

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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Washington Newsletter

By
HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Congressman from Oregon

THE CAPITAL MOURNS. The Capital is in a state of official mourning which will continue for thirty days from the date of President Roosevelt's death. The City of Washington, being accustomed to big news breaks and sudden shocks, has apparently quickly absorbed the recent world-shaking event, and business goes on as usual. One thing is clear, however, and that is Franklin Delano Roosevelt is going to take a place in history along with the greatest He not only served longer as President than any other, but he was President during the depths of economic depression and during war-time affluence. He was President while the seeds of the present war were germinating, and he was war President almost to the time of final victory. Whatever his critics say of other phases of his administration, Mr. Roosevelt was eminently successful as Commander-in-Chief in the prosecution of the war.

TRUMAN AS PRESIDENT. The question most people are asking now is "What kind of President will Mr. Truman make?" I cannot attempt to answer that question, but like nearly everyone else, I am willing to discuss it.

As Senator, Harry Truman was a hard-working, conscientious man. He was not classified as one of the New Deal Senators. In

fact, many of the reports made by his special committee which investigated war contracts were sharply critical of the Administration. Other than for the excellent work done by his committee, which was known as the Truman Committee, Senator Truman was just an average Senator—able, effective, but not outstanding.

Quite likely, President Truman will be about the same kind of a President that he was a Senator. President Truman is a modest man and a very genuine sort of person.

Although Truman is not a New Dealer, he is a Party man. As a good Party supporter and a Democratic Senator, Truman, while in the Senate, generally voted in support of Administration policies. But, as everyone knows, there is a sharp cleavage in the Majority Party, the New Deal Left Wingers on the one side, and the normal and conservative Democrats on the other. Since the late President Roosevelt headed the party organization while this cleavage was developing, he had little difficulty in keeping the support of both factions. It does not seem likely that Truman can do the same.

Whatever political problems may arise to plague President Truman in the future, he has taken over the office in an atmosphere of general approval and of sympathy for the gigantic task with which he is faced. He quite evidently has the wholehearted good will of the Congress. He has already let it be known that he will appeal to the Senators and Representatives for advice and counsel.

It is not considered likely that Mr. Truman will make any

changes in the Cabinet immediately. He will, of course, install people of his own choice in the secretarial staff, and will reorganize the White House to suit his own ideas. This will doubtless mean the elimination of Harry Hopkins, Judge Rosenman and others.

After the San Francisco Conference, it is expected that Frances Perkins, Francis Biddle and Postmaster General Frank Walker and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau may be replaced.

Apparently, Truman will make a very careful selection of the individuals he names on important jobs, and having named them, will give them ample authority and expect them to carry on with out further coaching from the top

The Music of Democracy

By Ruth Taylor

One thing that is stressed in tales told by those who have watched our armies at their far flung battle stations the world over is the desire of our boys for music. Every entertainer has come back with the feeling that the greatest audience in the world is our GIs.

Lily Pons in her first concert in Germany - where she sang the songs that Germany had barred because their writers were non-Aryan - and: "No concert or opera audience has ever been more appreciative than these boys."

But is that surprising? Our boys are used to music - of some sort or other, it has been part of their daily lives. It speaks of the homes from which they came, of the homes to which they hope to return.

America since its inception has sung. But America itself has been an orchestra. What is democracy but the blending of many instruments? Sometimes one instrument plays a solo role for a few minutes, sometimes another, but all are parts of the whole symphony. The orchestration has a place for each. If you listen closely you can distinguish the various instruments, none playing too loudly, none trying to overshadow the other, but each according to the score, supplementing and complementing each other.

Into this nation have come people of many nations, of many faiths, of many classes. Blended together, like the instruments in the orchestra, they have become an entity. They have made what Walt Whitman called "the music of democracy."

We are proud of our heterogeneous population, proud of its homogeneity. We are proud of the traditions of the past, prouder of the present ability to work and fight and live together unhampered by the prejudices, hatreds and petty biases of more narrowly circumscribed nations overseas. But we are proudest of all of the hope - no, the plan - for a future when the brotherhood of man will be recognized all over the world and the nations will live together in harmony as their sons and daughters live in good will in our own country.

