

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 Bulwinkle Measure

The ways of the various government bureaus are deep and mysterious sometimes, and beyond the understanding of most of us. For many years, the railroads and truck lines, bus lines, etc. which are commonly known as common carriers, have been regulated very strictly by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Under that committee, such matters as rates for freight and passenger services, schedules etc., have been adjusted, to what most of us believe to be an equitable basis for the carrier and the public. The commission has grown in influence, in prestige, to the point that it enjoys the confidence and trust of the American public and of congress, to which it owes its origin and its appointments.

Last August, the government, through the Department of Justice filed suit against several western railroads, charging that the railroads had broken the anti-trust laws of the nation, by combining against the public to set rates, etc. when those rates were approved by the aforementioned Interstate Commerce Commission. Thus we have one government Bureau countermanding the work of another government bureau.

As a result of the suit, railroads have been thrown into confusion and dismay over the situation and as a result service has suffered. Recently a measure has been introduced in Congress by A. L. Bulwinkle, Members of congress from North Carolina which seeks to clarify the situation and to remove the uncertainty and confusion, and to place the regulation of the carriers under the committee set up by Congress, the Interstate Commerce Commission. At the same time, the bill will guard the public interest in accordance with the provisions of the National Transportation Policy.

The railroads and other carriers are fully in accordance with the new measure and are using every means to have it enacted into law. As they have pointed out in publicity material, they cannot serve two masters.

★ ★ ★

Ar We Out of Sugar?

The recent decisions of OPA to cut down sugar rations has hit housewives hard. We have been urged all these months to can all the fruit possible, so that canned stocks in grocers' shelves would not be dug into too deeply, and then the OPA turns around and takes the means of doing the canning. Housewives generally are very wrathful about the entire deal.

That was an interesting statement by Frank Morgan, secretary of the Owyhee Irrigation project in Eastern Oregon, and which was printed in a recent issue of the Portland Journal. The Owyhee section and nearby areas, at one time, a few years ago, and before the Department of Agriculture began "regulating" the raising of sugar beets, was a big sugar section. There are huge sugar refineries, at Nampa, Idaho, and Nyssa, Oregon. But due to some very short-sighted policies by the Department of Agriculture, and other government agencies, the sugar beet industry in that section has been about killed off and now those refineries are either closed down or operating on a very small scale. There aren't enough beets raised to supply the refineries.

Any one agency can hardly receive the blame for it. For on thing, there has not been sufficient labor to harvest the beets in the fall, when a large number of men are required for a short time, to get the beets in out of the field. Mexican labor was imported but in insufficient numbers. The quota basis for beet contracts cut out a lot of farmers from raising beets. And as Mr. Morgan pointed out in his article, the theory of importing sugar from the Philippines, Cuba and other places, in order that we might trade with them in manufactured articles, has had a serious repercussion on the home business. All of these factors have added up to the sum that we just don't have enough sugar, when with the right kind of management, the shortage would not have occurred.

★ ★ ★

A Blow at Censorship

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it," was Voltaire's vigorous epitome of free speech which has become the essence of the democratic attitude. It is wholly consistent with this tradition, therefore, to applaud the United States Court of Appeals decision restoring the second-class mailing privilege to Esquire magazine without approving everything that Esquire has printed.

It will be remembered that Postmaster General Walker suspended Esquire's privilege at the close of 1943. Although Government attorneys at the hearings attacked the publication as "obscene," Mr. Walker insisted that his action rested on the magazine's failure to qualify under the law as a contribution to the public good.

The merits or demerits of Esquire have not been the prime issue in this case. The issue has been the degree of discretion which can be permitted a public official to abridge freedom of the press. It is true that free speech is not an absolute right. Law and custom define quite positively the form and content of much that cannot be freely published. Much more lies in a twilight zone. The easy way—and the way of the fascist—is always to silence what we do not like when we have the power. The harder way—and this is the way of freedom and democracy—is to tolerate as long as there remains a doubt.

Certainly freedom of the press is too precious a heritage to entrust to any one official's "notion of the public good"—to use the Court's phrase. If Esquire's privileges could be impaired on such a basis, so could those of other and more serious publications.—*Christian Science Monitor.*

EVERYBODY'S TALKING!

ABOUT VITAMINS, and scientific research has proven their necessity for good health.

EVERYBODY CAN FIND . . .

their favorite vitamin products in the complete vitamins sections at Western Thrift Store in Medford.

EVERYBODY WHO SHOPS . . .

Southern Oregon Vitamins Headquarters . . .
Finds Medford's Lowest Prices
Finds Authentic Vitamin Information
Finds Medford's Largest Variety
Over 500 Kinds and Sizes

WESTERN THRIFT STORE

30 North Central

Phone Medford 3874

What Kind of Peace Do We Want?

By Ruth Taylor

The tumult and the shouting dies

The Captains and the Kings depart;

Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,

An humble and a contrite heart

Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet

Lest we forget - lest we forget.

As the guns are stilled on the western front, there is a pause that is almost shocking in its intensity. We have lived so long in war, that it is hard to understand peace. We are like the child who had known only war and who, when the thunder of cannons ceased, asked what was wrong.

We must not think that this pause of peace will mean a reversion to all the old thoughts, old ways, old practices. Some of them are forever behind us. Not to realize that, is the danger of the peace psychology.

