

The Herald and News

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

SERVICES:
ASSOCIATED PRESS UNITED PRESS
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

Serving Southern Oregon And Northern California

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Danger Sign

By BILL JENKINS

A letter from Joseph Pelzel, local CAA man, in the mail today remarking on the proposed legislation aimed at decreasing accidents at railroad crossings.

The bill he mentions was introduced by Rep. Ford of Michigan and would require railroads to equip their rolling stock with adequate reflector devices on the sides to prevent motorists from ramming into trains at unguarded crossings.

There can be no doubt that considerable danger exists in these conditions. Once or twice while driving in a heavy fog I've come close to ramming a long freight on the crossing myself. Nor can it be denied that some sort of warning device would be a help in some cases.

But it occurs to me that if there is to be any national legislation passed on this matter we'd better give it some pretty profound measures. In other words, why not do a whole hog job while we're at it rather than going halfway?

I have a hunch that reflectors would work okay on clear nights but fall miserably on foggy ones. The same nights that pose the biggest danger.

I can heartily agree with Mr. Pelzel that drivers out along Summers Lane and those streets had better beware. A long string of flats going across in the dark are pretty hard to see if one isn't alert. But let's not forget that driver education will play a larger part in preventing accidents than all the warning devices in the world pinned to the sides of a moving train.

It will be interesting to see what comes of the legislation and, also, what the railroads will come up with in the way of warnings. I'm sure that the railroads are eager to do all in their power to prevent accidents even at considerable initial cost if necessary.

While asking questions this morning another one occurs to me: why aren't there any prepared noodle mixes on the market? There is everything else from cakes and pies to a full five course meal, all done up neatly and ready to go. But no noodle mix.

As I recall it the recipe for noodles is fairly simple. You break an egg in the bowl, fill half the remaining shell with water and dump that in, add a pinch of salt and the necessary flour and you're ready to start work.

Not that I'm crying and in tears for a mix. I'm against all of 'em just on principle. But it is a curious fact which has occurred to me many times.

Indian Life

By KEN McLEOD

Since it was the Algonkin our forefathers knew best this column has spent some time describing the people. It is interesting to see how the impact of the Algonkin upon the pioneer American left a deep imprint by which, right or wrong, every Indian family in the nation has since been measured. Algonkin terminology being implanted upon all other Indian tribes for example, the word "totem."

Most every person associates the word "totem" with the Northwest coast and its highly developed set of totem poles but the word is pure Algonkin. How this came about:

Every Algonkin man of consequence was expected to have a supernatural guardian spirit. Every success in life depended upon the good will of this guardian, not necessarily unseen, because at times the spirit might reveal itself to its ward. This primitive belief is no different than we can find today amongst many of our own people, we may laugh at the thought of guardian spirits but the rabbit foot industry earns several millions of dollars a year. When you think about it, this Indian belief was a fine thing in the wilderness life of a people since the Indian could go upon long journeys, knowing he was not alone in the world for his invisible guardian was always present. The Algonkin "totem" is the name given to such a spirit and today the idea is firmly implanted in the white man's social philosophy. You don't need a carved pole, a rabbit foot will do.

These guardian spirits of the red man were usually animal and bird gods, or beings standing behind the lives of these wildlife creatures and accounting for their existence. Thus in general, Algonkin thought was biased in favor of a kind of brotherhood of men, animals and birds, all guarded by the same supernatural power. Perhaps no white man has ever quite understood the intimate philosophy of these people, but with them it was a fundamental part of life.

As with most peoples, magic and medicine were interwoven, but rather more use was made of vegetable medicines by the Algonkin. Their doctors were as keen to find new medicines as is modern day medical research, and the medicine man of yore continually scoured the forest for strange plants. The whites held these Algonkin medicine men in great esteem, often calling upon them for aid, so that today our folk medicine is rich in Indian recipes.

Ceremonies and rituals among the same extreme as among other Indian families, but we do take note of the Mid Society. This society was a kind of ritualistic order founded among many Algonkin tribes. The society possessed a few ranks or degrees through which an initiate passes. The public was permitted to see a spectacular performance in which it was made to appear that a white shell was shot into a trance. The Mid Society was partially secret and

often intrigued the Europeans into imagining its origin to have something in common with the Masonic order. The songs and evolutions in this ceremony were recorded in a kind of picture writing on birch bark, which reminds us that the Algonkin were unique among Indians of the United States and Canada in the use of this kind of picture writing. While it is true that they made only limited use of it, yet this way of writing seems to have originated with them and is frequently cited as one of the simplest forms of all writing. This much, at least, must be credited to the Algonkin.

