

THE KLAMATH NEWS

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I Am An American!

WHAT does it mean to be an American citizen? On May 18 millions of men and women in the United States will be thinking about that. The day has been set apart by congress as "I am an American Day," honoring especially those who have attained full citizenship during the past year either by having become 21 years old if native born, or by naturalization if born elsewhere.

But every American ought to think about it, too, in these days when to be an American is a precious privilege.

What is it, to be an American?

It is to be a free man or a free woman in a free land. It is to walk unafraid, fearing no one, secure in the knowledge that before the people's laws all are equal.

It is to think, and read, to speak and write freely; to seek the truth without hindrance; to breathe the air of a great, free land that still belongs to the people who inhabit it.

It is to be governed under a constitution adopted by the people, which they may change at will, and under laws passed and administered by public servants elected by the people. It is to have a vote in these things equal to any man's vote.

It is to look one's neighbor in the face, be he rich or poor, and to know oneself as good a man as he.

It is to worship whatever God one finds in the heart, and to worship Him as conscience dictates.

It is to bow to no authority but those which the people themselves have ordained and maintain.

It is to grant freely to fellow-Americans all rights and privileges one asks for oneself, and to expect as much from them.

It is to keep for oneself certain corners of the mind, certain phases of intimate and personal life, secure against a state to which the people themselves have said "Keep Out!"

To be an American? It is to be a man, or a woman, before men and before God, with the dignity which God breathed into man when He made him "only a little lower than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor."

THAT is what it is to be an American. That is what we celebrate on May 18. That is the ideal to which we dedicate ourselves.

Where we have fallen short of it, and the instances are many, that is the measure of our failure to achieve in full the task we have set ourselves, the most glorious task a people ever undertook.

Our failures as well as our successes are our own. We take them to ourselves, and looking at them squarely, each of us can yet say with pride, "I am an American!"

Pilot Assigned to Test World's Largest Bomber

DAYTON, O., May 12 (UP)—Smartly-groomed Major Stanley M. Umstead, who in civilian attire looks more like a Wall Street executive than a military test pilot, tackled his biggest assignment next week.

The Wright field flight chief leaves Monday for California to put the world's largest bomber—the gigantic Douglas B-19—through its aerial paces for the first time.

The giant ship, which weighs 82 tons and has a tail that scales 42 feet above the ground, will be raised from the runways at Santa Monica, Calif., for the first time sometime next week.

Major Umstead will be assigned by O. W. Coyle, outstanding civilian Douglas Aircraft company test pilot, and Maj. Howard C. Bunker of the Wright field engineering section.

Wright field officials indicated that the bomber, which is more than twice the size of the largest plane now used by the army, is tentatively scheduled to leave Santa Monica on May 17 on a crucial 2000-mile test flight to Dayton.

It could not be learned by which route the mammoth bomber would travel from California to Ohio, where it will be examined by experts at Wright field, which Major Umstead calls "the finest experimental center in the world of aviation."

Major Umstead is regarded as one of the safest fliers in the army. A veteran of more than 10,000 flying hours, he has had only two minor accidents.

The first mishap occurred early in his 23-year army career when his plane crashed because the engine failed. He escaped unhurt as he did a second time in 1928 when he became a member of the "Caterpillar Club" by being forced to parachute to safety when his plane caught fire.

Major Umstead loves cigars. Big black ones. His iron-gray hair, medium stature, short mustache and immaculate dress—plus the ever-present cigar—be he his profession.

The test pilot joined the army as a private in the signal corps in 1928 and was commissioned a

lieutenant a few months later. Major Umstead has been chief of the Wright field flying branch since 1936.

Testing the huge B-19 bomber will dull the lustre on all of Major Umstead's previous accomplishments. He said he was ready for the job and added that he had spent several weeks in California studying the plane. Along with Major Bunker, he has made careful calculations for precarious takeoffs and landings that will come up when the numerous test flights begin.

Only one thing comes before his flying, Major Umstead said. That is his family. He has four daughters and a son, who wants to be a pilot.

