

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Ye Smudge Pot. Tomorrow is 1940, and a new year! It will have an extra day in February, and Fridays the 13th, in September and December.

Len Carpenter of the orchard set has gone to Boston. He expects to be back for the first frost in the spring.

Speed idiots continue to drive like mad on West Main, without knowing what they are mad about.

Valley Democrats have started whispering to each other, and vital matters like the fate of the Gold Hill postoffice are at stake.

Snow is badly needed in the hills for skiing and next summer's water.

Dime Flynn celebrated 25 years of married life last week.

Storekeepers have been busy the past week counting their beans and measuring their calico. They will close up at 6 p. m. Saturdays for the next three months.

A school for census enumerators was held here Tues. Counting of industries and business houses will start Tues. after which they will count farms and noses.

R. Sweeney, the treasury watchdog has returned from the north, where he went to see his new grandson. He added up right.

Rural residents report bluejays, woodpeckers and robins are raiding their premises, and eating with the chickens, just like the shiftless roosters.

Peoria Bill Gates announces he is occupied by a good resolution for the coming year, and further states, it is not in solitary confinement.

Dewey Hill, the glamour boy of Prospect is still in Hollywood and no report has been received on his doings, if any.

Fleeth Fish, the boom-day tenor of Phoenix, is back from the metropolis, where he encountered weather so diabolical, he had to wear his hat every day he was there.

C. Strang had all his boys home for Christmas, and only a vestige of a 20-pd. turkey remained when they backed away from the groaning board.

Most of the motorists either have, or have made arrangements for 1940 license plates. The usual number, however, are different about it, as in yesterday's.

The first 1940 feminine hat has shown up here. The report from New York a week ago they would no longer be funny, was an error.

The college crowd who have been spending Christmas with the home teams, are headed again for the campus.

Western Front Quiet. Paris, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Tonight's allied communique was: "Further reduced activity of the contact units."

Jailbirds Escape. Salem, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Two prisoners broke out of the Marion county jail here this morning by prying loose a small fire escape window in the cell-block corridor.

Short But - Sour

WITH our habitual aversion to stating the obvious, we shall forego the usual moralizing, occasioned by the departure of one year and the arrival of another.

At the close of the first "war-year", in two decades, the temptation is great, but as a preliminary New Year resolution, we are going to resist it,—there will be plenty of editorial pontificators who won't.

In fact our only direct comment on the advent of a brand new year will be to enumerate a few of the things we expect Uncle Sam to accomplish in the next 12 months, ergo and to-wit:

Keep at peace AND help the allies win the war. See that no one in America goes without adequate food and shelter, AND balance the budget.

Continue to play politics, AND elect a capable, sane, and level-headed citizen to be President.

Refuse to be influenced by self-seeking and aggressive minorities AND uphold that sacred principle of a free democracy—majority government.

Oh one could think of many more, but properly understood, the above should satisfy the old boy, with stripes on his pants, as a New Year starter.

The Man of the Year

"TIME" has selected Joseph Stalin, as the "Man of the Year."

The usual indignant protests will now pour in,—probably as many, or more, than a year ago, when the same magazine chose Adolf Hitler.

Yet in both instances we think the Time editors have been right.

For the "Man of the Year" selection has nothing to do with the desirability, or propriety of the individual's acts; but solely his net accomplishments regardless of their moral consequences from the standpoint of world affairs.

And undoubtedly viewing the year 1939, as a whole, the Russian dictator was its outstanding personality, the individual who made a greater impress upon the world and its affairs than any other,—and from the international standpoint was the most successful.

THERE is one interesting thing, however, about Time's "Men of the Year." In practically every instance the award has proved to be the "kiss of death."

A year ago Hitler, was "crowned" for example,—and properly so, for he had brought Germany up from a crushed and humiliated nation, to the most feared one of all Europe.

Now look at Adolf,—if you can find him! He is not only friendless from an international standpoint, he has always been that; but with the Russian bear on one side and the allies on the other, he is powerless,—which for a dictator means death.

SO here is another prediction,—for the New Year. The Time jinx will not fail in the case of Joseph Stalin. For eleven months of 1939 he too was top dog, but how about the 12th?

Time has the answer, a few pages after its Joseph Stalin splurge. We quote:

"After three weeks war Russia's planned Blitzkrieg had definitely failed to 'BLITZ.' Defeated on two fronts and held on the third, the Red army had lost immeasurably in men, morale, prestige. . . . Even in Moscow the Russian casualties were estimated at 30,000. The Finns were believed to have lost less than 4000. . . . So many Russians have frozen to death they fear an epidemic when the corpses thaw in the spring."

A world power of 180 million beaten up, and thrown out into the snow by a nation of five or six,—perhaps the most astounding military upset in all modern history! No, neither the "man of steel" nor any other figure can stand that.

And don't forget this. In this game of power politics, no dictator is stronger than his armed forces.

