

# CENTRAL POINT STAR

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## HEIGHT

In flying to a height of 43,166 feet, more than eight miles up in the air, Lieut. Apollo Soucek of the U. S. Navy has set a record which will take some beating.

Only by the use of compressed oxygen in a tank, inhaled through a tube, and an oxygen super-charger to insure combustion in the engine, was Lieut. Soucek able to do the stunt at all. Capt. Hawthorne Gray of the U. S. Army, who rose to 42,470 feet in a balloon three years ago, died from lack of oxygen in the rarefied atmosphere of that great height.

All of the talk about voyaging to the moon, whether by airplane, rocket or other device, is so much moonshine, in view of the impossibility of carrying enough oxygen along, to say nothing of the intense cold of interstellar space, somewhere around 400 degrees below zero!

## LAND

A young woman of my acquaintance was surprised recently on getting home from her daily work as a stenographer to find a young man waiting to ask her who her grandfather was. When she told him he informed her that the title company which he represented was prepared to pay her and each of her five living sisters, aunts and uncles \$200 each to sign a quit claim deed to a strip of land one inch wide and eighteen feet long.

That price was a "nuisance value," but there are several pieces of Manhattan real estate which have sold for as much or more per square foot, for office buildings. It no longer pays to build under 30 stories high in old New York. And the reason for the high land value is the growth of population. Every new comer to the city adds an appreciable amount to the value of every foot of land.

## COMMERCE

I went into a grocery store in a little Massachusetts town the other day to buy some matches. The salesman handed me a package which was marked "Made in Russia." In the same shop window I saw some canned corned beef, cooked and packed in Uruguay. In a store in New York recently my daughter bought a rat-coat made of silk which had first been woven in Japan and then sent to Scotland to be waterproofed. Wearing that, she drove to a country house on Long Island, where the refreshments served included tea from India and biscuits from England.

For every dollar's worth of goods the United States sells abroad we must eventually buy a dollar's worth from the country which we buy from. That is the long and short of all the talk about tariffs and imports and the export trade.

## SHIPS

The Germans now hold the record for speed of trans-Atlantic ships, but both the United States and England are preparing to take it away from them. The Cunard Line, which is the oldest of all ocean steamship lines, announces that it will build a craft 1,000 feet long, carrying 4,000 passengers, which will make a speed of 30 in 15 an hour and will cost between 20 and 25 million dollars. A knot, by the way, is a nautical mile, which is 800 feet longer than the land mile; so a speed of 30 knots means 34 1/2 miles an hour.

The U. S. Shipping Board in conjunction with the Post Office Department is arranging with American steamship companies to build two ships even bigger and faster than the new Cunarder. It will take three or four years to build them. They will be good advertising for the United States but probably will not earn their keep. The deficit will be made up in what the Government pays the company operating them for carrying the mails. The mail subsidy of the British government to Samuel Cunard is what put the British flag ahead of ours on the Atlantic, 75 years ago.

The same authorities say that the measure of how much a man can afford to invest in a home is his average income. He is justified in tying up the equivalent of two year's salary if that is under \$10,000 a year, or of three year's income, if he earns more than \$15,000 a year. Thus, a man who earns \$50 a week can afford a \$5,000 home. And from ten to twelve years is a proper length of time over which to spread the mortgage payments.

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## HOMES

Savings bank heads say that right now is a more favorable time to build a home than we have had since the war. Building materials are down, labor is plentiful, mortgage money is cheap. Those who are secure in their employment can probably build homes now on more favorable terms than they will be able to a year from now.

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## MINERAL CONFERENCE GAINING IN INTEREST

Northern California-Southern Oregon Sponsors of Mineral Conference In Grants Pass July 15

Newspapers and magazines, even outside of the states of Oregon and California are showing pronounced interest in the Mid-Pacific Empire Economic Conference to be held at Grants Pass on July 15th, and considerable publicity has been given this important event.

Seven hundred and fifty invitations have been mailed up and down the Pacific Coast by the Northern California Southern Oregon Development Association, sponsors of the meeting and present indications are that those attending the meeting will not be confined to the citizens of Northern California and Southern Oregon.

