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'ONE ARMED BANDITS' BACK?

What the Oregon supreme court labelled "one armed bandits"—the slot machines—have as many lives as the proverbial tom cat is shown by the ease by which the Oregon house of representatives passed House bill No. 440 designed to legalize "free-pay" pinball games Wednesday with only eight votes against it.

That many of the legislators did not realize what they were doing, though the majority did, was revealed Thursday when an effort to recall the bill was defeated by a vote of 34 to 21.

The bill would nullify an opinion by ex-Attorney General George Neuner that "free plays" are "a thing of value" and that pinball machines are of questionable legality under the anti-lottery provision of the state constitution.

The legislature passed and the governor signed a bill legalizing the sale of liquor by the drink because it was a "mandate of the voters in the 1952 general election." But there was no mandate of the voters to legalize pinball games.

It is true there was a "mandate of the people" to continue the pari-mutuels system for race gambling, but that was due to the organized effort to continue it because a share of the profits finance the various state, county and local fairs. So there is no alibi for slot machines, though their licensing brings some revenue to some cities.

The slot machines are now legally barred in 47 of the 48 states, Nevada being the exception because gambling and prostitution are the keystones of Nevada's prosperity.

The crooked slot machines, in one form or another, had been one of the country's biggest businesses of racketeers, with multimillion profits. For the first time on record, they are fairly under control in Oregon and being smashed as illegal devices.

Their suppression has been vigorously opposed all along the line—there was plenty of money in them to finance legal and legislative battles.

As is well known the "free play" pinball machines are a cover-up for over-counter pay-offs made to winners. If the bill is passed, enforcement would be difficult and evasions plentiful and in the long litigation assured, the supreme court could nullify it as it has previously. Meanwhile the golden harvest from suckers would be harvested.

THOSE FIVE-YEAR CONTRACTS

When the auto industry's five-year labor contracts with the C.I.O. United Auto Workers were being hailed as a great feat of statesmanship we entertained a strong suspicion that they would look like something quite different before the five years had elapsed. This was in 1950.

Today, early 1953, the union convention delegates voted to send this not very subtle message to the industry: "Either you agree to our requested changes (in the contracts) even though you are not legally bound to do so—or we'll have no more long term agreements when these run out in 1955."

Nor are we saying the C.I.O. is wrong. It could be 100 per cent right in vigorously seeking modification of an agreement entered into in 1950. No one could possibly anticipate developments five years ahead or even three years ahead. Changes would be sure to occur that would be burdensome on one or both parties. These would be likely to exert pressure for modification, indeed would have to if they became burdensome enough.

Labor peace for the auto industry for five long years was a pleasant dream while it lasted, but it just couldn't be a reality in this fast changing world where everybody is constantly scrambling for advantage.

VIRGINIA HONORS A NEGRO MOTHER

The state of Virginia has chosen a Negro woman, Mrs. Leah Young as its "mother of the year" to compete with mothers of the other states for the national honor, which is one of the highest this great nation has to give.

If you think racial tolerance isn't improving in the south just ask yourself whether such a thing could have happened in any southern state 10 years ago, or even five years ago. It couldn't. It is extremely significant that it happens now, and surprising.

We can hardly think of anything a southern state could have done that would have had a finer effect on the ticklish racial problem in the United States. We hear a lot about compulsory "civil rights" and F.E.P.C. bills, but they do not get to the heart of the problem, which is tolerance, kindness, sympathy, understanding between people of different skin pigmentation.

Virginia has added a new honor to a long list. It will now be interesting to see what the national selection committee does. This group will be tempted to do the dramatic thing and choose the Virginia entry, but this wouldn't be right either, unless in their opinion she merits it without regard to her race. For the equality principle works both ways.

CHRYSLER CUTS CAR PRICES

Those who have been nervous about the end of price controls, and who of us have not, are bound to be somewhat reassured by Chrysler's price reduction, which will average about $100 per car.

The cuts are not the result of lower costs of manufacture, it is pointed out. These have increased slightly in recent weeks. The fact that the automobile factories of America can turn out more cars than they are likely to be able to sell undoubtedly prompted this spectacular move.

Chrysler is bidding for increased sales by traditional competitive tactics, the best price regulator there is, when it works, which is any time productive capacity equals or exceeds market demand. The trouble has been that too much of the time in the past decade saw demand exceeding supply due to war, rearmament or government controls.

