedy, the situation and it took another World War leaving the nation \$250 billion in the red to restore a semblance of prosperity.

Since his retirement as president, Mr. Hoover has busied himself with philanthropic and private welfare enterprises, only occasionally appearing in the role of elder statesman with advice never followed. He has just completed, what will probably rank as his major public service, the Hoover commission's study and report on reorganization of the executive branch of government. Had he done nothing else, it would entitle him to a niche in the hall of fame.

Mr. Hoover's record speaks for itself and we join in the congratulations earned by a life-time of well worthwhile public service.

The perspective of time has given those who bitterly and perhaps unfairly attacked him, a clearer vision than when they saw him through the dark myopic glasses of prejudice and partisanship.

The Road to Portland

Develop the West Portland-Hubbard highway. So suggests the Oregon Journal editorially. The Portland newspaper asks the highway commission to move forward with this project to bring about a decent road between that city and Salem. Highway mileage between the two cities would be reduced to 47 miles.

The highway commission chairman, T. H. Banfield, has called for a complete report on the route. He has set September 19 as the date when the commission will decide what to do with the suggested project.

Perhaps this route to Portland is the one that should get a priority from the highway commission. Or perhaps it should be Highway 99E, the regular route north to Portland.

As far as Salem and Marion county are concerned, the highway commission can make its own choice, based on careful engineering studies. Such a choice, naturally, will be based on all the statistics that Chairman Banfield has suggested.

The Oregon Journal feels the priority should be given to the West Portland-Hubbard road because of its shorter length and its effect on the opening of a vast area to easy travel.

By the time the highway commission acts on the question, Salem will have settled its own handling of traffic in the immediate area by a written agreement on the Baldock plan. So, attention of the city can be given to the road north.

There will be nothing but cheers from the city and county to any definite ideas to build a decent highway to Portland. The present one is a disgrace to the area and state, but everyone agrees to that. So the highway commission can know when it meets next month that its decision of Portland-Salem road improvement will be welcomed.

Salem has waited so long for some kind of action on the route north that constructive steps toward improvement will not find much bickering over the specific route. The engineers should be able to decide that with their report that is coming up.

Foreign Recovery Bill

After two weeks of wrangling in stormy debate the senate has passed by a top-heavy vote of 63 to 7 the \$5,797,724,000 foreign recovery bill, including occupation costs, and sent it to conference to adjust differences with the house bill. Speedy final congressional action is expected. Only six republicans and one democrat voted against the measure.

There is little difference between the house and senate bills. The senate cut money totals 10 percent and added some amendments. The differences are thus summarized:

- 1. Money amounts: The house voted \$3,568,470,000 for ECA, to be spent in 10 1/2 months if necessary. The senate voted \$3,628,380,000—plus \$150,000,000 loan authority—but spread the program over a 12-month period.
2. German industrial plants: The senate voted \$25,000,000 to finance a review of dismantling plans for 365 German plants. A majority of senators feel these plants should be kept in Germany to aid European recovery. The house had no such provision in its bill.
3. Watchdog committee: The senate voted \$344,000 for a congressional committee staff to keep checking on foreign spending. The house had decided this committee had wound up its job in the first year of the Marshall plan.
4. Chinese students: The senate voted to earmark \$4,000,000 in unused China-aid funds for helping some 4,000 Chinese students who are in this country. The students have been cut off from aid because of the Civil War. The house bill did not contain this amendment.
5. Army occupation costs: The senate voted \$900,000,000 for expenses in Germany, Austria, Japan and the Ryukyu islands. The house had approved \$925,000,000.

BY BECK

What To Do?

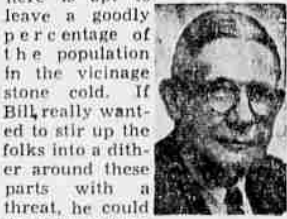


SIPS FOR SUPPER

Get a Team

By DON UPJOHN

The veiled threat of Bill Mulligan, manager of the Portland Beavers who in turn own the Salem Senator baseball club to move the franchise out of the city because of poor attendance figures here is apt to leave a goodly percentage of the population in the village stone cold.



Don Upjohn

card of pearl handled knives. One held up a tiny plastic toy animal before the shopkeeper: "Will you trade this for one of those knives?" "No, the only thing that I'll take for one of those knives is your two front teeth," joked the man. His mistake. A few days later the boys were back. One displayed a wide gap in his mouth and two front teeth in the palm of his hand. He got the knife.

Now He's Got It?