Charles F. Willis, editor and publisher of the Mining Journal, Phoenix, Arizona, in a letter addressed to the Association recently requested copies of papers to be presented at the Conference for reproduction in his magazine. His letter in part states, "There are several of these papers, judging from your program, which would make excellent magazine articles, and the publication of these will undoubtedly do your cause a great deal of good and we hope that we may get the."

Pre-Conference publicity will no doubt be the means of increasing the attendance but the publicity which follows the meeting will it is hoped by the Development Association officials, bring about a more appreciable interest in the possibilities of mining in this section.

## DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK?

By Edson R. Waite  
Shawnee, Oklahoma

R. J. Ball, editor of the Loveland (Colo.) Reformer-Herald says:

THAT the greatest, most dynamic force in any community is the modern, aggressive and progressive newspaper.

It is the mirror through which community activities, community progress and development, community industries, business and social life are reflected to the outside world.

It gives to the community an unselfish service, a service the value of which cannot be measured in dollars and cents, a service of benefit to even the most humble citizen, through constant and persistent effort to advance those things that mean most for community growth and development and the happiness and comfort of its citizens.

The independent press, not fettered by political bias, selfish greed nor personal aggrandizement, fighting always for what is right and just and fair, with ever friendly consideration for the views and opinions of all classes of citizens, is the real power and guiding force that builds cities, bakes for happy homes and a contented, wide-awake citizenship.

The Home Town Paper is a local institution in which every loyal citizen should be a stockholder—not through financial investment but through the investment of good will and a spirit of helpfulness to the end its services may be enlarged and its usefulness gain added impetus.

A community is largely judged by the appearance, character and type of its newspaper, and should influence its business interest to do their full part in giving to their paper the volume of business essential to its success and the encouragement so necessary to keep abreast in improvements and development.

For best quality hay, alfalfa usually needs to be cut prior to either clover or vetch—normally between one-tenth and one-fourth bloom, says the Oregon experiment station.

## Greatest Transcontinental Road

The Old Spanish Trail From St. Augustine To San Diego, Is Nearly Finished

By Caleb Johnson  
By the end of 1931 it will be possible for a motorist to start from Maine and drive to San Antonio, Texas without ever getting off a hard road. Within another two or three years the motorist can continue his journey to California, over hard roads all the way.

With all of our progress in road building, there is today not a single route across the Continent which does not involve driving over hundreds of miles of roads which nobody could classify as good and which most motorists, accustomed to the paved highways of both coasts and the Great Lakes region, would classify as positively bad. But with the completion of the Old Spanish Trail we shall have a highway connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, a highway paved or hard surfaced throughout its entire length and a trans-continental highway, moreover, which will be passable at all seasons of the year, since it is located throughout its length far to the south of the snowbelt, which makes the more northerly passages impassible in winter.

It is no wonder that the United States Government is aiding liberally in the construction of this road which will give the speediest possible route for the movement of motorized military forces from one coast to the other.

From Maine to Florida the Atlantic Coastal highway is now substantially completed, either concrete, tar-macadam or hard sand-clay surface all the way, and when it gets to historic old St. Augustine, Florida, it strikes the beginning of the old Spanish Trail, connecting St. Augustine on the East with San Diego on the west.

The idea of a cross-continent highway which would follow the trade and military trails blazed by the early Spanish settlers on the Gulf and in the Southwest was first given light at a gathering at Mobile, Ala., in 1915. Nobody knows who selected the picturesque and descriptive name, nor just how the movement started. The first idea was to connect New Orleans with Miami. But the West heard about it and eagerly joined in the movement, set up a promotion headquarters in San Antonio, and projected the original plan two thousands miles farther than its original enthusiasts had dreamed of going.

