

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By Carrier: Weekly, 25c; Monthly, \$1.00; One Year, \$12.00. By Mail in Oregon: Monthly, 75c; 6 Mos., \$4.00; One Year, \$8.00. U. S. Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$1.00; 6 Mos., \$6.00; Year, \$12.00.

"The City of the Bees"

When Maurice Maeterlinck, Belgian poet, mystic and dreamer, dealing in symbolism, wrote in 1901 his classic, "Life of the Bee," it was thought he had exhausted the subject in his charming book, but now comes another story of the bee that will delight nature lovers of all ages, "City of the Bees" (Whittlesey House) by Frank S. Stewart, a gifted Scotsman, now living in England.

The marvels of a society millions of years older than humanity, are portrayed in the story of a colony of wild bees, the story of birth and death, tragedy and joy, victory and defeat, prosperity and adversity, prodigious labor and pure enjoyment of life which transcend human experience.

As the author states in his brief preface, "the book is an imaginative fantasy" but written by one who, with scientific knowledge, has patiently studied the bees for many years. He adds, "high romance always deals with realities, and the events recorded really do happen to bees and birds and animals in the same world where, so pitifully unheeding 'civilized man' stamps and frets along his little rut into the grave, never looking around at the beauty, savagery, emotions and wonder that he rushes blindly past."

The "City of the Bees" is beautifully told, really a poem in exquisite prose, recording the events of the inhabitants of "the golden city" in the heart of a forest oak, and is one of the few recently written books that it will live through the ages and be read with pleasure centuries hence. The first few paragraphs, "Gold Dust Ballerina," give a sample of its poetic imagery:

"Into the air! The bee shot up into the glowing sky, unable to beat her wings fast enough to ease the rapture of her being. Sixteen thousand times a minute, the tiny silver pinions beat the air—but this was not enough. For she had never known and would never know, the sadness of winter. Even the primrose and the daffodil have memory of cold silences. The nightingale cannot sing until the glory of her voice is rounded by the wistful knowledge that summer dies."

"But this bee had been born on a day when Persephone stole back from Hades, smiling so that black trees, gray grass and ruffled birds stirred like sleepers kissed. To begin such a day is to enter life with warmth that never ebbs, but throws its own sunshine outwards from winter."

The Dollar Devaluation

The devaluation of the British pound sterling is the biggest news of the day. Its pre-war value in dollars was \$4.86. In the last World War it was pegged at a little over \$4.00, but lately, had dropped to around \$2.80 in the free market of Switzerland. It has now officially been pegged at that figure.

In 1934, our dollar was put through the devaluation vat, but without causing such a commotion.

The word "dollar," our unit of value, derives from the low German "daler." Spanish dollars were in general circulation throughout the American colonies, and our silver dollar, as authorized by the Coinage Act of 1792, corresponded roughly to their weight—416 grains, with a fineness of .89 plus. By the Act of 1837, this weight was changed to 412½ grains—9/10 fine.

Gold dollars, weighting 25.8 grains—9/10 fine—were authorized by the Act of 1849, but this coinage was discontinued in 1905. The gold dollar, however, weight and fineness as above, was declared in 1900 to be the United States standard of value.

Under the Gold Reserve Act of 1934, President Roosevelt, by proclamation, fixed the weight of the gold dollar at 15 5/21 grains—9/10 fine. Gold was to be bought and sold by the U. S. treasury—through the New York Federal Reserve bank—at \$35.00 per fine Troy ounce, plus 1/4 percent handling charges.

For a time this change in price brought to the United States an inflow of gold amounting to between \$200,000,000 and \$500,000,000 per month. In six years the U. S. gold supply had jumped from \$7,450,000,000 to \$22,000,000,000—at which time, 1940, foreign countries held around \$8,840,000,000. In the next few years the holdings of foreign countries increased far more rapidly than did those of the United States. When the readjustment comes, however, it will be found that, as a result of World War II, the distribution of the world's gold supply has been subjected to many changes.

A Fair, Not a Carnival

At least the county fair hasn't given way noticeably to the commercial and carnival atmosphere of the state fair. The North Marion county fair, which closed Saturday night, was still the typical county fair that America has come to know so well.

The needle-in-the-haystack stunt added an unusual flair to the Saturday festivities, and it was not touched with commercialism. A visitor looking over the many exhibits was certain to get a good idea of what is grown in the county.

