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Ye Smudge Pot
By Arthur Perry

With icy blasts of winter, flu epidemics, crime waves, class hatred, weird murders sweeping the nation, it seems no time to call a special session of the legislature, as California is planning to do. Leave hell enough alone, say many.

The British House of Lords has approved of a 4,400 million dollar loan from America, by a vote of 90 to 8. The opposition struggled just enough to be polite.

An Upper Applegater towed Mon. He reported Polar weather prevailed in his neck of the woods. Sunday night he slumbered under 29 blankets and when he woke up felt like he had packed a mule over Chilkoosh Pass in the Klondike gold rush.

COULDN'T TAKE IT ALONG! (Press Dispatch)
"The man who seemed to have just enough money for coffee and doughnuts was a stockholder in the best corporations and owned bonds on Brazil and the Republic of Chile. He also had \$60,000 in 16 bank accounts."

Len Carpenter, of the orchard set, while walking north on Central yes. said he was going south.

The local fear Russia society can cease looking under their beds before retiring, for Premier Josef Stalin. Josef has returned to Moscow from a 63-day vacation at a Black Sea resort. During his absence rumor had seven things, all fatal, the matter with him and plotting international skulduggery.

The eclipse of the moon Tuesday was widely observed. It was an artistic, but not financial success.

THE RUGGED PIONEERS (Pendleton East Oregonian)
"Owing to so many good looking dancers and good looking girls, the gents were unable to decide who was the belle of the ball, but the ladies were most expert, and pronounced Jack Stanton to be their all-around favorite. The dance which began at 7:30 in the evening, lasted until daylight."—(50 Yrs. Ago col.)

The Sales Tax is again advanced as the answer to Oregon's tax problem. Its sponsors recalled the idea has been beaten on several occasions worse than China. It is proposed a year's educational campaign be waged to convince Oregon voters of its merit. Hundreds of Oregonians who vote lightly, at least once, for anything or anybody are highly allergic to the Sales Tax. This is due to the Sales Tax possessing one un redeemable fault. Nobody can get out of paying it.

Emil Mohr is back after three years in the Navy, and spent most of it on the stern and rock-bound New England coast. After this, he is in no mood to join anything—not even the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Buffalo, N. Y., was swept the first of the week by a blizzard, and has 40 inches of snow. It is the home town of Bill Hammett, the plumber. He has been away for years, and never had to go back after a bigger monkey-wrench.

When California was ceded to the United States in 1848, San Francisco had 820 inhabitants, 200 houses, one school, one newspaper, and two wharves.

Letter From Netherlands Provides Grim Picture of Hardships Facing Victor and Vanquished in Europe

By Louis F. Keemle
United Press Staff Correspondent
A picture of life in liberated Europe this winter is not pleasant for Americans to contemplate. The victors are suffering along with the vanquished.

The prospect of famine, disease, and death from lack of heat in large sections of the continent has been fully reported, both officially and by newspaper correspondents.

LETTER GIVES ELOQUENT INSIGHT ON HARDSHIPS
Sometimes a personal letter, written from the heart and not for publication, gives a better understanding of the reaction of the war sufferers than official reports. Such a letter is at hand, received by Ethel Bartlett and Rae Robertson, the English concert pianists now in this country, from a pair of friends in Holland.

Conditions in the Netherlands are not so bad as in some sections of central and eastern Europe, but the letter speaks eloquently of the hardships endured even in that western country, so much closer to outside sources of supply than the transportationless regions of the interior. At the same time, it breathes a spirit of hope and confidence in the future. Its author is Mrs. John Beek, writing on behalf of herself and her husband, a prominent figure in the musical life of Holland. Extracts, quoted by permission, follow: "It seems almost impossible that only a few months ago we were liberated. We are still alive, although you'd hardly recognize us, so thin we've grown, and so much older from worry and lack of food. Johnny is simply a skeleton.

PARADISE COMPARED TO LIFE UNDER NAZIS
"There is food now; but not enough. There is no gas to cook with, no telephone and no means of transportation. But it is a paradise compared to the time the Nazis were here.

