

The News-Review

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A MATTER OF BUSINESS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Should the alcohol-from-wood-waste plant at Springfield remain in the hands of the timber industry to be operated for commercial production with by-product experimentation as a sideline, or should the plant, which cost the federal government more than \$3,000,000, be permitted to go into the hands of operators who have no interest in the wood waste utilization problem? A small group of lumbermen want to keep the plant in the hands of the industry. "Herb" Cox, secretary-manager of the Willamette Valley Lumbermen's Association, insists that the timber industry has "a moral obligation to do everything possible to promote utilization of wood waste." "If the industry is to demand conservation of timber resources, then it should interest itself in promoting processes that will bring about better conservation," Cox declares.

On the other hand, is the timber industry sufficiently interested in conservation that it will invest a half-million dollars of risk capital in experimentation, even though a profitable commercial operation virtually is assured?

There seems to be something about the timber industry that makes an experienced lumberman allergic to anything new. He goes on year after year with the same processes. Not until he has exhausted the resource does he turn to the manufacturing fields by which he may continue a business even though he has far less raw material with which to work.

Around the Great Lakes and through the Mississippi Valley where the lumber industry once centered, more workmen are employed today in woodworking than in the years when the industry was cutting off and getting out. A major part of the wood used in those sections is purchased from localities where there still is a reasonable abundance of timber. Here in Oregon, for instance, we are shipping out millions of board feet of rough, green lumber to be manufactured in the Mid-West and East. Then we buy the manufactured articles, paying transportation costs both ways.

Why should we not manufacture our own raw materials into finished products, thus creating more jobs, making more profit, and reducing the cost of the finished article?

The Springfield alcohol plant was built as a war emergency. It utilizes a German process, which underwent certain improvements at the Madison experiment station maintained by the U. S. Forest Service. Because of war necessity the plant was put into commercial operation before experimentation was entirely complete. It was proven that the process is practical, but a large expenditure will be necessary to make certain physical changes before full efficiency is reached.

The federal government built the plant and leased it to a corporation organized by a small group of lumbermen. This group went through considerable trouble during the experimentation period and dropped the project after the war, rather than to invest more money to buy the plant and make alterations. Now the facilities are up for sale by the War Assets Administration.

There will be no difficulty, it is believed, in finding a purchaser. Several prospective buyers, reportedly are seeking the plant with a view of speculation, proposing to float large-scale stock sales. Brewing companies have shown some interest. Investigations also are being made by some of the large users of industrial alcohol. The plant will be sold. Whether it is retained in the hands of the timber industry or goes into an ownership not interested in the timber resource can be decided only by the timber industry itself. The WAA reportedly prefers to see the plant stay in the industry and will cooperate to that end.

Alcohol is only one of the many by-products available from wood waste. If the Springfield plant is retained by the timber industry, the Forest Service proposes to put in experimental pilot plants to work out processes for production of molasses, and yeast. Tests also will be made in utilization of fibers, tars and other residue, and chemicals remaining from various steps in alcohol production. Each of these processes will result in more complete utilization of the forest resource, produce greater employment, lessen fluctuation in the industrial economy and speed the trend toward specialized manufacture and conversion of waste into profitable by-products.

It would seem that the industry should be most anxious to encourage experimentation and be willing to invest in experimental work even though profits be limited.

We believe the timber industry should be bending every effort to keep the Springfield operation within its own hands as a matter of sound business without consideration of the "moral obligation" indicated by "Herb" Cox.

LETTERS to the Editor

Transportation System Flaw Draws Criticism

ROSEBURG—As a citizen of Roseburg for a good many years, and having the interest of my home town at heart, I wish to call the attention of our Chamber of Commerce and all other civic organizations to the wonderful (?) transportation systems our town of 15,000 really enjoy.

Riding a Greyhound bus south from Goshen Saturday morning, I told the gentleman, who was a fellow passenger, of our Great Timber Capital of the World. As

we approached the Winchester bridge, my newly-made acquaintance expressed his need of a rest stop. I consoled him with the fact that it was just four miles to Roseburg and a nice bus station with rest rooms available.

At about this time the bus driver came to a halt at the Del Rey cafe and announced to his passengers: "This is Winchester and we will have a fifteen-minute rest period; the bus station at Roseburg will not be open until 6 a. m."

Enough said! Are we still or will we ever be The Timber Capital of the World?

R. W. (DICK) BINSON,
Roseburg, Ore.

One famous oriental rug had designs of brooks, paths, lawns, trees and flowers.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



Scraps From The Mending Basket

By VIAHNETT S. MARTIN

Oregon: The American Guide Series. May I share with you my delight in this book? If you are not already familiar with it, please do glance within its blue covers the very next time you are in the Library or in a bookstore. It was a Federal Writers' project, you will recall.

