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"Everyone in Southern Oregon
Reads the Mail Tribune"

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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

Tomorrow is another year.

Its successor, 1945, will arrive

at high midnight. The old year

could have been better, and

could have been worse, though

many confess they can't imagine

how.

Jerry Jerome of the air lanes,

is about again an attack of the

flu, but not enthusiastically.

After the war fly swatters

will be as out of date as a tom-

hawk, and the Older Girls

will no longer have to wield

them viciously to annihilate

what they regard as the Nazis

of the insect world. A Swiss

chemist has invented a fluid,

that when squirted on the wall,

puts a definite and permanent

quietus on any fly that lands

thereon. It also removes ento-

mological pests from dogs and

hens. It is non-irritating to

man, but very much so to flies,

and all their ilk.

Dr. Stan Phillips observed

the 11th anniversary of looking

a preacher in the eye Thurs-

day.

Winter blew its chilly breath

on the valley the past week,

with snow on the high and

bald-headed ridges. Several

drivers of venerable Run-Tin-

Tin model cars tried to hide

them from the cold, beneath

crazy-quilt comforters that

first saw service in one or both

of the Dakotas.

The war news caused pes-

simism to flow freely the past

week, until the tide turned

local military strategists gave

the Allied commanders whole-

souled cussings.

A small boy on South Orange

in cowboy trappings, was seen

riding a fractious broom handle

across the lone vacant lot Fri.

This is how F. Ly, Phoenix-

Antelope cowhand got his start

on South Front street.

The B. Tornado quint

scrunched Albany Thurs. eve

there, 29 to 15, also Salem.

A newcomer wants to know

why Portland is called "up",

and these parts are called down.

Nobody can tell him, even those

who know everything. The in-

quirer will sooner or later

want to know when gasoline

gets plentiful again, how Sun-

day motorists drive up the river

to Prospect.

Andrew Jackson Simpson,

the transplanted mountaineer,

enjoyed a session in the den-

tist's chair the past week. He

stated getting out of it was

the most fun.

C. Pankey, the horticultural

wizard and authority, has re-

covered from smoking four

Porto Rica cigars in a day. For

a short time he was left prone.

Several have announced their

New Year resolutions, but pay-

ing material for Satan's realm

is not as plentiful as in former

years.

The dying squeal of the fat-

tened hog was heard in the rural

areas most of the week as fram-

ers butchered to end their pri-

vate shortage of bacon, ham,

and lard.

The army was battling on all

far flung fronts, and mail order

stores at home last week.

Orchardists are still shipping

pears and the preliminary frets

about the lack of moisture and

hired men have started for the

coming year.

The Jack, co. delegation to

the legislature at Salem will

depart this week. If the august

body don't adjourn too often on

Thurs. for a week-end commit-

tee meetings in Portland, they

should be home, speech-scarred

and weary, by the first heavy

frost in April.

Time Marches On

The scythe of Time has mowed down another year and, as the waning day of turbulent 1944 drops from the calendar, it is well that we pause for a moment to reflect upon the past and appraise the future.

Just three brief years ago this New Year's eve the Japanese were dealing a death blow at Manila and America's gallant band were moving back to Bataan for their last desperate stand. Hitler was boasting that 1942 would bring the completion of the greatest victory in German history.

It was a dark hour. History had reached one of those terrible moments when the only path ahead led through death and suffering through pain and sorrow. The ordeal by fire could not be avoided. Free men were being tested. The last three years have shown that they were not found wanting!

MALEVOLENT foes, it is true, had Surprise and Treachery as fleeting allies. They were bulwarked by years of readiness, of military preparation and were goaded by bitter, smoldering hatreds. But the freedom and human decency of Democracy were not born of timidity. Their champions gallantly held the bridgehead while strength was marshalled, and are striking forth now with a power that is slowly and surely pushing the enemies back to their own frontiers.

IN 1944—the year of attack—MacArthur returned to the Philippines and the invasion of Europe changed from a hope into a reality. Tomorrow we set forth upon the year of decision. God granting, it will be the year of victory, and the final chapter in the greatest drama of all time will be written. America's role has been a glorious one, for into this struggle for the rights of free men she has poured the lives of her sons, the overwhelming flood of materials produced by free enterprise, and the savings of her people. Much sorrow and suffering still lies ahead but no sacrifice will be too great a price to pay for final victory.

