



Presenting the last concert of the 1945 series for the Jackson County Civic Music Association, the American Ballad Singers will appear at the high school auditorium here Thursday night. The program, set for 8:15 p. m., will be made up entirely of folk music representing all sections of the nation.

Three Wives of Ding Dong Daddy Tell Court of Bigamy Procession

San Francisco, March 20.—(U.P.)—Three of the dozen or so wives of Francis Van Wie, the 58-year-old "Ding dong daddy of the Carlines," today testified in superior court that they married the balding former street car conductor during 1943 and 1944 in rapid succession, without benefit of divorce.

A jury of nine men and three women was finally seated in Judge Herbert Kaufman's courtroom to try the shy but spectacled Van Wie on three charges of bigamy, brought when he admitted marriages to a dozen women in a 40-year-divorceless search for companionship.

Only a handful of spectators were present when Prosecuting Attorney Norman Elkington called the three complaining wives to the stand to establish their marriages to the rotund one-time lion tamer.

Van Wie, sitting placidly in the courtroom, ignored the defiant glances thrown his way by the trio of middle-aged wives.

The defendant, held medically sane by three psychiatrists after he pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity, may take the stand later today in his own defense.

Weatherman Robert Church at the Medford bureau explained this morning that March 20 is the day of the vernal equinox, the day half-way between the longest and shortest days of the year when the sun arrives exactly over the equator and when the day and night are of equal length. When it moves a fraction over, or more exactly, when the earth moves a fraction, the sun has started its trip northward and spring has started.

According to Church, March here has been quite a normal month, with temperatures slightly above normal for the past few days. Precipitation is now slightly above normal for the season.

ROOSEVELT ASKS BIG SUM FOR MRV

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt asked Congress today to appropriate \$4,480,000 for the preparation of plans by the interior department for development of the Missouri river valley.

The president explained that the estimate included funds "only for the work preliminary to actual construction of projects and must be performed in respect of whether construction of the projects in the basin is accomplished by a valley authority or other agencies."

"In my judgment," he said, "the proposed work will not interfere with the conduct of the war."

The president's request was part of his long range program to divide the country into seven basic watersheds and have in each an operating authority along lines of the Tennessee valley authority.

Runaway Conchie Didn't Like Camp

Boston, March 20.—(U.P.)—Paul Rosenthal of Lapine, Ore., charged with being AWOL from an Oregon conscientious objectors' camp, told Federal Judge Arthur D. Healey today that he did not desert but merely walked out in protest against "bad conditions at the camp."

Rosenthal, in court on a fugitive warrant, was released in \$1,000 bail for removal April 3.

U. S. Forces Hurt Jap Fleet

AIR PHOTOGRAPHS EXPECTED TO GIVE CLUE TO HIDEOUTS

Recent Carrier Attacks Opening of Campaign; Inland Sea to Be Poor Refuge.

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—The campaign to hunt down and destroy the Japanese fleet in its hiding places has begun, an official navy spokesman said today.

He said it started with the recent powerful carrier-based air attacks on enemy bases in Japan's inland sea.

"The inland sea," he told newsmen, "is probably one of the major hiding places of their fleet and provides the best refuge. It won't be that for very long."

"This is the beginning of a campaign to hunt down their ships wherever they are holed up, and to get them."

The spokesman said "we have some good pictures" of possible hiding places, taken by B-29 Superfortresses.

By United Press

An American carrier fleet, which pounded Japan for two days, apparently broke off its assault temporarily today.

The increasingly heavy aerial blows on Japan together with new American gains in the Philippines brought further repercussions in Tokyo.

Radio Tokyo reported there were no further attacks on Japan since the U. S. carrier fleet launched 1,400 planes against Kure, the enemy's biggest naval base, and the great port of Kobe yesterday.

Expand Beachhead

In the Philippines, American invasion forces expanded their beachhead on Panay, sixth largest of the island group, to more than 28 square miles and were rapidly closing in on the capital city of Iloilo.

Panay, a 4,611-square mile island in the Visaya group, and tiny Malanau island off southern Mindanao, were the 25th and 26th islands invaded by American forces in the Philippines.

