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THE AMERICAN

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Musings

By an Innocent Bystander

They say it's better late than never. We intended to say a word of welcome to the new editor of the Southern Oregon Miner. But some way our old head failed us again. But we do welcome Mr. Clem Bradshaw and his sons to our midst. In purchasing the Miner from our old friend or enemy as the case may be, Leonard Hall, we feel they have troubles enough for the time being without our butting in, but we wish them success. But we'll miss that young feller-my-lad, who has been the life of the party in this country since the old horse-whipping days.

Someway, it is hard to write such a column as ours with the dean of us all lying dead in his home. We are going to miss Will Rogers. Of all the men in the limelight in this age, we can think of none to take his place. For his was a unique place in the hearts of us all. A simple man—yes, simple "like the air or the deep sea" as Mr. Dooley used to say. A homely, lovely character who was kin to every man jack of us. And no man of his time could so easily get to the meat of any question, who hated sham with so strong a hatred. May he rest in the peace he so well deserves.

Someway, we feel that when the Master comes to judge that kindly spirit, there will come that reward we all hope will be ours also some day—"Well done, thou good and faithful servant." For no one can measure the amount of real good Will Rogers did for the weary ones who mourn him today. There never was anything to make even the most sensitive ones blush in the humor Will displayed.

We stood by the runway at the airport yesterday and watched one of the army ships take the air. And as we watched, we thought of that bleak shore in the far north where Wiley Post, one of the most skilled of aviators, plunged a mere fifty feet into the icy waters to bring death to himself and his friend. It gave us a very funny feeling.

We want to say a word of warning to those of you who smoke. And we will try to take the warning to heart ourselves, for we, too, smoke a pipe. If you must smoke, don't pick on a load of dry straw as a safe place. We'll bet the man who set fire to that load of straw Tuesday won't do it again.

With the world in a turmoil over the actions of Dictator Mussolini it does one good to watch the calm skill with which our army boys tend to their knitting. And the Lord have mercy on whomever they drop any of those monstrous bombs. For they can drop them on a six-foot target from a five-mile elevation, which would do a good bit of damage even without exploding.

It made us feel sort of homesick to notice a couple of young men out at the army camp peeling spuds in the same old way. It's been a long time since we were on kitchen police, but we can still remember how it felt.

We got quite a laugh all by ourselves at something H. B. M. said last night in the Trib. She spoke of what a difference it made when one had direct radio connection with Washington. Doesn't she know that it is even more easy to control radio broadcasting from the capital city than to control the myriads of little newspapers of the nation? Just because the word comes from Washington is no reason it is more to be trusted than if it comes from Pumpkin Center, or even Medford.

As for us, we are getting so that we hardly trust anything in the world today. Nothing is to be believed, not even what we say ourselves. And as to believing anything that emanates from the District of Columbia, we'll just have to pass. We have thrown tons of good paper in the waste basket since the New Deal came along.

We saw the funniest sight we have seen for years yesterday. We don't know the man's name and hope he won't take offense, but we had a good private laugh just the same. We saw a man driving a team of mules hitched to a stone boat on which was loaded a big hog, snugly strapped to the mules' heads.

CARELESS SMOKER CAUSE HUGE BLAZE COVERS 600 ACRES

Sparks from a smoker's pipe started a fire that destroyed several hundred acres of brush and timber north of Central Point Tuesday morning. Several houses and farm buildings in the path of the flames were barely saved from destruction. A farm wagon was burned, two horses badly burned, (may have to be shot) a man suffered a broken leg—all on account of a man's desire to smoke, regardless of time and place.

Charles Lammy was hauling straw. Sparks from his pipe set fire to the load. Mr. Lammy made a hasty endeavor to extinguish the flame, but the fire spread too rapidly. He threw off a lot of the burning material on the east side of the road, where the wind quickly spread the flames in the tinder-dry grass. The horses became frightened and started to run. Unable to stop either the flames on the wagon or the running horses, Mr. Lammy jumped from the rapidly moving vehicle breaking his left leg in the fall.

The horses ran several rods down the road with the burning load, then endeavored to turn in at a gate-way leading to the home of Mrs. H. Nicholson. Mrs. Nicholson, looking from her window and seeing the flaming vehicle coming toward her home, ran into the yard in time to see the wagon strike one of the gateposts and the horses break away and run down the road. Both horses were scorched, one very badly and it was thought that it would have to be shot.

