

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Published by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
Daily Except Saturday
Published by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. Phone 2141
723 North W. St.

Editorial Correspondence

Los Angeles, Feb. 14: The natives call the weather cold and cloudy, after two weeks of sun-kissed summer. That always seems to be our bad luck,—we arrive in California just AFTER and leave just BEFORE "perfect weather", and have to endure weather that is "unusual".

But seriously there is no complaint. There hasn't been much sun as yet, but it has been very mild, and while rain has threatened none has fallen. Rain is predicted for the week-end however, and there is this to be said for the L. A. weatherman,—his batting average is far better than the WM in the valley, as far as predictions are concerned.

The Russian ballet opened at the Philharmonic last night and all the local beauty and chivalry were there in their best bib-and-tucker. We saw a number of movie "bit actors", but no stars,—that is we saw the lesser lights whose faces are familiar but whose names we can't recall. We got one of the last seats in the house,—ok for seeing the ballet but n.g. for seeing the audience, so the stars may well have been there, but we just missed them, and they missed us.

Well, frankly, the performance bored us to tears. Formal ballet always has for it is us, neither fish, fowl nor good red herring. It is supposed to tell some sort of story, as well as exemplify poetry in motion, but we would prefer to read the story, and take our poetry,—as our food,—without music or acrobatics. The performers were mostly young and beautiful and the men especially amazing physical specimens (we have never liked the feminine figure that ballet develops). But we wish now we had gone to the "box-fight" at the Olympic instead. For according to the morning papers the 10 rounds between two colored lads, "Bobcat" Montgomery, former lightweight champion (he still IS in N. Y.) and a local black hope named Cecil Hudson,—rang up a new record for action, mayhem and thrills.

And we have always had a yen for box-fights,—no half-way business there, no conflicts in media,—sheer drama in terms that anyone—any male at least,—can enjoy and understand. And it is a most exciting and exhilarating sport when on the level, and Olympic bouts they say usually are.

We neglected to state our "Daylight" partner from Camp White is the man who drove an F.B.I. agent from Medford to San Francisco the other day in seven hours flat,—well over an average of 50 miles an hour. One of the Golden State motor cops rounded the car couple into the curb, somewhere down the line, and wanted to know where the fire was. An FBI star quieted him down, and brought forth humble apologies. The state police along the highway had been properly informed, but this boy for some reason missed the message. The speedometer registered between 80 and 100 on the straight stretches, but until Redding was reached, of course, there was none, except between Yreka and Mt. Shasta.

However when we get enough gas for a motor trip to San Francisco—if we ever do,—we don't want to get there in seven hours.

Yes Pershing Square is really better than ever,—or worse depending upon the point of view. There are more "nuts" over there than ever before,—which is going some,—and more agitation. The change in temper is very interesting, due we believe entirely to the war.

Now and then in the old days arguments would become heated, and those unfamiliar with the Pershing Square psychology would fear mayhem if not manslaughter. But it all came under the general heading then of blowing off steam,—the bark being far worse than the bite. In fact it was all "bark".

But the police have had to "break 'em up" twice since we arrived, and actual blood was shed in one encounter. Only a bloody nose but it might have been worse if the law had not stepped in. Russia was the topic under discussion, and the critic of the Communist Utopia suffered the lacerated proboscis, as one might expect in Pershing Square.

"Buffalo Bill," Patter Pete the Hollywood "lion-tamer", "Slap Happy Sal" have all gone,—or at least have not been there when your correspondent has been on hand. But there are new recruits,—an L. A. edition of Father Divine, "Red Mary" a reformed strip-tease star now devoted to a New Jerusalem (she like "Papa" has no teeth and won't see her three-score and ten birthday again) and an ex-bartender with both teeth and a luxuriant set of red whiskers, from San Antonio, Texas, who is ardent for "Ham and eggs" on Thursdays. And the place is packed as never before with auditors, and orators, the cruelest assortment of human beings Old Sol has ever looked down upon.

