

Comments of the Week

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY?

A number of remarks have been heard here regarding the State Guard for which applicants are desired and for which quite a number of persons have already signed. Those remarks arise, perhaps, from a misunderstanding. We are unable to answer questions asked regarding the State Guard or the Home Guard. The questions asked usually bring out the query "what is the difference between the two—the State Guard and the Home Guard," and, if there is a difference, no information of that difference has been released or if released, has not been seen here.

For those who wish to know, that information is being sought this week and should be available for publication next week.

FORUM ARTICLES

This has been mentioned before but it is well to again remind those who submit articles to be printed in The Eagle's Forum column that those articles must be signed by the person submitting the article. During the past three weeks, several articles have been mailed in without the signatures, it being desired that those articles be printed in that column.

Any person who desires to state his viewpoint on any subject about which he or she may have an opinion is welcome to submit a statement for that column—but the statement must be signed before it can be accepted for printing.

County News

St. Helens

REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARIES UP—

Registration of voters in Columbia county for the May primary elections totals 10,454, an increase of 267 over registration of the primary elections in May, 1940, but a decrease of 664 from the 11,018 who signed up to ballot in November, 1940, according to figures released last week by County Clerk James Hunt. In view of the fact that the 11,018 figure in November, 1940 included considerable dead wood in the shape of voters who had transferred elsewhere, whereas the present 10,454 total represents a list that has been thoroughly housecleaned, the drop in voter registration is not regarded as particularly important.

The democrats continue to hold a numerical advantage in the county, the statistics show, for there are 5,589 Bourbons registered as compared with 4,754 republicans. The democrats have gained a total of 304 adherents since the May, 1940 primary registration, while the G. O. P. party has lost 19 registrants in the same period.

SUPPLY OF BLOOD PLASMA INCREASED—

St. Helens' supply of a vital need in the event of an air attack—blood plasma—was increased considerably this week when Glenn Leemon, local pharmacist, ordered 10 jugs of the expensive substance. This added supply, together with what is already on hand in town, brings to 12 jugs the amount of plasma available here. This amount was specified by local physicians as the minimum supply which would probably be needed in the event of a bombing attack here.

100 TONS OF SCRAP METAL SAID READY—

Approximately 100 tons of scrap metal and about 10 tons of waste paper has been accumulated in recent drives by organizations in Columbia county, Price Schroeder, county salvage chairman, said yesterday. Considerably more paper has been gathered, but shipments have been made from time to time and the 10 tons represents all that is on hand at present.

MORE GOLD INSIDE

"Se my name on the outside?" The small boy was proud owner of a new Bible; his name in gold on the cover and the edges in gold also. The wise woman looked it over and was glad he had it. Then, "Inside it has more gold than outside. Find out what I mean and tell me next Sunday." Back of it was the Week Day

The Vernonia Eagle

MARVIN KAMHOLZ
Editor and Publisher

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Bible School. In our town most of the grade scholars are enrolled. This small boy had his new Bible for the work. Let it be added that in Oregon scholars may be dismissed an hour a week, during school time, on written consent of parents. They meet outside the school building; in our case in a nearby church. Over a thousand communities in the nation now carry on, with the movement urged by school people and civic leaders as well as church folks. It is hoped to stem the trend toward crime and break-up.

You recall our record. One—A murder every forty-five minutes. Two—A major crime and more every sixty seconds. Three—One home in every six broken by divorce. Four—The fifteen billion dollar crime bill. Five—17 millions of youth unreached by the church. Six—In Oregon, our 30 million dollar liquor bill against 20 millions spent for education.

We recall the late Dr. Robinson of Tillamook; his Christian convictions and kindly way. In him you saw the fruit of early religious training. He used to speak of the boyhood home in the north of Ireland and of how the pastor and elder would visit about to hear the youngsters repeat their Bible work.

"They would ask me what Psalm I would choose to repeat. I in turn would ask them which one they wanted to hear." And the good man's eyes twinkled as he related how he knew them all. No matter which they named, he was ready. "I committee the 119th Psalm with its 176 verses in three evenings," he once remarked.

How about the training in your home? Have you a Dr. Robinson in the making? May the children of your fireside rise up and call you blessed for the prayers and Scripture. By the Courage, Cheer, Wisdom, Hope, Goodness that Christ the Saviour imparts, may your youngsters show the inner stuff that stands the storm and stress. Take time to be holy. Do you?

This space paid by by an Oregon businessman.

Don Taylor

Book Talk . . .

By EDNA ENGEN

Cross Creek by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

This is Mrs. Rawling's story of her home in the "backwoods" of Florida. It is the story of her friends and neighbors and a way of life. Incidentally, it is the story of an attractive personality—Mrs. Rawlings herself.

It is written in the author's usual excellent style. She pokes gentle fun at her friends and neighbors, the darkies who work for her but does not forget a sly dig now and then at her own expense. She is equally quick to praise these people and her passages of description of the surrounding country reveal her deep love for her adopted home.

