

Porter Takes Action To Have Oregon Song Known To Capital Bandmasters

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — For many years, an indignity has been imposed upon those displaced Oregonians who, by the chance of politics or the lure of money and fame, have made their home in the nation's capital.

When they attended those familiar social functions—say a big political banquet—along with natives of the other states, one point of discomfort to loyal Oregonians inevitably arrived.

It would come when the orchestra began honoring the various states. When the band struck up "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You," the Texans in the house would act like loyal Texans always act. The Californians would go wild over "California, Here I Come."

Oregonians Left Out
As the musicians delighted one state group after another with their official state songs, the Oregonians finally had to face the music—the band never knew "Oregon, My Oregon."

Fresh from the grass roots of Oregon, Congressman Charles O. Porter noticed this soon after he arrived here early last year while attending a Democratic dinner. Much to his chagrin, he reported:

"When Oregon was saluted, the orchestra played one of those nameless, somewhat tuneless, mixtures of notes. Always, at the functions I've attended, the orchestra or pianist or chorus fills in with 'dum, dum, dum.' The dums signify nothing other than an awkward musical bridge."

Because he liked the song, which the state went to much trouble to select, and to correct this slight against Oregon, Porter dug into the matter.

The Society of Oregon

Composers held a contest in 1920 to pick a state song. From 50 entries, it selected, "Oregon, My Oregon." The lyrics were written by a municipal judge who liked to write poetry, J. A. Buchanan, who died at Astoria in 1936. Composer was Harry Murtagh, who played the piano during silent movies but has not been heard from since World War II when he passed through town with a war bond selling group. The state legislature in 1927 made it official under the title, "Land of the Empire Builders."

Growers Advised On Spraying Trees

Pear growers have at least three more weeks to get the dormant spray on their pear trees, according to Clifford B. Cordy, county horticulturalist.

Although the buds on both pears and peaches are ahead of normal development, Cordy said, the spraying of the pears should wait until the ground soil isn't so wet. He said that there is still time for the orchardist to wait and hope for a break in the weather so that the soil can dry a bit.

He did stress that peach growers should definitely use the dormant spray on peach trees as soon as possible. Any wait he said might damage the bud development.

UNCONSCIOUS BIRTH

Leeds, England — A woman who has been unconscious since she was injured in a highway accident six months ago has given birth to a healthy four-pound girl. Mrs. Rita Nemeth, 30, became a mother by caesarian Monday.

Porter learned from the copyright office, Library of Congress, that no copyright had ever been issued for the song under any title. The Portland music publisher, Irving E. Sklare, obligingly sent him 50 copies of the song, which the congressman distributed to the Washington, D.C., Federation of Musicians, with this comment:

"Frankly, I flinch when a musical bridge fills the spot where a few healthy strains of 'Oregon, My Oregon' would warm the loyal hearts of Oregonians attending the function."

The local musicians are especially anxious to prevent congressional flinching in the music field these days, what with a bill now pending to reduce the tax on all places that feature live music—a tax which the musicians claim has thrown many of them out of business because many cabarets avoid the tax by replacing the band with a jukebox.

Band Leaders Supplied
All the local band leaders were promptly supplied with "Oregon, My Oregon," and the union promised Porter they would soon be able to swing right into it on request.

Moreover, the U. S. Navy band agreed to make an arrangement of the song and be ready to perform for Oregonians by June 1. The Navy may even record it, though this can't be sold commercially. And Dean Theodore Kratt of the University of Oregon school of music has indicated to Porter he could have a choral arrangement made as a student project. A. Vernex Wilson, supervisor of music, Portland public schools, said he would take it from there and have a high school choir record the song.

"Oregon, My Oregon" is in for a needed revival, just in time for the big Centennial that is coming up next year.

Officers Training In Driver Classes

Three Medford police officers will start the city-sponsored driving safety and testing program with members of the fire department this week.

Testing of the police department was completed Friday. The program includes all city employees who operate city vehicles, according to city hall officials. They said the program is being conducted to make drivers safety-minded with their private cars as well as the city vehicles.

The tests and program is patterned after the safety program of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, officials noted.

