

The Herald and News

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Entered as second class matter at the post office at Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 29, 1906, under act of Congress, March 8, 1879

SERVICES:
ASSOCIATED PRESS UNITED PRESS
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS
Serving Southern Oregon And Northern California

Subscription Rates

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

P's and Q's

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

When someone tells you to mind your p's and q's, you know exactly what they mean.

At least, in my mind it always has meant watch what you're doing, pay attention, and other admonitions along this line.

But, my inquiring mind took this old trite bromide one step further the other day. What does the p and the q stand for in p's and q's?

IT WOULD SEEM to be a simple thing, easy to look up. But it wasn't.

First I checked to see if I was the only one dwelling in ignorance on the subject.

I asked a dozen people, and while everyone knew what the phrase meant, they would only speculate as to what the p and q actually stood for.

I soon had everyone wondering the same thing, and a search began of almanacs, encyclopedias, books on famous quotations and American slang and others. I pioneered the city library, also.

One particular book gave me a host of information, but nothing about this phrase. It is called "Information Roundup" written by George Simpson.

It told me how "stuffed shirt" originated, which came first the hen or the egg, why rice is thrown at newly married couples and where the habit of chewing gum originated.

I also found out why the wedding ring is worn on the third finger, how the holes are put in macaroni, why cows are milked from the right side, why Irishmen are called "micks," why a watch is called a turnip, and a hundred other things.

But I could not find out what the p and the q meant.

FINALLY, a call from the city library gave me the answer.

The answer proved to be twofold.

A dictionary of slang surmised that the p's and q's colloquialism first originated in the schoolroom when children had trouble distinguishing between "p" and "q" since they both have tails, and are sometimes written identically, but reversed.

The saying was attributed to a Mrs. H. Cowley as early as 1779. She said, "You must mind your p's and q's."

Going back over the many suggestions I had during the day, I had to commend Virginia Fuller, our correspondent editor, because she had guessed earlier that this is what it meant.

However, the same dictionary also surmised that p's and q's could have originated another way. It speculated that P meant pint and Q meant quart, and that the phrase might have meant one must exercise care to avoid overcharge or undercharge in the pursuit of business.

NOW, IF SOMEONE will tell me what the "Sam Hill" means in the old phrase "What the Sam Hill?" I'll be obliged.

Ice Skates
By FLORENCE JENKINS

A survey of retail outlets in Klamath Falls shows that approximately 1,185 pairs of skates have been sold here since the middle of December.

Except for a few scattered instances of small sizes, that is all the skates there were in town, too.

One store reported its entire stock of 275 pairs was sold out in three days after the cold spell hit. The stock had been held over because there wasn't a day of skating last winter.

The same store reports three pairs of water skis were sold that same week, to three individual purchasers. Shows the versatility of our people, certainly.

One store manager bought up some used skates and sold out all 100 pairs pronto. He sold all the new ones in stock, too.

One enterprising store manager got on the telephone and ordered skates from Chicago and hopes the shipment of 66 pairs in a variety of sizes will arrive in town today for sale this week.

The mail order and catalogue departments report "a terrific business" because they were able to take care of a lot of orders when the town ran out of skates.

"Another thousand pairs of skates could have been sold in town in the last month," one store manager lamented. "When we had them, there wasn't any skating and now we can't get any more in time for this season."

George Price, park and recreation director, said that as many as 800 youngsters were skating one weekend afternoon on the lagoon at the lake where he had provided supervision for their safety. Three and four hundred young-

sters were skating nightly at the Moore Park rink. Ice skating is equally popular with adults, he added.

When the dogs' drinking water freezes solid at our house, we have always maintained that water would freeze at the city rink. It is extremely gratifying to drive past the rink and see that Al Knowles and George Price agree. They are to be complimented on providing the first good skating here in three years.

Of course, the weatherman has been on their side, too.

Package Addicts
By SAM DAWSON

AP Business News Analyst

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans are becoming package addicts at a snowballing rate. And the various segments of the container industry expect to get consumers even more attached to packaging this year and decade.