"Our poor country has suffered all sorts of blows. First, the oppression, the bullying, plundering, mass enslavement and deportation; the battlefields, bombardments, inundations and last but not least the famine, from which thousands and thousands died in the western provinces.

"Those last months we had to live on 400 grams of bread (a little less than a pound) and one kilo of potatoes (2.2 pounds) for a whole week. Sometimes Johnny left at daybreak and walked all day in the cold and rain to come home at night with some kilos of sugar roots. Sugar roots and tulip bulbs were our main food. Many of us lived on them the whole winter through.

STILL WEAR CLOTHING FROM PRE-WAR DAYS
"Our shops are empty and closed. There is not a thing to be had—no clothes, no shoes. We still wear our old rags from 1939.

"We will be grateful for anything you can send us. It seems so beggarish, but you can never realize what our country has come to when you contrast it with the rich little country it was only five years ago.

"We are most in need of clothing, shoes and stockings. I could make excellent use of a length of material for a dress, or a ready-made one, even an old dress of yours from which I underwore you can spare....

"Now the darkest hours are past and our country is full of good spirits. It has been, the whole five years through, full of confidence in the victory of our allies, trying to ignore the Nazis and hoping, waiting, waiting. Now the tables are turned. Our patience has been rewarded and we are free, free, free! But if life is to continue, we must have help."

On The Side—By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Goodbye to every suffering, simple soul, That lets a woman's will his ease control. There laugh, you witty; rebuke, you grave! For me, I scorn to boast I am a slave. I hid the whining brotherhood he gone, Joy to my heart! My wishes are my own. Farewell to the female heaven and the female hell, To that thing called love a glad farewell! —Mark Akenside.

It took a small town, Caledonia, N. Y., to form the first Gold Star Fathers group. Why wasn't this done before? The father of a hero deserves as much credit as the boy's mother. He suffers as much because of the loss of the lad. I do not wish in any way to deprecate the influence of a mother on a boy's life but have always thought fathers have been shoved too far into the background. In fact our bitter campaign No. 349D was launched in the interests of a better break for fathers.

Beau Todd's Tie
Mike Todd appeared at the Stork Club last night wearing a hand-painted tie that cost \$150. Sherman Billingsley expressed admiration for Mr. Todd's highly artistic neckwear but Lucius Beebe was seen to glance at it and shudder perceptibly.

Passing By
Cole Porter, the best song writer ever born in Peru, Ind. His first hit was "Old Fashioned Garden" featured in "Hitchy Koo" of 1919 which starred Raymond Hitchcock. "Night and Day" is his best and most popular number. His songs are best recalled by Ethel Merman. In recent years Cole has experienced considerable suffering due to the leg injury suffered in a fall from a horse. So far this injury has necessitated 33 operations. But the indomitable Porter has kept on composing hit songs.... Eddie Braeken. Brilliant comedian, in "Out of This World" Eddie's satirical characterization of a crooner of the Sinatra type was a classic. Eddie would be good in the title role of a film version of "The Fall Guy." Remember that play? Ernest Truex starred in it.

Hat Grip
A young woman who had difficulty in keeping a large hat in place on windy days suggested some male inventive genius originate a gadget designed to aid females to keep hats on without the necessity of holding on to same with their hands. I am informed by a New Yorker that he has invented a "hat grip" for women which is now on sale at many department stores.

Songs
The only crooner who could be rightly said to have been in the same class with Bing Crosby was Russ Colombo. Russ handled some songs even better than Crosby. "I Surrender Dear" for example.... Now I know who wrote "I Don't Care," Eva

Tanguay's greatest hit song. It was written in 1903; words by Jean Lenox, music by Harry O. Sutton. Asking
Queries from clients: Q. Isn't it a fact a horse named Irish Lad once won a big stake race on St. Patrick's Day? A. Irish Lad, one of the greatest thoroughbreds of all time, never raced as early as March 17. However, a horse named McCarthy once won the Louisiana Derby in New Orleans on St. Patrick's Day. Q. Where in the United States is the hotel that washes all the silver money it handles and puts it back into circulation bright and shiny? A. A hotel in Spokane, Wash., is noted for doing that. It is also done by hotels in Moscow, Ida., and Coeur d'Alene, Ida.

