

The Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS
Editor
BILL JENKINS
Managing Editor
FLOYD WYNNE
City Editor
MAURICE MILLER
Circulation Mgr.
Ph. TU 4-4752

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 INTERNATIONAL
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS
Serving Southern Oregon And Northern California

Subscription Rates

CARRIER	MAIL
1 MONTH \$1.50	1 MONTH \$1.50
6 MONTHS \$9.00	6 MONTHS \$8.50
1 YEAR \$18.00	1 YEAR \$15.00

Juvenile Policy

By BILL JENKINS

Policies, as someone has thoughtfully pointed out, are not so much the product of reason as they are of expediency. Or at least such would seem to be the case. "There's no reason for it, it's just the policy around here."

However, whether for reasons of policy or expediency or any other acceptable term in today's complex business grammar, it has been increasingly apparent to us here at the Herald and News that something was going to have to be done about a "policy" where the news of juvenile infractions is concerned.

We will not at this time go into any long-winded discussion of the factors involved because everyone is well aware of them. While most opinions are sound and firmly expressed the basic facts of any dealings in this field invariably end up with considerations of "they" and "it" with no tangible nomenclature of expression which can or would be universally accepted and understood.

Therefore, as proves the case in any decision, the matter ends up on the human level and decisions must be weighed on this highly emotional basis. Lines cannot be drawn until such time as we have a general code which lays down the properties of what makes up a juvenile, a crime, a court or a punishment. A code, incidentally, which is going to be pretty hard to arrive at.

So . . . Since it has to be a human decision and since we as a newspaper sincerely wish to take an active and constructive part in the community picture it is up to us to say, as definitely as possible, what we will do in future cases.

Before these simple rules are outlined let us point out that this newspaper is staffed with flesh-and-blood human beings, none of whose memory will prove so imperfect as to preclude the memory of similar offenses against the community code at some shadowy date in the past.

If the newspapers must act as jury in the matter of where to draw the line to print or not to print then it is well to remember that these decisions will be reached after much mature consideration, the same soul searching and the same sweat and tears that accompany late decisions among any other group.

It is also well to keep in mind the fact that not all sources are open to the press. The juvenile court is one such agency. Under the laws of the State of Oregon these records need not be made available to the public. In such cases, then, it is up to the judgment of the authorities as to whether or not they choose to release information of a juvenile misdeed. If the case goes to the police, then these records are open for inspection.

We need not favor or disfavor these rulings. They are a part of the legal framework of the state and if the people are not happy with them the matter can be resolved at the polls.

So, after all this preamble, let's say that the policy of this paper will follow these basic lines where so-called juvenile offenses are concerned.

We tend to be liberal in our thinking and agree that every dog is entitled to one bite. This theory, fitted into the general picture, would allow of such offenses as automobile personal infractions where no serious personal injury or death results, curfew violations, violations of the liquor code, scuffles where no serious injury occurs and other "juvenile" infractions of the adult authorized code.

In cases where the offense can be classified as a felony we see no real reason for withholding names or information. Ignorance of the law, we are repeatedly told, is no excuse. It is our opinion that any juvenile—and a juvenile is commonly called any youth who falls under the magic age of 18—who has the temerity to commit such a serious offense (burglary, assault, etc.) also has the knowledge that he is doing wrong. If he has not then the blame really falls on the parents or on society as a whole.

This, then, is the basic outline of the policy as it will be carried out here.

It must be remembered that we are living in troubled times. Even the youth of the nation catch the undercurrent of the tense cold war situation. Perhaps far better than their adult advisers, they are further subjected to the backlash of their parents' war worries, social uneasiness and the growing pressures of a booming population with its attendant problems.

We feel, here at the Herald and News, that there is no use for

alarm about our younger generation. The juvenile offenses placed on the adult scale are not so gross as to cause us any undue worry.

But we feel that the fear of revelation is a greater deterrent to potential misdoing than any court punishment that can be levied.

To hold the whole thing down—boys will be boys, and rightly so. But keep it at the harmless level or expect the full consequences of publication. Age notwithstanding.

Travel Notes

By NELSON REED

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Ricans have been very enthusiastic about the Cuban Revolution, and now are all in favor of starting one in the Dominican Republic. Some of them we have talked to have even mentioned that there has been talk of a volunteer expedition from here and Cuba to invade old Trujillo's country.

