

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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The past week, Ashland has had the unpleasant facts of youth depredations and moral delinquencies to face. The facts are ugly and unpleasant, and is not a pleasant subject to have to discuss.

Perhaps Ashland is no worse than other towns and cities. We have no figures on the number of delinquencies of the sort that has shaken our town the past week, but if the figures were available, we doubt that it would show that Ashland is any worse than any other town. But every town, every city, every hamlet has those problems every now and then, the community has to be shaken to its depths, when the officers are forced to arrest some of them. Those youngsters have to suffer, and do suffer for their misdeeds, the parents, perhaps, suffer even more.

Of course, when these unpleasant facts are brought to light, there is always a lot of blame attached to it. Everyone and every cause is held to be responsible for the condition. Perhaps the war gets the most blame, because it is not personal and has no come back to offer when it is blamed.

How many times, too, have we all heard that the present generation is no good, that the present generation is so much worse than the former ones, and all that sort of hooey. We have all heard it, time and time again. But the army figures and the welfare agency figures do not bear it out. The present generation does not have the black marks against it that the past generations have.

Here at Ashland, we doubt if there is any one cause for the delinquencies, but the thing that seems outstanding to this writer is that there is not sufficient emphasis placed on youth activities. This city has several Boy Scout organizations but the troops are not filled to capacity, and the Ashland district has the unenviable reputation of being the weakest district from the scouting standpoint of any of the districts of the Crater Lake Council. There are not enough troops to even begin to reach the most of the boys of the city. There are a few girls organizations, yet they too, reach only a restricted few, mostly being confined to membership in lodge, etc. The city has something like 23 or 24 churches, and is known far and wide as a "church" city, yet there no doubt are many, many youngsters without church affiliations. The efforts of church organizations are mostly restricted to their own members leaving out those who have no affiliations. There was an attempt made to have a Teen-Age club, but it didn't get far, apparently, not from active opposition, although there was some of that too, but mostly from indifference, apathy and lack of interest on the part of the parents and leaders, in supporting such an organization.

Too many times, as Bishop Dagwell of the Episcopal dioceses, whom we had the pleasure of hearing make an inspirational talk at the Crater Lake area Court of Honor Sunday evening, stated, indismissing youth delinquencies, there is too much of saying "don't do this and don't do that", instead of making an actual down-right effort to help out the youngsters. It takes work, it takes a lot of a grown-up's time and energy, to make these youth groups and organizations effective but they are well rewarded in satisfaction and the fact that they are helping to prevent the very things that have happened in our fair community the past weeks.

In making these comments, by putting in our two-bits worth in the discussion in the community, we know full well that many will say that we probably don't know what we are talking about, etc., etc., but nevertheless we feel that there is a lack of cooperation in providing or supporting those extra activities for the youths of Ashland. All of the youth's organizations and groups are fine, but they don't reach enough of the youngsters and many of them are just struggling along because the elders and parents do not take time out to give them a little moral and physical support.

A STATISTICAL MYTH

A favorite statistical myth promoted by government spokesmen, is that since Pearl Harbor, only one-tenth of one per cent of man-hours have been lost by strikes in war plants.

In two instances of late the lie has been given to these mythical figures. A one-day strike of 4,000 to 6,000 maintenance workers in the Detroit area has just forced immediate idleness upon some 50,000 to 60,000 workers. Because the men who keep the assembly lines and equipment in running condition refused to work, the production workers had to be sent home. In another case, the strike of a few thousand transportation employes tied up two million people, 900,000 of whom were war workers.

As the New York Times declares of this statistical myth: "It cannot be too often pointed out that such statistics are essentially meaningless, not only because they fail to take into consideration the amount of indirect idleness that a strike involves, but because they ignore how vital the particular production may be that is brought to a halt.

"The value of the product of the entire soft coal industry of the United States to cite but one example,

amounts to only one per cent of the national income. If a strike stopped it for an entire year, the statistics might show that there were no strikes in 99 per cent of industry. But everyone knows that such a strike would bring practically our entire war production to a halt in a few months."

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AID TO PRIVATE PLANNING

In the next several weeks about 15 farmers on each rural route in the country will be asked to fill out cards giving information about their livestock, including the number of sows expected to farrow. On the basis of this poll, conducted semi-annually by the United States Department of Agriculture since 1924, a prediction of the number of young porkers this season will be issued before Christmas. These estimates are eagerly awaited by pork packers, and everyone else with any financial interest in the hog market.

Though little publicized, this is one Government service which does much to help the farmer as well as retailer, wholesaler, and packer. By taking some of the guesswork out of the picture of prices and supplies, it adds to his comfortable sense of stability. While not an example of centralized planning of production itself, it helps to make it possible for private interests to plan their own activities intelligently. And that, certainly, is a function of Government with which there can be no quarrel.—Christian Science Monitor

What Is Next?

By Ruth Taylor

In wartime the making of decisions is easy. "If it won't help the war effort, don't do it." All that is needed is a single-track mind to make the nation move as one toward the common goal—defeat of the enemy.

But as peace nears - not close enough for us to see it, but near enough so that we know it lies beyond the turn in the road, there is much questioning of what we must do next. How can we resolve upon the right decision?