The wagon and rack was entirely destroyed. Mrs. Nicholson and her daughters ran to neighbors' homes to obtain aid in fighting the fire, which was spreading from the burning wagon and endangered her home. Several men from the CCC camp near the Four Corners hurried to the scene and soon men from the state fire patrol came to assist in the fight. The flames were finally controlled after burning over about ten acres of brush land. At least the men thought the fire was out, but later in the afternoon a strong wind carried sparks over into dry grass and the flames started sweeping rapidly in a southeasterly direction, running for nearly two miles before being finally stopped along the Midway road.

No homes were burned, although those of William Lewis, Ben Peart, John Pruitt, Marlon Shaw, Mr. Minnick and Mr. Brophy were endangered. It is reported that Mr. Brophy lost about a hundred cords of wood which was stacked in the woods on his land. Many people from Medford and Central Point drove out to watch the fire during the afternoon and evening among them being Mayor Porter of Medford and W. E. Gates of the Groceries.

Mr. Lammy was taken to the Sacred Heart hospital by C. W. Powell who was returning to his home on the Kirtland Farm from Medford, and who arrived at the scene of the fire just after the team broke from the wagon. Mr. Powell is today thanking his lucky stars that he did not arrive in time to meet the runaway team on that narrow road. He had his wife and three small children with him and says he feels very lucky with the narrow escape.

Florida Boys Tour Country by Bus

About twenty five Florida youths ranging from small grammar school boys to college graduates traveling in a school bus stopped here Tuesday and enjoyed their lunch before leaving for Crater Lake.

These boys are touring the United States from Vancouver B. C. to the Mexico Border—in all about 8999 miles. They have so far traveled 5999 miles.

Mr. Gebhard and Edwin. Mr. Buckheim and Ed Gebhard drove to Merrill, Oregon on Monday and visited the Lava Beds National Monument in California on Tuesday. They returned Tuesday evening.

was a lady and little girl. The girl was holding a parasol in such a manner as to shade the hog but left herself exposed. They were a very attractive looking group.

Roosevelt Shows Himself Unworthy Continued Support

(Continued from Last Week)

Although Mr. Roosevelt had been assistant secretary of navy, governor of New York and a member of the New York assembly, before he took the presidency he had gained no financial experience that fitted him to deal intelligently with the multitude of perplexing problems that faced him when he entered the White House. Instantly upon assuming his important office he became a spectacular showman. The rapidity with which he dealt with great problems captured the fancy of the public at large. Many of his opponents formed the opinion that at last had arrived the man who could pull the country out of the depression. Experts and brain trusters were assembled from all parts of the nation. For the most part they were men lacking in experience. Their ideas of business had been gained from books, but at that they were as well versed in the subject as the master who assembled them.

Mr. Roosevelt was well equipped to start an orgy of spending when he entered the White House. If he had ever known the meaning of economy he failed to demonstrate it. His program was to spend the nation out of the depression. While pouring out billions from the federal treasury he seemingly failed to take into account that private business and the individual must at same time pay the bill. At the same time, through codes and federal restrictions he throttled industry and put fear into the hearts of men that made them refrain from opening new avenues through which payroll money might reach those who were living at public expense. Never, since his inauguration has President Roosevelt given the slightest encouragement to business. His attitude has been to destroy rather than build. His advocacy of the Wagner labor bill the Wheeler-Rayburn public utility bill, the banking bill and amendments to AAA has had the effect of terrifying industry. His plans to "soak the rich" have caused many to wish that they might liquidate their holdings in this country and cross the border to Canada.

Recently in congress there has been a decided swing away from the Roosevelt policies. Many of those who should at all times be representatives of the people have at last found courage to speak out against the orders of the New Deal would-be dictators. Was it not for the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has billions at his disposal to spread almost at will among the various states it is almost a certainty that few of the administration schemes would find favor in either house of congress. When members of congress are seeking post office buildings, power dams and public improvements that must come from federal funds they find it difficult to disobey the wishes of the man who holds the public purse. Some swallow personal pride and subordinate their real opinions and vote for measures that are destructive in character.

Mr. Roosevelt will not find himself without opposition in the national convention next year. Constitutionalists like Ritchie, of Maryland; Al Smith of New York; Glass and Byrd of Virginia and Jim Reed of Missouri will be on hand to attempt the salvation of the democratic party from the ravages of the New Deal. They will strive in vain, for it is improbable that the convention will turn against the President.

No politician was ever so fortunately situated so far as campaign funds are concerned. Mr. Roosevelt has \$4,500,000,000 of public money that was recently provided by a beneficent congress. He can spend it how, when and where he pleases. If he is so inclined he can use it to advance his own ambitions. He can not of course, employ it to buy political advertisements in newspapers and magazines but he can turn loose a large army of workers, who, while supposedly acting in the public interest, can spend leisure time in spreading pro-Roosevelt propaganda.

