

Minnesotans To Picnic At Lithia Park, July 17

What it is hoped will be the first "Annual Picnic" of former residents of Minnesota, will be held at Lithia Park, in Ashland, on Sunday, July 17, beginning with a "covered dish" dinner at one o'clock.

No advance registration is required, but those interested are asked to attend either all or part of the afternoon in order to obtain a registration of former Minnesotans. A varied program of events is being worked up, but those having musical instruments are asked to bring them, or those having entertaining talents are asked to participate.

All coming to the picnic dinner at one o'clock are asked to bring their own "service" and food, which is to be served "pot-luck" style. Coffee and lemonade will be furnished, with the expense to be covered by a free-will offering.

Those desiring transportation to and from the picnic, as well as those having available space in their cars, are asked to get in touch, as soon as possible, with Mrs. Fred D. Adams, 520 West Second, or phone Medford 5346.

WILLOW SPRINGS NEWS

By Maxine Hammond

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Shores and family left Wednesday morning for Kansas. They will vacation there and visit both of their parents. Mrs. Frank Hammond is riding as far as Burns, Oregon where she will visit her daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Curry and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Thompson and daughter Alice spent a few days at various points on the coast this week combining business and pleasure.

Little Donna Hammond had the misfortune Saturday morning of running her whole arm through the

washing machine wringer. She suffered bad bruises and a badly cut hand. Four stitches were taken on her hand but no bones were broken.

Mr. Ray Maust and daughter of Portland, Oregon were callers at the Homer Congers last week. Mrs. Maust is a cousin of Mrs. Conger and they hadn't seen each other for several years.

The Willow Springs Community club met Tuesday night.

"FAMILY LETTERS"

From our House to your House
There flows a stream of love
That brightens up the shadows
Like sunshine from above.

The daily thoughts pass back and forth,

Like swallows on the wing,
Keeping all of us, and all of you,
Informed of happenings.

Ruth has a cold; Dad paints his car;
Old Michael coughs a bit—
A binding web of family love
Such news between us knits.

To others these seem trivia
And silly to relate.
Why don't we dwell on deeper thoughts
And matters more sedate?

We merely smile and shrug a bit,
That they should be so dense.
Let them who want to write in style
Of prominent events.

We still will toss our chips of news
Upon that glowing stream
That flows between our house and yours—
Our doings, and our dreams.

—R. W. B.

Economic Highlights

By now, the American public must be thoroughly confused over the various communist-spy cases that have been in the headlines so long. The Hiss-Chambers trial, with its mass of charges and counter-charges, has all the quality of a wild movie melodrama. So, to a lesser extent, had the Judith Coplon trial.

The judges and the juries will decide on the merits of these and other cases. However, certain recent developments, directly affecting the FBI and the Department of Justice, need clarification.

There has been a widespread criticism of the publication of an FBI report which indicated that a number of very well known people may be communists or communist sympathizers. The impression is that this report represented the FBI's considered opinion, and that the bureau is making a practice of tarring people with a red brush on insufficient evidence.

The FBI report in question was never supposed to be made public, and was never supposed to be conclusive evidence. As the Washington News put it, "These papers read in court are for the most part only unsubstantiated complaints and ac-

cusations. They are merely worksheets in proposed, pending and inconclusive investigations. As the first line of defense against the communist underground, it is the FBI's duty to run down reports it receives, wherever they may lead, even though it knows most of them may wind up in blind alleys." In other words, any police force worthy of its salt must gather and keep all possible information on cases that come before it, including that which later proves to be untrue.

This being so, why was such a report ever made public? That is an interesting and important story. The government, in the Coplon case, wanted to restrict the reading of it to the judge and jury. This gave Miss Coplon's lawyer just the opportunity he was looking for. It is a cardinal principle of American

justice that defendants be protected from secret evidence. The judge backed the lawyer up—obviously he had no choice in the matter. He said, "If this case endangers the Government, the Government should not be here." In other words, the Department of Justice had the choice of producing and making public the alleged evidence, even though in the FBI's opinion this would endanger the national security, or it could refrain from producing it and let its case against Miss Coplon go by default. The Department took the first alternative, over FBI objections. As David Lawrence said, "Had it been left to the FBI, the case would have been dropped because the bureau values its sour-

ces of information more than it does the winning of a single case." Most commentators tend to believe FBI was right and the Department was wrong.

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