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Ye Smudge Pot
By Arthur Pezzy
Progress marches on at the courthouse. Sound deadening material will be placed on all office and hall ceilings.

Spain, a broadcast reports, has undergone a "re-shuffling" of military chiefs. What Spain needs is a new dealer, to replace Dictator Franco, also a new deck.

The lower house at Salem has passed a bill providing a penalty for any person under 21, who buys, accepts or consumes liquor in a public place.

The proposed Tennessee law making it a felony for a woman to use a lipstick, has been quashed. Widespread abandonment of lipsticks, by the fair sex, would have resulted in a stricter law, making it a felony not to use one.

FREE SPEECH—TOO MUCH SO (Klamath Falls Herald)
"Ours comment, we hope, is read by the gent who take the floor and keep it, who are enamored with their own voices and diction, who get wound up and can't quit, who run off at the mouth."

The Musicians Union has again defied the orders of the government agency. This is nothing to run a fever about. It will iron itself out in due season, while the national regime is ironing out the Polish border dispute, and trying to keep France from fainting again.

The Older Girls have started playing draw poker again. A rank amateur held a flush-face and hand—at a recent social session. She didn't know she was playing.

American troops have crossed the uncrossable Rhine, and captured Cologne, the fourth city of Germany. The Nazis announced here they would make their "do-or-die" stand, and did neither to any great extent.

ESSAY ON PESSIMISTS (S. F. Chronicle)
"On the other hand, the persistent pessimist in a war is practicing a form of cowardice. He is so afraid of getting caught on a limb with a cheery outlook belied by a cheery events turn out better than he had predicted they would, everybody is so happy his gloom is forgotten."

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Editorial Correspondence

Brawley, Cal., March 4: One thinks of the Imperial Valley as a part of the California desert that has—thanks to the All-American Canal—been made to blossom as the rose. That is true. Yet if there are any roses here we haven't run into them, tho there are plenty of other flowers largely those one finds in Mexico.

One also thinks of the Imperial Valley as a huge outdoor hothouse, where lettuce matures in January, watermelons in April and May, and cantaloupes somewhere in between.

Correct again. But it is far more than that. In fact while we don't care to blow the local Chamber of Commerce horn, we have decided after spending nearly a week here, that this valley is probably one of the richest and most productive sections on the earth's surface, equal perhaps to if not surpassing the ancient valley of the Nile. Almost every soil-crop one can think of is produced here, except the three things that are produced so remarkably in the Rogue River Valley, pears, apples, and turkeys. Oh yes, and green corn. (The latter deficiency being another reason we would not care to be a PERMANENT guest at the Planters Hotel.)

It surely is a land of milk and honey. Considerably over a million gallons of milk are marketed here annually; and over a million pounds of honey; while some 20,000 colonies of bees are proverbially busy hereabouts.

But the most surprising—at least to us—is the livestock production. This place reminds us of Pendleton or the John Day country, by the number of Stetson hats and light tan gabardine outfits one sees—and the fine tanned, strong, weather-beaten faces and broad shoulders one sees beneath them.

Here are the figures for 1943—this year they will probably be larger—81,620 sheep, 39,000 hogs, 75,260 cattle, 13,000 dairy cows, 2,000 horses—these are the MARKET figures—the totals sold in the year. Some crop!

But frankly, it is no place to be when it rains. And our optimistic report of yesterday that clear skies and sunshine had at last come again, was not fulfilled. A beautiful morning, hardly a cloud in the sky, but by 11 a. m. there was little else and it has been pouring ever since.

Later: Very much bored indoors, we donned a slicker and caught the 3:45 p. m. bus for Mexicali too late to take in the bull-fight. (We have seen two real ones, one in Mexico City, the other many years ago in Seville, Spain—don't expect ever to see our third, for the very sufficient reason we don't care to!)