Tide Too Low To Float Greatest Aircraft Carrier

Newport News, Va., March 20.—(U.P.)—The world's greatest warship was christened here today, but it won't be floated until a bumpy tide gets around to playing the full role assigned to it in the ceremony.

The ship is the 45,000-ton super-carrier Midway, from whose decks one day will fly a brand new kind of warplane designed to give the enemy a brand new kind of trouble.

Built in a drydock instead of on the conventional ways, the Midway was to have been floated at precisely 9:43 a. m. EDT by the simple expedient of admitting sea water into the dock.

The way it turned out, however, the tide was four inches short.

Navy officials said they expected the tide to make up the missing four inches later today or early tomorrow.

COMMITTEES TO CARRY ON WORK OF LEGISLATURE

Salem, Ore., March 20.—(U.P.)—The work of representative government in Oregon will be carried on by a number of legislative committees during the next two years.

Perhaps the most important is the "interim legislature," the Emergency Board, which includes the heads of both houses, chairmen of the two Ways and Means Committees and three appointees.

Other committees which will continue work and investigation on the following problems were appointed:

Reapportionment of the Senate and House representation; the state's tax structure; Interstate cooperation; salaries of public employees in the lower brackets; statutory revision of Oregon laws; motor vehicle taxation; city and county planning commissions; fishing resources; Oregon penal institutions; coordination of state and federal laws regarding veterans, and the establishment of institutions for the care of the underprivileged.

Another committee which will wind up its work is the one appointed to investigate the 1943 purchase of two Kentucky distilleries by the liquor commissions of Oregon and Washington.

Hitler Father of Two Girls, Claims

London, March 20.—(U.P.)—The Stockholm newspaper Aftonbladet reported today that Adolf Hitler and an unidentified brunette actress were the parents of two girls.

The report was one of a series of rumors from Stockholm about the matrimonial status and intentions of Hitler.

He was said to be awaiting the birth of a son before marrying the mother of his daughters, one purportedly born last July and the other a few years ago.

PLASTERER WALKOUT ADDS TO CONFUSION

Hollywood, March 20.—(U.P.)—A walkout of 19 plasterers at one studio and reported firing of 40 employees who refused to do work of strikers at another studio today kept Hollywood's 8-day movie strike in confusion.

Rival claims of the IATSE and the AFL conference of studio workers to represent 78 set decorators precipitated the strike which today kept from 10,000 to 12,000 idle.

REACTION OF WHITE IS PREDICTED SOON

Senator Guy Cordon Says Camp Held Ready for Jap War; Hospital To Be Used

A Washington press dispatch today said the war department told Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon that the army hospital at Camp White, near Medford, is being held for redeployment use.

An army spokesman explained in the dispatch the term "redeployment" meant it probably will be used for troops being transferred from one assignment to another.

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce officials, who have been working with Senators Morse and Guy Cordon and Rep. Harris Ellsworth in an effort to have Camp White reactivated, today received a message from Cordon on the matter.

Cordon said in the message he can now advise Camp White facilities are being held available without other use because of probability they will be needed in connection with redeployment of troops when war emphasis shifts to the Pacific.

"While it is impossible to make any definite prediction as to the time element, I believe you may reasonably anticipate reactivation of Camp White in the not distant future," Cordon said.

MANDALAY TAKEN BY BRITISH 14TH

London, March 20.—(U.P.)—Mandalay has been captured by troops of the 14th British army. It was announced officially today by Southeast Asia command headquarters after the fall of Fort Dufferin.

British Imperial troops knocked out the main Japanese center of resistance inside Mandalay with the capture of Fort Dufferin by Indian troops of the British 19th division.

Other British forces were rapidly cutting off the main Japanese escape routes on all sides of Mandalay.

Ban On Aluminum Would Keep Axis From Making War

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—J. W. Wilson, vice-president of the Aluminum Company of America, said today that if Germany and Japan are forbidden to produce aluminum after the war, they will be unable to build a new war machine.

