

The Evening Herald

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Weekend Roundup

FRIENDLY WORD—Stopping for gasoline at a service station in a nearby town, a Klamath Falls man was informed by the station proprietor that Klamath Falls is building so rapidly "even we folks down here are taking pride in it." This expression of friendly spirit from a business man in a nearby community was not only flattering to Klamath Falls as a growing city, but likewise indicates that people here are fostering the sort of relationship a progressive city should have with its neighbors. It was an interesting and gratifying incident.

BUILDING FIGURES—Fact of the matter is that local construction has been remarkably active, this being emphasized by statistics prepared by the Equitable Building and Loan association on northwest building data. Among cities in the northwest from 15,000 to 100,000 population, Klamath Falls led in percentage of increase over 1939. Its percentage was 53 per cent. Boise was next with 49 per cent. The nearest Oregon city was Eugene with 10 per cent. With a 77 per cent increase in dwelling permits, Klamath Falls was third in its group in the northwest. The local development, therefore, has been extensive in both home and commercial type of buildings.

SPRING IS COMING—There has been considerable building activity here through the winter months, this being an unusually mild season. What happens in the spring in the building line will tell how 1940 statistics will compare with the excellent gains made in 1939. There is still room for much construction here, particularly in the dwelling department. Another busy building year here will mean a year of sustained employment and increasing prosperity.

DRIVING HAZARDS—It begins to look as if at long last we are heading into a period of increased driving hazards on our highways, due to winter weather conditions. There's a technique to driving on snow and ice that is much different from that used at other times of the year. Good drivers will take it easy.

It is still quiet on the local political front. We can stand it.

SIDE GLANCES



"I wouldn't marry him for a million. He's an amateur radio fiend and sits up all night to hear somebody tell him it's raining in Tuscaloosa."

The Family Doctor

(This is the first of two articles by Dr. Fishbein on overcoming the handicaps of deafness.)

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine

SOMETIME ago, in these columns, I referred to mechanical aids for deafness. A letter from a reader in Canada pointed out that hearing devices are expensive and that many of the poor cannot buy such devices because of their cost.

The writer said that she herself had borrowed such a device with a view to purchasing it, but that the price was more than \$100 and that she was not able to hear well even with the device. She also said that when the upkeep, repairs and original price of such devices are considered, the poor would rather do without than benefit by the increased hearing.

The Council on Physical Therapy of the American Medical Association has investigated hearing aids and has found that the price now charged by manufacturers, considering the volume of production and the necessary expense in experimentation, makes it necessary to sell them at the present cost. Unquestionably, as more and more people come to recognize the usefulness of hearing devices, mass production will tend to decrease the price.

Some of the increased cost of hearing devices is due to the natural vanity of human beings. Most people who are hard of hearing refuse to use a hearing aid because it is conspicuous. If the time ever comes when the wearing of hearing aids will be as common as the wearing of eyeglasses, it will be possible to reduce costs.

The desire to have a hearing de-

vice that is inconspicuous makes it necessary to reduce the size of the earphones and to concentrate all of the materials into as tiny a space as possible. The fact that the earphone is small makes the unit less efficient than larger devices, such as can be used on the telephone. Further research on hearing devices will make it possible to produce inconspicuous, good-looking devices as cheap as the more conspicuous ones.

The person who needs a hearing device will be better off to disregard pride and vanity and to take advantage of what scientific acoustics and modern medicine have to offer. The increased efficiency in work around the home and in social contacts will be more than an adequate return for the necessary financial outlay.

NEXT: Operating for progressive deafness.

HIGHLANDERS HOLD FLOODLIGHT SKI PARTY IN CANYON

LAKEVIEW—About fifty members of the Fremont Highlanders held a skiing party last evening at Warner canyon. Floodlights powered by storage batteries were used to illuminate the ski ways. The cafeteria in the ski lodge did a big business with hamburgers and hot coffee. About fifteen inches of new snow has fallen this week and it is expected that more than a hundred skiers will be out on the runways this Sunday.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 — Through the armor plate of the British blockade Germany sneaked \$3,400,000 worth of products into the United States in December.

This \$3,400,000 leak is a confirmed official figure. You will find it hidden down in coded "by commodity" trade sheets available at the commerce department, to which no official attention has been called by announcement or otherwise.

It shows the Germans landed here in that amount: Dyes, hops, sugar beet seeds, mineral wax, precious and semi-precious stones and imitations (from former Czechoslovakia), machinery, cyanide, photographic chemicals, camera lenses, fertilizers, burlaps, and rabbit fur.