The place was crowded, particularly with U. S. air officers and men—there are air-bases all over this section of the U. S. A.—and needless to say they were having a good time. Perhaps if Carrie Nation were with us today she would question the accuracy of that adjective! (Well call it GAY, Carrie, if you prefer!)

Speaking of busses we will never again cast aspersions at those S. P. busses taking passengers over the hump to Dunsmuir. They are Pullmans on wheels compared to the rattle-trap, broken-down contraptions that ply between here and the Mexican line. And the Mexicans—they are supposed to be a shy, retiring race always smiling and courteous—but those who think so have never ridden on a Greyhound chariot between El Centro and Calexico. It is good Commando training, no doubt, but there is nothing else good about it. And DIRT—well skip it!

And we might add, with the proper apologies, the Mexicans won. We got a seat but not the kind we were after, and with the only other white man in the bus. (Perhaps this was another case of drawing the color line with reverse English!) The whites were certainly outnumbered.

Our companion on the Calexico bus represented the latter category, and started out the proceedings VERY propitiously by patting "ye editor" on the knee and addressing him affectionately as "Pop!"

(Some day we are going to get a pistol permit and then the first person addressing us as "Pop"—excluding, of course, members of the immediate family—is going to get what he deserves and will have to settle matters with John Perl—we won't have further dealings with such a sich and such!)

But being unarmed and somewhat exhausted by the Commando skirmish, all we could do was to avoid our companion's sour and fermented breath, by turning our back and then pushing him toward his own seat with an elbow-jab now and then—which fortunately he yielded to and did not resent. Otherwise he would have taken the entire trip prone on the editorial lap.

Like many other more respectable members of the genus homo, in a somewhat similar condition, there were no inhibitions, and a strong desire to tell the salient facts of one's life. IT WAS rather interesting in fact, to find that our chance companion had been a lumberjack for the McCloud Lumber company—only a few miles from Medford—and after a period of visiting his kin in the great state of Texas, is returning—to prove it he showed

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me his bus ticket—crumpled and soiled, but there was the destination—Shasta City, California!

(Well it seemed like the start of the trip—we trust B. B., and M. L. will please note!)
Let us conclude with a drastic condensation of some of our convivial neighbor's remarks, to-wit:
"You know POP, I ain't been with a By-God since I left Texas! Not a By-God! No good at all! And what happened to me here in El Centro! I went to that bamboo hut and what dye think they done—they stole my watch. Yes sir, stole it! Ain't that incredible, or is it? (Believe it or not "incredible" WAS the word.) But you know I hope the man who stole that watch will make a million dollars for I tell you Pop he'll need it. Yes he will. I spent \$17.50 for that watch but it never would keep time. One mornin' I got so mad I jest thro'd my shirt on the floor and there was a big crash. It was the watch. I forgot to take her out. They charged me \$6.75 to fix it. Then the handle come off back there in Waco. That cost me \$2.50. I am what ye might call a wood rat; I work in the woods, here, yon and everywhere. But there's a bit of a pack rat too in me. I like to gather things together and cherish 'em. But that watch I am glad to get rid of it anyway. It never did keep time and it kept me broke. I hope whoever stole it, maybe one of the gals did, but I think it was one of them waiters—I hope he makes a million dollars, he'll need it!"
—R. W. R.

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
March 7, 1933
(Let us Thursday)
Legislature passes bill closing Rogue River to commercial fishing, and Gov. Martin is expected to sign measure.

Two years extension of NRA urged. Congress balks at idea.
Labor prospects in county best in three years.

Rain. High 50, low 33 degrees.
Tomato growers of valley meet and discuss acreage and prices.

Heavy snow falls in high hills.
"Let's Quit Killing" campaign to curb auto accidents in this area opened.

Hopes for adjournment of legislature fade.
TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY
March 7, 1925
(Present Coolidge, frugal in all things, will never gain idolatry, but will win regard of nation, commentator says.

Work started on new sawmill at Rogue River.
Sams Valley school to present play entitled "Safety First."

