



by VERNON WILLIAMS

Portland, Ore.—War activities in Oregon are causing a housing problem which is arousing concern in the national capital. Pendleton, for example, needs more housing units for non-commissioned officers at the air field, at least 100 dwellings. While arrangements are being made for expanding the accommodations, it is proposed to transfer 100 modern trailers from Umatilla to be used by workmen, for there are no accommodations for carpenters and mechanics who must construct the 100 dwellings.

At Medford and the Albany-Corvallis area where cantonments are under contract (designed for a total of 60,000 soldiers) how to take care of the workers is already a problem, according to word received in the capital. In the two cantonment districts there are no vacant dwellings and workmen are filling the auto camps. There is and will be a drain on school accommodations, as several hundred children are being brought in while father works in the cantonments.

In other cantonments during construction it has been possible for the workers to live 20 or 30 miles away from the job, but the sites in Oregon have been designated since the curtailment of automobiles and tires. Unable to replace tires when they become useless, the workers hesitate to use cars for any distance. Also feeding these families will develop another problem in the Willamette and Rogue river valleys. There is a possibility that by the time the cantonments are finished these workers will be available to gather in crops.

Hood River orchardists are anxious that a property custodian be named to take over the 98 orchards operated by 70 Japanese in that valley. Someone familiar with the fruit industry will be required to supervise the Japanese holdings, as care of the orchards is technical. Spring work on the trees must start in a few days and the association of orchardists has communicated with Washington, explaining that when a decision is to be made the Hood River association has a name to submit. The alien property custodian will be a part of the treasury set-up and he will appoint field men.

Metals division of war production board has heard that there is nickel in Oregon and has arranged to send scientists to that region to make an investigation. No nickel is produced in the United States, the current supply coming from Canada. WPB has a tip that one deposit is in Douglas county, not far from Riddle, and that there is a smaller deposit somewhere in the Jackson-Josephine area. If, explains the metals division, these deposits can be used at all and even though they may cost more to produce than would be justified in peacetime, WPB will see that federal money is available to make the properties active.

On the upper Columbia, somewhere in Umatilla county, the war department plans the construction of a depot for quartermaster supplies. The depot will cost several million dollars and work is expected to begin during the coming summer. The contract will be negotiated and not competitive. A negotiated contract usually eliminates any contractor or contractor group not known to the army officers and the job is given to a concern that has worked for the army before. This is why some government work in the northwest has so frequently been handed to the same few contractors and is why maritime commission refuses to award ship orders to new concerns, regardless of their experience.

There is before the senate a bill authorizing the secretary of war to construct a permanent gate and monument to commemorate the deeds and achievements of early patriots whose efforts were responsible for the establishment of the title of the United States to the Oregon country. The site of the monument is to be at Champoege. Twice, years ago, the senate passed bills authorizing \$100,000 by the federal government to match a similar sum from the state for a Champoege memorial, but the bills were lost in the house. The present measure is modest; it authorizes only \$25,000 and requires the state to maintain the memorial.

The income tax just paid on last year's income is the heaviest that has ever been imposed on the American people. However, it is slight compared with that which must be paid one year hence.

TWO PIONEERS PASS AWAY FOLLOWING EXTENDED ILLNESS

HERMISTON MATRON PASSES MONDAY

Funeral services for Edwin O. Comegys, 73, a resident of Umatilla county since 1881, were held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 from the Folsom chapel in Pendleton with Rev. F. C. Wissenbach, rector of the Church of the Redeemer, officiating. Mr. Comegys suffered a stroke at his home here nearly a year ago and never fully recovered. He has been in St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton since that time.

Ted Roy sang "Abide With Me" and "Softly and Tenderly" during the funeral service. Pall bearers were C. M. Jackson, W. R. Longhorn, Geo. Stroh and Chas. Taylor of Hermiston.

Mr. Comegys is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Eva Engle of Pasadena, Calif., and Mrs. Fannie Carney of Pendleton.

He was well known in this area as a painter and paper hanger having followed this trade for many years. He had been a resident of Hermiston for 33 years and was a member of the city council from 1911 to 1913. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge.