It is a little early of course, to actually count the eggs of the Russian debacle, but unless there is a miraculous change in the situation in Finland,—and that soon,—

Nothing can be more certain than that the deflation of Joseph, the man of the year for 1939, will follow the deflation of his predecessor, Adolf.

For which,—if it comes to pass,—let us render due thanks!

Finland's Debt

WE FAVOR the suggestion of Senator Smith, that Finland be granted a moratorium, as far as further payments to this country, on its war debt are concerned.

Not only would such action be just and proper in Finland's hour of need, but it would advertise to the world, that even in international relations, honesty is the best policy.

Those who might oppose such action on the ground that with our budget out of balance, and a terrific debt, we could not afford to make such a sacrifice, probably have never taken the trouble to find out just the amount Finland borrowed from Uncle Sam.

As such things go, it was definitely microscopic, i e: \$8,281,926.

But of course that is not the point. The way the loan was met, not its exact amount, it what aroused the respect and gratitude of the American people even before, the gallant little land was attacked by the Russian behemoth. And as far as this

department is concerned, we would favor wiping it all off the books and forgetting it.

BUT while on the subject, this loan certainly demonstrates the uneconomic features of borrowing money even at a low rate of interest.

Yes Finland has never missed its semi annual interest payments but the debt today is practically what it was at the outset,—namely \$8,142,990. Yet during this period the total payments by Finland foot up to \$5,656,598!

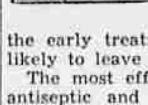
Over \$5,000,000 paid, to reduce a debt by \$138,936! Ouch!

Personal Health Service

By William Brady, M.D. Signed letters pertaining to personal health and hygiene, not to disease diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink.

WOUNDS, CLEANLINESS AND COLDS

The degree of scarring left by a wound depends primarily on the degree of damage or destruction of tissue, of course, but much depends also on the skill and care applied in the first aid and early treatment of the wound.



When I make that crack about the low order of intelligence of the layman who is willing to believe his illness is a "cold"—in the early stage—I hope you won't get mad. Maybe you have extension for your silly notion that wet feet or undue exposure certainly gives you a "cold." Drop in again and we'll examine your extension.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Can you tell me why my wife had to have a Wasserman test twice before the baby was born and ten days after the baby was born in the Hospital public ward. (H. F.) Answer—Perhaps internes or students learning how to take blood or fluid for such tests. That's one reason why doctors give their services free of charge or at low rates in clinics, dispensaries and public wards.

Recipies. May I please have your instructions and recipes for using wheat germ? My son, aged 11 . . . (Mrs. W. E. M.)

Ed. Note: Persons wishing to communicate with Dr. Brady should send letter direct to Dr. William Brady, M. D., 265 El Campino, Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Capital Parade

By Joseph Alsop and Robert Kintner. Released by The North American Newspaper Alliance, Inc.

Washington, Dec. 30.—A pretty good bet is that, when congress meets, the president will have to extend some sort of fairly substantial aid to Finland.

The situation looks very promising, therefore. When congress meets, sentiment will be carefully tested to see whether the present favorable appearances are deceptive.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Charged with postal law violations in a lottery which federal officials said had taken \$50,000,000 from Americans, George Henry Garlick, 60, has posted \$15,000 bond here pending a hearing in Boston, Mass., next March 18.

Just lately the new deal's prize economic forecasters have been having the occasional prophets who announce the end of the world for a given date, and gather a little sect of true-believers to await doomsday in gloomy communion.

The day dawned, bright and clear, with no faintest rumble of Gabriel's trumpet. Then the prophets scurry home, recheck their computations of the steps in the Great Pyramid or the number of words in Genesis, and explain that due to a mathematical error, they were wrong by a year or so.

Only a few months ago, the new deal economists were unanimous that a sharp recession was to be expected in January. The grim curve was neatly plotted, beginning with

large surplus inventory, continuing with a slow stoppage of the machinery in the mills, and ending only with foreign war-buying in the summer. Even the treasury's usually optimistic thinkers sadly concluded.

Then came unanticipated demand for cotton textiles, reports from the steel-makers that their back-log would keep them working at capacity through the first quarter of 1940, and general buying which reduced manufacturers inventories more than had been hoped. A few weeks ago the economist began to wonder. Now, watching industrial production booming along at the highest rate in the nation's history, they too have had to scurry home to check their computations.

Most of them have relapsed into an unaccustomed optimism, but the two most influential still refuse to be wholly bright-minded. One member of the pair still says that January will produce a recession, but less sharp than he had thought.

He thinks that the production index will drop perhaps 10 points in the first three months of the next year, but he is comparatively cheerful about prices, consumer buying power and housing construction. The other feels that the expected recession has probably been deferred. If it comes, he says it will come in April and May. But he is willing to admit that, the winter months having been successfully got through, the slump may never come at all.

The presidential campaign of New York's young gang-buster, Thomas E. Dewey, is as carefully managed as the grooming of a prize steer for the state fair. His big west coast speech, for example, is to be made in Oregon because Oregon is the only west coast state with a reasonably united Republican party.

