

An Invocation to Hysteria

A last-dog-in-the-manger gasp against the selected
Marion street site for the new state highway bridge lead-
ing to West Salem by the advocates of a Division street
bridge seems apparent in the warning issued by Brig. Gen.
Ralph P. Cowgill, engineer for the state military depart-
ment. He disapproves of the site because it is only one
block distant from the existing Center street span and
would make both bridges an easy target for enemy bomb-
ers.

Cowgill, who commanded the state (home) guard in
World War II, also said traffic would be hopelessly con-
gested in the Salem area if there were mass evacuation of
civilians or heavy army truck movements. The solution,
he said, was to give up the proposed site on Marion street,
and construct the bridge on Division street. That would
allow a three-block separation of approaches in Salem, and
a circuitous, wide separation of approaches in Salem, he
said.

Of the Marion street site, Cowgill said:

"One conventional type aerial bomb would knock out both
bridges. Dropped between the bridges' approach in Salem,
it would destroy them. Dropped on the under-overpass con-
nection proposed in West Salem, it would render both bridges use-
less."

This is doubtful. There is no likelihood of Salem be-
ing a target for the long range bombing from Russia. But
it applies to any site that might be selected for the bridge.
If there was any such enemy bombing, it would be by
atomic or hydrogen bombs, which are too costly to use ex-
cept on war targets, such as Bonneville, Grand Coulee, and
other power dams, on airplane factories, shipyards and
armament plants.

There is no incentive for wasting them on minor civilian
centers, and such superbombs would wreck all the clus-
tered bridges, simultaneously leaving only the Indepen-
dence bridge for transportation use.

The Marion street site has been approved by the army
engineers, as well as the army itself by the secretary of
war, and they ought to know as much about it as an irri-
gation engineer who never had combat duty or actual expe-
rience in war.

Cowgill's protest comes very late. He should have made
it before decision was reached after public hearings and
due consideration of merits and demerits. But the mili-
tary aspects were considered thoroughly and we can't halt
necessities for dread supposition of war hysteria, of scary
Willies or we'll never get anywhere, for there is no de-
fense, we are told by scientists, against these superbombs
which are too lethal probably ever to be utilized.

With regard to Gen. Cowgill's statement Tuesday, R. H.
Baldock, state highway engineer, said that a high officer
of the army air corps had advised him of the great diffi-
culty in hitting a bridge with aerial bombs and the rela-
tively few even damaged in the last war.

"With regard to handling of traffic, whether it be mili-
tary or civilian," Baldock said, "the bridge plan between
Salem and West Salem developed by the highway depart-
ment is far superior to that advocated by General Cowgill
and in addition will save the taxpayers of the state a ma-
terial sum of money."

Consistently Inconsistent Johnson

How can Secretary of Defense Johnson be willing to go
along on a paper-thin draft proposal and at the same time
encourage the setting up again of a World War II vintage
air-raid warning system?

Take the case of the draft law which expires in June.
Johnson has suggested his willingness to go along on a
compromise "standby extension" of that law. This com-
promise would amount to having the law on the books—
but that's all.

Johnson apparently chooses to overlook the time it would
take to put into actual operation a draft law that was only
on paper. Johnson overlooks the admission of his top
military command that, if war comes, it will come with a
swiftness that would leave no time for fumbling and del-
ay.

Where would Johnson find time to build military posts
(barracks, mess halls, etc.) when his air warning system
was reporting on planes or missiles that were spotted—
and doing damage?

What would Johnson do about the thousands of reserv-
ists and national guard personnel who would be called
immediately to active duty? Present camps might be
able to care for those officers and men, but what about
draftees?

At the same time, however, Johnson thinks a nation-wide
air-attack warning system should be set up. This order
apparently doesn't seem inconsistent to him after his re-
cent statement that the threat of war is less now than
previously.

When is Johnson going to talk straight out instead of
in confusion?

Destroying Nature's Balance

Central Oregon ranchers are bitterly complaining of
the ravages of rabbits, rats, gophers, field mice and squir-
rels caused by the destruction at their own request of
the coyotes by the wild life service by their new and most
effective poison, known as 1080 of "atomic propensity."

Because an occasional calf or lamb falls prey to the
coyote, the campaign of extermination has been most
effective in destroying the balance of nature. There are
no coyotes left, consequently no check upon the rodents,
which have multiplied enormously and are afflicting many
times the damage that the coyote for whom they are the
principal food.

Charles W. Trachsel of Redmond voices the rancher's
disgust in the Oregonian as follows:

"Several hundred rabbits working on a stack of alfalfa hay
can do a lot of damage, especially since the stack is at least
five tons lighter because of rodent activity last summer on
the growing alfalfa. Without the normal control provided by
coyotes our present supply of rabbits can, and very likely will,
present a very serious economic problem. This problem also
involves kangaroo rats, field mice, gophers and several squirrel
species, all of which are pronouncedly on the increase. Forage
eaten by any of these rodents will not provide beefsteak,
lamb chops or woolen mittens."

