

## THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL  
Editor and Proprietor

### EDITORIALS

#### NEWSPAPER WEEK

This is National Newspaper Week. And this year the press has a special story of achievement to tell: namely, how the newspapers of the land are doing their part in the national emergency by developing national unity.

In news and editorial columns, we are boosting the sale of defense bonds and stamps. We have devoted many columns to explaining the selective service act and aiding its administration. We have assisted in forming home-defense guard units and in establishing United Service organizations. We have responded to the call to educate the nation to the necessity of proper diet.

All of these activities are routine in any newspaper office. But the chief duty of a democratic press in a national emergency is to remain aggressive, critical and informative.

The rural newspaper is one of the most typical of American institutions. It has been that throughout our history. Collectively, they have had, and in our opinion, still have, a greater influence on sane American thinking than any other class of publications.

Individually, the rural newspaper, daily or weekly, is an institution in each community in which it is published. It is the steering wheel that directs the activities of the community, and the carburetor that ignites the spark of energy and productivity. It makes people of the community—of the town and surrounding farms—a homogeneous whole. It causes people of the farms to think of the town as their town, their market place, their social and cultural center, and it attracts them to the town.

In many ways the rural newspaper promotes the community it serves. It encourages better merchandising and better stocks for the benefit of town and farm patrons, and encourages patronage of local merchants by those living in the community and on the surrounding farms. It supports the schools, churches, clubs, whatever makes for cultural growth and social enjoyment. It does these things week after week, year after year, without any blare of trumpets and without expectation of commendation.

Individually, rural newspapers are serving more than 10,000 American

## THE HITCHHIKERS



communities. Their collective effort and influence makes of us a better, stronger, more prosperous, more cultured nation. Through them will be preserved that philosophy of government that has given us our American way of life. Collectively, they speak for more than one-half the people of the nation. Individually, each is the voice, the eyes and ears of the community it serves.

#### BEGIN AT HOME

Fire Prevention Week will be observed from October 5 to 11 this year. And every community in America, from the biggest metropolis down to the tiniest village, should participate. Now, as never before, fire prevention is a public duty. For fire prevention is of great and direct service to national defense.

What most of us fail to realize is that it is the cumulative total of relatively small fires which is responsible for the bulk of this country's shameful fire waste. Fire prevention, to be successful, must literally begin at home. Defective furnaces, defective wiring, accumulations of paper and rubbish, improperly stored flammable liquids, such as paint and cleaning solvents, matches, cigarettes—such little things as these are the cause of hundreds of millions of dollars of fire loss. A little knowledge, a little effort and a little money will make your home safe.

From the community point of view, one essential protection against fire is a modern building code. These codes should be up to the highest standard, and should make such hazards as the existence of fire traps impossible. Equally important, they are of small use unless they are rigidly enforced—and enforced without fear or favor. A code which is a dead letter because of lack of en-

forcement, is as bad as no code at all.

During Fire Prevention Week, every citizen should take advantage of the opportunity that will be offered to learn the causes of fires—and how they may be prevented. Then, apply what you have learned. Do it at home, and do it at work. It will save you money—and it may save life. And it may save valuable materials and resources which are so sorely needed now for defense. Let's make 1941 the year in which this country solves the problem of preventable fire.

#### Story of African Rubber Plantation

(To Be Continued)

Our rainy season is off to a good start down here, and we have had several good storms. Lightning struck three or four times near us and once struck the power transformer a few yards from our house. We went without lights for 48 hours that time. It lightnings mostly at the beginning and ending of the rainy season. Unless the Trading Company had an additional supply of candles in on this next boat we will be lighting matches to see with very shortly. Every one keeps a supply of these long tapers on hand and you would be surprised how much you use them. Our hottest months were March and April but they still were not as hot as Chicago in the summer time. The Harmattan season has ended and we no longer get the cold winds from the Sahara Desert at night so consequently had to rely on the ocean breeze for coolness. Almost the first day of May the rains came on schedule of course. It poured great sheets of water and in a few minutes the ground looked like a moving lake. It is next to impossible to see through the sheets of water which come from the eaves of the house when it rains. If you have seen movies of rain in the tropics you will know exactly how it rains down here. We are told that even in the rainy season there will be days of sunshine in a row and you get a little relief. No one pays any attention to it anyway and you go and come as usual. There are a lot of people playing golf this P.M. and it is a lovely day with a glorious breeze blowing. We sleep under a sheet and blanket at night and are quite comfortable.