We are geared to war in our thinking. We must not greet peace with the wild exuberance with which we welcomed the end of the last war. We must remember that the war is still to be won in the East, that solemn decisions are still to be made at the peace table. We must remember that victory is ours because we were strong - not only in arms but in morale - morally strong because we did not permit the enemy to divide up by false propaganda against our Brother Americans of different color, race or creed.

Morals and morale are not just for time of war. They are as much a necessity when the guns cease. And they need to be met in the same sacrificial spirit.

But what is peace? It is not the same thing to any one of us. Even the dictionary gives seven versions. The seventh is the one most people mean. It is "spiritual content; rest of soul." Peace is not the cessation of activity - the refraining from strife. We can be most peaceful in time of trouble, when our decisions are, of necessity, clear cut. Peace is an inner thing.

The peace we want this to be is the peace for which our late President prayed in his great prophetic prayer: "With Thy Blessing we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace - a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil."

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

Bell System Plans Rural Phone Service

An expanded program of the Bell Telephone System to take rural telephone service to a million additional farms after the war is outlined by John J. Hanselman, head of the Commercial Department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Harold S. Osborne, Chief Engineer, in the Bell Telephone Magazine just issued.

The proposed expansion will about double the present number of Bell System telephones in rural areas. Even with new economies in construction, it is expected to cost about \$100,000,000.

Surveys necessary to further expansion already are being made. It is estimated that from three to five years will be needed after men and materials again are available before a million more farm telephones can be installed as planned.

It is expected that many of the Bell System people now in the Army and Navy can be assigned to this program after they return from military service.

There are more telephones in rural communities in the United States than in any other country in the world. Rural telephones served by the Bell System have already increased some 60 per cent since the depression in the mid-1930's, the article points out. This increase was at about the same rate as for urban telephones during the same period.

Estimates indicate that 80 per cent of all rural families are located either along existing pole lines or near enough to them so that service can be installed without a special construction charge. A big part of the Farm Telephone Program, therefore, is to make the advantages of telephone service more fully understood by these families.

For reaching the 20 per cent of farm families that now are distant from pole lines, new techniques will be available.

To extend lines, for instance, high-strength steel wire will permit longer distances between poles, so that only about half as many poles will be needed as formerly. Also, more use will be made of insulated wire put underground with a special plow.

For farmers who have electric service, but are remote from existing telephone lines, transmission of telephone conversations over power wires is a possibility. The Bell Telephone Laboratories and the System Companies are cooperating with the Rural Electrification Administration and with private power companies in working out the application of this method.

And as soon as the war permits, the Bell System will undertake further studies in the use of

short-wave radio to reach remote spots to make available frequency allocations for this purpose.

Service in rural areas is generally provided under two separate arrangements: Either on a suburban service basis where all of the line facilities and equipment are provided by the Telephone Company, or where the line facilities and equipment in the rural area are furnished on a cooperative farmer-owned basis and connect with the lines of the Telephone Company at prescribed outlying points in its exchange area. The Telephone Company in all cases provides the complete switching arrangement for the interconnection of either farmer owned lines or Telephone Company-owned lines within its exchange area. Another possibility for the improvement of rural service, in those instances where all facilities are furnished by the Telephone Company, lies in the installation by the Telephone Company of very small dial switching units which will permit subscribers of suburban service in the vicinity direct communica-

tion among each other and reduce the amount of line wire required to connect them to the nearest telephone exchange.

Plans for continuing general improvement of service to present or service to present as well as future farm customers also are discussed in the Henselman-Osborne article. Already about three-quarters of all Bell rural customers call the operator by simply lifting the receiver instead of turning the crank. More are to have this added convenience after the war.

NEW MATTRESSES
FACTORY TO YOU
OLD MATTRESSES MADE
LIKE NEWNEW BOX SPRINGS
WHILE THEY LASTREED'S
MATTRESS CO.
93 N. Main Ph. 6271
Ashland, OregonFor Better Flavor
& Satisfying Goodness

ASK FOR

MT ASHLAND

Butter & Creamed Cottage Cheese
At Ashland Groceries and Markets

ASHLAND CREAMERY

What is made in Ashland, makes Ashland

★

IN HONOR OF OUR WAR DEAD

AND THE 19,000

SOUTHERN PACIFIC

MEN AND WOMEN WHO

ENTERED THE ARMED SERVICES

WE HAVE SET ASIDE

JUNE 14, 1945

AS SOUTHERN PACIFIC

WAR SERVICE DAY

★

On this day Southern Pacific men and women all over the system gather to reaffirm

THESE SOLEMN PLEDGES:

1. Perform our jobs with utmost efficiency and safety
2. Support the Seventh War Loan
3. Back up the Red Cross, Blood Banks and other war agencies
4. Give friendly service to all patrons, with good teamwork among ourselves

S.P. the friendly Southern Pacific

AS ALWAYS THE VERY BEST IN
WORKMANSHIP
AND THE MOST COURTEOUS
TREATMENT

We appreciate your patronage

WARDROBE CLEANERS

On the Plaza

Phone 3281

It's a Treat

When You Eat, and Find

- SUPERIOR FOOD
- NICE SERVICE
- PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE
- FAIR PRICES

ASHLAND CAFE

In Ashland Hotel Building

Open 6 a.m to 10 pm Except Sundays