

Herald and News

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MACCOLM EPIRY
Managing Editor

A temporary combination of the Evening Herald and the Klamath News. Published every afternoon except Sunday at Esplanade and Pine streets, Klamath Falls, Oregon, by the Herald Publishing Co. and the Klamath News Publishing Company.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice of Klamath Falls, Ore., on June 1, 1942 under act of congress, March 3, 1879.

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION

Delivered by Carrier in City

One Month	\$.75
Three Months	\$ 2.25
One Year	\$ 7.50

MAIL RATES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

By Mail	
In Klamath, Lake, Modoc and Shastan Counties	\$2.25
Rest of Oregon	\$2.50
Three Months	\$ 7.50
One Year	\$ 25.00

Published Nationally by West-Holiday Co., Inc.
West-Holiday Co., Inc., 1000 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
Branches: Seattle, Chicago, Portland, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Vancouver, B. C., Coles of The Herald and News, together with complete information about the Klamath Falls market, may be obtained for the asking at any of these offices.

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NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, June 13—One sixth of the Jap capital fleet strength was put out of action at the battle of Midway, details of which are now accumulating sufficiently to clear popular misconceptions of the action.

It was not primarily a naval battle, but an air battle. Planes were cast against Jap surface ships, planes against surface ships, planes against surface ships, and subs against surface ships. There was no action between U. S. surface ships and Jap surface ships.

The Japs tried to sneak up on Midway, as they did on Pearl Harbor. They came in with their aircraft carrier planes in front as umbrellas to cover their battleships, cruisers, destroyers and transports from attack. Their strategy was to send bombers from these carriers over Midway in a surprise attack, just as at Pearl Harbor.

The airfield at Midway was to have been bombed and destroyed before our planes could get in the air. Then they would have moved their battleships up with long range guns and reduced the heavy defenses.

The island is as level as a billiard table and completely without cover or shell shelter. We have a good air field there and a protected lagoon, but nothing could be put underground because after a few feet you reach water.

The shelling would have pulverized the heavy defenses and opened the way for Jap light cruisers to come in and clear the way for landing troops from their transports. The Japs had three to five transports loaded with troops ready for that purpose.

A BREAK FOR US

But sharp American air-eyes gave us a lucky break. Our patrol planes sighted the four to five advance ships in the Japanese line several hundred miles off Midway, near the extreme limit of the patrol. These planes radioed back the alarm and immediately we began to attack by air.

Their four or five carriers, huddled in the center of the Jap line, caught the heaviest of the blows. These carriers are the most vulnerable ships of the fleet. A bomb-hit nearly anywhere on deck destroys the usefulness of the ship for plane take-offs or landings.

Thus discovered, the Japs had to launch their air attack on Midway sooner than they had planned. They had to rush their bombers into the air. But our anti-aircraft guns kept them so high and our planes pummeled them so severely over Midway that the Jap bombers entirely missed the Midway airfield in their attack.

This was an astonishing break for us. You could hardly figure that they would all miss their primary and most important objective. This allowed us to use the field throughout the subsequent action.

Our light and heavy bombers there pounded everything the Japs had afloat in that part of the world for three days thereafter. Furthermore, we were able to send bombers from Hawaii to refuel at Midway and take off from there. In addition, we had the use of some heavy seaplanes, and bombers from our own carriers in the vicinity.

With this heavy concentration of land-based planes of the army, navy and marines, and supplemental naval bombers, we literally blew the Jap attack out of the water.

The announced early figures of the damage were on the conservative side for two reasons. The announcing was done by careful Naval Admiral Nimitz because he outranks the army and marine officers in that area.

Also there can always be doubts about ship sinkings from the air. Attacking planes cannot hang around a few hours to await results of their attacks, and there may be duplication

SIDE GLANCES



"Somebody should tell the War Department about Leland—he never loses a battle!"

when a second air-attack force comes up on the crippled ship.

BEST CARRIERS OUT

Certainly two of those four carriers sunk or damaged were not old 1921 and 1925 types (announced sunk), but were of the largest and best 26,900 tonners. Four of the cruisers the Japs had there were new and the transports were converted new fast passenger liners.

They had in action four battleships out of their known strength of 12; four or five carriers out of their known strength of 12 or 13, although the number of cruisers was somewhat under this one-third ratio.

Invasion of Australia, India, or anywhere else, thereby was rendered more difficult, chiefly because the Jap form of sea-blitz relies on aircraft carriers for its main striking power.

The Dutch Harbor and Aleutian islands attack was only a clever Jap diversion trick, staged before Midway, with a view of drawing our air patrol and sea power northward and out of the way of the main attack on Midway. The Japs could, however, capture a few Aleutians any time.