AS the Greek poet, Aeschylus once said: "Time as he grows old teaches many lessons". When peace finally comes all the world must know that the horrible game of hatred can be played no more; that war, like crime, does not pay.

From this maelstrom of dying and suffering must be born a righteous determination to willingly pay the price of peace—to remember that the safety of America and the permanence of freedom rests in our strong right arm. We must stand forth with liberty loving people throughout the world in boldly championing our ideals. We must quickly crush those who would pit race against race, creed against creed, color against color.

AS Time steps on to a new year we hope that the lessons he has taught will finally be heeded—that only in tolerance of all, by all, can the security of peace be realized and given eternal strength. If we hold high the torch of liberty it will brighten a new era for all mankind.—H.G.

The Good Gray Rain!

Well at last it has been explained. We have always liked Portland, except for the rain. But as it rains nine times out of ten when we visit the state metropolis, we have seldom left on the S.P.'s fast-freight for the sunny Rogue River valley, with— to express our sentiments conservatively—any feelings of great regret.

And as we have departed with water-soaked brogans, drenched and shapeless hat, in a humidity of 100%—plus, we have often wondered how our friends in Portland stood it.

Rain, rain, rain,—yet they never seem to mind it. At times they even appear to like it! How come?

WELL, at last, we have the answer, and as usual when Portland mysteries are concerned, the Oregonian provides it.

It isn't that the people of Portland are so different from the people of southern Oregon,—or equally fortunate sun-kissed spots on this ball of dirt!—they don't really so much like the rain, as they prefer it to the East wind!

Which incidentally supports another favorite contention of this column that all values are relative.

NOW no doubt if Medford had that icy wind from the Columbia Gorge from which Portland suffers, Medford would also feel differently toward the Rose City's perpetual—or almost perpetual—precipitation. Might too come to like it.

But listen to this from the Oregonian,—it is captioned "a Record Breaking Ordeal" but the title should have been: "The good gray rain,—a poem of praise in prose."

What a relief it was when the east wind blew itself out, and we had our rain back again. This dispensation is our true western Oregon winter, and never with cheerier heart have we held up our faces to it. People said that they really had thought the bitter east wind never would cease, and they said, too, that in all their experience they had not seen the like of it. Though they are inclined to indulge in extravagances of statement in talking of the weather, it happens that this time what they said of the long spell of east wind was true, so far as the record goes. People hadn't exaggerated in the least.

But—as these lines are written—here is our good gray rain, and while there yet is ice in the hills, and sleet, we suppose, the weather in the valley is of the sort we Oregonians call nice. The varied thrushes have come into town, and now that the east wind has ceased you can hear us laughing right out loud. It's good to be out in the rain; good to see it spatter on window-panes—good to be here in Oregon and not somewhere else, anywhere else. It would have to rain quite a bit, and for a long time, the way we feel about it now, before any one of us would register a word of complaint.

Don't worry, Ben, it WILL!

ILL ARCHBISHOP
NAME REGENT OF
GREECE BY KING

George Not to Return Until
People Have Say—Will
Form New Regime.

London, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—King George II of Greece, according to the demands of Greek political leaders and Great Britain, today appointed Archbishop Damaskinos regent of Greece and announced he would not return to Athens until the people have a free opportunity to say whether they want him.

Damaskinos was ill at his home, a United Press Athens dispatch said, but John Georgakis, secretary to the 62-year-old prelate, asserted he probably would be sworn into office tomorrow. Reports to London indicate he already was trying to form a government.

Athens also reported that authorities of the left-wing Greek ELAS, who have been fighting the government of Premier George Papandreou in Greece, had sent a message to Prime Minister Churchill of Britain. Reports from ELAS in Athens said it suggested a truce in the fighting pending settlement of political disputes.

King George issued a proclamation naming Damaskinos a few hours after a conference with Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain, who reportedly told him bluntly that he must accept a regency.

The Greek king reached his decision to form a regency while Churchill was lunching with King George. A special courier took the Greek king's message from 10 Downing street, official residence of the prime minister, to Buckingham palace, where it was presented to Churchill in the presence of the British king.

By signing the proclamation, King George greatly endangered his chances of ever returning to Greece as sovereign, and it was believed he acted with great reluctance, and that he would have preferred the appointment of three regents instead of one.

