

## SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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Carryl H. & Marion C. Wines, Editors-Publishers

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### The OPA Is Okay

All of us have heard many, many complaints against the OPA, that much maligned agency which reaches into every city and hamlet, into every individuals life and actions, nearly every day in some way. We have heard but very few who ever spoke out in favor of the agency, and yet we consider that they have done a good job of what they started out to do—keep the price of everything stable, prevent inflation and see that everyone gets his fair share of what there is.

Of course most of us, or should we say all of us, do not like the regimentation that has of necessity come with such a program. In this country where we have been in the habit of doing about as we pleased, without any government interference, the taking of some of the more or less restricting regulations did not come easy.

But what if there had been no OPA, no price control and no rationing, would things not have been in a chaotic condition. One can only recall how the price of a few articles went so high that few could afford to get them, the hoarding, etc. Of course anything, we might imagine along those lines would only be guess work as far as today's events are concerned, but we do not at least have any wild inflation because of unlimited buying.

The administration of these OPA boards is not an easy matter, and as all of them are made up of men in our own community, and those same men have had to deal with their neighbors, many of the board members have incurred a lot of enmity because of it. They have a thankless job and one which should bring a lot of praise when this thing is over.

Many of us, no doubt, can point out certain cases where injustices have occurred, where it appears that the whole thing is wrong, but this would be likely to happen in any program as vast as that undertaken by the OPA. Our hats are off to them!

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### Newspaper Week is October 1 to 8

This week the newspapers of the nation are observing Newspaper week. It is a yearly observance and our readers are asked to stop a few minutes and reflect upon the fact of what the newspapers of this nation mean to the nation.

The Constitution, among the very first guarantees it makes to the people of these United States, is that guaranteeing them a free press. The newspapers of this nation are jealously guarding that right, and are fighting every encroachment upon the rights guarantee them.

Since dictators of this world the past few years, have come into power, about the first thing they do is to throttle the press of the nation, they force it into putting out the propoganda of that particular dictator or in other words becoming the tool of the person or party in power. And we maintain as long as there is a free press in this nation it will be hard for a dictator to ever get established. And if one ever does get in control of this nation, about the first order that will be given is that throttling the press.

Of late there has been a considerable battle going the rounds of the nations printing trades journals on the question of whether this nation really has a "free" press or not, many contending that heavy advertisers in the papers really dominate the policies of the individual papers. We can readily see how this could well happen, how easily pressure could be brought by those same heavy advertisers on the paper through the withholding of advertising patronage. But we doubt if this is very widespread practice, and is only a minor matter.

The newspapers of this nation, we believe, present the news fairly, and honestly. There is no doubt that there are instances of a "kept" press, where some corporation, some politician is in the newspaper business to further his own business, or his political ambitions, but in the main this too, is in the minority.

The newspapers come to our door every day, and so regular that readers are apt to take them for granted, and thinks little about them. But during this week, they are asked to reflect on them, and thank our Constitution and the newspaper industry for a "free" press.

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### Support the Boy Scout Drive

The Boy Scout drive for funds is now under way in Ashland, and should have the whole hearted support of Ashland residents. This is a drive for funds for the Crater Lake Area Council, to keep the office running. Considerable funds are needed at the head office in Medford for this purpose, to coordinate the work of the 40 troops in the Council area, the maintaining the office force, and in general, to "service" the troops in the area.

Of all the nation-wide organizations, the Boy Scouts is perhaps the most worthy. Some may argue with this statement, that there are other such organizations that do as much good or more, but that, too, may be a mat-

## 12,000,000th Member



The twelve millionth member of the Boy Scouts of America since it started nearly 35 years ago is 12-year-old Freston Ellsworth Koentop (above) who is doing a man-sized job, handling tractors and other farm machinery on his father's 151-acre farm at Brandon, Wis. His dad was a Boy Scout in the same town just 30 years ago. Typifying the average American boy, the twelve millionth member was the guest of national rural and Boy Scout leaders at a luncheon in Chicago and spoke on a coast-to-coast book-up with Burrige D. Butler, Editor and Publisher of "Prairie Farmer", Wheeler McMillen, Editor of "Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife", both members of the National Committee on Rural Scouting, Walter W. Head of St. Louis, President of the Boy Scouts of America and Dr. Elbert K. Fretwell, Chief Scout Executive and Editor of "Boys' Life."

ter of personal opinion. The fact of the matter is, just a week or so ago the twelfth million Boy Scout was signed up. We doubt if there is any other organization that can boast of such a membership.

If scouting is really taken seriously in a community, and really backed by that community, the good it can do is unlimited. Unfortunately some communities take it very casually, thus only "exposing" the boys to the influence of scouting. But even a small amount of "exposing" can do a boy a lot of good, and parents and friends should encourage boys to do more and more scouting.

Ashland is known as a community with a real interest in scouting, its Boy Scouts are active and there is plenty of evidence that the work has done the boys much good. So in this week and next while the Boy Scout drive for funds is on, lets all contribute a few dollars. It is investment in future citizenship and we know of no cause more worthy of support.