Let it be said that the coming presidential campaign will be the bitterest the country has ever known and it will be a waste of words to

predict elements of both of the old parties, against the New Dealers. It is difficult to imagine that those who believe in state rights will enter the Roosevelt camp and fight side by side with those theorists who would so change the constitution as to enable one man to assume the role of a dictator. Under that constitution we have established our institutions under its proection we have grown to a great nation of happy people. We have from time to time adopted new amendments but in every case these extended the liberties of the people. During the coming campaign we will see pro-Roosevelt sympathizers advocating abolition of the supreme court. We will hear men advocating that the executive be given unrestrained powers to rule. Such men and women will be dangerous to the future of the nation.

Our forefathers came here to escape the tyranny of the monarchs of the old world. Individuals now under the iron heels of Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini are knocking at our doors seeking entry into a Land of Liberty. We must safeguard that Liberty for which we have so long striven. The constitution is that safeguard. There is no man who trods American soil sufficient in mind, ability and experience to rule untrstrained over 130,000,000 people. Certainly Franklin Delano Roosevelt by act and word has proven that he is not the man.

Turkey Tour and Picnic Saturday

The annual Turkey Tour and picnic which was so successful last year is to be repeated next Saturday August 24. The following ranches will be visited:

10:00 a. m.—B. A. Clark—One mile north of Eagle Point on Crater Lake highway to the left, sign on gate.

11:20 a. m.—J. L. Worthington—four miles east of Eagle Point on Worthington road.

1:00 p. m.—Lunch—Eagle Point park. Bring a basket lunch with you, coffee and plates will be furnished, but bring your own table service.

Following the lunch talks will be made by H. E. Crosby, Extension Poultryman; J. C. Leedy of the Oregon Turkey Co-op, and Bert Willardson, sales agent for the Northwestern Turkey Growers.

Anyone interested in the going of turkeys is invited to attend this tour, according to an announcement by County Agent R. G. Fowler. A very interesting meeting is assured.

Marine Recruiting to Continue Two Months

Recruiting for the U. S. Marine Corps will continue during the months of September and October, according to information received by postmaster Tom Pankey.

A limited number of desirable applicants will be accepted to fill vacancies caused by discharges and retirements from the Corps. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and not over 25, at least 56 inches tall and of good habits and character and able to furnish satisfactory letters of reference.

Information may be obtained from postmaster Tom Pankey or by writing to the U. S. Marine Corps Recruiting Station, 298 U. S. Court House, Portland Oregon.

Mr. T. A. Marine left Tuesday for his wheat ranch in Canada to look after his crop.

Mr. Root had his house full of company for a few days. His granddaughter and great granddaughter and children stopped for a few days visit on a return trip from Washington to their home in San Diego, California.

Flin; Kindal left Tuesday for Klamath Falls to look for work.

Mrs. Fox entertained the Royal Neighbors Lodge at her home Wednesday afternoon.

Gertrude Moore is working at the Hopyards near Grants Pass until time for school to start.

Gay Party Of Oldsters Celebrate

One of the gayest parties of the season was given in one of the new double cottages at the Hotel Valandra by Mr. and Mrs. Andrdre Chomel for a group of friends and neighbors recently. The party was a sort of housewarming for the new cottages, which had just been completed by Mr. and Mrs. Chomel after months of hard work. It had been planned that the party was to be the first meal served in the new place, but a party of tourists came along the night before, and insisted on renting the cottage for the night.

However, when the party arrived it was discovered that it consisted of a group of youngsters who refused to grow old in the usual way. Led by that octogenarian who was the life of the party, Mrs. Mary Grimm, the hour was a most memorable one. The youthful editor felt quite out of place in such distinguished company. But just for luck he got out the faithful pencil later and figured out the combined ages represented and the total was almost shocking—approximately 900 years! No wonder we felt like a kid!

Delicious refreshments of ice cream, cake and iced coffee were served by the hostess, assisted by her sister, Miss Messner, to the following, Mrs. Mary Grimm, Mrs. Mattie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Farra, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Territt, Mr. V. A. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Powell and Miss Dorothy Powell. A toast was given by Mr. Davis, who is a former teacher in the Central Point schools, to Mr. and Mrs. Chomel for their work in adding so much to the beauty of our city. The toast was drunk with much enthusiasm and was responded to by the host in a very feeling manner.

It is seldom that such a party can be assembled in any city. There was one lady of 86, as spry as a cricket; another past the four score mark who also was as full of fun as any girl; two couples who had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries, who added much to the enjoyment of the occasion, besides us younger folk. And even the seventeen-year-old didn't seem to think the gang too sober and sedate for her.

