

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

The Capitol Museum. The Capitol is in a state of official mourning which will continue for thirty days from the date of President Roosevelt's death. The City of Washington, being accustomed to big news breaks and sudden shocks, has apparently quickly absorbed the recent world-shaking event, and business goes on as usual. One thing is clear, however, and that is Franklin Delano Roosevelt is going to take a place in history along with the greatest. He not only served longer as President than any other, but he was President during the depths of economic depression and during war-time affluence. He was President while the seeds of the present war were germinating, and he was war President almost to the time of final victory. Whatever his critics say of other phases of his administration, Mr. Roosevelt was eminently successful as Commander-in-Chief in the prosecution of the war.

Truman as President. The question most people are asking now is, "What kind of President will Mr. Truman make?" I cannot attempt to answer that question, but like nearly everyone else, I am willing to discuss it.

As Senator, Harry Truman was a hard-working, conscientious man. He was not classified as one of the New Deal Senators. In fact, many of the reports made by his special committee which investigated war contracts were sharply critical of the Administration. Other than for the excellent work done by his committee, which was known as the Truman Committee, Senator Truman was just an average Senator—able, effective, but not outstanding.

Quite likely, President Truman will be about the same kind of a President that he was a Senator. President Truman is a modest man and a very genuine sort of person.

Although Truman is not a New Dealer, he is a Party man. As a good Party supporter and a Democratic Senator, Truman, while in the Senate, generally voted in support of Administration policies. But as everyone knows, there is a sharp cleavage in the ranks of the Majority Party, the New Deal Left Wingers on one side, and the normal and conservative Democrats on the other. Since the late President Roosevelt headed the party organization while this cleavage was developing, he had little difficulty in keeping the sup-

port of both factions. It does not seem likely that Truman can do the same.

Whatever political problems may arise to plague President Truman in the future, he has taken over the office in an atmosphere of general approval and of sympathy for the gigantic task with which he is faced. He quite evidently has the whole-hearted good will of the Congress. He has already let it be known that he will appeal to the Senators and Representatives for advice and counsel.

It is not considered like that Mr. Truman will make any changes in the Cabinet immediately. He will, of course, install people of his own choice in the secretarial staff, and will reorganize the White House to suit his own ideas. This will doubtless mean the elimination of Harry Hopkins, Judge Rosenman and others.

After the San Francisco Conference, it is expected that Frances Perkins, Francis Biddle and possibly Postmaster General Frank Walker and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau may be replaced.

Apparently, Truman will make a very careful selection of the individuals he names on important jobs, and having named them, will give them ample authority and expect them to carry on without further coaching from the top.

F. S. A. Progress Report For 1944

Farmers in Coos and Curry counties cooperating with the Farm Security Administration made outstanding progress during 1944 in food production, debt repayment and improved farm operations, the annual report of P. C. Ingell, Acting County FSA Supervisor, Bank Building, Coquille, reveals. Since inception of the program in 1935, almost 300 farm families have received financial and management assistance of some kind through the local office.

Performance records on 1944 farm and home plans indicate a substantial increase in all important food production categories for the third consecutive year, including milk, meat, poultry, feed crops and food for home consumption, it was pointed out. Canning of fruits and vegetables for home use showed an average of 564 quarts per family, with some running as high as 900 quarts. This was in addition to freezer locker and food cellar storage of meats, fruits and vegetables.

Payment of indebtedness by FSA families was the highest in the history of the program with local collections totaling \$39,718.00 during the past year. Over 45 families paid their loans in full, many ahead of schedule. During the same period loans totaling \$64,864.00 were made. While making repayment on their indebtedness, many FSA families also purchased war bonds.

Considerable progress was made toward goals set up last year by the County FSA Committee in improving farm operations through loans and management assistance to increase the number of high producing dairy cows, made adequate farm machinery available, and carry out improved farm and home practices, Ingell said. Much of the credit for the fine showing made goes to the work of the County FSA Committee which reviewed loan applications, advised on the program and helped adapt it to local conditions and problems. Members of the committee include J. Q. Corrie, Bullards; A. R. Davenport, Catching Creek; Myrtle Point; E. Deltelsen and J. J. Geaney, Coquille.

Fernomaniac Season Is Now Approaching

"What makes a man match-happy in the spring of the year when he gets in a fern patch?" This is a question which Mrs. Stella Cutlip of North Bend, county "Keep-Oregon-Green" chairman, will try to help solve with the aid of the Keep Oregon Green committeemen and other citizens of this county. "If we can find out why people set fern fires, maybe we can remove the cause and save thousands of acres of junior forests which burn up every spring in fern fires in Oregon," the county KOG leader said.

Labeled as fernomaniacs by Dr. O. R. Chambers, Oregon State College physiology head, fern burners last year destroyed 1800 acres of fine young timber, future Oregon forests, and 25,000 acres in 1943.

