

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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ROBERT W. RUHL, Editor.
ERNEST R. GILSTRAP, Manager.

Editorial Correspondence

Los Angeles, Feb. 13.—Yesterday's contribution was written and sealed on the "Daylight" en route, but mailed here, which accounts for the fact the tale about the captain in the air force was not completed.

Quite a tale—the debonair and personable captain who was so liked by the colored boys in the diner, was not a captain at all. He was not even in the air force. He was a faker—a "wolf" in air-force clothing at it were, on his way to cut a swath in Hollywood chorine circles, when the M. P. on the Daylight became suspicious and unmasked him.

Yes quite a tale in which we became involved as an innocent bystander for we happened to be in the smoking room when the M. P. and a major in the air force gave the imposter the third degree.

We will have to say this for the fake aviator—he took it with a smile and as cool as the proverbial cucumber. They took him off at Bakersfield and handed him over to a squad of military police in charge of an M. P. lieutenant, but from the way he behaved one might have thought he was to be greeted by a welcoming committee from the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, waving goodbye—as smiling and gay as when we first ran into him in the dressing room on the "Klamath" Sunday morning.

We have scanned the papers here for some report of the incident but none has appeared and probably none will. It seems the M. P. became suspicious when the alleged captain displayed no special insignia on his uniform, just two silver bars and a bronze wing—also no service stripes—most of the airmen traveling these days have the latter. So he asked the young man for his papers and of course he had none. He claimed he had lost them en route from Dallas but when the M. P. asked him for his commanding officer's address, so he could check on him, the boy broke down.

Both the M. P. and the major were very kindly with him—it was hard to be otherwise he was so young and genial, smiling and somehow inoffensive. As a last favor the boy asked the major to phone his girl—his FAVORITE one—with whom he was to have a date that night in L. A.—telling her he had been unavoidably detained. (We have the name too and she is staying at the Chapman-Park up on Wilshire.) He also passed around a snap-shot of another favorite girl of his who is in pictures—it was on the beach with the Santa Monica curvaceous figure rather scantily clad. And the young man came back as jauntily as you please: "Yes Sir, a nice view of the Miramar hotel!"

Well there is a bit of the passing show—a fleeting glimpse of contemporary drama—tragedy perhaps for the young man and others.

We tried to get more details from both the M. P. and the major but they shut up like a couple of clams, though they were willing enough to confirm the fact of impersonation of an officer and probably serious trouble for the young man, not only for that but very likely draft-evasion.

From our brief talks with the "captain," and hooking up this denouement with his previous behavior, we would suspect he is a mental case. We had to help him find his berth (No. 10) that morning; he couldn't find his tickets when the conductor came through; had to ransack his luggage for them, he kept running his hand through his thick, slick curly hair and remarking "Ah'm all fouled up, Ah'm all fouled up, this maw'nin'!"

Incidentally we can't recall the men's dressing room in a Pullman ever being reproduced in pictures or fiction. A great chance for someone, for no matter what the railroad may be, or where the scene is always the same, packed full of human interest and comedy and the strange primitive habits of the "male animal." The favorite costume is an undershirt and pants, unlaced shoes or bedroom slippers, tousled hair (if any) and about as much good humor and sunny geniality as that displayed by a Kodiak bear suffering from an acute case of mumps.

There are exceptions of course and this fake aviator was one. He came in with a silk bath-robe over his shorts, woolly slippers, his hair-do slightly disheveled but most becoming, and throwing off the bath robe he displayed a muscular torso—hue golden brown—which was really a delight for your roving correspondent to enviously gaze upon. (When he gets out he could qualify for a model in a bathing suit "ad" at any time.)