We were on a bench listening to Father Divine proclaim his gospel when a rather nicely dressed little woman, her arms full of packages, sank down beside us, with a sigh, and proceeded to place all her shopping impedimenta in a neat pile between us, with her fur trimmed coat carefully folded and one of those large leather bags on top. Whereupon she turned to us and in the most casual, matter-of-fact, and friendly fashion remarked that she didn't believe she would EVER try the Hill Street public market again, it was just too tiring!

We nodded but could think of no appropriate comment to make. However she needed no encouragement but proceeded to relate a fairly comprehensive history of her life, from the time she left,—and here is the amusing point,—ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, 15 years ago and came with her deceased husband to live in L. A.—she CALLED it "L.A." incidentally.

Well Rockford, Ill., having been the writer's old home town, where he was born and lived for 30 years—there was at once established what might be termed a conversational bond although Mrs. K had lived on the east side of the river and yours truly on the west, so although contemporaries, we could dig up few friends in common. In fact the only Rockford citizen we both knew well was the late and sincerely lamented chief-of-police Bargen. What our "vis-a-vis" relationship to the "chief" had been we did not learn; but ours is one of those fixed and vivid memories of far-off youth,—a certain Hallowe'en and a firm but essentially kindly lecture from Chief Bargen, who was then merely a cop on the North Main street patrol.

One surprising feature of Mrs. K's story was her intense hatred for L.A.—her desire to get out of the place but now alone, her one daughter married to a Hollywood actor, not knowing where to go.

"You just can't trust anyone here, not even your best friend or your next door neighbor. There isn't a nice or honest person in the whole city,—oh plenty who want to make up to you particularly if they think you have some money, but only for what they can get out of you. If it wasn't for my daughter,—she lives out in Laurel Canyon,—I would sub-lease my apartment and get out, but well,—where would I go,—and when one's all alone,—"

It was a very pathetic story—and there was no fake about it we are quite sure—Mrs. K certainly did not impress us at least as being the faking kind. Just a tired, lonely, harassed widow who wanted to talk to someone and when she found that "someone" had come from her home town in the Middle West, rather let herself go.

We have an idea there are many like her in this crazy crude but fascinating Babylon, transplantees who have never taken root.

Our parting shot was intended to cheer and hearten "But you do have a wonderful climate here Mrs. K and the country is beautiful—I am sure many of your friends in Rockford envy you." It didn't work, however.

She gave us a sad smile and sighed again. "I suppose so but you know I have had the most terrible arthritis in my neck ever since I came!" — R. W. R.

FARM CENSUS HIT BY BAD WEATHER

Portland, Ore., Feb. 17—(U.P.) Bad weather and a shortage of

enumerators have slowed the farm census in eastern and central Oregon, after two-thirds of the work in western Oregon has been completed, Director John Kallak reported today.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 5:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

BIG TRUCK BILL GETS TWO YEARS WAR TIME GRACE

Snell Sure to Sign—Compromise Made on New Veto Bureau.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 17—(U.P.) "Big Truck" legislation was given a wartime two-year extension today by unanimous approval of the house of representatives today as a compromise was announced among veteran organizations on the makeup of the new veterans affairs department.

The big truck bill will now go to the governor for almost certain signature. Trucks up to 60 feet in length and 71,250 pounds in weight will be permitted. The extension goes to 1947. A move by a minority group to make these regulations permanent was quashed in the senate.

Rep. Harvey Wells of Portland, chairman of the house committee on military affairs, announced he would ask a special order of business next Wednesday on a revamped veterans bill which was given "do pass" recommendation by his committee and returned to the desk today.

The new measure, a survivor of four stormy hearings, calls for a \$5,000 a year director of veterans affairs, and an advisory commission of seven, including a representative each from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart, United Spanish War Veterans and two others named by the governor. These would presumably include one from World War II and possibly one from the service women's group.

Each veterans group would submit three names for the governor to choose from for the unsalaried posts. The department would administer the varied aid programs being set up for veterans including two measures passed by the electorate, educational aid for veterans and a state loan bill which will be introduced Tuesday.

