

WESTERN NEWS AND LIBBY TIMES

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Dorothy Thompson has recently stated we are now in a modern "Dark Ages" period. She lays the blame largely to the fact America has lost its faith, at least to a great extent.

It does not require a very fertile imagination to see possibilities of a modern breakdown in civilization which for vicious destructiveness could dwarf anything which happened during the Dark Ages following the birth of Christendom.

A price control which allows foreign governments to come in and buy insulation boards for \$11 per thousand higher f.o.b. factory than the same company is allowed to sell the same material to U. S. citizens, is doing nothing to help American citizens in the present housing shortage.

And lumbermen claim England is getting the bulk of our hardwood flooring, for reasons similar to the wall board. Well our government has been taking pretty good care of England for some years now—at the cost of American lives and money.

If the "boys in Washington" will only let us go, Libby is due for a fine building boom and growth in population during the years just ahead. In addition to being the leading lumber products community in the state, there is no legitimate reason for the Libby country failing to become one of the favored Montana vacation spots.

Situated in an alpine setting second to none, the section has the scenic drives, the fishing, hunting and pack-in possibilities, supported by an idea summer climate to make a vacation center with attractions for most everyone.

One of the community's outstanding assets for future development is the local flying club. The forest service and the Libby Flying Club will assure the perpetuation of good landing fields for the section; and in the days to come, flying facilities will contribute more and more to the economic, social and vacation development of our country.

All possible encouragement should be given to our local flying club and the development in which it is pioneering.

DOCTORS TO RECEIVE AWARDS APRIL 4

The Congress of the United States by Public Law 112—79th Congress, approved by the President on July 2, 1945, has authorized an award of merit to the uncompensated personnel of the Selective Service System who have faithfully served more than two years. It is also provided that those who did not complete two years of uncompensated service with the Selective Service System and who entered on active duty with the armed forces are eligible to receive these awards.

Plans are now being formulated to hold a meeting in Helena on Thursday, April 4, 1946, at which time Governor Ford will present these awards to examining physicians, dentists, members of Medical Advisory Boards and reemployment committeemen who have served two or more years up to November 30, 1945. They need not be serving at this time.

Those eligible to receive these awards from Lincoln county to whom invitations have been extended are Dr. Charles A. Martin, Dr. V. A. Hannigan.

"BIG FOUR" MEETS AGAIN

The spring vacation of the State University at Missoula, brought together once again the "Big Four." The big four, D. Adams, J. Roberts, H. Newman and B. Baker had an evening of reminiscing old times. The coming of Mr. Adams from Missoula was necessary to fill the quota of the "Big Four."

'Twas A Night Of Fun And Jolly Nonsense

By Charles D. Rowe

Instead of devoting this column this week to discussion of the weighty matters of state and nation, I should like to use a part of the space, at least, to consideration of something much closer home.

As I sat in Junior High Auditorium Friday evening and heartily enjoyed the Stunt program sponsored by the Kootenai Valley Grange, a thought kept recurring to me—a gratifying and heart-warming experience. This was caused by realization of the fine, open-hearted spirit shown by the 15 organizations that willingly agreed to aid the Grange by each presenting a stunt and thereby helping to make the evening the decided success it was.

Of course no one went expecting to see a budding Bernhardt or Barrymore bursting forth in some great theatrical performance. What was expected was a couple of hours of fun and nonsense and no one was disappointed. Smiles wreathed every face, laughter and vigorous applause greeted every stunt.

It used to be common practice for some of the citizens of our cities to look down with ridicule and an air of superiority on the people "from the sticks." Fortunately that attitude is largely disappearing. But despite that one-time derision for the small-town resident, we should like to remind our readers that life in a small but progressive little city such as ours has many compensations. And not the least of those compensations was that which was so evident at the stunt program. There was a warm, open-hearted fellowship, a comradery, a feeling that everyone belonged to one big happy family, a feeling of belonging—that was certainly very much worthwhile. We doubt very much if that rich experience can ever come to the unfortunate city dweller.