"Many military authorities believe," Wilson told the Senate Small Business committee, "that an effective method of preventing Germany and Japan from preparing for another war is to forbid them to produce aluminum. If they cannot produce aluminum they are automatically prevented from secretly creating any substantial air force or any industrial basis for such an air force."

SAN FRANCISCANS GIVE HEROES BIG WELCOME

San Francisco, March 20.—(U.P.)—Thousands of San Franciscans, lining downtown streets under cloudy skies, today welcomed the second major group of heroes of Bataan and Corregidor to be returned to the United States.

A motor cavalcade carried the 338 liberated men, outfitted in new army clothing but still gaunt from their three years of captivity in the Philippines, to the Civic Center.

STILL YOUNGEST

Atlanta, Ga., March 20.—(U.P.)—Gov. Ellis Arnall of Georgia had a birthday today, but he's still the youngest state chief executive in the nation. Arnall is observing his 38th birthday.

JUDGE FEE OPENS PRE-TRIALS HERE IN FEDERAL CASES

Pruess Claim vs. Hetschel, Ball vs. Weyhaeuser Co., Davis vs. Medoo Set.

Pre-trials of civil cases were started in federal court here this morning, before Judge James Alger Fee and may continue throughout the week. Upon completion of these, cases designated for jury trial will be set.

This morning the pre-trial of the case of C. P. Pruess, Grants Pass, against Fred C. Hetschel to collect attorney's fees, was started and was expected to continue throughout most of today.

Also scheduled for pre-trial are the cases of Howard Ball versus the Weyerhaeuser Timber company, and that of Ruth Davis versus the Medford corporation, the first a suit to collect damages for personal injuries and the second a suit to collect damages because of the death of David A. Davis while in the employ of the corporation.

Judge Fee was accompanied to Medford from Portland by Ross DeMott, deputy clerk; Al Price and William Rickard, bailiffs; Cloyd Rauch, court reporter, and Miss Esther Davis, secretary to Judge Fee.

BLAME PLACED ON CONFUSION OVER PAPER SHORTAGE

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—Rep. Charles A. Wolverton (R., N. J.), today blamed government agencies for the house newspaper subcommittee's "confusion" over the U. S. paper situation.

"I have been a member of this committee ever since its creation," he said, "yet the more I sit here the more confused I become. The committee finds itself in a maze of figures and interdepartmental technicalities which are not understandable to me as a member."

"Is there any overall government agency which passes on the paper requirements of other agencies?" he asked.

Maj. A. L. Harris of the army service forces, who was testifying, told Wolverton that the war production board came closest to being such an agency. It has the power, he said, to refuse or reduce the requests of the other governmental agencies.

Wolverton assailed army contracts for using paper to "puff themselves up" to the public on the job they are doing in production.

"They are using high grade glazed paper—often in four colors—while our newspapers are faced with reduced allocations of ordinary newsprint," he said.

RUBY CENTER TAKEN

Calcutta, March 20.—(U.P.)—Mogok, site of the world's largest ruby mines 65 miles northeast of Mandalay, was captured yesterday by 36th Division British troops, it was announced today.

OPA Alters Ceiling Method In Clothing, Furniture Field

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—The office of price administration moved ahead today in its program to cut living costs by changing drastically the method of fixing price ceilings in the retail clothing and furniture field.

Under the new OPA order, some 300,000 retail stores are required to "freeze" their mark-ups—the difference between what they pay for an article and what they sell it for—at where they were yesterday in each general class of goods.

Heretofore, retail ceiling prices for furniture and clothing were frozen at the highest price charged by the seller in March, 1942.

Price Administrator Chester

Yanks Block Escape Of Fleeing Germans; Thousands Captured

Paris, March 20.—(U.P.)—American ground and air forces blocked the main German escape roads from the Saar-Palatinate pocket today and closed in for the kill on the thousands of nazis fleeing for the Rhine.

Between 40,000 and 50,000 of the 80,000 Germans originally spotted in the triangle formed by the Saar, Moselle and Rhine rivers were believed to have been killed or captured during the week-long American offensive.

