

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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Benito Falls the Hard Way

The way of the transgressor is hard, goes the saying, and the inglorious end of Benito Mussolini this week, surely backs up that statement. It was but a few short years ago that the said Benito was strutting in and around Europe in a royal way, overrunning smaller countries without much regard for anyone's rights except those of his own . . . a dictator in the worst sense of the word. One has only to recall the Italian seizure of Emperor Haile Selassie's land, to realize that Benito was about the worst kind of a bully imaginable.

This week the payoff came, after four or five years of steadily waning prestige and power. His own outraged people seized him as he attempted to escape, shot him and his henchmen, and to add insult to injury, mauled the body in public. Yes, the way of the transgressor is indeed a hard one.

Benito's partner in crime, Adolph Hitler, is in the same boat and from the looks of things in Europe this week, Adolph's time may not be so far away neither. He may not come to the disgraceful end of his career by death from the hands of his own people, but his end as a dictator is over.

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A Mine at Every Milepost

The discovery of Germany's gold reserve in an abandoned German salt mine was front page news in this country. Stories of the fabulous treasure read like pirate tales of old. Doughboys and generals gasped at the sight of the glittering metal—tons of it. Each ton was estimated to be worth \$1,000,000. And, according to reports, there were approximately 100 tons of the precious metal sealed behind a massive wall in the mineshaft—a hundred million dollars. Here was tangible money wealth that could be touched and understood.

It has been many years since the so-called common people have possessed gold. Governments have gone to great trouble to build up the myth that gold is of no value. They have gone to equally great trouble to see that none of this "worthless" metal remains in the hands of the people.

At any rate a few American soldiers have seen real gold. They know what a hundred million dollars looks like.

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How Shall We Observe V-E Day?

As victory draws nearer in Europe, cities, towns and villages all over the nation are preparing to observe V-E day. Most of them, apparently, will ask merchants to close their places of business for the day that the news comes. Here at Ashland, it was pretty well agreed that merchants and business men should close up in observing the event.

But nowhere have we seen or heard what is planned for the day. Well we remember at the end of the last World War in 1918 the wild celebrations held when the end of the war was announced. But this time it is considerably different. As yet there is no reason to go into any wild celebrations over the end of hostilities in Europe. We must realize in this nation that we still face a full scale war in the Pacific and in spite of many arm chair admirals and generals, we think it will be some time before hostilities will cease in that area. To duplicate World War I celebration at this time, will most certainly be out of place, and untimely. To our way of thinking it would let the boys in the Pacific down considerably.

Of course when the fighting in Europe stops, we cannot help but feel elated and grateful. But a service of thanksgiving would be more appropriate, we think.

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A Word on Cartels

Lofty discussion on the question of cartels—powerful, legalized industrial combinations—is so far over the heads of the people that they assume it has little bearing on their affairs. Most nations are said to be drifting toward cartels, consequently it is claimed the United States must go along, at least with respect to foreign trade. Before succumbing to this notion, the people should realize what it means. The president of the Sun Oil Company, one of the country's largest, has this to say on cartels:

"This country cannot be cartelized in its foreign trade and free in its domestic enterprise, any more than a nation can survive 'half free and half slave.' Once we start to regiment through allocations, price fixing and production controls, our activities in the foreign field, we, of necessity, will have forced upon us by the government restrictive measures upon operations falling wholly within the domestic field.

"Turning to the arguments advanced in behalf of the negotiations of these super-state cartels, we find the contention that cartels are a necessary device to safeguard industry and invested capital against unfair and destructive competition and the wastes which result from wide fluctuations in industrial activity—that they serve to permit the orderly development of industries and stabilize prices.

"Now all of that argument begs the question of what is best for the general welfare. Like the League of Nations' definition that: 'Cartels are associations of independent undertakings in the same or similar branches of industry established with a view to improving conditions of production and sales,' it fails to state to whom the benefit or improvement accrues. The answer is obvious, since the primary purpose of cartels is to restrict competition. Competition, bringing better products at lower prices, benefits the consuming public. So whatever restricts competition, in the long run harms the public welfare. Price stabilization usually means the establishment of a rigidity designed to protect high cost and marginal producers. It destroys incentives for low-cost policies. Thus, cartels operate against the smaller or relatively newer enterprises which, through increased efficiency, are challenging the position of larger and older enterprises when the latter have become waterlogged through obsolescence and inefficiency."



Edward Everett Horton and Louise Allbritton in the craziest . . . maddest laugh riot of war-time living, "San Diego, I Love You."

Washington Newsletter

—By—

HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Congressman from Oregon

APPROPRIATIONS. Two appropriation items of particular interest to the Fourth Congressional District were approved by the House this week. One was the operating appropriation for the Bureau of Mines Electro-Metallurgical Laboratory at Albany. On Friday, the House passed the Interior Department Appropriation Bill which included this item. The amount was substantially larger than the previous appropriation which will place the laboratory on a full scale operating basis during the coming fiscal year.

The other item of interest, not only to my district but to the entire nation, was an increase in the forest products research funds in the Agriculture Appropriation Bill which was subject of a long argument. The House Appropriations Committee refused to make the requested increase, whereupon the Senate amended the bill to include the increase. The bill then came out of the Senate-House Conference with the research item in disagreement. This placed the matter before the House for a final vote. Following quite a battle on the Floor, the item was passed by a fairly close margin—168 to 143. The approval of the appropriation means that the wood utilization unit recently established in Portland to serve the Pacific Northwest region will have almost twice as large an appropriation as previously allotted.

