

# Herald and News

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By BILL JENKINS  
Sometimes it can be hard to live up to what we like to refer to as our ideals.

I'm suffering from that right now.

Like Voltaire who once said he didn't agree with the chap but would defend with his life his (the chap's) right to say it.

I defend the right of the writers to write and the publishers to publish the books they go today. All part of a free press. But I can't agree with their choice.

I refer to the recent trend away from good wholesome whodunits that has sprung up among our budding authors.

Used to be (in the good old days) you could go down to the magazine stand and find half a dozen fresh and gory murder mysteries. Now you look over the same shelves and find that the brain teasers are mostly reprints of old books and all the material runs the love story type.

"Love Among the Haystacks, One Night Stand, City of Love, Hitch Hike to Romance, She Wanted Love, etc."

These may be all well and good and no doubt will sell well. Otherwise they wouldn't be on the shelves.

But I find it hard not to shed a nostalgic tear for the good old days when men would get up and let their women to go off and face sudden death via the gun, knife, drowning, torture, cages apes and what not that the blood and gore boys had been feeding us for so many years.

What happened to the Thin Man? Where has Jimmy Valentine gone? Are there to be no more Raffles in our literary boundaries? Even the red-blooded and virile writers of the present day have slowed down. Mickey Spillane has given his Mike Hammer a rest for some months now (not that the guy didn't need it) and there has not been a real honest-to-goodness chilling shocker for a long time.

If you don't like the romance stories you can always turn, of course, to the historical novel but these are so heavily dusted with fiction as to make them almost unbearable. Or they are direct steals from the master pieces of a bygone age. You know you've read it before but keep on going to see what new angle the author will work out to ease his way through the treacherous rapids of the plagiarism laws.

The same kind of pap turned out for those thin-minded people who haven't the energy or the intelligence to choose their own reading material but being to club books and subscribe to the Readers Digest and allow their minds to be packed with the opinions, prejudices and beliefs of another. (They don't even know if the editor is a man of intelligence, character and knowledge or not. All they care about is reading something they can quote at a cocktail party without having to study to get it.)

Anyway, let's bring back the whodunit. In this world of strife and pain there must be some release. And it's not to be found in the arms of a literary rone or along the paths of a distorted and twisted historical monstrosity.

If you'll bring back our mystery stories and restore the vitality and gristle they used to have, you'll succeed also in bringing American literature back up to a level where it belongs.

We've let ourselves be led into every pitfall that man can devise to date, but please, let's not let our nation down by bastardizing the written word. There is a higher aim in writing than the mere fact of a few cents a word paid by the publisher.

The so-called "better books" that various clubs review and that you quote with pride are mostly a lot of high-minded nonsense with little or no meaning. The serious and studious works turned out by honest authors go unheeded because the heroine, if any, turns out to be flat chested.

But in the good old mystery story you have a solid foundation from which to launch greater efforts.

Let's bring back the whodunit!

Notice a story in the paper yesterday that the legislators are talk-

ing about holding a meeting to discuss what is weather control?

New one on me.

If man can control the weather who is the dirty so and so that controlled all the snow for us this winter—and they will!

I've always regarded weather as one of the great cosmic mysteries controlled by gods higher and mightier than mere man.

And now the legislature wants to take it over.

How ridiculous can man get?

I'm not gonna mention spring again, honest, but if I did it might be to mourn another loss.

The stultified gopher.

Over the years as agriculture grew and grew the poor little old gopher (there went a lot of friendships with farmers) tossed in the towel and went over the Great Divide.

There was never a sport that had more appeal to the average man than picking a good meadow or a warm and springlike day and shooting a gopher. You hunkered down in a field of sweet-smelling clover, took a good rest with your trusty shotgun in hand, scanned the area with a pair of glasses until you found your squirrel and then started changing away at him.

Nice clean sport, helpful to everyone but the gopher.

Lot more fun than sitting around a smoky tavern and shooting pool. But there aren't gophers left to shoot.

It's a sad old world, 'aint it?

Someone walked in this office recently and left a handful of those G-E wild west show cutouts lying about. They were left your editor took the bull by the horns (no mean feat if you've never tried it) and attempted to prove that he had at least the ability if not the brains of a ten-year-old child.

Five years later thirty two of the sixty-five cut pieces were assembled. Horses, mules, cowboys, a stagecoach (with wheels that turn and a four horse team) an Indian tepee, a cowgirl and a scene depicting a hunter running down a brace of buffalo.

It's true what they say.

Any child can assemble this.

Any child, that is, who has a college degree, a masters from MIT and a father who is a civil engineer of some note.