After some time spent in inspecting the beautiful work done about the rooms, the party broke up, wishing for many returns of the occasion and expressing their admiration of the vast amount labor expended by Mr. and Mrs. Chomel in thus taking the salvage from the old buildings they wrecked and building so beautiful a pair of cottages, to add to their already lovely village of cottages.

August Period Hits Highest Fire Average

More man caused forest fires start on the national forests of Oregon and Washington during the last ten days of August than in any other ten days period of the year, according to a five-year study recently completed by the U. S. forest service in connection with the campaign to prevent carelessness with fire in the woods. The next most hazardous period is from July 20 to 31, according to the report. The year 1931 proved an exception to the general rule, with the last ten days of July showing a peak of 169 man caused fires; and in 1932 the first ten days of October brought the peak of 115 fires due to carelessness. In spite of these variations, however, the record shows that the last ten days of August are invariably prolific of fires and the five year average for this period exceeds that of any other.

Most of the man caused fires are shown to be caused by thoughtless smokers and campers. Forest officials offer various explanations for the high fire rate in this period prior to September first. Most important is that the national forest area is largely in high altitudes where the forest carpet and timber are often not thoroughly dry until late summer. Next explanation is the fact that a peak of summer picnicking and camping often occurs prior to Labor Day and during the berry picking season at this time of year.

Mr. C. A. Boies is having his house remodeled, papered and painted.

ARMY PLANES ARE ATTRACTION NOW AT LOCAL PORT

The principal attraction in the Rogue River valley these days is the army bombing squadron which are camped at the Medford airport. From early in the morning until late at night the air has been full of the roaring monsters. The squadron, consisting of nine Martin bombers, is here on a practice cruise. Each day the planes make theoretical bombing expeditions to different points in Oregon.

Yesterday the officers in charge of the expedition invited the public to inspect the huge instruments of destruction. Hundreds of people drove out to the airport, where one of the planes was placed on display and its operation explained by the men in charge. Much interest was shown in the workings of the plane and the method of carrying and dropping of the bombs.

It was explained that no actual dropping of bombs was being done at this time, as it was too risky. All bombing practice is done at the home station of the squadron, which is across the Bay from San Francisco. There the men make almost daily tries at a six-foot target from different altitudes. It is said that they become so expert that bullseyes on that small target from altitudes of fifteen thousand feet are almost regular occurrences.

The planes are equipped with three machine guns. One of these is arranged to fire through the front of the plane and can be turned in almost any direction. One is fired from the rear of the plane and one shoots through the bottom. The entire front of the pilot's compartment is enclosed with glass, enabling the pilot to see in any direction. The largest bombs, weighing about a ton, are carried under one of the wings, while the smaller bombs are carried in the bottom of the plane. All the bombs can be dropped together if necessary. The plane can be operated by four men, although five is the regular crew.

The squadron arrived Sunday for their regular summer practice maneuvers. They expect to spend the entire week here. Daily trips both north and south are made for the purpose of checking up on the time necessary to cover the distances and also to see just how long it takes to unload the bombs from the train and transport them to the field and onto the planes. The officers and men are camped in tents on the airport grounds.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Davis and daughter Vera, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Boomer of Medford and Mr. and Mrs. Truman Brenner and daughter Shirley and Mr. and Mrs. W. Limbeck and son Arthur spent Sunday at Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodridge are expected back from Crescent City where they have been for a number of days.

The Churches

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
Rev. Robert Charles Lewis, Pastor
Phone 51.
Bible School—Arthur Webster, superintendent, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship—11:00 A. M.
Y.P.S.C.E.—(two groups), 6:30 p. m.
Evening Services—8:00 p. m.
Women's Bible Study and prayer meeting, Mrs. H. W. Davison, teacher, 2:30 p. m. Tuesday.
The Fisherman's Club, Tuesday 7:00 p. m.
The Family Gathering, Wednesday, 8:00 p. m.
Choir Practice—Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
CLIFTON A. PHILLIPS
Bible School—10:00 a. m.—Roland Hoyer, Supt.
Communion and Preaching—11:00 a. m.—Subject, "Will Christ Give the World Peace?"
Evangelistic Service—8:00 p. m.—The second of the series on The Godhead—Subject, "Jesus Christ".
Mrs. Phillips will give an original poem, "At the Cock-crowing."
Prayer and Bible Study—Thursday at 7:45 p. m.—Mrs. Victor Bursell, leader. Bible School Council following the service.