

Herald and News

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BILLBOARD

Everyone, or almost everyone, has told me at one time or another what a lucky dog I am because I make a living writing. Gee, they say, what a soft touch you got. Nothing to do but sit around and write a little dinky column every day and then you're through for the day.

It has reached the point where I am seriously considering the formation of a committee to take steps in the matter. It shall be called the Committee for the Suppression and Prevention of Untruths Concerning Writers. Following the popular trend we shall shorten it to CSPUCW, which won't be a bit more confusing than some of the three or four hundred government agencies that are being plucked with. Or blessed with, depending on your political beliefs and convictions.

One of the first chores of this committee will be the task of disabusing people of the idea that all a writer has to do is sit down and turn on the inspiration like turning on a water tap. It seems that most people believe that all you have to do in order to produce a piece for the average newspaper is to sit down at a typewriter and, presto, there flows out a column, all neatly set in type, corrected, revised, approved by the publisher and passed by the powers that be who ride over what news scribbles say. These days a writer has to be a hang someone editorially every day, easy to criticize on every side. If you did that there wouldn't be any problem. Shortly there wouldn't be any readers unless you

happened to be one of those columnists who are hired by the metropolitan chains because of their nuisance value. Another committee within the framework of the CSPUCW will be to dig up ideas for the various hack writers who eke out a writing living with new and original ideas. This committee, of course, will work under the best of conditions existing on fish and the various mollusks because of their stimulative effect on the brain, working under filtered light, using filtered ink and wearing garments consisting of cloth woven from filtered silk worn cocooned.

These ideas will then be transmitted to the writers who will use them as they see fit and be allowed, of course, to claim them as their own. Joe Miller will probably be laughing (if such a thing is possible in the Great Beyond) at the idea, but then he's had several hundred years to ponder the terrible thing he wrought.

And still a third committee will be saddled with the task of thinking up reasonable answers to the old old query "why don't you write about what a crook so-and-so is?" Or "why don't you tell about what a steal such-and-such a bunch are pulling?" A writer's chances of getting shot are about 50-50 anyway, since there are two sides to almost everything, but if he follows a customer's feelings, he's given he wouldn't live long enough to type his byline before some irate citizen showed up and put a period to his works with a .45.

Anyway, this writing for a living isn't all it's cracked up to be. And if you're a writer, you'd better remember that sometimes we have to stoop to filling inches with aimless doodlings like this just to convince the man that we're still around.

W. E. Hamilton, director of research, American Farm Bureau Federation, pointed out to the Isaak Walton League at the annual convention of the league, some of the difficulties that would face the "Walton Soil Plan" if and when it is proposed to Congress.

"One of the first things," said Hamilton, "that you will run into as you try to get public acceptance of this plan is the fact that about the first congressman you talk to who is interested in this plan and agrees to introduce it—if not the first one, at least the second or third one—will say, 'Now this is a kind of good idea but it is going to cost quite a bit of money even if we are spending that much now.'"

"So this fellow is going to say, 'Well, \$100 million. I don't know whether we can get it supported in Congress or whether we can get it through Congress.' Then he will say, 'You know, I know a fellow out in Colorado who will put 3,000 or 4,000 acres under it. Maybe 10,000.'"

"There might be such a guy," continues Hamilton, "I don't know, but when you get into one of these plans you can find all kinds of special cases."

"The Congressman will say, 'This looks kind of bad,' if somebody is living in Phoenix or Miami during the winter and collecting a \$10,000 rental check from the government. So they say, 'Well after all we want to sustain the income of the poorest farmers as well as adjust to production.' So they will probably come up with about a \$2,000 limit on the amount that can be paid any one farmer or they may set it lower than that and that type of thing could destroy this type of program."

"I think this Walton Soil Plan is actually simpler than the Farm Bureau's Soil Bank Plan because the Walton plan suggests you move away from price supports. Our plan of the soil bank would still retain some price supports. Instead of making payments to get people to put land into the soil bank we would require them to put it in as a condition for price supports. This soil bank plan of ours is more complicated, but if it could be worked out, I think it would be quite a bit cheaper than your plan because if you get the land put into the soil bank as a condition of price supports then you reduce production. The reduction in production will take care of the need of price supports with very little cost except the administrative cost."