Perle Mesta to Quit Post in Luxembourg

Luxembourg (AP) — Perle Mesta, the American lady diplomat whose career hit the musical comedy stage and the movie screen, announced today she is leaving her post as minister to Luxembourg on April 13.

She was appointed by President Truman after a headline-making career as a Washington hostess and democratic party campaign worker. She arrived here on August 17, 1949.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Greedy Greek Ship Owners Repaid Us by Helping Reds

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington — In May 1951, nearly two years ago, this column revealed that certain greedy Greek shipowners who bought American Liberty ships on a shoestring, sailed them under a dozen different flags to escape taxes, then repaid American generosity by hauling contraband goods to our enemies behind the Iron Curtain. This is the same Greece which the U.S.A. supported to the tune of over a billion dollars in order to block communism.

Reason this country sold the ships at knockdown prices was to help the struggling Greeks rebuild their merchant fleet and restore their war-wrecked economy. Instead, the high-handed Tsaldaris government turned the ships over to a few private friends who lived in the St. Moritz hotel in New York, paid practically no Greek taxes, and transferred most of the ships to Panamanian and Honduran flags.

These money-minded Greeks then proceeded to grow fat and wealthy on the postwar boom and forbidden trade with the enemy. They parlayed their shoestring fleet into one of the world's largest, and lived like potentates in New York, London and Buenos Aires.

Probably the largest Greek shipowner to become a postwar millionaire at Uncle Sam's expense is Starvros G. Livanos. This column revealed on May 14, 1951, how he finagled enough certificates from the Greek government to buy 12 bargain-rate Liberty ships by making a paltry down-payment of $21,780 per ship. The maritime administration still holds the mortgage on 11 of these vessels, which have been steaming regularly into communist ports all the time Livanos has been paying the U.S. government for them.

This column also listed in 1951 a number of dummy corporations in England and Panama, used by Livanos to acquire several more Liberty ships. Usually, his financial interest was obscured, as in the case of the Compania Internacional De Vapores, a Panamanian shipping company, which bought a number of ships through front men who were American citizens. This company, for instance, was chiefly owned by S. S. Niarchos, who turned out to be a son-in-law of Livanos.

TRADING WITH REDS

At least 28 of Livanos' American-bought ships have been spotted entering or leaving communist ports. For example the W. B. Rodgers, renamed the Akti, unloaded contraband cargo at the Russian-controlled port of Dairen, Manchuria, in June, 1951, and made another trip to the Chinese communist port of Tsingtao in July, 1952. Yet the United States still held a $280,500 mortgage on the ship at this time.

Another Livanos ship, the Alexander Wilson, renamed the Alfios, also entered Dairen in June, 1951, and again in September, 1951, while it was under $280,500 mortgage to the United States. Still another, the James Ives, rechristened the Axios, not only stopped off at Dairen in March, 1951, but actually delivered war goods to Russia, itself, dropping anchor at the Black Sea ports of Novorossisk in May, 1952, and Odessa in June, 1952.

The Livanos-owned Nestos, formerly the Mary Lyon, made calls at Dairen in April, 1951; Novorossisk in May, 1952; Constantza, Rumania, in June, 1952; and Tsingtao, China, in December, 1952. The same ports were visited by the Pinios, formerly the Robert L. Hague, which steamed into Dairen in April, 1951; Tsingtao in April, 1952; and Constantza in October, 1952.

Livanos also sailed several other ships into Manchurian ports with supplies for the Chinese communist army. Some of these ships were still mortgaged to the United States, such as the former Dudley M. Hughes, Joshua A. Leach, Erastus Smith, and Louis Joliet.

ANOTHER GREEK

Another fabulous Greek shipper, exposed two years ago by this column, was Manuel Kulukundis, who started with four of the original Liberty ships and built up a far-flung shipping empire that stretched to Panama, Canada, Britain and the United States. Kulukundis' record is nearly as bad as Livanos'.

For example, the United States still held a $310,700 mortgage on Kulukundis' ship Hadiotis, formerly the St. James M. Courts, while it was delivering contraband cargo to such Iron Curtain ports as Odessa, Russia, in July, 1950; Gdansk, Poland, in September, 1950; Gdynia, Poland, in December, 1950; and Novorossisk, Russia, in November, 1951.