Two Bound Over On Check Charges

Two persons have been bound over to the grand jury in district court on charges of uttering and publishing a false check. They are being held on \$1500 bond each.

Appearing before District Court Judge James M. Main were Carol Ann Heavilin, 20, of 33 South Front st., Medford, and Fred W. Jensen, 35, of Darby, Mont.

They both waived the right to an attorney and preliminary hearings.

USING HIS NOSE

Troia, Italy — Policeman Giovanni Ferramosca Monday displayed a bloodhound's ability to sniff out a thief. Noting that burglars who had stolen 100,000 lire (\$160) and 120 U.S. dollars from a tobacco shop had also spilled perfume on the floor, Ferramosca rounded up a group of suspects, sniffed at their shoes, and arrested Antonio DeCillo, 27, and Giovanni Ventura, 18, whose shoes were delightfully scented.

American Businessmen Worry Over Efforts To Curb Imports

New York — American businessmen are deeply concerned today that efforts to restrict imports of key goods like oil, lead and zinc may bring retaliation against their products abroad.

Of far greater consequence, they fear these efforts also may prompt friendly foreign nations to turn their trade guns toward the Soviet bloc. Russia already has launched an all-out war to capture a bigger share of foreign markets. It has been startlingly successful in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

There have been rumblings in Canada, Venezuela and the Middle East about retaliations against U. S. products because of the U. S. government's program to restrict oil imports.

Oil is the biggest single commodity imported by the U. S. as such, it is an important source of dollars for oil producing countries.

"If foreign countries cannot sell here, they will not buy here," an economist said. "That's a simple economic fact we must own up to." Foreign Trade Important
Foreign trade is an impor-

tant cog in the U. S. economy. This country sells around \$20 billion worth of goods and services abroad, or about 6 per cent of the total produced here.

Industry experts estimate that more than 4,500,000 Americans are dependent on export-import for their jobs. That's about seven out of every 100 employed in the nation.

While our exports are important, so are imports. Most of all of the tin, nickel, manganese, cobalt and natural rubber consumed in this country is imported. These commodities are vital to many industries.

Harry Kearns, assistant secretary of commerce for international affairs, said recently the U. S. is facing a grave international situation because of Soviet economic warfare around the globe.

War or Depression
He said many experts believe "that unless our tariff policies are such as to encour-

age and promote trade all over the world we will be faced with a war on the one hand or a depression on the other."

Canada, the biggest single customer for U. S. goods, is peeved about the oil import program and the sale of U. S. surplus wheat abroad. It also is disturbed, as are many Latin American nations, about threatened import restrictions on lead and zinc.

In Canada, Kearns said, "serious retaliatory actions are contemplated, including severe restrictions on importation of American cotton." Canada also is reported hopeful of selling part of its wheat crop this year to Red China.

One industry which already has felt the pangs of the oil import program is the shipbuilding industry. More than \$200 million in tanker contracts have been cancelled in recent months, including a 106,500-ton tanker at Bethlehem Steel corporation's Quincy, Mass., shipyard.

Grants Pass Youth Killed in Collision

Grants Pass — Bob Gene Howell, 18, Grants Pass, was killed in a head-on crash between a car and a panel truck on the Redwood highway about 18 miles south of here at 2:15 p.m. Monday. Two other persons were injured.

Police said Howell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter Howell, was a passenger in an auto operated by Elmer Ray Wallace, 19, also of Grants Pass. Wallace was headed south when he swung out to pass a tractor and collided with a

NOT THAT COLD

Des Moines, Iowa — A temperature neon sign was under the weather Monday. It was declared out of order when it showed 63 degrees below zero—43 degrees under the official low for the day.

truck driven by Virgil Thom of Brookings.

Thom was not injured but his wife suffered a fractured collar bone and facial lacerations, police said. A second passenger in the Wallace car, Steve Hyde, 15, Grants Pass, received a broken leg. Wallace was not hurt in the crash.

