Herald and News

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ALONG NATURE'S TRAIL by KEN McLEOD

When one delves into the story of the "Mystery People," which our folk-lore has established as living somewhere upon the slopes of Mount Shasta, he comes directly in contact with manifestations of their occult powers. I have mentioned before how the "Mystery People" resent intrusion upon their privacy and a couple of the stories how they repel the curious, like the individual picked up by the Genii and turned around facing the trail up which he came. No! He wasn't given the "boot" to boot. I think he must have seen the truth of the "no trespassing" action and needed no further argument to send him homeward along the out-trail.

Cerve, who has preserved for us in his book "Lemuria" a number of these stories of the occult powers of the "Mystery People," apparently was not willing to accept all the stories he recorded as he writes: "The stories of mystical powers attributed to these people must be taken with the proverbial grain of salt. . ."

Cerve believes that some of our natives have gone slightly far in presenting evidence of the powers of the "Mystery People." He writes: "It is said, for instance, that on a number of occasions when great forest fires have raged in various parts of California and have approached close to the forest near Mount Shasta, a strange fog has suddenly emanated from the section occupied by these peculiar people and this fog has risen from the ground in a circular manner so as to form a circular wall around the entire area through which the forest fires have never penetrated. Some natives in this region delight in taking the skeptics on a circular tour, pointing out to them the mute evidence shown by the burnt trees reaching a definite line that forms a circle around the mysterious region. On the inside of this circle the trees rise to great heights, are of old age, and without a single scar or blemish from the burning of the trees that were destroyed within two hundred feet of them."

Now I cannot see why Cerve should doubt this mystical power of the "Mystery People," to have their own fire protection system would be only natural for any race who dwells within a forest and who would object to having the natural beauty of the setting of their community marred by fire-blackened snags. It's just too bad that we lack such an efficient fire suppression system. Just imagine what a boon it would be to our foresters if when a fire was spotted all they had to do would be just turn on the fog. Not only would the fire be suppressed by the fog but the Goon that set it would probably become lost in the dense mist which would teach the lug a lesson not to be careless with fire. I really think these "Mystery People" have something and I am suprised that Cerve should take the story with a "grain of salt!"

Cerve picked up an early automobile story I have heard a number of times with variations. "Others speak of having attempted to approach the region by automobile," he writes, "and finding that at an unexpected point where a light flashed before them the automobile refused to function properly, for the electrical circuit seemed to lose its power and not until the passengers emerged from the car and backed it on the road for a hundred feet and turned it in the opposite direction, would the electric power give any manifestation and the engine properly." This would be a much more pleasant contact with the "No Trespassing" program of the "Mystery People" than to be caught up and whirled around by the Genii. In my own experience on the mount in all I ever encountered was just plain ordinary cardboard signs printed in common English letters, "No Trespassing."

Our legend does not stop with just the actions of people alone for it likewise credits the people with having their own strange fauna as well. Cerve has written: "Others have said that some strange cattle, unlike anything ever seen in America, have emerged from the woods, but before going very far along the high ways or byways these animals would be frightened by some invisible signal, and would turn abruptly around and run back toward the places from which they came."

Our legend would not be complete without some mode of transportation and so we come to our "Flying Saucers" only in this account the "space ships" are not discoidal but cigar shaped in outline. In the old days these "cigar" shaped vessels were called "aerial submarines" because of their resemblance in shape to submarines but instead of going through water these mysterious vessels sailed through the air, however, they were equally capable of landing upon the ocean and acting like a conventional ship. This ability to fly through the air and land on water was not the only accomplishment of these vessels of the "Mystery People" for the "aerial submarines" likewise could function like an ordinary submarine and travel under water as well as dive to great depths in the ocean.

CALIFORNIA POLITICS

By ROSS RAGLAND

Proposition No. 2.

A Senate Constitutional amendment which would authorize the sale of state bonds in the amount of $100,000,000 for schools. Two previous bond issues have been approved in the past and are now exhausted.

In the fall of 1953 there were over 2,100,000 students in grade and high schools in California with an expected 1960 enrollment of 3,250,000. 23,000 additional classrooms will be needed.

This bond proposal is the third in a series intended to provide funds for school construction through state loans to qualified districts to purchase and improve school sites, purchase furniture and equipment, plan and construct schools and to repair and reconstruct school buildings.

Ordinarily, local districts provide for the construction of their school buildings, however, many school districts in the state now have been unable to expand their systems to keep up with the student enrollment.