These same ports were visited regularly by other Kulukundis ships still under U.S. mortgage, including the former J. Maurice Thompson and Josiah Cohen. Kulukundis also owed this country $306,000 on the John F. Myers, renamed the Santorini, while it was sailing to Dairen and Tsingtao with supplies for the Chinese Reds.

This column also put the finger on several other get-rich-quick Greek shippers, including John M. Carras and Constantine Hadjipateras, who bought Liberty ships on credit from us, then used them to visit Red ports.

Under the mortgage contract, this government cannot reclaim the ships unless the Greeks miss a payment. And the Greeks, now making money hand-over-fist, are careful to miss no payments. However, the United States ought to be able to bring enough pressure on the Greek government to stop Greek citizens from dealing with the enemies of both our countries.

Note—Four of the bargain-rate Liberty ships that the United States sold to the French government have been delivering cargo behind the Iron Curtain as late as October, 1952. They are the Bastia, formerly the Andrew Carnegie; the Grenoble, formerly Henry George; the Mortain, formerly Stephen Johnson Field; and the Oyonnax, formerly Wilbur O. Atwater.

All of our European allies, it should be noted, have been trading behind the Iron Curtain, though with the understanding that this trade not include strategic materials. If it does include strategic materials, the state department undertakes to cut off foreign aid.

GAMBLING IN CAPITAL

Two pedestrians were arrested in Washington recently and sentenced to five days in jail for crossing the street against a red light. Reason for the jail sentence was because they deliberately ignored an earlier warning from the police.

However, while the Washington police are alert about nabbing jaywalkers, they might also keep an eye on some of the gambling joints operating wide open in the nation's capital. Here are some of them:

Near Fifth and G streets, almost in the shadow of Washington police headquarters, a Greek gambling game called "barboot" is being run full blast . . . Another joint is located in a hotel up 16th street, and another on 18th street, between K and L streets . . . Another gambling den has been running wide open near 14th and K streets.

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BY BECK

A Dog's Life

LEGISLATORS as Seen by Murray Wade

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Women Learn Youth Art, Now Males Had Better

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP) — Ladies, you've learned the art of staying young and lovely. Maybe there'll be more money in the bank for you now if you see that the man in your life is well-dressed, too.

I have always held that a gray-haired man looks distinguished, and a baldheaded geezer is a more romantic lover than a boudoir full of these curly-haired young male movie stars whose skulls are dandruff nests and who have to paste beaver fuzz on their chests to look virile.

Ten million American ladies say I'm right. But my wife says I'm crazy, and Albert the noted hairdresser, who isn't any kin, just says I'm wrong.

Albert, who operated a kind of masculina Fifth avenue charm school for the weary business tycoon says it is high time for the average man to steal a bit from the household budget and start peacocking himself up a bit.

"This is important both in terms of love and money," he said. "The American wife keeps her youth in middle age. She is a gorgeous strawberry or silver blonde. But her husband is a gray shadow who looks at least 15 years older. She looks like sister. He has worked hard and hasn't taken care of his appearance. So he looks like grandpa.

"But this is an age of youth and vigor. Men who are gray or bald find it harder to get promoted or land a new and better job.

"A wise man also should never lose his head—or his hair — over a woman. Because he will need both to get another one."

Kind of discouraging to us baldies. What can a man do?

"The same thing a woman does," said Albert. "He should adopt his hair style to his face."

"If he has a wide face, he should avoid close-cropped hair. It makes him look fatter. A fellow with Clark Gable ears shouldn't clip his hair short either. You can see why, yes?

A man getting baldy may cover it by changing the angle he parts his hair. He should not paste it down. A few permanent waves may thicken it, too, and give it body. There are many ways to disguise thinning hair."

Albert's main thesis is that men today need beauty salons as much as women, and he says the smart ones are getting over their shyness about going to them.

"I will bet you that maybe one out of 25 men you meet today wear a toupee, or a piece of toupee," he said. "You can wear a toupee and stand on your head with it on, go swimming, or take a shower. I have worn a toupee for four years myself, and my own mother hasn't noticed it."

Of course, Albert still has more hair of his own than he did when his mother first met him. You have to think of that.