San Francisco (AP)—George Williams of San Francisco today claims to be the first tourist to win a Nevada slot machine—plus two jackpots. Williams accomplished his feat in Virginia City's Skyline bar. The owner, Reggie Vetrano, recently posted a sign reading: "Hit three lemons and take the machine home with you." Williams hit the three lemons on his second nickel, loaded the \$65 machine with two jackpots in his car and called it a day.

And Only Baby Teeth, at That

Spokane (AP)—Two little boys about five years old looked longingly at a display of hunting knives, their eyes fastened on a

Wants to Go 'Home' to Pen

Toledo, O. (AP)—An ex-convict picked up by Toledo police for routine questioning wants to go back to Toledo—but not just yet.

Inside a pocket of Charles A. Rutledge's trousers, police found this note:

"My name is Charles Aloysius Rutledge. They call me Walking Charlie. I served two years at Angola, La., and my number is 33289. Should I be found dead, please ship my remains to the penitentiary."

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

What Will Loss of China Mean to Balance of Power?

By JAMES D. WHITE

The rising of the Red star over China inevitably upsets the balance of power in a divided world.

The weight of 475 million people—a fifth of humanity—shifting from one side of the world-wide schism to the other is one reason for the white paper on China published last week by the state department.

One of the most important things this white paper did was to admit the futility of trying further to prevent the shift with the method used in the past.

That method was to support the legal government of China, as personified by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. It didn't work.

If any new method is to work, it will have to answer many grave questions growing out of the great shift in world power that red China means.

Three of these questions have been raised by J. D. Ferguson, editor of the Milwaukee Journal. He asks what the impact of red China, as shown by the white paper, will be on:

- 1. China's use of the veto in the security council of the United Nations.
2. China's loss of influence among western nations.
3. China's commercial treaties with western nations.

In red hands, the Chinese ve-

A Honey of a Mess

Gridley, Ill. (AP)—For several years, the T. H. Benedicts knew there were bees in their home near here.

They finally discovered the bees but not before the swarms had made a honey of a mess. Summer heat disclosed the location of the bees' nest when honey started running down from the living room ceiling. Four bushel baskets of honey and the bees were removed.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

U. S. Negroes to Take Tour To Counteract Robeson

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — A theatrical company of American Negroes will tour the Scandinavian countries next month to offset Paul Robeson's communist-sponsored barnstorming.

The Negro players will present Henrik Ibsen's "The Wild Duck" in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, and thus demonstrate that all American Negroes aren't down-trodden, but can attain the same educational and cultural heights as other Americans.

This goodwill tour was arranged by the Norwegian embassy and Howard university of Washington, D.C., without any prompting from the state department.

Twenty-one students and three instructors from Howard university's drama department will make the trip, most of the expenses being paid by Elovins Davis, American philanthropist, who also brought an American company to Denmark to play "Hamlet."

The idea of sending Negro players to Scandinavia was suggested by Ivan Jacobsen, staff member of the Norwegian embassy. After he happened to see the Howard university drama department in action. He felt that Paul Robeson had not painted a true picture of the American Negroes, and so on his own initiative promoted the tour as a gesture of people-to-people friendship.

PREDICTION—This will do almost as much good as some phases of the North Atlantic pact.

Seen and heard in the senate restaurant: Senator Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, newly appointed attorney general, finished lunch and called for his check. The waiter brought it. This was the first day the new District of Columbia sales tax went into effect.

"The tax should be three cents, not two," the senator advised the waiter. "You've undercharged me."

Since Senator McGrath wrote the sales-tax law for the District of Columbia, the waiter didn't argue. The men who, as attorney general, will be responsible for enforcing the law, handed him the extra penny.

Whispered on the senate floor: The senate buzzed with news of the appointment of Attorney General Clark to the supreme court and of Senator McGrath to be attorney general—especially Senators James Kem of Missouri, Clark's bitter critic, and Homer Ferguson of Michigan who has been under investigation.

Leaning forward, Senator Bob Taft whispered in Kem's ear: "We're going to make you and Homer the reception committee for the new supreme court justice."

THE AMAZING MARAGON

Sam Boykin, head of the state department's gumshoe department and cousin of Alabama's Congressman "Everything-for-Love" Boykin, is very secretive about it, but he is hushing up another strange chapter in the strange life of John Maragon.

Though the state department won't talk, Maragon was mixed up in a deal to buy all the surplus U. S. army vehicles in Germany—about 7,000 trucks, trailers and jeeps. The price was \$1,250,000 and the sale was consummated Jan. 31, 1948, to a Belgian scrap dealer.

