Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS, Editor — MALCOLM EPLEY, 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 News Publishing Company.

Member, Associated Press — Member Audit Bureau Circulation

Today's Roundup

By MALCOLM EPLEY

READERS of the Klamath Yesterdays column on this page know that this is the 40th anniversary year of the establishment of government irrigation in the Klamath area.

EPLEY

The old papers in our 1905 files are filled with big headlines about the government coming into the reclamation situation here, buying out the Klamath Canal company, which had started a major project, and other irrigation works begun on an independent basis.

It was, of course, one of the major milestones in Klamath history. This became one of the truly successful reclamation projects in the country, and irrigation played the major role in bringing Klamath agriculture to an equality with lumbering in the basin's economic structure.

In 1944, the area under the project totaled 213,000 acres, and the crop return alone on the project reached the prodigious total of $17,700,000. Returns from all agricultural activities in our area, on the project and off, ran the total up to more than $24,000,000, an all-time high.

It is fitting, in this 40th anniversary year, that Klamath's irrigation agriculture is in a position to contribute a mighty volume to the nation's wartime food needs. A vast planting program, aimed at that goal, is now underway.

• • • •

Challenge Of The Future

KLAMATH'S agriculture not only has a glorious past, but it promises even more for the future. Development may be expected to continue steadily, through individual enterprise as well as through organized programs, such as the newly-reorganized Shasta View irrigation district.

Army engineers, studying the basin in connection with resource uses, estimated that 530,000 acres could eventually be brought under irrigation. Local sources were able to boost that figure to more than 600,000 acres. A comparison with the 213,000 now under the project gives an indication of what lies ahead if we make full use of our resources.

The land use committee of the Klamath chamber of commerce is asking the reclamation service to make a full survey of the basin's land and water assets. This, together with the studies that have already been made, should point the way toward greater development.

Klamath has been most fortunate in the class of farmers operating here. They are generally men with vision, aggressiveness, and sound business knowledge. They are not the kind who lazily eke a bare living out of a little patch of land. They get out and do things. The people who settle and work in a high altitude are generally that kind, we find.

• • • •

Tragedy

HERE'S one of the week's tragic stories: Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Davis, 948 Prospect, take great pride in making their home surroundings attractive. They plant many flowers, and tend them carefully. They are the kind of people who are good for the town.

Among their plantings are 100 tulips, lining either side of the front walk. The bulbs produced a double row of marvelous blooms this spring.

Last night, some one went along the Davis front walk, and plucked off the heads of all the tulips except six on either side near the porch.

The heads, with stems an inch or two in length, were found scattered along the street sidewalk this morning. The vandal had not even taken them for a bouquet.

It was not the Davis' first experience of the kind. Some one wrecked their gladioli last year, and some one broke the top out of an arborvitae. The Davis family is getting a little discouraged about flower gardening.

The War Today

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
Associated Press Foreign News Analyst

THE leftist tide which is sweeping across Europe seems to be reaching dangerously high on the throne of Belgium.

King Leopold—who was released recently by American troops near Salzburg, Austria, where he had been held prisoner by the Germans—reportedly had made it known that he won't be returning to his capital for some time because of his "state of health." Actually, of course, he was deprived of his throne on May 30, 1940, by an order which was approved by the Belgium cabinet in exile in Paris.

Leftist groups in Brussels shrug away the "state of health" explanation. Their terse and ominous response is that it's for parliament to decide whether Leopold is in position to fulfill the duties of king. He's on a tough spot, but of far greater importance than his own fate is that of the monarchy. The extreme left has no use for royalty.

• • • •

No Other Course?

LEOPOLD was shorn of his prerogatives three days after he surrendered the Belgian army to the invading Germans, thereby exposing the left flank of the British forces to the fury of the Hitlerite attack. His supporters declared that he had no other course than to capitulate to the enveloping enemy, especially since countless Belgian civilians had mingled with their troops and were being killed in the swirling battle. But shouts of "treason" and "pro-German" were heard in the streets of Paris.

