



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT—Clouds of smoke hover over the forest fire that raged for hours behind Lakehurst, N. J. Naval Air Station, threatening blimps and hangars before being brought under control. Twelve buildings and thousands of acres of woodland were destroyed.

Nomination Bids Being Circulated For School Posts

Nominating petitions are being circulated in Oak Grove school district on behalf of candidates for each of three vacancies on the school board, according to school officials.

The three declared candidates are Edwin A. Olsen, 66 Clover lane, for the five-year term; Roy C. Elmgren, 3300 Jacksonville highway, for the four-year term, and G. W. Kellington, 87 Perrydale ave., for the three-year term.

Olsen is the father of two children, and for the past few years he has been associated with the Hi-Way Lumber company.

Elmgren is the father of five children. He is a forest supervisor for Elk Lumber company.

Kellington, the father of three children, is associated in the Medford law firm of Roberts, Kellington and Branchfield.

New Law
Oak Grove, like other second and third class districts, will be electing three directors this year to bring its board up to five members in accordance with a measure passed at this year's session of the state legislature. In the past, second and third class districts have had three-member boards.

The election in all Jackson county school districts will be held June 20. Polls will be open from 2 to 8 p.m.

Ex-Medford Man Gets High Position

C. B. McCracken, San Francisco, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McCracken, 620 West 11th st., Medford, has been named Dodge truck sales manager for the western states, it was announced Saturday by the Dodge division of the Chrysler corporation.

McCracken, who has had 29 years of experience in trucking and truck sales, is a graduate of Medford High school in 1925 and of Oregon State college. From 1926 to 1937 was associated with a motor freight company here. He joined the Dodge organization in 1948 as district truck manager for Los Angeles, and has been promoted several times since.

In his new position, he will be in charge of truck sales in the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Denver regions.

Dead line Sunday. Classified 14 at noon Saturday, 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. B. E. Gates and the Pentagon haven't always seen eye to eye, because the "old man" is a firm enemy of red tape.

"Hungry" Gates, who commands the 15,000 airmen at Chanute Air Force Base outside of Rantoul, Ill., takes Harman Nichols' great glee in rattling the other brass in Washington.

"Why should I write a letter, with seven or eight copies to get permission to knock over an old building on my base?" he asks. "By the time I get an answer from Washington I can tear the thing down myself—and no cost to the taxpayers."

Well, folks here will learn to miss "Hungry" Gates, a man I call a close friend.

This Sunday, the boys at his base out in Illinois will fall in and parade before him at Chanute as he retires. There isn't a lad among 'em who wouldn't stand up for the general.

From the Start
Retirement for "Hungry" adds up to 38 years in the air. He has been up in the Jennies of World War I, the B-25s and others of World War II and is no comelately to the jet.

"It's a lot more fun to fly than walk," the general once told me. When the "old man" officially steps down from his post at Chanute, which is in the air training command, something really fine goes out of the Air Force. As of this minute, Gen. Gates is the last World War I pilot still on active duty.

In 1917, Gen. Gates left a Montana ranch to learn something about flying machines. He learned all right, and his many years in the blue yonder took him from Texas to the Philippines to Alabama to the Pentagon to Brazil, the Mexican border scuffs where his great appetite won him his nick name and finally to Chanute.

Gates plans to stick around his base.

"As a floater," he said, "I kind of consider Rantoul as home base. My hat has been hung here before."

Indeed it has. In 1921 he helped open a technical school at Chanute. The gen-

eral then was a second lieutenant.

He already has bought a house in Rantoul, right outside the base. He will be handy, and if I am not mistaken he will be busy.

In 1949, "Hungry" got hungry for his old base and requested a transfer to "clean up Chanute." Clean it up he did. Some of the buildings were run down. They were ripped apart and new ones built.

The officers had a nice club and the little guys didn't. The little guys presented the general with their problem.

"Okay, go ahead and build your own club," Gates said. "I'll help you."

Today, the GIs have their club, which is the envy of boys with silver and gold on their shoulders. The boys built and paid for—through various enterprises—everything they got.

"You got to pay, if you want something," says the general.

His philosophy is that if you want to win wars you have to know something about people. He will be missed sorely.



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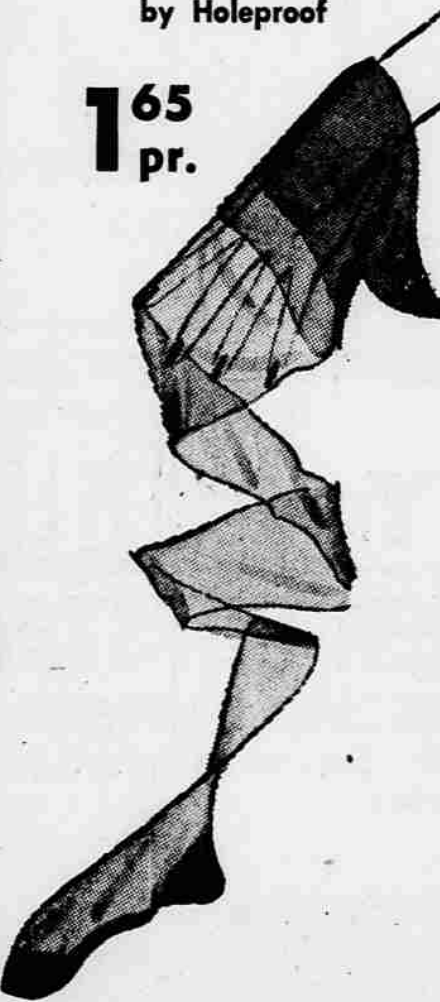


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