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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE	
In Washington and Multnomah Counties	OUTSIDE TERRITORIES
One Year	One Year
Two Years	Two Years
Three Years	Three Years
6 Months	6 Months

That Death Be Held Back

There is the ingredient of normal American personality that brings satisfaction in circuses, parades and celebrations. There is the urge, too, of living dangerously and taking unnecessary chances. And there is, above all, the day of reckoning that sums up both tendencies and present a balance sheet that is sometimes grim, sometimes enervating.

Every national holiday just naturally brings out events in celebrations. There are parades, rodeos, community picnics and the circus sort of gatherings that feature a populace with a day off and an historical date to remember.

There seems nothing catastrophic, of course, in the prospect of a community picnic alongside some slow, meandering stream. And a spectator would hardly consider the watching of a parade or stuffing himself with cold fried chicken and potato salad as a particularly notable act of dangerous living. Yet, next week-end, as the nation, the state and the county looks toward celebration of July 4th, the days following, only, will record how sanely and intelligently this great national occasion has been observed.

There are many factors which might well cause sorrow and tragedy as the aftermath of the Fourth of July.

Independence Day, the 172nd anniversary of the nation's hectic birth, is everywhere dedicated to spectacular fireworks which each year seem to grow more potent and dangerous. Innocent little "lady finger" crackers, by which a cautious parent might seem assured that his youngsters would keep their fingers intact, seem to be scarce. Instead, there are buzz-bombs, flashcrackers and a long list of devices that could easily maim or seriously burn a careless celebrant.

Aside from fireworks, which are recognized as the No. 1 threat, highways crowded with cars of pleasure-bent travelers so often forecast death and disaster. Tippy drivers, impatient picnickers, old and dilapidated autos whose defections explode with terrifying results so often fill the pattern of highway smashups—and the serious results that follow.

Let us determine, in the days before July 4th, to enjoy to the utmost this occasion for celebration. Use care in driving. Convince your youngsters that a minimum of supervised fireworks is, in the long run, the safest, sanest way to mark the day. Be sure to take no chances in the water. Give your fellow citizen as much consideration in all your celebration as you would like, yourself.

There will be no greater satisfaction after the July 4th date has passed than that Death has been held back, by your observance of simple rules of care and thoughtfulness.

The Die Is Cast!

By an act of Congress, the future of young men between the ages of 18 and 26 is set to a definite pattern, in which some 21 months will be dedicated to military training against a possible outbreak of war. For the first time in almost 200 years, inhabitants of the United States are again yoked to a traditional investment of time and talent, for the obvious defense of the national interest.

There are many who will lean back and say, "There is no assurance that the draft bill will mean war." And the prayers of many can only hope that such is the picture of the immediate future.

Particularly the veterans of the latest world outbreak, who actually trembled in the front line when Death brushed them casually, and let them live, the vigorous hope is that the wheels of carnage and destruction have not again been set in motion. Yet, looking back into the history of every other nation which demands conscripted service, there can be only pessimism that the orgy of military spending and military training that now begins will mean anything less than vicious, unrestricted war even before the memory of the recent battles has lost its nearness.

There is, of course, one ray of hope in the example of European countries that conscript their populace. That country is Sweden, the only major, non-fascist nation in Europe that flexed its muscles and proved to invading Nazi hordes that their boundaries would prove inviolate.

It is of no purpose, now, to point out that wars never prove anything; that conflict is but a costly way of settling international dispute; that sane thinking and cool diplomacy would prove a more fitting answer to the threats of war than would be the throwing of world youth into the masticating jaws of death and disablement.

Unless and until the trend is reversed, we must prepare for an inevitable war. For now, the die is cast!

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ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

Events As Chronicled by Our Contemporaries In Northwest Communities

A REFRESHING VOICE

Among the publication efforts that occur within the state of Oregon, an interesting, refreshing voice is heard from Salem in a semi-annual directory of the activities of Marion and Polk counties and the state capitol itself.

Issue for May to November, 1948, No. 5, of the HEART OF THE VALLEY, contains many new and improved features, most outstanding of which is the spiritual normalcy of its publisher. Starting with the listing and explanation of myriad services and organizations within its area, the booklet pins back the ears of those who would twist words and hide behind cherubic generalities.

There is the breath of an old time crusader in the colored pages of the booklet. Like a crusader for right and sanity and a normal point of view.

Publication of this issue, the editor has found, brought forth howls and protests to the Salem Chamber of Commerce because so many people do not have a normal view on values. To reply to these protests, by people who did not disclose their identity, the publisher, R. A. Harris, added an extra insert labeled "Communism — An Apology" in which he proceeded to take apart such common-sense terms of "Civilization," "Christianity" and "Communism," so loosely thrown about in public speech and print.

Make no mistake about it. Heart of the Valley pulls no punches and doesn't back water because of shadowy critics who won't meet him face to face.

His philosophy is that action is "way out in front of talk" and he declares that "the age of witchcraft is past—we hope."

PLAYING COWBOY

One of the most romantic dreams of a rather bright young man brings a swagger and a lift. That dream is playing cowboy, complete with six-gun and a forewarning of desperados skulking at every way point.

In the environs of Gresham these days preceding July 3-4-5, the old dream comes to life again as merchants and townspeople cruise the streets in makeshift cowboy outfits as part of the atmospheric pressure being heightened in celebration of the three day rodeo to be held at nearby county fairgrounds.

Cowboy garb might not be compulsory, but a roving kangaroo court sees to it that offenders who shy away from the rangy get-up end up shy a few loose bucks.