Funeral services for Mrs. Rhoda Berkley Meyer were held Thursday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the Hermiston Methodist church with Rev. Malcolm B. Ballinger in charge. Burial was in the local cemetery. She reached the age of 61 years, six months and 10 days.

Mrs. Meyer was born September 6, 1880, near Elsbury, Mo., a daughter of Wm. and Nancy Joe Berley. The family moved to Clarkston, Wash., in 1902. The deceased was married to John Ed Meyer in December, 1904. Surviving are two sons, Joseph Meyer of Baker and Edward Berkley Meyer of Los Angeles. Also surviving are a brother Charles Berkley of Idaho, and two sisters, Maymie Meyer of Missouri and Katie Miller of Washington.

She had been a member of the Baptist church in St. Louis. The Meyer family moved to Hermiston in 1920 and resided in the Meadows district since that time. She had been ill for the past two years, passing away Monday in St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton.

POWER COMPANY PAYS HIGH TAXES

Real and personal property taxes amounting to \$21,336.70 for the half-year levy due March 15 under new state tax laws were paid to Umatilla county last week by Pacific Power & Light company, according to A. M. Thrasher, local manager for the company.

The company's total taxes for 1941 jumped 11 per cent over last year, Thrasher said, to reach a new high of \$1,055,810.

In addition to state and local levies, this total included payments to the federal government of more than \$413,000, or enough money to pay a year's interest charges of \$13,600,000 of U. S. defense savings bonds.

LOCAL TEACHERS TO ATTEND MEET

Superintendent W. G. Kersbergen and his entire staff will attend the annual teachers' institute to be held this year in Portland from Wednesday until Friday, March 25, 26 and 27. This institute is popular with the educational leaders of the state and is usually well attended.

Students of both high and grade school will be dismissed for the three days.

FARM FEDERATION SPONSORS DINNER

The Oregon State Farm Bureau Federation will sponsor a dinner at the Columbia park club house Tuesday evening, March 24, at 7:00 p.m., according to A. H. Cable, president of the Umatilla Project Farm Bureau.

Chas. Baker of Walla Walla, experienced in Farm Bureau work and former head of the Walla Walla Farm Bureau Federation, will be the speaker of the evening.

'FUNZAPOPPIN' TO BE SHOWN AGAIN FRIDAY EVENING

"Funzapoppin", the three-act musical comedy which is being sponsored by the Hermiston Rotary club, was presented before an appreciative audience last night and will be shown again Friday night at the high school auditorium. The proceeds of the play will go towards the purchase of defense bonds, according to Dr. F. B. Belt, president of the Rotary club which is sponsoring the play.

The cast consists of Hermiston's best talent and they are really staging a comical show. Those taking leading roles are: Virginia Wells, Fred Rankin, Jim Boylen, Gerald Keller, Barbara Moore, Barbara Tucker, George Harkenrider, Mabel Rauch, Grace Campbell, Mrs. Dan Gray, Helen Tilton and Virginia Herd.

In addition to the play, many choruses and specialty numbers are presented. Some of those in these parts are: trumpet solo by Lucy Holman, vocal solo by Mabel Rauch, vocal trio arranged by Jo Casper, a duo dance by Leona Davis and Karon Glenisky, violin solo by Hope Reynolds and a vocal solo by Virginia Todd.

A pep squad is an added feature to the show and is composed of Ilene Blodgett, Barbara Todd, Leladell Reeder, Donna Whitcraft and Louise Hammer.

MISS BARTHOLOMEW PNEUMONIA VICTIM

Miss Maryann Bartholomew, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bartholomew of Echo passed away Tuesday afternoon in the Hermiston hospital from pneumonia. Miss Bartholomew was a junior in Echo high school and well known here by the young folks.

Surviving besides her parents are two half brothers. Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock in the Echo Methodist church.

