

Southern Oregon Miner

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"THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

ASHLAND PEOPLE AWAIT WITH HOPEFUL INTEREST PLANS FOR A NEW GRANDSTAND!

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good, and flames which early Tuesday destroyed the Ashland high school athletic field grandstand some day soon may be looked upon with benign gratitude by local fans.

Destruction of the stands and consequent necessity for rebuilding should precipitate the long delayed athletic plant expansion which has been an admitted need here for many years. Like the donkey that required a bonfire under his navel to move him, perhaps the grandstand blaze will bring a definite start on an adequate athletic field. There could be no better time for it.

Members of the Ashland school board, in considering reconstruction of the grandstand and possible field expansion may feel assured that taxpayers of the school district will be almost unanimous in endorsing any progressive plan that may be proposed. The Miner is certain, after more than five years of urging modernization of athletic facilities here, that voters who foot the bill not only are willing to see adequate expansion at this time, but are obviously anxious to have their public schools brought up to par with other institutions of southern Oregon. Ashland people are progressive, and they want their schools to reflect that spirit.

Directors of the school board need not be squeamish about proposing a long-range program for development of their athletic field. Voters will welcome such progressive action.



IGNORING THE AMERICAN FLAG IS A FUNNY WAY TO BE DEVOUT!

Late this month a "theocratic convention of Jehovah's Witnesses" is scheduled for key cities throughout the United States, according to advance publicity being fed to newspapers by the group. Just what the fuss is all about is not quite clear to those of us on the outside, but what is certain is that the organization has made a successful effort to capitalize on its "religious" objection to saluting the American flag—or any flag, they say, other than their own symbol.

Although The Miner, along with most folks, is willing to concede that Jehovah's Witnesses probably are as good citizens as any and doubtless are patriotic, we feel that their refusal to salute the flag under which they are protected is splitting hairs at a time when such obstinance is extremely unpopular.

The suspicion arises, on reflection, that perhaps this refusal to salute and the attendant publicity are the sect's chief bid for attention. It is a mighty cheap way to gain headlines, particularly when half the world is aflame with war feeding on just such ill-advised convictions.

If members of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect really mean to be patriotic, loyal Americans, they they are doing themselves and their religion a disservice by their attitude toward the American flag.



THE JAPANESE ARE ASKING FOR A SPANKING AND WE'RE JUST ABOUT IN THE MOOD!

With the cocky Japanese hurling insult after insult at the United States, it begins to look as though pretty soon we'll have to do a little muscle-flexing in the Orient and educate a few slant-eyed rice gobblers. Talk of "disarming" the marines stationed in China is not flattering to Americans, especially after they've already suffered the humiliation of having one of their gunboats deliberately bombed and sunk.

Just what, from a military standpoint, America can do to call their bluff is not clear to this department, which hardly understands into which end of a cannon you put powder—but incidents like that being precipitated by the Japs make us eager to learn.

Of course it is quite obvious that Japan is in league with the totalitarian states of Europe and is making an effective effort to divert our attention to the east

AND THEN THE FUN BEGAN!



while the battle for England is prosecuted. Perhaps our military are smart enough to shoot 'em an accidental curve one of these days.

Fortunately, the United States possesses an economic weapon which, if used against Japan, doubtless would crush that nation and it looks as though our best customers across the Pacific are begging for punishment.



HITLER'S HATRED OF ROOSEVELT PROBABLY MATCHES THAT OF GOP FERVOR!

Wednesday night in Chicago delegates to the democratic national convention showed the Philadelphia conventionists what a popular demand really is. On their first ballot President Roosevelt was nominated for a third term by more than 90 per cent of all ballots, which was practically unanimous.

So it appears that the nation will be bombarded this fall with a lot of partisan anti-third term talk, accusations of dictatorship and a lot of other political hogwash that is conjured up solely for vote-getting purposes. There is no doubt but that democratic voters, delegates and the nation as a whole want Roosevelt to continue serving during the present trying times and to say that his nomination for a third term is in violation of democratic principles is to ignore the obvious truth. Nothing could be more democratic than a third-term tribute to the one man in whom a democratic people have their greatest confidence.

