

THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

POLITICAL MUDDLING

The workings of politics is beyond the comprehension of the average individual. Take, for instance, the program to socialize the electric light and power industry, which the United States has had to endure for several years.

There was no need for the government to go into this business in competition with publicly-regulated, private companies, and nothing could have been less beneficial to the average family pocketbook. But votes were coined by the million on this issue, from an uninformed and misinformed people.

TVA was the first great hoax. Then came Bonneville and Grand Coulee on the Columbia and Snake rivers in the Pacific Northwest. This section had an abundant supply of the cheapest power in the country. The government started out to duplicate it.

While the politicians were dumping hundreds of millions of dollars into projects as unnecessary as a second set of Pyramids, it was next to impossible to get a million or two dollars for a naval air base at the mouth of the Columbia—one of the greatest rivers in the United States—the gateway to an inland empire.

The reasoning of the politicians is hard to understand when they will spend millions for unnecessary dams which destroy taxpaying private industries, and hesitate to spend thousands for air bases that are needed to protect all the people. It has taken a national crisis to expose their stupidity, to use a mild and charitable term.

To an outsider looking in, it seems that similar political horseplay was responsible for the debacle in France. Let us hope that this nation has had its eyes opened in time.

MORE DEADLY THAN BOMBERS

When a bomber of a warring nation destroys important industries and kills helpless people, it causes public consternation and determination to correct the evil.

Minor news items in Oregon in two days reported death and destruction by fire which puts the average bomber to shame. For instance, three children were trapped and burned to death in an upstairs bedroom in their home and a neighbor was injured in attempting their rescue. Fire swept through and virtually destroyed a logging community comprised of homes and an abandoned sawmill.

A HEAVY BUT NECESSARY ADDITION



Eubank, in the New York Sun.

Another blaze destroyed a seed experimental plant and canned milk to the value of \$150,000. A fourth fire swept through a railroad siding at a cost of \$75,000. A fifth fire burned a sawmill at a cost of \$40,000, leaving 80 employees jobless.

That's better than the average record of death and destruction caused by a modern bomber, and yet it is simply the report of the fires in one sparsely settled state for two days. Multiply that record by 48 states and increase it in proportion to population, and you have an idea of what the enemy, Fire, is costing this nation. If bombers caused as much damage, the loss would be blazoned in the headlines across the land.

While insurance covers some of the material loss from fire, it cannot replace the 10,000 lives that it wipes out annually, or the thousands of jobs that are destroyed, loss of business or priceless possessions.

As every citizen pays in some way or other when fire strikes, every citizen should be vitally interested in fire prevention. During dry summer months every effort should be made to eliminate fire hazards and control fire.

THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

Today this country stands unified, devoted to the proposition that here, if nowhere else in the world, democracy shall be preserved and made secure.

And the people are coming to realize that the preservation of the democratic system involves more than merely spending billions for military weapons, important as that is. The preservation of democracy means that we must again analyze the meaning of democracy—and again return to those principles on which the nation was founded.

Those principles are simple and basic. Certain powers were given to government—the power over currency, over national defense, over foreign

policy, and so on. The balance of powers were reserved to the people. The founders realized that government is a non-producer—that all production and creation must come from the individual. And they realized that strict limitation of the activities of government was necessary if freedom was to live.

In recent years we have been drifting away from true democratic government. We have put government into business. We have all but destroyed the rights of the states. We have gone a long way toward the ruinous theory that government owes everyone a living. We have destroyed local independence, local pride, local self-sufficiency. We have become a nation of beggars, feeding at the public trough.

This has cost us tens of billions in taxes and increased Federal debt. Yet, serious as that problem is, it is the least important phase of the trend. Vitally important has been the change for the worse in the American character—the loss of those traditional characteristics of independence and self-reliance. Dependence always breeds dictatorship. Dependence always menaces liberty, and the democratic way of life.

If democracy is to live, the democratic virtues of self-reliance and independence must come back into their own. Government must again be confined to those duties given it by the Constitution. Industry and individuals must realize again that they can no longer expect manna from Washington for sustenance. Then that democracy of which we talk so much in idle phrases will really survive. Then we shall be strong and secure.

Undertaker's Traffic Recipe

- 1 natural born fool;
 - 2 or 3 drinks of bad liquor;
 - 1 high-powered motor vehicle;
 - Soak fool in liquor, place in motor car and let go.
- After due time remove the fool from the wreckage, place in satin-lined box and garnish with flowers.

