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Salem, Oregon, Friday, January 27, 1950

Sheldon Sackett Rides Again

Our old friend and former Salemite, Sheldon Sackett, whom the San Francisco newspapers usually refer to as the "radio and newspaper tycoon," is again in the limelight, and on his triannual binge and favorite occupation of buying or contracting to buy or promising to establish numerous radio stations and newspapers.

Three years ago he was optioning and in some cases purchasing numerous newspapers and was on the way to establish a grandiose chain of "libral" newspapers, also radio stations, throughout the western coast to put out of business the old established press, but outside of a radio station or two the scheme died abornin', since then he has been hibernating.

But a couple of weeks ago he came to life and started a weekly tabloid in Oakland. Then he bought a radio station in Seattle. Then his three bank accounts were attached to recover a \$25,000 loan.

Now it is announced in an Oakland dispatch that Sackett has purchased the building and presses of the defunct Seattle Star for \$150,000, and that he plans to publish a daily newspaper to be called the "Seattle World," with himself as sole stockholder except for qualifying shares.

"In acquiring this property, I took action because I have long and consistently felt that Seattle was entitled to a modern, progressive liberal and democratic form of journalism. The starting date will depend on the results of a very thorough study by me and my associates and me, and only then will we know whether it will be a weekly, semi-weekly or daily of standard or tabloid size.

Sackett took an option on the Seattle Star in 1947 but let the option expire four months later. The newspaper suspended publication in August, 1947, and the plant with the exception of the presses and stereotyping machinery was sold off, the circulation being sold to the Seattle Times.

Sackett owns several radio stations as well as the Coos Bay Times, was formerly part owner of the Salem Statesman. All hope his second Seattle venture will be more successful than his former one.

Cities Now Want By-pass Roads

When the state highway program was first announced 80 years ago and frequently since, every city and town in Oregon clamored for its location on its main street, causing many projects to be delayed by a dog-in-the-manger attitude of city governing bodies.

The case of Vancouver, Wn., is the latest to realize the mistake of using its business streets for main highways. Its city commission has decided that it wants a freeway to carry Pacific highway traffic around the city.

The adoption of the by-pass route was vigorously opposed by those who feared its effect on business—yet actual count shows little business materialized from through traffic—it merely creates a congestion that has the contrary effect.

The Vancouver freeway and clover-leaf plan has been designed to coincide with future highway developments. Salem needs a similar bypass east of the city and it is hoped the highway commission will materialize it shortly.

There Can Be No 'Compromise'

Should the United States keep the draft program for the armed forces or should the draft law be permitted to expire in June?

This is a question the house armed services committee is considering now. A steady stream of prominent national figures has been passing before committee questioners. Perhaps the most significant statement of those appearing was that of Defense Secretary Johnson who said the administration prefers a three-year extension of the draft law but would go along on a compromise "standby extension."

This suggested compromise is hardly any better than no draft law at all.

If the draft has been considered necessary in the past few years, there certainly is nothing present in the world today to make conscription any less necessary now.

Russia's current successes in Asia are too menacing to permit a relaxing of defense preparations by the United States. Stalin and his ruling clique have shown repeatedly that the only force they fear is force alone. General Hershhey, who administered the draft in the past war and still rides herd over the young men taken into the ranks, credits the draft with forestalling World War III.

Dropping of the draft law now would be sheer national suicide—with Russia bound and determined to conquer the world.

BY BECK

Popular People



KRISS-KROSS

Morse Believes in Doing Things the Right Way

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr.

Senator Wayne Morse showed up for a speaking engagement at a Portland breakfast club the other day sporting a day's growth of whiskers.

The senator explained that he had left his electric shaver inside a small traveling kit, and had misplaced the key. When he got



up in the morning and had to hurry off to the meeting, he had no alternative but to wear whiskers to breakfast.

Upon returning to his hotel room, he found the key standing open. Apparently it wasn't locked in the first place. A bellhop had opened it by merely sliding the lock mechanism a bit to the left.

Morse commented at a Salem Rotary program later, "It may be of interest to some of you here that I cannot even push a lock over to the left."

The pun, of course, was directed toward those who have accused Morse of left-wing ideas.

