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WHERE SHALL WE SHIP THE REMAINS?

Sometimes a touch of humor will bring home a serious truth.

That is true of a hotel sign in Salisbury, Maryland, which says, "If you must smoke in bed while here, please notify the office so we will know where to ship your remains. Business is good here, but we do not have guests to burn."

Commenting on this, the Dillon, South Carolina, Herald, observes, "When a guest is tempted to light a cigarette in bed he should think of the Atlanta hotel holocaust two years ago when more than a hundred guests were burned to death."

It is an ironical fact that smoking in bed is a major cause of death by fire—to say nothing of the great property loss that also results from it—and that it is also one of the least excusable and unintelligent things we can do. The smoker dozes off, the lighted cigarette drops onto flammable sheets and blankets—and the next step is the morgue.

Many of the most destructive fires stem from such simple causes. A minimum of thought will prevent them, and a minimum of care will banish the danger. The main goal of fire prevention lies in public education—for it is the human factor that keeps our fire waste at such terrible levels.

KNOW THE FACTS

If a recent survey of a group of high school seniors produced typical views, American education is giving the student a highly erroneous idea of how American industry operates and the size of the profits it earns.

These seniors were asked to estimate how much profit the average company makes. Their answers averaged 50 per cent. The true figure, covering a long period of years, is about 6 per cent.

They were asked to estimate the average investment per worker in American industry. Their figure was \$81—while the proper answer would have been \$8,000!

They estimated that the annual return to industry's stockholders averages 24 per cent. Actually, it was 3 per cent on net assets in 1949—which was a good year for practically all lines of enterprise.

The same seniors, by a margin of 61 per cent, then said that they favored closer government regulation of business as against free competition whereas it is really free competition that keeps profits and prices down.

The point of all this is that ignorance and misunderstandings do more than anything else to create distrust of free enterprise. A man who honestly believes that business makes exorbitant profits and operates solely for the benefit of a group of bloated plutocrats, is a man ripe for the phony blandishments of the socialists and the communists. Those who would destroy free enterprise and free government have small concern with the truth. They make the most of every misconception that exists in the public mind.

Only those who know the facts can make intelligent decisions. And the place to start teaching those facts is in our schools and colleges.

WORKING FOR US

Does Ashland need a Chamber of Commerce?

With the campaign starting this week to secure new members and reinstate delinquent members, the question may be posed or implied quite often.

Why bother, some will say. Why have a Chamber of Commerce?

Here's why.

No other agency can do the work of a Chamber of Commerce. It is an organization representing the businesses, industry and professional men of the city and, as such, handles a multitude of problems and services. As an organization representing the city's business it serves all the people of the community, for we are all dependent upon the businesses and their success for a livelihood.

When facts and figures are needed by state groups, such as the highway commission, the Chamber of Commerce is called upon to present them. Representatives must often attend hearings on matters of vital importance to the community. When new industries seek information, the chamber supplies it.

Thousands of inquiries of all kinds are handled by the chamber office. In the first nine months this year the Ashland office answered 636 mail inquiries from 27 states, Canada, Canal Zone and the Philippines. There were 1,040 counter calls and 3,396 phone calls on a wide range of subjects. More than 25,000 pictorial brochures and climatic charts were distributed to all sections of the country.

People move here after inquiring about business opportunities, climatic conditions, schools, wage-rates, business opportunities, availability of housing and a multitude of other facts. Somebody must supply these answers.

As a service to citizens, the Chamber of Commerce constantly safeguards them from itinerant salespeople with fraudulent schemes.

Briefly the work of the chamber is to promote the

THE AMERICAN WAY



Unfair As Usual

business of the community—retail, industry and tourist—and to attract new industry, business and workers.

With an estimated 300 businesses in Ashland, only 134 carry membership in the Chamber of Commerce. A total of 55½ per cent of the businesses are non-members, yet all of these businesses benefit both directly and indirectly from chamber work.

Many of the non-members have been critical. Now, during the present critical period, the president and directors will welcome criticism and suggestions to help them make reorganization plans.

REDISTRICTING

The Oregon State Activities association last Friday set up two classes of "A" high schools with a dividing mark between them set at 400 average daily attendance. Schools in the 400 to 500 bracket will have the choice of remaining in either the A-1 or A-2 class, according to Frank O'Neil, Ashland public schools' athletic director.

Copco Largest County Taxpayer

California Oregon Power company again has the largest tax bill in Jackson county, according to the tax department of the county sheriff's office. A total of \$335,819.42 was paid by the company in 1950. This represents an increase of \$12,524.57 over the previous year.