People here are properly incensed at the remarks of Congressman Withrow of Wisconsin and Jackson of California, and Sen. Ellender of Louisiana praising Dictator Trujillo and claiming that he had done more for his people than anybody else.

Evidently they were down there on some kind of a political junket and were properly "entertained" by Mr. Trujillo, so they believed all those huge pictures and statues we saw when there several years ago which repeated over and over again: "Trujillo is the friend of the people; the people love Trujillo etc. etc."

Drive through the walled compound where he lives, look at the manned machine gun nests on the wall and on the roof of his house, meet not only a policeman but a soldier armed with a carbine or a burp gun on every corner, listen to the rifle practice just outside the city all day long and watch the dive bombers dropping live bombs in the fields in sight of the town most any day, as we have, and you will feel sure that Trujillo and his people just love each other.

But the Cubans and the Puerto Ricans better go slow and let nature in its course take care of Trujillo. He is not "ripe for the plucking" as Batista was. He is very tough, smart hombre and exceedingly well armed.

We only hope that the Puerto Ricans will listen to their governor, who is a wise statesman. When asked his opinion of the Cuban executions, he said that while he personally believes in civil justice in Cuba and elsewhere, Cubans are the ones to handle their own affairs. He feels that the moral power of the Cuban Revolution is so great that the initial errors, especially of procedure, will not offset its great positive force.

He added that the U.S. is in a difficult position now regarding Latin American dictatorships. If the U.S. maintains relations with a dictator it is accused of backing him; if it opposes him, it is accused of intervention in the internal affairs of another country.

Soap Bubbles

By FLORENCE JENKINS

Primitive man discovered that the dripping fat from his spitted dinner meat, combining with the wood ashes of his fire resulted in an excellent cleansing agent. Probably he was more interested in keeping his stone axe polished than in removing dirt from his hands, but he had discovered soap for his use.

Down the ages, fats and oils mixed with lye, which was the active ingredient in those wood ashes, have become refined into the soaps we know today.

Grandmother melted down the

bits of leftover soap into a jelly which was used for washing and shampooing.

Grandfather would take some of the soap and mix it with warm water and permit the children to amuse themselves by the hour—blowing soap bubbles.

Today we have soaps of all sorts and descriptions to fit all kinds of uses.

A fine cabinet maker may be seen rubbing the runners of a drawer with a bar of laundry soap to make the drawer glide more easily. His great-grandfather did the same thing.

Mother rubbed the inside of the back of her first pair of high heeled shoes with soap to keep her stockings from rubbing and wearing out.

In the field of industry, a highly unusual use for liquid soap has just been noted. Soap is very important to the vast telephone network which stretches from coast to coast. Sometimes holes and cracks occur in the cable lines. For testing, a liquid solution of soap is sprayed onto the cables and the pressure of the gas from within the lines causes soap bubbles to appear wherever there is even a tiny crack.

So look who is blowing soap bubbles in this modern world.

French Troubles

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Editor

The honeymoon isn't over yet for Gen. Charles de Gaulle and la belle France but the marriage is showing signs of strain.

The bride is growing restive under de Gaulle's edict that the couple must live within its income, and they're also having trouble with the relatives in Algeria.

France was on the verge of civil war last May 15 when de Gaulle announced he was ready to come out of retirement and take over the government of France.

Committees of public safety in Algeria were in outright revolt against the weak Paris government of Premier Pierre Pflimlin. There were ominous signs that French paratroopers in North Africa were ready to invade the mainland, link up with other dissidents there and march on the capital itself.

In those closing days of the French Fourth Republic, French air force fighter planes flew in symbolic Cross of Lorraine formations over de Gaulle's home in open invitation for him to take power by whatever means he chose.

And so, whatever regrets or misgivings the professional politicians had, it was in an atmosphere of general rejoicing that de Gaulle first took over emergency powers and then on Jan. 8 of this year emerged as the first president of the French Fifth Republic.

De Gaulle, backed by new powers which placed him in a position similar to that of the president of the United States and by an overwhelming majority in the French Assembly, announced three main objectives. They were:

To restore France to its place among the great nations.
To place the nation on a pay-as-you-go basis, removing it from the list of Europe's sick nations.

