The Evening Herald

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FRANK JENKINS ——— Editor
MALCOLM EPLEY ——— Managing Editor

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Claims for Mileage

ELSEWHERE on this page is a letter to the editor discussing mileage claims of county commissioners for travel to and from their homes to the county courthouse. This issue was aired at some length a few years ago, and authoritative opinions rendered at that time revealed that it involves an interesting question.

At the outset, let us say that it is true that County Commissioner John Reber made a claim in January for travel to and from his home in Malin, and that County Commissioner Jack Benner made a small claim for mileage. The basis of these charges was 10 cents a mile, the maximum permitted by law.

Both commissioners, when approached on the matter, agreed readily to future adjustments and stated they wanted to avoid "making" any money on mileage claims, but instead desire only to recover their actual costs of travel for the county.

Mr. Reber stated that in his case, which involves the question of travel to and from his home at Malin—a 60-mile round trip—he would voluntarily cut the rate to 5 cents a mile.

When, on a previous occasion, the question for payment for travel to county court sessions came up, some of the residents of outside areas argued that unless such payment is made, the outside is unfairly treated. It was pointed out that the country districts deserve representation on the county court and on an equal basis with the city as regards pay. Such equality, it was asserted, would not exist if a country commissioner suffers a personal loss in cash for travel to and from court meetings.

The attorney general, in an opinion given in 1935, said: "I have not been able to reach the conclusion that it was the intention of the legislature to provide for travel between the places of residence and the county seat every day while attending the sessions of the county court, but it seems to me that such travel between such places as may be reasonably necessary to the transaction of the public business was intended . . . It seems quite evident that it would be necessary for the commissioner to make a round trip between his home and the county seat at least once each week, and possibly oftener, depending upon the sessions of the court, but it is hardly conceivable that the legislature intended to authorize travel back and forth every day."

From all of this, it is quite evident that Mr. Reber is justified in making a reasonable claim for mileage between his Malin home and the county seat. On the other hand, he must be depended upon as a sincere and conscientious public official to restrict his charges as rigidly as possible to travel for strictly county business, and to make allowances when private affairs are served by his trips to the county seat. His quick decision to cut the mileage rate in half is evidence of his desire to do what is right and proper in this matter.

Mr. Benner's attitude on the question is likewise public-spirited and fair. We do not believe a commissioner, living in the county seat, should make a charge for travel between his house and the courthouse, but that a claim is justified when his automobile is used otherwise on strictly county business.

This may seem a rather lengthy discussion of the subject, but it is one which can easily cause gossip and misunderstanding, and we feel it deserves full and frank treatment. Our discussions of the matter with the county officials, after receiving the letter printed on this page, seem to have done much to clear up the situation and place it upon a sound basis.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—Softly but not gently the new dealers in the defense commission are unsheathing their needles for more jabs at the dominant business element there.

The Truman resolution asking a senatorial investigation of contracts (especially with those firms whose former executives are now in the government) is generally attributed to them. One of their group high in a financial bureau of government near the defense commission is credited with initiating the idea through Senator Truman of Missouri.

These boys have had a left-out feeling since the OPM reorganization. So far their resentment has only caused some more or less bitter personal scraps within the defense setup. But one well placed official bystander says unless Mr. Roosevelt quells the developing fuss, there will have to be another reorganization of the defense regime within three to five months.

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APPEASED

N. D.'s have been somewhat appeased by selection of Ben Cohen as counselor to Ambassador Winant in London, but that is not what they want. Cohen worked with Winant in drawing and setting up the social security organization. Earlier he acted in the same capacity as legal counselor in establishing the Zionist movement in Palestine. Together Winant and Cohen represent the new dealers so top-heavily in London that even they are talking of the necessity of selecting a conservative as minister to work with them.

Cherubic countenance of another charter member of the new deal team, Thomas Corcoran, has been prominent both in rumor and White House social gatherings. His pals say he has wanted the solicitor generalship or attorney generalship, in case Mr. Jackson moves up to the court. He would take the second spot if his group associate, Francis Biddle, got the top job.

Trooping of these men back to prominence from the bomb shelter they entered for the last campaign will not, however, pacify their wing. That may be accomplished by giving them representation on an overall policy committee to act in an advisory capacity to the president on defense.

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SEEDLING

Beginnings of a ministry of economic defense (that new branch of warfare which is proving more powerful than guns) are being set up without announcement in the commerce department by Secretary Jesse Jones. He has instituted such an office in his bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. It is to be a policy division, resurrecting facts in regard to wages, hours, taxes, savings, investments, expenditures—everything affecting manufacturers and their ability to produce.

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WIRE PULLING

Wire pulling on the lease-lend-gift bill showed Mr. Roosevelt at his unexcelled best. Even the congressional handlers, who are already congratulating themselves on what a good job they are doing, admit that. Trunk wire representing the most brilliant presidential achievement was that set up through dispatch of the president's friend, Harry Hopkins, to London. Obviously Hopkins let the British know what should be said and done to push the bill along. Churchill's irresistible words were his own, but the timing and vocal arrangement were set by Hopkins for the opening of the senate fight.

Second best arranged blow was the appearance of Wendell Willkie.

Through it all the White House did not have to say a word.

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WAR CLIMAX

For the life and death struggle for England, now reaching its climax:

The Germans have ready 250 divisions of 15,000 men each, plus several thousand miscellaneous troops—4,000,000 men under arms.

The British have only 2,000,000 regulars plus a doubtful 1,000,000 in the home guard.

But the Germans cannot use all their force in the grand assault across the channel. Thus the conclusion is inescapable that Britain is well fixed with men.

Military men expect Hitler to lose 500,000 to 1,000,000 men if he tries what he seems to be working up to.

Looking for Bargains? Turn to the Classified page.