State funds made available by this bond proposal are 30 year loans with repayments based on the financial ability of the district. The amount to be repaid does not depend on the size of the loan but on the assessed valuation of the district and any unpaid balance is cancelled after the 30 year period.

Opponents' arguments concerning this proposition do not question the need for financing school facilities but state that the amount of the bond issue is not enough. A more complete over-all construction and financing program is needed as some estimates indicate that one billion dollars a year for the next 10 years would be required for a proper program. They also state that this bond program encourages districts to tax their residents to the maximum in order to exhaust their resources so as to be in a position for state aid.

Proponents state that these bonds are primarily a loan program and repayment is provided for. Taxpayers state - wide will have no additional burden to bear. This amendment extends a successful program which has been carefully administered.

Seven of the state organization studies recommend a YES on proposition No. 2. None of the organizations opposed this issue.

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—The poor man's philosopher looks at politics:

Well, if you want your baby kissed by a politician this year, you'd better hurry—you've only a week to go.

After election, the winning candidate is too busy figuring how to pay his campaign debts to bother with babies. And it isn't safe to trust a baby too close to the losing candidate. He is as likely to bust the child as to buss it.

What mother wants her baby kissed by an unsuccessful politician anyway? It might bring her infant bad luck.

Kissing babies long has been one of the occupational hazards of political campaigning, but the tradition has died out rapidly in recent years. Cautious candidates now try to avoid any situation in which they may have to kiss any baby under 18 years of age.

There are several reasons. For one thing, it's an awkward task. Politicians and babies are naturally allergic to one another. They share a wary, mutual distrust.

Even if the baby submits to the ordeal quietly, it is a clammy, sticky adventure to the politician. But many babies don't like to be nuzzled and pawed by strangers. They react violently to the approach of the politician's sickly smiling muzzle, sensing at once the falseness of his charm and that here is a guy trying to get something from them for nothing.

"You never can be sure what they'll do," said one old-timer. "Some scream and yell. Others kick and struggle, then hold their breath and turn blue.

"And some of them, even though they can't walk or talk, are natural born smart alecks. They just lie there, looking cute and cunning and innocent, until you bend over and get your face in reach. Then they rear up and sink their nasty little fangs in your nose, or claw your cheek to ribbons with their fingernails.

"Everybody gets a big laugh out of this. But it isn't smart for a candidate to get his nose bitten off or his face scratched up during a campaign. Nobody believes you when you explain a baby did it, and your opposition is bound to start a whispering campaign that the wounds were inflicted on you by your wife after you struck her a low blow during a quarrel at home."

"Many veteran observers (for some reason there are no non-veteran observers in politics) believe the practice of kissing babies costs more votes than it wins.

"I say the baby is a pretty, little girl and it happens to be a little boy," said one, "you make the parents mad and lose two votes right there.

"If you kiss the baby, and later it comes down with a cold, you lose the votes of the parents, the grandparents, the uncles, the aunts — the whole family and some of the neighbors. Everybody is sure you deliberately tried to give the child pneumonia.

"Actually, of course, it's the other way around — babies are a real danger to a politician. They look so clean and cuddly and harmless. But even the healthiest baby is chockfull of all kinds of germs, from his small rosy toes right up to his leering little eyeballs.

"A politician is risking his whole career every time he kisses a baby. He may come down with any disease from mumps and measles to athlete's foot or lockjaw. Imagine getting lockjaw two weeks before election!

"The safest thing to do when you are confronted with a baby is to keep it at arm's length, pat the little monster lightly on the head twice, then go and wash your hands as soon as the parents take it away."

So if you've got a baby and want to help your party win at the polls, don't take it to your own candidate to be kissed. Make the other party's candidate kiss it.

Anything can happen to him. Think how proud you'll be if your own little baby can swing a mighty election all by itself, 20 years before it is even old enough to vote.

The Doctor Says

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

A lady has recently written to ask for a discussion on too few white cells, the cause of this condition and the medical term for it. Others have asked similar questions, especially on the possible relation of the low number of white blood cells to the disease known as leukemia.

This is a somewhat bewildering subject. In reading this discussion I hope all will realize that it can be discussed only in the most general terms and that many highly trained investigators are spending much of their lives studying the human blood and how it behaves.

Granulocytopenia is the tongue twisting name usually used to describe the condition in which the white cells of the blood (leucocytes) are fewer than normal. There is also a disease known as agranulocytosis in which one of the symptoms also consists of a lessening in the number of leucocytes in the blood.