It is heartening in these uncertain times to read of a way of life so full of satisfaction and contentment.

Other books by Mrs. Rawlings on the library shelves: The Yearling and When the Whippoorwill.

SUBSTITUTE PAINT

To conserve dyes white paint will soon be substituted for colored paint on traffic markers in many cities.

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

THE PULLING POWER OF A MODERN STEAM LOCOMOTIVE IS 70 PER CENT GREATER THAN THOSE OF 1915

NEW IDEA IN ASSEMBLING SMALL PARTS FOR PRODUCTION OR REPAIR IS THE USE OF CELLULOSE BAGS BY MEANS OF WHICH AN OPERATOR CAN QUICKLY NOTE THE CONTENTS FROM THE OUTSIDE, AND BE SURE HE HAS WHAT HE NEEDS NEXT

IS THE HORSE HERE TO STAY?

LATEST REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE BIRTHS OF AUTOMOBILE TIRES WILL CAUSE A SHORTAGE OF HORSECOCKS AND BUGGY WHIPS

TO HELP KEEP ROADS ROLLED AND IN SHAPE, IN THE 19th CENTURY, THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT SPECIFIED THAT VEHICLES BE EQUIPPED WITH WHEELS HUNG AT LEAST 9 INCHES WIDE. (SOME RIMS WERE AS MUCH AS 15 INCHES WIDE!)

SINCE THE WAR BEGAN NEARLY 100 NEW CHEMICAL AND POWDER PLANTS HAVE BEEN BUILT IN AMERICA TO SPEED SUPPLY OF THESE PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Out of the Woods

by Jim Stevens

Acres of Diamonds . . .
Away back yonder in the days when the world didn't half-way know how well off it was, a Philadelphia preacher made a great name and a mint of money for himself out of the idea of what might be called backyard luck.
He—I disremember his name—rigged up a lecture on the pattern of a parable, which told of a man who roved the world prospecting for diamonds—and finally found acres of them in his own backyard. These diamonds of course were not precious stones. They were the familiar common things of life which we seldom value at their true worth until we find out, after a lot of running around in circles, that the pot of gold—or diamonds—at the end of the rainbow just ain't.
You've seen it work out this way in the woods, haven't you?
Not for a Million . . .
During my time as a wage-earner I held sixty-seven jobs, a record which pretty well scales me as a short-staker. Not until I was high on thirty did I work over a year on any one job—excepting a year and a half with an infantry outfit in France. Short-staking took me through all the Western states, and into construction work, harvesting, railroad shops, steel mills, city truck-driving, mining—both silver-lead and coal—as well as into the woods and the sawmills of several forest regions. As a writing man, I lived in Detroit for a year and a half and in Gary for a year. It was inside experience on the way of life in automobile and steel making, if not actual work for wages at it.
This isn't set down just to make talk about Jim Stevens. It is to make testimony out of personal experience on this proposition of backyard luck.
Having it all to live over again, I wouldn't go out of sight of the woods or beyond the sound of saws making logs and lumber to find a way of life—not for a million, I wouldn't.
Nightmare Mass Production . . .
In Detroit the happiest man I met was one who'd worked eleven straight years at a machine that turned out steering-wheel nuts. The job had worn down his nerves with its eternal grim monotony until he was haunted by nightmares in which mountains of steering-wheel nuts would rise up cloud-high, and then start sliding down on him. In his dreams he'd run for his life, with avalanches of steering-wheel nuts roaring at his heels. He had escaped by having enough savings to buy a half-interest in a small service station. He put in twelve hours a day at it and made only a skimpy living but he was happy.
"No more nightmares," he said. "From steering-wheel nuts I'm free. Do I feel good? Boy!"
But I knew many others in Detroit who were quite contented at monotonous mechanical jobs. And old-timers in Gary who would have been miserable anywhere but in the roaring hell of a rolling mill. Queer people. With a war on, though, it's a good thing we have them.
Timber Fighters . . .
And—with a war on—it's a good thing there are thousands of rugged and loyal men of the woods who

plants have communicated with the senator, recommending that something be done to turn this waste material into something wanted for war purposes. There are thousands of tons of fruit either littering the ground or not of marketable size but excellent material for the making of alcohol. Government owns wheat that can be converted and farmers of Oregon can use their surplus for alcohol. With a rationing of gasoline in Oregon (it will become nation-wide later) the senator says a percentage of alcohol mixed with gasoline will stretch the motor fuel. This has been done, but never on an extensive scale and only in an emergency. Provided the bill becomes law and RFC will advance the finances, the next task would be to obtain the necessary equipment. The measure is intended to conserve sugar, now being transformed into industrial alcohol, by substituting grain, fruit and pulp waste.

The additional aluminum capacity planned for the northwest will be produced in eastern Washington and not on the west side of the Cascades as had been considered. It is explained that for various reasons the most suitable place will be on the Columbia river at Grand Coulee dam where there will be ample power to reduce clay to aluminum ingots and these pigs can be sent readily to the fabricating plant now in course of construction near Spokane.