The same complaint always follows the poison destruc-
tion of so-called predatory animals, including the puma
or mountain lion that keeps the deer healthy by destroy-
ing occasionally the weak or crippled and insures the
survival of the fittest—as any old hunter will admit, of
black bear, the few remaining timber wolves as well as the
coyote, thus destroying not only is one of the chief wild
life attractions but the balance nature established to regu-
late life in the wilds.

BY BECK

Actions You Regret



KRISS-KROSS

Cupid Taking Beating on Valentine's Day in Salem

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr.

Cupid took a beating on Valentine's day morning in Salem . . .
County clerk's office in courthouse was busily engaged recording
divorces, but no one had applied for a marriage license by noon
. . . High school boy, walking with girl down country road on
way to school this a.m., said to girl, "You know, watching those
cows over there rub noses
prompts me to want to do the
same thing." To which girl re-
plied, "Go ahead, it's your cow."
. . . Cupid, where art thou?
With all the
wind we're hav-
ing lately, Old
Man Oregon
ought not to
have any diffi-
culty blowing
the candles off
his birthday
cake today. He's
91.



We've heard
of the fisherman
who left his pole at home, the
plumber who forgot his tools,
and even the reporter who got
caught without a pencil.

Now Joe Schuetz, the city
cop, comes up with a new form
of absent-mindedness, Joe, while
on duty yesterday, was seen
walking down High street minus
his badge.

Two factions were in force in
Salem yesterday—those observ-
ing the Lincoln's-birthday holi-
day, and those who struggled

through their usual blue Mon-
day . . . Parking meters took a
day off, too. Nevertheless, we
counted 49 coin-fed meters out
of 52 in one block . . . Woman
goes into drug store, puts nickel
in pay telephone, calls police
headquarters and asks if she'll
have to put nickel in parking
meter on legal holiday.

More hard luck for Don Up-
john family. Don about ready
to leave hospital after five-week
stay when his wife falls and
breaks wrist . . . Quiz question
in another newspaper reads,
"Which one of these words is
misspelled? Embezzlement, cres-
cent, pageant, fricassee." . . .
Now that's what we call a tough
question. In fact, if you can
give us correct answer, we'll
take you out to fricassee dinner.
. . . Whatever happened to all
those comic valentines that used
to bring a tint of red to so
many faces?

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
In twenty-nine days
Your taxes are due.

OPEN FORUM

Cowgill on Salem Bridge Plans

To the Editor: Representative citizens of Salem, Ore., having
asked whether as engineer for the Military department, State of
Oregon, I would approve the plan for a new bridge at Marion
street as against a Division street location, I herewith submit my
testimony given to Mr. Barnett,
chief urban branch, bureau of
public roads, at the state house
on February 9, 1950:

The plans as submitted seem
to be complete and well done,
but in selecting Marion street
as the final choice for the loca-
tion of the new bridge, the most
important factor, that of safety,
was entirely forgotten or by-
passed.

In case of local emergency, or
national emergencies requiring
evacuation, mass convoys and/or
bombing attacks, the clover leaf
construction in West Salem and
the congestive traffic in down-
town Salem in a one-block area

should be separated even farther
than Division street.

RALPH P. COWGILL
Brigadier General
Engineer, Military Dept.,
State of Oregon

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Dread Hand of Famine in China Complicates Situation

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
(Of Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The dread hand of famine again has spun the wheel of for-
tune in China and until it stops no man—either nationalist or
communist—can see what fate has in store for that war-torn
country.

Communist-occupied East China, north of the mighty Yangtze



river, is being swept by the
scourge of hunger. At least
16,000,000 people are reported
by the communist news agency
to be feeling the pinch, and
some 2,790,000 are said to be
facing starvation.

Spring, which isn't so far
away, is expected to bring wors-
ening conditions in this area.
Should the famine develop into
a major disaster, as so often has
happened in the past, it could
have far-reaching effects on the
status of the communist offen-
sive in the Far East, for China
is essential to Red success.

Small wonder that the Chinese
communists, who now dominate
most of China, are straining
every nerve to reach the rice
crops of Burma, Indo-China and
other food centers of the Far
East.

through the centuries. People
have died in untold millions.
Now with her population of 500-
000,000—more than a fifth of
all the people in the world—
there are host of folk who, quite
apart from famine, always are
hungry. There just isn't enough
food for all, and that's a con-
dition which exists in most parts
of the Far East.

So China now is very weak as
this new plague of hunger
descends on her.