To end the uprising in Algeria. Before he could attain his first objective, it was necessary for him to be successful in the other two.

At home, his austerity campaign already is meeting widespread opposition.

In industrial Lille last week several thousand heavy industry workers went on strike to protest

the lay-off of more than 800 workers in a plant making steel machinery. It was a token strike but it could establish a pattern for others.

The cause is two-fold: First the de Gaulle austerity campaign which virtually decreed a halt to pay increases while at the same time increasing taxes; and, France's entry into the European common market which lowered French tariffs and forced French manufacturers to convert to more efficient methods in order to compete in the common market.

The result has been widespread layoffs in such key industries as textiles, automotive and electrical home appliances.

It has given the Communists their first real campaign issue against de Gaulle.

Opposition to de Gaulle policies also has neared the violent stage in Algeria, not from the political left but from the extreme right. It is made up of French settlers, who, outnumbered almost 10 to one by the Moslems, see total integration with France as their only salvation.

De Gaulle has refused to meet their demands, insisting that while Algeria must remain French, its political tie with France will be determined after peace is restored. The result was that when French Premier Michel Debre visited Algeria last week, he was met with cries of "down with de Gaulle."

Those are only two of de Gaulle's pressing problems. In addition, of course, he is beset by all the others hanging over nations today.

There must be many a night when the bridegroom wonders why he married.

Medical Answers

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

Today's first letter contains a pretty strong complaint against the medical profession.

Q—Where can a person go to get a full and guaranteed examination? Don't tell me to go see a doctor. I know of too many cases where it has been necessary to see several before finding one who could handle the case. What answer does the medical profession have to this all-too-common complaint of the long-suffering public? —J. B. M.

A—I do not know where a person could go for a medical examination except to a physician. It should be recognized that there is no such thing as a "guarantee" possible in the medical field. The human body is too complex, medical science is not advanced enough, and the physician is too human to make a guarantee possible.

Medicine today is so complicated that no single physician can know everything. Consequently, the physical examination should usually be conducted by an internist or general practitioner who can obtain the assistance of specialists if necessary.

Q—I have diabetes and since shortly after it was discovered in its early phase I have been taking a drug by mouth. Recently you stated in a column that these drugs are in an experimental stage. According to my physician they are past the experimental stage and in most cases the results are satisfactory.—E.N.

A—The remark to which this letter refers may have been misinterpreted. "Experimental" has a different meaning for the general public than for physicians. Several fine oral drugs to diabetes are now in wide use. The results in most instances have been good.

However, there are some patients with diabetes for whom these drugs are not at present considered desirable and who should be treated by diet, insulin, or a combination of methods. Consequently, the decision of whether or not to use these oral drugs should be made by the physician in charge. He alone is in a position to judge all of the facts in an individual patient.

Dr. Jordan is unable to answer directly individual questions from readers. However, in this "Q & A" column he will answer the most interesting and the most frequently asked questions received.

Quoties

United Press International
WICHITA FALLS, Tex.—Police chief C.C. Daniel, on the story of a 12-year-old unwed mother who told of five trysts with nine Wichita Falls policemen over a two-year period:
"I'd hate to see these men picked on, but I want the girl says is true, I won't try to protect them. It's a shock for our police force."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Tax Law Begins In Massachusetts

BOSTON (AP)—Beginning this week virtually everybody in Massachusetts with a job will collect a smaller pay check.

That's because a newly enacted state law withholding personal income taxes went into effect Feb. 15.

But it will affect more than those who work for wages and salaries.

Each quarter, it will reach into the pockets of the self-employed and those living on unearned incomes. Such persons are faced with the knotty problem of estimating how much they will earn, or whether the stock they own will pay any dividends in the year ahead — and how much. If they guess too high, it will be many months before they can get the money back.

Adjustments on overpayments must come after income tax returns for 1959 are filed next year. Meantime, there are other complications.

The withholding provision is retroactive to Jan. 1. Therefore, there will be double withholding deductions each pay day until the taxes in arrears are made up.

That's not all. On April 15, income taxpayers must plunk down their Massachusetts income tax for last year.