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Only a Sailor!

He's only a sailor on the boundless deep
Under foreign skies and tropical heat.
Only a sailor on the rolling deep
In summer rains and winter sleet.

He's only a sailor for Uncle Sam
Far from his home and native land.
He's only a sailor some people say
He couldn't make a living another way.

They say He's a sailor; of him beware,
No more of him than a dog do they care.

He's only a vagabond, who'd better never been born
And it's just because he wears a uniform.

You may call him a pauper, or a government bum.
But remember friends, he's the man behind the gun.
And when war clouds rise on a peaceful sky,
Tis he, not you, that goes forth to die.

'Tis he that stands in his suit of blue,
To defend his flag, his home, and You.

'Tis he that walks the decks of ships
'Tis he that would die with a smile on his lips,
While you enjoy that which he has done.

Cast him off with a sneer and call him a bum,
Yet were it not for him, whom you despise and hate,

Foreign powers invading would mete out your fate.
Then you would cry for the boys in blue

But if there were none, pray, what would you do?

Then remember we to our flag are true,
So try to give us that which is our due.

For before we enlisted to wear suits of blue,
We were civilians, the same as you.
Mrs. J. R. Lees

Grange to Sponsor Fair Song Contest

The Oregon state grange will sponsor its second annual state fair song contest at the 79th Oregon state fair, which opens in Salem Labor day for a full week. The song contest will be a feature of grange day, Friday, September 6, with Mrs. G. W. Thiesen of Milwaukie, state lecturer, in charge.

Only members of the subordinate and juvenile granges will be eligible.

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with winners to be chosen from nine classes: Men soloists, women soloists, duets, trios, quartets, chorus, juvenile soloists, duets and quartets.

Elimination will be conducted through regional contests, closing August 15, and only songs written prior to 1930 may be used. All entrants must appear at the fair contest in costumes appropriate to the period for which the song was written.

The state fair will award first and second cash prizes to the winners totaling \$150 for all the classes. Highest monies, \$22 and \$12, will go to the chorus groups.

The grange song contests were inaugurated last year and were a highly successful feature.

THE DIFFERENCE



Dr. Snap—You seem to think that I'm nothing but a miserable idiot.
Mrs. Snap—Oh, no; you are cheerful enough.

HOME RULE



"Say, Pa, what is your idea of the simple life?"
"Being allowed to sit around in my shirt sleeves, my boy, especially in the summer."

C. L. Perkins

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Legal Notices

FINAL ACCOUNT IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estates of J. F. HAY and M. S. HAY, also known as Mary S. Hay, husband and wife, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has filed her Final Report and Account in the above entitled matter, and the above entitled Court has fixed the 15th day of August, 1940, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., in the County Courtroom, in the Courthouse, in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said Final Account and the settlement thereof.

ARLENE R. HAY
Admin'stratrix of the Estates of J. F. Hay and M. S. Hay, also known as Mary S. Hay, husband and wife, deceased.

25—July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1

NOTICE

The Board of Equalization for the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, will meet in regular session at the office of the County Assessor, in the County Courthouse at Medford, Oregon, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Monday, August 12th, 1940, for the purpose of hearing complaints and equalizing the 1940 assessment rolls. The said hearing will continue from the above date until August 27th, 1940. Any property owner who is aggrieved at the valuation placed on his or her property may appear before said board and petition for a correction in the valuation as shown on the 1940 assessment rolls. All petitions must be filed on or before August 27th, as the Board of Equalization will complete its public hearing on said date.

LINNE HANSCOM,
County Assessor

23—July 25, Aug. 1, 8

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NewsOddities . . . by Squier

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THE 8 YEAR-OLD JERSEY WHOSE ORNATE BOUDOIR AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR BORDEN BUILDING IS A MAGNET FOR MILLIONS, NOW LEAVES FOR THE MOVIE CAPITAL TO APPEAR IN RKO'S PRODUCTION OF LOUISA ALCOTT'S 'LITTLE MEN' WITH KAY FRANCIS!

HER FRIENDS SAY ELSIDIE'S DEAD-PAN EXPRESSION HIDES SEETHING EMOTIONAL POWER!
IN RE-UNION OF THE 15th WEST ETC. ETC.

ELSIDIE IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC LETTER WRITER. AMONG HER CORRESPONDENTS ARE FAMED CONNIE MACK, HENDRIK VAN LOON AND HOSTS OF KIDS. SHE HAS HER OWN SECRETARY AND PERSONAL STATIONERY!

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