



HONORS FOR GENERAL George C. Marshall (left) as he accepts Four Freedoms Award from Secretary of Army Frank's Pace Jr. Award made annually by Four Freedoms Foundation to person who renders most distinguished service in field. (International)

Navy Shipbuilding Program Authorized; Work To Be Divided

Washington—(U.P.)—The House Armed Services committee has approved a \$1,144,883,000 Navy shipbuilding program and directed the Navy to spread the work among shipyards on all coasts.

The committee in effect ordered the Navy to avoid "undue and dangerous concentration" of ship building work on the East Coast—or in any other area. The Navy took the position that this dispersal policy already is being followed.

Element of Defense

A spokesman said the committee approved as its policy "that the dispersal of ship construction facilities in various coastal areas of the United States is an essential element of our national defense." To this end, the committee agreed, construction work under the bill should be "distributed throughout the various coastal areas of the United States so as to encourage the dispersal of vital shipbuilding facilities and so as to prevent undue and dangerous concentration in any particular area or areas of the United States."

Carrier Authorized

The bill authorized construction of a second super aircraft carrier and a second atomic submarine. All told, it authorizes construction of 554 new ships and conversion of 10 others.

Currently, 106 Navy ships are under construction in West Coast yards, compared to 119 on the East Coast. But the Navy told the committee that tonnage of the ships on West Coast ways totals only a little more than half that of the ships under construction on the East Coast.

Before approving the bill the committee put in an amendment to broaden an existing ban on lending, selling, or giving away Navy ships without consent of Congress.

Heretofore, the ban applied to ships of the class of submarines and larger. The committee approved an amendment to this

law to include "auxiliaries." The Navy said this, if it becomes law, will cover most all Navy ships.

Firemen Answer 16 Alarms Here During February

A total of 16 alarms was answered by the Medford department during February, according to a monthly report issued this week. Most of the department's time during the month was devoted to routine affairs, including drills, school sessions and issuance of burning permits, the report shows.

Flue fires topped the list of alarms answered. There were four, none of which caused any damage, according to the report. Two house fires, caused by stove or stove pipe too close to a wall and two house fires, resulting from burned out electric heaters, were also reported.

In addition, the department answered alarms to two trash fires, two car fires, flushed spilled gasoline or oil from city streets twice, investigated smoke in a house and rescued a small boy who was caught in a drain tile.

During the month Medford firemen conducted 21 drills with apparatus, four volunteer drills, held 22 school sessions and issued 46 burning permits. All American LaFrance equipment owned by the department was checked during February by one of the firm's field engineers.

MODESTY PROTECTED

Phoenix, Ariz.—(U.P.)—A solid wood railing was placed in front of the jury box in an East Phoenix courtroom after Justice Harry Westfall said women jurors complained about spectators looking at their legs.

Legion Oratorical Contest Winner In Area Finals

Richard Dickinson, recent winner of the American Legion's district oratorical contest, will be one of three competitors at the area contest in Eugene next Saturday.

A student at Medford high school, Dickinson will represent southern Oregon at the area contest. He is sponsored by Medford Post 15, American Legion. The area contest will be in Villard hall on the University of Oregon campus, at 2 p. m. The public is welcome to attend.

Other district winners, against whom Dickinson will compete, are Ray Cook, Salem; Linda Ruhr, Eugene, and Ruth Keeney, Coquille. Winner of the area contest will compete in the state final contest, to be held in Portland April 12.

Ralph Ettel, district contest chairman, said all district officers, oratorical chairmen, post commanders and other Legionnaires, families and friends, are invited to be present at the Eugene contest.

JAPANESE CATCH ON

Boston—(U.P.)—Japanese industry catches on to American traditions in no time. The papier mache replicas of historic Plymouth Rock sold to tourists at the site where the Pilgrim Fathers reputedly landed are made in Japan, according to Gordon L. Reynolds, president of the Massachusetts School of Art.

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Heltzel Names Group

Salem—(U.P.)—State Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel said Tuesday he has appointed a special Oregon state committee of shippers to oppose proposed freight rate increases in the West on transcontinental shipments.

To Oppose Freight Rates

The Interstate Commerce commission is expected to hold the class rate hearings in the mountain Pacific states this year. The new rates would affect tariffs on which rates are fixed for classes of commodities, such as merchandise, machinery, drugs, grocery and many other shipments.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sanford, Me.—(U.P.)—In mid-winter it just doesn't seem possible but the fact is that Palm Beach cloth is manufactured exclusively in Maine.

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