If the taxpayer works in Massachusetts but lives in an adjoining state, he still has to pay. Considerable numbers of Massachusetts workers have homes in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire or Vermont.

A spot check showed some taxpayers, though, the withholding principle would be a relief in solving the annual problem of finding the money for the state income tax.

But many other taxpayers were openly indignant. Some objected to the fact that within one calendar year they would have to turn over to the state two years' tax money. Some were suspicious that withholding would be a prelude to

increased income taxation, as it was with Federal taxes. Some felt that retroactive taxation was illegal.

Employers are permitted to deduct part of what they collect to cover their clerical and bookkeeping expenses.

The state gets about 112 million dollars a year from the personal income tax. It expects two dividends from withholding — one by rounding up tax evaders, and the other by adding a windfall to this year's collections — thus helping solve a deficit problem.

The 24 per cent tax, for a taxpayer with two exemptions, would cost the \$75-a-week worker 54 cents a week, the \$100-a-week earner \$1.12 weekly, the \$125 earner \$1.75, and the \$150 earner \$2.31. All these deductions will be doubled until retroactive collections back to the first of the year are completed.

Nike-Hercules Just Misses Ranch Barn

EL PASO, Tex. (AP)—A mighty Nike-Hercules shook off its shackles, went astray and missed a cluster of southern New Mexico ranch buildings by a scant 200 yards.

An explosive charge, which was meant to destroy it in flight in case it went out of control, blew up when the rocket splashed in, gouging a hole 10 feet deep and 30 feet wide.

It was a close call for five adults and one child, but a military spokesman said no one was "even scratched."

The closest building was a stone-walled barn with a gabled wooden roof. The blast lifted the roof and set it down again. Inside, playing next to a stack of sacked cattle feed, was Karen Mauldin, 18 months old.

Outside, working in the corral, were her father, Kenneth, and his son, Charles.

Mrs. Don Lee was in her home about 270 yards from the place where the two-ton missile landed. Mrs. Mauldin was in another house about 250 feet from the hole the Hercules dug.

The tale of the errant anti-aircraft missile came to light Friday when Charles Lee drove to Alamogordo, N.M., north of El Paso, to get his wife and children. Lee phoned Ft. Bliss, at El Paso, from Alamogordo to tell them the missing Hercules lit on his father's ranch Thursday.

The missile was fired from McGregor missile training range in southwestern New Mexico.

A Ft. Bliss spokesman said the military is trying to find out why the rocket wandered.

Feline Enjoys Axel Perching

DETROIT, Mich. (AP)—A cat with a penchant for perching on car axles is under observation at the Detroit dog pound.

Police noticed the cat when Mrs. Louise M. Stamenoff pulled up to a station and told an officer "I've been riding around in my car with this cat on my axle for over an hour. He keeps meowing under there. It's annoying. People are stopping and staring at me."

Cat psychology failed, so the police resorted to other means. They squirted the cat with a hose. He jumped off Mrs. Stamenoff's axle and climbed up on the axle of a police ambulance.

Dog pound attendants donned heavy gloves and went in after the cat. They got him.

Graham Crusade Gaining Pace

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Billy Graham's Australian crusade is gaining pace.

The American evangelist is preaching only 35 minutes a night instead of his usual hour-long sermons, under doctor's instructions, but the crowds are so large hundreds are turned away nightly.

Some 70,000 persons have attended his meetings. Hundreds of thousands of others have heard and watched him on radio and television.

The theme of his sermons here is that "there won't be peace in the world until man obeys the laws of God."

SPEECH SCHEDULED
WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.) left here Friday to speak at Santiago, Cuba, Saturday.
He will address several service club groups.

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Send your entries to:

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Truth broadcasts will be judged for appropriateness, clarity, sincerity and originality.

Competition closes March 31, 1959. All contributions go in their entirety to Radio Free Europe.

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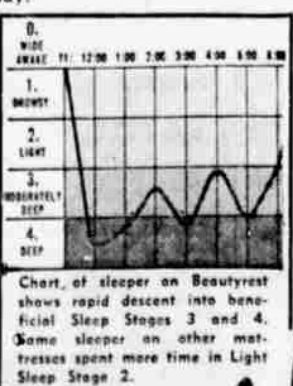
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