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Ye Smudge Pot
 By Arthur Perry

The Supreme Court has granted a stay of execution to Gen. T. Yamashita, convicted of war atrocities, and sentenced to hang. This gives the "Tiger of Malaya" a break, but leaves his neck intact. He should have been hanged in the first place. The legality of staging the formal necktie party in the second place, awaits decision.

THIRD HUSBAND KILLS 4th HUSBAND, AS 2nd HUSBAND CALLS COPS—(Hull-Siskiyou News)—Rather confusing, isn't it.

Pork short ribs have started showing up in market places. The presence of meat on the ribs brought forth much favorable comment from purchasers, who recall the well-sandpapered and highly polished war time variety.

The coming year will see the end of many federal agencies designated by the alphabet. The alphabet did yeoman service, and sure earned a rest.

LUNGS & LARNYX ITEM
 (Lakeview Examiner)
 "One of the most popular concessions was the Bingo counter which was at the last moment substituted for the fortune telling booth. Its success was due largely to the vociferous and loquacious salesmanship of Martin J. Hammersley and Grange Master Raymond Fisher who handled the concessions. Their vocal exploits reminded one more of the typical news vendor of a large city whose sonorous sing-song attracts thousands and brings in the dimes."

Lt. Col. H. Flewler, the demon baker in civilian life, is still in the army air corp, is home for the Yule season, after a siege of Europe. His last stop was in Austria, where he saw the blue Danube, which is duncolored. He is still as noisy as Peoria Bill Gates, and the Dick Phair boy Dick.

Today is the shortest day of the year. The winter day officially ushers in the winter, already here, and nearly over.

All signs now indicate voters will be called upon the coming spring to issue a couple of their notorious mandates at the polls, viz: upon parking meters, and the Columbia Valley authority, the last having to do with more electricity in the wide-open spaces. There is also liable to be a lining up of the Sales Tax issue before the Grange-Labor firing squad. It would provide a commonsense way of raising taxes, but is never used except as a last resort.

"BRIGHT, NEW WORLD"
 "The Applegates are New Deal Republicans. They especially liked being paid for not planting and cultivating and Uncle Sam taking care of their old folks. Mr. McGillicuddy says the Applegates have quit thinking. They let government officials and radio commentators do that for them. They think the larger the federal debt gets the happier and more prosperous everybody is going to be. They do not know where the billions are going to come from to retire the debt, pay the interest, keep up subsidies, old age relief, soldier bonuses, hospitalization and pensions and a score of other expenses but are certain that Washington—may be they are thinking of George—will attend to everything."
 —(Lyons (Kan) Tribune)

On The Side—By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Leave her to heaven,
 And in those thorns
 That in her bosom lodge
 To prick and sting her.
 —Shakespeare.

(Above quoted in answer to a query as to the inspiration of the title of Ben Ames Williams' novel "Leave Her To Heaven." The lines are from Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 5.)
 "Jeanne Eagels was a capable actress but her career was greatly handicapped by an excess of temperament and a tendency toward wildness in her private life." Such is the statement of a contemporary. What does the man mean? "A capable actress?" Jeanne Eagels was one of the most brilliant actresses of all time. Of all the actresses I have seen she was my favorite. What the poet Victor Plarr said of another brilliant woman I would say of Jeanne: Oh, to praise her is a pity.

To o'er praise her or to flout her
 She was wild, and sweet, and witty.
 Let's not say dull things about her.

Suggestion
 So San Francisco and Los Angeles have been refused major league baseball franchises, too bad. I figure the Los Angeles team, if any suggestions were followed, could be baseball's greatest attraction. My idea would be to build the club to a point where it perfectly fitted the slogan: "The Team You Love to Hate." Its road uniforms would be orange color. On the front of the shirt with a background of the sun shining full blast—would be inscribed "Los Angeles—In the Heart of God's Country." On the back would be inscribed the city's latest population figures and its temperature record. In every city visited the Los Angeles manager would be instructed to complain bitterly about the climate, except in New York where he would never fail to say to the Manhattan scribbles: "I wouldn't live here if you gave me the place." If San Francisco was mentioned the Los Angeles manager would of course ask: "What is San Francisco still in the league?"

Passing By
 Oscar Haimo, president of the International Barmen's association, has written a book titled "Cocktail and Wine Digest." This explains in detail the making of every known cocktail. Also tells what wine should be ordered with what food. So if you don't know how to make a Brooklyn or a Bill Corum cocktail or are not sure what wine you should drink with boiled codfish you should look Oscar's book over. . . Bryan Field, the gentlemanly turf announcer, ordinarily a man of great self-control and poise. However, last season at Jamaica when they had that three-horse dead heat Mr. Field became so excited he lost his Harvard accent.