Everyone has white cells in the blood where they exert an important function, particularly in combatting infecting. There are several kinds of white cells; the numbers can be counted and the kinds studied, the latter by smearing a small amount of blood on a glass slide, staining it and looking at the smear under a microscope. Normally, there are about 7,500 white cells in a cubic millimeter of blood and there is a fairly constant relation between the different kinds of cells.

In the presence of infecting germs the number of white cells is usually increased and counting them is often, therefore, an aid in diagnosis — in appendicitis for example. This increase is called leucocytosis.

Many cases of granulocytopenia have resulted from drugs or medicines. This is a puzzling thing because it is only the occasional person who gets such a reaction but it does seem to be a sort of individual poisoning. Recovery usually takes place. Agranulocytosis is also a condition in which the number of white cells is lessened and this is usually ushered in with a sore throat.

So far as is known neither granulocytopenia or agranulocytosis is related to leukemia. In the latter some of the white cells grow wild; they are generally increased in number — sometimes enormously — and they appear in the blood in immature and abnormal forms. The acuteness of the process and the special kinds of cells present determine the particular name attached to the leukemia and influence to some extent the outlook.

Although much is known concerning the behavior of the leucocytes of the body there are many gaps in such knowledge. Probably time will reveal much that we do not know concerning the cause of the changes which develop.

Brucellosis Drive Planned

The United State Department of Agriculture has earmarked up to $15 million annually for the next two years for a stepped up program to eradicate brucellosis in cattle, and is asking states to outline their plans for cooperation right away.

This report was brought back to Oregon by Dr. K. J. Peterson, state veterinarian with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. He and Dr. A. G. Beagle, veterinarian in charge of Oregon work on animal disease eradication for the federal department, attended a meeting recently in Salt Lake City, in which the accelerated program was outlined by Dr. R. J. Anderson, chief of the animal disease eradication branch of the federal Agricultural Research Service.

Under the new program, up to $25 for grade animals and $50 for purebred animals — but not to exceed one third of the owner's loss — will be paid in federal indemnities. These indemnities will be paid only if reactor animals are removed immediately from the herd and slaughtered, and if states enter the cooperative program with the federal government.

At the present time, maximum federal indemnities paid in Oregon are $9 and $18, respectively, for grade and purebred reactors slaughtered under the Bang's control program.

Oregon's program under the stepped up brucellosis eradication plans will be formulated after a meeting of the state brucellosis advisory commitee, according to Dr. Peterson.

The new money will be spent only on carefully planned programs to ge the greatest eradication over the country for the cost, Dr. Peterson reports.

Regardless of what type of program is conducted in Oregon, if any change is recommended by the commitee, only federal indemnities will be affected. State and county indemnities paid by Oregon are established by law and cannot be changed except by the legislation.

Reds Release U.S. Prisoner

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Hermann Field, a U. S. citizen who disappeared in Red Poland in August 1949, has "been cleared of all charges and released from prison," the Warsaw radio said today.

The broadcast said an investigation conducted by Polish authorities disclosed that the charges which led to Fields' arrest were "framed up by an American agent."

Field will be given "full compensation" and action will be taken against all persons responsible for his arrest, the report said.

Fields' secret arrest was disclosed Sept. 28 in Washington by his former jailer, Jozef Swiatlo, a top official of the Polish secret police until he fled to the West 10 months ago. Field disappeared after boarding a Prague-bound plane at Warsaw.

U. S. Army Court Order Predicted

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army probably will issue this week a new series of court-martial charges against soldiers accused of collaborating with their Communist captors or informing on their fellows while war prisoners in Korea.

The expected additional court-martial charges are among 40 cases still being investigated by the Army. All will involve men still in service.

An Army spokesman said announcements of charges could be expected "very soon." The courts-martial will be conducted at various Army areas where the men are now stationed.

It appeared that these new cases will be predicated, like previous ones, on alleged offenses committed by American soldiers while in enemy prison camps.

The Defense Department, it was disclosed in material which became available today, is making detailed disclaimer of any idea that there was "repudiation" of promises of immunity from prosecution given prisoners before they returned if they were found to have committed illegal acts.

The Army's announcement of forthcoming action against additional servicemen—none of whom was named—came Saturday night.