Albert an embullient man with needle point mustaches, is an absolute enemy of gray hair.

"Who comes to me to get their hair tinted," he exclaimed. "Wall street brokers, cab drivers, a cement mixer, and TV stars. Thank heaven for TV. It has meant a lot to me.

But I tinted the hair of a truck driver who had been turned down for a job because he looked too old.

He went right out and got another job at more than $85 a week. You know who else comes in to get their hair tinted? Many clergymen. It is important, they feel, that they don't look old and gray."

In Albert's emporium an executive can dictate his mail and have it typed while he sends his suit out to be pressed and he himself gets a whirlpool bath for his aching feet, a manicure, a haircut and a tint job. He can also make long distance phone calls.

Life is really looking up for the tired business man, who now can come home and tell his wife, "Well, I certainly had a busy day at my beauty parlor. How do you like my new hair-do, by the way? It's the latest in town."

CATTLEMEN MEET TEST

(Ontario Argus-Observer)

During recent weeks cattlemen have met the test of their long term policy. They have demonstrated that they really meant it through the years when they opposed government price supports and advocated a free market, with a minimum of help or interference from the government.

The price of beef, on the downgrade for the last year or so, dropped sharply in recent weeks. There was a hue and cry for price supports to aid the poor cattlemen. But it didn't come from the cattlemen themselves. It came, instead from politicians, looking for a weak spot to crack the new administration's policy on farm price supports.

Recently Western Livestock Journal, the most widely circulated trade publication in the livestock industry in the western states, polled its readers and found them 90 per cent opposed to government support of beef cattle prices.

This lines up with the traditional policy of the cattlemen. In former years they could be accused of opposing price supports because the price of their product was high and they didn't need price supports.

Now the situation has changed. The price of their product has dropped sharply, but they continue their stand in favor of a free market, proof that they really meant it all along.

The opinion of Malheur county and eastern Oregon cattlemen lines up with the industry as a whole. The first thing we noticed when the furore over dropping beef prices occurred in Washington, D.C., was that our own local cattlemen weren't much concerned over dropping prices. It was just part of the business and they felt they could cope with it.

OPEN FORUM

Legislative Watchdog Stirs Oz' Suspicions

To the Editor:

Those who have followed legislative sessions down through the years are inclined to view with suspicion the alleged watchdog of the treasury, who howls economy when appropriations are headed the other way, but barks a welcome when headed in his direction.

Such an occasion once prompted a legislator to remark:

"How sweet to hear the watch dog's bark bay deep mouthed welcome as we draw near home."

OSWALD WEST.

GEN. VAUGHAN WINS O.K.

Washington (U.P.)—The senate armed services committee yesterday approved President Eisenhower's nomination of Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, former militray aide to ex-President Truman, to be a major general in the army reserve for an indefinite term.

Salem 17 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

March 27, 1936

The Dalles chamber of commerce sent a demand today to the federal government asking that action be taken to clean up unsanitary conditions at the Indian fishing settlement at Celilo Falls. The village has no refuse disposal facilities and in summer months the odor from the village drives away tourists stopping to view the falls.

Salem will be on parade tonight for annual spring opening. The feature will be six Shetland ponies drawing two wheeled carts.

Because the state's annual telephone bill is $84,500, nearly $33,000 for long distance, Public Utilities Commissioner McColloch advised the board of control today to give "consideration" to construction of a state owned telephone plant.

A mythical "ehemy" will advance to attack Salem April 19, in the greatest war games ever held in Oregon, Major C. S. Petee, executive officer of the 382nd infantry, revealed today.