Some of this may have eased through the British contraband ports before the order in council effective December 4 confiscating exports from Germany, but the bulk was skinned through later.

Officialdom knows how it was done. Practically all the goods came through neutral Italy and passed the Gibraltar control station on Italian ships. The ship manifests listed the items as products of Italy. Labels to this effect were stamped all over the merchandise. But as the ships neared American ports new manifests were made giving the true point of origin.

Incidentally, only a paltry \$1000 worth of exports for Germany from this country were listed for December.

RE-BLUFF

The second Russian-German trade agreement was just a bluff to bolster up the first bluff. No authority here believes Germany has received any worthwhile quantities of Russian products under the first agreement or will receive any within a year. Both countries have been prevented by their own war and transportation necessities from fulfilling their barter.

While no one knows how much Russian produce has reached Germany, it is known inside here that only within the past few weeks have stations been established on the Russo-German border for handling goods.

Russian rolling stock is 3 1/2 inches wider gauge than the German. Under a recent arrangement the trucks of Russian cars can be contracted to fit standard gauge German rails, but it is obvious only a pittance can be handled any time soon.

Meanwhile Hitler's announcement deludes the German people into believing they are getting real aid from their backdoor neighbor.

DOUBLE TALK

Most affirmative negation in a long line of confirming denials has been issued by State Secretary Hull.

To repudiate a locally published newspaper story indicating the Welles peace excursion was his

assistant's own idea, not his, Mr. Hull announced he agreed with Mr. Roosevelt on foreign policy more than most secretaries of state agreed with their presidents. Mr. Hull also asserted he and Undersecretary Sumner Welles were close and good friends.

The inside facts of the matter are these:

Mr. Welles originated the peace junket plan and sold it to Mr. Roosevelt before consulting Mr. Hull. There was nothing irregular in this procedure. Accepted administration custom from the beginning has permitted such secondary luminaries as Mr. Welles to stand on their friendship with the president rather than form.

Mr. Hull was advised by the president long before the announcement was made. His affirming denial, however, neglects to indicate whether he approved or disapproved. Apparently Welles was not after the traveling peace salesman's job for himself. At one time in his preliminary discussions with the president at least they had decided to try to get a businessman.

Amusement of Bill Hullitt at the announcement, however, was evident to newsmen who informed him of it as he disembarked from the Yankee clipper at Baltimore. He had been flying up Chesapeake bay on his way home from his Paris ambassadorial post at the time the announcement was made. It may have been only natural that he failed to approve another's quest for peace information in Europe as he was returning with just such material. London Ambassador Joe Kennedy was also surprised.

Such things often happen here. There is no reason to believe there will be any important aftermath.

Note: The official inside version is that when Mr. Hull found out what was planned he opposed the setting of a business man and counseled the choice of Welles. He did not want an amateur diplomat running around Europe they say.

BLOCKED

Hitler's spies caught wind of the not too stealthy Franco-British preparations to throw 35,000 fighting men in upon the back of the Russians from Pelemano. Adolf moved shrewdly to break up the play.

In his own subtle way, he congregated troops at Danzig where they could be shipped in swiftly behind the Finns to aid the Rus-

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alan cause. Assembling Danish troops were marched around openly so their concentration would be noticed promptly in London and Paris.

This may very well stop the French and British on the intervention line. Finland would be turned into another and bigger

Spain if the allied venture were followed through. Already the well prompted (usually by the government) British press is beginning to cry editorially against intervention, and even against sending the 2000 British reservists who have volunteered for Finnish service.

ENDS TONIGHT * "THE LONE WOLF STRIKES" and "THE ARIZONA KID"

PELICAN TOMORROW



TOMORROW



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Courthouse Records

(FRIDAY)

Divorce Suit Filed
William R. Barfield versus Nina Barfield. Charge, desertion. Couple married July 6, 1929, at Portland. Plaintiff asks custody of three children. W. Lamar Townsend, attorney for plaintiff.

Judgment
W. C. Coyner versus Dobbin Irwin and Margaret M. Irwin, his wife. Judgment by default. Plaintiff recovers \$260 and \$50 attorney fees on first cause of action, \$87 on second cause of action.

Divorce Decree
Ann Schuck versus Arthur L. Schuck. Decree by default.

Justice Court
Vernice Lee Wilson. No operator's license. Fined \$5.50.

TRAPPED

PARIS, Feb. 17 (AP) — Military dispatches today reported a French patrol which had penetrated deep into Germany had suffered losses in a mined field. One soldier was reported killed, three missing and eight wounded severely among the group which was operating in the region west of the Saar river.

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