

Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON.

MARCH 30, 1950.



OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

Dirty Work At The White House

No, this is not about the Reds but about another breed of propagandist that has been using the renewal of the White House for dirty work. The bunk that these babies have been peddling, with many a Washington correspondent and commentator swallowing the bait, is that wood has failed in the structure of the home of the Presidents.

Even the standby bogey of termites was brought into the story, without any basis of fact whatever. "Smear wood" was the order of the day in a campaign to demolish the historic building which is a symbol of great traditions and of history's mightiest events to the American people. There was no conscience and no patriotism in the proposal. All that was considered was the opportunity afforded to deal lumber as a competitive building product, a body blow—a body blow below the belt.

But the lumber industry associations have engineers of their own, able at their profession and willing to fight. They pitched in and produced the facts of the trouble in the innards of the White

House. They won support from neutral engineers of highest standing. Their good work means more than can be measured to every man who is drawing a paycheck from the lumber industry and is looking forward to a future in it for his children.

These paychecks and futures depend on continuing good markets for wood.

The Real Story

The truth about the White House and its need for renewal was told in the November issue of "Civil Engineering" by W. E. Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings, Washington, D. C., and member of the Society of Civil Engineers. The story was simply told, so that even I could understand most of it. It is a story of wood standing up under well-nigh unimaginable abuse.

"It is a tribute to the toughness of good timber that it has successfully withstood such abuse for so long," says Commissioner Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds describes three major operations on the White House, beginning with the fire set by the British in 1812, and big repair and remodeling jobs of

1902 and 1927. In 1902, for example, a brick bearing wall that was a main support of the second story was taken out and 10-inch steel beams were substituted. The old wood girders were ruinously notched at the supporting ends to receive the beams. This left about five inches of the original 18-inch of the girder timbers to carry the load—yes, 5 inches out of 18! Can you imagine it?

"How any timber could stand up for 45 years under such treatment is hard to imagine—force of habit, perhaps," says Engineer Reynolds. "No indication of decay was noted in the timbers resting on the brick walls, now was there any structural evidence of termite infestation."

The article by the Commissioner of Public Buildings in the national capital gives examples that might be made to cast discredit on materials that compete with wood. The lumber industry association engineers are not using them as propaganda, however. They are gentlemen and scholars, only a little this side of the angels.

Origin of Wood Smearing

Seems to me I've mentioned before in this space how in 1926 I attended a New York gathering of newspaper and advertising men and there heard the story of how the foremost "public relations expert" of his day had earned a fee that would choke a sawmill hog by inventing the wood smear as an instrument for wood's competitors.

It was a mixture. One element was to propagandize buyers of wood with the story that "the forests will soon be gone, so switch to other products now before you are forced into it." Another was the termite terror. Another was the fire fear. Another: "Wood won't last." There were numbers more.

In 1926 the advice of the public relations expert was working. It still is. Despite the fact that all the great losses of life and property in recent years from building fires have been in so-called fire-proof buildings, the fire fear propaganda is even sneaked into building codes. The foresters of the lumber associations have been kicking the straw man of disappearing forests into flinders. Now the timber engineers are fighting with fist and boot against the other landers. Let's all help!

New Officers Named By V.F.W.

Officers for the coming year of Coquille Post 985 Veterans of Foreign Wars will be Commander, J. E. Irwin; Senior Vice, Kenneth L. Neil; Junior Vice, Woodrow J. Forney; Quartermaster, Robert F. Coon; Post Advocate, Lawrence O. Gulseth; Chaplain, Glenn B. Rice; Surgeon, Michael Broad; Trustee, Archibald Jacobson; Adjutant, John A. Montelius; Officer of the day, Donald G. McGilvery.

Officers will be installed at a special meeting in Coos Bay Sunday, April 2, at a mass installation ceremony.

Commander-elect Irwin urges all members to attend who can possibly do so.

Coquille Places Up In Talk Contest

The southwestern Oregon district high school speech contest, held at Marshfield high school on Thursday and Friday, resulted in North Bend high students taking four first places and one second; Marshfield, three firsts and four seconds; Coquille one first and two seconds, and Ophir, one second.

First and second place winners are eligible to enter the state tournament.

Winners included: Impromptu speaking, Nick Harrington, North Bend, first; Mike Daughenbaugh, North Bend, second; extempore speaking, Connie Boileau, North Bend, first; Duane Leach and Mae Dean Green, Coquille, tied for second; panel discussion, Nick Harrington, North Bend, first; Walter Lee, Marshfield, second.

Persuasive speaking, Leonard Alto, Marshfield, first; William Lever, Ophir, second; humorous reading, Jeanne Brainard, Marshfield, first; Gall Savage, Marshfield, second.

After dinner speaking, Jimmy Allison, Marshfield, first; Jeanne Brainard, Marshfield, second; poetry reading, Pat Reed, North Bend, first; Kay Hudson, Coquille, second; radio division, Gerard Jeub, Coquille, first; Gary Hewitt, Marshfield, second.

GIRL FOR HIM

Joseph Cotten, starring in Hal Wallis' "September Affair," met his future wife, Lenore Kip, when she "doubled" for him at the piano off stage in an amateur play in Miami.

43 YEARS IN SHOW BUSINESS
Raymond Walburn, who is Bing Crosby's sidekick in Frank Capra's "Riding High," celebrated his 43rd anniversary in show business during the making of the Paramount picture.

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Trust Truth, not error; and Truth will give you all that be longs to the rights of freedom.—Mary Baker Eddy.

NEWCOMER
Lou Steele, former radio actor and announcer, has a top supporting role in Hal Wallis' "September Affair," in which he makes his movie debut.

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AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION of that bon vivant Bob Hope, as the title roll in Paramount's hilarious new comedy, "The Great Lover," which comes to the Roxy Theatre Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Rhonda Fleming is co-starred in the film which features Roland Young, Roland Culver and Richard Lyon.

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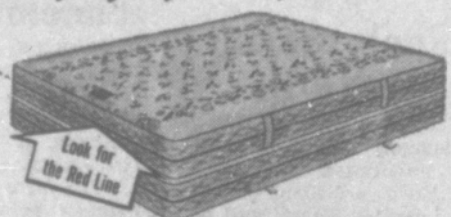
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