

Herald and News

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Today's Roundup

By MALCOLM EPLEY

ON Saturday, we made a personal inspection of the Train of Tomorrow—which sounds like some sort of contradiction. Tomorrow's train was here day before yesterday.

Unfortunately, the people who arranged the journey of this train did not schedule a public inspection stop at Klamath Falls. Several hundred local people went to the depot to see the train when it was here, but they were not permitted to go on the cars.

This is a railroad-minded town, and if the train was to be brought here in daytime, arrangements should have been made for Klamath people to go inside. (This complaint, of course, is not directed at the S.P., which we understand had nothing to do with the train plans.)

Because of our business, an invitation was extended to us to go through the train, and we accepted—realizing, of course, that a lot of acquaintances of ours saw us get on with a feeling that was not exactly friendly at the moment. We Guderian went with us and helped absorb the envious barbs later directed our way.

Four-Level Car

THE gentleman who conducted us through the train stopped in the first vestibule and ostentatiously rubbed his feet on a mat. We took the hint and scoured off any Klamath mud that may have been clinging to our shoes.

The interior of the cars was sleek, and in some ways, revolutionary in design. In general, the thing that impressed us most was the various levels established in each car. In the dining car, for instance, there was a sunken private dining room, (seating 10), down along on the ties; the main level, where tables were set up and the kitchen facilities installed, and the dome level, where there were more tables from which one could look out over the countryside from virtually the top of the car.

The club car had four levels. Incidentally, this car's facilities ran strongly to long, curved settees, intimate corners, and modernistic styling. There was a radio-telephone set-up, where facilities were installed for train-to-town calling (a separate phone set can be plugged in just about anywhere); car-to-car telephone communication, a public address system running through the train and radio communication. The club car featured an easily recognizable bar.

Sleeping cars had roomette facilities, apartments with bath, connected apartments, and so on, again with various levels utilized. Many of the Klamath people on the platform could look into a low-level sleeping compartment through a window that was lower than any train window we have ever seen before.

The chair car was not so revolutionary in design, with seats set uniformly in traditional style, but a few special features to make it different, and of course, the dome.

The domes are a little low in the ceiling. We judged that a person six feet tall or taller would have to bend his head a bit to get in there. While we did not ride the train when it was moving, we had the feeling that one would get a lot of pleasure riding in the domes, where the view should be as superb as a train can offer. The glass in the domes was slightly colored to cut out glare.

Curved steps with steel hand rails lead to the domes. Steps used to get to various levels of the train are lighted, the light seeping through the glass step board.

Speedy

THE train, we are told, got up to 90 miles an hour on a straightaway between here and Crescent Lake, indicating what may be done by the Shasta Daylight, the S.P.'s new streamliner which will be running some day through here. It appeared to us to have a low level of gravity that would keep it on the rails when hitting curves at high speeds. The diesel power is silent, smooth and clean.

It was a very swell train, to say the least, and we

would like to see something like it running through here regularly. The Shasta Daylight, we are told, won't have domes like those on the Train of Tomorrow. Personally, we thought the dome idea a good one, but we imagine an occupant of one would duck as the train roared into a tunnel.

These Days

By GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY

WHENEVER President Truman speaks off the cuff, his popularity rises. He says precisely what is in the minds of most Americans. It is like that remark of his about the "police state." He did not want powers that would turn this country into a "police state." Most Americans feel that way. No police state in Europe is particularly attractive to an American. None of those countries are worthy of imitation, according to the ideas of Harry Truman.

But then it all changes. Along come his experts, his smart young men his power-thirsty new dealers, his careerists on the make, and sooner or later, Harry Truman contradicts himself. He cuts his own words. Certainly it is not the Harry Truman who spontaneously objected to a police state, that authorized Averell Harriman to introduce legislation which must turn this country into a police state. The paradox is that Truman, who on his own is so sound, seems to be so unsure and humble that he lets these authority-hungry empire builders mislead him.

His Advisors Hurt Him

AND in the end they will destroy Harry Truman, for whereas he gives every indication of being a man of honest instincts, motivated by a burning admiration of his country and its way of life, his advisers can think of nothing but spending money, piling up taxes, fixing subsidies and grabbing power. The ghost of Harry Hopkins guides them. The fear of Henry Wallace motivates them. They have no program of their own.

Harry Truman has taken on an unbelievably heavy burden in entrusting the public presentation of his policy to those who nowadays breathe a fierce capitalism, while introducing a somewhat British socialism—a go-slow socialism which has done nothing for Great Britain and only increases confusion here. The essential of our recovery is accelerated production. As Bernard Baruch said in 1946:

"Increase production. This is the law and the prophets—without it, the rest of my suggestions are meaningless. So I say again: 'Increase production.'"

"Stop increasing money supply. Stop decreasing taxes until the budget is balanced. Stop balking the public by saying wage increases can be granted without increase in price levels. Do not fear to increase prices or wages where necessary to get and stimulate production."

"Take care of those between the millstones—clerks, government employees, pensioners, et al. Make surpluses of goods in military hands available to compensate for shortages. Stimulate founding and financing small business. Take stock before blindly lending—make inventories of our goods, our cash, our credit before we increase the pressure on these. Cut government costs, including federal, state, county and city. In time of deflation we should spend; in time of inflation we should save."

"Avoid an economic dictatorship. We are still a free society based on the enterprise system."

Rejected

THAT was a program for action but it was rejected as every Baruch program dealing with inflation, with preventatives of inflation, with a sensible attitude toward controls has been rejected. The same people who made all the mistakes during the war years that have cost this country so much wealth, but even worse, so much time, are back in harness seeking to ride herd over us, producing nothing but more controls, more limitations on both production and consumption. Business men who attend Averell Harriman's pep conferences say that he and his staff always use the word "voluntary." He wants them to weaken their business voluntarily. Since when do sensible men voluntarily put their heads in nooses? Why should they?

Who started the present inflation? Was it not a product of phony statistics issued by the department of commerce when Henry Wallace was its chief? Did not those statistics lay the foundation for the policy that wages could be raised without raising prices? That was such an error that ultimately the statistics were repudiated even by Wallace. Meanwhile the country set off on an inflationary career which is just now beginning to pay off in heartaches. And to solve that, all that Mr. Harriman can think about is more of the same—controls, rationing, bunt! It is time to call a halt to that. Mr. Truman did it when he repudiated the "police state" upon which Mr. Harriman is, nevertheless, embarking him.

thousand years from now, Virginia, may ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

Church died a number of years ago, and the little Virginia whose faith in Santa Claus he kept is now Mrs. Edward Douglas, a widow and principal of a public school in Manhattan's lower East Side.

Curiously, the girl who asked the famous question and the man who gave the famous answer never met or saw each other.

"A friend of my family, however, was a neighbor to Mr. Church and complained that he kept dogs that barked too much," she laughed. "That was all I knew of him."

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"But the editorial that Mr. Church wrote means even more to me now

SIDE GLANCES



"I don't see why I should struggle for the next seven years to get a degree—you've got one, but you can't even work this algebra!"

STATIC

By HALE SCARBROUGH

Well, the horse man that tug-of-war up at Waterloo, yanking the 225-pound lumberjack out of a reclining position faster than Major Amos Hoople's alarm clock bed can get a drowsy citizen off his backside and onto his feet.

Regardless of the fact that several now discredited scientists and physicians said that Old Baldy couldn't do it, because of stresses and strains and trigonometry and things, I secretly suspected a quick finish in favor of the horse because of a belief inherited from my bow-legged ancestors that horses are stronger than people.

And that despite a human trail of mine for betting on races, horses that apparently don't have strength enough to pull their own noses out of a feedbag.

Perhaps Old Baldy won because he lived a clean life and trained on hay, which ain't money these days, while Chet Fitzpatrick, the timber beast, trained on beer and wassail.

Went to the woods yesterday afternoon to cut my Christmas fir—four-strings-of-lights size — and thereby discovered that there were more people in the forest bent on the same errand than there were in town. Seems that the only time some folk get out to commune with Nature is when they take their hatchet in hand in mid-December and blunder around in the tall timber looking for a suitable evergreen.

The pinch must be worse than I thought. The boys up Portland are selling used pinball machines (for home entertainment) at \$15 a copy. Some of the sets contain five times that much value in cabinet work alone. No doubt the new, 1948 models are just about to hit the floor. Barring, of course,

than then. As each year passes I see more in it."

His philosophy has influenced her own life, and she still believes with a whole heart in the things for which Santa Claus is one symbol.

Annually people from all parts of America write her the joy they have found in reading the famous editorial. She enjoys them all except a few from cranks who accuse her of personally inventing Santa Claus and of confusing the downtrodden masses.

Mrs. Douglas has a daughter and six grandchildren, and her lifetime teaching career has kept her close to the world of childhood. Her school is in a poor neighborhood which is predominantly Jewish. Until the board of education banned trees as fire hazards one Jewish parent who worked in a market arranged each year to provide a Christmas tree for every room in the school.

Plenty of Trees

"I doubt if he observed Christmas in his own home," said Mrs. Douglas. "But he always said that the school had plenty of trees."

A number of the children are heart patients or are crippled, and she is particularly interested in seeing that these handicapped ones have a good Christmas.

"Children today are more sophisticated than when I was young," she said. "They begin to have doubts about Santa Claus at an earlier age. One reason is they are more mechanically minded, and they just can't figure how Santa can do what he's supposed to with nothing but reindeer pulling him."

But she thinks both children and grownups everywhere in the disturbed modern world need to remember their simple faith in what Santa Claus stands for.

"You don't want to isolate children in a world of make-believe," she said. "But with international conditions what they are, any small happiness that can be provided to counterbalance harsh realities is a fine thing. What is Santa Claus but the spirit of giving?"

And Mrs. Edward Douglas says she still believed in him just as much today as little Virginia O'Hanlon did half a century ago.

PILES

Dr. E. M. MARSHA

408 N. 7th — Empire Theatre Bldg

Phone 7605

The World Today

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

There is no occasion for excitement, among either friends or foes of Russia, in Moscow's announcement of decision to devalue the ruble as a counter-measure against the inflation which has beset the country.

Inflation isn't a malady which attaches itself to any particular form of economy, but is as common as measles in these unhealthful post-war days. Even mighty America has a rash and the sniffles. So we shouldn't jump to conclusions about the seriousness of the Soviet sickness, despite the fact that a fortnight ago rumors of the forthcoming devaluation precipitated wild buying of durable goods of all sorts, ranging from clothing to choice china.

Naturally the Russian man-in-the-street and his family are far from happy to have the axe applied to their savings. The Moscow radio said the exchange rate for cash will be as high as ten old rubles for one of the new issue, and a 90 per cent slash in hard-earned savings is tough.

No Rationing

There's some element of the hardship in the qualification that for deposits in savings banks, amounts up to 3000 rubles will be exchanged at the even rate of one for one. Also, the government promises that rationing will be abolished on all food and industrial goods this month.

The official decree regarding devaluation said that the new currency is necessary because wartime monetary issues and a flood of false rubles put out by invading German troops inflated the economy so that some goods have been selling for 10 to 15 times their prewar price. The decree also aims at speculators who have been "accumulating great amounts of money, aiming at profits at the expense of the population."

When the so-called "panic buying" began some folk hastily decided that Russian economy was collapsing. However, close observers declined to adopt this thesis. U. S. Under Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett, told the senate appropriations committee that the situation didn't indicate a breakdown of Soviet economy, and that it would be a mistake to attach too much importance to the Russian buying spree.

Future Still Mystery

Of course this appraisal has to do with the current situation in Russia, and has no bearing on what may develop there in the future. The fact that there is inflation in the Soviet Union now obviously doesn't prove that the communist system of economy can't be made to work, any more than inflation in the United States proves that an economy based on private enterprise is wrong.

So far as the economy of communism is concerned, only time will demonstrate exactly what effect it will have on Russia and the countries which Moscow has brought under Red domination. One thing seems clear, and this is that a totalitarian government can make a tyrant of economy—no matter how extreme—work for a time. We saw Mussolini do it; we saw Hitler do it, and we have seen the Muscovites do it. Few things are beyond a police state which has the power of life and death over its subjects and can make them use beans for cash if it wants to.

However, the fact that an economy can be made to work under duress doesn't prove it to be good. There are many economists of the western world who believe strongly that the communist economy will blow up in due course. But there seems to be little disposition to accept the present inflation in Russia as providing support for that belief.

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 200 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules will be warmly welcomed.

Henley School Writes

HENLEY, Ore. — (To the Editor): The student body of Henley high school wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to the staff of the Herald and News for underwriting the class "B" state championship game between Henley and Amity.

We appreciate both your time and effort spent on the game and the excellent broadcasting to the football fans of the Klamath basin.

Thank you very much.
G. N. Elliott, Principal.
Mickey Rosano,
Student Body President.

Arthur Walsh Dies At Age Of 51

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (AP)—Arthur Walsh, 51, executive vice president of Thomas A. Edison, Inc. and former democratic U. S. senator from New Jersey, died Saturday. He was born in Newark, N. J.



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TOONERVILLE FOLKS

Dad CAN CERTAINLY BE AWFUL DUMB AT TIMES



The Doctor Says—

Psoriasis Held Harmless

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M. D.
Written for NEA Service

Psoriasis, pronounced with a silent "P," is a common skin disease. The skin lesions are most common at or about the elbows, knees and the scalp and lower back. Although the skin is disfigured, the disease is relatively harmless as far as life and general health are concerned.

The affected areas are usually bright red, flat with the skin, and scaly on the surface. There is a sharp dividing line between the normal skin and that which is affected by the disease.

It may start suddenly, or gradually, with only a few spots scattered on various parts of the body. It can cover only a small part of the skin, or spread to a great deal of the body surface.

In those cases where it starts suddenly, acute itching is common. In the more chronic cases, which are more frequent, there is little or no itching. Those portions of the skin which have been involved for a long time generally become covered with a thick scale. If this scale is scraped off, tiny points of bleeding appear underneath.

Unfortunately the cause of psoriasis, like so many other diseases of the skin, is not known. The condition frequently occurs in several members of the same family and this familial tendency has been noted by many doctors. Also psoriasis is frequently associated with certain kinds of arthritis.

People between 10 and 30 years old are the most likely to be affected. The cause is almost certainly not an infection. There is a tendency for the skin lesions of

psoriasis to come and go over a period of time.

Many treatments are being used for psoriasis. Most of them bring about good results, at least temporarily. However, it is very common for people with psoriasis to get better for a time after treatment, then to get worse again and, if the treatment is tried again, not to improve at all.

The remedies most commonly used by skin specialists for psoriasis include coal tar ointments, exposure to ultra-violet rays, and, sometimes, X-ray. In spite of favorable reports of one or another type of treatment, for psoriasis almost every year, there is as yet no single treatment which brings about good results in all patients without failures.

Classified Ads Bring Results

Our Home Town

Sure, Prices Are High — But

By EARL WHITLOCK

But don't be panicked into thinking they are higher than they are, or that catastrophe is imminent because of them. Reading back half or three quarters of a century, I am unable to find a single period where there has been prosperity in the land without high prices. Don't ask me why this marriage should be so uniform. I don't know. But it has always been. And the principle advantage of prosperity, according to the record, is that in such times, there was a job for any man who was willing to do a fair job of work. In times of depression that is not true. Frankly, too, I think a lot of folks who are shrieking the loudest about high prices are those who, for the past four or five years have never looked at the prices there at the grocers. They have ordered what they wanted, paid for it and taken it away. Now, for the first time, they are conscious of price, so they look at the price tag. It is the same old price tag that has been before them for years with perhaps a very slight upward revision. But they see it really for the first time. It says 69c. And the buyer says to herself—"My goodness, gracious! 69 cents for that. Why I can remember when I could buy that for 42 cents."

This example may not be true for all those who are complaining. But a lot of food dealers will assure you that it's at the base of much of the high price hysteria.

Next week, Mr. Whitlock of the EARL WHITLOCK FUNERAL HOME will comment on "MERRY CHRISTMAS."



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Boyle's Column

Little Virginia Believes In Santa Claus To This Day

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (AP)—Just 50 years ago, a small girl, panged with doubt, sat down and wrote a letter to a newspaper that asked an immortal question—and received an immortal answer.

The girl was 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon. Her troubled question: "Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?"

Today little Virginia is a 58-year-old school principal who never since has questioned the reality of Santa Claus.

The newspaperman who answered her back in 1897 with an unsigned editorial published in the New York

thousand years from now, Virginia, may ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

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Curiously, the girl who asked the famous question and the man who gave the famous answer never met or saw each other.

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