BIG FIR

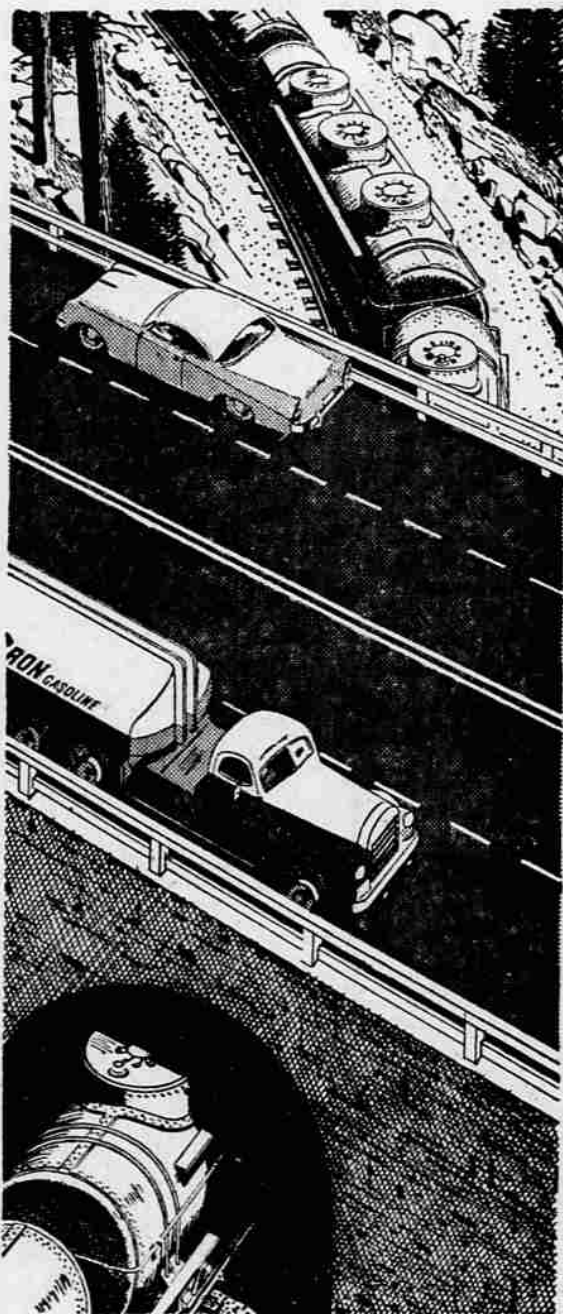
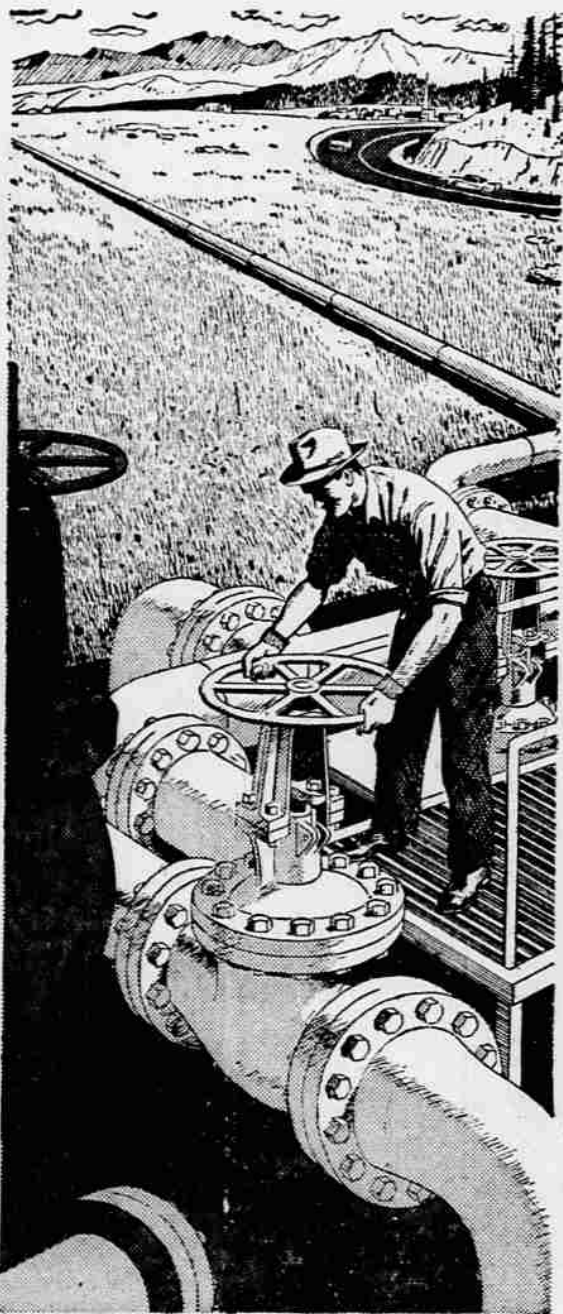
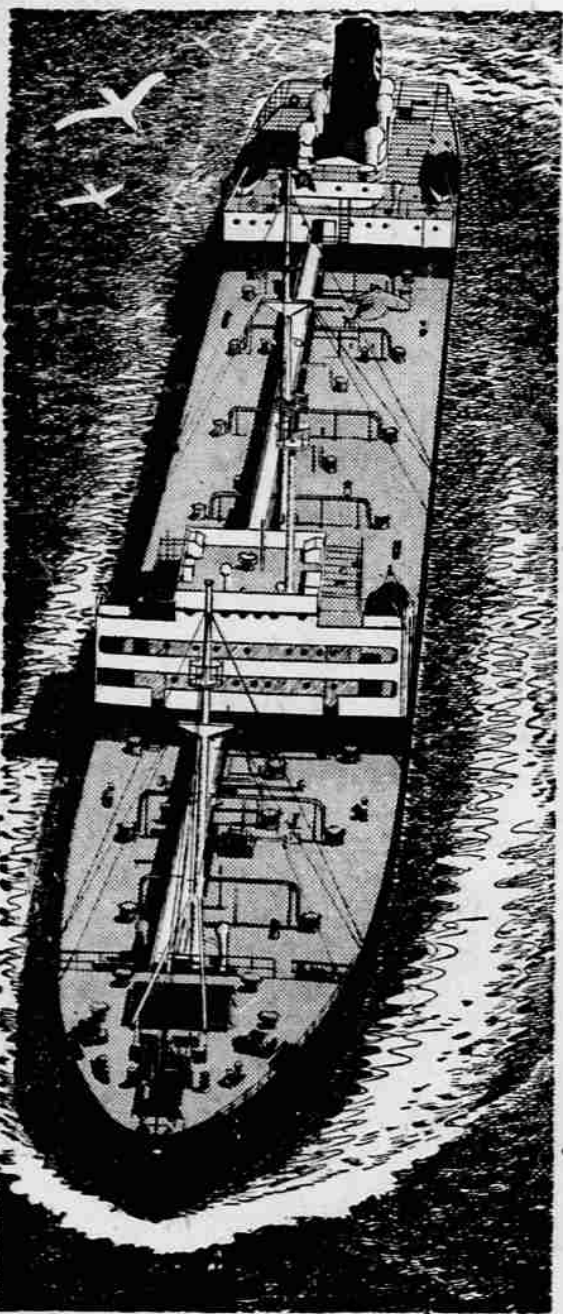
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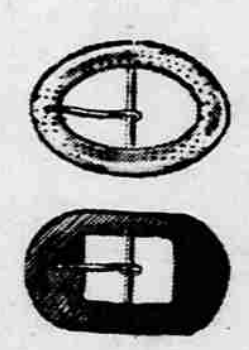
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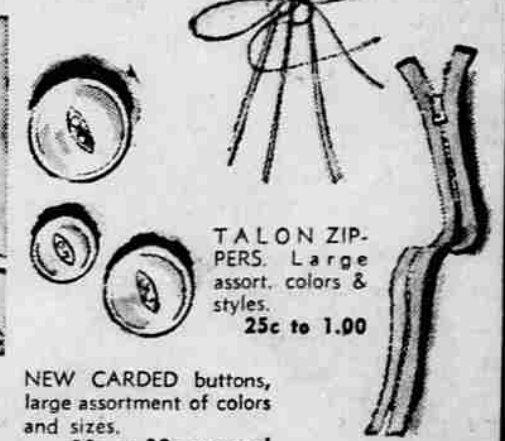
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