It is a characteristic of many
oriental peoples that they blame
the government when disaster
overtakes them, even though it
be an act of nature. The Chinese
are that way, and the advent of
famine, on top of all their other
troubles, could easily cause an
adverse reaction to the Red re-
gime.

Propos of this it is interest-
ing to note that the Chinese new
year begins on February 17.
That ordinarily is a time of great
celebration—a time of settling
accounts—a time of looking into
the future. If conditions aren't
good during this period, which
lasts about a fortnight, then that
is a bad omen.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Recall Instituted by Gamblers
On Officials Who Won't 'Play'

(Ed Note—Drew Pearson's columns on how the national
gambling network is gripping certain of our big cities have
aroused nation-wide comment. Here is another column in the
series).

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Of all the great metropolitan sucker joints dotting
the U.S.A., none, perhaps, furnishes easier picking for the
gambling fraternity than southern California and the correspond-
ing coast of the Eastern United States Florida. And no place
in Florida has become a more lush sporting ground for the un-
derworld than the strip of castles-on-the-sand called Miami
Beach.



There Joe Adonis, partner of Frankie Costello, who in turn
is a partner of Bill Hells, the good friend of President Tru-
man's military
attache, General Vaughan, runs
the roulette wheels of the famed
Colonial Inn. There also a county
sheriff has been known to get
a campaign contribution of
\$20,000 to elect him to an office
that pays only \$7,500. And
there also the swank hotels re-
ceive up to \$125,000 annually
merely for the lease of their
bookmaking concession.

And today in Miami Beach one
of the most interesting politi-
cal moves in the U.S.A. is taking
place—a move by gamblers and
others to remove a Miami Beach
city councilman, Melvin Rich-
ard, who favors enforcement of
the law regarding gambling.

Melvin Richard was elected to
the city council with the help
of the man who is now seeking
to recall him, one Harry Plissner.
This is the most interest-
ing phase of the picture. For
the Miami Beach lesson in bi-
zarre government would seem to
indicate that the gambling kings
looked ahead months in advance
and planted their man alongside
the future councilman who later
would help to run the city.

Gamblers Look Ahead

At any rate, well before Mel-
vin Richard began running for
office, Harry Plissner made him-
self his political adviser and
later his virtual campaign man-
ager.

"We spent so much time to-
gether that my wife once in-
quired whether I was married to her
or him," says Councilman Rich-
ard. And the only thing they
really rowed about during the
campaign was Richard's anxiety
to know where the campaign
funds were coming from.

Plissner, however, brushed
him off. Furthermore, Plissner
did not disclose his own check-
ered career, and Councilman Rich-
ard did not know, among other
things, that Harry Plissner's re-
cord in Springfield, Mass., showed
that on Sept. 21, 1935, he was
twice fined \$75 for promoting a
lottery, and that on June 10,
1936, the convictions were sus-
tained.

He also did not know that
after Springfield became uncom-
mon, where he was indicted on
Jan. 24, 1938 for operating a
gambling device; with another
indictment on June 20, 1942. In
both cases he managed to escape
a guilty verdict, though mean-
while he conducted three pin-
ball machine setups near Ft.
Meade, Md., during the heyday
of the war years.

fortable Plissner moved to Balti-

"Open City" for Gamblers
All this, Councilman Richard
did not know. But he did be-
come suspicious when, immedi-
ately after election, Plissner
wanted to appoint a friend as
manager of the Bayshore Golf
course, where a bookmaking op-
eration had been conducted.

After the campaign also Plissner
changed his tune about law
enforcement.

"He told me," says Council-
man Richard, "that this strict
enforcement policy, which I had
espoused during my campaign,
made excellent campaign ma-
terial, but that if I would give
it some thought, I would realize
that it was ridiculous to carry
out such a program. He told
me that with the money and
power behind gambling interests,
even if I were able to prevent
them from operating, which he
doubted, the best I could get out
of it would be my removal from
office by recall.

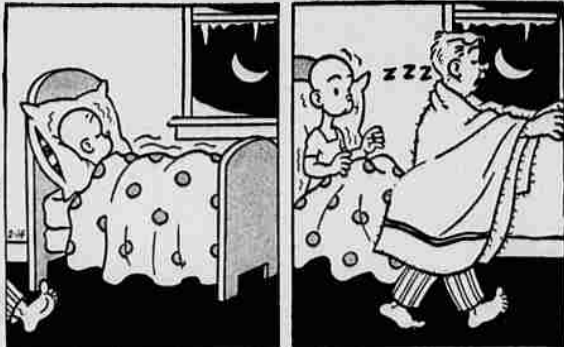
"He told me I had to be prac-
tical and meet this problem sen-
sibly, that if I refused, I would
find myself worse off than prior
to my election, and that if I went
along I would find myself an
important political figure."

Councilman Richard, however,
refused to go along; and there
was a temporary break with his
former campaign manager. Fi-
nally Plissner came back, this
time with a proposition that they
open the city to punchboards.

