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BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

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BALDOCK ON STREET TRAFFIC GRID

Because of agitation for abandonment of the one-way street traffic grid in the business center of Salem after a brief experience and a return to two-way congestion that occasioned universal complaint, the Capital Journal has condensed an interview on the proposal with R. H. Baldock, sponsor of the plan which has his name.

Mr. Baldock has been engineer with the state highway commission since 1915 and its chief engineer since 1932. He is nationally recognized as one of the foremost highway engineers of the country, is a past president of the National Association of State Highway Engineers and was recipient of the George H. Bartlett award in 1952, for highway engineering accomplishments.

A summary of his remarks on the local situation follows:

The experience with one-way traffic streets in Oregon has demonstrated that one-way grid systems provide better circulation of appreciably larger volumes of traffic and reduce the accident rate, in comparison to those on two-way streets. In general, the increased capacity has ranged from 30 to 50 per cent and the reduction in accidents has varied between 12 and 44 per cent, depending on local conditions.

Salem's experience with a one-way grid in the central business district has had only a two-month duration and it is, therefore, not possible to make a before-and-after comparison over any extended period of time. However, in the two month period there has been an approximate five per cent reduction of accidents on the one-way grid with reference to the city streets alone, exclusive of the highway one-way couplet.

In general, experience has shown that there is a tendency for the accidents to increase with the installation of one-way streets until the people can become accustomed to the new convention. The record indicates that thus far Salem people have been quite slow in responding to the changed conditions, as illustrated by the fact that during the first year of the operation of the one-way couplet along the highway route through Salem the accidents actually increased 12 per cent. During the second year the accidents decreased 6 per cent in comparison to the period before the installation of the one-way couplet.

In general, most of the accidents are the result of conflicts at the street intersections, and the one-way streets do minimize this condition. There are 44 possible conflicts, in the instance of a nonsignaled intersection comprised of two two-way streets, which are completely eliminated in the instance of a signaled intersection comprised of two one-way streets.

It is interesting to observe the effect on the accidents on the one-way couplet after the installation of the complete one-way grid in the downtown section. The records show that the accidents on the highway couplet in the two-month period, October-November, when the one-way street grid was in operation, were 31 per cent less than the accidents that occurred before the installation of any of the one-way traffic streets. This decrease in accidents is due entirely to the reduction of conflicts that the one-way grid makes possible.

In summation, any system of traffic control depends upon cooperation by the public. It is necessary for the public to become educated before the efficiency of the traffic plans can be judged. In other words, there is a transitional educational period necessary before appreciable benefits can be gained. That the potential benefits there cannot be disputed. The record in Salem and elsewhere proves this conclusively. The response to the one-way grid has been much faster than the response to the one-way couplet and, if a reasonable period of time is given, maximum benefits can be attained. These benefits consist of increased mobility, savings in time, lack of confusion and reduction in accidents.

It is necessary in a one-way operation that the driver plan the route to his destination to avoid confusion and delay to himself. As soon as the one-way plan is understood, the driver can reach a destination from any point of origin in the shortest possible time with the least possible effort. It is certain that, with the increase in traffic in Salem, the condition in the central business district would soon become intolerable with two-way operation, and it will be necessary to make some drastic regulations to prevent the congestion which will severely handicap the business district.

At the present time, Salem is making a drive to gain industries which, if successful, will augment Salem's population and wealth. Increased population will bring increased traffic, and it appears necessary to adopt the most modern methods in order to minimize traffic congestion and, incidentally, to preserve property values in the central business district, as, otherwise, the fringe shopping districts will grow space to the detriment of the property values in the central business district.—G. P.

CANCELLING CITIZENSHIP UNNECESSARY

President Eisenhower's proposal that persons convicted of conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government by force be deprived of their citizenship is likely to cause more controversy than many more important sections of his message to congress.

The United States has stringent laws against various forms of subversion, as the execution of the Rosenbergs last year for giving atomic secrets to Russia dramatically attests. Prison and death may be inflicted, depending upon the specific charge.

We deport aliens convicted of crimes and we sometimes cancel citizenship if gained by foreigners through fraudulent means. This has been attempted without success as yet in the case of Harry Bridges.

But the president proposed to go farther and revoke citizenship even of persons born in this country. This will presumably require a constitutional amendment. So far as we can recall it has never been seriously considered before.

Is such a drastic move called for now? We do not think so. Present legislation seems ample to take care of violent subversion and if it isn't it can be strengthened. Cancellation of citizenship, once provided for, could be abused in actual administration and could be a precedent for extension of the offenses for which it could be imposed.

It looks like a dangerous, unnecessary move to us.

HOW'D IT GET THERE?

WASHINGTON (UP)—An American Robin has turned up in the British Isles, and what the National Geographic Society wants to know is: Did it fly there or thumb a ride?

NO ATROCITIES, PLEASE

WASHINGTON (UP)—The army said today it has cancelled a filmed television program on Communist atrocities in Korea at the request of the State Department.