"Now I want just to say a kind word of hope on the matter how the Isaak Walton League might proceed to get this Walton Soil Plan examined and get it the attention it deserves. The agricultural policy of the United States is so big and there are so many different conditions that almost any plan that is worth anything can get so complicated the people ask, 'How can we apply it



JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Truman, one of the most fiery campaigners in the history of American politics, is slowing up. Not by choice, though.

Apparently his age — he's 71 — and his health are finally saying to him: "Whoa."

Only 13 days ago Truman said he felt in "tip-top" shape and fully recovered from his major operation last year. He was anxious to get started on a series of give-and-take speeches against the Republicans this month and next—a kind of warmup for next year's presidential campaign when he hoped to help the Democrats throw the Republicans out.

And he did get started. He made a speech in Indiana Saturday and another in Michigan last night. But he had to cancel two speeches scheduled for California in September.

He had called off the West Coast trip on the advice of his physician and the "prodding" of his wife. But he seemed in the best of spirits when he told newsmen: "They are afraid something might happen to the old man."

He indicated the long journey to the Coast might be too taxing, although the speeches in California wouldn't be made until mid-September.

Just recently Michigan Gov. G. Mennen Williams, whom Truman praised highly last night, infuriated the Republicans by suggesting President Eisenhower, now 64, would be too old next year to seek re-election.

Truman's part in next year's campaign — judged by what has just happened here — he couldn't make speeches scheduled almost two weeks apart — will be very limited. He has already said flatly he would not be a candidate in the presidential race.

Truman's return to the political arena Saturday with his speech in Indiana was not particularly impressive. It was mild compared with what he used to say in the past.

True, he denounced the Republicans and took some cracks at Eisenhower. But he spoke in generalities and didn't back up his charges with chapter and verse.

His attack on Eisenhower may have been a surprise to many but here in Washington it was no secret. Those who know Truman indicate he is deeply displeased that Eisenhower isn't warmer toward him.

In last night's speech in Michigan Truman had more of the old fire. He accused the Republicans of trying to destroy the work of the New Deal and "Fair Deal," and he banged away on a theme which the Democrats will probably make one of their major points.

Truman scored the Republicans as the angels of big business. But there wasn't anything novel in that Democratic view of the Republicans.

NEW YORK (AP)—Builders already are beginning to squawk a little about the tightness of money. Some say they are losing sales because customers would like to buy the houses but can't find anyone who will pick up the mortgage.

To which the lending fraternity's spokesman reply: "There will be plenty of money available for lending on the right terms to qualified borrowers." And some lenders add that a little tighter credit now will make the whole housing situation healthier in the future.

As usual in such disputes, it's mostly a matter of difference of opinion as to what terms are right and what borrowers good risks.

But the tightness of money is beginning to pinch a little here and there. Money is getting tight, not because there isn't about as much of it as ever available for investment, but because the demand by loans, installment buying, public construction financing, as well as home mortgages — is increasing right along, and the Federal money managers aren't increasing the supply.

With greater competition for the available investment funds, interest rates have been going up and money lenders have become more choosy about terms and take a colder look at marginal borrowers.

Rising interest rates have upset the plans of a number of state and local governments that want to borrow money for highways, schools and other improvements.

Choosiness by private lenders has been credited with the drop in the number of houses started in July. This happened before the tightening of credit rules on mortgages by the Veterans Administration and the Federal Housing Administration, which at the end of the month. This credit tightening could be a restrictive force before the end of the year.

Criticism of the government's tighter money policy has come from several associations of builders, who contend it will hurt the lower income families most by making home owning harder for them.

Mortgage lenders, however, have been more given to praise. The president of the United States Savings and Loan League, J. Howard Edgerton of Los Angeles, says: "Clearly, if the expansion in credit had continued unabated, the boom would have been out of hand."

HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — What is a war hero like 10 years after he leaves his last battleground?

Ten years ago Audie Murphy, still too young to vote or grow a mustache, came home as America's most decorated soldier of the Second World War. His 34 decorations included the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart for each of his three battle wounds.

The fanfare of a nation's acclaim first bewildered the 20-year-old kid from Texas, then made him a bit resentful.

"All I wanted was some peace, and time to think things through," he recalled.

Audie, one of nine children of a tenant farmer, wanted to forget the war that everyone he met seemed to want to remember. He first thought he'd like to go to West Point, but decided against it. He felt he wouldn't make a good peacetime soldier.