But it serves to pass the time.

And proved to the customers that all editors eventually come to cutting out paper dolls.

I feel a little better about not getting things done.

Last fall, a few days before the hunting season opened I took a shogun down to Carl Schubert to have some work done on it. Rib was busted loose, a suspicious rattle somewhere down in the works, etc. Told Carl I didn't need it until the season opened but had to have it by then.

The next thing I knew it was this week and I was talking to Carl one day. Suddenly remembered the shotgun and my demand to have it out not later than last October.

Started to apologize to Carl and what did I find out?

He hasn't finished the gun yet, either.

So I guess Carl knows me better than I know myself.

Of course, had I gone down there two days later the gun would have been finished. Carl's too good a gunsmith to let that slip up on him.

But it must prove something or other.

Like maybe that people are prone to forget things?

Hank Semon is packing around a fascinating little clipping from a Portland paper.

An ad offering a sea-going boat for hire for a year or longer.

After reading it yesterday we decided to take the owner up on his offer and shove off for a few months at sea.

Only two arguments over the thing.

Hank wants to go to Alaska.

I want to go to the South Seas.

If we can reach a settlement on that score there will be only one small hurdle to surmount.

Anybody got money lying around they don't need?

## They'll Do It Every Time



NEW YORK (AP)—Space is no longer a matter of distance. To conquer the gap between us and the moon is now a matter of money, relatively no more expensive for the American nation today than it was for a ship that a generation ago to gamble her year's savings on a voyage to Bermuda.

His name was Wernher Von Braun, the German inventor of the deadly V-2 rocket that almost forced Britain to capitulate in the last World War.

Von Braun is a tall, blond, blue-eyed scientist who now is enlisted on the side of American arms and says he wants to be an American citizen. There is no doubt he is a genius. He has already proved it.

His genius is now devoted to a very simple proposition. He spends his time selling it with the same simple ardor of a young salesman peddling a new vacuum cleaner.

He has figured out a way he can shoot up a rocket some 1,075 miles or so beyond the reach of gravity.

He has figured that if he can shoot up twelve of them he can build a doughnut-shaped watchtower holding 36 men who can spy down as they circle the earth every two hours and use their platform through radar to control the world.

"An enemy just couldn't hide any more," he said. "We could call down fire on him wherever he was. If we don't build this space station, the Russians will sooner or later."

Von Braun says he can safely get men up and back from this whirling space station, even rocket them on to an exploratory trip to the moon and return them whole.

"It would take only four billion dollars and ten years to do," he said. "That is only a fraction of the American military budget."

Listening to him I had no feeling of doubt that his project could be done. But I had no sense of victory over space. I only felt depressed.

If Von Braun is voted the money he wants and bold men carry out his plans successfully, they will have negated the obstacle of the sky.

But when, 30 years ago, I made a 45-mile trip into the unknown to visit my father's birthplace there was someone we had come far and risked much discomfort to see, waiting at journey's end.

Who's waiting up yonder?

## KICKIN' AROUND



WASHINGTON (AP)—The professional politicians must be badly confused. Life was comparatively simple until the primary election in New Hampshire and Minnesota.

Go around and meet the people, shake hands with them, and get on the TV screens in their living rooms so you can get your ideas across to them. They seem like three obvious and wonderful ways of getting votes.

And maybe they are. But the results in New Hampshire and Minnesota don't prove it. At the same time they don't disprove it.

The uncertainty of all this must be a hardship on any politician who'd like an easy formula.

General Eisenhower, whose TV appearances have been few and far between, who stayed in Europe where he didn't meet the local people, and who never shook a local hand trounced Sen. Taft in New Hampshire and far-outdistanced him in Minnesota where the voters had to write in the names of both men.

Yet Taft has probably made more TV appearances in the past few years, and particularly in the past year, than any office-seeker hands all over New Hampshire. He stayed out of Minnesota.

The Taft people shrugged off Eisenhower's New Hampshire success, where the state political machine was backing him, and they expressed satisfaction at Tru-

showing in Minnesota although Eisenhower ran far ahead of him.

The Eisenhower people, of course, played up their victory in both states for all it was worth considering the attention given the victory, it seems to be worth plenty.

The only other place where it seemed the people could express their feelings about the two men was in New Jersey in a direct preference primary but now Taft withdrew there and says he won't campaign. This will cloud up the vote there.

But if any politician is drawing a lesson from the Taft-Eisenhower results, Senator Estes Kefauver rises to haunt them because Kefauver in a write-in vote in Minnesota and a direct preference in New Hampshire ran far ahead of President Truman.

