Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS, Editor — BILL JENKINS, Managing Editor

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BILLBOARD

By BILL JENKINS

We've all had our say about the weather. Good, bad and otherwise. Now maybe it's about time we stopped and gave the situation a lot of thought.

Seems to me that for the past many, many years we've all done more than our fair share of criticiring the meteorological visicitudes of our peculiar location.

Sort of setting ourselves up as a bad-weather pest hole center.

Hogwash.

Stop and think it over. Then do your blasting. Take a look around at the rest of the country, and the world, for that matter.

We're a lot better off than the average.

We haven't had any tornadoes. Not ever. We don't have hurricanes here and even in the winter months we don't have blizzards. In the past decade I can only remember one little flurry that came even close to being a real, honest-to-pat blizzard and that lasted less than all night. (only long enough to put me in a ditch, from whence I was snatched by a friendly trucker.)

We don't have to put up with floods. We don't have the incessant and never ceasing rainfall that plagues the valley regions and places like Valsetz where if they get less than a downpour they think of it as a clear day. We have more sunny days than the average city in the Pacific Northwest. Anywhere except for Southern California as far as that goes.

Our winters are nowhere near as tough as those that set in over much of the Eastern seaboard. There they look forward, in many regions, to deeper snow than we have, colder weather and a longer season. That's one reason why half your Christmas cards have New England style houses on 'em. Because it lives up to the real thing.

When our spring comes, even when it's late, like this one is, it comes in with a breath of warm wind and the green of the hills to cheer us. And there is always the thought of plenty of water to see us over the year.

Our Falls are our most beautiful season. No where else that I can name can offer Falls such as ours. Poets may speak of the "golden time" and what they will, but until they have come up here they won't ever have truly lived the term.

Where else can you find the winy, crisp mornings, the clear, invigorating days that we know here almost every late August, September, October and sometimes November and December? Where else can you look forward to an assurance of good weather after thanksgiving?

Sure, we have our bad years. This spring has been a bad one in that April and May, one of which and usually both of which are usually pleasant, turned out to be wet and cold. June, of course, is always a bad month here, with lots of wet and cold and frost.

But our spring hasn't been nearly as rough as Texas or the Midwest with their roaring winds, or the South with their floods, or the East with its constant cold rain. Or even Portland, where it is still rainy and cold.

Nope, I think maybe it's about time we stopped feeling apologetic about our weather. Fine to feel sorry for ourselves this year and cuss and moan and wonder what we'll do. (We'll do all right. Wait and see.) But let's not go around the country selling ourselves short on the weather.

When people ask us I think it is high time we started to brag a little about our weather. On the average it's better than a whole lot of places I can name.

And don't ask me to go to one in particular. I've already had an invitation.

JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Charles E. Wilson has made his job as secretary of defense tougher on himself by the way he has handled his public relations. He had difficulty when he started and he's still having it.

When he first arrived here to take over the secretaryship he had a bassle with the senators over his General Motors stock. He didn't want to sell it. It was made pretty clear he couldn't become secretary unless he did.

He finally decided to sell. It was a decision he could have made before accepting the secretaryship from President Eisenhower. By his delay in making up his mind he got a lot of publicity, not all of it favorable.

His greatest decision since becoming secretary was in cutting money for the armed forces, and reducing the number of wings planned for the Air Force. This aroused concern in Congress and among the public.

If Wilson had tackled this situation head-on, by anticipating the reaction to his reduction program and preparing a full and clear presentation of his views, he again might have avoided headaches. But he didn't.

Wilson's explanations for his cut in military spending have been coming out piecemeal. He has run into public conflict within his own Defense Department. For instance, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, chief of staff of the Air Force, was critical of Wilson's reductions.

The story isn't ended yet. Yesterday Wilson replied to a number of questions sent him in writing by Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, Maine Republican—questions he did not answer to her satisfaction when he appeared before her and other senators a couple of weeks ago.

In the end Wilson may be proved right and Vandenberg wrong. But Wilson could have saved himself a lot of time, concern and quizzing by stating his position more fully in the beginning.

When Wilson was president of General Motors there was always a public relations staff around to help him. It could act, in fact, as a buffer between him and the public.

Since G. M. is a corporation, Wilson didn't have to endure public quizzing on its operations. Although he was answerable to the stockholders, his decisions affecting the long-range success of G. M. could be discussed in the privacy of his office with the Board of Directors.

His position is slightly reversed as secretary of defense. Now, when he makes a major decision, such as money reductions for the armed forces, he must face a public quizzing before he can put his decision into effect. All the citizens are stockholders in the government.

He knew, when accepting the secretaryship, that he would have to answer some questions by the Senate committee whose job was to recommend for or against his getting the Cabinet post.

He should have known—if he had sought the advice of G. M.'s lawyers and public relations men—that he would be questioned on whether he had stock in G. M. He was later asked if he had sought such advice but declined comment.

The reason he should have known is this: G. M. holds the most government defense contracts. As secretary of defense, Wilson might be called upon to make decisions giving G. M. more contracts.

Which at once raised the question: Should a high government official award contracts to a firm in which he has a couple of million dollars worth of stock?