DEEP SEA FANTASY. Powers Annual Senior Ball, April 28. Admission, \$1.75 a couple, \$1.00 per person. Music by Jack Ellis. Everyone welcome. 1945

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Out-of-Doors Stuff

BY LAWRENCE

Have you ever observed closely the flight of the humming bird? It is the only bird in existence that can fly backwards. The accuracy of this tiny, speedy bird's flight is something to marvel at. We have observed them flying at a high rate of speed and without an instant's hesitation, diving straight through the small aperture of a woven wire fence. The speed of this little winged bullet is simply marvelous. His migration from the Florida coast to South America is accomplished in a single night. Yes, the little fellow migrates during the night.

Contrary to general opinion, the humming bird does not exist entirely from the nectar of flowers, but is an insect eater as well and is very fond of spiders.

They are very nifty and will not hesitate to actually attack man if he interferes with their nest. Like small dive bombers, with a roar of tiny wings, they will sweep down upon the person who dares to trespass in the near vicinity of their nests. They are very hardy, braving severe storms at times in their flight. Yet the bullet from a high powered rifle, fired within a few inches of their head will bring death instantly. They are very persistent in securing their food. At one time while observing one hanging suspended upon brilliantly-hued wings and poised above a blossom on a flowering bush, dipping its long bill into the flower, we were startled to see a house cat leap high in the air and pull the little bird down. We dashed from the house, overtook the cat and by putting pressure upon his throat, forced him to open his jaws and release the tiny captive. And much to our astonishment, the little fellow took to the air with a great buzzing of his tiny wings. He soared back and forth above our heads for several minutes as though testing out his wings and then darted straight back to the flowering bush, poised above the identical flower he had been seeking nectar from before the rude interruption of his repast and again plunged his long bill into the flower.

Even the tom cat's face seemed to register astonishment at such bravado on the part of the little feather rainbow. I chased the cat home and re-entered the house, feeling that I had been accorded a special privilege in witnessing such an scene and the demonstration of such courage as shown by that golden-hued torpedo of the air. While at the same time, I could not help feeling grateful concerning the fact that the huge crane, with his powerful wings and long pointed beak did not possess the courage and audacious nature of the humming bird, for if such were the case, they would prove a real peril to the existence of man.

Our common robin red-breast is a rather cocky bird himself and aside from engaging a hawk in conflict, the robin does not back up for any other bird. We observed with interest the attack by a robin upon a wild band-tailed pigeon a few years ago. The pigeon had alighted upon the branch of a dead snag, evidently a favorite observation post of the robin. Suddenly, the latter appeared and with outspread wings alighted near the pigeon. The robin started emitting sharp angry chirpings, edging ever closer to the band-tail. The latter slowly retreated along the limb, the robin following closely, beating at the pigeon with his wings and pecking sharply at him. Finally, the end of the limb was reached and by a final desperate onslaught the pigeon was forced to abandon the limb and fly to a distant tree.

Robins are forever fighting among themselves. Their song is beautiful, a song that is whole-throated and silvery and one that heralds the approach of spring. It is almost unbelievable that a songster possessing the pugnacious nature of the red-breast, could possibly be the possessor of such a cheerful song; for it is a song that serves to bring happiness to the heart, to make a person feel thankful to be alive. Carefree and lulling, it is soul-inspiring to the listener. In our opinion, it puts to shame the music created by man, music played by different musical instruments. Yes, the song of the robin, coming with the dawn, with its care-free cadence echoing in tune to the song of the forest streams, the faint whispering of the big trees, a song flung to the far open spaces, is truly a blessing to mankind; an inspiration offered up by the Great Out of Doors and seemingly sponsored by the Red Gods of the Forest as an early offering of the first days of Spring. A song to convey hope and courage and to instill heart into the worker, as he starts his daily task.

He who pauses to lend an ear to the warblings of old red-breast will not regret it. He who fails to do so is missing a lot in life.

Colling cards, 50 for \$1.00.

Hose are being rationed! Get your order in now at Amy's. Amy also is taking orders now for the Hoover white uniforms, priced from \$2.98 to \$5.98, and has the lovely white, sheer rayon hose to be worn with them. The dainty, lace-trimmed uniforms in pastel shades, and the white aprons that look so well with them have come in, too. 1412s

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THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"Judge, remember that place up in the mountains where we went trout fishing last year?"
"I sure do, George. We had a great time up there, didn't we?"
"I'll never forget it. But this will interest you, Judge. I heard just yesterday that the revenue men raided a big still right near there. Guess that's where all that high-priced moonshine we heard about has been coming from."
"Wouldn't be a bit surprised. I saw in the paper the other day where the Government has raided thousands of such stills during the past year."

"Sounds sort of reminiscent, doesn't it, Judge?"
"Exactly and it's not hard to figure out. As soon as the distillers stopped making whiskey and devoted their entire facilities to the production of industrial alcohol for the Government... the racketeers muscled in again."
"I hate to think of how that might have spread, Judge, if the Government hadn't found it possible, without interfering with our war effort in any way, to permit a short resumption of legal whiskey production recently."

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