And more unusual than anything else he was CHEERFUL, as he unpacked the latest thing in electric razors and placing same on the washstand, properly hooked up to the wall proceeded to dash some pink liquid on a tooth brush and attend to that important ritual at the tooth brush stand. While he was thus engaged another air-force member staggered in, eyes half open, hair a perfect rat's nest, spectacles in one hand, and a corporal's stripes on his coat which hung over one lean, sinewy, hairy arm. We recall now they granted at each other and later the corporal remarked he had just returned from Honolulu for a 21-day furlough, after 18 months service. The remark was addressed to the captain but he was busy shaving then, he could not—or did not—answer.

We also recall the corporal later asked the captain if he had ever tried riding "piggy-back" in a P-38. We didn't know what that meant then and we don't know now. But the captain said he had, and when he got out he was so cramped he could barely crawl.

In view of the later developments all these facts are interesting to the undersigned as the ever-inquiring reporter. Had the impersonator really been in the air-force at one time, or had he merely read up on the matter so if he ever got in a jam, he could—or might—get by. And all this—according to the major at least—to increase his stand-in with his lady friends! (Let the psychiatrists figure out that one—we can't!)

Our seat-mate on the "Daylight" was a sergeant in the motor division at Camp White on a 21-day furlough to Colton, Calif. He had caught a sore throat his last day at camp and wasn't feeling so hot—and not particularly seeking a sore throat victim as a room-mate we kept as far removed from him as the seat construction permitted.

Among other things he suspected "Blondie" of the "Pa-pa" trio of pursuing him, and was careful to point out he had a wife waiting for him at L. A. We might say this crack never fazed "Blondie." She took it as most things we imagine (including corn-liquor) with a shrug of her shoulders and a smile. (A good sort and a good sport was Blondie in your correspondent's humble estimation!)

Later—As an expert on public parks, from coast-to-coast, we have just returned from a brief bench-warming in Pershing Square, and can declare without fear of contradiction (as P. J. Neff would say) that for human interest, freakishness, and color, no public park in the country can compare to this one just across the street.

But that will have to wait for another time. — R. W. R.

OFFICIALS FAVOR PENSION SYSTEM

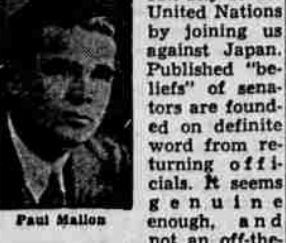
Salem, Ore., Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—State, county and city officials today filed arguments with the House Counties and Cities committee in favor of a bill (HB344) to provide retirement systems for public employees.

much chance for private savings. If enacted, the retirement system would be compulsory for the political subdivisions unless they elected to withdraw within six months.

HOUSE PASSES REQUEST TO ENACT CORDON BILL
Salem, Ore., Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—The Oregon house today gave final passage to senate joint memorial 6, asking congress to enact the Cordon bill to restore the right of mineral development in nearly 20,000,000 acres of Oregon lands.

News Behind The News
By Paul Mallon

Washington, Feb. 16.—Best news of the Crimea conference was not made public. Russia is to become a full ally of the United Nations by joining us against Japan.



Paul Mallon

record hint to gain public support for the conference. Stalin can hardly be expected to stand by and let American-British influence sweep through Asia.

Supposition is widespread that Russia will move into the Asia war from the April 25th peace meeting at San Francisco (because her treaty with Japan expires then.) But this guess is more logical than sound. The proper military hour to strike may be more suitable than the proper political hour. Stalin has always contended he could not fight on two fronts (as we are) and he may therefore adjust his Asiatic plans to diminishing European necessities.

VISIBLE results of the gathering are less inspiring, although they have been received practically without criticism. No pledges were needed for the annihilation of Germany, now so near. The Nazi nation is to be divided into three sectors for policing by Soviets, British and Americans at least; this is an old decision and may not work out efficiently. Conflicts and confusion are likely to result from three or more administrations.

The Polish and Yugoslavian settlements mean that a couple of democrats will be thrown into the communist government, and a free election for all will be held someday, the degree of freedom being not yet apparent. That is about all there was to it on paper. The world peace organization arrangements are being held invisible until approved by France and China.

