

Illinois Valley News

An independent newspaper devoted to the development of the Illinois Valley and its surrounding districts.

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J. C. Abernathy

Editor

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COMMUNISM EBBING IN POPULARITY

Any "expert" on international affairs will let you take your choice of "Stalin's kick-off in Korea was a blunder/smart move (pick one)" and argue the other side with overwhelming logic. But one thing appears certain on the local scene, and that is that precipitation of the shooting war in Korea was a distinct disservice to the garden variety, or American home-grown Communist.

The long-suffering American public has come to the end of its patience, and many an erstwhile fellow-traveller and muddled "liberal" is shivering in the chill breeze and coming to the conclusion that it is just about impossible to apologize for the Russians any longer.

Henry Wallace, the scales miraculously fallen from his eyes, has been welcomed back to the fold of the righteous with editorial sobs across the land. A dozen native commissars in New York are discovering that the Federal government can take effective measures against a plot on its life, 'awk-nosed' Harry has not only been convicted of perjury and had his bail revoked and will probably be deported after the government has granted a dozen appeals and leaned over backward a full 45 degrees to see that he gets a fair shake, but, most damaging blow, the rank and file of his longshoremen's union is in the process of revolt against the red yoke.

A fool and a knave, embarked on the same course of action, will do equal amount of damage, and although the discovery that Mr. Wallace is the former rather than latter may be gratifying to friends of the family, it leaves us unmoved. As far as we're concerned the Commies can have him. We would venture a small wager that it is a very short time before he sallies forth to save the world with some other crack-pot idea; he was safer when he was labelled.

The pained surprise with which Eugene Dennis and his top plotters received the news that they could not hide behind the constitution they were seeking to destroy somehow reminds us of a butcher's exasperated "Hold still while I cut your throat!" How, on the one hand the Communists can preach and blue-print world revolution and bloody class warfare, and on the other blandly insist that they are "just a political party—like the Republicans" is a masterpiece of inconsistency built on Hitler's theory that to be successful a lie must be huge. Dennis' conviction was square and above board, all according to the democratic rules, and any Civil Righter who snivels that we are destroying our own democratic processes by "persecuting" the Commies and fellow-travellers is answered on the record. And, strictly irrelevant of course, what kind of a trial do you think he would get in Russia?

Bridges' conviction and the subsequent revolt of rank and file members of the powerful ILWU should be a source of intense satisfaction to all true friends of labor. Across the nation, union after union has been purging itself of Communist domination and influence, and the still powerful ILWU was the last big nut to crack. It has only begun; the longshoremen still have a tough struggle to unseat Stalin's messenger boys, but the tide has turned—time is running out for the Kremlin kids all along the line.

In retrospect, one wonders if the Communists in this country were so smart; by lying low and making a trifle less noise, they probably could have done more damage later. When Bridges finally stood brazenly forth, with not the least vestige of a labor dispute in sight, and ordered his men not to work ships bound for Korea, he not only failed of his original purpose but sacrificed all chance of creating real disruption in the future. Not more than one in a hundred of the ILWU's longshoremen are Communists; by trying to push them too far, the Communist hierarchy over-stepped, the non-Communist majority was aroused, and the rest is only a matter of time.

So at least there is some kind of a silver lining; we prophecy that the time is not far distant when it will be downright unpopular to be a Communist, and fellow-travelling professional martyrs will be seeking the negative side of some less explosive issue. Even a martyr can only take so much.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

August 7, 1950

Dear Editor:

Regarding your article on page one, column one of the August 3rd issue of the Illinois Valley News, entitled "Chamber To Investigate Hiway Work."

Last summer there were "squawks and howls" about that stretch of highway now under repair. It was "bumpy, narrow and most uninviting" to tourists. This is just a few of the complaints.

Now money has been appropriated to rebuild and widen this highway to make it a road that the "tourists" will enjoy.

How much do these men who are "investigating," the procedures used by the contractor, know about road building and construction? Do they realize that the foundation of a road must pack solid before the surface is added or all the surfacing in the world won't make the road hold up. Would these same men remove the forms and build a house before the foundation cement was firm and dry? It amounts to the same thing. This Valley wanted and needed a good road and they'll have it but not if they force a "hurry up" job so we can entertain and "cater to" tourists.