One of the leading merchants of the city was swooped down upon by a posse of three armed by cap pistols. Because he wasn't wearing the indicated cowboy jeans, they wrasseled the pants off the lanky town character and marched him off for a search of cowhand haberdasheries for the noted levis.

Street parades will be held on each day of the rodeo and crowning highlight will be the selection of a rodeo queen from among sponsored candidates.

"QUEEN PREOCCUPIED"

Oregon City and its neighboring communities are rather "queen-preoccupied" these days, with first entries already in for selection to the tinselled royalty which is slated to play such a part in O.C.'s observance of the Oregon territory centennial—due to fall August 12-15.

Many organizations in the affected area have that "Will you be Queen?" glint to their optics, judging reports by the BANNER COURIER.

Eligibility is accorded any woman, single or married, between the ages of 17 and 27, inclusive. The drums are really beating, compelling attention of the fair ones.

A valuable gift schedule has been set up. Each princess will be awarded a \$75 gift certificate for clothing. In addition to other gratuities, the queen and escort of her choice will be given a trip by air to Hollywood, with the usual treatment the sunny movie capitol accords prize winners of such contests.

INDUSTRIAL MOVE

Among the aftermaths of the recent Columbia river flood is the loss to St. Helens of an important industry which employed more than 135 people.

As detailed by the SENTINEL, MIST, the Bemis Paper Bag company, after 20 years in the city, is moving lock, stock and barrel and most of its employees to Vancouver, Washington where a new plant is being built. Heavy equipment from the present to the new location will start moving within the next three weeks.

During the river overflow, plant and offices were under water and the sense of impotence before the not-to-be disputed presence of floodwaters spurred the already crystallized decision to move to safer, higher ground.

BOOTLEGGERS ON LOOSE

Bootleggers are on the loose again, in eastern Oregon, according to the REVIEW at LaGrande. And it's not the D.T.'s that loom as a result but rather serious family illness.

The bootleg fluid this time, is not the iniquitous Red Eye but that old home favorite, milk. Milk produced by sources that are neither inspected nor approved is becoming a raging problem that might well lead to major epidemic or other distress.

Milk sold through uninspected sources cannot offer a guarantee of cleanliness. Expensive equipment needed to protect the fluid from contamination, as in pasteurization cancels out such a possibility.

Likewise, bottles that have been swabbed with a makeshift rag will prove no substitute for proper sterilization and handling without contact of human hands.

In the bootleg picture, no shiftily-eyed "revenooers" are on the trail of the miscreants but rather the state department of agriculture.

WON'T SAY QUILTS

Although only eight percent of Hillsboro voters turned out to reject, by 3 to 2 margin, a proposed \$9300 tax levy which would start the much discussed year-round recreational program, concerning which an aroused citizenry declared, in a delegation, their insistence on such a civic feature.

Although, by defeat of the enabling tax levy, there will be no supervised recreational or vocational training program in the city for school kids the issue of a swimming pool is not involved, as it was not listed on the ballot, says the ARGUS.

In behalf of a swimming pool, which the city would like to construct alongside a grade school, the city attorney urges the city

to sponsor an act of legislature which would either permit it to construct such a facility on other than city property or to allow more than one agency to cooperate in such a venture.

Although the defeated levy would have amounted to \$1600 per person of the city and would have set a recognized need in movement, for the welfare of the youth of the city, the concensus at Hillsboro is that the story isn't finished, as yet.

Backers of the deal won't say quits, yet.

HORSELESS CARRIAGE

Like ancient warriors who, having gone to the wars in their youth, spent their days on pension or similar, state of retirement horseless carriages of the early twentieth century are honored and sung about by collector-enthusiasts.

To give direction to such an interest, the Franson's weekly MOTOR NEWS, of Eugene steps blithely to the front, carrying news of ancients and previews of modern foreign cars in its columns.

PGE Stock Earns 45 Cents a Share Payable July 15

A second 1948 quarterly dividend of 45 cents per share of Portland General Electric company common stock has been declared by the utility's board of directors, it was announced today by Thos. W. Delzell, board chairman. The dividend is payable July 15 to stockholders of record on June 30.

Delzell also announced that exchange of PGE stock for securities of its former parent, Portland Electric Power company is now 87 per cent complete and that the new PGE stockholders total approximately 10,300.

Oregon, with 46 per cent of the

total, has a larger number of stockholders than any other state, and California is second with approximately 30 per cent. At the present time more than 58 per cent of all outstanding PGE stock is held in the four Pacific Coast states of Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Pampered Farmers

If the folks in our town were less tolerant, they'd be really burned up over that nationally circulated article on "pampered farmers," describing them as living off the fat of the land.

From where I sit the farmer is anything but "pampered." If he's better off today than twenty years ago it's because he's worked hard to improve the quality and quantity of his production.

Take Bert Childers, for example. Bert is up at four in the morning, to get the milking finished—and

ploughing or harvesting, depending on the season, until sundown. In the evening he finally relaxes with the missus over a moderate glass of beer.

And the farmer today's not only temperate in his habits, like Bert's evening glass of beer... but tolerant in his opinions. So he'll probably say of that article, "somebody got the facts wrong," and just let it go at that.

Joe Marsh

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Education in Oregon... a golden opportunity...

schools. Elementary schools, numbering 1302, in turn are doing their job of preparing our children for higher education. Though the state is fortunate in having so many schools of higher learning, it finds all of them jammed to capacity with eager young men and women, making further expansion necessary.

As this region grows, so grows PGE

Oregon's fine youth and the growing educational system by which they benefit are another reason why the state has a shining future. PGE is investing in this future with expanding facilities and service for 180,000 customers in the Willamette Valley. PGE has already used \$12,500,000 for this purpose since the war. This year it will expend \$7,000,000 more.



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