

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.

Salem, Oregon, Friday, October 7, 1949

Another Martyr in the Making

The drama of an officer in the nation's armed forces fighting for the life of his branch of the service is not new.

When Captain Crommelin of the United States Navy defies orders and leaks uncomplimentary information to the press, he is jeopardizing his position in the service. But in his mind, he apparently feels that such action is the only way the nation is going to be awakened. He feels the navy is being crippled by the supreme command and the administration.

General "Billy" Mitchell was court-martialed after the first world war for preaching airpower as against sea power. He was so outspoken he, too, brought on the wrath of the top command—and he suffered the consequences. He predicted that airplanes would sink battleships. He made the "rash" statement that planes would fly more than 250 miles an hour. He was certain that planes some day would make regular flights across the Pacific between China and the United States.

Now Captain Crommelin, who is 46 and a veteran navy flyer, foresees the air arm of the navy being weakened to the point of ineffectiveness. To him, the United States will hurt only itself by following such a policy. Thus, he knowingly takes steps that could lead to a court-martial in order to bring the facts to the public.

In answer to Crommelin, Secretary of the Navy Matthews, new to office, denied that navy morale is bad. Crommelin had said the opposite, because of top level decisions which are nibbling away at the nation's first-line of defense. Defense Secretary Johnson says the navy is far superior to any other navy in the world.

Crommelin's fight is one for balanced armed forces for the nation. He is not seeking to minimize the effectiveness of the air force. He is trying to bring dramatically to the attention of the people of the nation the need for the navy's air arm to be encouraged, not discouraged as it is by present supreme command policy.

Crommelin, who saw in the Pacific the need for balanced forces (each branch of the services strong enough to supplement the others), apparently has resigned himself to the martyr role. He will receive surprising support. The nation hasn't forgotten another martyr of a quarter of a century ago, "Billy" Mitchell.

Russia's New Satellite

Russia has created its keystone satellite state by proclaiming a new "All-German state" in East Germany with Berlin as its capital and demanding liquidation of the new West German government at Bonn. Wilhelm Pieck, Moscow-trained German communist, announced the formation to delegates representing the German People's Council, a pro-Soviet public forum without legal powers. These delegates were Soviet selected, not elected by the people, and voted to become the lower house of the "German Democratic Republic."

Elections will be held a year hence and Piest will be president in the interim. He read a 20-point program for the new "All-German State," evidently endorsed by Moscow, or it couldn't have been official. It included:

- 1. Designation of Berlin as capital.
- 2. Re-establishment of Germany's political and economic unity.
- 3. Liquidation of the west German state at Bonn.
- 4. Building of an all-German government for an all-German democratic republic.
- 5. Reunification of Berlin, now divided into four sectors under the American, British, French and Soviet occupation forces.

Russia arranged in advance for the recognition of the new German state, just as it did for severing diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, with all its satellites, and for formal notes to the Western Allies protesting establishment of the West German state at Bonn as a violation of the Potsdam pact.

Preceding the proclamation of the new government, a manifesto was adopted and sent to all Germans calling for a fight against the West German republic by a "national front" including all Nazis who affiliate as "democrats."

As long as Stalin can get what he wants without war, as he has been doing all along, there will be no third world war, whether or not he has the atom bomb. Why should he risk war when he goes right along annexing territory without it?

Playing Cheap Politics

The Truman administration is playing cheap politics with the anti-trust laws and misusing its vast power pressure to force through its "fair deal" program of state socialism by devious devices.

Recently suits have been launched against the du Ponts, not because they are a monopoly that oppresses the public, but because of their mere "bigness."

As a matter of fact, big business, if it is managed in the public interest, is no threat to public welfare, especially when it follows an enlightened policy of decreasing prices by quantity production and increasing payrolls and putting their profits into research and creation of new useful products, as the du Ponts have in originating chemical production, such as dyestuffs, rayon, paints, synthetic rubber, cellophane, nylon, etc.

Another suit for the crime of bigness is that against the A. & P. T. company, greatest of food store chains with over 7000 of them. It is being prosecuted not for monopolistic practices but because it benefits consumers by underselling competitors—a strange perversion of the intent of the law.