President Truman did just what Eisenhower did: He stayed away from New Hampshire and Minnesota and never shook a hand in either place.

Kefauver trooped all over New Hampshire, sticking out his hand whenever he could to strangers, saying "I'm Estes Kefauver, Ma'am. I'm running for President and I'd like your support."

While the state Republican machine backed the victorious Eisenhower in New Hampshire, the state Democratic machine backed the President against Kefauver



**BEATING THE MARRIAGE DEADLINE**—Four American soldiers and their Japanese brides say "I do" at the U.S. Consulate in Tokyo. More than 600 servicemen paid \$2.30 each at six American Consulates in Japan during the last three days before the deadline to qualify their wives for entry into the United States. Left to right: Richard Nethercut performs ceremony for Donald D. Kuhn of Bellflower, Calif., Raymond B. Brotherton of Los Angeles, Joseph Kosloski of Oliphant, Pa., and Robert B. Varner of Monterey, Va., and their brides.

## Congress Lowers Boom On Army Engineers Over African Air Base Waste

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional charges of fraud, waste and inefficiency in building multi-million-dollar airbases in North Africa brought a drastic shakeup Saturday of Army Engineers who handled the job.

Secretary of the Army Pace started the action late Friday.

He also notified private contractors working on the huge overseas project that he will suspend or terminate their cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts unless they take prompt remedial action.

Chairman Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.) of the Senate prepared-

ness subcommittee, which has been investigating the African project for months, announced the Pentagon orders after receiving a letter from Pace outlining them.

"This should help the Army, the Air Force and especially the taxpayers," Johnson said. "It takes steps that should have been taken a long time ago."

"This is a warning to this group of builders and all other government contractors in this nation," the senator said. "We don't intend to tolerate incompetence on contracts if it involves a sack of coffee of a million dollars."

Johnson said his watchdog committee will continue its investigation and public hearing on the bases.

Pace promised that the Army will take energetic action "to recover all money" shown by congressional hearings "to have been improperly spent."

The rush order on the top-

secret air bases was decided upon shortly after North Korean Communists invaded South Korea in June, 1950.

The Army engineers were put in charge of the project and they asked five large contracting firms to form a combine, Atlas Constructors, to rush completion of five bases. Speed was the prime consideration.

Original cost estimates of 250 or 300 million dollars now have soared to 455 million as sites have been switched several times.

The secretary said he had directed Lt. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, chief of Army Engineers, to relieve the two engineer officers now in charge in Africa, Col. George Derby and Lt. Col. Leonard Haseman.

He said Brig. Gen. Horwell E. Walsh will command a new engineering division in the Mediterranean area, and the Moroccan air bases will come under his supervision.

## Sugar Beet Growers On Losing Side

ONTARIO Ore. (AP)—Sugar beet growers of the Nyssa-Nampa District took a big million dollar beating with the announcement Friday that unharvested 1951 beets were not fit to be processed.

Some 2,000 acres were left unharvested because of weather. About half the acreage is in Malheur County. The total loss is put at 40,000 tons with a gross income value of \$500,000.

Jed Lewis, manager of the Nyssa-Nampa District for Amalgamated Sugar Company, made the report of rapid deterioration.

Lewis said the plants had been on a stand-by basis for weeks hoping that growers would be able to get into the fields and speed the beets in for processing while they still could be salvaged. But it's too late now, he said.

There is some question of whether the farmers will have to dig them anyway to prepare their fields for the 1952 crop. Lewis said he thought that probably this would not be necessary.

There will be a partial recovery for the growers through federal abandonment payments. Glen L. Hutchison, chairman of the Malheur County Production and Marketing Administration, said the payments would average \$15 to \$20 an acre. The growers have an investment of around \$70 to \$80 an acre in the beets they couldn't get harvested. This payment money comes from a processing tax on sugar refineries.

Cause of the harvesting failure was unusually wet weather in October and November followed by an early freeze.

## Crime Group Lingers On

OLYMPIA (AP)—The on-again-off-again hearings of the Legislative Crime Investigating Committee were off again Saturday.

Committee Chairman Albert D. Rosellini said the committee was authorized a new State Supreme Court order to go ahead with crime hearings in Aberdeen Monday as planned, but he does not think it will.

He said he thought the hearings should be put off until after the high court can rule on the scope of the committee's authority.

The hearings into crime and corruption in Grays Harbor were blocked last week when an Aberdeen police officer obtained a ruling from Thurston County Superior Judge Charles T. Wright that the committee had no authority to delve into vice conditions at the local city and county level of government.