SHRINE OF LIBERTY. Two weeks ago, I spent two days in Philadelphia with a subcommittee of the Public Lands Committee. We conducted a hearing on the bill introduced by Representative Bradley of Pennsylvania, which provides for setting aside a park area in the immediate vicinity of Independence Square. Our hearing was held in Old Congress Hall, which was completed in 1790 and which housed the Congress from 1790 until 1800. The rostrum on which the subcommittee sat was the same rostrum from which George Washington gave his farewell address. Independence Hall is the center building of the group of three facing on the Chestnut Street side of Independence Square. Independence Hall, you know, is the home of the Liberty Bell, and it was in Independence Hall that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were both signed. The Constitutional Convention met in that Hall. These buildings are the shrine of our independence and of the formation of the Government of the

United States, but with the passage of time, they have become swallowed up in the center of a great city. The city has, in fact, moved on so that the buildings which now crowd in upon the Independence Hall group are obsolete and some of them are fire-traps. The proposal is to acquire several blocks on the Chestnut Street side of the Square, remove the buildings, and provide a park to make a proper setting for our historic buildings.

Following the hearings, the subcommittee went out to Valley Forge which is only eighteen miles from Philadelphia, and spent several hours at General Washington's winter headquarters and in going over the park. In the museum at Valley Forge, they have the original tent which George Washington used at Valley Forge and the flag which flew over it. The flag, by the way, was not the stars and stripes of today, but was a simple blue field with thirteen stars on it. This flag, of course, was made before Betsy Ross designed the present flag. The stars on Washington's flag are six-pointed stars. It was Betsy Ross who devised a way of cutting out five-pointed stars with a simple twist of the scissors.

As we were driving back to Philadelphia, the radio in the official car told us of the President's death. All further activities of the committee were, of course, immediately cancelled.

ACADEMY VACANCIES. July 28th has been set by the United States Civil Service Commission as the date on which preliminary qualifying examinations will be given for candidates for the United States Military and Naval Academies at West Point and Annapolis. Members of Congress must have a list of those desiring to take the examination to submit to the Commission by June 23rd.

I do not know yet how many vacancies I will have at the Academies. We will not be notified until some time in June. All I can say is that I believe there will be possibly two vacancies in each Academy. I make this announcement now so that young men who are interested in competing for an appointment may notify me as soon as possible.

Candidates may compete for both Academies on the same examination. For the Military Academy, candidates must have reached their eighteenth birthday before July, 1946, but must not have reached their twenty-second birthday. Naval Academy candidates must have reached their seventeenth birthday by July, 1946, but not their twenty-first birthday by that time. Young men in service are eligible to compete, and arrangements can be made in most instances for their examination wherever they may be stationed. Those interested in trying for appointment should write me, giving their legal residence, which must be within the Fourth Congress-

sional District, and the date of their birth. Other information as to scholastic training and activities will be of interest. Appointments will be made on the basis of grades earned in the competitive examination.

A Just Moral Order

By Ruth Taylor

The San Francisco Conference which is to draft the Charter of the United Nations has the support, the earnest prayers of the millions of sincere peace loving people who believe in a better world, in a place where men can work together as brothers, sharing the goods of this earth in friendly cooperation rather than in cut-throat competition.

The three great religious groups of the United States, through their representatives, have carefully studied the plans suggested and are in accord in ten recommendations, based upon the principles involved. They see in this Conference a great opportunity to implement International Law by the moral law—the Golden Rule. They feel that only in this way can a just moral order be maintained.

The recommendations made by the representatives of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; the Synagogue Council of America; and the National Catholic Welfare Council are as follows:

1. Need for Organization. The sacrifices and hardships of this war and the need of mankind for an organized peace make it imperative that the San Francisco Conference succeed and the general security organization be established.

2. Preamble. The Charter of the United Nations Organization should acknowledge in its preamble that the actions of the States are subject to the same moral principles as govern the conduct of individuals.

3. Membership. The Charter should specify that membership will be open to all States willing and able to fulfill the obligations of the Charter, so that membership may become universal.

4. International Law. The Charter should provide for the codification and development of international law and for its impartial enforcement.

5. Peaceful Change. The Charter should provide more explicitly for the revision of treaties and other agreements when such action is required by justice and the good of the world community.

6. Small Nations. The Charter should safeguard the economic and political rights of small nations and assure them an adequate share in shaping the policies of the organization.

7. Disarmament. The Charter should provide a clear purpose and procedure for the limitation and control of notional armaments, as collective security is established.

8. Voting Power. The Charter should provide that no one nation be allowed to veto judgement in any dispute covered by international law.

9. Human Rights. The Charter should include an international bill of rights, and provide for a commission or commissions to protect and further the rights and liberties of the individual and of racial, religious and cultural groups, especially those uprooted by war or oppression.

10. Dependent Peoples. The Charter should provide for a commission to supervise the administration of mandated territories and to promote the advancement of non self-governing peoples toward economic well-being, cultural development and political responsibility.

All through these recommendations is one theme—universality—the universality of ideals of the three great monotheistic faiths. Only as we have this international unity of ideals can we have a permanent peace. It is

unity of ideals that will enable the United Nations to make a peaceful world.

Cited to appear in Justice court this week were Roy Clarence Heiney on a charge of not having a muffler and no rear view mirror and Archie Ernest Valentine for not having an operator's license fined \$1.50 and costs. John Baptist Elie of Klamath Falls was fined \$10 and costs on a charge of violating the basic rule and Donald Morris Eccles of Ashland was fined \$1.00 and costs for not having an operator's license.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Burns of Pittsburg, California, announce the birth of a son on April 22. Both the parents are well known in Ashland as Mr. Burns is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Burns and Mrs. Burns is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gunter. The boy is the fourth boy in the Burns family. Mr. Burns is employed at the Dow Chemical Plant in Pittsburg.

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