Now the American Medical association and its affiliated medical organizations are being investigated in a campaign to scare physicians into abandoning their opposition to compulsory health insurance. A few years ago the doctors were being excoriated because they did not provide a program of cheap prepaid medical care. Now they are persecuted because they have belatedly co-operated to provide both prepaid medical and hospital service.

Meanwhile the biggest monopolies of them all, the labor unions, who refuse American citizens their inherent right to work, even on federal projects, unless they pay dues to and submit to regimentation by labor bosses, remain not only exempt from anti-trust laws, but are subsidized by tax exemption. And furthermore, the administration refuses to enforce the labor-management laws against their nation-wide strikes against public welfare.

BY BECK

The Penalty Of Progress



SIPS FOR SUPPER

Wasted Effort

By DON UPJOHN

Wonder if this scurry to build new school buildings is really necessary? For instance, we were handed today a copy of the latest Western Union bulletin containing canned telegrams arranged for the convenience of the customers. Now you don't even have to think, know how to read, or write, or even wave a pencil. Telegrams are all provided for congratulations on engagements, promotions, or election to office, success of an artist, opening of a store, on making a speech, commencement, thank yous, birthday, weddings, births, anniversaries, condolences for bereavements and a host of good luck telegrams on new jobs, on taking examinations, on a new book written or show produced, for a new home or a new job. Nothing overlooked. So with folks not reading magazines, books or newspapers any more but just looking at the pictures, getting their entertainment over radio or television, it's beginning to look as though maybe all this rush to educate the robots may be wasted dough. But, doggone it, there's on thing we overlooked, they do have to get some education to read the comics.



Don Upjohn

Truth in Advertising
Hollywood (P)—A group of indignant movie starlets today organized a new "AEL"—the Anti-Falsie league. "Our motto is 'Ban unnatural stuffing tricks,'" said President Peggy Dow. "Look hard at the first letter in each word, and you'll see our point." Shelley Winters was named vice president and Dorothy Hart secretary. The girls said they were tired of repeated inferences in the public prints that practically all young women wear falsies.

B-r-r-r-h!
Deputy Sheriff Ed Scott who has the run up into the Detroit-Danaha section filed his report on his return Thursday night as follows: "Last night had first snow in the canyon. All of the peaks have little snow caps on them now. Furthermore it is sure getting cold up there."

Yea, the melancholy days have come for fair.

DISASTROUS SHIPWRECK 100 YEARS AGO

Storm Kept Hopeful Irish From Reaching America

By TOM NOONAN

Cohasset, Mass., Oct. 7 (P)—A violent nor'easter raged 100 years ago today along the New England coast studded with death traps of jagged rock. Somewhere offshore the brig Saint John labored in mountainous seas as it neared the end of a stormy voyage with a band of Irish emigrants.

Land was sighted amid driving rain and murk when dawn broke. But already the hopes of emigrants from famine-ridden Ireland for a fresh start in a new world had given way to fears for their very lives.

Almost none of the emigrants ever reached America alive! For within a few horror-filled hours the Saint John became the most disastrous shipwreck ever to occur in the outer reaches of Boston Harbor.

One hundred and forty-three persons perished in the boiling waters near Minot's Light including 99 emigrants.

Only 12 survived including Captain Oliver, skipper of the brig, and a 14-year-old Irish lad who was a stowaway.

Despite every trick of seamanship at Captain Oliver's command the ancient brig was swept by hill-high breakers onto the Grampus, rocky tomb of many a more sturdy ship. Waves poured over the ship sweeping emigrants and crewmen to death.

More than half the Saint John's cargo had been lost when her jolly boat was swept overboard. About 25 persons jumped into the little craft which soon capsized.

Only Captain Oliver and the stowaway were able to swim back to the Saint John. Then the brig's long boat was swept some distance from the

OPEN FORUM

Court House Plans Comment

(Editor's Note—Letters to the Editor, limited to 50 words, are welcomed expressing an opinion on the proposed plans for the exterior of the Marion county courthouse.)