Mother Nature is again creating havoc on a certain hill near Abiqua creek in eastern Marion county.

A few years ago a portion of the hill gave way and tumbled into the Abiqua, taking county road No. 779 along with it. The county reconstructed the road 40 feet further back from the creek.

Now the hill has begun sliding again, and the road is expected to join in a genuine landslide any day. This time the county will have to abandon the road or move the hill.

Did you know that it takes a graffe 34 seconds to swim 50 feet, but that an electric eel can cover the same distance in 14 seconds?

Cealo (pronounced Seal-o) Mohawk, the underwater swimming specialist who is appearing at the Salem YMCA today, has made a life-long hobby of timing fish and animals in water. Cealo and his stopwatch have traveled the world for over 50 years timing rhinoceroses, lions, barracuda, spiders, etc.

He has compiled a pamphlet showing the swimming times of hundreds of varieties of animals, wild and domestic.

Marion county Republican and Progressive parties held their meetings simultaneously Wednesday night at the courthouse, the Republicans in one circuit room and the Progressives in the other.

The inevitable "official counter" tip-toed his way to each room. He whispers there was one more Progressive out than the total at the GOP session.

Woman, 40, Has 20th Baby
Bertram, Tex., Jan. 27 (P)—The 20th child, a baby girl, was born to Mrs. Enrique Pequeno, 40, here yesterday.

Her doctor said it was a record for child-bearing in this part of central Texas. The child is the 22nd for her 49-year-old father.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Future of West Europe Setup Depends on German 'Deal'

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

Twice in a generation Britain has suffered all but mortal wounds from German aggression. It therefore is of peculiar interest to find the high commissioner of the British zone in Germany calling for the burial of hatreds and a renewal of Anglo-German friendship.

And why should these old enemies want to be friends? One good reason is the cost of past wars to both of them, in blood and destruction.

"A second good reason," said Sir Brian, "is surely to be found in the fact that both countries today are menaced by a common peril (a reference to the communist offensive). . . . The threat to our security, our freedom and our common civilization is obvious for all to see. There is yet another reason of more general nature. Our world is contracting. Man's inventions have reduced distance and improved communications to such an extent that the nations are thrown together as it were, much more than in the past. . . ."

"England and Germany today live very close one from the other and I am very clear that they should want to be friends."

Well, now, what interpretation do we place on this speech? We have a right to assume that the general wasn't making an ordinary hands-across-the-sea address. Present in his audience were prominent Germans. He undoubtedly was speaking with the authorization of his government, and perhaps under instructions.

Sir Brian's talk, I take it, was in effect recognition of the undoubted fact that Western Germany is essential to the defensive system being created by Western Europe to meet the communist drive. To put it another way, Britain is maneuvering to gain for Western Europe the balance of power. Germany must be an integral part of that set-up.

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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Taft Gets Criticism Deleted From Demos' T-H Act Report

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—GOP Senator Bob Taft has just shown himself a real miracle worker—this time by pulling wires inside the democratic party.

Taft, generally considered the arch-enemy of labor, would be the last person expected to dictate a democratic report on the Taft-Hartley act. But that is essentially what he did behind closed doors of the senate labor committee.

Though the democrats have the votes to say what they please in any senate report, Taft managed to milk the vinegar out of a senate report criticizing the Taft-Hartley law.

Word by word, comma by comma the democrats gave in to Taft until he slashed the original, 49-page report critical of his T-H act down to 16 pages which weren't critical at all. All that is now left is an outline for future investigation, written in a gentle Sunday school language.

Two democratic senators, Jim Murray of Montana and Matt Neely of West Virginia, put up a fight against Taft. But even they backed down in order not to antagonize republican support for a \$135,000 appropriation to continue investigating labor-management relations.

The original report—before Taft pulled out the stingers—won't be released to the press, but this column has obtained a copy.

The most important section chopped out by Taft, deals with trade unionism in the south, and charges that "industrial unionism (in the south) has lagged far behind other parts of the country."

"Desire for union organization has been successfully resisted by a substantial number of employers," declared the uncensored version before Taft toned it down. "Terrorism and intimidation, often resulting in violence, is still reported in some cases, though this tendency is thought to be on the decrease."