Judge Wright was to have entered a formal order to that effect Friday, but Rosellini obtained a State Supreme Court order prohibiting him from doing so.

The high court will hear arguments next Friday as to whether Judge Wright shall be permanently enjoined from entering orders

## Apprentice 'Plans To Be Talked

SALEM (AP)—Training of apprentices for The Dalles Dam and

## Blue Sox Open Drills

LAKEVIEW—The Blue Sox, Central Oregon League baseball champions, open practice for the 1952 season indoors Tuesday.

Manager Hugh Mercer is asking all candidates to report to the Lakeview High School gym 7:30 p. m.

blocking the committee's hearings into local crime.

**FOR MEN ONLY**

Guests Welcomed at  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
North Eighth and Washington  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**  
9:45 a.m., Come to Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship Service,  
"JESUS WILL COME AGAIN"  
6:15 p.m., Training Union, Showing Religions Film  
7:30 p.m., Worship, "CHRISTIAN FIRST PRINCIPLES"

Dr. E. M. Cousy  
Pastor

## James Marlow

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who drowned Truman in votes.

This completely contradictory situation can only add to the dismay of the professional politicians in search of simple solutions to the vote-getting problem.

Add to all this the fact that in the past few years Kefauver—unlike the seldom TV'd but still victorious Eisenhower—has probably been seen on as many living room TV screens, if not more, than Truman. For Kefauver was on TV daily when his Senate committee was investigating crime.

It's quite possible that the voters in New Hampshire and Minnesota simply did what came naturally—voted for the man they liked—without being impressed by local speeches, handshakes or TV appearances.

Israel is now exporting marble from quarries unused for almost 2,000 years.

The copper blues of ancient Persian clay tiles were obtained by using glazes that were free from lead and aluminum.

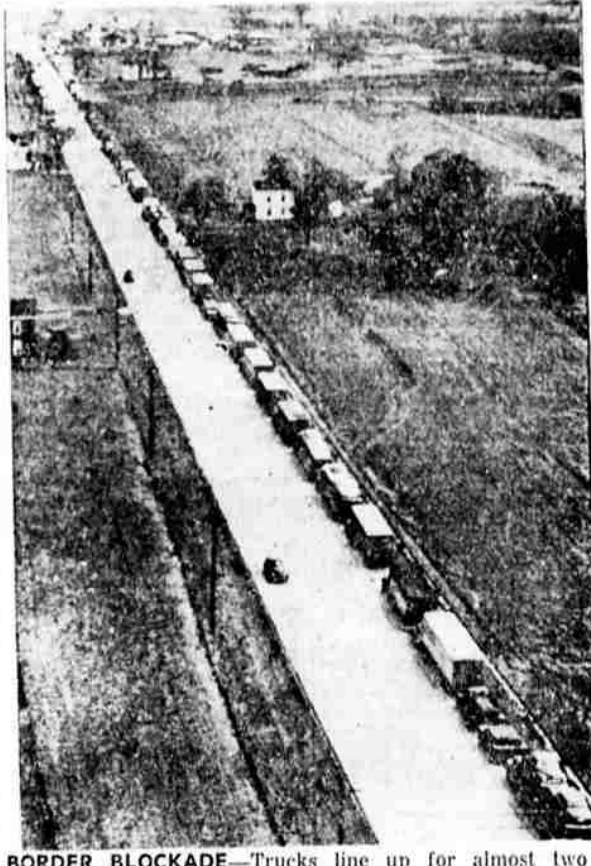
The world's first peat-burning gas turbine engine has been built and is now operating in Clydebank, Scotland.

British scientists have successfully completed a series of tests in which TV was used to help deep-sea divers.

Britain now produces about 40 per cent of all the food she consumes.

See Calhoun's  
for  
**MIRRORS**  
for any room  
327 E. Main

**People DO TOO**  
read small space  
ads — you are!



**BORDER BLOCKADE**—Trucks line up for almost two miles along U.S. Route 20 at Canaan, O., as the drivers halted in protest against Pennsylvania's 45,000-pound truck weight limit law. The blockade began at midnight and scenes like this were re-enacted at many points along the Pennsylvania border.

Bridge projects will be discussed at The Dalles Monday by the State Apprenticeship Council.

Council officials reported Friday there are 2,296 apprentices in the state. Most of them — 1,129 — are in Portland. There are 196 in Eugene and 110 in Salem.

**GEMS**  
by Pickley

"I'D LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING IN A WEDDING RING!"

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PHONES 3151-3152 — 700 MAIN ST.  
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