It is the perfect Logbook for a trip anywhere in Oregon. How much the pointing finger of its detailed descriptions adds to the pleasure and knowledge in a trip! The main routes are carefully measured, and every little four corners, every monument (with its pedometer location), all the side roads taken care of in fine print, bits of biography, history... you visualize the pioneers plodding along the dusty rutted routes now fine, smooth highways.

There are many pictures, too. Maps of cities. Nearly two pages are devoted to Roseburg, and there is one picture of the city. I shall not spoil it for you, if you have not read it, by quoting what it says about Roseburg. But as we read, in our Southern California home, we were charmed by what we read of Douglas County, and after we had driven 99 to the

Columbia and back via 101 we were still charmed by Douglas County! We wanted to locate here where we could see green trees, woods! Hear living waters rushing over rocks... but to go back to the book!

One sees, as one reads, the Leland Crowleys sadly standing by the freshly made grave of their daughter—that is Grave Creek. A group of men about to hang an Indian but they wait until the owner of the ranch can first collect the six-bits owed him by the Indian—that is Six-bits Ranch. We are glad to see that the bravery and devotion to duty of a member of the Oregon State Highway Police is fittingly commemorated by a monument on the side of Sexton monument. All too often the State Police are thought of only in connection with traffic speeding!

And then there's John Fitzhugh whose supplies and shoes gave out. So he went hunting. Found a bear's track and followed it most of the day. Realized it was his own tracks... "Don't know what would have happened," he said, telling the story, "if I had caught up with myself for I'm a pretty good shot."

In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

been made to appear ALL-POWERFUL.
That is exactly the impression they want to create.

AIR power in these days, really is something to conjure with. Our secretary for air, J. Stuart Symington, tells the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences in Los Angeles:

"You cannot win a war WITHOUT air superiority and you CAN'T LOSE ONE WITH IT."

THOSE are strong words. But before scoffing at them go back to the last war.

As long as the Germans held undisputed superiority in the air, we couldn't do much with them. When they began to lose air superiority, they couldn't do much against us.

Every ex-infantryman knows what happened to him as long as the enemy planes could pound him without being bothered by our planes. He got hell—in big doses. It wasn't until our planes began to drive the enemy planes off at will that our ground forces began to feel that they had a run for their money.

THIS is the point: If we can hold our position in Berlin with AIR POWER it will be doubly impressive.

Here is the counter point: If we LOSE our position in Berlin through failure of our air power it will be doubly embarrassing.

That's what's at stake.

THE official Russian newspaper in Berlin mutters in its beard that "even Western commentators concede that if a new war came Soviet advance troops could reach the Rhine within a few days and the European Atlantic coast within a few weeks."

That's undoubtedly true. About all we have to rely on is Russian fear of what we'd do in the way of retaliation (largely by

air) if they started their armies rolling westward.

ALL this isn't necessarily scare stuff. It's just illustrative of the world situation at the moment. It's like twisting a banjo string up to the last possible ounce of tension.

At such a moment in world affairs, Congress is assembling next week at the call of an embattled President who is trying out smart political strategy against his opponents. In such a session, more domestic dog-fights could be started in a minute than could be ended in months. Russia would LOVE THAT!

Heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of Republican leaders in the months that lie ahead of us. They simply MUST be patriots first.

Editorial Comment

From the Oregon Press

Pipe Down on Pressures

(The Salem Statesman)
With the discretion and the modesty for which he is distinguished Senator Guy Cordon has asked his friends to "quit shoveling" in the effort to cinch his appointment as secretary of the interior. Prompted though it is by loyalty both to the west and to the Oregon senator the drive must nonetheless be embarrassing to him and perhaps to Governor Dewey as well. Cordon reminds his well-wishers that selecting a cabinet is the personal privilege and responsibility of the president and if Dewey is elected he should be free to pick men he believes he can work with.

Frankly we doubt if any high pressure work in behalf of Oregon's senator will do any good—or that it is necessary. Cordon has both a broad knowledge of interior department problems and a good record of discharging responsibility in public office. Add to this the admitted effect of the Oregon vote on the Dewey fortunes and Cordon's appointment would seem perfectly logical. But let it come without fanfare or pressure; and first elect Dewey and reelect Cordon.

Instant coffee is excellent used to flavor a mocha filling and frosting for cream puffs or eclairs.

New Attendance Record Looms At Boy Scout Camp

By J. R. Williams

Boy Scouts of the Oregon Trail Council from the counties of Lane, Benton, Douglas, Lincoln, Coos, Curry and Linn will set a camp attendance record, according to J. R. Bruckart, council president.