Chiang Says China Willing To Tackle Shackling of Japan

CHUNGKING, May 12 (AP)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek declared in a speech released today that China, without the help of an expeditionary force or naval action, but with material and economic aid, was prepared to undertake single-handed the task of putting down Japan.

He added it was his conviction that "any country in the world matching itself against American democracy would meet with certain destruction."

He spoke at a farewell dinner given by Mme. Chiang for United States Ambassador Nelson T. Johnson, who is leaving to become minister to Australia. Many leading figures in China attended.

REAL LIFE HUNTINGTON, Ind., (AP)—Fredith Langley, secretary of the Huntington school superintendent, was telling Jennie B. Wilson, high school teacher, how she found a snake under her desk.

"Why, it was just like you would look down at the floor under your desk and see a snake," she said.

Miss Wilson looked down under her desk and saw a snake. A biology teacher caught it with a net. It was a poisonous water moccasin two feet long.



Moody

YOUTH CONVICTED OF SHOOTING WIFE

CHEHALIS, Wash., May 12 (AP)—A 21-year-old former Chicago department store worker, Frank W. Turner, was convicted of second-degree murder Saturday night for shooting his well-to-do, 44-year-old wife to death last December 30 a few weeks after their marriage.

The superior court jury deliberated more than five hours. A second-degree conviction usually carries a sentence of from 20 years to life. No date was set by the court for sentencing.

The prosecution charged Turner shot his wife to death because he wanted to get possession of the money they held in a joint bank account.

Turner's father, Maj. Frank Turner, disabled cavalry officer formerly stationed in Panama and more recently at an army hospital in Denver, collapsed when he heard the verdict. The son received his fate in tearful silence.

Young Turner, who attended school in the Canal zone, went to Chicago about a year ago to visit his mother. While working in a store there he met the former Anne Bode, who was then married to a man named Peterson. Shortly after Peterson's death, Mrs. Peterson and Turner came west and were married.

A few weeks after they moved into their ranch home a suspicious neighbor found Mrs. Turner's blood-covered body in her home.

Turner pleaded innocent by reason of temporary insanity, and that he was drunk and mentally irresponsible. The court told the jury it could not find Turner insane because the defense had failed to establish a legal basis for such a plea. The defense then asked for a minimum manslaughter conviction.

Germans Occupy Isle Near Crete

BERLIN, May 12 (AP)—German troops have occupied Melos island, in the Cyclades group 75 miles north of Crete, authorized German sources announced today.

Melos is the 12th of Greece's Cyclades islands which Germany and Italy have announced occupied thus far.

The seizure of Melos, the Germans said, "completely surprised" 118 Englishmen and 200 Cretans who were found there and taken prisoners.

ENOUGH'S ENOUGH BEATTIE, Kas., (AP)—

Clarence Chapman's pigeon did her best.

A hen laid an egg in the pigeon's nest. The chick hatched along with a squab.

For days the surprised pigeon foraged food for the rapidly growing chick, but finally gave up in disgust and kicked the infant from the nest.

SUCCESS LOUISIANA, Mo., (AP)—

Charles Clarkson has successfully reversed the customary trail of getting educated and then going to work.

He quit school 15 years ago to clerk in a grocery store and later became owner. Then he returned to school. Next Friday, Clarkson, 32-years-old, will be awarded his high school diploma.

Looking for bargains? Turn to the Classified page

SCOUTERS ATTEND EMERGENCY MEET

Four Klamath Falls scouts spent last Saturday and Sunday at the McKenzie Bridge CCC camp attending an emergency service corps training program given by the assistant national director of health and safety of the Boy Scouts of America. Those going from Klamath Falls were Howard Boyd, P. A. Everett, William Burgess, and Dwight Gilchrist.

This course was for all scouts in the western part of Oregon and some 40 volunteers attended. The training was for the purpose of coordinating all council emergency service corps with the Red Cross disaster committee and also emphasize the type of training that should be given to the scouts.

One of the features of Sunday morning was actual practice in One-Lik forest fire fighting system under the supervision of forest men.