Bend and Klamath Falls have snowstorm.
OAC defeats Oregon 15 to 12 to win state basketball title.

Good weather starts plowing on Reese Creek.
Fair and cool, with frost. High 47, low 28 degrees.

France reported ready to remove troops from Rhineland.
Floyd Young, frost expert, arrives for duty in valley.

Ashland springs surprise and defeats Medford 18 to 14.
THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY
March 7, 1911
(It was Tuesday)
Early U. S. invasion of Mexico forecasted.

High school teacher charged with assaulting Seeley Hall, a pupil, is fined \$5 in Jacksonville justice court.
Gold Hill News astounds with "Japanese war number." Article states war with Japanese is inevitable, and "Pacific will be big Japanese lake."

Confidence Instead Of Huge Armies Is Need, Says Speaker

Living together in one world calls for confidence, trust and cooperation instead of military might. This was the opinion expressed by Wilbert W. Smith, Y.M.C.A. official and authority on India and Egypt, before the Medford Rotary club here Tuesday.

Speaking at the Hotel Medford, Smith discussed problems of India, looking forward to independence after the war and to the great experience of self-government.
Mr. Smith, now on the Y. M. C. A. world service home base staff, told of the contributions of such international organizations as Rotary and Y. M. C. A. in fostering a "community of interests" between people of all parts of the world. "It is not so much a question of what we think of the people of other nations but rather what they think of us," the speaker warned in urging America to set a high example of tolerance and good neighborliness.

The speaker was introduced by Ben Schmidt, local Y.M.C.A. director.

Daily Weather Report

Table with columns for location, high/low, and precipitation. Locations include Boise, Boston, Chicago, Denver, etc.

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CANNERY READY TO SIGN TRACTS

Irrigation water supply prospects for the coming year in the Rogue River valley have improved to such an extent the past 10 days the Bagley Canning company of Ashland is now ready to sign up acreage and provide growers with tomato plants and sweet corn seed. Manager Ralph E. Koozer reports.
Koozer said the cannery had hesitated on offering contracts but with the storms of the past 10 days in the Cascades and Siskiyou, and normal spring rains and weather, he now believes ample water will be available. Ed N. Judd, former manager of the Medford irrigation district, voices the same views.

Violence Spreads Throughout Rome In Bonomi Crisis

Rome, March 7—(U.P.)—A mob attack on Regina Coeli prison, two more bombings and other scattered violence heightened the political crisis threatening to overthrow the Bonomi government today.
The executive committee of the communist party issued a formal warning that all communist ministers and undersecretaries will resign unless Premier Ivanoe Bonomi immediately effects wide-sweeping changes in Italy's internal policies.
Bonomi presided at an extraordinary cabinet meeting starting at 8 a. m. The meeting was called to discuss the crisis, which was touched off by the escape of Gen. Mario Roatta, one of Italy's principal war criminals, from a military hospital Sunday night.

THERMOMETER TESTS GET UNDER WAY SOON

Orchardists have started turning in their thermometers for testing preparatory to the frost season, and Assistant County Agent C. B. Cordy requests that all growers do so at once. A dozen were received by his office yesterday. Frost Observer Roy Rogers is due to arrive early next week for his annual assignment in the valley and will start thermometer testing soon thereafter.
Assistant County Agent Cordy reports the pears and other fruit trees are now in a dormant state, buds held by weather conditions.

BONG BACK TO DUTY

Santa Monica, Cal., March 7 (U.P.)—It was back to work today for Maj. Richard Bong of Poplar, Wis., leading army air ace. Bong, accompanied by his bride of a month, reported back for duty at the air force redistribution center here after a honeymoon at Palm Springs. He will remain at Santa Monica for about two weeks before assignment to a domestic post. Bong is not expected to return to combat duty.

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The Duke of Windsor reigned as King of England only 324 days before his abdication.

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