He said yes. And his confirmation hung in the balance. He wasn't confirmed as secretary until he went back and told the senators he would sell his stock.

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They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

BRUCE BIOSSAT

To men of good will the world over, a truce in Korea means above all an end to three years of fighting and dying. Free men must always welcome an end to the shedding of blood, so long as that goal is not bought by surrender or appeasement.

The United States and its UN allies were willing to accept this truce for one overriding reason. We and our friends believe that the Korean war could not be won without risks and sacrifices far greater than we care to pay. Practically speaking, therefore, our leaders consider victory unattainable.

Those who do not approve this truce insist victory can be had and Korea unified from Pusan to the Yalu. But only a few objectors grasp the full logic of their position, namely, that the quest for complete military triumph means the expenditure of thousands more lives, billions of additional dollars, and very possibly an enlarged war with the huge mainland armies of Red China.

For nearly two years, since the Communists first indicated readiness to negotiate, the conflict in Korea has been in virtual stalemate. We have been living out the alternative to full war. But even a stalemate costs heavily in men and treasure. With that painful burden upon us, and conclusive victory seemingly beyond reach, we see a truce as a worth-while achievement in itself—the stopping of a ruthless treadmill.

All this stress upon the truce however, obscure the fact that this as an inconclusive end should not, outcome is not a defeat for the western nations but is in reality a modest victory.

We have driven the Communists from all but a tiny, useless patch of the South Korean soil they invaded on June 25, 1950. We have passed them north from the old border at the 38th Parallel, and now occupy a substantial slice of North Korean territory. The position we hold is not ideal, but it is more defensible than the prewar line, which left the capital of Seoul badly exposed.

When we entered the war, our goal was simply to repel the invader, not to conquer and unify all Korea. Only after our success did we raise our sights toward the Yalu and the fulfillment of what had long been a political goal of the United Nations. This change should not mar the fact that we achieved our original purpose.

The truce brings desperately desired relief from bloody combat. We should not delude ourselves that it brings anything else.

New problems flood in upon us. Will the Communists observe well the terms of the truce, or will they resort to their common practice and snarl the truce deadlock and confusion?

The free world is joyful that the guns are falling silent in one troubled land. But it cannot relax its vigilance until the signs of hope are more real.

Sam Dawson

NEW YORK (AP) — The age of the air - conditioned home is at hand. Just as Americans long ago came to insist on central heating for their homes, so they will soon demand central cooling.

That's the opinion of leaders of the industry that brags it is the fastest growing wonder boy in the appliance field. They say only a major business slump can slow them down.

Sales of room air-conditioners are zooming. Even more spectacular gains this year and next are predicted for the central units that either heat or cool the entire house as outside temperature changes indicate.

Just as important, profit-wise, is the spread of air-conditioning through industry—with 200 different groups counted as customers—and through the world of business. Offices, hotels, motels, banks, schools, hospitals, planes, buses and autos are being made independent of the weather.

Ships are becoming air conditioned—with some saying it even reduces seasickness.

A New Orleans Catholic Church reports that after it installed a cooling system, Sunday attendance increased.

Air-conditioning isn't new. In the Southwestern states people have used window air coolers for many years. Willis Haviland Carrier started commercial air-conditioning 50 years ago. But it is just since World War II that the big home air-condition boom has got under way.

Last year 15,000 new homes were equipped with year-around air-conditioners; 420,000 room air conditioners were sold; and, including commercial-type coolers, the industry had a 1 ¼ billion dollar retail sales year.

This year, according to Cloud Wampler, president of Carrier Corp., 60,000 new homes will be equipped with units that cool or heat at the owner's will; an unestimated number of older homes will switch over to year-around units; 750,000 room aid-conditioners will be sold; and retail sales should be around two billion dollars.

The Doctor Says

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M. D.

The hoped-for development in polio research is some means which will prevent this terrifying disease. The time has not yet arrived, but it is possible now to report encouraging progress in this direction.

It has been known for a good many years that the cause of poliomyelitis was a virus, which is a tiny living organism too small to be seen under the ordinary microscope. This knowledge alone, however, is not enough to solve the problem.

For example, there are at least three major strains or kinds of polio virus, and bodily resistance or immunity to one strain does not necessarily mean there is resistance to one of the others.

Furthermore, the study of polio is made difficult by facts such as that viruses grow only in living tissue and that there are few experimental animals which are susceptible to the polio virus.

The major effort in developing a means of preventing polio is directed toward devising a vaccine which can be given to human beings and which will cause human tissues to build immunity without bringing on an attack of the disease. The technical problems of preparing such a vaccine are, of course, immense.

During the past year a group of researchers, whose work is itself based on studies of many others, has succeeded in preparing such a vaccine and has even tried it on a small group of human beings. The results were encouraging and there is naturally much impatience to try to make this available to everyone.

We must, however, curb our impatience. The vaccine is not yet advanced enough to be sure that all the kinks are out of it. It will, in fact, be after the 1954 polio season, at the earliest, before the vaccine can have been adequately studied in all necessary respects. Meanwhile, we must be patient, knowing that all needed studies are being taken with the greaetst possible speed.