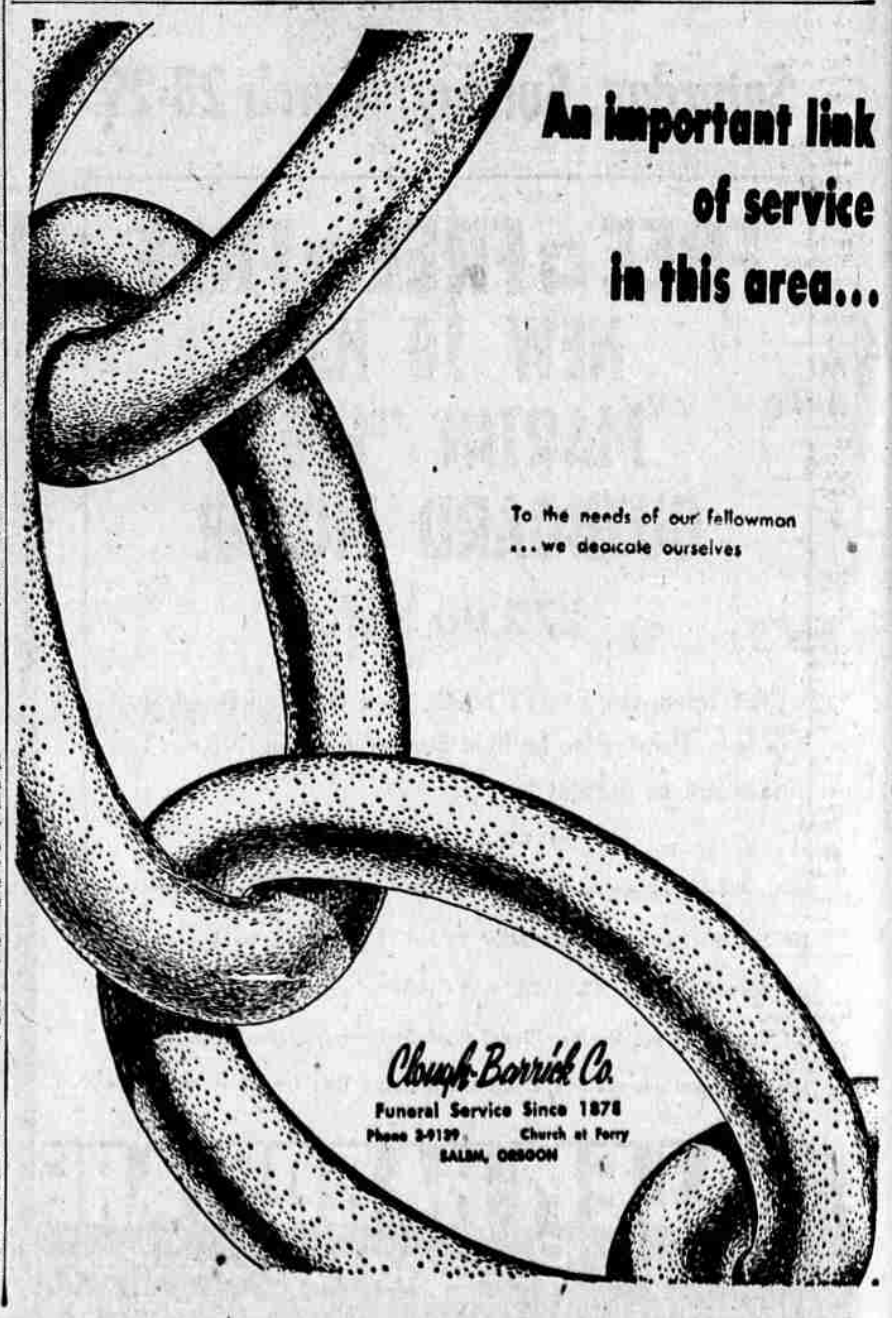
A new Oregon stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first settlement in the Oregon Country will be issued this summer.

Federal Judge Fee of Portland yesterday approved as to form a petition for reorganization of the Charles K. Spaulding Logging company under section 77 of the national bankruptcy act. The company has 737,000,000 feet of timber in Polk and Benton counties, sawmills in Salem and Newberg and planing mills in Salem and McMinnville.

Donald Young, Salem attorney, offered today to build the state a new office building providing the state would lease it for a period of three years. Young proposed to construct a one-story structure of concrete containing 17,500 square feet of floor space to be leased at a monthly rental of 4½ cents a square foot.

The State of Oregon on March 15, of this year owned a total of 1536 automobiles, trucks and other motor operated equipment. Approximately 843 of these vehicles are operated by the highway department.

Many men who have been employed with WPA throughout the winter months are finding jobs agian with private enterprise, Jim Smith, director of District No. 3, reported today.

A mass meeting of Polk county prune growers will be held at Dallas March 27, to hear about and discuss the new working agreement proposed by the Oregon Prune Control board.

Giant tortoises can distinguish between shades of green and blue, says the National Georgraphic Society.