

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

Published Every Thursday at 167 Main Street, Ashland, Oregon

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

Entered as second-class mail matter in the post office at Ashland, Oregon, February 15, 1935, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THE WAR ISN'T WON

The recent directive of the Selective Service officials to reclassify men of the 26 through 37 year old age group for induction if they are not engaged in essential activities, brings forward, what to us has been a lurking suspicion for some time, namely that we are a long ways from winning the war this winter. We have been told that our industries are not producing enough ammunition for our present consumption, etc.

Too many of our factory workers have been quitting their jobs recently, thinking that we were long passed the turning point in the war, and that their efforts could not make any difference in the war effort, most of these have returned to private industry, to their own small businesses etc. but not returning to the war industries.

We do not think that the lack of these workers in the ammunition industries, has caused a lack of shells on the fighting front. It perhaps comes from a lack of planning on the huge amount of heavy shells necessary, or that we are finding that the entrenched enemy is requiring a lot more artillery shells than was planned for. Now we are having to reshape the plans for more heavy explosives and many, many people are needed in ammunition factories to catch up with the demand.

Our fighting forces are doing alright by themselves on the fronts around the world, but maybe a lot of us were too optimistic and now that we are getting closer to the homeland of our enemies we are finding the going a lot tougher. We are making slow progress in the fighting with Germany, but now one believes now that the war with Germany will be over this winter, or even early next summer. Personally we believe it will be another year yet.

As for Japan, we have been fighting a long ways from their home land, and only the past few weeks have we been even close to their homeland. We have not even engaged the major portion of their armies. We have taken a serious setback in China, one that is going to be a long and costly campaign to recover our loss.

For our laborers and home front people to think the war is about won, to quit their jobs and return to unessential activities, is a mistake of the worst kind. The sale of war bonds in the "E" series is lagging, also indicating that many feel that the war is about over. They had better look a little closer, for it is not.

A LONE PATRIOT

After tying up production of engines for B-29 Superfortresses for three days, striking workers at the Wright Aeronautical Corporation voted grudgingly 1,000 to 500 in favor of returning to work. In another case, a couple of dozen crane operators walked off the job paralyzing work in one of the world's largest steel mills, regardless of the plea from General Eisenhower that American workers turn out ammunition at top speed. He said the reduction of the city of Aachen was delayed by a shortage of ammunition. And then came the coldly deliberate acts of the telephone workers threatening the war effort. These are but recent examples by certain segments of labor, showing callous lack of concern for the men on the fighting fronts that is wholly beyond understanding.

Upon contemplation one wonders what claim we on the home front have to being patriotic. The strikers alone are not to blame for what is happening. We are all to blame for permitting it to happen. The extent to which we have drifted away from true patriotism is brought home by the woman warworker of Pennsylvania who sent General Douglas MacArthur \$525 saying that "it was simply partial payment from one American woman for letting the boys on Bataan and Corregidor down." The money is being spent on candy and other gifts for orphaned and homeless Phillipine children.

This lone patriot, forced to quit her job because of illness, then added: "And when I looked around me at work and saw all the loafing on the job I knew that in spite of the wonderful job we are doing, we are still letting the boys down."

The Christmas spirit this—or any—Christmas could be mightily enhanced if Americans were to reflect upon the strain undergone at this season by clerks in stores, postal workers and employes in various services and agencies.

There is no sense in the added burden placed upon thousands of persons in the two weeks previous to Christmas. Many of these workers in what might be termed the Christmas trades are forced to do from three to five times more work than they do at other times of the year. With an acute labor shortage due to the war, the staffs will be unable to handle a last-minute Christmas rush this year,



For days before Christmas the post offices are besieged by waiting lines of persons seeking to mail packages, each person loaded down with from one to twenty parcels. They must be weighed, in most cases insured and postage must be affixed. They situation is similar in many stores. With crowds to be waited on every minute of the day, many of these workers feel as if they had been through several wringers when Christmas finally arrives.