"On the other hand . . . organized labor feels that an employer organization can do so successfully within the law, and that an increasing number of attorneys have developed expanding practices advising employers of the devices available to them in this field."

All this was blue-penciled by Taft, even though the National Labor Relations board was cited for proof. Here are some of the shocking case histories which

ance and kept waiting for the western sun that Bob Hope always talks about in his "weather" jokes. This was just a kind of Oregon "smog" and I'd soon get started on my sun tan.

And then . . . Do you know what it did? It snowed. Oh yes it did. I saw it. Big, beautiful, fluffy, snowflakes.

Not only did it snow, but I discovered a peculiar warp in the personalities of Western boys. They had been frustrated in their childhood by lack of snow and, therefore, could not express their normal snowball throwing tendencies. These tendencies held over into late teens and early twenties and usually were responsible for a good wet face full of snow almost any hour of the day.

I poured out all my sun lotion. I even stopped writing to my friends to avoid their sneers.

However, this story has an ironic ending: My father made an extended trip to the East. While there, he sent back gay post cards telling of 60 degrees temperatures and shirt sleeve apparel. Here's the twist. He left his treasured car in my possession.

How was I to know an engine block could freeze and crack in the tropical climate of Oregon? Whenever he gets that pained look on his face at having to walk, I just suggest he ride his bicycle, or better yet, canoe down the warm waters of the Mill Stream.

Then it rained. Even in Pennsylvania it rains once in a while, but not that "Yes, I know my hair looks like a dust cloth, and I don't care anymore!" kind. Still I had a sort of blind ignor-

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BY CLARE BARNES, JR.

White Collar Zoo



President and Chairman of the Board

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Bernie's Got the Answer For Men With Big Feet

By HAL BOYLE

New York (P)—It is no joke having feet big enough to stamp out forest fires.

And in pre-war days men with large kickers had real trouble finding shoes to fit them.

They got a little weary of being told, "Why don't you wear suits cases?"

And they also got tired of paying \$40 to \$75 for custom built shoes—as few stores stocked anything beyond size 11 or 12.

Bernie Lazarus became aware of this problem while selling shoes to the army during the war. He discovered about 3 per cent of the troops had extra size feet.

"Why shouldn't someone cater to these forgotten men when peace comes?" he asked a supply major.

"It's a terrific idea," said the major.

So Bernie and two friends launched the King-size Shoe company in Brockton, Mass. They guaranteed to fit any gent with a flapper between sizes 10 and 16.

The firm had 1,000 customers at the end of a year. By the close of 1949 it had 25,000 customers and better than \$250,000 turnover.

Among the customers are a museum curator, a Broadway producer, Hollywood stars, and at least one governor.

"The governor is Big Jim Folsom of Alabama," said Lazarus. "But I can't tell you the names of the Hollywood actors. They want to keep it a secret!"

He has found that many men are extremely sensitive about their oversized feet. In self-conscious letters they refer to them as "my tender white kick-

ers," "my teenie-weenies," or "my little tootsies."

Lazarus—he's a size 11½ himself—has found even in a specialty business it is commercially impracticable to stock shoes larger than size 16. But as a matter of sentiment he will try to shoe men with even "emperor-size" feet.

"The only man I wasn't able to do anything for was a famous wrestler," Bernie smiled. "He had a foot as wide as a table."

He says there appears to be no direct connection between big feet and a man's own physical size, race or occupation. So far as he knows, only one of his customers is a detective.

Customer pressure has forced Lazarus to enter the large sock field, too.

"We had trouble getting any manufacturer to make oversized socks because they thought the market was too small," he said.

"But our customers complained to wear a standard-size sock they either had to cut out the toes or else pull the heel down under the arch of their foot—which didn't make for comfort.

One hard-to-fit customer in the Philippines, fearful the firm wouldn't be in business long, ordered 50 pairs of shoes at one clip. Another wired to have his pair sent special delivery, "as I can't get married until they get here."

Bernie has no desire to solve the shoe problem of big-footed women.

"No thanks," he said, backing away at the thought. "We have our hands full now."

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