A new senate bill introduced would remove the three day wait on marriages.

Secondary bills were on the Saturday calendars as both houses closed the sixth week.

Milk bills to provide stricter standards were under consideration of joint legislative committees.

A bill to require compulsory pasteurization except in disease free herds drew criticism that it would put out of business for eight months any dairyman with only one reactor. This led to a proposed amendment that up to four tests, one each 30 days, would be permitted before milk selling was prohibited from an infected herd.

There was more agreement on a bill to bring every dairy cow under testing for Bang's disease. A compromise option was provided giving a dairyman two years to remove reactors.

Women's groups opposed the legislation as trying to drive the small producer out of business and giving the department of agriculture too much control.

FAT COLLECTIONS IN STATE LOWER

Portland, Ore., Feb. 17—(U.P.) A total of 2,241,528 pounds of used household fats were turned in to meat dealers last year, but collections have declined considerably since May, when a high point of 227,172 pounds was reached.

Mrs. Ethel Keck, chairman of women's activities for the Oregon Salvage committee, said that housewives are apparently becoming less careful of the quality of fat they turn in, but explained that black fat is not necessarily of poor quality.

The War Food Administration describes the present fat situation as acute, and warns that an immediate and intensive increase in collections is necessary to meet essential war and civilian needs.

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SEE HUMPHREY NOW for a HIGH CASH PRICE HUMPHREY MOTORS USED CAR EXCHANGE 33 S. Riverside Ave.

KRUG IN APPEAL FOR PASSAGE OF WORK-JAIL BILL

Washington, Feb. 17—(U.P.) War Production Chief J. A. Krug tonight opened a last-ditch administration campaign to save the "work or else" bill. But general opinion was that chances for passage of the measure were slim.

Krug said in a radio (CBS) speech that production of war materials must increase 10 per cent between now and June 1 to meet requirements of immediate campaigns planned by the army and navy.

Voluntary methods of controlling manpower, he said, "worked well in the past when our manpower shortage was not as general as it is today." But the manpower problem now, he added, "has got beyond the procedures of voluntary cooperation."

Krug's appeal came amid growth of a widespread belief that the work-or-else bill would not be passed, at least in its present form.

Some congressional observers even doubted that a modified version of the measure, such as is contemplated by the senate military affairs committee, could pass. Many senators agreed that current good news from the fighting fronts was diminishing the bill's chances for passage.

The bill as passed by the house provided penalties for men 18 to 45 who refused to stay in, or take, war industry jobs as ordered by local draft boards. The senate committee, however, has made no secret of its dislike for the measure and in three weeks of consideration has done nothing except hear repetitious testimony and report a failure to reach agreement.

MANPOWER BOARD RECOMMENDS NEW DEFERMENT PLAN

Washington, Feb. 17—(U.P.) A new deferment recommendation plan was announced tonight whereby government procurement agencies will certify to local draft boards the names of men 18 through 29 who should remain in war industries. It is designed to assure that vital workers will remain on their jobs instead of going into uniform.

The new system replaces the old one under which employers requested occupational deferments for men in the 18 to 26 age group. Under the old procedure, local boards could not act on the requests until they had been approved by the state director of selective service.

Under the new system, local boards will retain the right to grant deferments or not, as they choose. The certifications of the government agencies will mean simply that the agency feels the man involved should be given highest consideration for deferment.

The new plan was announced by the war manpower and the selective service system. It was recommended by a special inter-departmental committee appointed last Jan. 17 by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes. Byrnes has approved the plan and administrative details are now being worked out.

FEAR SCORE DIE WHEN FIRE HITS APARTMENT HOUSE

Tenants Trapped in Tacoma Building After Explosion and Fire.

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 17—(U.P.) Firemen and volunteer searchers tonight probed the smoldering ruins of the flame-swept Masefair apartment house for the bodies of an estimated score of tenants who were trapped in upper floors when fire destroyed the building early today.

Three bodies already had been recovered from the collapsed five-story building and two other persons died in the hospital, bringing the probable death toll to five.

