

Herald and News

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Entered as second class matter at the post office of Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 20, 1906, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

MAIL	BY CARRIER
1 month \$1.35	1 month \$1.35
3 months \$3.50	3 months \$3.50
6 months \$6.50	6 months \$6.50
1 year \$11.00	1 year \$11.00



BILL-BOARD

By BILL JENKINS

The subject of grass came up again yesterday in the Klamath Chamber of Commerce group came down and presented their "Grass is Gold" show for the local group—and drew the biggest crowd I've ever seen at a midweek chamber meeting.

It may sound a little far-fetched that a plan for range improvement should be sponsored by a group from Oregon's largest town (Portlanders like to call it a city) but that's where it was incubated and it has grown into a healthy baby since. The grasslands group plans to raise more beef and more sheep, to stop erosion and to provide the essential water storage that this nation must have.

As was pointed out at yesterday's meeting, grass is the primary crop. Not only of Oregon and the Northwest but also of the world. When all else is gone there is still grass. Timber burns over and takes generations to come back. Grass does in a year. And from the grass come the byproducts that give us food and clothing and shelter and medicine.

We are just learning a little about grass. Sure, we know it will produce beef on cattle and wool on sheep. We know that it serves as a surface binder for the earth to prevent the topsoil from blowing away. We know that its roots probe deep into the land and provide for water storage. But we don't know a lot of things like what grasses are best for what soils, how best to transplant and reseed certain species of legumes, how to boost along growth in dry land areas and things like that.

The Grasslands program is fostering research in these fields through the simple medium of drumming up public interest, through programs such as this one, through awarding prizes for the men of each county who do the most in development of grass.

But this program won't do anyone a damn bit of good unless every man and woman in the United States is spurred on to take an interest in it. Because it's your program, your life that will be better and faster as a result, your future generations that will have to go on existing on a living on this tired old world.

Bruce Blossat

South Africa is a far-away land that Americans don't ordinarily give much thought to, but there's a political crisis down there now which should command our attention.

This situation is rooted in the turbulent relations between the whites of European descent and the native blacks, and between the two main European strains—the Boers of largely Dutch ancestry and the British.

Prime Minister Daniel Malan, a Boer and the leader of the Nationalist Party now in control of the government, precipitated the storm in its present phase.

After he took over, Malan adopted a number of policies involving the critical racial issues that beset South Africa. Were we familiar with the full details of these policies, we Americans would certainly differ widely among ourselves on their wisdom. Since we are not thus informed, there is no point in our entering that part of the controversy.

Where we can rightly express ourselves is on a constitutional question that has grown out of Malan's program.

COURT TILT

The Supreme Court of South Africa nullified one of the laws he had engineered to pass in the national Parliament. Instead of accepting the verdict of the court as valid, Malan has now undertaken to curb the court's power over the legislature.

Apparently there are a great many learned legal arguments on the issue of whether South Africa actually has a real constitution or not. These are not for us.

All we need to know is this: the South African court nullified the law that Parliament lacked the power to pass laws without court approval. It simply argued that the laws must be passed according to the rules which the Parliament itself has set up for its own operation. In the case which provoked Malan, the Parliament had not followed the rules.

If Malan should have his way, the door would be wide open for his or any other government to perpetuate itself in office indefinitely, to establish a dictatorship. The Parliament would never have to feel that it was bound by its own restrictions, even those of its own making.

THREAT

What concerns us is not only the danger this poses to political freedom, but the threat it brings of blood shed, strife and possibly even civil war in South Africa. Reports from many sources indicate this prospect is real.

From the selfish view, neither we nor any of our friends of the free world can be indifferent to the development of another sore spot on the globe. There are too many already.

South Africa is a producer of gold, uranium and other metals and materials of value to the security and well being of the free nations. Serious civil strife could cut off these supplies.

But the greater point is that we should hate to see freedom disappear from so important an outpost as South Africa. As idealists who believe in liberty, we are glad the South Africans have it today. We are sympathetic toward the aspirations of all who cherish freedom.

Moreover, the South Africans' loss of it could not help but menace our own liberties. Every shrinking of the world area of liberty puts in larger peril the untrammeled life of the remaining free peoples.

Prime Minister Malan should be made to hear the voices of protest.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — The oddity about the old Dagmar? ... Remember the old Dagmar? ... shiny sides. ... great on curves. ... and carried a front and rear bumper.