The use of containers, the Department of Commerce records show, is growing 16 per cent faster than the nation's total dollar volume of goods and services. And packaging consumption is growing faster than the population, which takes some doing.

The growing demand of consumers for convenience packaging of an increasing number of products sparks the manufacturers to try new materials and new processes. New packages reached store shelves last year in greater volume than any previous year.

The packaging industry is now estimated to be doing a 10-billion-dollar annual sales business.

Carl R. McGowan, president of Owens-Illinois Glass, thinks a record 23 billion glass bottles and jars will be produced this year, a six per cent gain over last. Some eight billion of the bottles and jars will hold baby foods, salad dressing, preserves, jellies, catsup, chili sauce, pickles, olives, honey and instant coffee.

R. K. Turner, president of Union Carbide's plastics division, says that industry should turn out 6 1/2 billion pounds in 1960, compared with 5 1/2 billion last year — and 1 1/2 billion in 1950. A sizable proportion will be used for packaging industrial and consumer products.

Just making machinery for packaging has become a 200-million-dollar annual business, according to Modern Packaging magazine. It sees a demand for a machine to turn out 300 or more packages a minute.

Among the container rivalries that will grow hotter this year, it says, are the battles between glass, tin and aluminum cans, aerosols, high-density polyethylene bottles, squeeze tubes, folding cartons, rollable paper pouches, transparent films, metalized paper and stretchable paper. The last already is a factor in the multiple bag field.

Recent developments cited include additional materials for thermo-forming; automatic forming, filling and sealing machines; stretched vinyl film card packaging; and a new cold forming method for making transparent folding cartons or trays.

Boosting Taxes
By LYLE C. WILSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The year-end Treasury figures further establish a fact to which government must face up soon or government may go broke.

The fact is this: The U.S. taxpayer cannot support the government in the style to which it is accustomed unless tax rates are increased.

The mere thought of increasing taxes in an election year is enough to panic the politicians. An election year, however, is the only occasion on which the taxpayer-voter has a real chance to influence the politicians who seek his vote. So this presidential year offers the taxpayer-voter his chance to demand from the politicians an accounting and an explanation.

Either taxes must go up to meet the costs of government or government costs must come down inside the limits of revenue raised by the present tax rates. Those are the alternatives to another generation or so of budget deficits, ever higher living costs, debasement and devaluation of the dollar.

On the long haul, these unquestionably are the alternatives to national bankruptcy or, at best, a currency inflation which would so rot the dollar that a single cigarette would be a more welcome tip than paper money in a first class hotel.

The year-end Treasury figures reflect revenue and spending during the first six months of the current fiscal year. The bad, sad news is this: In those six months the government went into the hole

at a rate of more than one billion dollars a month.

From June 30, last when the 1960 fiscal year began, until year-end, the national debt increased by more than eight billion dollars. That represents the margin to scratch up enough to pay his government's bills. This margin probably will shrink during the final six months of the fiscal year. The trend is obvious, however, despite the taxpayer's heroic efforts.

The Treasury has been in the red in 24 of the past 30 years. The national debt in 1929 was just short of 17 billion. It is more than 290 billion dollars today. The annual interest charge on this debt is more than it used to cost before World War II to run the entire government for a year.

This does not reflect any lack of effort by the taxpayers. They put up in the first six months of the fiscal year nearly 40 billion dollars, a record contribution.

Higher taxes seem to be the only rational way to meet the problem. It would not be rational to suggest that government costs might be reduced by eliminating waste, extravagant projects and such.

The politicians will not do that because the taxpayer-voter does not demand that the politician do so or lose his job.

Parlous Times
By SAUL PETT

NEW YORK (AP) — These are indeed parlous times.

A whole way of life may be in jeopardy. A culture, an economy, a philosophy, an entire set of customs, habits and values may shortly be shattered. Why?

The Internal Revenue Bureau says that this year it will examine more closely than ever before deductions for business entertainment, travel and other expenses.

This may be the beginning of the end of the age of the expense account. Consider what might happen if the government suddenly began to disallow many of the income tax deductions it now ac-

SHORT RIBS
By Frank O'Neal

CHICAGO — Mrs. Ethel Krueger, manager of the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society office, expressing regret that a doe that wandered into the city died from exhaustion after fleeing police.