Love Letters
Was interesting in noting Sgt. Herbert Carrier, Clinton, Ind., saved all the letters his wife wrote when he was overseas in the South Pacific. Mrs. Carrier was a conscientious correspondent. She wrote her husband 1003 letters. They are going to make interesting reading in the years to come. Speaking of letters, did your wife save the letters you wrote her? Have you looked them over lately? How about the salutation? I mean, did you go all out with something like "My Onliest, Loveliest, Sweetest, Darlingest, Ducklest, Girl." Or did you merely start off "Dear Mary?"

Last Name
Am informed the last name in the Detroit telephone book is Zeke Zzzpt. In some cities fellow with a sense of humor have originated a fictitious name so as to get the telephone that is last on the list. Would like to know if there is in Detroit a fellow whose name is Zeke Zzzpt. And if so what is the origin of this curious cognomen? Almost Confidential
Am asked what the odds were on the first Dempsey-Tunney fight and the Baer-Braddock fight. Dempsey was a 5 to 11 favorite. Baer was 1 to 10 favorite.... If Hitler is alive—

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and many people think he is... he is probably in the Argentine... "Isn't Belmont Park America's greatest race track?" asks a Bostonian. Belmont is the old gray mare of the turf world. "It ain't what it used to be." The three best tracks in the USA in order named are Santa Anita, Saratoga and Arlington Park. Large Fellows
Many shops specialize in clothes for large women. I only know of one doing likewise for large men. That is in New York. Seems a shop specializing in things that fit the big boys would be a sure fire money maker. If you are a GI Joe trying to figure out a business to embark on give this a thought. If you are large sized yourself, all the better. In addition to catering to the husky tall guys you could also look after the needs of the fat fellows.

News Behind The News
By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 20—Things are not what they seem on labor legislation. The Truman facta for strike settlements has been thrown over by congress until after the holidays as the unions wanted, although he insisted on getting it before Christmas. The house beat "An Ounce (200 to 182) a bill to make unions stop political contributions and live up to contracts without strikes during contracted periods.

THESE developments have greatly cheered the union politicians and created a public impression that they are apt to continue in command of the legislative situation. This is simply not true. The house salvaged its conscience in an extremely minor manner by passing the Hobbs bill applying the anti-racketeering laws to unions as well as other people. This salvo was thin because the house has passed the same bill several times in previous sessions.

Always heretofore the measure has died in the senate, where the union politicians have less numerical strength than in the house, but are aided by the loose senate rules in preventing action on nearly anything they want to block anyway. The Hobbs bill affects only one union, the teamsters, who have operated embargoes on truck shipping.

BUT there was a deep and compensating trick about the defeat of the other bill—the anti-politics and contract-breaking measure. Leaders for the measure committed a gross blunder in even pressing it to a vote.

The house is swayed by historic courtesies which jealously protect the activities of its various committees. This bill happened to come out of the military affairs committee, which had no real right to handle labor legislation in peacetime, and was pressed to a vote on the very day the labor committee was taking up the same question in connection with the Truman fact-finding proposal. It was an affront to the labor committee. This point alone swayed or excused enough votes to furnish the 18-vote majority for defeat of the measure.

The very same proposals which were defeated in that measure are confidentially expected by most house leaders to be adopted in the Truman bill when it comes up in January. Canvasses show house members are more aroused on the question of union political activity than on the Truman anti-strike proposition. The strike would not directly affect their re-election next year. But C. I. O.-P. A. C. threatens to.