Then he thought of going to college and studying to become a veterinarian. But there was a stumbling block — he had only an 8th grade education. Then a movie offer came along, and he felt he had to take it.

"I had the responsibility of helping two younger sisters and a brother who were in an orphanage while I was away at war," he said.

In Hollywood Audie went up like a rocket — and came down almost as fast. His contract was dropped. He made a marriage that lasted only a year. He lapsed into a semi-obscure life.

But in the years since then Audie has shown the stubborn fighting qualities that made him outstanding in combat. He is no flash hero.

He has now appeared in 15 pictures. His latest, Universal's "To Hell and Back" — based on his own fabulous career — has brought him to the top again. He has remarried happily, and has two children. His future looks secure.

"I still wish I could have gone back to school," he said a little wistfully, "but it has worked out better this way — at least financially."

"I average about \$2,000 a week now and have a six-year contract. In another five years I should be independent. By that I don't mean I'll be a millionaire. But I'll be able to have a ranch or a farm and enough put by to send my children to college."

Audie, part of whose right hip was shot away, draws \$93 a month pay as the result of a 50 per cent disability rating. For three years, until he joined the Texas National Guard as a captain, he refused the money. Now he feels it is fair to take it.

Murphy still holds a steadfast love for the Army and says the war didn't disillusion him.

"War is like a giant pack rat," he remarked. "It takes something from you, and it leaves something behind in its stead."

"It ouned me out in some ways, so that now I feel like an old man. I've been a soldier, and added wrily; Audie still likes to go skin fishing but has lost his zest for hunting."

"I don't mind shooting fish, but somehow I don't like to shoot animals anymore," said the 30-year-old ex-soldier, and added wryly: "I'm just a chicken-headed old cow."

Study Of Bypasses To Be Made

SALEM (AP) — A study of the effects of highway bypasses on Oregon cities was ordered Monday by the Legislature's Highway Interim Committee.

The investigation will be made for the committee by Dr. Wesley Ballaine, director of the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Oregon.

Dr. Victor P. Morris, dean of business administration at the University of Oregon, and Dr. Ballaine presented the proposed investigation to the committee.

Main topics to be investigated will be:

1. Analyze the effects on communities which can be seen from the bypass and those which cannot. Ease of access to and from the bypass will be considered.
2. Type of business firms adversely affected immediately upon opening a bypass and their relative importance to the community.
3. Adjustments that adversely affected firms make when the new traffic pattern is established.
4. Types of businesses benefited by bypasses.

5. Changes in real estate values.

6. Charges in the investigation is \$3,500. It is to include consultation with civic leaders, checks of motel occupancy, records of grocery shelves before and after the new route opens and compilation of gasoline sales to indicate shifts in traffic flow.

The report is to be completed by Aug. 1, 1956.

Rep. Robert L. Ellstrom, Salem, committee member, termed bypasses "inevitable." He said the principal issue is whether or not to keep the communities in sight of the bypass.

Sen. Warren McMinnis, Tillamook, is chairman of the group.

Earlier in the morning the committee heard William Tugman, Reedsport, chairman of the State Parks Advisory Committee, explain the functions of his board and its plan for investigating criticisms and suggestions for state parks.

The interim committee expressed a desire to co-ordinate its work with that of the Tugman committee. The interim board is studying the desirability of creating a separate state park bureau. The parks are now under supervision of the State Highway Commission.

RED CROSS

LONDON — Hung Shen, 60, director of the Red Chinese Bureau for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, died yesterday.

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Frank Sinatra Named In Suit

NEW YORK (AP)—Frank Sinatra faces a one-million-dollar damage suit by 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., which claims he walked out on the shooting of the musical "Carousell."

An attorney for the film company said Sinatra had broken his contract and "abandoned" a company of 125 persons who started making the picture last week at Boothbay, Maine.

A summons connected with the suit was served on the singer-actor yesterday. An attorney for the company, Otto E. Koegel, said Sinatra has 20 days to acknowledge the summons; after which further court action will be taken.

The studio announced that Gordon McCrae would replace Sinatra in the movie.

Sinatra was not available for comment.

The movie company said Sinatra was to be paid \$150,000 for 13 weeks of work on the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. It said Sinatra walked out on the job, complaining he was being forced to make two films for the salary of one.

The company denied this. It said Sinatra's complaint was based on the fact that two sets of wide-angle cameras were being used. It called this a common technique.

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