THE YEAR AHEAD



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Truman Writing 10,000 Words of History Daily

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—A lot of people have been asking me if it was true that I had a visit with Harry Truman in Kansas City the other day, and if so, what he said to me and I said to him. The answer on point 1 is in the affirmative. The answer on point 2 is that we had an extremely pleasant talk.

If anyone was looking for fireworks I'm afraid they'll be disappointed.

I went out to Kansas City to interview Mr. Truman for a television program opening this week in which I wanted to ask him about "red herrings."

Since the interview, most people have seemed more interested in the personal side of the visit, doubtless remembering some differences of opinion we once had over Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan, of whom I was critical and to whom Mr. Truman was loyal. That came up only in a very direct manner.

Mr. Truman has a rather modest office in the Federal Reserve Bank at which he arrives just as early as he did at his desk in the White House. Though now 69 years old, he looks in the pink of condition, younger and more rested than he did as president. When I told him so, he replied: "I feel better than I deserve."

Around his office were shelves lined chiefly with history books. "I've always read a lot of history," he said. "And now I'm trying to write some myself."

Writink History
On his desk was a huge stack of mail, and when I remarked on it, he said "I get about 1,000 letters a day and do my best to get it answered. A lot of it has to be answered personally. But my job is getting this book written. I try to finish about 10,000 words a day."

"As one who makes his living writing," I observed, "that's quite a chore."
"It's only in rough form," Mr. Truman explained. "My research staff comes in and I dictate from memory my recollection of events. Then they check my memory back against dates and the written record. We've already finished about one volume."

"Sometimes," mused Mr. Truman, "I wish I hadn't undertaken these doggone memoirs. By the time I finish paying taxes I won't have any profit from them. But I wanted to do this for history. I went through some important and tumultuous years and I think it's my duty to record them."

"This country has given me a lot, and one thing I want to do when I finish these memoirs is to go out and lecture at colleges about the duties and obligations of citizenship. I want to talk to the youngsters, not the older people, and tell them what a great country this is and the obligation they have to keep it that way."

Critic of Press
Mr. Truman talked of many things, much of it off the record. "Whenever you wrote anything mean," he said, "Roy Roberts would play it up in the Kansas City Star. Whenever you wrote anything nice about me, he would omit your column altogether. It gave me and others a lopsided opinion of what you were writing."

"That's the trouble with the newspapers today. They only want to print one side of the story. Roy Roberts blames me for indicting him, but the fact is I didn't know about it until well after the justice department had begun the case."

The ex-president made no criticism of President Eisenhower, though he did talk about some of the big problems facing him.

Gold Is Gold

By RAYMOND MOLEY

I wish to disclaim any intention to associate myself with the anti-anti-communists in noting here that some current fears of Russia seem a bit silly to me. Foremost among the hysterical proposals included in that classification is the suggestion that the United States refuse to take any Russian gold and gold "suspected of being Russian."

There is no mystery about the gold that has recently been coming out of the Soviet. It is shipped almost entirely to get consumer goods, presumably to improve the standard of living which Malekov deplored in his speech last summer. We should, so far as we can, see that no strategic articles or materials go behind the Iron Curtain, regardless of how the price for them is paid. But to try to determine which gold comes from Russia and which comes from somewhere else is to waste precious energy.

Such an effort would have no effect upon the Soviet regime and it would not help us economically. In fact, it would cost us some trade that we need. For the result that could be expected would be to provide an excuse for some European countries to cut trade with us still more and to increase their trade with the Soviet. It would also provide ammunition for the Communist propaganda machine. They would be sure to say that even when they try to improve world relations, we refuse to cooperate.

The other evening I heard a man say that the gold that the Soviet has been using in trade recently is simply the gold that they seized in Spain during the Civil War these several years ago. That for him seemed to clinch the argument—how, I am unable to fathom. I certainly do not know whether this is Spanish gold or not, and I certainly believe that my friend does not know either. I also believe that it makes no difference now. It seems to me that such arguments lack rationality.

I do know that in those days nearly 21 years ago, when it seemed safe to feel out the intentions of Soviet Russia and when they had agents over here trying to buy things that they needed, the question of their using gold came up. At that time, from March to September 1933, I happened to be charged by the President with such relations as the State Department had with the then unrecognized Soviet Russia.

Over and over, representatives of Amtorg came to talk about what the Russians were anxious to buy from us. These talks were almost always interesting but fruitless. They wanted exactly the things that the United States desperately wanted to sell. But when it came to the question of what they were to use for money, the conversations lagged. Time after time, I asked whether

Salem 29 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
January 8, 1925

John C. Vetch, Portland attorney, had been selected by Governor Whitler M. Pierce as successor to T. W. Ross as state fish commissioner.

Morris Whotthouse had been chosen architect for Salem's new YMCA building. Plans had been promised within six weeks and then construction was to follow immediately.

Charles Evans Hughes had resigned as secretary of state to be succeeded by Frank B. Kellogg of Minnesota, then ambassador to Great Britain.