NIMITZ REPORTS
NIPP HOME ISLE
TO BE OCCUPIED

Salpan, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—(Via Navy Radio)—(Delayed)—Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, returning from an inspection tour of Pacific forward areas, said today that Japan definitely will have to be occupied by U. S. forces to win the peace and warned "we should be prepared to invade Japan by assault."

Nimitz said he did not know to what extent the Japanese home islands will be occupied. Giving a speedy interview to war correspondents on the pier after a quick tour of this Superfortress base in a jeep freshly painted with five stars to match his five-star collar insignia, the white-haired commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet said he didn't know how much bombing the Japanese homeland could take.

"I do believe this—they will fight to the very end," he declared.

**BLAME PUBLIC FOR
AUTO BLACK MART**

Los Angeles, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—A drive against a "mounting black market" in automobiles, in which civilians are as "much to blame" as dealers, is being planned in southern California. James Taylor, car-price official in the local OPA, disclosed tonight.

His records show that in November there were 25,363 transactions in cars in the Los Angeles OPA district, comprising eight southern California counties. About 35 per cent were sales by individuals, sales by dealers totaled another 35 per cent, and dealer purchases were about 30 per cent of all transactions.

This indicates, Taylor said, the extent to which private citizens have entered the used-car market.

CALL OFF STRIKE
Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The strike of C. I. O. union members at the Kansas City plant of Montgomery Ward & Co., which began Wednesday, was called off tonight by unanimous action of the union members. They will return to work Tuesday.

Property improvement loans of \$1,800,000,000 were granted to 4,500,000 owners during the past 10 years, federal housing administration says.

PRESIDENT PENS
ANNUAL MESSAGE
TO NEW CONGRESS

State of Union and Budget
To Be Presented Last
of This Week.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt today buckled down to the task of finishing up his annual State of the Union and Budget messages for presentation to the new 79th congress which convenes Wednesday.

He is expected to confer with his congressional advisers on Tuesday, assuming that they return to the capital in time. Definite dates for the congressional program will be settled at that meeting, but best guesses are that he will send up his annual message on Thursday and his budget message either on Friday or the following Monday. Congress will devote Saturday to counting electoral ballots and deciding officially that Mr. Roosevelt has been elected for a fourth term.

The annual message probably will review military progress; discuss in broad outline only, what can be expected in the future, and present in some detail Mr. Roosevelt's ideas of what the legislative and executive branches should do to prepare the nation for the impact of reconversion to a peacetime economy.

The budget is expected to call for expenditure of about \$88,000,000,000 during the fiscal year 1946, which begins next July 1. That sum should be about \$11,000,000,000 below the record \$99,000,000,000 which is being spent in the current fiscal year.

The fiscal 1946 expenditures, according to reliable estimates, will include about \$78,000,000,000 in the "war" classification, again, about \$11,000,000,000 below what is spent this year. The remainder will include slightly more than \$4,000,000,000 for servicing the national debt— which now stands at more than \$231,000,000,000, and about \$5,700,000,000 for non-war activities.

STEEL INDUSTRY
PAY ADJUSTMENT
ORDER APPROVED

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson tonight approved pay adjustments ordered by the war labor board for the giant steel industry, on the basis of assurances from the office of price administration that they would not require increased prices.

The OPA report, made public by Vinson, said, however, that other factors necessitated price increases for "certain products" in the iron and steel industry in compliance with "minimum requirements of law." What those factors were, OPA did not say.

"It is the judgment of the price administrator," OPA said, "that after these price adjustments are made the proposed wage increases will not require any further net rise in the general level of iron and steel prices."

The wage adjustments, which Vinson said may be put into effect immediately, include among other things, increases of four and six cents an hour respectively for second and third night shift workers. Those night shift increases were ordered retroactive to the expiration of the companies' contracts with the United Steel Workers (CIO).

PORTLAND FACES
SAWDUST CRISIS

Portland, Ore., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—With an acute sawdust shortage already facing Portland residents, the outlook grew more critical today as the Clark and Wilson mill at Linnton prepared to shut down soon because of lack of logs.

With the big mill closed, one of Portland's largest sources of sawdust supply will be lost. Leaders in the industry have urged the war production board to explore the possibilities of manufacturing a large number of grates locally so that consumers could convert their furnaces to wood or coal.