Maragon was representing a Britisher, George Dawson, who has a criminal record, and for whom he had also done some work in Washington with the war assets administration.

Maragon's close contact in war assets has been Joe Major, a member of Truman's Battery D, and an intimate of General Vaughan's. Major recently flew with the President to Little Rock for their Battery's reunion. He also states that he has received about 500 phone calls from Vaughan, visits at his home about once a week, and got to know Maragon through Vaughan.

Arriving in Paris in the winter of 1948, the amazing Maragon presented letters of introduction to Gen. Clyde Hysong, in charge of war surplus for the state department, and then proceeded to charge the general with giving unwarranted information to Jack Van Allen, a rival of Maragon's who also represented Dawson.

In the end, the state department had to send a special investigator across the Atlantic to straighten out the row.

In the end, Dawson and Maragon did not get the 7,000 surplus vehicles, though they did get about 700 army motorcycles after a heated row over the price.

BACKSTAGS WITH GOP

The backstage story of what happened inside the Republican National committee shows how bitterly the Taft-Dewey forces are still divided.

The man chiefly responsible for Guy Gabrielson's hairbreadth election as chairman was Taft's close friend, hefty Republican Clarence Brown of Ohio.

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds



Send your "Odds" questions on any subject to "The Wizard of Odds," care of the Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

What Are the Most Interesting Kind of People?

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—What kind of people are the most interesting? Yes, I know live people are—but what kind of live people? William Hazlitt in a celebrated essay once concluded that the conversation of authors was the most interesting of any.

This may have been true in a more leisurely day, when writers pushed a goose quill across the page. It isn't true any more. Authors are a somber crew today.

I eavesdrop at their gatherings fairly often, and they are like nothing more than a convention of mummies. Any bon mots they have in mind they don't say aloud; they save them for their electric typewriters. Rather than talk they prefer silently playing the "match game" to see who buys the next drink.

Perhaps they are chary of using words because they know the value of words—they are paid for using them. When they do break out in conversation, it is usually along these lines:

- A. "Is your literary agent as big a louse as mine? What do they do for their 10 per cent?"
B. "My publisher is a robber."
C. "My publisher is an ignoramus."
D. "My publisher's mother once won the best-of-show award the Westchester Kennel club."

E. "Have you read that stinking novel by Joe Daokes, 'Love Under the Neon Sign'?" How did it make the best-seller list? I could sneeze a better book than that."

No, there is nothing more disillusioning than the conversation of authors.

Actors are a little better. All the world's a stage to them, and in restaurants they have a bad habit of ordering catnip like it was rare old Napoleon brandy. Financiers could be fun, if they'd relax and really tell you what's going on in the money market. But they don't—probably because they don't know themselves. Weather forecasters, I find are pretty much like old sailors—after the third hot air mass filters through the conversation you can't believe a word they say.

Generals are full of medals and quaint military lore. But in discussing their campaigns they identify their armies with themselves. They say, "the (the enemy) hit me in my flank, and hurt me a little, but I cut him up and went on." Privates and corporals never talk that way.

Diplomats are amusing, the only class that can "good morning" with an air of international mystery. But their small talk is always about big matters.

Businessmen? After you say "how's business?" What else is there to do but lean back and give a big listen? Farmers? The same I think. You inquire, "how are crops?" Then you give another big listen. Business and crops are always bad. If taxes aren't ruining one, the boll weevil is eating up the other.

Barbers and waiters talk at you instead of to you. They just flatter you—or ignore you. Women are like generals and financiers. They want to discuss their big operations. But at least they don't hesitate to give you the real inside story.

Doctors, lawyers, undertakers, bartenders—they all meet the public but few will tell the secrets of their trade. Their shop talk is for themselves alone.

Who are the most interesting conversationalists? To me they are children, photographers, musicians, and wild animal trainers.

They are always fresh and new, they are never dull or stale. And they will talk about anything.

What's Your Life Worth?

St. Louis (AP)—What price tag would you put on your life?

The question attracted more than academic interest when a "dare-devil" show asked for volunteers to drive a car into a head-on crash with another at 45 miles an hour.

Name your own price, the advertisement said. There were 50 takers.

An Illinois farm boy thought it would be worth \$20,000. But a lad who "has been driving a jalopy in Kentucky" thought "25 bucks" should cover everything.

Money Is Hard to Hang on to

Calgary, Alta. (AP)—Don't show George Sussex of Lynden, Wash., any cartoons of money with wings. It isn't funny.

Mrs. Sussex shook her husband's trousers out on a eighth-floor fire escape. Down fluttered \$200 in traveler's checks.