

# EDITORIAL

## The Price We Pay

Most of us are fire-conscious at this season of the year and it is well that we are for fire is one of our deadliest, and at the same time costliest, domestic enemies. No matter where it strikes, town, rural areas or forest, it leaves a trail of devastation in its wake, at times taking a ghastly toll of human life while erasing property of great value.

While total fire losses are not at hand, there are some figures on farm losses alone which are more or less shocking. An average of 10 lives a day are lost in farm fire. Eighteen thousand farm people are killed annually in farm accidents and \$90,000,000 in farm property is destroyed each year by fire. These figures were quoted by Gen Hampton, FSA supervisor of Umatilla county, who is making an appeal to farmers to set aside a special week for farm clean-up as part of a national farm safety campaign to prevent fires, accidents and waste.

The campaign suggested by the Farm Security administration can as well be applied to everyone in general. It suggests that a thorough job of housecleaning on FSA farmsteads will not only make large quantities of paper, rags, clothing, tin cans, sacks and metal available for important war salvage but go far to prevent fires, personal accidents and minimum waste. Cleaning all debris, trash and paper from farm homes and buildings is insurance against spontaneous combustion and accident hazards. At the same time leaky roofs, cracked chimneys, rusty stovepipes, rotted sills, and bad electric wiring and connections can be checked. Broken or loose stair steps, board walks, or nails and jagged boards can be checked to prevent accident hazards to livestock and people.

If we would prevent fires and accidents we should cultivate safety habits. One of these is to be on the alert regarding fire hazards and those things which cause accidents. One has but to scan the national record to learn the price we have to pay for our collective carelessness.

## Million a Month Club

Millions of the state surplus is just idle mon-

ey. The banks will no longer pay interest for it when deposited with them although a few small amounts are still carried at one-half of one percent. Each week the state buys \$200,000 in what is termed government 91-day bills which earn three-eighths of one percent. Each week the federal government repays the state \$200,000 with interest. Oregon was one of the first states to invest in these 91-day-bills and has \$2,600,000 that otherwise would be idle, earning over \$100,000 a year. Whenever the state stops buying these bills the entire \$2,600,000 with interest will be paid back by the government within thirteen weeks.

According to Murray Wade in Capital Parade for the past 12 years the state of Oregon has accumulated an average of \$12,000,000 a year. So, if you are a citizen of Oregon you are a member of a million-a-month club. Broke in 1933 and with most of it not working. If an anarchist-socialized no credit, the state now has a total of \$159,000,000 regime took over, the split would be about \$150 for each person in the state. Included in this total is \$50 million in cash balances, \$40 million in bonds and \$69 million in the trust fund of the unemployment compensation commission deposited with the social security commission in Washington D. C.

## Keep Oregon Green

Let us not forget that four years ago it was the announced purpose of the bucktooth aggregation across the Pacific to set fire to our Pacific coast timber. It was part of the plan to bring defeat to the hated Americans and assure our enemies of making the peace terms in Washington. Whether or not the Japs have had a direct hand in the west the fact remains that due to someone's carelessness we have played into their hands—at least they are getting no small amount of satisfaction out of the news that the Tillamook fire has swept over a large area and caused hundreds of mill and timber workers to be pulled off of the job of producing war materiel to help check the flames. Just remember that for every one thousand feet of lumber produced \$1620 in labor has been expended. Every large tree burned in a forest fire means about \$100 lost in wages. That's why it pays to "Keep Oregon Green."

### HORTON-CRAWFORD ANNOUNCEMENTS RECEIVED IN HEPPNER

Announcements of the marriage of Miss Mary Ann Horton and Mr. Hugh Vawter Crawford were received in Heppner during the week, giving the answer to the query relative to the bride's name.

Mrs Crawford is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Edgar Horton of Los Angeles. Her husband is a native Heppner boy, the son of the late Spencer and Mrs. Crawford.

### GETS EOCE SCHOLARSHIP

Betty Coxen, member of the 1945 graduating class of Heppner high school, has been awarded a \$74 scholarship posted by the Elks lodge of La Grande. Betty planned to attend Eastern Oregon College of Education and this scholarship will come in handy on the expense account.

### FATHER DIES

Mrs. J. N. Hamlin was called to Portland Saturday night by the death of her father. He had been in failing health for many months.

### NORRIS RECOVERING

C. G. Norris is recovering from the effects of a fall he took Friday while in the process of taking pictures of a rock crusher in the mountains south of Heppner. To obtain a good view of the plant the engineer had climbed up a rock ledge. Losing his footing, he fell a distance of about 20 feet. Members of the Nyberg construction crew loaded him in a car and brought him to town. Dr. A. D. McMurdo made a limited examination and advised that the injured man be taken to a hospital and his friends took him to Pendleton. Physicians there could find nothing seriously wrong and after a rest he was brought to his room at Hotel Heppner.

### UP FROM PORTLAND

Mrs. Clare Ashbaugh and daughter, Mrs. Boyd Redding, were up from Portland the past week-end attending to business matters. Boyd Redding, formerly serving in the ferry command, is now in regular service in the Pacific area.

### ON VACATION

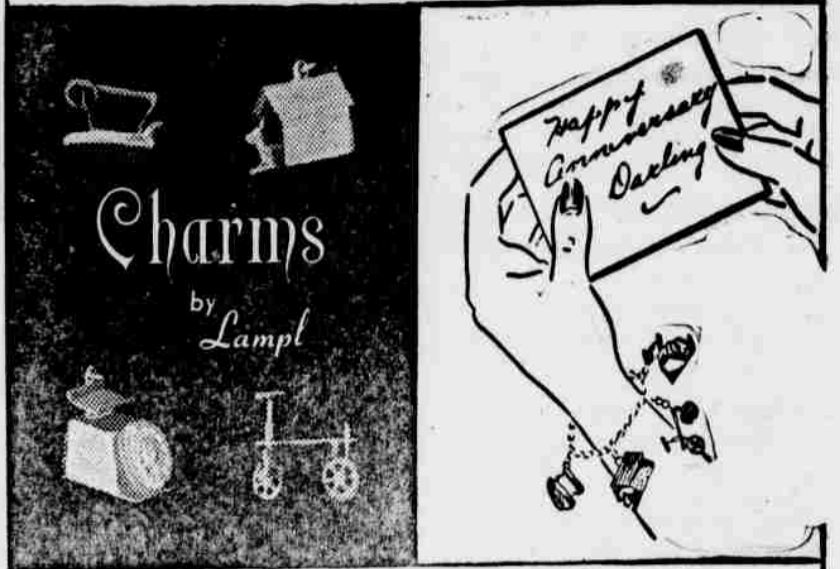
Mrs. Grace Turner is taking her annual vacation from duties as secretary of the Morrow county selective service board and with her children, Raymond and Kathryn, plans to go to the Puget Sound country. Raymond returned home the first of the week from overseas duty. In Mrs. Turner's absence, Mrs. Nellie Hughes from the state selective service headquarters at Salem, is taking care of the office.

S3/c Claude Drake is spending a leave from the navy getting accustomed to life on terra firma as it abounds on the farmstead in Sand Hollow, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Drake, have been carrying on sans their soldier and sailor sons.

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