\$750,000 for Punchboards
"He told me," says Richards,
"that he had engineered a deal
whereby the exclusive operation
of punchboards would be given
to four men. He emphasized
that he would be one of the
four. He told me that I need
not become involved in any fash-
ion, that I would never have to
discuss the matter with anyone
else, that I would not have to
sign any papers, and that I

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

World's Champion Muskrat
Skinners Says He's Quitting

By HAL BOYLE

Cambridge, Md. (P)—The world's champion muskrat skinner
says he's going to quit tramping the marshes.
"Man, I've handled many a muskrat in my time, and I have
less now than I did when I started out 40 years ago," said Cur-
tis Inasley.

Inasley, a tall,
powerful man of
53, is to the fine
old American
art of muskrat
skinning what
Joe DiMaggio is
to baseball. At
least he is along
the tidewaters
of Maryland's
famed eastern
shore.

It came as no
surprise to him last Saturday
when he won the national mus-
krat skinning contest at the Cam-
bridge outdoor show against
trappers from Maine to Louisi-
ana.

"I really never have been beat
fair," said Inasley, "and that ain't
bragging."

To win the \$250 first prize
Inasley skinned five muskrats in
one minute, 50.4 seconds. As
usual one of his chief rivals was
George North, an older trapper.

To skin a muskrat you first go
on the marshes and catch one
with a steel trap.

In either case incisions are
made at the base of the animal's
tail. He is then skinned inside
out and separated from his pelt
by a series of rapid knife slices,
any one of which could take off
the trapper's finger. And the
pelts must be removed in mar-
ketable condition. They go into
fur coats.

Inasley doesn't think five
muskrats are enough to show
what the contestants really can
do.

"I like to skin 25," he said.
"That way you can get a hand
in it."

"I can skin 1,000 in ten hours
—and smoke a few cigarets
doing it, too."

Inasley has been out to the
marshes, the brackish waste-
lands that vegetarian muskrats
love, since he was 13.

In a single 74-day season he
once trapped 2,900 muskrats, or
about 40 a day. He works on
a share-alike basis with the own-
er of the marshland.

"I should have had a piece of
marsh myself," he said a little
wistfully. He farms and does
day labor out of trapping sea-
son. In his lifetime he has seen
the pelts sold from forty cents
to \$4.00 or more.

"I've made as much as \$1,800
in a season," he said. "But
I'll be lucky if I clear \$50 this
year."

Good pelts now fetch about
\$1.25. And the skinned mus-
krat carcass sells for 40 to 50
cents. They are listed on the
menus hereabouts as "marsh
rabbits."

"Man, they're good eating,"
exclaimed Inasley, "good as black
duck. You can fry 'em, or pot
'em—just like chicken."

Steady trapping and an in-
crease of preying natural en-
emies—owls and raccoons—have
cut down the muskrat popula-
tion.

"So far I've only taken about
100," said Inasley wryly. "I think
I'll stop 'trapping after this year.
Man, it is pretty hard to trample
the marshes all day long."

His neighbors take this de-
claration with a grain of salt,
however. They feel sure Inasley
will be out there trampling as
long as there is a muskrat still
unskinned.

VALENTINE SENTIMENTS —

Men Go for Hearts, Flowers;
Women Favor Slap-Stick Stuff

By VIRGINIA MacPHERSON

Hollywood, Feb. 14 (AP)—Today's the day for lacy Valentines
all stickied up with hearts and flowers. But you'd never know
it from the cards the gals here pick.

They're sending their sentiments in slap-stick this year. And
the cornier the better.

We turned salesgirl behind a
counter in the Valentine section
of a department store to find
out who gets more dewey-eyed
come February 14 — men or
women.

The gents win. To a man
they fell like a ton of candy
hearts for the gooey romanti-
cococtions and let the price
tags fall where they may.

But the ladies—haw! In the
first place, they're cheapskates.
More than 300 women trotted
in for Valentines in the morning
and not a one of 'em splurged
more than 15 cents.

The best sellers read: "To my
husband—on Valentine's day"
at a dime a throw.

"They weren't sugared up with
gooey sentiment either. No
lacy love-making for these gals.
They swooped down on the
humorous section and elbowed
each other for the corniest cards
on the rack.

Little ditties that went:
"I wish I wuz a cop so I could
up and jug ya."
"Then throw away the keys
and hug and hug and hug
ya."

Or:
"I ain't th' same—no time,
no place."
"Since love has kicked me in
the face." (Decorated with
a mule).

And: (Decorated with a love-
sick cow)

REVIVAL
at
FREE METHODIST CHURCH
North Winter and Market
Feb. 14-26, 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist, Rev. W. S. KENDALL
JOHN N. WALKER, Pastor Ph. 37746