

OCT 08 newsletters

Nuggets from the Past

By Norman McLeod

'30s facts, figures provide interesting story

The year 1936 was very good for me. I was two years out of high school in Duluth, Minn., and that year witnessed my obtaining my first steady job as an order clerk for a large wholesale hardware firm.

I worked (without coffee breaks) a 44-hour week for \$55 a month, with no vacation or fringe benefits. Yet, I was happy for the job, as 1936 was in the heart of the Great Depression.

It was a good year for another reason; I met my future wife on a roller skating rink. We skated together to music, went on to other pursuits like ice skating, hiking, fishing and dancing.

Through the courtesy of Foresthill's Terry Phelps, the ex-Lavender Lady of our new Courthouse Corner, I am now in possession of a bundle of old newspapers dating back to 1936. They were found recently in Judge Schueller's home that was renovated for its present identity as a cafe.

I thought it might be fun to go through these old papers to ascertain what were the headlines of the day.

The Sacramento Bee, Aug. 20, 1936 - The civil war in Spain was at its ferocious height, and a German armada of seven warships was sent into Spanish waters, including the pocket battleship Graftspee.

Mexico was sending more than 30 railway cars loaded with war munitions to Spain. America will not participate in the proposal by Uruguay to mediate the dispute.

Federal receipts from taxes rose to \$288.3 million, a 30 percent increase from the previous year.

Mark Weston, 30, who prior to his sex change operation, won fame as a woman athlete, married a girlhood chum, Alberta Bray.

A federal agent was dispatched to San Jose this day to "get to the bottom of asserted corruption in the liquor control department."

Fingerprints may lead to the identity of the body of a nude woman found by a laborer in El Dorado County. The tattooed corpse had lain exposed to the sun and atmosphere for at least three months - and was badly decomposed.

Francis J. Bassett of Ridgefield, Conn., told today, with acute embarrassment, how he ordered a lady driver off the road for driving too slowly. He shouted at her, "Get off the road!" When she pulled off onto the shoulder he stopped his vehicle behind hers, got out and prepared to berate her when he recognized Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady. He apologized at once, but she replied, "That's all right, young man," flashing him her beautiful smile.

Walgreen Drug Stores in Sacramento advertised the following: Pepsodent toothpaste, 19 cents; super juice extractor, \$1.89; fresh raspberry ice cream, 25 cents a quart; Gladstone suitcase, \$5.49; electric travel iron, \$1.19; crystal white soap, 10 bars for 28 cents.

We will remind you this was an era of deflation.

The Colfax Record, Sept. 4, 1936 - Alf Landon leads in voter poll over FDR by 10 percent. Farmers like Landon, Journal poll shows.

Ten million dollars a day, \$454,000 every hour, \$7,566 each minute, \$126 each second. That's the startling rate at which the federal debt under the New Deal is increasing.

In his first attempt, Glenn Morris of Denver is the nation's new decathlon champion.

The Donner Club will stage a free dance this Saturday evening with Art Towe's

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Orchestra.

J. C. Penney Co. advertised womens' sport coats at \$10.90, Glen Row frocks at \$2.98.

Not noted in the headlines - On my first real date with Esther in February of 1937, we borrowed my dad's 1925 Dodge touring car, saw a first-run movie in Duluth's best theater for 35 cents apiece, and afterward I treated her to an ice cream fudge sundae for 25 cents each. Adding it up totals \$1.20 for the evening.

Esther was so impressed, she went out with me again!

The Sacramento Bee, April 17, 1937 - Russia's attempt to purchase a navy in the U.S. will not be allowed. The Soviets had ordered two 35,000-ton battleships from American shipbuilding firms.

Rudy Vallee, orchestra leader, pleaded innocent to charges of assault and battery upon a newspaper photographer. Bail was set at \$200.

Passengers aboard the German liner Potsdam all had their cameras confiscated by Japanese police and were questioned as spies for hours. It seems like a tremendous fuss over nothing. The Japanese are extremely sensitive about cameras, unless they are their own.

Homes for sale: Boulevard Terrace, Sacramento, six rooms with double garage,

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\$5,150; Woodlake, an estate home with five bedrooms, two baths and a five-car garage, \$15,000; 4500 Benito, six-room house with three bedrooms and double garage, furniture included, \$3,800.

The Placer Herald, April 24, 1937 - Mrs. Fay Russell, Placer County Librarian, announced that the first five library branches will be established next week as follows: Sheridan, Loomis, Colfax, Forest Hill and the Auburn branch outside of Auburn. In Forest Hill, library books will be stored in the telephone office with Mrs. Matt Langstaff in charge.

Advertised: new Coolerator Ice Refrigerators (made in Duluth), \$34 to \$89.50, sold by the Union Ice Co. of Auburn.

New Oldsmobile sedan, \$998.

The Sacramento Bee, May 11, 1937 - Featured on the comic page this date was the cartoon, Alley Oop.

A night-long insurgent artillery bombardment left 40 persons dead and wounded today in Madrid, and new ruins in the heart of the capital. This shelling revived the horrors of nearly three weeks of continuous bombardment last month.

Pierre S. DuPont had a taxable income in 1929 of \$35.5 million, instead of the \$4.5 million reported to the IRS, as revealed yesterday in a hearing against DuPont and his business partner, John J. Raskob.

New three-room house for sale, to be moved at once: \$300 cash.

The Golden Blossom Mine in Ophir, Placer County, has reopened after 39 years.

Renewed heavy mining operations are reported in Northern Nevada, especially in the Lovelock and Winnemucca areas, and in the Downieville sector of Sierra County in California.

Senator John Phillips called for complete statistics on aliens receiving institutional care and welfare in California. Cash expenditures for aliens last year was \$3.3 million.