There are 500 islands in the group, mostly uninhabited rocks. The end of the string is closer to the Jap islands south of Kamchatka than to our bases in Alaska. If the Japs occupied any of those, as they claimed, they could be used only for weather stations for sub activity. Almost continuous fog will prevent their use for plane bases.

But if they had captured Midway, they would have been a leg up on invasion of Hawaii, would have installed a sub and plane base with which to intercept any American naval force going west.

As matters stand now, they are not likely to come back to Midway anytime soon.

Answers to War Quiz

- Questions on Page 2
1. Insignia wearer is a gun pointer, first class.
 2. Emden was the German cruiser.
 3. President asked for 75,000 more volunteers.
- Visit—Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Glidden of this city spent last Sunday in Dunsmuir visiting with Mr. Glidden's brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Cooper. Catherine Glidden, who has been visiting at the Cooper home, returned to Klamath Falls with her parents.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE—SENIOR

Regent of Women of the Moose asks all officers and escorts to turn out for installation practice Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock in the Moose hall.

DRILL TEAM MEETING—A potluck supper and drill team meeting for Women of the Moose will be held Monday evening at 7 o'clock at the home of Ruby Bell, 2036 Worden street. Members are informed that a surprise will be in store for them.

IN DUNSMUIR—Mrs. Ray Baxter and son Billy, of California avenue, are spending this week in Dunsmuir visiting Mrs. Baxter's daughter and son-in-law, the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas J. Cuddy.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE—REGULAR

card party was held Friday afternoon at the Moose hall. This was the last of the series, and grand prize was awarded to Mildred Wilkinson for highest score. First prize for the day was awarded to Francis Waits and second prize to Mildred Wilkinson. Guest prize went to Mrs. Bjorklund. Lunch was served to 28 guests by the hostesses.

Visits Here—Mrs. Nella West of 402 South Riverside has been entertaining her sister, Mrs. J. M. Martin of Zion, Ill., for the past several days. They have been visiting Crater lake and other points of interest in the nearby area. Mrs. West and her sister left for Portland Friday. Mrs. West expects to be back Monday.

Police Court—Six drunks and five traffic tickets made up Saturday morning's report from Police Judge Leigh Ackerman's city court.

Patient—Mrs. George Stocking is a patient at Klamath Valley hospital. Friends may call.

CITY BRIEFS

Shower—A handkerchief shower was given Thursday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Glenn Gimple, 1610 Gary street. The afternoon was spent in conversation and refreshments served later. The Gimples leave soon to make their home in California. Guests included Mrs. H. F. Nichols and Mrs. H. J. Allen, hostesses for the afternoon, Mrs. Archie McCullough, Mrs. W. E. Johnson, Mrs. James Durgin, Mrs. Myrtle Pfeiffer, Mrs. Ross Barnes, Mrs. Doris Baggett, Mrs. Prentice Miller, Mrs. Ruth Hostwick, Mrs. Robert Eaton, Mrs. Glenn Gimple, Miss Beth Durgin, Miss Ruth Durgin, Miss Barbara Johnson and Charles Hostwick.

En Route North—Keith Cramer, formerly with the local police department as radio technician, passed through Klamath Falls en route north Thursday afternoon. Cramer has been at radio school at Norfolk, Va., and other east coast points. While at Norfolk he saw Roland Warren of this city, and Dave Shirk, Klamath resident, arrived there the day Cramer left. Mrs. Cramer has been in Seattle and will visit in Santa Monica, Calif., for a time.

Card Party Sponsored—A card party for ladies and men was sponsored Wednesday evening by the Women of the Moose. Proceeds will go for the training of girls of Mooseheart as army nurses. High score for ladies went to Edna Jensen and second high to Hilda Matheson. Men's high score was won by Mr. LaBarge; second high by Mr. Baxter. Guest prize went to Emma O'Neill. Seven tables were in play and lunch was served later by the hostesses.

Breaks Arm—Mrs. Marius Anderson, 4311 Summers lane, suffered a painful injury late Saturday morning when she fell on the sidewalk, fractured her arm and dislocated her shoulder. The accident occurred on Main between Eighth and Ninth streets. Mrs. Anderson was admitted to Klamath Valley hospital at 11:10 a. m.

Improving—Axel Johnson, Ewanna millwright who suffered serious head and shoulder injuries this week while in the mill yard, was reported improving at Klamath Valley hospital.

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Weekend Roundup

WITH the value of aviation in coastal defense rated so high that there is talk of moving troops from the Pacific coast for other duties, the extent of military aviation development in this region becomes a factor of even more vital interest than before.