In California and Washington, he would have had to step on the toes of one faction by associating with the other. He prefers to associate with none. And before he consented to go to Oregon, both his lady trainer, Mrs. Ruth Hanna McCormick Sims, and the governor of Oregon telephoned Senator Charles L. McNary to ask whether it was all right with him to have Dewey speak in his state.

EdGAR C. Thrupp, a member of the engineering institute of Canada, predicted a disastrous earthquake between December 25 and January 10. The Turkish quake falls midway between these dates.

He explains that he has developed a new "theory of gravitation" which makes possible the forecasting within a leeway of seven to 10 days of important earthquake disturbances, which are caused by faults in the hardened crust that surrounds the molten interior of the earth.

He says that 1940 will bring the most destructive earthquakes of the 20th century, and adds that while he can predict when (within the 7 to 10 day limit) he can't predict WHERE.

Known faults in the earth's surface, however, give a clue to possible earthquake disturbances. All of Oregon except the northeast corner is in what is considered to be a safe zone.

Failure to renew the trade agreements act, or weakening it in any way—as by giving the Senate a veto over the agreements—would be a long step backward. This would be most unfortunate at a time when the United States is trying both to improve business relations with European nations to abandon their suicidal warfare in favor of peaceful and prosperous commerce—which is possible only if these nations follow our example, and either form a tariff-free United States of Europe, or else enter extensively into reciprocal trade agreements with each other to eliminate their business-stifling, hate-engendering trade barriers.

In our trade agreements we have set a good example for the rest of the world—and not without profit to ourselves. What sound reason is there for now emasculating them or giving them up?

Robert S. Field, Evelyn Ave. Vineland, N. J.

Salina, Kas., Dec. 30.—(AP)—John Vesecky, national president of the Farmers' Union, said today the organization would oppose any compromise in the income certificate plan for parity payments to farmers which the union drafted.

Lottery King Held. Orlando, Fla., Dec. 30.—(AP)—Charged with postal law violations in a lottery which federal officials said had taken \$50,000,000 from Americans, George Henry Garlick, 60, has posted \$15,000 bond here pending a hearing in Boston, Mass., next March 18.

None too pleased is state department with Britain stalling warlike within the safety belt. Britain has ignored this alleged neutral zone; continues to operate its warships seeking prey up to the three-mile limit (off the coast of Florida), which is closer than coast guard cutters permitted rum runners to roam in the days of prohibition. It was an offense against U. S. law for a rum runner to approach nearer than 12 miles.

State department officials say "Happy New Year" but they have their misgivings about 1940 and what effect it will have on the United States.

ON the domestic scene 1940 will unfold a persistent effort to root out communism in this country. As

with the Cardenas government chiefly because of the seizure of American-owned oil properties. Export-Import Bank is extending credit into the millions of dollars to Latin American republics to cement the "good neighbor" policy.

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In The Day's News. The great earthquake in Turkey is reported as these words are written (on Thursday) to have caused 9,000 deaths. For one day, at least, nature is crowding the war-makers out of the top headlines.

TWELVE cities, ranging in population from 12,000 to 40,000, along with 80 villages, are reported to have been destroyed.

When you see a picture of a mountain, you can't grasp its size unless in the foreground there is a picture of something familiar, such as a man or a horse or a house. Let us try to put something familiar beside this staggering picture of disaster in Turkey.

In Oregon there are six cities (outside of Portland) of 10,000 or more population. In northern California (north of Sacramento and the bay district) there are two cities of more than 10,000 population. It is as if all these eight cities and FOUR MORE, along with 80 villages, had been destroyed.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY. December 31, 1929. (It was Sunday) . . . Hearing set for Butte Falls school budget.

Heavy fogs hamper autoists and cause numerous minor mishaps.

Mrs. I. E. Schuler wins state prize for Christmas Seal publicity.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lageson in auto accident upstate, not badly injured.

Larry Schade wins prize for best Christmas lighting decorations.

"Perfume burglar" of Portland is finally nabbed and identified after long series of crimes.

General Leonard Wood enters Republican presidential race.

Burglars enter a dozen Medford stores last night, procuring less than \$100, and a number of cheap watches.

All the banks and business houses to close tomorrow for New Year's Day.

Elks lodge will hold open house tomorrow.

SEE THE NEW YEAR IN AT BURGoyNE'S A Party You Won't Forget During 1940 FUN—NOISE MAKERS HATS

Everything for a good time. \$1.50 a Couple PHONE 582-J-4 for Reservations

READ One Is Beloved

A NEW LOVE STORY BY LOUISE PLATT HAUCK Starts Wednesday JANUARY 3 —IN THE— MAIL TRIBUNE

DANCE • DINE • BE GAY NEW YEARS EVE AT THE CHATEAU GOOD MUSIC—DELICIOUS FOOD—NOISE-MAKERS AND EVERYTHING DANCING 9:30 Till? Cover charge only 75c per person . . . Special New Year's Eve steak or chicken DINNERS—\$1.00. Phone YOUR reservations NOW—Ashland, 4741 or 4138.