SIDE GLANCES

"Don't pay any attention to him—if he seems to be scowling at you, it's because of a false rumor we haven't enough apple pie to go around."

Birthday Meet Set for Friday

The Ladies Aid of the First Covenant church is sponsoring a birthday meeting at the church Friday, February 14, at 7:45 p. m. Four tables representing the four seasons will be set and presided over by a hostess. A program will be rendered while the guests are seated at the tables. All present are asked to give a penny for each birthday they have had. The hostesses for the meeting are Mrs. Karin Carlson and Mrs. G. G. Anderson. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 300 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcome.

MILEAGE CLAIMS

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., (To the Editor)—It seems only a little while since our county commissioners got their pay raised from $1500 to $1800 a year, but we read now that one of them wants another raise. Well, everybody wants a raise in pay as often as they can get it, it's a good trick if you can do it and at least this commissioner was out in the open about it.

But how about the quiet little raise it is rumored the commissioners are giving themselves by way of mileage? I hear the commissioners are paying themselves ten cents a mile from county funds for coming to and going home from work. Is that o. k.?

The income tax people do not think so. For a car used partly for business, partly for pleasure, they will allow nothing for going to and returning from work. They say if a man wants to live far enough away from his work to ride, that is his own business and it's his own job to get himself to his job and home again.

But if the county is to pay the commissioners for coming to work and for going home again, why should it pay them more than it costs them? Three and a half cents a mile will run a modern car and cover depreciation. At ten cents a mile the commissioner who lives thirty miles away would draw mileage of $6 every day he comes to work, leaving him a neat little raise of nearly $4 for every day he works.

It is said too, that the commissioner who lives in town draws mileage from his home to his office. Wonder if he goes home to lunch? It would pay him, wouldn't it.

W. S. BARRETT,
Crest Street.

(Editor's note: This letter is discussed in today's editorial column.

Courthouse Records

THURSDAY

Divorce Decrees

Wilbur Nine versus Dollie Rachel Nine. Custody of minor awarded plaintiff. Defendant's cross-complaint stricken from file. Maynard Wilson, attorney for plaintiff.

Eva Ina Carter versus Frank Carter. Couple married June 1, 1938, Reno, Nev. Former name of plaintiff, Eva Ina Fenton, granted. Property and furniture in two houses in Merrill awarded plaintiff.

Dismissal

State of Oregon versus Tex Williams. Order dismissed by circuit judge. Maynard Wilson, attorney for plaintiff.

Judgment

State of Oregon versus Fred Lusebrink. Defendant sentenced to three years imprisonment for forgery. Paro led to district attorney.

Indictment Waiver

State of Oregon versus Lui Mario Chavez. Defendant charged with burglary not in a dwelling. Remanded to custody of sheriff pending bond.

BANDITS GET $550

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 14 (UP)—Two masked bandits held up Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Rock, cafe operators, yesterday and escaped with $550, police reported. The robbers, wearing red handkerchief masks, forced both Mr. and Mrs. Rock to lie on the floor. They then took Rock's wallet and rifled the safe where they found two small boxes containing $545.

PINE TREE
Now Playing

TODAY!
Edward ARNOLD
AS DIAMOND JIM BRADY
IN
DIAMOND JIM
COMEDY
NOVELTY ★ NEWS
RAINBOW

VOX
NOW PLAYING
TEX RITTER
and his horse "WHITE FLASH" in
"TAKE ME BACK to OKLAHOMA"
FEATURING
BOB WILLS
HIS FIDDLE & HIS TEXAS PLAYBOYS
with "ARKANSAS SLIM" ANDREWS
COMPANION HIT
Frankie DARRO
"YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK"

TOMORROW!
2 Smash Hits!
THE PERFECT COMBINATION PROGRAM!

PELICAN
ONE OF YOUR HOME CONTROLLED, HOME OPERATED THEATRES

SEARS - PELICAN THEATRE
POPEYE CLUB

Saturday Morning
10 o'Clock
ON THE STAGE!
3rd Week of the Great
CONTEST!
PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!
Third Group!
★ LILLY CORR—Little Dutch Garden
★ DELLA MAE ROBERTSON—Tumble
★ LEAH JEAN MAXWELL—I Double Dare You
★ GENE PEYTON - Piano—"Oh Susannah"
★ HERBERT KIRBY—Tricky Tapper
Help Your Favorites Win!
— ON THE SCREEN! —
A LANDSLIDE OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!
GENE AUTRY
"RIDE, TENDERFOOT, RIDE"

— AND —
POPEYE "Shakesperian Spinach"
AND NEXT THRILLING CHAPTER
"OREGON TRAIL"

Coming Sunday!
FOUR SISTERS . . . FOUR WIVES . . . and now FOUR SWEET MAMAS! In the Year's Heart-iest Hit!

WARNER BROS. PRESENT
FOUR MOTHERS
PRISCILLA LANE • ROSEMARY LANE • LOLA LANE • GALE PAGE
with CLAUDE RAINS • Jeffrey LYNN • Eddie ALBERT
AND
DONALD DUCK in "TIMBER"
PELICAN
ONE OF YOUR HOME CONTROLLED, HOME OPERATED THEATRES

COMING SUNDAY!
PULL UP A KEYHOLE and have a PEEK!
AS A WIFE . . . SHE WAS BEYOND REPROACH . . . even her own husband couldn't approach her!

GIRLS . . . get the boy-friend to tell you about . . .
Cary Grant • Katharine Hepburn • James Stewart
in "The Philadelphia Story"
with RUTH HUSSEY
JOHN HOWARD • ROLAND YOUNG
JOHN HALLIDAY • MARY NASH
AN M-G-M PICTURE
PINE TREE
ONE OF YOUR HOME CONTROLLED, HOME OPERATED THEATRES