The situation then, and now, seems very unreal as one looks back to the way Belgium emerged from the last war under the leadership of the famous King Albert and his wonderful queen, Elizabeth. The royal pair and their three children retired with their army to the tiny corner of the country which was held against the Germans in the La Panne sector.

• • • •

Magnificent Rulers

THERE by the sea the family lived close to the fighting front throughout the long war. I was accredited to both the British army and the Belgians as war correspondent, and frequently was in that area. Albert and his queen were magnificent.

No king or queen stood higher in the world's esteem.

Leopold's surrender, and his loss of royal prerogatives in the passions of the moment, by no means explain his present predicament. Belgium, like neighboring France and so many other continental countries, is caught in the epochal struggle between the "left" and the "right." If the "left" wins, the throne presumably will go. Leopold really doesn't figure greatly in the scheme of things. A dynasty and the way of life of a nation are at stake.

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 welcomed.

Natural Ally

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—We are losing the men in the war against Japan, and the longer it lasts, the longer the list of men on the shaft in the courthouse square in this and every other town will become.

We all know that there is only one country, Russia, that can give us immediate and effective help, we know that Russia has to come in some time to get the Kurile islands and for other reasons. Until Russia comes in we can expect the lists of names on the shafts to grow longer. Why does Russia delay when it is to her interest to come in?

Perhaps it is because of our odd political hookups in Europe, which she may consider against her interests. People seem surprised about our political recognition of Admiral Doenitz. They shouldn't be. Look at the government we set up in Rome over the people of Italy. No wonder the partisans handled Mussolini instead of turning him over to the allies.

What is the reason that we, who are supposed to be fighting for democracy, support the enemies of democracy whenever we have a chance? Why is it that most everyone wanted the Russians to capture Hitler and wanted them to get to Berlin first? Why does the average man and woman trust Russia in things like that instead of their own government or the government of England?

Is it possible that behind the facade of democracy we are fighting to preserve the capitalistic system at any cost, and will not recognize that the reason for the spread of socialism is that the men and women with no more home than a poker chip had nowhere else to go and will fight anyone before they will let their former kings or any other of the six per cent boys strap the pack saddles on their backs again.

Russia is our natural ally in the Pacific. Sooner or later we will have to adjust our differences with her. Why don't we do it now and get the men in the Pacific something besides token assistance?

Sincerely,
W. L. HALLEY,
1526 Etna St.

Good People

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—The item appearing in the Herald the other evening stated where the juvenile officers found a home for the 16-year-old boy who came to Klamath Falls seeking his mother. I think the people's name should also have been mentioned. In the item it was Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Reeder or (Bob) who took this boy in. I also wish to state the boy is very happy in his new adopted home.

Mrs. W. E. Geer,
1933 Arthur St.,
Klamath Falls, Ore.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

A mother's prayer was answered today
From a blood-soaked land so far away.
A message came which said,
Your son, missing in action, has been found.
His B-17 scattered on enemy ground.
Dear God, I cannot find words to say
But I can pray, end this war some way.

Barbara Lee Barfield,
Route 2, Box 526.

Prisoners Faced Starvation, Says Freed Klamath Woman

(Continued From Page One)

thrown in jail for 30 days as an object lesson.

15 Violate Order

One day, 15 expectant fathers were rounded up and thrown in the jug. The expressions on their faces were pretty silly.

The same resourcefulness which makes America the most inventive nation in the world, proved true at Santo Tomas prison. There was no clothing. The women had little to wear and their fragile silk underwear soon was worn to shreds. There was plenty of four-ply string on hand and this is what they did with it, Esther said.

Knit Own Garments

First they undertook the tedious task of dividing the string into two-ply. Next they took bamboo and with sandpaper they smoothed the make-shift knitting needles into polished sticks. Then they proceeded to design shorts, brassieres, anklets and other necessary garments. They created fancy stitches and even took bright string to trim cuffs of the sox.

It was Esther's sane and womanlike observation that when "you're all in the same position and no one has anything, there's a spirit of fair play and cooperation which makes you one family." This was the existing spirit in Santo Tomas prison.