YET, behind this conference was an impelling motive which must be obvious, although it is not being mentioned. Mr. Roosevelt thought he had to get wayward and isolationist Russia into something definite before he got them back into the Dumbarton Oaks mood, from which they had withdrawn, and kept hanging in air for many months. Chief result of the conference then is this:

We are now in Europe, into every argument about every crossroads, every cabinet appointment, everywhere. What we get out of it is not yet apparent. Our motive is that we want to do good for the world. If we are to get trade territory, or any tangible restitution an agreement for such return is yet to be made. Reparations are to be run from Moscow, which means forced labor and totalitarian harshness.

All our other plans call for pouring out money, not taking in anything. Our ideal is democracy and this we are to promote in Europe against the Russian ideal of organization for the state suppression of opposition and minorities. It is undeniable then that this agreement does not, as they say, establish the peace of Europe, but opens the political battle for the peace of Europe.

European side developments during the conference show better what is afoot than the announced text of the result. All during the meeting, the Russian press was attacking the Pope who had correctly defined the issue of Europe as lying between those who treat people as the masses (communists, nazis, all totalitarians) and those who recognize the individuality of the human personality and the human soul and its freedom.

Mr. Roosevelt then has started a new battle and won an opportunity, not a victory.

Pfc. Sid Brown Is Wounded In Europe
Pfc. Sid R. Brown, son of Mrs. Grace Brown, 608 West Jackson street, was wounded in action in the European theater Jan. 19, according to word received by relatives here. He suffered an injury to his left arm, caused by shrapnel, the message stated, and he is now in a hospital in France. He was serving with the 12th armed engineer battalion.

Flight o' Time
Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY
February 18, 1933
(Democrats irked and peeved over New Deal distribution of patronage in Oregon.)

Threatening note sent judge and jury in Hauptmann kidnaping case.

Gov. Martin tells legislature they will get no pay for extension of legislature, and he will use veto power freely on 723 bills—none important.

Cloudy. High 58, low 34 degrees.

Black Tornado rallies in last quarter to defeat Klamath Falls 28 to 24.

Oregon State defeats Oregon 34 to 27 in wild game.

C.o.C. drive for membership opens this week.

Touch of drought predicted for next summer in mid-west.

Twenty Years Ago Today
February 18, 1925
(Fuji defeats Maru 225 to 114 to win city championship at billiards.)

Lower house of legislature passes bill giving Medford right to use Big Butte Creek water.

Cloudy. High 56, low 29 degrees.

Child labor bill defeated by state senate vote.

Craters club demands city clean up Riverside avenue, so tourists won't get bad impression. Craters will also put up welcome arches at both city limits on Pacific highway.

W. A. Gates gives Kiwanian talk on the radio and its development.

State retail merchants association name John C. Mann on resolution committee.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY
February 18, 1911
(Albany and Medford high to play at Nat tonight in title game.)

Commercial club plans to sue citizens who failed to keep their money pledges.

White flag flies from Garnett-Corey building indicating clear weather coming.

CENTRAL PT. POST TO HAVE BUILDING

Central Point, Feb. 16.—Meyers-Holland Post No. 129, American Legion, installed at Central Point January 3, now has 65 members according to Com. Joseph R. Krupp, Sr. This is considered a substantial gain over the 51 charter members of the post at the time of installation.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although the use of a pen-name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarity and condensation.

Seal Sale Success
To the editor: On behalf of the Seal Sale Committee I wish to thank you for the exceptional publicity given to us this year. The cuts, editorial and numerous articles were splendid.

Your generosity was most helpful as evidenced by the fact that a greater sum was contributed toward this cause in 1944 than at any other time by the citizens of Jackson County.

Thank you again for your help. Sincerely, Mrs. John S. Day, Chairman Seal Sale.



500 other MONARCH Foods—off just as Good!