Leonard Hewitt and his fair board deserve credit for making the fair representative of the county instead of the entertainment interests. It was refreshing to find the products of the county not overshadowed by carnival barkers or sideshows.

Members of Oregon's state fair board ought to visit one of the county fairs to refresh their memory of what a fair is supposed to be. They could profitably have taken in the North Marion fair.

Party-Line Proves Helpful

Portsmouth, N. H. (AP)—A party line telephone can be a big help in answering radio quizzes. Mrs. Mary Holman of Hampton can tell you.

A local radio quizmaster phoned to ask her the \$10 question: "Who was the first chief justice of the United States?"

She started to answer, John—There was a click and a whispered "Jay." Mrs. Holman won the \$10.

Later, she said, she split it with her erudite and inquisitive neighbor.

Golfer Scores Real Birdie

Fort Worth, Tex. (AP)—Barton Cole, city junior golf champion, scored a birdie literally. His ball hit a mockingbird, grounding it.

BY BECK  
Such Is Life

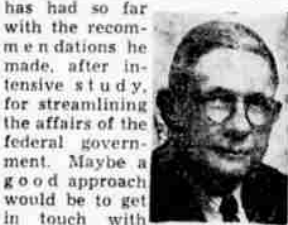


SIPS FOR SUPPER

Streamlining the Legislature

By DON UPJOHN

The committee named by the legislature to make an interim investigation as to how to streamline legislative procedure has started off its work here and has assigned its various members to scurry around for ideas and report later. It's to be hoped they get somewhere and when they do have more luck than Mr. Hoover



has had so far with the recommendations he made, after intensive study, for streamlining the affairs of the federal government. Maybe a good approach would be to get in touch with the three boys who down at the Woodburn fair last week succeeded in locating the three needles in the haystack. The work of the legislative committee in trying to delve for ways and means to hustle up the legislature seems to be about on a par with the task assigned to the three lads. And they made it a success of the job.

meantime, you are going to have to take whatever we can get together in this last paragraph. Some wag painted a sign and placed it in a prominent place by the road near the forestry building out by the state penitentiary. It read: "Drive carefully—convicts crossing the highway."

Attention FT & BA  
Depoe Bay—Anybody lose his false teeth in Davy Jones' locker? Chuck and Tony Wisniewski, teen-age cousins, hunting for sinkers on the rocks at Pirates' cove here, found two dental plates, not mates, unbroken, but covered with barnacles and seaweed. Like Cinderella's slipper, they will be given to anyone they fit, say the boys.

She Tried, Anyway  
Lewistown, Mont. (AP)—It was the first day of the hunting season, and the hunter's mind was on prairie chickens. As he came out of a coulee yesterday, a shotgun blast roared over his head and he hit the dirt. Shortly thereafter a red-coated female rushed up to him and asked if he were hurt. "I'm awfully sorry," she apologized. "I thought you were my husband."

Incidentally local sporting goods stores report a tremendous run on red hats and shirts to be used as targets.

An Editor's Troubles

(Kiwani Bulletin)

Your editor now knows why the former editors found it such a chore to make out the bulletin. When one runs out of ideas, there isn't much one can put into a bulletin. The stories we have heard lately cannot be printed here and there seems to be no activity on the part of individual Kiwanians. Even the fishermen have failed to bring up any new stories but now with the hunting season approaching, maybe we can get a few good stories out of these experiences. In the

This One Should Have Been Good

Spokane, Wash. (AP)—Washington state patrol radio here overheard the Fort Wayne, Ind., police radio order a prowler car to a certain downtown intersection. "Car 42, car 42," the operator called. "Investigate man walking down street with sack over his head. That is all."

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

How About Bonuses For American Housewives?

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Government's most forgotten waif is the American housewife.

The hand that rocks the cradle may rule the world—but it isn't getting any handouts from Washington. And it appears to be the only one that isn't.

There is a department of commerce to help the tired business man solve his commercial woes. There is a department of labor for the poor working man. And there are so many agencies set up to assist nature's nobleman, the farmer, that he can plant his seeds upside down in a hurricane and still make money.

But there is no Marshall plan for the matrons, no subsidies for housewives.

This is certainly undemocratic, as there are more housewives than businessmen, more housewives than working men, more housewives than dirt farmers.

And it is the housewives who keep the nation going. They control most of the wealth, buy most of the goods, pay most of the bills. If it weren't for the financial genius of the woman of the house, half the homes in America would be bankrupt in a year.