Another fine response to the Grange's effort was the remarkable attendance. "Standing room was at a premium" and it is said many who sought admittance were turned away. In this connection it is not out of place to remark that the Grange is a powerful force for good in our nation. We believe that on most issues of national import it speaks with wisdom. It is gratifying to see the local chapter of that great national organization taking an active and worthwhile part in the life of the community.

In passing we should like to add that the judges—and this writer was one of them—"overlooked a bet." In listing those entitled to honorable mention, the Girls Glee Club and the Pep Band should have been included. The girls sang two numbers very beautifully, singing with fine harmony, sweetness and ability. The Pep Band added greatly to the program with their spirited music that was so ably rendered. The Kootenai Valley Grange should receive the thanks of the community for providing an evening of genuine enjoyment.

There's still hope for democracy. It now appears that a communist has seen the error of his ways and has been converted to democracy. When one witnesses the fanaticism of many avowed communists, one might conclude that holders of that faith are hopeless. But one of them has at last seen the light.

While certain highly placed officials and scientists of Canada were selling out their government to the Russians, a citizen of Soviet Russia had a change of heart and disclosed to the Canadian government the traitorous work of the faithless Canadians. The converted communist was Igor Gouzenko, 26-year-old official of the Soviet embassy in Canada.

He disclosed operations of the Soviet spy network because, as he said, he had become convinced that Canadian democracy was better than the Russian way of life.

Gouzenko said he had become impressed by the rights of persons in Canada where a man is "actually master of his own life." In Russia, he added, "you are not master of your life; you are subject to regulations and it doesn't depend on

you where you want to go or where you want to work."

People who criticized the government in Russia "would be shot," he said.

Too bad some of our ardent believers in the great advantages of the communistic state couldn't see the light as Gouzenko has done.

It sounds too good to be true. Joe Stalin, the Soviet dictator, says in an authorized Associated Press interview he is convinced that neither the nations of the world nor their armies are seeking another war. He further affirms his conviction in the United Nations Organization as a "serious instrument" for preserving world peace. Further along in the interview Stalin spoke vigorously against war-mongers and those stirring up discord and suspicion among nations.

The question at once presents itself: Is he sincere? Does he mean what his words imply? Or is he speaking with tongue in cheek? Time alone will tell.

Acts speak louder than words. Monday's newspapers reported that Red army troops were pulling out of troubled spots in Iran. Check up round one for the United Nations Organization. Let's watch carefully how round two develops.

Says Doherty in his Missoula County Times: Dear Folks:

Parents never cease wondering at the mixture of traits in their youngsters—good and bad, generous and miserly, lazy and energetic. One never knows what to expect. There are traits that smack of the father; traits that smack of the mother; traits that smack ofimps. No one can say which trait will be evident at a given time.

It is not uncommon for the mother to declare that the youngster takes after the father—on occasions that are not too complimentary. Dad occasionally takes a good look at one of the "brats" and is sure that the wiles of the mother are evident.

Most parents reason that an adult mind should be superior to that of a youngster; that the father and mother should be able to foresee the possible reaction under a given condition. However, experience tends to prove that reason is not always dependable; that a mother's instinct may prove the better.

Children are a queer lot. They are unknown quantities. They can be a great comfort and a great sorrow all in the space of about half a minute. However, in the final reckoning they clear the hurdles and establish themselves as another generation of fine American citizens of the greatest nation on the face of the globe.

NOTICE OF HEARING

A resolution declaring an emergency to exist, requiring an appropriation in the amount of \$1000.00 for the continued repair and maintenance of the city streets for the balance of the fiscal year will be held at the city hall on April 2, 1946 at 8:00 P. M., at which time any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against the expenditure of such money for this emergency.