The Dagmar (1922-1927) was just one of 2,500 kinds of automobiles made in America since the turn of the century.

Only 21 survive today in this fiercely competitive industry. ... Studebaker, which started making covered wagons 100 years ago, claims to be the oldest firm still in existence. ... But Dad or Granddad will recall going touring in cars bearing such vanished trademarks as Mercer, Rickenbacker, Oldfield, Maxwell, Velle and Stutz Bearcat.

A. L. Steinhilber of Chicago told the Multnomah County Equalization Board that Oregon's tax system is responsible for the state's failure to attract new industry. He said business cannot bear an inequitable tax burden over a long period.

Steinhilber said Montgomery Ward merchandise in Portland worth \$5,430,275 was valued for tax purposes at 60 per cent of that amount. He asked a reduction to 30 per cent, which he said is the valuation figure for tax purposes on real estate.

A decision by the board is expected next week.

Firm Attacks Tax Valuation

PORTLAND (AP) — Merchandise values are taxed too high compared with real property in Multnomah County, a Montgomery Ward & Co. tax representative said Wednesday.

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Life's Work For Naught

DAYTON, O. (AP) — When Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. White were 23 years ago, they decided to go along with just the bare necessities in life. Both worked. Neither smoked nor drank. They had no car. Movies were a luxury.

When they counted up their savings last weekend, they kept \$43,600, which Mrs. White kept pinned to her slip.

They intended to bank the money Monday. But Mrs. White worked late and the banking was postponed.

Monday night the money was gone. The couple figured their life savings dropped into trash Mrs. White gathered and burned.

James Marlow

WASHINGTON (AP) — If the new attorney general, James P. McGranery, picks up where he left off a couple of months ago he'll call in J. Edgar Hoover and tell the FBI boss:

"Eddie, let's see those files."

Last April 4, right after President Truman chose him for attorney general, the 56-year-old McGranery told newsmen Hoover would be given the job of finding any misconduct in the government.

At the time McGranery couldn't tell Hoover to investigate anybody since he wasn't even attorney general, in spite of presidential appointment, and couldn't be until the Senate approved, which it did Tuesday.

Now he's in. And, because McGranery is head of the justice Department and the FBI is part of it, the new attorney general can resume where he left off in April by having a chat with Hoover.

NOT ANXIOUS

Although he hasn't said so publicly, it's hardly an exaggerated statement to say McGranery is less than delighted by the prospect of making a special inquiry into the high level and low life of government officialdom.

His FBI already has plenty of chores anyway, while government corruption covers the entire gummy field of ethics and morals where only a wink can separate indiscretion from conniving.

And, at least in one direction, Hoover would be handcuffed before he started. He couldn't investigate the Treasury Department where most of the wrong doing has been found. By special law of Congress only treasury investigators can investigate the treasury.

Still, if McGranery asks Hoover for his files that may turn out to be very fruitful, if they have a chat.

HOARDER

The FBI, collecting various kinds of information a long time, looks upon information with the same fondness some people bestow on pins and old strings: It never lets anything away.

Since it has been making loyalty investigations of government workers for some years now, a task requiring it to pry into the private lives of public people, the FBI undoubtedly has accumulated interesting oddments.

And, of course, maybe it hasn't. But, whatever it has learned is in the FBI files, which might make as good a starting point as any for McGranery, if he wants to take some reading matter home with him.

ARSON PROBE

PENDLETON (AP) — Circuit Judge W. C. Perry Wednesday ordered a pre-sentence investigation of Elmer H. Hess, 34, Milton-Freewater, who pleaded guilty to setting fire to his house.

The house, insured for \$2,500, burned Monday and Hess was arrested the following day. He is held in the county jail here in lieu of \$2,000 bond.

Red Twister At it Again

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet aviator who 15 years ago landed Russian scientists near the North Pole said Wednesday the expedition was for scientific purposes but that recent U. S. Air Force activity in the polar region seeks to make it a base for attack on the Soviet Union.

Writing in Red Star, the Army newspaper, Mikhail Vodopyanov said the Americans are carrying out plans for use of the Arctic for military purposes "alien to the Soviet people."

The U. S. Air Force announced on May 4 that one of its C-47 transports had made history's first successful landing at the geographic North Pole.

The Air Force said officials and scientists had spent three hours and 10 minutes on the ice pack taking measurements before returning to their weather station base established earlier on an ice island 135 miles away.