I quote from your article, "The inhibiting effect of this bad stretch on tourist movements was deplored, since tourist catering is one of the major industries of this area." I'll grant you that for three or four months of the year there are a lot of tourists passing through this Valley but what about the other eight or nine months out of the year? Who supports our stores, restaurants, motels yes, even taverns? It's the loggers. The men who must use that same stretch of highway twelve months a year, if possible. They are the "lives blood" of this Valley. The tourists are just a transfusion or a "shot in the arm" that, when the effect is over, have no lasting place in our lives.

Why should we want a quick made road for the tourists that bring in their "summer dollars" when that same quick made road, means load restrictions and men out of work for our local people next winter.

Last summer, during the tourist season, I went on a trip to California. While traveling I went over long stretches of highway under construction. Traffic was held up in some places where one way traffic was necessary. I'm looking forward to going over that same stretch of highway this summer. Most of it has been completed. I'll enjoy the comfort of a good road. Where the road is not finished I know that I must travel carefully. I'm not going to say that I won't return to California because they didn't build a road that will allow the tourist to travel in comfort. I know that this work can't be done in the winter time or during the wet weather so I'll just look forward to better roads on future visits to our sister state.

Up around Canyonville I went over long stretches of highway under construction. Yes business has suffered. I talked to many business people along the way. All of them complained yet they all were agreed that a good highway through there would bring increased trade the year 'round.

I've driven over the stretch of highway under discussion many, many times since work began on it. My husband goes over it twice a day to and from work. We have always found that the signs gave adequate warning if you are traveling at a safe rate of speed.



HAROLD KIEBY

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If you don't want Bill Jr. to lose those hand knit socks—if you don't want Betty tramping home from school some rainy day without her galoshes—better mark their clothes with Cash's Woven Names!

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T & O Electric Service and Supplies at 103 North 4th Street in Grants Pass is a firm that has at its command the very latest ideas and submits only the newest and most complete wiring plans. Consistent boosters have been the reward of the firm at the completion of each wiring job.

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appearance of the rooms and furnishings. Electrical installations, whether commercial or residential, represent one of the most vital items in the construction field. The very safety and welfare of the occupant depends to a large measure upon the manner in which the electrical work was performed. Readers of this issue will do well to consult the T & O Electric Service and Supplies, by tele-

Of course if you are traveling sixty or seventy miles per hour, and many do, you won't have time to slow down and read the traffic signs if you do see them. Then too at that rate of speed the beauties of our Valley certainly cannot be appreciated. Traveling at a high rate of speed may cause an accident on good road too. Let people slow down a bit. It certainly won't hurt them and it may save a few lives.

I have found the flagmen on the construction crew most polite and considerate. Their request that you "take it easy" and not try to pass another car on a stretch of one way traffic is too often ignored.

The contractor is using his knowledge to build us a good road. A good road is one that will stand the strain of traffic twelve months a year not one that will last for three or four months for the pleasure of the tourists or one that we will have to rebuild summer after summer and keep our loggers off of in the winter.

Think it over! Our Valley may lose some tourist trade at the present time but when the loggers are able to send logs and lumber over a good road without restrictions this winter our payrolls will look pretty good to our business people. Maybe almost as good as the "tourist dollars" of the summer months.

Sincerely,
A LOGGER'S WIFE
(Name withheld by request)

phoning Grants Pass 3293, when in need of electrical service of all types. We are glad to recommend them to our readers and it is earnestly hoped that they will continue to serve us in the future as they have in the past.

Adv.

Mrs. Chloe Butler of Ashland is visiting her sister, Mrs. Sarah Thebo and family.

LEGAL

CALL FOR WARRANTS

Notice is hereby given that Warrants No. 11716 to No. 11810 inclusive, of JOSEPHINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, are hereby called for payment on the 9th of August, 1950, on which date interest will cease.

ALICE DAVIDSON
County Treasurer
Second Publication Aug. 17, 1950

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