Estate of George F. Rodgers, Salem banker killed in a local plane accident, had been appraised at \$84,420.

Ella M. Finney, living on Salem-Champoug road, had appealed to Roadmaster Culver in an effort to save an old oak tree and a landmark along that highway from impending destruction.

A new evening school of religious education had been established at Kimball school of theology in Salem.

Extensive preparations were being made to observe thrift week in Marion county.

Those Junkets

Chicago Daily News

Critics of one sort or another have been licking their chops expectantly ever since Rep. Hoffman (R., Mich.) made the heretical proposal that congressmen should reveal the expense accounts they turn in for foreign travel.

Some of these junkets, of course, are plainly scandalous, a thin excuse for a vacation lark at public expense. All that many such "investigators" learn on their travels is the potability of the local beverages and the quality of entertainment in the night clubs.

There is, however, distinctly another side to the matter. The most cursory study of our foreign operations is enough to reveal a profligate waste of taxpayers' money. Visiting congressmen may be wasting money themselves, but they also get supplied with enough information to register an informed protest when appropriations time rolls around.

Publicity on the cost of junkets would be a healthy way to keep expense accounts reasonable. It should not obscure the fact that the money so spent could pay handsome dividends in future economies.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Mink-Made Man Adds to Fortune With Gold Mine

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Col. Frank C. Gotlier is a mink-made man.

"I never inherited a penny in my life," said the colonel, who is perhaps the only man in America who wears a mink coat and also owns a mink mine, 400 hogs, 1,400 acres of Iowa bottomland and a Colorado gold mine.

"Of course it's just an old gold mine," he explained modestly. "I bought it for the taxes on it."

"I suppose there are any number of people who own gold mines. But the only other fellow I ever heard of who had his own mink coat was that Russian they called Rasputin. After he got himself killed the Russian government sent his coat over here, and it sold for \$2,500, although it was 25 years old."

To the colonel this is sound proof that a mink coat wears better than a Russian political figure.

Gotlier, a stalwart 6-foot 3 man of 65, is the dean of U.S. mink ranchers and a pioneer in the breeding of new fur types. "Mink has fascinated me all my life," said the colonel, who came here to sell 2,000 pelts. "I trapped 'em as a boy near my home at Anthon, Ia."

"I had a good home, but left it at 12 because the farm was too small an operation for a family of seven."

"I wanted to be independent and make my own way. So I went out to South Dakota and rode the range before they even had a railroad. When I married, I figured that was no life for a married man, so I came back to my old home town, took a small piece of land and settled down."

They had any gold. We were not so flush with gold then. Their answer was that they had lots of gold in the hills but little in the treasury.

When I asked why they didn't dig some out, these traders would look helpless and say that such a matter belonged to some of the Commissars—and that they had no influence over it. They were sure, however, that there was plenty of unmined gold in Russia and that its whereabouts was known.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that some digging has been going on during these years since and that the product is what is getting into world trade now.

There are \$60 billion in gold in the world's monetary supply, of which we have 22 billions and Russia an estimated 5.5 billions. So there is plenty of gold in Europe to shuffle about. It would not be difficult for countries over there to segregate the Russian gold and to use their own in transactions with us. This would very simply defeat any effort on our part to keep Soviet gold from our shores. There are other ways to fight the cold war than an effort of that kind.

In 1916 Gotlier, whose life is a fur-lined romance, began breeding mink, but didn't make a dollar out of them for 17 long years. He made the farm pay his living and the cost of his breeding experiments.

He became one of the nation's best known fur judges and a top auctioneer. His title of auctioneer, conferred by the state of Iowa, is a tribute to his work at more than 1000 auctions.

"My dream was always to create a better mink," he said. "Over the years I cross-bred six species from Alaska and Canada. I've produced mink in 12 different colors."

"Right now I'm interested in white mink and buff mink, because they're new. I always like to do something new. I get one white mink out of every 16 I produce."

"I've been told several times that this is impossible because it violates the mendelian laws of heredity. But my mink never heard of the law you never can tell what a mink will do."

The colonel wears a hat made of wild jackrabbit fur.

"We feed the mink wild jackrabbits by the ton, he explained. "We also feed 'em horsemeat, herring, buttermilk, cereals, yeast and tomato juice."

"Mink responded to this nourishing diet by being amazingly cooperative in the colonel's breeding experiments. A mink born in May will produce an average litter of four kits one year later. But except for those kept to restock the herd, the mink born in May are electrocuted and pelted the following December."

"I don't know of any animal that grows so fast," said the colonel.

The mink have an all-round value in peace and war. Their fur is made into fine garments to clothe lovely ladies, their carcasses are ground into tankage and fed to hogs. Their grease is made into glycerine and winds up in high-explosive shells.

Col. Gotlier, who did as much as any man to turn this wild little creature into a multi-million-dollar ranch animal, says he has a deep respect for mink.

"They're naturally vicious," he said, "but they're the greatest mothers in the world. They're good to their kits."

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