Husband Died

Esther left the United States in January, 1940, with her husband, Paul Sevcik, who later fought at Bataan and died of cerebral malaria soon after his capture. Paul, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sevcik of 424 Adams, was going to a gold mine at Paracale, Camarines Norte, in the southern part of Luzon, about 60 kilometers south of Manila. After stops at Kobe, Yokohama and Nagasaki, so pleasantly featured in today's news thanks to B-29s, the Sevciks made stops along the China coast, arriving in Manila on February 28, 1940.

After 18 months at the camp in Paracale, Esther left by plane for Manila where her child, Alan Laird, was born June 28, 1941, at St. Luke's hospital. When the baby was six months old, she visited Manila again, this time seeking medical care for the baby. It was the afternoon of December 8 (Manila is a day ahead of us), and word of the bombing of Honolulu reached Manila.

Box Car Trip

"My reservations to Paracale by plane were cancelled and it took me three days before I could get back home and then I went in a box car. That is a story in itself.

"I was really quite stupid. I didn't worry. I thought if I'd get out of Manila and back to the mine, I'd be safe. I felt so secure with our fleet in the harbor.

No Money

"When I got home that morning, back to Paracale, I heard the Japs had landed in Legaspi, to the south of us. That was four or five days after December 8. We lived in a pretty wild part of the island. We only had enough cash on hand to pay the natives for four or five days, and we owed them for about 10. We couldn't get any cash from Manila as I had come home on the last train to leave there.

"The natives that worked for us were a pretty tough lot and they said they would shoot us if they didn't get paid. And they would have, too. They didn't like the whites too well, then. My husband was the mill superintendent. We were in a predicament with the Japs coming up from the south and the natives threatening to kill us right there.

Radio Left On

"We had orders to pull the pumps in the mine so the Japs couldn't use it, and in one hour's notice we started through the jungle. Of the nine white families there, there is only one man left alive that I know of. We did not even stop to turn off the radio.

"Then we started through the jungle and hiked over the worst terrain imaginable. Through hot, sour mud up to our knees. We were able to travel as far as Weaver Solomon's mine (Solomon is a former Klamath resident) by station wagon but from there on we walked to Manila. We sent all the cars over a cliff.

Little Food

"On the way I mixed the baby's powdered milk with water from a stream. We couldn't stop to build a fire to sterilize the water. The baby got dysentery. One day, six in our party shared one small can of sardines and a can of milk. We lost all our luggage and I even broke the thermos with the baby's formula."

The party finally reached Manila where they were given food and clothing. Christmas Day was spent dodging in and out of bomb shelters as the Jap planes came over in flights of nine, hitting at nearby Camp Murphy.

Joined Troops

Paul Sevcik and Mary's husband, a construction engineer, left their wives the day after Christmas to join the American forces. They were never seen again. It is thought that Mary's husband is a prisoner of war in Japan.

Americans realized the Japs were coming into Manila on New Year's Day. The occupation of Manila was described by Esther as "quite orderly."

"They entered with great dramatic ceremony.

Lowered Flag

"I saw them lower the Stars and Stripes and raise the flag of the rising sun. That was bitter."

The Japs did not bother Esther, her child, and Mary and her three, until April 17.

Child Ill

Esther had been given a release by the Japanese officers to live outside Santo Tomas, as her child was ill and under one year old. The baby was still suffering from dysentery contracted on the way to Manila.

About that time, order came for all Americans to turn over their cars to the Japs. Mary had a new car and she got a Spanish family to store the machine in their garage. Then, with the help of a Filipino, forged a bill of sale showing that the Filipino had purchased the car three months previous to the war.

The Filipino turned around and sold the car to a Jap colonel for 1600 pesos. Esther, Mary and their children lived on that money for the next six months.

Mary Disappears

One morning Mary and her four-year-old went into the market center to shop. A Jap tapped her on the shoulder and said "Come with me." Mary and the child were sent to Fort Santiago, the torture chamber used by the Japs. She was held one month and inasmuch as nothing could be proved against her, she was released. Esther learned, eventually, where Mary had gone but her strange disappearance caused much concern.