Asking
 Queries from clients: G. I say Mme. Nordica, the operatic star, was a German. My wife says she was Norwegian. Do I win the stogies or does my wife get the bottle of perfume? A. Hey, mister, you gave your wife too much odds. Or are you not know what they are doing for perfume these days? Any way, you don't lose this time. Nor do you win. Nordica was born in Maine. Her real name was Lillian Norton. She was German because of her unusual ability in the handling of Wagnerian opera. Q. Ever smoke cubed cigarettes? A. Certainly. Also smoked cinnamon cigarettes. Both of these retailed for two for a cent in a store around the corner from good old public school No. 2, Brooklyn.

Invention
 A Toledo subscriber says he is working on the invention of a non-showable slip. "It isn't money I am after," says he, "but I have a wife and three grown daughters and am tired of hearing them ask if their slips are showing." He says his non-showable slip is based on the principle of the window shade and adds: "The slip is rolled up and fixed in place in the beginning. It just can't show. It is foolproof, as of course any invention intended for female use must be."

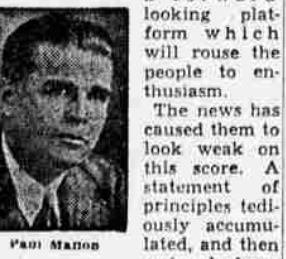
GI Toast
 At farewell parties overseas given to soldiers starting for home some of our boys in the occupation forces are using the following toast, authored, I believe, by Charles Major: Oh, here's to other meetings

And merry greetings then,
 And here's to those we've drunk with
 But never can again.
Longest Highway

My claim was that the longest highway in the country is No. 1; Atlantic City, N. J., to San Francisco. A Californian, demanding a stogie, claims the longest is Highway No. 6 from Long Beach, Calif., to Provincetown, Mass. That I will have to check. It is so long since I went on an auto tour that I have lost all my maps.

News Behind The News
 By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 21 — The republicans are being pinched and pressed by a forward-looking platform which will rouse the people to enthusiasm.



The news has caused them to look weak on this score. A statement of principles tediously accumulated, and then watered down for full agreement among republican members of congress, failed to please the national committee meeting at Chicago. A number of national committee men thought there should be something stronger, more flashy, and they extracted a promise for the creation of a national policy.

THIS committee is now appointed; one a member of congress, who is a national committee man, two others who are lawyers and state leaders (but not governors), and three women.

The committee has no intransigent exception that all are representatives of the big states. It is to be a permanent committee, to function as a platform declaration board from time to time, consulting, they say, with members of congress.

Frankly, nothing flashy suggests the wiser heads at the highest desks in the party were thinking of publicity more than anything else in this move. They see Mr. Truman holding frequent press conferences, from which his every word circulates throughout the nation.

THE republican position is presented only in congressional speeches, which are read only in the Congressional Record, which is to say hardly at all. The hue and cry for a stirring platform, therefore, may bring some balancing publicity.

But actually, the real platform has been written, not in the watered-down declaration of the congressmen, but in their votes. You hear people say these days there is not much difference between a republican and a democrat, and, when the republicans attempt to get together to compose broad generalities which will be agreeable to every person and offend no one, this seems to be true.

Actually, it is not. The republicans have made a record of opposition to the Truman administration in which the cleavage between the two is clear. It could be accurately expressed in one sentence. The republicans are against the C. I. O. economic, political and international theories of government. The Truman administration is against them only in exceptions and not as a rule. (Full employment spending, unemployment compensation, labor control legislation.)

The republicans vote against them in such complete majority as to establish party character. It all seems a little extraneous, therefore, to talk about soul-stirring platforms, and history rather indicates it is a waste of time. No party in my time has won an election with a declaration of principles.

In particular, platform declarations have been the least important phase of politics. The leaders get together and haggle over language for weeks and months. Finally they come out with many thousands of words, which have been leveled to the

lowest common denomination of appeal, and the day after they are issued no one can remember what was in them. This is necessarily so. Look at the democratic party experience for proof if you need it. While Mr. Truman has taken one position on issues as a titled leader, his democratic congressmen have generally taken an opposite stand, as they did with Mr. Roosevelt.