A far off ambition in these warring days? Yes - but as man has progressed so will man progress still further. As the great democracy, a nation with a polyglot population, we have the task of playing so beautifully our unfinished symphony, that the rest of the world will join in to make it a perfect whole. Then will the music of democracy fill the earth with celestial harmony.

Washington School

The second grade children are reading stories about circus animals, and how they came to the circus. Some animals were caught in the forest and jungles. Others were born in the circus. They learn to do tricks. The keep-

ers feed them and are kind to them. This is "Be Kind To Animals Week."

Lanora Kyker has been transferred from Room 2 to the Lincoln School.

Room 3
Many of the children of Room 3 have been out of school with chicken pox. Some of them are now coming back to school. Donald Gay, Karen Johnson and Wilma Welch are back again. The children will be happy to have the others back in school.

A newcomer from the Lincoln is Louis Lindley. He is in the second grade. Recently, Bettie Blatter came to Room 3 from Medford.

The boys and girls enjoyed coloring some pictures of a little girl with a big umbrella and her pet duck with a rain-cap on. After the pictures were colored and cut out, they were put around the blackboards in a colorful border.

Now that the weather is nice, the children are having good times playing in the sunshine. The members of the H. H. Club play with the children and both the little boys and girls are enthusiastic about the games they play. During the noon-hour the H. H. Girls direct games for the primary children. One of the favorite games of the children is "Past One Out".

Room 4
Dale Cullop brought a very interesting letter from his brother, Clarence, who is in Germany. It was written March 13.

The letter said he was on the Rhine River, and that he can always say "I never have, and never will again have my birthday celebrated like this one and, even though I would have liked to have spent my birthday at home, I wouldn't have missed this for anything, for I really think it was celebrated RIGHT for this year at least."

He asked his "Mon" to send him a package, saying "I don't want cigarettes or candy, for there is plenty of that here—but I would like just something from home."

He also sent some very interesting paper money in with his letter. Some were 100 mark, 20,000 mark, 100 million mark.

He tells his parents not to worry about him, for he is in good health and feeling fine.

Betty Davis from Room 8 brought to Room 4 a coconut from New Guinea. It was sent by Francis Galletin, to her mother and father. The class was very curious about it for it had the milk inside and was very interesting.

Dale King and Raymond McDonald of Room 8 brought to show us in Room 4 two very interesting pair of wooden shoes, called SABOTS, from Normandy Peninsula, which were sent to his parents by Pfc. John L. Grubb.

Carol Fowler, Room 4, brought some paper money from Belgium 10 franc - and also some from France 10 franc. It was sent to her by her brother who is in Germany.

A program was given last Friday afternoon by some of the students of the room. Two little plays were presented: "The Little Cook", and "Mother Goose's Party".

Wanda Oden played 2 piano solos; "The Swing" and "Boating on the Lake." Sue Pirtle gave a reading, "My Shadow". LeRoy Stubbifield played 3 piano solos.

The boys and girls of Room 4 had a short memorial service Friday morning, April 13, in memory of our late President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. The students planned the program and showed appreciation for his life and work by choosing his favorite song "Home on the Range" and incorporating a 60 second pause of silent respect, placing their heads on their desks, and keeping perfectly quiet for the full time.

Room 5
The fourth graders have new readers, called "Luck and Pluck". In art classes, the pupils have made flower posters. They have also practiced cutting letters.

The fourth grade arithmetic has learned multiplication by two-figure multipliers.

The third grade have finished their newspaper. They named it "The Third Grade Flash". All the pupils wrote stories for it and illustrated them. Robert Lytle made the cover on the multiplication chart.

Room 6
"The Boy With a Toothache" was a puppet show made up by the class under the direction of the science teachers. It was given at the regular meeting of the PTA on April 12. The puppets were manipulated by Barbara Parker, Norma Cay, and Alan Schneider, while the parts of the boy was spoken by Kerrell Clifton, of the girl by Norma Davis,

and of the dentist by Billy Wren. Florence Curry was the announcer.