"It was scared to death of the people. They didn't understand and were scared of it. Why when things are frightened of one another do they always not understand?"

WASHINGTON — Rep. John S. Monagan (D-Conn.) stating he will introduce a bill requiring party conventions to be held no more than 60 days before the election in order to shorten the campaigning.

"It seems to me the people get tired of it. They can take so much of that and that's about all."

BEANS! AGAIN!

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Agency in limiting but not prohibiting alcoholic drinks to be served on planes:

"No facts support the contention that serving alcoholic beverages to passengers constituted a safety hazard."

The liquor industry would receive its worst jolt since Carry Nation picked up her hatchet and went party-poopng. Credit cards, new such handy proof for the tax collector, might easily disappear and be replaced by that ancient, gauche, germ-ridden thing called cash. Remember cash?

At least a hundred famous restaurants around the country, where people come to be seen despite or because of the outrageous prices, nightmarish decor and mediocre food, might have to shut down and be replaced by supermarkets or pizza parlors.

In the big cities, the big black limousines rented by visiting business men would revert to their original function — funerals. Many private and corporate yachts, only yesterday the scene of lavish and deductible business entertainment, would begin rusting at their moorings. Private and corporate airplanes, whose fuel was the expense account, would be grounded.

Country club memberships would go begging for people willing to pay for their own. Headwaiters would find smaller tips in their palms and the age of the deductible grand gesture would end; Americans once more would return to the ways of their forefathers and start outflubbing each other for the check. It might even make waiters civil.

Once more Americans would acquire an old-fashioned respect for money because the money they will be spending will be their own, not Uncle Sam's.

There will be more wives cooking their own dinners and more men going on the wagon rather than break the habit of a lifetime and start buying their own. The theater would suffer, night clubs would be staggered and baseball fans would suddenly replace out of town buyers in the corporate boxes at the World Series.

And on Madison Avenue, desolation. The four-martini, three-hour lunch would disappear. Young men in gray flannels would dine out on park benches — salami sandwiches out of handtooled Moroccan leather attache cases.

Dems Square Off In Montana Race

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Rep. Leroy H. Anderson, 53, serving his second term in the U.S. House, will oppose Sen. James H. Murray, 83, for the Democratic nomination for U.S. senator from Montana.

Murray, who has served in the Senate 25 years, announced last week he would seek renomination in the 1960 primary. Anderson announced Thursday that he would be a candidate.

ACTRESS RELEASED

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Actress Betty Hutton was released Thursday from a hospital where she was treated four days for influenza.

DIES AT 126

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (UPI) — Rosa Bjelic, known as the oldest woman in Yugoslavia, died Tuesday at her home in Komarni village, according to reports received here. Mrs. Bjelic was believed to be 126 years old. She was the mother of 11 children, including a son 86 years of age.

LABOR LEADER EXPLAINS SYSTEM

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — British Labor party leader Hugh Gaitskill explained Thursday night why Britain has had a two-party system: "Because we like team games," he said.

Speaking on the role of the opposition party, the touring Briton told a Princeton University audience, "you might say Britain adheres to a sporting theory of history."

FIRE DESTROYS BOATYARD

LINDENHURST, N.Y. (UPI) — Fire early today destroyed a building and several pleasure cruisers at a boatyard here, causing damage unofficially estimated at \$100,000. It took two hours to extinguish the blaze, which was of unknown origin.

Girl Found In Alley

VENICE, Calif. (AP) — Terry Cromer, 10, was upset because her mother spanked her for neglecting homework.

So she skipped school Wednesday and stayed overnight at a girl friend's house. Mrs. Johnnie Cromer, 28, her mother, called police. An all-night search began.

Thursday Terry was found lying in an alley, apparently unconscious.

Mrs. Cromer, a divorcee, took Terry to the hospital. A doctor suspected a hoax. He mentioned something about giving her "a shot." Terry came to — quicker than you could say imposter.

First she said she had been kidnapped. Then she admitted she skipped school.

Terry and her mother hugged and departed.

They'll Do It Every Time



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