To the Editor: It was not my intention to get into the court house controversy again so soon. They pushed me. It's the old clock. Seems as though the court house clock is to Salem what Big Ben is to London.

Me. I'm for keeping the four-sided clock and the gal on top, too. That scale of justice is not such a bad idea.

ELIZABETH WILLIS
Salem

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

5-Percenter Hearings Off, So Pearson Tells More

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—When good old Clyde Hoey, the swallow-tailed senator from North Carolina, announced there would be no more hearings on General Vaughan, John Maragon and the five-percenters, it didn't surprise anybody on the inside.

For insiders have known how much pressure has been exerted by the White House to shut the investigation up.

One month ago it was announced that public hearings would be suspended in order to give the committee staff a chance to do more investigation. Also to give Committee Counsel Rogers a two-week vacation.

Since then, however, White House pressure has been terrific with even staff investigators threatened with loss of government pensions.

Since then also some sensational leads have been glossed over by committee investigators or carefully stowed away in pigeonholes.

One of the most interesting figures which Senator Hoey and his staff have turned their back on is David A. Bennett, the perfume manufacturer, who sent seven deep freezes to General Vaughan, Mrs. Truman and other bigwigs at about the time Vaughan's friend, John Maragon, was trying to smuggle Bennett's perfume into the United States disguised as champagne for the White House.

There are some other interesting things about Mr. Bennett which the public doesn't know, and most of the record is in government files where any senate investigator could easily dig it out.

This column doesn't have the same power to subpoena records as does Senator Hoey of North Carolina, but since the senate committee has decided to backslide on the job, this writer has done his best to take up where the senator from North Carolina left off.

For instance, here are two interesting things which the public has a right to know about.

Mr. Bennett, at the time he was giving away deep freezes, acquired four government airplanes without competitive bidding, and four luxury yachts, three of them from the U.S. government.

Four yachts are a lot for any one man to have. For that matter, so are four airplanes. However, Deep-freeze-giver Bennett wasn't satisfied with four yachts and wanted to buy another. To this end, a letter was written to John Maragon, core of General Vaughan at the White House, by one of Bennett's subordinates. The letter, dated Nov. 19, 1945, is in the files of Senator Hoey's committee, but since he doesn't seem interested in doing anything about it, this column is glad to publish the letter as follows:

"Mr. John Maragon, c/o Brig. Gen. Harry Vaughan's Office, White House, Washington, D.C. "Dear Jonn: "At the request of Mr Ben-

nett, I am sending you herewith reprint of an advertisement—on 'Yachting' and 'Motor Boating.' Mr. Bennett would like you to contact Commodore Moran, of the small boats division, Maritime commission—Miss Barrett, sec'y, and find out what condition this is in, and what price they are asking for same. "Mr. Bennett is feeling fine after his little rest in the country, and is planning on leaving here again tomorrow to spend Thanksgiving there. "Hope you are in the best of health, and with the kindest regards. . . . " At the time this letter was written to Maragon, Bennett already had the following luxury yachts "Carnan" 600 horsepower, 121 foot 221 tons; "Valerie V." 84 foot, 124 tons; "Caroline," 45 foot, 24 tons; "Nedra B." 111 foot, 101 tons.

All these, except the "Valerie V." were purchased direct from the maritime commission. And when the maritime commission was asked to disclose who else bid on the vessels, and how much was bid, the information was refused.

When asked whether the bids had been advertised, Miss Mary Barrett, referred to in the above letter to Maragon, flew into a rage.

One reason why Senator Hoey may wish to deal lightly with the man who had so many deep freezes and yachts at his disposal was because Harry Truman, when vice president was a guest aboard the Bennett yachts.

In fact, the yachts were used for some of the famed Truman-Vaughan poker parties, and this long-time intimacy between the President of the United States and the president of the Verley Perfume company may be why Maragon felt that he could, with impunity, label his perfume as consigned to the White House and try to smuggle it through U. S. customs.

At that time—around 1945—one Bennett yacht was moored on the Potomac, another at Saugatuck, Mich., and another in Florida. Since then—perhaps because he has been less active in lobbying—Bennett has disposed of three yachts, but still keeps the Nedra B.