A republican tells me none of the Truman program has been enacted by his congress except the bill to abolish war time. I have not checked this, but I have heard authentically that the democratic congressmen have met and decided they will not attempt to draw up a statement of party problems for the coming race, but will let each man run on his own record, using the Truman coattails or not, as each chooses. There is to be no democratic "platform."

My idea is that unless you have a single man heading a ticket, you can't get a concise and worthwhile declaration of principles the people can understand. Only in the expression of individual personality can such cleavage be expressed clearly to the people. Now I know many fine politicians believe that a strong assertion at Chicago would have electrified the people, and are sincerely hoping one will now come from the new committee.

In their fond hope, they remind me of popular public thought during the depression. Nine out of ten men then believed that, if some particular economic device could be created, the economic faults of civilization could be perfected.

They were just wrong in their original premises; it was not true that there could be such a thing. I do not believe there can be such a thing as an electrifying political platform.

Flight o' Time
 Medford and Jackson Co. Mail Tribune 10, 20 and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO
 December 21, 1935
 (It was Saturday)
 Liberals launch boom for Sen. Borah of Idaho for president.

Lady Lions hold Christmas tree for needy children.
 Relief rolls to increase soon, officials fear.

Wagner law held invalid by Missouri supreme court.
 Fair, but with valley fog. High 49, low 21.

Premier Mussolini of Italy defies LofN sanctions, and will fight to the finish.
 George Coddling elected president of State District Attorney association.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
 December 21, 1925
 (It was Monday)
 Christmas trade in Portland best in several years.

Rain. High 51, low 43.
 Owen-Oregon company gives dinner to 100 employees.
 Jackson county leads northwest in farm values.

Local pair plead guilty to bootlegging, fined \$500, and sentenced to six months in jail.
 Christmas rush hits peak at postoffice.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO
 December 21, 1911
 (It was Thursday)
 Bulgaria trying to start war in Balkans.

San Francisco demands 'wide open town' for New Year's celebration.
 Special train to be run to Los Angeles for excursionists next month.

Electric poles and lines being removed from East Main street by Rogue River Electric company.

WEATHER
 Northern California — Intermittent rain today and tonight with showers Saturday. Little temperature change. Fresh to strong southerly wind off coast

SNOW TRAVELING MACHINE WILL BE AT DIAMOND LAKE

Bringing with them a snow-cat purchased from the Tucker Snow-Cat company of Grass Valley, Calif., George L. Howard, Bill Howard and William Hansen returned Wednesday from the California town. George Howard, manager of Diamond Lake resort, stated today that the machine would be used for trips to the lake in the winter and is expected to be especially useful in case of emergencies.

Howard stated that Tucker's demonstration machine, which had been in use here, would be replaced by the new snow-cat. Crowds gathered around the machine at every stop along the highway, Howard reports. The resort manager stated that he had tried out three other types of machines built for traveling over snow but that the snow-cat was the first to prove successful. A number of experimental runs were made with the machine last winter.

A. R. Work of the Soil Conservation service, Medford, is now at Grass Valley preparing to return with one of the snow machines. Walter Leverette, Medford orchardist and theater owner has also taken delivery and another will be delivered to the Crater Lake National Park service. This is to be used in the near future to transport a geologist to Crater Lake where an instrument will be installed in the lake waters in an effort to determine whether there is a return of volcanic activity to the crater.

Gun Club Turkey Shoot Slated For 4 Corners Sunday

Another holiday turkey shoot will be held at the Medford Gun Club at Snowy Butte Four Corners at 10:30 a. m. Sunday with the public invited as spectators or contestants.

Original plans for the Central Point Sportsmen's club to hold the shoot in Central Point were abandoned because of inability to complete new trap equipment and resulting in the two clubs

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pooling the shoot at the Gun Club.
 The usual well heated club house will assure comfort for the crowd and a hot lunch, coffee and doughnuts and soft drinks will be served from 11 o'clock on. Ammunition will be available for all shooters.

MEDFORD HOTEL TEAM THUMPS BUTTE FALLS
 Medford Hotel independent basketball team defeated Butte Falls independents by a score of 40 to 21 at Butte Falls last night. Scheer led the winners

with 11 points and Rodgers topped Butte Falls with seven. The hotel team plays Medford Athletic association at Jackson school tonight.

TUGWELL TO TEACH
 Chicago, Dec. 21—(U.P.)—Pres-

ident Ernest C. Colwell of the University of Chicago today announced the appointment of Rexford Guy Tugwell, governor of Puerto Rico, as professor of political science.

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