In physical education, the boys are high jumping. The record of three feet, one inch is held by three boys, Kerrell Clifton, Charles Skinner, and Jon Cooper.

Room 8
Spring activities are keeping Room 8 very busy. Preparing for the "Spring Concert" is both fun and work. The girls are practicing folk dances and both boys and girls are working on chorus and band numbers.

"The Buy War Stamps" contest which started last month shows the boys in the lead with \$9.15 invested and the girls with \$6.00 to their credit.

Many of the pupils are poison-oak casualties, several to a very painful degree. Colds and one case of chicken-pox have caused many absences. Ruth Taylor, Earlene Barrett, Beverly Robertson and Philena Jacobson are all back at school after absences caused by illness.

Room 8 now has the music room clock. It does not keep perfect time but with Raymond McDonald setting it once or twice a day the pupils are able to be pretty nearly on time for their duties.

Room 8 recently saw a very interesting movie "Tree to Tribune" and heard by radio President Truman's address to Congress. They were impressed.

Cars Damaged in Wrecks on Highway

Damage estimated at \$100 resulted to an auto operated by Orville C. Hamer, Central Point, when it collided with a car driven by Vern Walker York, Putman Auto Court, Ashland, on highway 99, according to a report on file, with the state police.

Hamer was attempting to pull into a private driveway in front of York's auto, according to the report.

Another accident report on file states that a truck driven by H. W. Work, Talent, backed into a building causing an estimated damage to the truck of \$50.

Monuments and markers. See Burns Memorials. On the Plaza.

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Railroad Noises

An editorial from the San Jose, California, "Evening News".
(San Jose is on the main line of Southern Pacific's Coast Line)

WE HAVE always resented those snooty expressions, "across the tracks" or "down by the tracks," with their implication that there was something disreputable and socially low-life about living near railroad tracks. After living many years a block from the Espee's rails, we rise to say that there are many worse places to live.

Living close to the railroad has its obvious advantages when you are a boy. Where is there a more romantic place than the right of way, with wheezing switch engines, puffing freights (which travel so much faster now than they used to) and speeding passenger trains? Morning, noon and night railroading holds attraction for a boy, which is why so many of them go into it, finding a romance which never dulls until they die.

"But how can you stand the noise?" someone asks. Far from being bothered by the noises, you get so you find them soothing and conducive to repose. You get so you can tell the freight trains from the passengers, and you distinguish the touch on the whistle rope of that individualistic engineer who makes his blasts so short, sharp and distinctive.

The various whistle notes represent to you these giant creatures of fire and steel talking to one another over long distances and on winter nights, when the wind is blowing and the rain is pelting against the windows it is pleasant to think of engineer and fireman, snug in their cab with the fire roaring below them, shunting lines of cars up and down the glistening wet tracks.

If these night noises from the tracks are comfortable and appealing to you during peace they have

even more of these qualities during war. You realize that both the wars in which we are engaged are transportation wars and must be won not only in the foxholes and workshops but on the railroads as well. Some of the particularly long trains you hear puffing and snorting these nights are troop trains and others are weighed down with war's materiel. It is comfortable to reflect what a great job the railroadmen are doing, driving their trains and switching their cars 24 hours a day, even while you are asleep.

Back a few years, when trucks and buses started to cut more and more deeply into railroad revenues, with the airplane as an additional competitor just ahead, as a boy living near the tracks you may have wondered a little worriedly if they would put your old friends, the freights and passengers, out of business. It took the war to show that a nation's need of railroads continues, that no nation can be great and strong without them. You are reassured by that, and by the articles and drawings that have been published of vastly improved equipment which will help the railroads get their share of traffic after the war. Such things mean your friends will be able to stay alive and that, drowsily safe and comfortable, you will continue to hear the trains chugging and puffing through the night.

We thank the San Jose News for so beautifully putting into words the way we railroaders, and many other people, feel about trains.

S.P. The friendly Southern Pacific

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