FRONT CAUSES DAMAGE

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Snow fell in Central and Northern Yugoslavia Wednesday. Severe frost caused widespread damage to fruit and vegetable crops.

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Kefauver Faces Tough Campaign in California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sen. Kefauver, opening a drive for California's 68 delegates to the Democratic convention, ran into tough opposition right from the start Wednesday.

In Washington the head of a rival slate, State Atty. Gen. Edmund G. Brown, told reporters President Truman had authorized him to say that the President hopes Brown's slate will win over Kefauver's in the June 3 primary.

Brown conferred with the President Wednesday morning.

Kefauver said he had no comment but would have something to say at a press conference later Wednesday.

'GOOD LUCK'

Newsman asked the White House office to check the President on Brown's statement to them and Irving Perlmeter, assistant press secretary, later reported:

"The President wished the Brown delegation good luck, but intended no implications about Kefauver."

The delegate slate pledged to favorite-son Brown originally was the President's but was left with an active candidate for the Democratic nomination when the President decided not to run for another term.

It was organized by Rep. Sheppard, senior California Democratic congressman.

Other problems facing Kefauver at his press conference were these:

Why did he vote for the Arizona water project?

Why did he support the federal tidelands bill?

HOT ITEMS

Both are hot political items in California.

The state is seeking to stop a move on Arizona's part to get a larger share of Colorado River water, to which California contends it has prior rights.

It also is backing the so-called tidelands bill, which would give senators the right to take oil revenues from lands three miles from shore.

The bill, passed by both Houses, was vetoed by the President, who contends the federal government is entitled to the revenue.

Kefauver, flying in from Washington on lands three miles from shore.

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Oregon Demos Continue Feud

PORTLAND (AP) — Wrangling continued Wednesday within Oregon's Democratic Party ranks as state Chairman Howard Morgan called a meeting of national convention delegates.

But harmony appeared to prevail among Oregon Republican convention delegates, also summoned to a meeting.

Nicholas Granet, Third District Democratic delegate, said Morgan had no authority to call a meeting, scheduled for next Wednesday in Portland. And State Sen. Thomas Mahoney, a delegate-at-large, indicated he might not show up.

William L. Joslin, former state chairman and now head of the Kefauver committee in Oregon, questioned holding a meeting until the official count is completed.

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Retired S.P. Employee Dies

SALEM (AP) — W. E. Kimrey, Oregon Labor Commissioner, said Wednesday he would help a farm worker collect money due him from an employer.

He pointed out that an unpaid worker can file a lien against a grower's crop within 30 days after leaving the job. Kimrey said he gets many complaints from farm workers who have been gyped out of their wages, and cited examples.

He told workers to keep close tabs on the money coming to them.

RIVER TO CHASE

PORTLAND (AP) — The Willamette River will rise some three feet in Portland harbor by Saturday, flooding additional low lying docks, the weather bureau forecast Wednesday.

Workers Offered Farm Wage Aid

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N.W. Freight Below 1951

SEATTLE (AP) — The Pacific Northwest Advisory Board said Wednesday the area's freight loadings for the first four months of 1952 were down 4.104 from the record 1951 total but well above the three previous years.

The board said the loadings, used as an index for the general level of business conditions, totaled 256,989 for January, February, March and April. The 1951 total was 261,092.

The board attributed the decrease to below-normal fruit shipments.

F. T. Westrup, board secretary, said fruit loadings are down 27 per cent this year because of short crops in 1951, and are the smallest for any year since 1946.

Comparative loadings in major classifications for the first four months of this year and the same period last year, with 1951 loadings listed first, were:

Livestock 541 and 783; grain and grain products 30,307 and 26,492; forest products 128,777 and 132,510; logs 61,532 and 62,725; coal and 3,065 and 3,635 and 3,426; fruit 11,657 and 18,393; other miscellaneous 116,462 and 114,449.

The loading territory covered by the board includes Washington, Oregon and Idaho north of the Salmon River.

Bingham Takes Cola Firm Job

PORTLAND (AP) — When William A. Bingham is relieved as state liquor administrator he will accept a post with the Coca Cola Co., he said Wednesday.

Bingham spent 25 years with the company and had been vice-president, general manager and treasurer at Boston before coming to Portland.

He was in the automobile business here before his appointment as liquor administrator by Gov. Douglas McKay.

Bingham has resigned and the State Liquor Commission will meet in Salem Friday to consider a successor.

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