SGT. WORDEN IS ON ITALIAN DUTY

Sgt. James L. Worden of Medford is now stationed at a 15th air force service command depot in Italy as an aircraft sheet metal specialist for the air force according to a release from the depot.

The sergeant, who has been overseas since the fall of 1943, was flown into Italy from North Africa early in the Italian campaign having volunteered for special duty. For his service the past few months he has been awarded a battle star and a personal citation.

Sgt. Worden is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Worden, Medford, Jacksonville Star route, Box 110. He is a graduate of Medford high school and attended the Southern Oregon College of Education at Ashland.

Another son of the Wordens, Pfc. Weston A. Worden, is a fleet marine. He has been on overseas duty for the past two years and is presently thought to be on a ship in the Philippine Islands area.

WILLIAMS LIME PLANT SHUTDOWN ANNOUNCED

Grants Pass, Feb. 16.—Closing down of the plant of the Washington Brick & Lime Co. at Williams has been reported and at the home of Superintendent John Currie in Grants Pass it was stated by Mrs. Currie that the family is moving back to Spokane.

At the plant it was stated by an employe that the shutdown has been made necessary by lack

of manpower, most of the employes having been drafted, and also by a breakdown of machinery which could not be repaired short of several weeks.

SNOW LACK POSTPONES "CAT" DEMONSTRATION

Arch Work, of the division of irrigation of the department of agriculture, in charge of snow survey work in Oregon has announced it is necessary to postpone the demonstrations of the Tucker Sno-Cat, originally scheduled to be held near this city next Wednesday and Thursday, due to insufficient snow in the mountains to give a fair test of the rig.

Tentatively, the demonstrations are now expected to be held March 19 and 20 depending on snow conditions then prevailing.

ELECTION BOARD PAY INCREASE IS SIGNED

Salem, Ore., Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—Among bills signed today by Gov. Earl Snell was Senate Bill 24, by W. H. Strayer of Baker, raising the pay of election board officials from \$3 to \$4 per day.

Blended to Perfection. Thompson Old Whiskey. Blended Whiskey 86.8 Proof - 65% Grain Neutral Spirits. Glenmore Distilleries Co., Incorporated, Louisville, Kentucky. A BETTER BLEND FOR BETTER DRINKS

Anderson's Thrift Market. MEDFORDS POPULAR TWO FRONT STORE. BE AN ARTIST! We will teach you to be an artist at thrifty buying. All you need do is remember. PRODUCE: "Dew Kist" Vegetables, ONIONS 4c lb., APPLES \$1.69 box, CAULIFLOWER 19c hd. BABY FOODS GERBERS or HEINZ 3 Cans 19c. WHEAT HEARTS 28-oz. Pkg. 25c. PABLUM THE FAMOUS BABY FOOD Large Pkg. 39c. SWEET POTATOES Old Virginia Sweet 2 Cans 49c. SUPER SUDS The Better Package Soap Large Pkg. 21c. PALMOLIVE Large Bath Size 3 Bars 29c. CRYSTAL WHITE Large Bar 6 for 29c. MEAT DEPT.: Sauerkraut 19c qt., Weiners 33c lb., Sausage 39c lb. Drifted Snow FLOUR 10-lb. 3ag 49c. SOFTASILK 25c. Pancake Sale: PANCAKE AND WAFFLE FLOUR 28-oz. Pkg. 19c.

Herr Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda chief for the steenth times announces Germany is at "the last ditch." The "last ditch" business is getting tiresome. They should show a little originality and brace up at the next to the last ditch. "Go out to the ocean beach and see portions of lunch thrown away by visitors being eaten by rats."—S.F. paper.—Rough on the visitors. The war production board reports, despite the strike epidemic, labor's production increased since Pearl Harbor. There were more strikes, but less man-days lost, as a result thereof. It beats the 1936 theory, the way to unpack the Supreme court was to pack it. Closing time for Sunday 100 Late Classified 5:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember.