

Herald and News

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Exodus of the Wildfowl

THE exodus of the migratory waterfowl of a week ago Sunday was a dramatic event, a thrilling extravaganza that's hinted in the distant hark of the first geese each spring and fall if you can bring yourself to look at it in that light.

On Saturday, the 17th, there were millions of ducks and geese feeding in the stubble fields and meadows of the basin. Then, with the big snowfall of Saturday night and Sunday, the birds became restive—and were on their way.

Never have so many ducks and geese stayed so late in such numbers, happily feeding on the stubble with no hunters to stir them up for nearly six weeks. Never have the flocks left so simultaneously, as the snow sealed over the feeding grounds.

Don Fisher, of the Lava Beds national monument, who had a wonderful vantage point to watch the exodus, said that the flight that Sunday was not just flock after flock, but was one steady flight of birds heading the call to the greener pastures and open ponds of the California rice fields.

LOOKING at it another way, it brings us back to the fraud of the split season. Actually, Klamath hunters got a 194-day season. Well, add the half day on December 10 when the second half opened. Then the boys had a chance to wallow in the snow, flounder through the ice, fire occasionally to speed a straggle after his departed feathered brethren, and generally have a good outing. After that the stragglers were gone and the snow and ice got to be an old story. Anyway, call it 20 days.

From the coast, Willamette and Columbia river hunting spots come word of dissatisfaction also. Their consensus is that the first season was too early there; and, along the Columbia, having different seasons in Oregon and Washington simply moved the birds across to the side that was closed. The latter makes sense, from our experience when Oregon and California seasons didn't match.

It's not an easy chore to satisfy hunters in a state with the varied conditions that Oregon has, but the old game commission seemed to do worse instead of better with each try.

We still believe that first consideration should be given to the areas that support the most ducks and geese, and that the Klamath basin has been handed the dirty end of the stick. Certainly the grain growers of the Klamath basin feed more birds than all the rest of the state.

Bear in mind, though, that there's a new commission that's working it out now. You can't blame them for the present fiasco. Let's hope they can profit by the horrible example.

If it's true that the season has to be kept open late for west of the mountains areas, and can't be kept open at the right time here also (though I won't vouch for that), then obviously some kind of a split season is needed. How about going whole hog and doing it this way:

Open the season in all of California, Oregon and Washington from the first of October through January. Then have shooting only on two or three or however many days a week the powers that be figure the duck crop will stand.

That way each area would have a go at hunting sometime during that span of time, when the birds were at hand. Having only alternate days, or a day or two a week, for shooting would minimize the event of hunters booming in on an area when the birds had come in, and raising hob with both the birds and the hunting.

At any rate, let's have our time at duck and goose hunting by the end of November, because most years it's frozen up, snowed in, and the birds have gone after that.

Sometimes, I can't get away from the idea that the only reason for protecting and fostering the quackers

is for the benefit of those who love to get out in the marshes and fields after them.

World Today

By DEWITT MacKENZIE
THIS is a great day for the newborn United States of Indonesia, which is taking over power from the Dutch government in Batavia and is embarking on self-rule.

By the same token it's a day of mixed emotions for the "mother country," since in this transfer Holland loses a major portion of the empire over which she had held prouder and profitable sway for more than three centuries. Control of the fabulous riches in oil and rubber and spices thus reverts to the natives, although of course Dutch interests still retain their investments.

SO The Netherlands join Britain in exemplifying that the days of empires are numbered. The time when the peoples of one race can impose their rule on another race is all but gone. The East Indies are following India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon into the realm of self-determination, and the imperial crowns of England and Holland have lost the greatest of their gems.

True the U. S. of Indonesia is to be a part of a federated commonwealth which is linked with Holland by the Dutch crown. However, the arrangement is very similar to that of the British commonwealth and Indonesia has full sovereignty.

The new government has the blessing of America. The members of the Indonesian government for the most part are strongly anti-communist and as things now stand the nation may become a powerful defense against the red offensive for control of the Far East.

America's friendship has been further emphasized by the manner in which the Washington government raced against time and got a big shipment of Marshall Plan supplies away to Indonesia before the new republic became ineligible on assumption of power today. This shipment totaled \$37,500,000 and included rice and textiles.

Moreover, President Truman is expected to extend diplomatic recognition to Indonesia almost immediately. Russia deliberately put herself on the outs with the government of the U. S. of Indonesia by attacking its members in the United Nations as traitors because of their settlement with the Dutch.

As a matter of fact the Indonesian minister of defense, Sultan Hamenaku Bowono, said that he expected troublemakers to try to mar the ceremony of transfer today, and he was providing armed force to maintain order. He didn't identify the possible source of trouble, but it was apparent that he had communists in mind.

As for the Dutch and Indonesian troops, who only five months ago were fighting each other, they appeared to have buried the hatchet. Christmas Day these old "enemies" played football against each other.

WITH the loss of this rich island federation and its population of some 77,000,000, Holland's empire is reduced to a comparative whisper. She still has The Netherlands West Indies and Surinam (Dutch Guiana) on the Atlantic coast of South America. The total area of the islands is about 381 square miles and the population is approximately 108,617. The area of Surinam is 83,143 square miles, and the population is set at 188,484.

As compared with the wealth of the East Indies, the West Indies islands are drab property indeed. Dutch Guiana may prove to be a treasure field if and when the Dutch are able to develop it.

Surinam lies between British Guiana and French Guiana, and that whole area represents one of the world's most inhospitable spots. Holland, by the way, secured Surinam from England in 1667 by the treaty of Breda. The Dutch gave New Netherlands (New York) to Britain for the South American colony.

I've visited the three Guianas and, believe me, there are few worse places than the Guiana hinterland, away from the coast. It comprises well-nigh impenetrable jungle which is infested with every kind of death you can imagine—poisonous snakes, box constrictors which can crush and swallow a man, vampire bats, poisonous insects, poisonous water, poisonous plants. And there are savage Indians who shoot poisonous darts from blow pipes.

However, in those jungles there are various kinds of precious wood, gold and diamonds. Holland may cash in handsomely some distant day when she has overcome these awful hazards.

Once the children know their role, let us leave them. When we hear screams we should give heed, even if we are often fooled. The safety of the child comes first, but cool heads will do more.

Somewhere near at hand may be a devil on the run, or an automobile hurtling away. Follow either if you can; get a good look, a description and the number of the car. Stay on the trail; let others call the police. It takes them time to respond; you are there and you will return with what they need to know.

Keep your head. Don't pick a fight, but don't lose sight of your man. It's worth an all night chase. Let's give the cops a lift; the kids a break. Let's be vigilantes all.

It is doubtful the efficacy of a youngster's yell try to recall what of becoming part of an area-wide violent interruption of the status quo sometime came to your attention when a child screamed and ran. No alarm can quite approach it.

We cannot always be sure where our children are. They must play them in a vault. They must play and they must go to and from school, which is what and where their enemies often lurk. We know that almost always in their path are dependable people, on the streets or in houses, who need only be alerted to save our little wards.

It seems to me that our duty as parents is to impress the scream and doorbell defense on every child's mind, perhaps have drills in it and ask that teachers help in our task.

The only weapon God gives a little kid is a lump of lime. Let's encourage him to use it in his own defense and teach him how. We cannot save them all but we can save many who are lured by honeyed words, or asked to "take a ride."

SIDE GLANCES



"Maybe you could blast more bandits with your atomic gun, but I'd do a neater job with my cowboy six-shooter!"

Boyle's Column

The Little Tree's Singing Was for Spirit, Not Money

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK, (AP)—Once upon a Christmas Eve there was a young couple so poor they couldn't afford a chimney for Santa Claus to come down.

But they were so in love they didn't really mind — too much. "Let's see what's left in the piggy bank," said the husband. He shook it, and out dropped a quarter.

"I'll buy you a handkerchief with it," he said. "No, I'll buy you some pipe she said. So they had a fun quarrel for a few moments on how they should spend their last two bits. Finally they agreed it should go for a Christmas tree.

They went to a grocery store, and the owner said, "Oh, I sold all my Christmas trees hours ago—all except that runt one on the floor there. You can have it for nothing — if you'll just take it away."

It was a thin, scrawny tree with knobby branches, but the young couple took it eagerly. They spent the quarter on some cranberries and popcorn.

When they got home, they strung the cranberries and popcorn on some twigs and hung them in garlands on the little tree. And to the top branch they pinned a star made from tinfoil.

"Our first Christmas tree together — isn't it beautiful?" they said—and kissed.

The heart of the little Christmas tree almost burst with pride. "Oh, if I could do something to repay them," it thought. And then it remembered the carols it had heard over the radio in the grocery store. "Oh, if I only had a voice — I could sing to them."

It decided to try. Its little needles stirred mightily, and then — just at the stroke of midnight — a merry little carol from its branches: "Jingle bells, jingle bells..."

The startled couple ran to see. "What our tree is singing to us!" said the husband.

When morning came, the young couple found the little tree had withered overnight. Its star had fallen to the floor among all its needles. The branches were bare.

"Sing," said the young man anxiously shaking it. "Sing! But the little tree was silent. It had sung out its song.

And the young wife, wise for her years, put the tinfoil star away in a drawer, and slipped her arm around her husband. "We have had our miracle."

"Moral: You can't expect Santa Claus to earn you a living — especially on December 26th."

THE BILLBOARD

By BILL JENKINS

NOW at the end of the year is a good time to check up on a few of the things that may not be with us in the year to come. Like names. The newsroom gang got to checking around the other day and found that styles have changed. Where everything used to be pine this or pelican that Klamath now leads the list.

The city-booster minded businessmen have named 73 organizations with the name of the town. Pelican and cascade vie for second place honors with eight apiece and pine is way down at the end of the list with only four.

Seven years ago the ration was almost the same. Going over a 1943 phone book we find 46 firms listed under the Klamath something or other tag, six pelicans, two cascades and four pines. Wonder what will be in style next year?

A SEASON'S greetings card from the Order of the Antelope this morning turns thoughts to far away Hart mountains and next July. Even with snow on the ground and the summer season far off the card brings with it a hint of mountain fragrance and a memory of good times and good guys. All the best to all the gang.

THERE is good news on the county financial fronts this morning. A report from the state director of the bond sale drive tells us that E bond sales for the year have exceeded the same period of 1946 by \$30,000. Guess we're not all broke, although this past week-end put an awful crimp in me, at least. Andy Collier, the county chairman for the bond sales comes along with the encouraging news that sales of savings bonds in Klamath county in November totaled \$45,000 as compared to \$22,500 in October. A bargain like you get in the bonds is just too good to pass up. And the buying public is proving it by sticking to their guns and grabbing all they can.

THREE Farms in the state of Oregon now total over two million acres. That's a lot of trees to furnish lumber for the coming generations. And one of the reasons why Oregon is still the top lumber producing area of the nation.

THE new license plates are beginning to show up on the streets in goodly numbers now. With their slight change in coloring they give the impression of being out-of-state tags.

TELLING THE EDITOR
Letters printed here must not be longer than 300 words. Must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper, and must be signed by the correct NAME AND ADDRESS. Contributions following these rules are promptly welcomed.

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—I cannot figure out why the city council and police department do not eliminate the stop sign coming out from under the sign. It's on a sign and cars have to stop, and then try to get started and slip and slide all over.

Saturday one car smashed back into another and he in turn hit the car in the rear of him. It may work OK in summer but not winter. I wonder why the chamber of commerce and all the safety men haven't spoken of this hazard. They all may after a bad accident. And the hazard is after the snow storm is over.

Why leave the snow piled up in the middle of the street, especially on South Sixth where it is pushed up on the center islands and left until spring, but in the meantime on warm days it melts and runs back onto streets and then freezes?

For safety and the general appearance both, these suggestions should be carried out. Keep Klamath safe.

CHARLES DUTMER
602 Shasta Way.

DEDUCTED
But any benefits under the GI bill of rights, like schooling or on-the-job training, would be deducted from a veteran's bonus.

Rep. Pace (D-Cal.) has put in a broader bill. It would pay \$4 or \$5 and omit the GI deductions.

The VFW is backing for the Rankin bonus bill and apparently is more enthusiastic about it than the other veterans' organizations. But a VFW spokesman, John Williamson, said he doubts it will be pushed next year.

"I think the feeling is," he said, "that we just aren't ready for it at this time of high employment and production."

The bonus for World War II service men was out through during the depression of the '30's. Williamson said the Rankin bonus bill might cost around \$1,000,000,000 or \$15,000,000,000 against \$3,500,000,000 for the World War I bonus.

Nation Today

We Could Conquer Cancer If We Were More Civilized

By JAMES MARLOW
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—This is the day when guys like me, who have to spin a daily piece for the papers, know that Christmas is the wrong time to write about death or taxes.

Too much Christmas spirit in the air. Too many people interested in other things. So we write brightly about Santa Claus or we put lively rhymes together.

Please excuse me this year. All over America, I know, families were together this week-end to light a tree, exchange presents, sing songs, relax, wish each other well, and feel full of cheer.

It's wonderful that it happens. But first, to feel the cheer, they need good health. They need to have inside them the driving sense of life and the knowledge that they can take part in it with vigor.

So good health is the basis of real cheer. The cheer rings hollow for the man whose vigor is diminishing and whose life is dwindling. This year I can understand how true that is.

A man in my office has cancer. He's 38, a veteran, married, with two children, a 12, one 9. He's been buying a home in the woods seven miles from Washington. He's been happier there than in any home he ever lived in. After years of paying rent, this was his own home at last. Or it would have been some years from now, when he finished buying it.

Three months ago he fell ill. And a week ago the doctor told him he was saturated with cancer. The doctor told him he's so loaded with it that life for him may be over in another few months.

It's not a good Christmas for him. And the knowledge of what has overtaken him has thrown sadness over the whole office where the men are all good friends, with a warm feeling of kinship for one another.

I went to see him the other day. He knew life was being chewed away inside him. He had lost weight until he looked like the ghost of a ghost. His right arm was useless, his left arm almost useless.

We sat in the living room of his home which he had been buying at great sacrifice. The sun was shining through the window. He had cut down a lot of trees to let sunlight come through.

He had always been a gentle man with great patience. He was calm and patient now, knowing what his had and what the doctors told him lay ahead for him.

He looked at the bright window and through it at the bright trees outside, stirring in the crisp winter wind. "It's beautiful outside," he said. It was his way of saying: That's the world out there, I love being alive in it, but I may not be able to in it much again.

Many More
All over America this Christmas there are people like him, sitting in a room, being consumed by cancer, looking at the sunlight or the snow on a lawn, a tree, or the house across the street, saying "It's beautiful outside."

For them this Christmas doesn't have the meaning it has for the people blessed with the full vigor of a healthy life.

Work is being done on cancer. I know, a lot of work. But at this moment the world is pouring its greatest riches into preparations for war, or defense against war, depending on how you look at it.

And millions of people being merry at Christmas will someday die of cancer, too, because the problem of cancer hasn't been solved.

Thought
I know this has been said before but it has come home to me with an even sharper realization this Christmas.

If the world were a little more civilized, maybe we could pour more of mankind's genius into solving the riddle of cancer and making it possible for more people to enjoy more Christmases.

Money alone isn't the answer. Brains and training are needed, too, for cancer research. Meanwhile about 200,000 a year in this country are dying of cancer, which is about 350 a day, or 20 an hour while you read this.

BUS STRIKE
OTTUMWA, Ia. Dec. 27 (AP)—Bus drivers went on strike at 12:01 a. m. here today, leaving this Southern Iowa city of about 35,000 persons without public transportation.

Fast Finish

New Trade Records Recorded As Business Year Nears End

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (AP)—A strong finish in retail trade powered a new upswing in commerce and industry last week.

Many indicators of activity were at the highest point since early this year, others compared most favorably with the best performance chalked up since the current boomlet started; still others broke records standing 20 years or longer.

At the end of the six biggest retailing days of the year, virtually every observer in the retail trade was confident volume figures would show a new high. If they do, it will be the 12th year in a row that new records have been set for the country's vast store business.

While there was some disappointment at the slow demand for special lines of merchandise, standard Christmas gifts priced within the means of the average shopper hit the jackpot time and again.

Unreasonably warm weather in Eastern states hurt the winter sports trade but prospects were excellent that this merchandise would move with the first snow fall.

Television sales, high enough to bring gasps of astonishment from veteran retailers, continued at a high level.

John W. Craig, head man in the big Crosley division of Avco manufacturing said TV business this year had exceeded the fondest hopes of the industry and the future looked rosy from where he stood.

"The industry generally forecast that 2,000,000 receivers would be made and sold this year," he said. "The number actually has reached 2,700,000. . . . There has been a tremendous surge in demand in the last three months and it is probable that 1,000,000 more receivers could have been sold in these three months had they been available."

On the industrial front steel production was the highest since the middle of May at 94.5 per cent of capacity. This compared with last week's 94.1 and 88.6 a year ago when Christmas on Friday cut into output. Tomorrow this week was 1,741,190 against 1,724,790 last week and 1,897,000 a year ago.

Everything appeared so rosy in this industry, notwithstanding some grumbling by consumers over the increase in prices, that Carnegie-Illinois steel, the largest single producer, fired up its old 32-inch mill at the Homestead works in order to add to overall output. The mill had been out of operation since last June.

Charlie Read Saddlery WILL BE CLOSED From Christmas Until Jan. 3

Vigilantes

A Christmas Present for the Children And Some Valuable Advice for Parents

By FRANK TRIP
This is a Christmas present for your child. Please deliver it for me. A boy set up a howl such as only young boys can produce, and ran up the steps to the nearest doorway. He put his finger on the doorknob, held it there and continued screaming at the top of his voice.

It had been taught to do this if approached by a stranger on the street.

It happened that no one was at home in the house to which he ran but the youngster's screams caused heads to pop out of many doors and windows in the block. The neighbors saw a man hurrying away in an automobile.

The boy did his part and was saved but the adults failed in theirs. The purpose of the alarm was not known to the people who could have made detection of a perfect almost certain. Before they gathered their wits the car had sped away, its license number unnoted. Witnesses could only agree that the car was a black sedan and that the man wore a dark coat.

Children Aids
This children themselves can do something about the growing wave of sex crime which stalks the country and breaks out in unanticipated spots. Parents and authorities know not where or when friends will strike next, nor how heinous their approach will be.

Laws will punish when not administered with manly-patience lenience. Yet whether pitiable peccator or the lowest type of demon, the most severe administration of law will not save little victims or head the headstrokes that cunning sexual pervers leave in their wake. It will deter some but not stop all. A better means of detection at the source is needed. It must be a simple defense that a child can set up. This youngster's defense was simple indeed and easily taught. Some wise parent thought it out.

Routeing Rules
Now about making this routine instruction in every home: That chil-

Priority

Veterans' Pension Bill Being Readied for New Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—A Pension bill in the house are the top priority items for veterans in the congressional session starting a week from today.

A bonus bill for World War II veterans is in the background. Even its strongest supporters among veterans' organizations don't expect this multi-billion dollar measure to get anywhere in the next session.

The house already has passed a liberalized pension bill for veterans of both world wars. Now it's up to the senate to act.

Over
There have been estimates that over the next half century the bill would set the taxpayers back around \$8,800,000,000.

One of its major features provides that any veteran would be considered permanently and totally disabled upon reaching age 65. He could get a \$72-a-month pension if he had no dependents and an income below \$200 a year, or if he had dependents and an income below \$250.

Chairman Rankin (D-Miss.) told a reporter the first bill the house veterans' committee will consider probably will be an insurance measure supported by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Anvets.

The bill is on the technical side and wouldn't apply to any tremendous number of veterans, committee officials said.

One reason the organizations want it is that it would give veterans with service connected disabilities an extra two years to apply for or reinstate national service life insurance. The time runs out at the end of this year.

Rankin has a bonus bill pending before his committee but isn't showing much of an inclination to push it. It would give World War II veterans \$3 for each day of service in this country and \$4 for each day of active service overseas.

"IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY" by L. L. Lombard



WHY GAMBLE ON SMOOTH, TREADLESS TIRES? OUR TIRES ARE GUARANTEED AND REASONABLY PRICED! LOMBARD MOTORS 522 SO. 6th KLAMATH FALLS, ORE. PH. 8101