What recognition do housewives get for keeping the country on an even keel? A few kind words on Mother's day, a half dozen battered red roses—and maybe a dinner out at the local bistro. Even then the waiter usually hands her the check, since she is the only solvent member of the family.

But it isn't to be a bargain-basement Cinderella one evening of the year, and a grease monkey to a vacuum cleaner the other 364 days. So mama mopes and feels frustrated and inferior.

The kids are going to school

And don't forget pensions. Senators get them. Why shouldn't wives? Senators' wives, too. You girls just don't know your own muscle.

RUSSIA AND THE A-BOMB

Ever since the first atomic bomb landed on Hiroshima, and World War II came to an end, people of every nation have speculated as to when the United States' monopoly of the bomb's secret would be broken by Russia.

Probably a lot of people didn't believe it then, but as far back as May 15, 1948, Drew Pearson reported in the Washington Merry-Go-Round that "definite information has been obtained that Russia has the A-bomb. It's crude and only one or two have been made yet, but she has it . . ."

President Truman's announcement on Friday, Sept. 23, that an A-bomb explosion occurred in Russia in recent weeks now substantiates Pearson's early report that Russia had been successful in obtaining the secret of the bomb.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Two Men Dominate U. S. Steel Policies: Fairless, Enders

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Two men dominate the policies of the giant U. S. Steel corporation, and will also largely decide whether or not the nation is stymied by a steel strike. They are:

Ben Fairless—President of U. S. steel, son of a Welsh coal miner, taught school, came up the hard way and is generally sympathetic to labor.



Enders Voorhees—Chairman of the finance committee of U. S. Steel, son of a bank president, a tightfisted New York Dutchman, and an accountant whose job is to pinch pennies for J. P. Morgan and Co., which largely owns and controls U. S. Steel.

These two men sometimes disagree. And their disagreement represents a seesaw between liberal and conservative policies which have alternated in the management of U. S. Steel and J. P. Morgan.

Originally U. S. Steel was one of the most reactionary firms in America. For years the famed Judge Elbert Gary ruled it with an iron hand. Labor was treated like so many ingots or blast furnaces—except that labor was a lot cheaper.

Then a new day dawned in the oak-paneled offices of J. P. Morgan. Myron Taylor, now ambassador to the Vatican, believed in giving labor a break. Dwight Morrow, who later followed amazingly liberal policies as ambassador to Mexico, also leaned toward labor. And Thomas W. Lamont, guiding genius of the Morgan firm, was far more liberal than the public realized.

So in 1937, the world was flabbergasted when Myron Taylor negotiated a union contract for U. S. Steel, for the first time in that firm's history.

Then Myron Taylor stepped out of U. S. Steel in favor of the Vatican; Tom Lamont died, and J. P. Morgan reverted to the conservatives. This began the trend toward conservatism again in the giant steel corporation and the elevation of Enders Voorhees, accountant son of a New York banker, to the position of real influence.

Finally it saw the wane of Ben Fairless, the traditional friend of labor.

It is significant that, during the lengthy sessions of the president's fact-finding board, the only head of a big steel corporation who made no appearance was Ben Fairless. The tightfisted Voorhees appeared for him.

Fairless first got in wrong with his J. P. Morgan masters when he told the White House, shortly after the war, that U. S. Steel would accept the 18½-cent-an-hour wage increase.

This brought rising temperatures to some of the gentlemen in J. P. Morgan offices, and since then they have been more careful about letting Ben Fairless loose at a wage conference without a chaperone.

Ben Fairless was born 59 years ago into a coal miner's family at Pigeon Run, Ohio. His father, too poor to educate his first born, farmed him out to an uncle who ran a store at near-by Justus, Ohio.

As a result, Ben took his uncle's name, and always remembered his mother's resolve that, come what may, he should never work in the mines.

Fairless taught a one-room country school in order to save up money for college, was graduated from Ohio Northern university, joined the Wheeling and Lake Erie railroad as engineer,

and then the steel industry is not. For, among other things, to accept the fact-finding recommendations would show that labor's method of settling disputes was workable and that the Taft-Hartley act was not so essential after all.

Those are some of the views held by some of the men who will finally decide whether the nation's economy is tied up by a giant steel strike.

OPEN FORUM

'Mess at State Penitentiary'

To the Editor: It seems to me it is about time . . . to do something about the . . . mess at the state penitentiary . . .