One of the determining influences in deciding on Grand Coulee for new aluminum activities is the scarcity of steel for towers and copper for transmission lines. Despite the need of aluminum for airplanes, the priorities must be observed, and to conserve these metals as much as possible the proposal is to place the plant where the requirements will be reduced to the minimum. In other words, the aluminum plant (or plants) will be located right at the dam, practically at the switchboard, instead of 50, 100 or 200 miles away where the communities would like to have them.

Capacity of the Grand Coulee aluminum enterprise is not announced, but the war program calls for such a tremendous number of airplanes that it is expected to equal or exceed the production of the Aluminum Company of America at Vancouver, Washington, which will be turning out 160,000,000 pounds a year. This is the largest plant in the Pacific northwest. The proposed plant at Grand Coulee dam is to be in addition to the aluminum industry, soon to be in operation at Spokane and which will use 185,000 kilowatts, the same amount the Bonneville administration is serving Aleca at Vancouver. Defense plant corporation will finance the Grand Coulee project, as it has arranged to do for the aluminum plant near Troutdale, which will use 97,500 kilowatts.

Whatever may become of the aluminum ingot plants, from Tacoma to Troutdale, after the war, the project nesting at the base of Grand Coulee dam will be shut down and abandoned when victory comes to the banners of the United Nations. And this is another reason for locating the plant at the dam-site.

Renewed appeals are being sent from the northwest to the maritime commission for wooden barges with which to relieve the gasoline and fuel oil shortage. A northwest naval architect of many years' experience promises to submit drawings for a leakless wooden barge. Tugs also would be of wood and Scotch marine boilers can be built in Oregon without any difficulty.

Washington Snapshots

by JAMES PRESTON

Labor legislation is still very much in the limelight here. The recent decision of the War Labor Board directing that workers who dropped out of a CIO union since last November 27 must rejoin the union has caused considerable comment, a great deal of it unfavorable.

In requiring that they rejoin, the ruling went beyond the usual "maintenance of union membership" principle. Many observers are convinced that the Board plans to make itself the "Supreme Court of Labor Relations" and, through its decisions, hopes to establish a national labor policy of its own.

Many of those who have been following the labor situation are wondering now whether this particular decision will force Congressional action on labor legislation in the immediate future. Behind-the-scenes comment this week indicates that some Congressmen interpret the ruling to mean that an Amer-

ican citizen must belong to a union in order to be a soldier of production—that in a war industry union membership should be made a condition of employment.

In a minority opinion dissenting members of the Board opposed the decision "because it conditions the individual's right to work for an employer upon his continued membership in a labor organization . . .

"To arbitrarily impose these obligations without the consent of those affected, in our opinion, will tend to destroy the cooperation so essential to maximum production.

"In these war days management has its share of responsibilities to produce the maximum. To the extent that management is circumscribed by the orders of an administrative board transferring to labor organizations even partial control of terms of employment and the hiring of workers, production will be hampered."

Washington officials predict that within a short time priorities will have to be established for rail traffic—freight and passenger alike. There is a growing shortage of locomotives and other equipment, which may force action along this line. At present no one can foresee exactly when this shortage will become acute, but indications are that summer and fall will be the danger seasons.

Already plans are being formulated to minimize the inconveniences and delays that such shortages will cause. One method being considered now involves spreading out summer vacations to cut the June-July-August travel peak. With fewer people using their cars as time goes on, demand for rail travel is expected to increase, adding to the transportation problem.

An indication of what the future holds for civilians is seen in the predictions of top Administration officials that within a year the draft will apply to all non-military work.

Typical are the views of Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer of the Social Security Board, who says that a single manpower authority, like that of British Labor Minister Ernest Bevin, must be established to exercise general control over the selection of men for industry, agriculture and other essential civilian activities, as well as for the armed forces.

According to Mr. Altmeyer, the purpose of the manpower authority would be to achieve maximum efficiency in the distribution of the available labor force; to avert labor shortages in critical war industries; and to avoid a "tug-of-war" for men between war industries and the armed forces.

Word that more than 3,300 varplanes a month are rolling out of American factories is being referred to here as an indication of the fact that industry is indeed on the way to beating its production promise.

Such a figure is good news, and officials say that the news is bound to get better as time goes on.

TRAFFIC TIPS AND QUIPS

MANY A PEDESTRIAN WALKS HIMSELF TO DEATH!

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Fifty-nine pedestrians were involved in traffic accidents as a result of walking into the sides of passing automobiles in Oregon in 1941 figures compiled by the state traffic safety division disclosed.

These persons were involved in accidents as a result of careless, thoughtless actions and the incidents could have been avoided through the exercise of normal caution and attention to the business of walking, the safety division declared.

Manufacturers that ordinarily make women's dresses are now turning out flags and panels that are used for signaling in the armed forces.