We can reach a solution by reverting to the basic truths. We who have been schooled in freedom, have also been schooled in responsibility. Not like the slaves of a dictator, whose every act is determined for them not like the "master-race" trained for generations to take their cue from the lords of war, do we act. From our first school days we have been trained to expect to do our duty, to give our word, and keep it, sacrifice ourselves for an ideal, not of glory but of honor.

Think over our heroes. Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Lee, and the rest. Then compare them with the heroes of those who fight against us. The difference between the New World and the Old was never more marked than in its choice of those whom each deigns to honor.

We know what is right. As John Oxenham phrased it: "No shadow falls, but there, behind it, stands

The light.
Behind the wrongs and sorrows
of life's troublous ways,
Stands Right.

What we have to do is, just as with a radio, tune in to what we know to be the right, the fair, the just thing to do.

We say we are realists in this war, as compared to idealists in the last war. But, stop and think. Last war we fought to "make the world safe for democracy" - in short to protect our own way of life. This war we have fought for the four freedoms for everyone all over the world, regardless of class, creed or color.

The torch we dropped after we

seemed to make secure our way of life, we have had to pick up. We have learned at last that it cannot light our path clearly unless it is held high enough to light our neighbors' way as well. We know now what we have to do.

22 Grade Crossing Fatalities Reported

Railroad grade crossing fatalities during the first ten months of 1944 totaled 22, which is an increase of 266 percent over the toll for the entire year of 1943. Robert S. Farrell, secretary of state, disclosed today.

Of the 22 deaths at grade crossings, 17, or 77 percent, occurred at crossings in urban areas. Only one such death was reported in the state for the same period of 1943.

The locations of the train-vehicle deaths follow: Portland, 3; Salem, 3; Albany, 3; Grants Pass, 2; Pendleton, 1; Milwaukie, 2; Junction City, 2; Woodburn, 1. Rural locations were: Klamath county, 1; Lane county, 1; Marion county, 3.

The 22 deaths resulted from 14 accidents, Farrell said. Of these 14 accidents, 11 occurred on clear days during daylight. The period 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. saw the highest number of accidents. These facts, Farrell said, indicated that restricted visibility is not a major factor in the grade crossing accidents.

Unsafe actions on the part of drivers were reported in all fatal road warning signal, excessive accidents. Disregarding stop sign or signals, disregarding the rail-speed and failure to look for an approaching train were the chief contributing actions in these accidents.

"These facts indicate that safety at grade crossings, in the last analysis, is up to the individual driver," Farrell said. "Our grade crossing toll can be cut down by the exercise of a few simple practices. Observe stop signs and warning signals. Always watch for approaching trains and when one is coming stop and let it pass before proceeding across the tracks."

Farrell emphasized the last point because, he said, in nearly all cases, cars are struck as the drivers attempt to cross the tracks in front of an approaching train. This apparently indicates the drivers misjudge the speed of



Claudette Colbert as an ace woman photographer and Fred MacMurray as a wolf on the make, co-star in the laugh, love riot, "No Time For Love."

the train, thinking they have time to clear the crossing ahead of the locomotive. The fact that trains move faster today, due to wartime conditions, is not given due consideration by these drivers.

The Low Down from Hickory Grove

My essay today is "Government"—how it gets its money, or county or state is building a road and who from. And if your town paved highway, or water-works, or something, and the Govt. kicks in with half the cost, everybody should savor as to how much of the gift is really free—if any. And to make a long short, the Free Govt. donation is your own money—the Govt. took it from your jeans in the first place via income taxes, cigarette taxes, talcum powder taxes, etc., etc. And if the Govt. had made no donation to your community—or to any of the 1,000 other places throughout the nation—your taxes would have been just that much smaller. Uncle Samuel has no other income—he produces nothing—he grows no crops—he just spends. And it is our own dinero that he hands back to us via our congressman or mayor or whoever it is we been keeping on re-electing because he got us a new bridge or something, from the Govt.—free.

Now, and hereafter, when the mayor taps his chest and says, "Citizens, see what I got for you—a free donation from the Govt., you can lean over and say to the gent, "Come now brother, where do you get the FREE palaver?" Yours with the low down, JO SERRA

Medford Doctors Get Stiff Jolt on Dope Charges Last Week

Dr. R. W. Clancy and Dr. A. F. W. Kresse, both of Medford, who were found guilty by a federal court jury several weeks ago on charges of violating the Harrison Narcotics act, were given heavy sentences and fines by Federal Judge James A. Fee in Portland Wednesday.

Dr. Clancy, 68, who had practiced medicine in Medford for 35 years, was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison, and fined \$8,000. Dr. Clancy was found guilty on four counts.

Dr. Kresse, who has practiced here for 20 years, was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison and fined \$1,000. Dr. Kresse was found guilty on one

count. The two men were taken to Portland last week end, having been held in Jackson county jail since their trials.

Judge Fee, in sentencing the two doctors, said that he felt they were responsible for creation of a narcotics center in Medford which drew 12 known addicts, creating one of the worst narcotics situations in the United States.

The doctors were indicted in September by a federal grand jury after federal agents had conducted an investigation here. Medford News.

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