P.-T. A. Activities

P.-T. A. County Council
The Parent-Teacher association county council executive committee made plans for the January 17 meeting at a dessert luncheon at the home of Mrs. H. O. Colburn recently.

With the establishment of three new units at Sams Valley,

Eagle Point and Howard schools. Jackson county now has 23 active parent-teacher association units. Unit reports for the Bulletin should be sent in by January 9.

The coming meeting will be held at the Housing Unit on Priddy street beginning at 10 a. m. Medford city council members will serve coffee and those attending should bring a sack lunch. An interesting program has been planned. Miss Mabel Nansen will be in charge of music.

Committee chairmen are asked to have their reports prepared.

JAY TERRILL OF
TALENT PASSES
AWAY SUDDENLY

Ashland, Dec. 30.—Jefferson Horace (Jay) Terrill, for several years postmaster at Talent, passed away at his home in Talent suddenly at 9 p. m. Friday. He had been a resident of Talent for over 60 years.

Terrill served as a member of the Talent school board for 12 years and was a former United States fruit inspector for this district. He also was a deputy county tax assessor for many years.

His parents, H. J. and Lucy Terrill crossed the plains in 1886 and settled at Brownsboro, Ore., where he was born August 3, 1882.

He was married August 9, 1914, at Talent and is survived by his wife, Parthena, and one daughter, Barbara, both of Talent.

Funeral services will be held Jan. 2 at 2:30 p. m. at Litwiler funeral home. Interment will be at the family plot in Stearns cemetery at Talent.

EDGAR SMITH TO
HEAD TRAIL BODY

Portland, Ore., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Edgar W. Smith today succeeded to the presidency of the Oregon Council of the American Pioneer Trails Association.

Smith, member of the State Board of Education, succeeded Roy A. Perry, who was president of the Oregon Council for four years.

The association, founded by the late Ezra Meeker, well known Oregon pioneer, has as its purpose the finding and marking of old pioneer trails.

Dr. Howard R. Driggs of New York, president of the National Association, attended the annual meeting of the Oregon council here. Tuesday he will leave for Helena to help organize a Montana council.

WET, SNOWY NEW
YEARS FORECAST

Rain on New Year's Eve and rain and snow for the northern half of the nation on New Year's Day was forecast for the holiday week-end today in a special year-end weather forecast.

R. C. Schmidt, Chicago weather forecaster, predicted a wet New Year's eve in the east, with snow likely in New England, the Appalachian region and the Great Lakes area.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. His-
tory from the files of the Mail
Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years
ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

December 31, 1934
(It was Monday)

President Roosevelt acts to head off bonus payments.

Arizona and California have earthquake.

Principal roads of county free from snow.

Rioting breaks out in Saar region of Germany and anti-Nazis ask protection.

Cloudy. High 46, low 28 degrees.

Dances to feature local greeting of New Year tonight.

Stanford and Alabama figure even in Rose Bowl game tomorrow.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

December 31, 1914
(It was Tuesday)

Floods threaten southern Oregon, and bridge at Grants Pass on Coast railroad washed out.

Kid McCoy, famous pugilist, found guilty of manslaughter for slaying of sweetheart.

Rain. High 46, low 36, rain 1.48 inches.

City to greet New Year with watch meetings and parties.

Total rainfall in December 3.44 inches.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY

December 31, 1910
(It was Saturday)

New Year's edition of Mail Tribune on sale tomorrow.

Archie Hoxey, aviator and holder of world's altitude record, killed in 800-foot fall.

WAR DIVORCES IN
RENO SET RECORD

Reno, Nev., Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—The number of divorces in "the divorce capital of America" broke all-time records in 1944 with 7,026 actions recorded in

the Washoe county clerk's office, it was announced tonight, and County Clerk Elwood H. Beemer said "wartime conditions" were responsible.

"Some couples married without knowing each other long enough," Beemer said. "In other cases, persons separated by war became infatuated with others."

Marriages, however, were over double the divorces with 14,523 applications filed in the clerk's office during the year.

The previous high mark for divorces was set in 1943 with 5,846 cases registered. There were 15,812 marriages during the year.

Los Angeles, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—More than 50 navy combat veterans today donated nearly seven gallons of whole blood which will be sent to their colleagues in the Pacific war theater.

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