On Mary's return, the girls picked up their children and "scuttled into Santo Tomas for protection." The thought of the prison was refreshing, compared to the fear under which they were living in Manila. While in the city, all Americans were forced to wear arm bands denoting the status of enemy aliens.

Baby Dies

The first 18 months were not so bad, Esther said. It was when the Jap military took over that things really got tough. Esther's child was never well. He died in Manila June 26, 1943.

Due to her failing health, Esther was moved to Los Banos prison camp for three months. She was then returned to Santo Tomas. During the long years of imprisonment, Esther received but one letter from home. The time was very, very long, she said.

Gradually, with the reduced diet, residents of the camp grew weaker. Toward the end the children remained in bed most of the time. They did not have the strength to play. Knowledge that the troops were drawing nearer, kept morale on an even keel.

"Only the fact that we knew of the approaching forces were we able to live at all," Esther said. "Even at that many gave up and died."

Puns News

The real lift came one night when Don Bell, well-known radio announcer and commentator, interned in the camp, closed his evening orders of the day with:

"Well, folks, better Leyte than never."

This confirmed hopes of the camp inmates.

One evening, about 6 o'clock, Esther and a group of women were sitting around drinking hot tea. The tea was made from a can of cloves someone had found. All of a sudden they heard shooting in the streets and the women thought the guerrillas had risen. One girl said:

"I don't like this shooting. If it lets up, and I hope it doesn't, I'll be back."

Bullets In Camp

Then the bullets started coming into camp.

"We saw the Jap guards drop their rifles and go on their hands and knees. We all crawled under the beds. Just at that time, the Jap guards sneaked into the 'ed' building. Then a man in a building in back of us leaned out of a window and shouted:

"They're here."

"The camp went mad. That was about 10 o'clock at night. The first I can clearly remember was when Mary said to her little girl:

"Honey, here's an American soldier. Here's what you've been waiting for."

Birthday Present

"It was the child's sixth birthday. Another little girl in the camp ran right up to a moving tank and jumped up and clutched a gun. She was screaming with joy. It was 16 days before things quieted down. In the meantime, many were killed and wounded. People had spent several years under terrible conditions and then died at the moment of liberation."

Esther was moved to the camp hospital on a stretcher. She is a girl who normally weighs 135 pounds. That day she weighed 79 pounds. At the hospital they gave her milk and cream of tomato soup. She was in such condition, that for months it difficult for her to eat fourth of what we consider normal meal.

Wounded

Esther received wounds when she was struck by shrapnel falling mortar from the which the Japs were with a vengeance.

All this is behind her. was returned to the United States on a converted with 125 other patients, wearing a snappy outfit included an outmoded form, a turban made from nal flag on the boat, hand knit underwear. ternees had been given clothing. San Francisco were more like a museum ther than just an ordinary to buy clothes.

Kept Baby's Spoon

The only memento of mer home is a little silver which Esther brought Paracale for the baby. But she got here, there was thing else to remember years:

By order of Gen. Douglas Arthur, Esther is to receive Asiatic-Pacific campaign. Of the 3700 in camp, went to but 150. The read:

"By fortitude and the success of the Philippine campaign."

Latest In Santo Tomas Lingerie

This is what the well dressed woman internee at the Tomas prison wore under her camp overalls. Using string, brassieres were crocheted by hand and they were tionally well fashioned. On Esther's lap is a pair of pan from the string. A baby cable stitch was used to satisfy natural urge to decorate. Anklets were also knit of the with needles made from polished bamboo sticks.

Senators, Newsmen Dine On Coast Salmon

WASHINGTON, May 19 (AP)—More than 130 senators, newspapermen dined on Oregon salmon yesterday but some hosts will have to take word that it was good.

Sen. Morse (R-Ore.) issued the invitation for and Sen. Cordon (R-Ore.) not get through with a ence in time to partici-

From Other Editors

EXCUSE OUR DUST
(James Morrison in Butte Valley Star)

We once had an idea for a cartoon, showing a railroad built right up to the base of a cliff with a mountain range towering endlessly in the background. A superintendent looking over the work of a subordinate, remarks, "That's fine, Quiggs, but I don't think the company would go for a 75-mile tunnel."