It said that in addition to four courts-martial which have resulted in conviction, it has discharged from the Army 15 persons — a dozen fired with "undesirable discharge" orders and three others eased out by the noncommittal "general discharge" method.

After questioning about 3,200 officers and men who were released by the Communists, the Army said. It found approximately 225 instances where further "intensive investigation" was warranted. Of that number, the 40 cases remain.

In its Saturday announcement, the Army made a point of saying that "no one in any position of authority had ever promised U.S. soldiers immunity from prosecution for offenses committed while they were prisoners of war in Communist hands."

Fisher, Reynolds Marriage Planned

HOLLYWOOD, (AP) — It's all set now between singer Eddie Fisher and actress Debbie Reynolds — the ring, the announcement and the date.

They told a star-studded crowd of 400 at a Saturday night cocktail party that they will marry next June. Joan Crawford, Jack Benny, Van Heflin, Terry Moore, Jack Webb and others admired the seven-carat sparkler Debbie showed them.

DON UNRUH, U.S. Army, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Unruh, Malin, was home recently for a short visit with his parents. He is now stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia, in cleaning and pressing school.

JAMES MARLOW

By ED CREAGH
(For James Marlow)

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Once again the Allies have taken a big gamble on Germany.

Unless the Russians manage to upset the applecart — and they're trying hard, though without much immediate chance of success — the 15-nation agreements signed over the weekend at Paris mean:

1. West Germany bcomes an almost free and not-quite-sovereign nation less than 10 years after all Germany was at war with both Russia and the West, then allies.

2. West Germany — the stronger half of that split country — comes into the Western defense setup, and will supply 12 divisions.

3. The Allied occupation of West Germany ends — as such. This doesn't mean American, British and French troops will go home. It means they'll stay in Germany, but with German consent.

All this is just what the United States wanted at this stage, and a lot more than it thought it would get only a couple of months ago, when the more ambitious European Defense Community fell apart before it got started.

The Paris arrangement is just about what the Germans wanted, too. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was so eager for it, in fact, that he gave in to the French on the Saar question to get their agreement on the Paris pacts.

In short, almost everybody is happy. But not quite everybody. For instance:

1. The Russians. They're beating drums louder than ever for a Big Four conference on "unifying" East and West Germany. That would mean, the way they want it, a helpless Germany ripe for Russian plucking. The Paris agreements look like a safeguard against that.

2. Some of Adenauer's Germans, who think he went too far in his Saar concession.

3. A number of people, and not only French people, who wonder just how safe it is to let Germany rearm even under the limitations agreed upon at Paris.

This is a gamble the Allies took once before, and tragically lost — in the war of 1939-45. The West let Germany grow strong enough to fight that war out of (1) indecision and apathy, and (2) hope that Germany would act as a check on Communist aggression.

The result, as six years of bloody history record, was war with Germany, not a checkmated Russia. And in the wake, Russia emerged a far more powerful threat than oefore.

Putting guns in the hands of the Germans again is a calculated risk, and one that American political leaders on both sides of the fence agree should be taken. Rearming Germany was first proposed by the last Democratic secretary of state, Dean Acheson. In terms of German manpower, all Secretary of State Dulles has done is raise the limit of 10 divisions proposed by Acheson.

The reasoning is obvious:

Russia is the real threat — the "clear and present danger," as the lawyers say. West Germany's present leaders know that. Hence they lined up in the West's system of defense. France's present leaders know it too. Hence they agreed—at a price—to let Germany join up.

So much for the present. But what's to stop some other set of German leaders from going on a Hitler-type rampage in the future?

Well, the Germans themselves, for one thing. They promised at Paris not to start any new war to get back lost territory. And the other Western diplomats figure, in the light of what happened to Germany in 1945, the Germans mean it this time.

Then there is the 12-division limit on German troops. And there is new authority for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization over the arms and armies of all member countries, including Germany. Finally, there is the fact that Anglo-American-French troops will stay in Germany whether they're called occupation troops or not.

Poet's Corner

By AGNES M. OLIVER

Count your friends in hunting time
If you have them many,
Then when you really need a friend
You'll find you haven't any.

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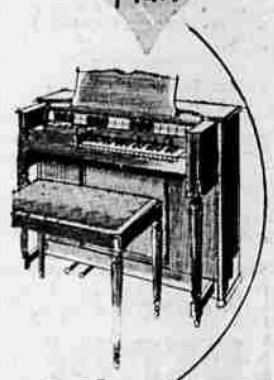

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