BROTHER LOST ASTORIA, May 12 (AP)—

James Madsen, Astoria, said Saturday the Canadian government has informed his parents that his brother, Clinton Madsen, 31, New York City, was believed lost in the sinking of the vessel Voltaire in the Atlantic.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, May 12 — Congressman Cox said he wanted to freeze Mr. Stettinius in solid as director of defense priorities, but he froze him into a cube in the refrigerator of the army and navy munitions control board.

The Cox amendment was designed to give Mr. Stettinius an independent legal status whereas he has been functioning under the uncertainty of a retrievable presidential executive order. That was what Mr. Cox told the house when his amendment was unanimously adopted to the Vinson bill.

He did not need to tell the house a bigger and better reason why this should be done. In the corridors nearly everyone had heard how the defense price cudeger, Leon Henderson, had installed a man in the Stettinius division to take over half the priorities, dealing with civilian needs. Another reason, true or not, was afloat in the house before the vote implying that the president's Man-Friday Harry Hopkins, might be installed in Mr. Stettinius' position before long.

So the unanimous decision of the house really represented a mild revolt against the continuance of unreserved presidential discretion in shifting the defense setup. It was in fact a move to get back some power into the hands of congress by requiring any future presidential appointees to the priorities office to get senate approval (Mr. Hopkins probably could not get it.)

EXTRA SENTENCE

But in working toward this laudable democratic purpose, the Cox amendment added a final sentence reading: "Such powers (of Mr. Stettinius) shall be exercised by the director only after prior approval of such exercise by the joint army and navy munitions board."

This would not only freeze Mr. Stettinius rhetorically but literally. His screaming associates in the priorities division immediately contended it would make him nothing more than an office boy for the admirals and generals.

Where this strange sentence came from was something of a congressional mystery, as the board had had nothing to do with Mr. Stettinius before. The sentence was not mentioned in the house debate. Some of Mr. Cox's friends say he got the whole idea from the Baruch report on war industries in 1918. Apparently he took too much of the old report, or the legislative drafting service did, when

SIDE GLANCES



"How can I tell my kind-hearted aunt that she's wonderful and I need new school supplies and that my father's turned crabby, all in 10 words?"

MAY 18 DESIGNATED AMERICANISM DAY

According to a bulletin just received by Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction, from J. W. Stuebelaker, US commissioner of education, May 18 has been designated "I Am An American Day." Schools throughout the nation are planning to dramatize and celebrate American citizenship. The spotlight of attention is to be turned on the contributions of various races and nationalities to the American way of life.

"The days preceding May 18 ought to feature the contributions of leading immigrants—Czechoslovakian, Polish, Greek, Chinese, Japanese, German, Austrian, French, Italian, Serbian, Negro, Spanish, Scandinavian, and all other—to science, literature, industry, education—in a word, to American democracy," the bulletin states.

The educational forces are endeavoring to knit more closely than ever the strands of Americanism representing people from every part of the world. They wish to take advantage of the devotion of those who have an unusual appreciation of what it means to be an American since they came to our shores to escape oppression abroad. By stressing the fact that this is a time for rededication to that great phrase, "irrespective of race or religion," they seek to build national unity.

would be satisfactory indefinitely.

TODAY

Thrilling Spy-Drama Of Perilous Adventures Dared For Patriotism And Love!

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Marta Labarr and Charles Oliver in **"SPY BUREAU"**

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COMpanion FEATURE

FOOTLIGHT FEVER

with ALAN MOWBRAY · DONALD MacBRIDE · ELYSE KNOX

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which makes it the greatest ever!

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NEW SUMMER PRICE POLICY

Now—No Advance for Vaudeville Regular Week-Day Prices Prevail

VAUDEVILLE

5 BIG TIME ACTS 5

CLIFF ARVIN—LoCongo Cafe Petite Revue

COOK & KNIGHT—This and That Song and Dance

AL & CONNIE FANTON—Taps and Tumbles

RANCHO SERENADERS—Songs the West Loves

NOBLE TRIO—"Stars of the High Bars"

ON THE SCREEN!

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ONE OF YOUR HOME CONTROLLED HOME OPERATED THEATRES

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whose "Lost Horizon" and "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" made film history...now gives you another masterpiece!

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Rage in Heaven

with GEORGE SANDERS · LUCIA PASTOR · BOB HOBBS

PINE TREE

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