LAST year congress passed a law preventing unions from making political contributions to campaigns. But the justice department misinterpreted it the way Mr. Roosevelt desired at that time, and arranged legal escapes which permitted C. I. O.-P. A. C. to operate effectively in politics. For these reasons legislation to hinder C. I. O.-P. A. C. further is considered

to be almost certainly a part of the coming fact-finding bill. The measure also is likely to include some restraint on strikes in violation of contracts. Other steps to establish union responsibility are possible. It may even include some restraints upon the organization of foremen, as the congressmen are visibly aroused over the unionization of plant managers. It will certainly not go as far as the open shop, but may put legal restraints on violence and coercion. A proposal for compulsory arbitration on strikes in public utilities will be considered, but is not likely to be adopted because both management and labor are against it. It will also, of course, contain the fact-finding and cooling-off plan of Mr. Truman, implemented perhaps stronger than he wished.

It is not likely to include the broad basic suggestions that the unions sue and be sued, or be made subject to the anti-trust laws, or that union finances be submitted to income taxation (these recommendations have strong support, but not yet apparently a majority). THESE prospects can be rather definitely stated as far as the house is concerned. But what will happen later in the senate is not so certain. Issues can be forced to a vote in the house, as I said, but death by circumvention and delay is a peculiar and effective senate technique. You will have to wait until you see the final form of the house bill before any worthwhile guess can be made as to the final form of the coming labor legislation. The C. I. O.'s full employment bill, backed by Mr. Truman, has been watered down by the house to the point where it means nothing. The president can already do everything proposed even in the original senate bill.

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

TEN YEARS AGO
December 20, 1935
(It Was Friday)
Britain urged L of N to unite to prevent any war move by Italy.

Christmas vacation starts in city schools.
Federal money grants prove boon to Jackson county.

Fair and cold. High 45, low 19.
Physicians of county form Southern Oregon Medical association.

Medford merits airport grant, federal aide says, and forgoes \$300,000 grant.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
December 20, 1925
(It Was Sunday)
Russia agrees to send delegates to disarmament conference.

Arkansas congressman declares, "President Coolidge is granite-faced and granite-souled".
Helgoland, German's greatest fortress, is turned into a lobster factory.

Thirteen autos wrecked in Siskiyou past two days.
Record rains flood Seaside, Ore.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO
December 20, 1911
(It Was Wednesday)
Five boys nabbed by police for theft of stencils from box factory.

Emperor Josef of Austria is sinking fast.
New Year's edition of Mail Tribune to show city's growth.

Butte Falls has a Commercial club and Oliver Adams is named president.
White Christmas in the Middle West.

There were 109 gold lode mines and 66 placer mines in California in 1944, besides "snipers" and prospectors.

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We Have a Large Selection of GIFT BOXES suitable for the whole family
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Letter From Washington
By HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Member of Congress From Oregon

THE INTERNAL STRIFE on the majority side of the House concerning labor legislation has caused considerable confusion. Members on the democratic side of the aisle seem to be divided into three general groups, with vocal and able advocates in each. One group wants no labor legislation at all, or legislation favorable to labor organizations. Another group wants to crack down on labor and restrict unions. A third, and by far the largest number of democratic members, seems to feel that legislation in line with the recent suggestion made by the president is desirable. Since the democrats control the House, and therefore determine what legislation shall be brought to the floor, and when the republicans must sit and take what comes.

During the last several days, the House has been forced to vote on at least one proposition that many of us felt should not have been brought to the floor at this time. I refer to the bill reported out by the Military Affairs committee some weeks ago, and before the president outlined his views. This bill contains four provisions: (1) It would repeal the War Labor Disputes act, otherwise known as the Smith-Connally bill. (2) It would prohibit labor organizations from making contributions for political campaigns. (3) It would deprive for one year the collective bargaining rights of any labor organization which violated a no-strike provision in its contract. (4) It would make it possible for any labor organization to be sued in any federal district court in which any of its officers may reside.

If this bill had been the only bill pending, it would have been naturally in order for it to be taken up on the floor. However, another bill embodying the president's suggestions is about ready for presentation to the House. The anti-labor faction on the majority side insisted on putting all the rest of the members on the spot by attempting to have the May-Arends bill (provisions outlined above) considered immediately. On a roll call vote, the motion to bring the so-called May-Arends bill before the House was defeated. I think it safe to predict that some sort of labor bill will be passed by the House within the next few weeks, but I do not think such a bill will contain the provisions of the Arends amendments listed in the second paragraph above.