We can see that it would be tough to keep watch of all the men out there during the time the place is all torn up during construction, but I can't see why any one would let a man like (William John Perkins) work where he could get at pipe wrenches, saws and wrecking bars to make a break and get on the outside. When a criminal like this is loose, man, woman or child isn't safe.

While you have thirteen hundred men at the pen, I can't see why a man that commits rape would be put to work where he has access to tools or a 20-foot ladder.

O. A. PECK  
Route 3, Salem

Increased Pensions in Colorado

To the Editor: More than 10 days ago the Associated Press carried a story of a big increase in pensions in Colorado from \$72 to \$80 a month, a new high, and this amount will be paid to 48,500 men and women, who in turn will place \$3,880,000 directly in life of trade with the baker, merchants—right at the grass roots—instead of being borrowed into circulation.

We failed to see this news in your columns, although we read every word of it daily. We

trust the news is not too late to find space in your valuable paper.

FRANK R. HASKELL  
Box 368, Wecoma

BY GUILD  
Wizard of Odds



ODDS ARE ONLY 1 IN 5 THAT A BLIND PERSON CAN READ BRAILLE (YOUR ANSWER, FROM ZIMMERMAN, PALM BEACH, FLA.)

WHILE ODDS ARE EVEN YOU'RE A MEMBER OF SOME CHURCH, IT'S 2 TO 1 AGAINST YOUR ATTENDING CHURCH REGULARLY.

THE ATOM CENTER, OAK RIDGE, TENN., HASN'T HAD A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN 3 YEARS!

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Is Moscow Ready to Talk Now About Atomic Control?

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

President Truman's announcement (concurrent in by Britain) that there is evidence of an atomic explosion recently in Russia should cause no surprise.

Such a development was a foregone conclusion. It had to come sometime.

More over, there is no reason to assume that this news has increased the danger of war between Russia and the Western Powers. In fact, it may give a fillip to peace.

Prof. Otto Hahn, regarded as a discoverer of nuclear fission, declared in Bonn, Germany "the news that Soviet Russia has the atomic bomb is good news" because "if both the United States and Russia have it there will be no war."

The U. S. state department officials generally take the line that the danger of war hasn't been increased or decreased, but that, in fact, Russia may now be more ready to make a plan for international atomic control.

Whether that was an inspired estimate of possibilities, the fact remains that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky in addressing the United Nations assembly at Lake Success Friday called on the Big Five Powers to conclude a peace pact among themselves. He didn't mention the atomic explosion, leaving his eager audience to draw their own conclusions.

As remarked, there is nothing in the fact that there has been an atomic explosion in Russia. It would have been remarkable if it hadn't occurred, for it was in the books.

A couple of months ago this column reported there was widespread belief among scientific observers that Russia had, at least the theoretical knowledge, as distinguished from the industrial knowledge, of how to make the bomb. Britain also had the secret.

However, America was the only nation having the vast and complicated industrial facilities and the industrial know-how to construct a bomb. That's what stymied Germany in World War. Her scientists claim she had the know-how for the atom bomb, but lacked the industrial set-up.

Has Russia overcome these industrial hazards? Perhaps nobody outside Russia knows.

All we have been told is that there has been an atomic explosion in Russia. No details.

But supposing it was an atomic bomb, there is no reason to assume that the ability to produce one would inspire Russia to go looking for war with a nation which not only has one atom bomb but many all ready for emergencies.

Still, we can't overlook the fact that the more atomic bombs there are scattered about the world, the greater the chances of explosions. Men who carry pistols for protection have tender nerves in their trigger fingers.

While we are sure that neither the United States nor Russia wants war, we can't call that good enough.

As President Truman says, this explosion in Russia emphasizes again the necessity for "truly effective, enforceable international control of atomic energy which this government and the large majority of the members of the United Nations support."

U. N. Assembly President Carlos P. Romulo, after learning of the President's statement, said the atomic control deadlock before the assembly becomes one of the most pressing problems. Heretofore, all efforts to reach agreement have failed because of inability of Russia and the Western Powers to get together.

Therefore, the paramount question of the moment is whether Mr. Vishinsky's proposal for a Five-Power peace pact means Moscow is ready to talk about atomic control.

This Thief Took All

Minneapolis (AP)—Gerald Rienersins, Brewster, Minn., told police that somebody broke into his automobile and stole a rod and reel, a suit of clothes, one hunting knife, one pair of shoes, a jacket, a canvas bag, one pair of overalls, three shirts, a war souvenir, a contract for a house and a marriage license.

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