Whenever a community of Indians was confronted with a problem, they gathered around a large fire prepared some food and deliberated. Yet they went somewhat further than a white community would, since they called upon the medicine men and women to do what they could to solve their difficulties. Some of the tribes called such a gathering a "powwow" a word now well established in the English language.

Tattle

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP) — Typewriter

A minor leap year victory for the ladies this season has been the opening of what is claimed to be the first beauty parlor at an American racetrack.

It's at Hialeah, outside Miami. Men have been clipped — and spent a lot of money on close shaves — at racetracks for centuries. But the thought of a woman journeying to a bangtail circuit to get her bangs trimmed is, well, a bit on the odd side.

I asked a Florida informant to check up on the progress of the experiment. His report has just arrived, scribbled on the margins of several old racing forms.

It seems the idea for the beauty parlor originated with Vincent Pellegi of the Philadelphia firm of Vincent and Joseph. He figured that such a shop might provide a refuge for a man bored with watching his husband bet the family budget on the ponies.

The beauty parlor caught on at once. Vincent has a staff of four now.

But he quickly learned one thing. The little woman who accompanies hubby to the racetrack isn't bothered by the ponies. She wants some action, too.

Vincent is kept busy running upstairs placing bets on the next race by the ladies sitting under the dryer. He has thrown away his stock of women's magazines. The girls prefer to study the Racing Form, the Green Sheet, the Horsemen's Journal. They don't gossip about clothes, men or babies. They swap tips on horses.

The beauty parlor staff is fascinated by the betting habits of the women. Some are inveterate sluffers who would rather bet their money on a horse unless they know his ancestry for three generations — and what he ate for breakfast. Others depend on feminine intuition, dreams, or merely close their eyes and stick a hairpin through the racing program. The system works out about the same.

The ladies, especially the hunch players, are addicted to daily doubles. Vincent recalls one who won a \$1,000 double after finding a 1953 penny on the way into the track. She bet on the No. 5 horses in the first two races.

The "dream" players don't depend merely on their own dreams. They'll bet on anybody's dreams, including those of their chambermaid at the hotel.

Vincent's unusual salon has succeeded so well he now plans to open another beauty parlor soon at one of the northern tracks. It seems he's been getting a lot of good tips himself.

Expensive Year

By CHARLES M. McCANN
United Press Staff Correspondent

This is likely to be an unusually expensive year for the United States in the cold war.

Pressure is building up all over the world, directly and indirectly, for American financial and economic help.

The reason usually cited is the threat of Communist aggression or the threat of Russia's worldwide campaign of penetration.

On the indirect side, the attraction of "neutrality" as between East and West is pointed out.

There seems to be good reason for suspicion that some foreign governments are using the Communist menace and the desirability of neutrality as a means of getting money for purely national interests.

In other words, that some governments are crying "wolf" to get American aid and others are crying that they want to be lamb, grazing in neutral pastures while the big powers fight the cold war.

President Eisenhower has asked for \$466 billion for the foreign aid program in the fiscal year which starts July 1.

It is expected that in a message to Congress next Monday the President also will ask for authority to spend \$100 million a year for the next 10 years for long-range foreign aid projects.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said in a speech Saturday that the government should be empowered to commit \$100 million a year for several years to aid underdeveloped countries.

Unless that power is given, he said, we take a risk which is quite unjustified, having regard to the small cost of avoiding it.

Washington dispatches say that congressional leaders are either lukewarm or hostile toward this program. It is an election year.

But the pressure on the United States government from abroad, great as it is now, is likely to increase.

President Giovanni Gronchi of Italy offers the suggestion that the United States ought to pay more attention to economic cooperation among the North Atlantic Treaty Countries.

That could cost a lot of money. The threat of Chinese Communist aggression against its neighbors is a reason for substantial aid to the countries concerned.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, who was long firmly on the Allied side, has declared himself a neutralist. Thailand is reported considering a trade agreement with Red China.

Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin and Communist party chief Nikita S. Khrushchev offered aid to India, Burma and Afghanistan during their visit to South Asia.