People who start to do their Christmas buying now will help to relieve this Christmas bottleneck. And they will obtain the articles they seek. Does anyone think the stores will be stocked with merchandise two days before Christmas.

SeaBee Officer Coming Monday

A Seabee interviewing officer from the Portland Navy Recruiting station will be at the Medford substation in the Post office building from 12 noon until 6 P. M. on Monday, December 18 to provide information concerning the petty officer ratings which have recently been reopened in the navy's famous construction units.

Any man between the ages of 17 and 50½, inclusive, is eligible for a rating if he can qualify physically and technically and if he is not already in an essential industry, it is explained by Specialist First Class Herb. Crain, in charge of the substation.

Seventeen-year-olds and men between 38 and 50½ can enlist immediately, and the plan of voluntary induction has been reopened to draft-age men (18 to 38). If found qualified for a rating by the visiting interviewing officer, they may apply to their draft boards for voluntary induction into the Seabees.

The recruiter announces that the following ratings are now open in the construction battalions; electricians (line, station and general), bulldozer and carry all operators, patrol graders, riggers, crane operators, welders, blacksmiths, plumbers, pipefitters, hatch bosses, winchmen, stevedores, surveyors and draftsmen.

The need for Seabees grows more urgent, the navy representative declares, as the United States' armed forces intensify their drive in the Pacific. The battalions build, maintain and protect advanced bases, and their feats in all theaters of war already have become legendary.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the County Court of the State of Oregon, For the County of Jackson.

In the Matter of the Estate of JAMES EDWARD THORNTON, Deceased.

The undersigned having been appointed by the above entitled Court of the State of Oregon, for the County aforesaid, Administratrix of the Estate of JAMES EDWARD THORNTON, deceased, and having qualified, notice is hereby given to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against said deceased, to present them, verified as required by law, within six months after the first publication of this notice at the office of Briggs & Briggs, attorneys at law, Pioneer Building, Ashland, Oregon.

MARIAN E. THORNTON
Administratrix of the Estate of JAMES EDWARD THORNTON, deceased.

Dated December 4, 1944

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Mrs. Fannie Eden has been here from California visiting her daughter Mrs. L. O. Lutz and family for some weeks is now in Medford visiting with her son O. A. Eden before returning to her home.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Arent of Fruitdale, Alabama, and Mrs. Etta Morris mother of Mrs. Arent, left Tuesday for their home at Fruitdale, after a short visit in Ashland.

American Legion Auxiliary is sponsoring a Christmas party, Monday night, December 18, with a covered dish dinner. The affair will be held at the Legion hall and will be for Legion and Auxiliary members and their families. Those in charge have asked the members who have not been contacted personally to bring a hot vegetable and salad. Following dinner there will be a white elephant exchange of gifts, with a gift for each individual. Members are asked to not forget to bring gifts. A good attendance is desired.

Eugene Beers, the seventh member of the youthful gang, recently broken up by local police, was arrested this week, and admitted that he was involved in practically all of the thefts. He was brought before the city judge who, in view of his age and the fact that he had no car of his own to use the stolen gas in, and that the judge felt that he was more a tool of the older members of the gang, fined him \$15 and costs of \$2.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lindner were much surprised last Thursday evening when their son, Lt. Le Roy Lindner and wife came into Ashland, unannounced. Lt. Lindner had been stationed at the Bruning, Nebraska air base, where he has been taking flight instruction. The base was closed due to the wintry conditions, and the personnel are being assigned to new bases. Lt. Lindner had all of his flying equipment with him.

Mrs. Marie Vaupel, who came some time ago from North Dakota to visit her sons in Klamath Falls, and about two weeks ago to visit Mrs. Minnie Vaupel, a sister-in-law at 422 boulevard, was taken ill suddenly last Wednesday and taken to the hospital here. She died Sunday morning. A daughter living in Portland came to accompany the body back to North Dakota for burial.

—BUY BONDS—

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