One other development during the past year should be mentioned. This is the use of gamma globulin, a substance obtained from human blood, which apparently can be used to give a temporary form of resistance to polio.

Although this has been discussed previously in this column it should be said again that there will not be enough gamma globulin to go around this summer, and that consequently it can be used only in those palces in which an unusual amount of polio seems to be occurring.

TOWER TALK

with the Ground Observer Corps

Praises have been sung to the regular observers at the Post, but little has been said about our Chief Observer and Supervisor.

John Barker, Supervisor, at the time of his appointment, knew little about operating a Ground Observer Post. He did know, however, the importance of such a project. Along with a full-time job on the railroad, nights, he threw his strength and daytime hours into learning and executing the steps in supervision. Each obstacle has been tackled with vigor and enthusiasm in the face of what seemed hopeless situations. Many hours of sleep have been sacrificed in time spent in organizing and maintaining the Post—to say nothing of the expense involved which has come out of his own pocket.

Elsie Barker, Chief Observer, took over where Lucille Jones left off in March. The title "Chief Observer" certainly doesn't hint of the enormity of the job. The Chief's duty, among other things, is to maintain the 24 hour watch. She has to have an observer on duty each hour—if not, more often than not, she's out there taking someone's place. It's impossible, at times, to find substitutes. Many times, Elsie is up all hours to take out or pick up an observer without transportation. She has regular reports due in Portland which take hours each week to prepare. She has the unattractive job of maintaining certain rules which could be classified as discipline of the observer. Appointments and meetings are arranged for the approval of the Air Force personnel by the Chief. With her half-day job in an office downtown, and the hours spent for the G.O.C., the writer suspects Elsie is using some act of leger demain to accomplish all this.

While the time spent and duties of our Supervisor and Chief Observer, have been covered only briefly in the aforesaid, the writer feels that they deserve recognition and appreciation for their untiring efforts in a job that many would have "thrown in the towel" long ago.

Comments from the pages of May in the Post Diary are as follows:

May 2—6 a.m.—Oh happy day—the sun shines again. Must be a welcome day to the lucky fellows who can get away to go fishing. Suppose the amount of "no shows" will affect the G.O.C. through the fishing season. The only solution is a good reserve of observers. R.W.T.

May 4—6:20 p.m.—This is my fourth time here and I've truly enjoyed it. Wish I could put in 4 hours instead of two—no transportation. Donna Dutton.

May 6—6:30 a.m.—Had to see what a sunrise shift out at post would be like, so managed to roll out at 4 a.m. It was well worth it too! The sunrise was really beautiful, but I'm convinced that the people who manage to get up in the small hours deserve a medal. Irene B.

May 7—2 a.m.—6 a.m.—A note in regard to getting up early—not that I'm complaining, but when you get to bed by 10:30 p.m., get up at 1:30 a.m., and try to keep awake until 6 a.m.—oh me—But I like it. The sun is pretty when it gets up. J. Heilbronner.

May 7 — 6:15 a.m. — What weather—the snow flakes are the size of snowballs. J.C.

May 13—Was in Portland last week end and of course we visited the Filter Center. Everyone was friendly. While we were there, a call came in from Peter Nan II Black, H.S.

May 14—Went to the show the "House of Wax" eek! All that and then come up here and make eyes at yourself in the reflection of the windows. Signed: "frightened."

May 24—2 a.m.—4 a.m. — Regarding the "electronic ear" that the GOC is acquiring, it will soon be ready. In answer to the question as to whether it will be speaker or phones, here is the dope: There will be a speaker inside with a phone plug beside it. If one wishes to listen with the earphones, he will plug them in and the speaker will automatically be silent. If you want the speaker only, don't plug in the earphone. If any additional info is needed, call me or my dad at the shop, 6878. Jim R. Conner.

May 29—Mrs. A. B. Wade who is unable to act as an observer, donated a pound of coffee. She said that she only wished she could do more. She deserves a thank you. Jerry Keesee.

May 30—6 a.m.—8 a.m.—Wish a plane would come over so I could hear what one sounds like over the speaker. All I've heard so far is meadow larks, chickens and seagulls, now I hear some farmer's wife giving the old man heck for not getting the milking done—no fooling—I think this sound system will prove to be a big help. Russ Toycen.

May 31—1:21 p.m.—The "hearing aid, in the large economy size" picks up all the sound for 40 miles around, I think. J. Eastburn.

There is a Spanish word that is very descriptive of the attitude of putting things off. It is "Manana," "Tomorrow," "Another time," "after a while." Procrastination is a robber to time, and time is what life is made of. It is amazing how much more we get done and with what better satisfaction when we master the art of "do it now." Along with "obligation"—one that may demand extra effort and personal sacrifice. The Air Defense Team needs you now—if you want security for yourself, give equal measure. Call 5240 and volunteer for duty at the Post.

Benton County Talking Fair

CORVALLIS (AP)—Benton County is thinking about starting an annual fair. The County Court will decide soon whether to spend $12,000 for a tract of land a mile southwest of Corvallis. A county board recommended the site for a fairgrounds.

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