KAISERSLAUTERN UNDER FIRE

The enemy's main escape road through Kaiserslautern, at the center of the collapsing pocket, was within almost point-blank artillery range of U. S. 3rd army tank columns, and its fall was expected soon.

Headquarters of the American 1st tactical air force announced that Yank fliers had sealed off the secondary escape roads branching out to the east and southeast from Kaiserslautern to Ludwigshafen and Karlsruhe.

Resistance on both flanks of the German pocket appeared to have collapsed. Even the Siegfried line defenses on the southern rim of the Saar where the nazis had been fighting a delaying action were crumbling.

THOUSANDS IN PRISONER CAGES

Upwards of 30,000 captives already were inside the 3rd army's cages. The 7th army, where the prisoner count lagged by several days, reported more than 4,000 taken. Between 15,000 and 20,000 of the 3rd army's prisoners were bagged yesterday, indicating the extent of the enemy collapse on that sector.

Thousands more—their number still uncounted—were killed by the converging armies and American aerial attacks.

Near Junction

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd army tank columns were barely four miles northwest of Kaiserslautern early today. There they were only 20 miles from a juncture with 7th army troops advancing northward through the breached Siegfried line forts near Pirmasens.

A second major German communications center at Neunkirchen, 27 miles southwest of Kaiserslautern, was only two miles from Patton's vanguards this morning. The third enemy keystone at Mainz, on the Rhine 45 miles northeast of Kaiserslautern, also was imperiled by a tank column that drove to within seven miles of the city on the southwest.

New Offensive

On the U. S. 1st army's Remagen bridgehead front east of the Rhine, German dispatches said the Americans started a new offensive along the northern perimeter. The drive was aimed at a break-through into the open country leading northward to the Ruhr basin.

Field dispatches said the bridgehead now measured 19 1/4 miles wide along the river bank and extended inland as much as eight miles.

At least 10 towns in the bridgehead area were captured overnight, including Eudenberg, 2 1/2 miles east of the Rhine-Ruhr-Berlin superhighway. The 1st army seized a big fighter-plane strip near Eudenberg and extended its hold on the military highway to more than 7 1/4 miles.

REDS CONVERGING IN BORDER AREA OF SOUTH SILESIA

London, March 20.—(U.P.)—The red army today captured the fortress city of Aitdamm, suburb of the great Baltic port of Stettin, liquidating the last German foothold on the east bank of the lower Oder.

The fall of Aitdamm firmly secured the right wing of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's 1st White Russian army and set the stage for an assault on Berlin.

London, March 20.—(U.P.)—Nazi military sources reported today that two Russian drives were converging in the Czechoslovak border area of southern Silesia and threatening to trap the defenders of the upper Oder valley south of Oppeln.

Berlin reports of brisk fighting in the highly industrialized southwestern corner of Silesia indicated that Marshal Ivan S. Konev was trying to blast open the approaches to the Moravian gap, gateway to southern Germany.

Flareup In Hungary

The renewed Silesian campaign coincided with a flareup in Hungary, where other Russian armies were grinding through the German defenses west of Budapest and around Lake Balaton. The nazis acknowledged impressive soviet gains on the route to Vienna.

Military observers noted that the new activity on the south wing of the eastern front closely followed forecasts that fanatical nazis would make their last fight in the mountains of southeastern Germany. The possibility was seen that Marshal Stalin now was moving to block that eventuality.

On the left wing of the Berlin front, the Russians were reported to have wedged more than half a mile into the defenses of Aitdamm, across the lower Oder from Stettin.

Income Tax Take Exceeds Previous

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—The Treasury statement issued today showed that income tax revenue for the fiscal year to March 17 was \$1,703,890,595 more than the corresponding period last year.

March collections so far were \$160,196,194 over the corresponding period a year ago, according to the Treasury. The current fiscal year began last July 1.

A-15 Gas Coupons In Use Thursday

Washington, March 20.—(U.P.)—A-15 gasoline ration coupons will become valid Thursday, the Office of Price Administration announced today. A-14 coupons will go out of use after tomorrow.