LOCAL LAUNDRY UNION MEMBER

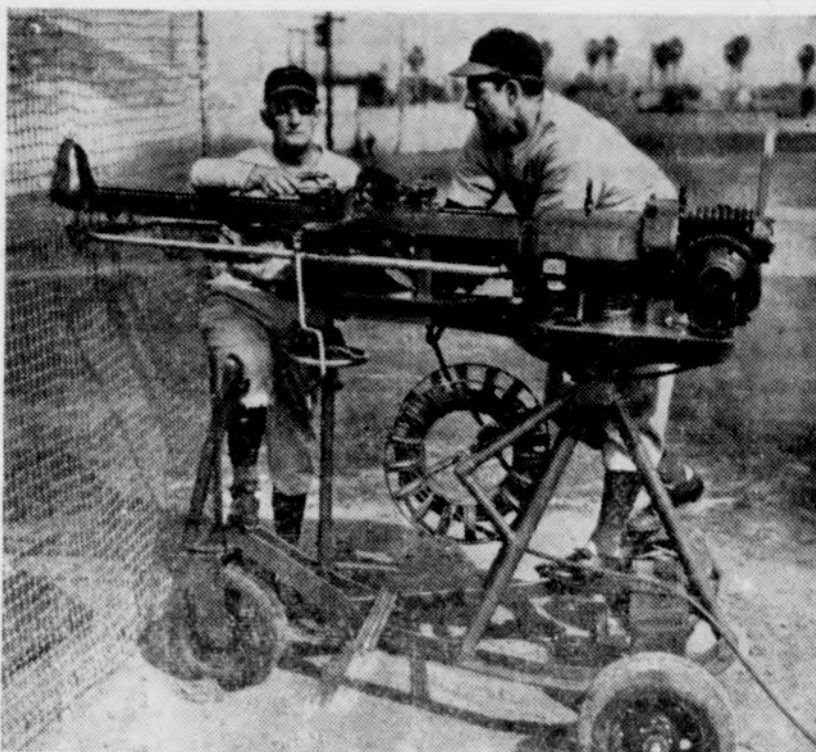
The Hermiston Laundry & Dry Cleaners is now a member of the Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers union, according to Alvin Elkins, owner. Arrangements were completed recently while Mr. and Mrs. Elkins were on a business trip to Portland.

According to Mr. Elkins his concern is now one of the very few union shops in eastern Oregon and the only one in this region.

Office Personnel Has Mumps

If this week's issue of the Herald does not have that effeminate touch it can be blamed on the mumps. Both Joyce McCulley and Anne Sommerer are taking a forced leave of absence due to the dreaded malady. If the mumps continue to take their toll here the next issue may need considerable "swelling".

Reds' Manager Does a Bit of Explaining



Even baseball comes in for a streamlining these modern days. Here Manager Bill McKee of the Cincinnati Reds (left) explains the operation of a new automatic pitching machine to pitcher Paul Derringer. The device is in use at the Reds training camp at Tampa, saving much wear and tear on valuable pitching arms.

JUNIOR HIGH TO GIVE OPERETTA

The Hermiston junior high school operetta, "The Dizzy Baton", gives great promise of being one filled with many laughs and comical situations. When two escaped lunatics direct a junior high chorus rehearsal most anything can happen.

The date of the operetta has been changed from April 3 to Thursday, April 2. More information concerning the operetta will appear in next week's issue, according to Ted Roy, director of the performance.

HERMISTON MAN FIRST IN DRAFT

The Umatilla county selective service board announced Wednesday that Blanchard Joseph Celler (441) of Hermiston was the first number drawn in the Tuesday lottery affecting anyone in Umatilla county.

Other Hermiston men listed in the first 30 in Umatilla county are as follows: Charles Nicholas Gellinger (1817), Jerry Dolling (1103), La Verne Stanfield Burrell (968), Edwin Clyde Hall (1218), Walter N. Jackson (1291), Logan C. Todd (1638) and Joseph William Rice (131).

Examiner Here Again Thursday

The traveling examiner of operators and chauffeurs is scheduled to arrive in Hermiston Thursday, March 26, and will be on duty at the city library between the hours of 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., according to a recent announcement released from the office of Secretary of State. All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner during these hours.

LOCAL RELATIVE SINKS ON HOUSTON

Lester Dowling, brother of Mrs. A. A. Estle of Hermiston, was aboard the American cruiser Houston when it was sunk in battle February 27. No official word of his death has been received here but is expected within a few days.