Just why some voters should hate Roosevelt so bitterly is quite hard to understand except for the historical fact that the greater the national figure, the more bitter his enemies. Abraham Lincoln, admittedly our one greatest president, was cursed, despised and abused even more than is Roosevelt today and there were many who cheered at news of his assassination.

There is one thing certain: Those who look on Roosevelt's renomination with foreboding and discomfort have a strange bedfellow in one Adolf Hitler, who finds little satisfaction in watching the American people rally behind the man who has openly and vehemently condemned the nazi butchery of Europe.

Under Roosevelt the United States has launched an unprecedented rearmament drive and reelection of FDR will give pause to and cause worry for the dictators of both Europe and Asia.

Southern Pacific Buys Pacific Truck Express

Purchase by Southern Pacific company this month of the Pacific Truck Express will greatly increase Southern Pacific's capacity to serve Oregon shippers, according to Herman W. Klein, general freight agent, Portland.

The Pacific Truck Express provides local trucking service in Oregon and a through service to California points. Present schedules and service will be maintained or improved, Klein said, and acquisition of the line will make it possible to coordinate rail and truck shipments, providing greater flexibility of freight transportation for Oregon shippers.

Southern Pacific has provided overnight service with store-door pickup and delivery between Portland and many western Oregon points for the last several years. With acquisition of the Pacific Truck Express this overnight service now can be extended to virtually every point in western Oregon, Klein said.

Addition of truck facilities to the company's rail service in western Oregon long has been desired by Southern Pacific, according to Klein, but it was only recently that impeding obstacles were removed and the service established.

DRIVES SANS LICENSE
A fine of \$2.50 and \$4.50 costs was levied against Christine B. Yockel when she appeared in Justice of the Peace M. T. Burns' court on a charge of operating an automobile without a driver's license.

KLAMATH MAN FINED
A Klamath Falls man, Ira Edward Chastain, was fined \$2.50 and \$4.50 court costs when he appeared in justice court Monday on charges of passing another vehicle with improper clearance.

FLAMES TAKE GRANDSTAND

Four hours after the last softball spectator left the Ashland high school ball park Monday night—about 3 a. m. Tuesday—the entire grandstand section, which was erected by the Ashland Lithians in 1925, was a mass of leaping and twisting flames started, it is believed, by a smouldering cigaret stub dropped by some inhaling onlooker.

The blaze was discovered by Harold N. Clark, night watchman at the Pine Box company and the Coggins mill who noticed a glow in the sky. Before the fire truck could arrive the bone-dry structure was blazing skyward in smoke. A small portion of the fence on one side, and the scorching of adjacent light poles and wiring were only other objects damaged.

According to school board clerk Fred Engle the loss, estimated at between \$1500 and \$2000, was covered by insurance.

The area was immediately cleared and bleachers erected so that softball games were able to proceed on schedule Wednesday night. A meeting of school board mem-

bers will be held this week to discuss plans for replacement of the grandstand before football season.

What Other Editors Are Saying!

WHY JACK RAPER BACKS MR. WILLKIE
Everyone in Cleveland and vicinity knows Jack Raper, famous columnist of the Cleveland Press. Recently Jack delivered himself as follows:

"We believe we'll back Wendell Willkie, super-magnate of utilities, for president. Willkie helped organize, and is president of, the Commonwealth and Southern, which has outstanding 33,673,328 shares of common stock, more than twice as much as any other utility holding company.

"In 1929 it sold as high as \$30.50 a share, a total value of \$1,037,036,504. Today it is selling at around 75 cents a share, a loss to common stockholders of \$999,531,508.

"Unless you can show us where there has been a bigger and a better loss, we will stand by Willkie. He's the man to restore confidence and make America safe for 'free enterprise'."

And yet there are politicians who think they can elect Willkie to the presidency!—Labor.

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Southern Pacific

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