

## Southern Oregon Miner

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# EDITORIAL

### THIS PRACTICE WOULD NOT BE MISSED!

AN America at war must have some relaxation and the Miner is not inclined to throw cold water on any legitimate type of enjoyment. There is one practice that could be dispensed with, we think, without doing injury to the town's morale. There was a demonstration of it Tuesday evening when a charivari party paraded the streets for possibly one-half of an hour.

Such spectacles go unnoticed in peace time when there is plenty of rubber and gasoline. But now it is different, and it is our belief that if the practice is not voluntarily stopped some official action should be taken to check it. On every hand we are told to conserve rubber. The government is preparing to ration gasoline with the direct object of saving rubber. Can it be that the people who indulge in this bit of prodigality have never heard of the rubber shortage? Or, if hearing have no intention of heeding the pleas to save it? How are they going to save if they continue to use their cars as they have in times of plenty of automotive supplies?

Apparently this lack of cooperation comes from young people who perhaps for the first time in their lives have earned enough money to operate a car at their own expense. When dad was footing the bills he could put his foot down—but now dad has nothing to say. The young spriggins will drive the rubber off the tires before the old bus is morgued, unless some official action is taken to curb their nefarious conduct.

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### UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWS RAPID DECLINE

FIGURES released by the State Unemployment Compensation commission show that unemployment has taken a rapid decline in recent months. The decline has been more noticeable in recent weeks and may be credited to the harvest season. But the decline started far enough back to lend some emphasis to the fact that wartime employment is influencing the reduction in compensation payments more than other causes.

Only \$29,530 was paid to those without jobs in August, compared with \$42,871 in July and \$60,973 in June. A steady drop has been shown since the year's high of \$525,898 in February.

The previous low month was September, 1941, with \$77,554 in benefits. Unless an emergency develops, it is pointed out, this month will hit another low, as only about \$3,000 was paid last week to unemployed. With strict scrutiny being given to all claims because of widespread labor shortages, most benefits are going to special workers in industries slowed up by temporary material shortages or seasonal conditions. Only 40 Oregon workers filed claims from other states.

Oregon's decrease in July benefits from the same month in 1941 was 75 per cent. For the nation an increase of 11.8 per cent was shown, largely because of loss of work-days in changing over to wartime production in large cities. New York, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Connecticut and Georgia paid out from 9 to 126 per cent more than in July 1941.

Shipbuilding in the Portland area has absorbed thousands of workers from various parts of the state, as well as from other states. Harvests are absorbing other interests, leaving the number of jobless to the class termed as normal unemployed.

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### TOOTS FOR VICTORY

THE next time a speeder passes you on the road try giving him three toots of your horn.

The other day a radio announcer told about his success with the treatment. He was driving along at 30 miles an hour when a car went whizzing by him. Realizing that this driver was wasting gasoline and rubber, the announcer tooted his horn three times as if to say, "Don't be a Nazi."

The car went speeding on past a second conservative driver. That driver took up the cue and blew his horn three times. Both watched as the speeder showed he realized what it was all about by pulling to the side of the road and taking it easy for the rest of the trip.

Whether it's three toots of the horn or any other signal, it's a good idea for all of us to have a way we can express our resentment against anyone "speeding as usual" these days. Since the three toot signal has started let's carry it on.

## DALE CARNEGIE

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People"

### AFRAID OF IT? THEN TRY IT!

This is the story of "Mabel, the Child Who Was Afraid of the Dark."

I came across it when I was lecturing in Wichita, Kansas. While I was there I met Dr. Edwina T. Cowan, director of the Wichita Child Research Laboratory, and she told me the story.

Mabel was a bright, attractive child, and was jolly and laughing during the day, but when dark came she was haunted by a sense of fear. She would twitch in her sleep, and utter terrified screams. It was always about the dark.

Why? Because when she was an infant, she was knocked over by a dog in the dark. The dog was large and the child was terrified.

Later, the dog was brought to the child during the day, and Mabel was asked to play with it. She did, but seemingly made no mental connection between her fright and the good natured dog. This fear-complex grew. She was not only afraid to go outdoors at night, but even to go into the next room. The mother reasoned with her and tried to reassure her; but Mabel was not to be reassured.

The laboratory studied the case and decided that it would do no good to try to reason her out of her fear. The laboratory decided to replace Fear with Liking. They asked what she liked best in the world. What do you suppose it was? Gumdrops. That was the key.

The mother was instructed to place a gumdrop on a chair just inside a dark room, which opened off a lighted hall, and to tell Mabel the gumdrop was there. Mabel wanted it with all the longing of her childish being. She started to walk past the door, but was so frightened that she broke into a run. She came back a few moments later, kept hold of the doorjamb and peered in. Then she made a lightning snatch at the gumdrop, got it and came pitty-patting back. The mother pretended not to notice.

The next evening the game was repeated. This time the chair was placed a bit further inside. Again Mabel approached the door; again she raced by. But she returned in less time than she had before.

Each evening the game was played, the chair farther and farther inside the dark room. At the end of ten days it was placed against the far wall. Mabel walked slowly toward the gumdrop, seized it, and raced back. Bit by bit she gained confidence. The gumdrop was left on the swing on the dark porch. Mabel got it. The fear-complex which had been built up in her began to wane. It had been replaced by something she liked.

