

Western Plant Location Groups Study Promotion

Seattle — (U.P.) — The industrial plant location committees of Washington, Oregon and California are meeting here Thursday to form a coast-wide organization aimed at promoting industrial development in the three states.

About 120 representatives discussed industrial trends, raw material resources, power and related topics at initial sessions Wednesday.

The power situation in particular took up most of the afternoon. Bernard Goldhammer of the Bonneville Power administration said power shortages which currently face the Northwest will be lessened greatly by 1954 because of the construction of McNary dam.

"But we still will be short about 500,000 kilowatts under minimum water conditions," he said. "There will be no large blocks of power to sell until 1958, and then only if other



ENTERTAINMENT of Revenue Agent Adrien Ash who was probing Universal Pictures \$20,000,000 tax refund claim, is admitted at House inquiry by Charles D. Prutzman, former counsel for Universal. (International)

German Drama Critic Likes Valley's Work In Field of Theater

(Editor's note: The following is another in a series of articles being published this week written by Gunther Barth, young German newspaperman who is spending the week as guest member of the news staff of The Mail Tribune. He is a junior editor, in the art, music and drama department of his own newspaper, the Rheinische Post, of Dusseldorf, and in this article describes his reactions to a rehearsal of the Vining Repertory theater in Ashland, and a visit to the new Footlighters theater near Medford.)

By GUNTHER BARTH
Sub-Editor, Rheinische Post

On Tuesday, I saw in Ashland the rehearsal of "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller. The Dusseldorf theater played it two years ago with great success in a translation.

In the last few years our audiences became acquainted with the works of several living American authors. It started with Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth" and "Our Town". Later on followed O'Neill, Maxwell Anderson, Arthur Miller, John Steinbeck, and Tennessee Williams. The modern authors formed especially a great part of the repertoire of our amateur theaters.

Theatrical Boom
The unusual conditions after the last war brought a real boom for the amateur companies. The big theater houses had been destroyed, the lack of money and equipment limited the activities. Nevertheless, younger people, interested in everything connected with theater, founded companies. Usually they persuaded a professional actor to be their director.

The troupes started to perform their plays everywhere. If they were lucky they rebuilt a destroyed old suburban stage. In most of the cases their performances took place in a larger living room with audience and actors on the same level.

Surprised at Interest
I am still surprised about the big interest and the large number of people which these small groups attracted. The companies didn't last too long. After one or two performances they had been broken. They had some quarrel about the selection of the next play or the new stage design. Usually it led to the foundation of two new companies. The currency reform in 1948, the rebuilding of our economy and the reconstruction of the big theaters with their professional actors ended the era.

The choice of the plays is easy to understand. At this time everybody liked it to play what he considered as the theater of tomorrow. Very often such a

group of young amateur actors found already a similar spirit in the works of the advanced French and American authors. And they played them.

Language More Convenient
Last, not least, the language of a modern play is more convenient for an amateur actor than the verse of a classical drama. It was impossible for them to bring a crowd of Romans or the army of Wallenstein in their living room theater.

Some curtains formed the stage design, if they used any design at all. Light effects and the imagination of the audience made the scenery.

In this chaotic time everybody was glad that the world of the stage attracted his mind for at least two hours. After a performance the audience discussed again and again the performance and the problems of the play.

Time of Experiments
It was the time of experiments. The different troupes played sometimes in costumes, sometimes in suits. Some actors used masks for their performance, others refused to have any make-up in their design. It was seldom real theater, but it was always interesting and sometimes even fascinating. We collected a lot of experiences for our professional theater.

When I saw the new stage of the Footlighters on the county fairgrounds south of Medford I remembered all these years. It is always exciting to see an empty stage and a half finished theater and to know there are some people who will give all their energy to banish the chaos and to establish a world of order—at least in the theater.

Rogue River

Rogue River—Garden enthusiasts viewed slides picturing tuberous begonias at the Grange hall March 20. The slides were contributed by Ira L. Allyn, a member of the San Francisco branch of the Begonia Society, and were loaned to Mrs. Esther Shock, president of the Rogue River Garden club by the Los Angeles branch of the society.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Miller returned to their summer home on the Rogue, Friday, after spending the winter at their California residence.

Hal's Fountain was closed the past week while Mr. and Mrs. Gerstenmeyer vacationed in Portland. While there they attended the motor show.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Boles of Newburg, Ore., are visiting their daughter and her family, the Frank Marshalls of Wards creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Golding have announced they are selling their home on West Evans road to Mr. and Mrs. L. Deise from Missouri. Deise is a carpenter.

