

Southern Oregon Miner

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SMART LIKE A FOX-TAIL FOR GETTING IN DEEPER!

Perhaps Ashland will have no more graphic or disappointing example of results of a young mind which fails to comprehend a true evaluation of good and bad than it has in the now languishing Elmer Haab, who stretched 15 days of jail confinement into five years because he didn't figure things out right.

Elmer, it will be remembered, was committed to the county jail for petty larceny and had but two weeks more to serve until he would have become a free youth again with an opportunity to adopt the pleasures and pursuits of his friends. But Elmer, either because of a misguided idea as to what was romantic and adventurous or because of a mental twist, thought it would be great fun to skip his trusteeship and give "them cops a chase."

Naturally, the youth was apprehended and re-committed to jail, with a three-year prison sentence being added for breaking loose. Then, as Haab was being returned from circuit courtroom to the jail with two other prisoners, he broke and ran, this time to be free nearly a week, during which time he robbed several stores and a residence.

Haab was easily recaptured after he had thrown hacksaw blades onto roof of the jail and attempted to get word to a cellmate to use the blades to escape. Arresting officers overlooked two hacksaw blades secreted in Elmer's necktie, and the lad sawed away two bars from his cell before being observed.

As a result of all his scheming "adventure," Haab now faces five years in the state penitentiary and perhaps life, for there is much likelihood that his term-lengthening escapades will continue.

Had Elmer sat tight and outwaited his first petty larceny sentence, he now would be free as the wind, able to josh with his friends, attend movies, go fishing and bask in the warm sunshine. Instead, he now is confined in a small four-walled room with a bare cot, a toilet and one small window, set high in the north wall. Soon he will be transported—in irons—to Salem where he will become a classmate in Oregon's crime college.

Elmer Haab is dedicated, by his own choice, to a life of progressive crime. Although he has not been physically dangerous, his each succeeding escapade has entrenched him more deeply into lawlessness. So far, the boy has been traveling a one-way road and has shown no inclination or desire to have it otherwise.

His experience is a glaring example of what happens to young smarties who get mistaken ideas. Elmer has made himself a public nuisance and is deserving of no leniency in punishment. His mind does not work to the benefit of society and Haab has earned his scholarship to Salem with flying colors.

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VAN DEVANTER WAS NOT MR. ROOSEVELT'S OBJECTIVE!

With one supreme court justice retiring voluntarily and with New Deal legislation receiving much more liberal consideration by the Nine Old Men since President Roosevelt advocated his retirement plan for justices who have reached the age of 70 years, there is a loud and wailing howl being set up for Mr. Roosevelt to drop his desired changes.

"Why continue the battle, after objectives have been won?" query the critics. Why, indeed!

It appears to this department that some learned contemporaries have forgotten that Mr. Roosevelt's "battle" is not being directed against any certain man in the supreme court but, rather, is aimed at flaws in the system. The faults of the supreme court's structure still remain, although one or two of the more reactionary members of the body may pull in their necks or resign.

Fundamentally, the Roosevelt-sponsored changes

LIFE'S BYWAYS!



are intended as reforms of a system that has lent itself to bias and lop-sided jurisprudence. The Miner believes that Mr. President seeks to prevent a recurrence for all time of the situation where five men can reverse the expressed will of the majority of American citizens and their representatives.

With this idea in mind, the president can hardly be expected to drop his campaign for needed supreme court reform simply because one or two of his pet measures may have been smiled on for the moment.

The ambition of President Roosevelt is not to appoint supreme court justices, but to block the sovereign autocracy permitted under the present set-up which makes justices answerable to themselves only and not to the people they theoretically should serve.

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DON'T TAMPER WITH A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION!

Should a recent war department order be carried out, all reserve officers now serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps who have completed two or more years service would be relieved by December.

The smooth-working, efficient structure of the CCC would be remanned with green officers every two years. On the surface, their rotation would appear to make the corps a fine training ground for officers as well as enrollees, but further investigation of the situation existing in the 3-C would indicate that nothing could be further from the truth.

It must be remembered that the conservation corps, essentially, is a training ground for the enrollees who, in many cases, were unemployed youths recruited from large centers of population being given a chance to learn how to use their hands and their minds. There is a school which furnishes clothing, food, lodging, remuneration and instruction.

The successful training and discipline of raw recruits gathered together from all parts of the country requires able and experienced leadership already developed in reserve army officers whose several years of experience in the CCC have been invaluable in building up the smooth-running, efficient machine that is the 3-C today. To replace all such leaders with green reserves within a short time would create confusion, lessen efficiency and subtract from training and educational advantages enrollees now enjoy.

Although enrollee membership is purposely and rightly rotated in order to give more widespread benefits to America's young men, pursuing such a course in filling key points of 3-C administration could have nothing but undesirable results.

For example, in the Medford district, of the hundreds of reserve officers who have been on duty dur-

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ing the last four years, at least 25 per cent have found the peculiar responsibilities of running a company too much for them. Another 50 per cent have been relieved from time to time because they failed to measure up completely and their tours of duty were not extended. About 25 per cent have remained through thick and thin and have been worked into an organization which now is functioning smoothly and efficiently.

To dismiss these officers who have proven their mettle with the CCC not only would work an injustice to the officers themselves, but also would hinder work of the army in administering camps under their supervision. Key men who have fitted themselves into an executive pattern are not easily replaced.

It is one thing to rotate CCC enrollee membership so that a greater number may receive the corps' benefits, but it is quite another thing to destroy stability of the organization which handles them by rotating tours of duty every two years regardless of abilities and importance of the officers to the administrative organization which guides the tree troopers.

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