The parallel suggested by this thought is the end-of-the-line effect you get when you hit the mighty Siskiyous, north of Yreka. The highway is pretty fast for a few miles toward the state line; then you careen into the mountains where the road should have ended.

In the postwar period, which is the era in which the states will build their super highways, who wants a lot of towns to impede travel, anyway? The mills at Dorris may someday seek greener forests, but that won't kill the town. Agriculture and livestock strides will see to that. With new cars, plenty of tires and full gas tanks the emphasis will be on speed—so many hours between San Francisco and Portland, for example—and it's been proven thousands of times that actual hours can be slashed in such a trip via Dorris, Klamath Falls and the Willamette pass in comparison with the same trip via highway 99.

Another obvious argument for the main coast highway through here is that in prewar days far more traffic used highway 97 than highway 99—even though many out-of-state tourists did not know of the faster route and stuck to their highway maps. When this route is given thorough publicity and travel-hungry Americans again tour the west, please "excuse our dust," Yreka.

Klamath's Yesterdays

From the files — 40 years ago and 10 years ago.

From The Klamath Republican
May 25, 1905

Citizens of Klamath Falls are invited to attend the grand opening of Whitelake City on June 1.

• • •

The railroad bonus drive has now reached $92,815. Local people are raising the money to subsidize a railroad here from the south.

• • •

From The Evening Herald
May 19, 1935

Bob Leslie won the 100-yard dash and the 220 at the state track meet.

• • •

Federal officers struck both here and at Chiloquin in staging a liquor clean-up over the weekend.

Classified Ads Bring Results.

Robbers Pause To Refresh With Beer

PORTLAND, May 19 (AP)—Robbers who raided a grocery here took time out to refresh themselves with beer.

They stole hams, chickens, butter and canned meats from the store, then paused at a tavern in the same building. After quenching their thirst, the thieves looted pin ball machines and stole a radio and electric mixer.

SIDE GLANCES

"I told our Cub Scout pack you marched all over France in 1918, Dad, so they elected you to take us on a 12-mile hike Sunday!"

Your Labor Is Not In Vain In The Lord

Worship at the

CHURCH OF CHRIST

413½ Main St. — K. of C. Hall

10:00—Bible Reading.
11:00 Edification Service.
11:45 Communion Service.
7:30 Evening Service.

• • •

". . . Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think."

There is a "Demand" mortgage against your estate at death. Protect this mortgage with life insurance.

AT YOUR SERVICE

John H. Houston

REPRESENTING THE EQUITABLE LIFE Assurance Society

114 N. 7th — Phone 8221

Is your heart longing for something?

Remember, God has reserved a place in your life that He alone can satisfy.

Attend Faith-Inspiring Services.

at the

Apostolic Faith Church

228 North 8th Street

Services: Sunday, 11:00 a. m., 7:45 p. m.

Sunday School 9:30 a. m.

Special Program of Music Sunday Evening,

NO COLLECTIONS

COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY

First Baptist Church

"The Church With A Message"

No. 8th and Washington Sts.

CECIL C. BROWN, Pastor

8:30 a. m.—The Baptist Bible Hour Over KFJI.

9:45 a. m.—Sunday School Classes For All Ages.

11:00 a. m.—Morning Worship—Message by Rev. L. W. Rowland.

All Evening Services Dismissed For Baccalaureate Services At High School

Attend

"THE VICTORY HOUR"

Wednesday, At 7:30 P. M.

MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION

HISTORY MAKING EVENT

Church Edifice—In the Heart of Klamath Falls

PROGRAM SPEAKERS:

C. F. Swander — R. H. Du...
Gene Robinson — C. F. Tr...
A. C. Bates — C. S. Robe...

SPECIAL MUSIC

BURNING OF MORTG...

Pictures Will Be Taken of Ceremony

A Cordial Welcome To All Persons To Attend!

First Christian Chur...

Ninth & Pine Sts. — Klamath Fa...