The Kenneth Foster home on Pine street is being purchased by Mrs. Kathleen Mac Swain of Medford, a former resident of this area.

Francis Hadley has been confined to his home for the past week with influenza.

Mrs. Grace Kathan, who was a patient in the hospital at Yreka, Calif., recently returned home Sunday.

Numerous cases of influenza or bad colds have been reported recently and among the sufferers are Mayor and Mrs. Fred Dengler, Harry Rose, Howard Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Whipple and Mrs. Fred Strietz.

Mule Dragging Sink Damages Cars, Sign

Ocean Drive Beach, S.C.—(U.P.) An amusement concession operator tied his exhibition mule to a disconnected bathroom sink in a cottage owner's yard.

Some playful boys stung the mule with rifle shots and the animal galloped down the main street dragging the 60-pound sink behind him.

When the mule finally was brought under control, the sink had banged into three parked autos and knocked down a traffic sign. The damage was more than \$100.

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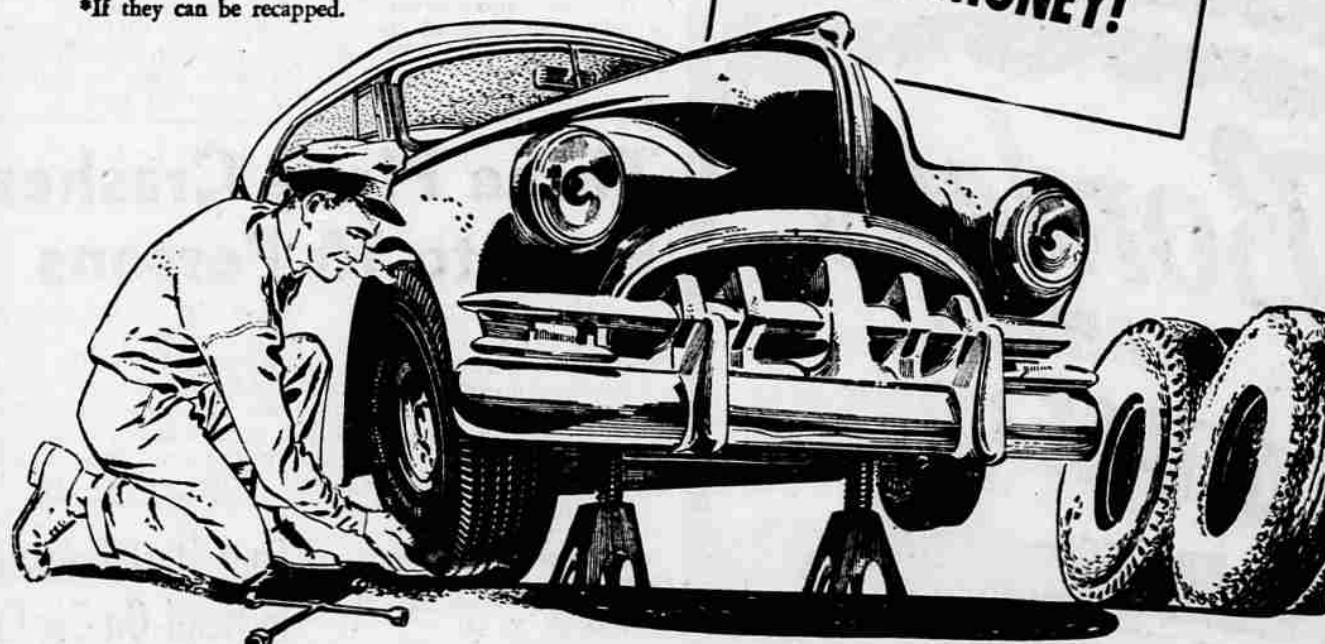
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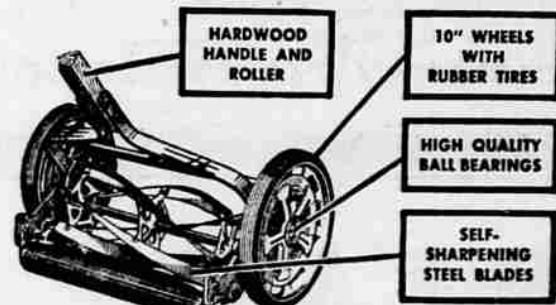
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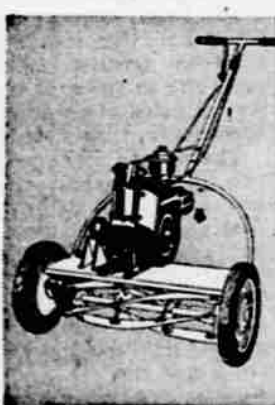
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