Next highest taxpayers were Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company and Southern Pacific railroad. The phone company's bill was \$144,498.33.

Kannasto Gets Honorable Mention

Harry Kannasto, SOC quarterback, was given honorable mention by United Press on the 1950 little all-coast football team. Lewis and Clark of Portland landed three men on the all-coast team. They were Rube Baisch, Bill O'Hara, and Bud Cox. Don Martin of Chico state was also named.

an increase of \$2,343.76 over the previous year and SP paid \$107,735.33, a decrease of \$3,469.46.

YOUR COUNTY AGENT

GIVES DAHLIA STORAGE POINTERS

BY C. B. CORDY
County Agent, Horticulturist

Proper handling and storage of dahlias during the wintertime is very important if you are going to end up with good planting stock next spring. Everyone is equipped to store dahlias a little differently, so it is impractical to lay down specific storage rules. However, there are some handling procedures which can be observed to advantage.

Dahlia tubers are thoroughly cured now, and if they have not already been dug and you intend to dig them this fall, it should be done right away. Some people store their dahlia tubers in the ground where they grow until next spring. In ordinary winters this works very satisfactorily, but in severe winters such as the last two, most of the tubers will be lost except in the most favored locations.

Use Care in Digging

In digging the tubers, whether it is done now or in the spring, great care must be exercised, as slight injuries to the neck of the tuber can easily ruin it. The dahlia tuber itself does not produce any sprouts. These come at or near its point of attachment with the parent stem. When the clump is dug it should be dug carefully and the soil removed without damaging this neck. The tubers can then be stored either in a clump or they can be cut apart.

It is probably best to store them in a clump as there is less chance of getting them mixed up, and then also by spring the buds which will form the new shoots will have swelled some and it will be easy to see where each tuber should be cut so that it will have a growing eye.

If separated now, be sure to leave a small portion of the stem with each tuber so that you will have a good chance of having an eye to produce a new plant. Tubers with no eyes are known as blind tubers and they are unable to grow, so will just lay in the ground and rot.

Need Warm Storage

After the tubers have been dug, the process of storing is more variable. The dahlia plant originated in the mountains of Mexico, so under its natural growing conditions it is subjected only to very light frosts. As it is primarily a warm climate plant, we must attempt in this area to produce this warm climate artificially. A storage similar to that required by potatoes is satisfactory for dahlias. The two things that must be watched are to keep them from freezing and to keep them from drying out.

One of the common methods of storage is to place the dahlias, either as individuals or as clumps, in a container such as a bushel basket or barrel and cover them with sawdust. The barrel can then be placed in the garage or basement, preferably where the temperature ranges between 35 and 40 degrees. The sawdust will protect against

sharp morning freezes but will not protect against a prolonged period of sub-freezing weather such as we had last year. In such cases it would be necessary to warm the room where the container was to keep it slightly above freezing.

The Mushroom Problem

Another plant which creates considerable interest each fall and spring is the mushroom. The first question that arises when a person sees a new mushroom is whether or not it is poisonous. This question can be answered only by two classes of people—those who have eaten the mushroom and haven't died and mushroom specialists.

Comparatively few mushrooms are poisonous, but those which are poisonous can really lay a person low. As a result, the best advice on the subject is, if you are not sure they are not poisonous, don't eat them.

Identification Difficult

There are hundreds of different species of mushrooms and it is impractical for anyone but a specialist to know all of them. Many of the poisonous ones are quite distinctive and many of the edible ones can be easily told. However, there are certain of the poisonous ones which closely resemble some of the most delicious of the edible types.

Most people who are fond of mushrooms have a few types

that they have found are non-poisonous and they restrict their gathering to these. Anyone who finds a mushroom with which he is not familiar should seek the advice of an epicure who has sampled that kind or send it to a specialist at the college. The specialist in this case would be Adin Steenland in the plant pathology department.

Service Available

Mr. Steenland says that most of the mushrooms that are sent to Corvallis are so badly shaken up in transit that it is impossible to make a good identification. He suggests that those who wish to have a specimen identified should dry it first and send it in. It is essential that all of the mushroom's base and ground attachments be included, as this ground attachment is frequently one of the vital points in identification. Most of the deadly varieties have a ring beneath the mushroom cap and have a cup-like ground attachment.

Mr. Steenland points out that the age-old test of boiling mushrooms in water, then dipping the handle of a silver spoon into the pot to see if it will tarnish, is not a reliable test of a poisonous mushroom.

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