Bennett's government-purchased airplanes also open an interesting chapter which Senator Hoey's committee has strangely neglected. Bennett purchased, without competitive bidding, three navy Grumman JRF-6-B's, together with an army C-54 transport plane.

The C-54 was purchased by Bennett on June 24, 1946 for \$75,000. Its original cost to the government was \$375,568. The three navy Grumman were purchased for \$25,000 each on Oct. 9, 1946. Their original cost to the government was \$83,819 each. The planes were purchased in the name of the Albert Verley Co. (Copyright 1949)

The visitor promptly confiscated the entire art outfit and rushed to a telephone. Within a matter of minutes he had recruited four other distinguished illustrators and they immediately foregathered in one of their studios.

Then the five—all of them busy in their own right—set to work, each according to his special talents. The specialist in drawing pretty girls took the panel which called for one. A tennis action picture went to the expert in that type of thing. And so on, until the series had been provided for.

Thus, in a few hours the panels were completed and dispatched to their destination.

While I was calling at the hospital, one of the quintet dropped in to see how the sick man was getting along and the latter tried to express his gratitude for the contribution of his colleagues.

The visiting artist flushed and quivered: "Forget it," he growled. "There isn't one of us who hasn't been helped by you when he was in a jam."

Well, that's all there is to my story, and it could have had its setting in Canada or Latin America or Europe or Asia. But it happened in America where half the people—among whom, I suspect, my five might be placed—"have no religion at all."

Or have they? I wonder.

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

Handouts to Housewives? 'Yes' and 'No,' Say Ladies

By HAL BOYLE

New York (P)—Do American housewives want government handouts?

Well—yes and no. The girls are as divided on this question as on any other.

A few days ago I wrote a piece pointing out that legislatures have sadly overlooked the most important figure in our civilization—the housewife.

They fret about the problems of the businessman, set limits to the stint of the laboring man, and vote cash on the barrel head to protect the farmer against rainy days.

But for the woman with the pop, the lady of the house, they have voted no 40-hour week, no cash subsidies, no benefit payments, no bonuses for raising the nation's chief crop—children.

Well, should congress and President Truman set up a new cabinet post—secretary of the home? Should housewives get pensions?

Scores of ladies across the land dropped their dust cloths, sat down and wrote me how they felt. And their answer as to whether the government owed them anything boiled down to this:

1—"Yes, of course."
2—"No, naturally."

One mother wrote objecting "to the prevailing sense of values which excludes from economic consideration the work of the home woman." Her idea was that mothers mold the character of future citizens, and should be paid in some way by the state for this important function.

"We absolutely do not want any handouts from Washington. "We'd be sure to lose not only our independence to clean house how and when we please, what to cook, when to spank, what to say to the better half, but we'd have to pay some jerk 5 per cent for telling us off.

"The woman who has children and a home never mopes or is frustrated. We're too busy. We don't want any special recognition. We reap our rewards as we go along."

Yes, ma'am!!!
Who brought the subject up anyway?"

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Half the People of U.S. Have No Religion at All?

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(P) Foreign Affairs Analyst

The Bishop of London, Dr. John W. C. Wand, says he was surprised to find during his recent six weeks tour of the United States that fifty percent of Americans "have no religion at all."

The Church of England prelate remarks that in England practically everybody owns to having a religion, and "if he is not very sure about things and does not go to church regularly, he says he is church of England."

Dr. Wand doesn't define the term "religion" in his little statement.

Not being a theologian myself, but in seeking a definition, I am referred by my dictionary to the new testament—James 1:27—where I read:

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, (for man) to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keep himself unspotted from the world."

That, I take it, involves following the Golden Rule and living a correct life in the eyes of Heaven. Anyway, what I'm leading up to is a homely little story which I encountered last night.

An artist friend of mine cracked up a few days ago and is in hospital awaiting a serious operation. He is one of America's foremost illustrators, whose work all of you must have seen. When he collapsed he was just starting to do five pictures for an important rush order.

In desperation, he took this work to the hospital with him, and was struggling helplessly with his crayons when an artist friend called.

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by Harriet Hubbard Ayer

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