A splendid suggestion for mothers. Not only is the psychology of dealing with fear workable for children, but it can be used by adults. If you fear anything, replace fear with something you like. It will drive out fear.

Said Emerson: "Do the thing you fear, and the death of fear is certain." Try it.

### MEAT RATIONING

SO meat is to be rationed. Maybe it is necessary and maybe it isn't, but the two and a half pounds per person quota which is to be allotted to all of us isn't anything to stay awake nights over.

For a family of four, that means ten pounds of meat a week. There are probably few families which consume that much meat now—and if they do they can still supplement it with fish or fowl.

There isn't another country in the world where people know what it is like to get that much meat each week. In Germany and Italy the people are lucky if they get a few ounces of meat and even in the countries with which we are fighting that much meat has become something unheard of.

It would be interesting to know how much meat is consumed by the average family in this country. But it is a safe bet that two and a half pounds per person per week would be an extravagance which many families have never enjoyed. It hardly seems as though we need rationing to keep our consumption down to this high quota.

### THIS AND THAT

(By Old Timer)

To the Editor:

Instead of a strict enforcement of the present 9 o'clock curfew it is now proposed, for no valid reason, to extend the time limit to 10 or even 10:30 o'clock. What a travesty! Such a change, it seems to us, would be putting a premium on juvenile delinquency. Why not let well enough alone?

Remember back in the distant past when every well regulated household had its own curfew? Juvenile delinquency was curbed by father's razor strop and mother's hair brush, juvenile courts and reformatories, now considered necessary, were then not even envisioned.

Chief Talent's suggestion that women organizations furnish volunteers to observe conditions in the city from 10:30 p. m. to 2:30 in the morning and make written reports of their observations is likely to fall on deaf ears and rightly so. Women have recently been molested in their homes by night prowlers and many are chary about leaving their homes nights without an escort. Why women should do police duty is a mystery to us since Talent announces that "we have the situation well in hand."

By the way, how would you like for you to fill the post of an observer?

If the city firemen would shake a leg and burn the grass and what not that adorns(?) the site of their projected new quarters, additional parking space would be provided for motorists and incidentally eliminate an eyesore.

The Bowman duo who wrecked the city bastille ought to be sent to the Solomon Islands where the work of destruction is on an improved and larger scale.

More tinkering on the Plaza bottleneck and the sponsor of the project is not yet satisfied. Ho hum!

A purchase recording "a cream machine for ice" is in George Washington's ledger, dated May 17, 1784.

## ABOVE the HULLABALOO



No one can ever prophesy correctly what will happen in a war. Sometimes a weaker antagonist will "ramp" over a much stronger one and settle the conflict in short order. But if the weaker side can't win in a short time and the contest becomes long drawn out, its more powerful foe will almost always wear it down and defeat it. Among the many instances of this obvious principle, we are all familiar with two recent ones—the American Civil war and the so-called First World war.

In the Civil war—except for the campaigns in the west—the Confederacy had about everything its own way the first two years, and upon several occasions it looked as though its efforts to create a separate union would be successful. Union army after Union army—organized and reorganized—crumpled before the superb strategy of Gen. Robert E. Lee and the magnificent fighting morale of the Southern forces. All this time, however, the army of the rich and populous north was growing larger and stronger as it becomes continually more apparent to the people that they must sacrifice and sweat—or be beaten. But the south had no more man power to call upon and when a soldier died his place was left unfilled. As with her manpower, so it was with her material strength. Slowly she became weaker, and finally at the Battle of Gettysburg she received the mortal wound.

The First Great war was almost won in its initial year—and by the Germans. The second year again found them strong and threatening. The third year they had begun to lose strength but the Allies didn't really grasp this fact until near the very end of the war. The first two terrifically destructive years had sapped the limited manhood and the limited material strength of Germany. Her "crack" divisions had become "crack" in name only. The fine fighting men who once made up those great shock divisions were either crippled or dead. Her commissary was in bad shape. Food shortage was undermining the health and morale of the people behind the lines. Material shortage was weakening

the lines themselves.

These are two standard but excellent examples of a mathematical principle. Without doubt the same principle is functioning normally today. The German nation—without any very great human or material assistance—has been using up her supplies for year and a half she has been lavishly throwing into the Russian campaign the very flower of her fighting manhood. Hitler was in a hurry to "clean up" when he turned on Russia, and we may rest assured that no army commander lives—or has lived—who can resist the urge to use his best troops when he is in a hurry to gain a vital point. The probability is that the German army has lost 25 per cent of its efficiency, and that the morale "back of the lines" has weakened in like proportion.

There are two ways in which Germany can win this war: First—by a miracle.—Second—by stupidity on the part of the Allies; and by stupidity is meant lack of foresight, bad military management, squabbling among ourselves and between our Allies, overconfidence and relaxation, destruction by governments of the confidence of their peoples and their armies, unwillingness on the part of the people to sacrifice, lack of realization of the danger of defeat, group selfishness, business as usual and politics as usual.

The opossum, when caught, usually makes believe he is dead, whence the expression, "playing possum."

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