And now it is nearing completion. Starting from St. Augustine where the Spaniards have left their indestructible record in the narrow streets and picturesque old fort and other building of this oldest of American municipalities, the Old Spanish Trail runs through Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Pensacola, Mobile, Bay Saint Louis, New Orleans, Lake Charles, Beaumont, Houston, San Antonio, Fort Stockton, El Paso, Las Cruces, Douglas Tucson and so to California and San Diego. It crosses eight states, three great bays and the greatest of North American rivers. It crosses the Great Divide at its lowest point, at Bisbee, Arizona, at an altitude of 6,030 feet above sea level and descends into the Imperial Valley through El Centro, California, 51 feet below sea-level. Yet there are no grades which can not be driven in high gear.

Two thirds of the drainage water of the United States crosses the Old Spanish Trail, yet only two ferries are necessary; one across the Mississippi River at New Orleans, the other over Berwick Bay at Morgan City Louisiana. All of the other watercourses which the Trail crosses have been bridged.

The Old Spanish Trail follows the line of the chain of missions and presidios which the King of Spain ordered in 1772 to be constructed from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of California. San Antonio was the meeting place of all the trails connecting the Spanish settlements with each other. And

## Important Industrial Project

Seen in Smelter Near Here

110,000-pound Electric Smelter Arrived Tuesday and Unloaded North of City; Expected To Be in Operation in Month

A manufacturing and industrial project of considerable importance and interest to this section is the new electric smelter being erected north of this city.

The 110,000-pound smelter arrived in the Medford railroad yards Tuesday morning and were taken to the site and unloaded from the main line. Other shipments are scheduled for this week and next and it is expected that the smelter will be in operation within a month or six weeks.

Dee Williams, local mining engineer, acting for the concern would make no statement of the plans and purposes of the company except to state that it was an industrial and manufacturing proposition and that a detailed statement would be made soon. Mr. Williams said that the plant would employ at least sixty workmen. It is understood that the concern will smelt a large body of iron and other metal from this district on a large commercial basis. Arrangements have been made with the California Oregon Power Co. for electric power and the Southern Pacific will build a spur to the plant.

Through Williams offices for the company have been rented on the fourth floor of the Liberty building in Medford. It is planned to open the office the first of next week. The office will be in charge of Al Smith an executive. Articles of incorporation will be filed the first of the week.

Eva Le Galliene, who broadcasts her plays over the WABC chain, speaks, reads and writes French, German, Russian and Danish besides possessing a passing knowledge of Spanish Italian and Greek. She plays the piano guitar, harp and piccolo. Her fencing is so excellent that her instructor continually urges her to give up the stage and radio so that he may make her the worlds champion with the foils. Incidentally, her company calls her "Saint Eva."

Rudy Vallee has been awarded an athletic letter by the University of Maine for his popularization of the "Maine Stein Song." At the testimonial dinner preceding the bestowing of the "M" on the slight shoulders of the crooner, it was said that the publicity it has received during the broadcasting of the song makes them expect a record enrollment.

Some say that the school will have four times as many students in 1930 as it had in the previous year. My, oh my, look what a stein and a low voice has done for good ole Maine.

The newest thing to take the country by storm is the Radio Garden of Fans. Followers of Rudy Vallee are being called Daffedils by radio columnists. Those who place Will Osborn on the throne are termed Weeping Willows. Fans who adore Smith Ballew are given the title of Buttercups. Lovers of Jan Garbers music are called by the nom de plume of Gardenias.

That Merle Johnstone, the Columbia system saxophone expert, maintains the female of the species learns to play the "blue horn" twice as fast as the male?

If you are that way over the snappy strains of Ozzie Nelsons band then you are nothing but a Germanium. Those that adore the white hot Bert Lown orchestra belong to the Hollyhock family.

And I know you—You're Petunia about Don Bigelow. Dont blame me, I didn't name them. I am just telling you.

DID YOU KNOW  
That Harry Swan, WABC character actor, once broadcast a drama in which he took all eleven parts.

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## SAMBO'S PHILOSOPHY



"Big mou' Tom don 'low dat he a 'shootin', cuttin' niggah.' An' he am. Evah time he ol' woman grab up a fryin' skillet, he shoot outen de back doah an' cut fo' de tall pleyas!"



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