Resolution

WHEREAS there has existed in the City of Libby during the winter months of 1945 and 1946 an unusual fall of snow, an excessive amount of moisture, and severity of climatic conditions which necessitated the expenditure of all funds appropriated for street maintenance in excess of the budget estimate; and

WHEREAS the shortage of funds for further street maintenance could not have reasonably been foreseen at the time of making the budget for said purpose.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the city council of the City of Libby in a meeting held March 5, 1946, hereby declares that an emergency exists in the street fund and that an estimated amount of \$1000.00 is required from the general fund to meet such emergency.

Further that a public hearing will be held thereon at the City Hall on April 2, 1946 at 8:00 P. M. at which any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against the expenditure of this money for such emergency.

By order of the Mayor and City Council of The City of Libby. PAUL K. CHURCH City Clerk. (It. M-28).

DIST. FEDERAL FINANCE MEETING IN APRIL

Helena, March 22—Missoula, Billings, Great Falls, and Lewistown have been named as host cities for a series of District Federal Finance Conferences in mid-April, it was announced today by the sponsors, the chambers of commerce of those cities, Montanans, Incorporated, and the Montana Taxpayers Association. Butte is also listed as a host city.

Persons interested, living in communities within the radius of the host cities are urged to attend the conferences, at which outstanding state and national leaders will discuss live Federal issues. Subjects to be considered include control of the national debt, balance of the Federal budget, demobilization

the Federal government, modification of Social Security, Federal aids, the housing shortage, subsidies and price controls, and equality of taxation. Other questions which may have assumed importance by the time the conferences will be discussed.

Plans for the conferences will be announced by the host cities. Dates set are, Missoula, April 15, Butte, April 16, Great Falls, April 17, Lewistown, April 18 and Billings, April 19. Two sessions per day are planned, one at 2 P.M. the other a dinner meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Total time lost by American workers because of accidents on and off the job last year amounted to 415,000,000 man-days, equivalent to a shutdown of plants with nearly 1,400,000 workers.

ROYAL NEIGHBOR SEWING CIRCLE MET WEDNESDAY

Last Wednesday evening the Royal Neighbor Sewing Circle met at Neighbor Thorn's home. Plans for entertaining our husbands to a dinner were discussed. Various committees were appointed for this purpose.

After the business meeting a very enjoyable entertainment was given by Neighbors Beasley, Lamori and Wilson. Much fun was had at the "Fish Pond."

Afterwards a delightful pot-luck lunch was served. The next meeting will be held April 3 at the home of Neighbor West.

From V-J Day to the end of 1945, traffic deaths rose 36 per cent over 1944 the National Safety Council reports.

Advertisement for Spring Housecleaning. Includes text: 'TIME FOR Spring HOUSECLEANING CLEAN UP! PAINT UP! FRESH STOCK SHERWIN - WILLIAMS PAINT and KEMTONE IN NEW SPRING COLORS Use Our Style Color Guide For Home Decorating Ideas Jaqueth & Charnholm'

Advertisement for Bolyard's Grocery and Market. Includes text: 'we have a FIRM HOLD on FOOD PRICES March 29 - 30' and a list of products like RIPE OLIVES, COFFEE, EAGLE BRAND MILK, FACIAL TISSUE, COMFORT TISSUE, BANANAS, Meat Department Values (Pork Chops, Pork Shldr. Roasts, Fat Hens, FISH, FRESH SHRIMP, OYSTERS).

Advertisement for a college course: 'A full College Course for you WITH EXPENSES PAID'. Includes text: 'Here's important news for young men 18 and over (17 with parents' consent). Under the GI Bill of Rights, if you enlist in the U. S. Army before October 6, 1946, for 3 years, upon your discharge you will be entitled to 48 months of college, trade or business school education. Tuition up to \$500 per ordinary school year will be paid. And you will receive \$65 monthly living allowance—\$90 if you are married. Get the facts at your nearest U. S. Army Recruiting Station.' Includes an illustration of a soldier and a student.