THE HOUSE AGAIN passed the anti-racketeering bill known as the Hobbs bill. This bill was passed by the House two years ago, but has never been acted upon by the Senate. The bill was fought by some members who claimed it to be restrictive of the rights of labor. I fail to see how it could be so construed. Here's what the bill provides: "Sec. 2. Whoever in any way or degree obstructs, delays, or affects commerce, or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce, BY ROBBERY OR EXTORTION, shall be guilty of a felony."

NEITHER OF THE two very controversial proposals, universal military training and the unification of the armed forces, which have been so widely discussed lately, will be taken up before Christmas. If passed at all, neither bill will be enacted as originally proposed. FOR THE PAST two months, I have been working with the Department of Agriculture, trying to get a fair share of the nation's protein meal supply for Oregon. Poultry and livestock producers will suffer heavy losses if some relief is not obtained very soon. When wartime restrictions were removed, protein meal processors dropped their Oregon accounts and shifted their production to affiliate feed mixing plants. Whereas requirements for Oregon run above 3,000 tons per month, dealers have had trouble contracting for even a

small fraction of that quantity for the next 10 months. Early this month, I urged the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a set-aside order or conservation regulation that would insure Oregon a fair share of the available supply. I have been informed that, unless the processors voluntarily remedy the shortage in Oregon, such an order will be put into effect.

Candlelight Rite At Presbyterian Sunday Afternoon
Christmas carols, appropriate solos and choruses by the choir of the First Presbyterian Church will be a feature of the candlelight service being arranged by the young people of the church for Sunday, Dec. 23 at 4:30 p. m. The public is cordially invited to attend this service.

Program numbers will be: Chorus with obligato, "O Night of Holy Memory"; Wilson, with Mary Webster, soprano, as soloist; solo, "No Candle Was There"; Lehman, by Jean McAllister; contra; solo and chorus, "Gesu Bambino"; Yon, with Robert C. Wright, baritone; trio, "Ave Maria"; Schubert, Catherine Wendt, Margaret Huson and Jean McAllister; solo, "The Story of Bethlehem"; Adams, John Brewer, baritone; chorus with obligato, "A Carol to Christmas"; Rogers, Catherine Wendt, soprano. Mrs. Elsie Carleton Strang is choir director and Mattie Vroman Huenergardt is organist.

Christmas Play at Talent Methodist
Talent, Dec. 20—A three-act, full evening, Christmas play based on the verse, "I am come that they might have life", will be presented at the Methodist Church in Talent on Dec. 23 at 7:30 p. m. The cast includes: Mr. Shenoll, Clarence Holdridge; Mrs. Shenoll, Genevieve Holdridge; Betty Lee Shenoll, Gayle Thoreson; David Shenoll, Douglas Hotchkiss; Rev. Brenton, Ray Garland; Mrs. Brenton, Jeanette Quinn; Carleen Mansfeld, Opal White; also a group from the Junior and Intermediate Sunday School classes. Everybody welcome.

Daily Weather Report
FORECASTS
Medford and vicinity: Cloudy with occasional rain tonight and Friday. Warmer tonight.
Oregon: Cloudy. Occasional rain west portion, spreading into east portion tonight and Friday. Warmer tonight. Fresh southeasterly wind off coast.

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NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS we will be CLOSED Dec. 22, 23, 24 & 25 AND WILL REOPEN Wednesday Morning, Dec. 26th
This close down period is necessary so that our heating plant may be installed.
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227 East 9th

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT TALENT CHURCH SUNDAY
Talent, Dec. 20 — Talent Friends Sunday school will present a Christmas program Sunday at 11 a. m. Featured will be songs, readings and group numbers by the children. The junior choir will sing during the playlet, and also a special number. Everyone is welcome.
More petroleum and salt were produced in California in 1944 than in any previous year.



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