Thirty-one of the 73 known tenants of the buildings still were missing. Authorities believed that some of them had gone to the homes of relatives or friends.

Cause of the blaze, which followed an explosion like "an earthquake," remained undetermined, but some said the blast came from a candy factory in the basement.

Bodies of two men also were found but were not immediately identified. The body of one drooped grotesquely from a top-story window.

The apartment registry book was destroyed but Manager Joseph Arras, who was burned critically, could recall names of 73 tenants.

Estimates given by tenants ranged from 35 to 83 persons in the building, including guests and unregistered persons, when flames drove them, scantily-clad to jammed windows and the only fire escape amid screaming and panic.

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.

Keep Oregon Green To the Editor: I want you to know how much we appreciate your help in this last year's KEEP OREGON GREEN program. Your splendid co-operation made it possible for us to have one of the most outstanding programs in the state and the Jackson county committee is most grateful.

Thank you very much. Sincerely, Robert E. Dodge, Chairman, Jackson County Keep Oregon Green Committee.

As Others See Us To the Editor: In view of your editorial on Feb. 15, I was wondering if a few people of Medford ever saw themselves as others see them. The trio on the bus may have come from back country, but I believe that was where Lincoln also came from. Also a great many of our great and kindest men.

A few years ago while on a deer-hunting trip we met two old, funny-looking people. They had an old shack (dog and chickens running in and out of the shack), which was set back in the tall timber. We passed them by, for what is called "local color." When to our surprise we found she was at one time the head of an eastern finishing school for girls and he was a language and math professor at one of the larger eastern colleges. It was true, as we saw

their framed degrees. So let's not judge the funny-looking and frowzy-headed and cripples. We may look a lot worse to them. And as far as the S. P. and Greyhound are concerned, I hope and pray we can break their monopoly and try for a better, democratic way of doing business in southern Oregon. Mrs. G. P. Spring, Rt. 4, Medford.

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 February 18, 1935 (It Was Monday) Supreme court decision sweeps away any obligation of the government for private payment of gold bonds in gold.

Gov. Martin vetoes county funding measure, and bill for creation of post of lieutenant-governor dies in committee.

Germany beheads two women found guilty of spying. Italy moves troops toward North Africa.

Unsettled with rain. High 62, low 35 degrees.

Attorney Joe F. Fliegel, new member of city council addresses Kiwanis club.

Active club instituted at Ashland.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY February 18, 1925 (It Was Wednesday) Legislature unable to agree on re-establishment of normal school at Ashland.

President Coolidge launches move for world disarmament conference.

Cloudy. High 60, low 25 degrees.

Chris Sorenson and Ralph Hand to wrestle at Gold Hill tonight. Big crowd to attend from here.

Miss Lottie Howard returns from trip to Los Angeles and San Francisco where she has been buying spring millinery.

Copco Forum to stage a minstrel show.

George Nuemer is named U. S. attorney for Oregon.

Anti-cigarette bill is defeated by state senate.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY February 18, 1911 (It Was Saturday) Two young Medfordites enamored of same girl stage bloody fight near city hall.

Ashland to vote on new armory March 4.

Army of IWWs camped near Ashland, after being thrown off freight train.

Senate in test vote on Rogue river fish bill "defies the people's will."

STEEL CONTRACT SIGNED Pittsburgh, Feb. 17—(U.P.)—United States Steel Corp. and the United Steelworkers of America (CIO) tonight announced completion of a new contract in a pattern laid down by the National War Labor Board in its directive of last Nov. 25.

Three of the seats in the Massachusetts Legislature this year are occupied by blind men. Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

RESPECT FOR THE DEPARTED

Through many years of experience in serving the people of this community in their hour of great loss, Perl's have the deepest respect for loved ones who have passed on, and kindly sympathy for those left behind. That is why Mr. Perl, Mr. Davis or Mr. Wheeler personally handle all details; that is why Perl's up-to-the-minute facilities are devoted to the very important task of providing the finest of tributes to loved ones.

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