Well, Ivory Charley No. 4 just sickened me out of 2 pds. in cold cash. I am now the proud possessor of four small ivory alligators and a French sabre from the Sudan and French Morocco country. He had some simply beautiful carved ivory heads and strings of elephants but I couldn't see the price today. Guess I have gone conservative for a week or something. I told him to come back "end of moon" and I think small and maybe I buy. He had lovely ebony beads, agate beads and carved elephant tooth and camwood bracelets and the like, also three gorgeous leopard skins. He is a Liberian Jew as Joe calls him, and how! He will be back next week or the end of the month and the price will be about half as much. When Ivory Charley No. 4, if I haven't told you before, is one of many traders who collect these curios from up and down the coast and go from house to house and sell to the white people. He is a Mandingo and quite tall. He always has his stooge with him and when the white drives a hard bargain he goes into a huddle with the stooge. Our house boys stand around with their eyes and mouths open and when this happens they listen and then laugh and laugh. They can understand the Mandingo tongue and sure got a kick out of the arguments about price. If you don't know how much a "proper price be" for a certain curio it is a good idea to have your boys around for they will stare and stare and they say, "It be too dear, Missey, or Massa."

Here is something that will probably amuse you—we save every scrap of paper of string we find no matter how little it is and sooner or later we can make good use of it. Just to give you an idea—we attended a formal birthday party last night and some of the gifts were wrapped in old newspapers which had been sent out here by relatives in the states. We think nothing of it out here but I stop to think how it would appear at home it sure make me laugh.

Things are so different in some ways out here. Everyone has the attitude of accepting the place just as it is and no excuses are made or possibly even thought of as a way of explanation for things such as the newspaper wrappings. They weren't even mentioned and the sewing thread with which the parcels were tied was carefully wound around and saved just as a matter of course and no one appeared the least bit surprised. I can bet this sounds crazy to you but we hardly think of it any more.

We'll believe it or not. I got a permanent in my hair last Friday. Who says we aren't even modern out here in West Africa. When I left the States I certainly thought I had the last permanent wave I would be getting for another two years. You see a lady arrived three months ago from the States who had her own beauty shop for 10 years and she brought a flock of machineless permanent supplies with her. Just in case some one wanted a permanent—JUST IN CASE—with all the girls out here wanting their hair curled. She certainly has been swamped. It is unbelievable how fast one's hair grows out here. I never had my hair cut between permanents at home and already I have cut two inches off, that was several months ago and when I got my permanent the lady cut off four inches more. Your hair, eyebrows and fingernails nearly drive you crazy out here because they grow so terribly fast. My nails were always a bit soft at home and cracked off if they were too long. Out here I think they would extend a foot beyond my finger and never even bend. You can almost watch your nail polish grow away from the base of the nail in between manicures. Now, how's that for speed?

(To Be Continued)

#### New Course In Modern Psychology To Be Taught

A course in the development of Christian personality will be made available to residents of Medford district this fall through the general extension division of the University of Oregon. Taught by Professor Loren E. Messenger of the psychology department at the Southern Oregon College of Education, this class will meet for the first time on October 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Medford high school.

Modern psychological principles as applied to the development of Christian character have changed church school lessons to such an extent that

teachers have felt the need of greater understanding of the psychological principles underlying Christian personality. Mr. Beattie believes that this six-week's non-credit course is an answer to this need.

Besides his academic duties at the college, Professor Messenger has carried on pastoral duties at the Gold Hill Methodist church and has been in direct contact with religious education problems. He expects to touch upon such subjects as these during the course of his lectures: the purpose of Christian education; what is the "original nature of man"? what is character and how may it be developed; important factors in character.

For further information regarding this course communicate with the instructor or address the general extension division, University of Oregon.

#### Scouts & Cubs Plan "Loyalty Dedication"

Boy scout troops and cub packs throughout the entire Northwest have just received word of plans for special "Loyalty Dedication" meetings to be held during the week of November 11 to 18. Troops in the local Crater Lake area now have the full information according to word today from the boy scout office in Medford.

The meetings will all be public and are intended to demonstrate to parents and scout sponsors the strength of the movement in numbers and in preparedness to meet recurring calls for Scout service. All troops and packs will be vying to earn the Reginald H. Parsons award which goes to every unit in this region that carries out its dedication meeting in a satisfactory manner.

Meeting program on that night will include a formal inspection and National Roll Call of the troop by a local council officer, demonstrations by patrols of "black-out" knot tying, first aid, signaling, customary and proper respects to the Flag, and the presentation of a troop mobilization plan. In addition to these practical demonstrations each troop must recruit and train between October 1st and the date of their meeting at least one new Scout per Patrol. Meetings will close with special dedication ceremonies.

A free press is vitally essential to the preservation of our American system of government and our way of life. Without it we could not have an informed public opinion in which minority voices are given a fair hearing. Without it our democratic institutions would perish.—Winthrop W. Aldrich, Chase National Bank, New York.

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## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

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