That is likely to entail correspondence offers by the United States.

Partly because of the Communist aid to arms to Egypt, American aid to that country for building its gigantic Aswan dam has become urgently necessary.

Greece is angry over Britain's refusal to give up its colony of Cyprus. Russia is trying to take advantage of that. It may mean more American money.

West Germany, some suspect, is using its value to the Allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to cut down—or cut off—contributions to the American, British and French armies on its soil.

These are only some of the situations the United States faces. Obviously, American aid to many countries—Africa, neutrals and potential neutrals—is going to be necessary. It will be up to the State Department, with what money it may get, to decide which bids for aid are justified.

Watch March

By SAM DAWSON
NEW YORK (AP)—Business should have the answer to a number of

its uncertainties before Easter. Consumers may well pick March to show their hands in several ways:

1. With an early Easter, the bustling month of March will span the entire pre-Easter sales drive by the merchants.

2. If the month goes out like a lamb, the auto industry may get its first test of how healthy the hoped-for spring pickup in car buying will be.

3. The home building industry, also counting on spring to awaken the urge to own your own home, may find who is right, the one who says a revival in building is due, or the one who says mortgage money will stay tight and buyers chary.

What business will be watching is how strong a tonic March will supply. A seasonal pickup is expected, the usual quickening of the economy through gains in construction, farming and seasonal industries. The question is: Will the pickup be as strong as last year, or will it lack its usual punch?

The consumer isn't the only one who will be showing his hand. Commerce has some decisions to make this month. Businessmen are resigned to its continuing for another year the 52 per cent income tax rate on corporations, and for most of the excise taxes on some consumer goods like autos.

Business will look to Congress this month for at least a hint on what it will do about such important spending items as highways, schools, farm price supports, and foreign aid. There might even be a clearer notion of what's in store for individuals on their income tax rates.

This month sees about two million workers getting a pay raise. The federal minimum wage rises to \$1 an hour.

Wage demands may take form this month. Some key industries, notably steel, will negotiate new contracts in the next few months. Manufacturers are watching for the first signs that the trend in recent months to build up inventories may be due for a reversal. The strength of spring trade may determine whether merchants and producers want to go on expanding stocks, or start living off them.

The time of the spring pickup may also foreshadow the future of corporate earnings—whether the business boom is going to keep on barreling down the highway, or whether it's starting to coast.

Responsibility

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

One of the crying needs of our time is to develop better methods of responsibility for the older people among us.

Never before in our history have we looked forward to having such a large proportion of our fellow citizens over the age of 65.

This does not mean that after that age we are "through." It does mean a change in the kind of problem faced by the older person as well as for his or her family.

Women in general have a considerably greater hold on life than men do. There are a lot more living old ladies than there are old men.

In other respects, however, women in their older years are not so fortunate. A high proportion of women 85 years old or over suffer from the effects of a decline of function in the inner ear and the connections of this organ with the brain. Nearly three out of four women of this age or over suffer from dizziness, a liability to tumbling, and even more from difficulty in getting around in the dark. A high proportion—nearly 70 out of a hundred—are hard of hearing.

These are not happy qualities and the combination of dizziness and difficulty in getting about in the dark enormously increase the danger of broken bones to elderly women.

Men who live to this age suffer in a similar way but there is some question as to whether the men who survive so long are as liable to serious ear difficulties as the women.

Understanding and sympathy for elderly people should be a reflection of our civilization. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that the growing old with all of the physical disabilities which may develop produces a strain on the younger members of society who are responsible for care of the elderly.

One report tells of daughters who have taken care of their parents for months without even being able to get to the movies or for years without being able to shed the care for even a day. Certainly younger people who bear such burdens deserve a better life.

More and more vigorous adults are becoming responsible for aging parents. More homes and institutions capable of caring comfortably and happily for the increasing number of us who are living into old age are a must. The responsibility for facing these problems rests on those of us who have not yet reached the age when we must depend on others.

Quotes

By UNITED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Negro student Autherine Lucy on the action of a federal court in ordering her reinstatement at the University of Alabama.

"It means only one thing. I will be back in school Monday morning."

WASHINGTON — A close friend of Mamie Eisenhower as the first lady objecting to the President running again.

"She just wouldn't do that. They're a team and she goes along with whatever he decides."

They'll Do It Every Time