Dowling enlisted with the navy about 2½ years ago. His home is listed as Sharon, Oklahoma. His mother is also a resident of Oklahoma.

STONE'S MARKET HAS NEW MANAGER

Kenneth McKee, recently of Lewiston, Idaho, arrived this week to assume management of Stone's store here. He replaces Roger Olin who resigned this week to enter the army as a draftee.

The store also has a new meat cutter in the person of Gerald Bond, recently of Kellogg, Idaho. Dorm Miller, former butcher, has also resigned to enter the armed forces.

COX TO RECEIVE FLIGHT TRAINING

Oregon State College, Corvallis, March 19—Richard Cox of Hermiston, junior in agricultural economics at Oregon State college, is one of 18 students who will receive flight instruction at the beginning of spring term under the civilian pilots training program. The students are now taking certain ground courses. Because the government has prohibited all private flying within 150 miles of the Pacific coast, flight instructions will be given at Madras instead of Albany.

BIDS CALLED FOR HERMISTON SEWER AND WATER PROJECTS

WORK EXPECTED TO GET UNDERWAY SOON

The long-awaited news of the calling of bids for the construction of the Hermiston sewer and water improvement project "broke" this week. Sealed bids are being called for the construction of the sewer and the water improvements and will be opened publicly Monday, April 6, at 7:30 p. m.

Several firms have intimated that they would be interested in work which assures the fact that bids will be received. Should developments take the expected course, actual work should get underway in the very near future.

Pumping tests at the artesian well have been underway during the past week with very pleasing results. It is hoped to utilize this natural flow of water in the water improvement project.

JOHN SOTO TO DIE FRIDAY IN LETHAL GAS CHAMBERS

John Anthony Soto, 17-year-old slayer of three Hermiston residents last September, will die Friday morning at 8:30 in Oregon's lethal gas chambers in Salem. Soto is "as happy-go-lucky as can be," Deputy Warden Gene Halley of the state penitentiary stated this week.

"He talks like he wants to die," Halley said, "but he told me he tried to commit suicide three times before he came here."

"Soto eats good, sleeps good, and plays the radio all the time. He told me he likes it here in prison, saying it's just like a big hotel. In fact he said it was the best place he ever lived in."

Halley, who has seen 15 condemned men before they went to the execution chamber, including 11 to be hanged and four to be gassed, said he has "never in my life seen anyone like Soto."

His only chance is to obtain a commutation of sentence from Governor Charles A. Sprague, but the governor's office has indicated this is extremely doubtful.

The youth, who had escaped from the Sonoma, Cal., state home for feeble-minded, committed his crime at Hermiston on September 25, 1941, being convicted of killing Kenneth L. Gorsuch. He also killed Gorsuch's mother and her nephew. Soto lived with the family, and says he killed them because the mother, learning he was wanted at Sonoma state home, threatened to turn him over to the police.

The jury at Pendleton found Soto sane, psychiatrists agreeing Soto is of border-line intelligence, but that he knows the difference between right and wrong.

Soto's parents, Porto-Ricans who are on relief, live at Niles, Cal. Soto is the eldest of seven children.

His mother, Mrs. Antonia Soto, appealed in person to the governor several days ago for clemency. She says her son did not appeal to the state supreme court because he could not afford it.

"I don't intend to interfere," the governor said. "I have reviewed the case, and nothing new has been presented to me that was not presented to the jury which convicted him."

WORK PICKS UP AT DEPOT SITE

Roy H. White, business agent of the local carpenters local, stated Wednesday that his office was receiving a few calls daily for help at the Umatilla Ordnance depot. Mr. White stated that although considerable activity is expected this summer, there is no immediate sign of a great demand for help at the depot.

Mr. White has a list of many carpenters and their addresses who he will contact as soon as some work develops.

Mrs. R. E. Koon Returns From Visit

Mrs. R. E. Koon returned Tuesday night from a two weeks visit to Los Angeles and other California points. She visited her son, Lt. R. C. Gearhart who is in ferry command of the army air corps at Long Beach. She also visited Col. and Mrs. L. W. Jordan in Los Angeles who plan to return to Hermiston in early spring.

The New Tenant



(WNU Service)