We know now that land-based planes can exert terrific power in beating off an invader who might approach our coast. What we want is the land-based planes to handle the situation, and the proper base facilities for those planes.

This arouses anew our concern over development of aviation in this immediate district. The tactical importance of this area, which lies behind convenient protection from the coast and yet is within striking distance, must surely not have been overlooked by U. S. aviation authorities.

Jap propagandists, heard over shortwave radio in this country, make much of the far-flung striking power of the Japanese navy, extending from Madagascar to the Aleutians and to the mid-Pacific. They claim they have broken the north corner of an American defensive triangle including Panama, the Hawaiian group and the Aleutians.

If we are wise, we will not belittle the Japanese effectiveness. We will recognize it for all it is worth, and even exaggerate it in our own minds, in order to prepare ourselves to meet it. Whatever the Japanese have, and they have a lot, American ingenuity, American productive power, and American fighting courage and ability can meet and conquer.

That will be accomplished sooner if we recognize the Japanese as a powerful adversary, capable of both remarkable fighting feats and of hitting below the belt.

There is an upswing of local interest in civilian defense, an aftermath of recent Japanese attacks on Midway island and the Aleutians. Those who want to know more about what is being done in civilian defense here, and the part the general public can play, will find it worthwhile to attend the general course for civilian defense workers to be held at the high school Tuesday evening.

While this course is planned mainly for civilian defense workers, anyone may attend. Blackouts, medical services, civilian air patrol and police work will be explained, along with a demonstration of the use of a gas mask.

People who want the low-down on things of this nature should bestir themselves Tuesday night, go to the high school auditorium and get the information first hand.

Monday is another election day. On that day, directors will be named for the Klamath Falls elementary school district, No. 1, and for the Klamath county school district.

School director elections often pass with an infinitesimal percentage of the qualified electors taking part. This may be due, in part, to the fact that many people do not realize the qualifications of an elector in this balloting. The only requirements are that the elector be a resident of the district 30 days prior to the election, a citizen, and over 21 years of age. There is no property qualification.

In Monday's election, there will be contests for the vacancies in both districts. There should be a good turnout of voters.

Residents of district No. 1, which includes the city and a small outside area, will vote at the Fremont school. The county district elections will be held at county schools.

Several persons have inquired of this newspaper as to why the names of the juvenile "Nails" bandits were not published after their apprehension by authorities. These are the boys who ransacked a dozen or so local houses, doing a great deal of damage.

It has been the policy of this newspaper for years to withhold the names of young delinquents, in order that youngsters who might undertake to go straight would not be marked publicly as budding criminals. There is no need to extend this protection to older delinquents or adults, but for boys and girls in the middle teens and younger, it seems the fair and right thing to do.

Exceptions to the rule would be made, of course, in extreme cases, such as a homicide. In the case of the "Nails" bandits, authorities were inclined to favor publicity. But after the matter was talked over between the officials and representatives of the press, it was decided to adhere to the policy. It is to be hoped that these boys will be worthy of the protection thus afforded them.—M.E.

VITAL STATISTICS

EDWARDS—Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., June 10, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Edwards, 5807 Bisbee street, a boy. Weight: 6 pounds 13 1/4 ounces.

REILING—Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., June 10, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Reiling, route 2 box 746, city, a boy. Weight: 8 pounds 3 ounces.

YUNCK—Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., June 10, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Yunck, 1130 Owens street, a boy. Weight: 7 pounds 13 ounces.

POWELL—Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., June 12, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Powell, Keno, Ore., a boy. Weight: 7 pounds 7 1/2 ounces.

RAINBOW

ENDS TODAY

2 BIG HITS

Dorothy Lamour
Bob Burns
Martha Raye
in
"TROPIC HOLIDAY"
and
"Gauche of El Dorado"

STARTS TOMORROW

Tyrone Power
Henry Fonda
in
"JESSE JAMES"
and
"Confessions of Boston Blackie"

VOX

Today and Tomorrow

3 AMERICAN SHARPSHOOTERS ring the bell at Hong Kong!

Escape from HONG KONG

Second Feature
George Huston
in
"FRONTIER SCOUT"

SATURDAY --- WHAT A GAL! WHAT A PICTURE!

IT'S THE YEAR'S SENSATIONAL MUSICAL TRIUMPH!

Rita Hayworth
Victor Mature
JOHN SUTTON · CAROLE LANDIS

MY GAL SAL

in TECHNICOLOR!

It's MORE Than a Musical!
It's MARVELOUS!

And It's At
THE PELICAN

Star-studded Cast!
Unforgettable Songs!
Riotous Comedy!
Tender Romance!
Magnificent Production!
Thrilling Story!

Added Attractions
Information, Please
Army Mascot
Latest World Events