### Guest Editorial

THE GRAND OLD BOOK  
By Norman Vincent Peale

You can get a great deal out of life if you go at it in the right way. Living for some is anything but a pleasure; it is a discouraging series of hardships, disappointments, anxieties and frustrations. If it isn't that bad, it is at least a lot of drudgery, monotony and inner conflict.

But the grand and glorious fact is that life does not need to be that way for anyone, because living can be a rich and pleasant experience. That simple but profound American philosopher, Henry Thoreau of Walden Pond, said: "Life is just a stream in which I go fishing." He had learned the art of drawing out of the stream of life, values that make for satisfaction and happiness.

This does not mean that always one shall find life peaceful and easy-going. Much of it is storm and stress and just plain difficulty. How, to meet, those things is the question.

Here is a suggestion: Read the writings of one of the greatest of all philosophers. He was not a bookish man but a keen thinker who knew the simple every-day problems of people and he had found the answer to those problems. I refer to the man who wrote the 23rd Psalm. Insofar as it is possible to compress all the emotions of human life into a few sentences, it has been done in this Psalm. This man implies that he had suffered want for he tells us that he found a shepherd who cared for his wants. He had known storm and tumult for now he lived in "green pastures," and by the quiet and "still waters."

He evidently had been under pressure and was about played out for now his "soul was restored." He had struggled with enemies for now "a table was spread," indicating victory for him. He had walked through a dark valley but had learned to "fear no evil," for someone was with him. In short, he had suffered much and had been hard pushed by life. Yet he arrives at an amazing philosophy. He is convinced that "goodness and mercy shall follow him all the days of his life."

Probably this 23rd Psalm has comforted and helped more people than any single bit of writing, and there must be a reason. Aside from the melody of the words and its true picture of life and faith, this Psalm illustrates a profound fact about "life," that under its storm is a deep har-

mony and peace. The art of living is to get yourself attuned to the inner harmony which lies at the center of life.

The hurricane which recently swept the Eastern Seaboard, struck my little farm in the Berkshire Hills late at night. The winds howled about my farmhouse which had stood through nearly 140 years of storm. The electric power failed and kerosene lamps were lighted. With mounting fury the hurricane shook the house and drove into the giant and ancient trees. Occasionally the power would come on just long enough for me to hear the radio reports, and then it would die away. During one of these periods the strains of a peaceful and lovely melody floated into the room. "How," I asked myself, "can such peaceful music get through this storm, through this disturbed atmosphere?"

Of course, the answer is that there are deep levels of atmosphere which the storm cannot reach, so that peaceful and untroubled harmony sings itself through the storm. This is what the Psalmist discovered. He saw that the pain and struggle of life are not the final answer; that within life a man can find strength and peace so that he

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will be in a position to say, "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."  
The week from October 9 to 14, inclusive, has been designated by the Laymen's National Committee as BIBLE WEEK. The 23rd Psalm is but one of the many beautiful passages in that GRAND OLD BOOK. If life is getting you down, if you have lost courage, why not turn back to this great book? There you will find the answers to all of your problems and gather the strength to see them through.

### New York Is Chief Outlet for Local Fruit

New York is still by far the leading market for Oregon's pears and fresh prunes, but both Los Angeles and Chicago have passed it as an outlet for Oregon apples, according to a statistical bulletin just issued by the O.S.C. Extension service, "Oregon's Carlot Shipments and Unloads of Tree Fruits." Data for 1943 are included.

For the more perishable fruits Portland leads in taking cherry shipments, while San Francisco is the chief single market for the few Oregon peaches shipped out.

Production of fruit shipped in car lots is concentrated almost completely in the Southern Oregon and Columbia basin districts, according to this bulletin prepared by the extension economics staff. These two regions supply 96 per cent of the shipments, with the Willamette Valley and Snake River basin shipping 4 per cent.

Pears led all fruits with 3191 cars shipped in 1943, or about 56 per cent of the total. Apples were second with 1191 cars, or 21 per cent. Other fruits in order of importance for shipment rather than processing were fresh

prunes, 788 cars; fresh peaches, 18; fresh apricots, 9; and mixed fruit, 18.

Pedestrian deaths amounted to 36 per cent of the Oregon traffic toll for the month of July when 22 persons were killed, eight of which were pedestrians, according to an announcement from the safety division of the secretary of state's office.

Of the eight pedestrians killed, five, or 62 per cent were engaged in unsafe walking practices at the time they were struck. These unsafe actions included jaywalking, stepping into the street from between parked vehicles and crossing highways without looking for approaching vehicles.

"Pedestrian protection is both a rural and urban problem," according to the safety division. "In rural areas, persons who walk on the right side of the highway, with traffic, are in danger of being struck by cars coming from their rear. In the country, the rule is, walk on the left, facing approaching traffic. Then, step off the paved portion of the road when cars approach."

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