Scouts in camp this week, July 18-25, at Camp Lucky Boy from Roseburg are Troops 108 and 4 which include Leamon Willfrett, David Holte, Thomas Beane, Donald McAnaney, Bob Richardson, Bill Townsend, Boyd Kelly, Tom Freeman, Eugene Small, Richard Terho, Bob Pest, William F. Holak, Rodney Pruitt, John Harrison, Joe Levine, Ronald Graves, Richard West, Robert West, Jack Katzmer, William Edinger, George Johnson, Edward Fernette, James L. Beyley, Bob Fredrick and Larry Katzenmeyer.

The main emphasis has been directed toward the unit going to camp as a troop under the leadership of some adult, preferably the Scoutmaster who has been related to the troop, said Bruckart. Scout camps now in operation in the Oregon Trail Council include Camp Lucky Boy, the council training camp, which opened July 4 and closes August 15. To date some 300 Scouts have participated in the camp for a week's stay during the first three periods of operation. Camp Lucky Boy is located on Blue River off the McKenzie highway.

Camp Melakwa for seasoned troops experienced in camping opened on July 10 at McKenzie Pass summit on Lake Melakwa. Troops participating in this camp, prepare their own meals on a patrol basis under the leadership of the troop Scoutmaster.

Forestry Trail camp opened on July 18 at Marion Lake for Senior Scouts interest. In conservation and high adventure experiences. The camp is under the direction of James E. Monroe. This camp is sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service.

Highlights of the summer season to date include trips to the Three Sisters area where the Middle Sister is scaled, camp-fire ceremonies, boating and canoeing; also instruction in the fundamentals of Scouting particularly camp craft, pioneering and camp cooking.

It is not known when or where rug making originated.

Visitor Author Of System to Revive Worn-Out Farms

By J. R. Williams

C. D. Stovall of Hartwell, Ga., visiting here briefly with his brother, Thomas Stovall, local barber, stated that an original plan which he outlined in published articles in 1944 for reestablishing farms by cooperative methods was successfully executed in May of this year in Georgia.

Stovall, now employed by the Veterans Administration, stated he conceived the idea while serving as an educational advisor for a CCC camp in the late 1930's. His article, entitled "University of the Soil" describing the plan was published in the Atlanta, Ga. Journal and other publications.

Under his plan, he said, a single rundown farm might be renovated and put into condition for productive operation in a single day through the combined efforts of a large group of farmers pooling their farm equipment.

He said the experiment by veterans on the Georgia farm this spring proved this point, by doing the single day what it might take an individual an entire year to accomplish. Through this cooperative plan he proposed the rebuilding of worn-out farms, or the clearing of additional land for production.

With Stovall on his trip through the South into old Mexico and up through California to Oregon are his wife, daughter Carolyn, who is a junior in the Alabama State Teachers College, and his sister, Mrs. Vera Howard and daughter, Donna, of Greenville, So. Carolina.

Stovall stated that he and his party like Oregon better than any section they have visited. They plan to go north to Washington, and then home through the Northwest to Kansas City and thence to Georgia.

Thomas Stovall came west in 1937, married Betty Stark of Roseburg and has lived here since.

Enlistments Of 18-Year-Olds To Be Restricted

By J. R. Williams

Beginning Wednesday, July 21, at 8 a. m. all Sixth Army recruiting stations within the eight Western states will begin accepting a limited number of applications from 18-year-old men for one year enlistment in the Army and Air Force.

In making this announcement, General Mark W. Clark, Sixth Army commander, emphasized that this Army area was limited to 1947 applications over a six-week period beginning July 21, but that each county throughout the eight states would get its proportionate share based on the number of 18-year-olds in the Army area. All applicants must present documentary proof of date of birth upon application.

Applicants will be received and processed on a "first come, first served" basis by each local recruiting station. A very limited number of those first to apply will be processed immediately for basic training. The balance will be called at regular intervals to maintain a steady, but controlled, flow to training centers.

R. C. Riffe Attends Music Workshop Of Fred Waring

By J. R. Williams

SHAWNEE, ON, DELAWARE, Pa. — R. Cloyd Riffe, supervisor of vocal music in the public schools of Roseburg, Ore., and minister of music, at the First Methodist Church in Roseburg, attended the Fred Waring Music Workshop at Shawnee-on-Deleware during the week of July 11.

The workshop is under the personal direction of Mr. Waring who brings his entire group of singers, musicians, arrangers and writers to broadcast their weekly schedule of six half-hour radio shows from the village community center, Worthington Hall.

Riffe is observing all the daily rehearsals and broadcasts of the Pennsylvania taking part in intensive choral rehearsals, studying methods of choral conducting, program building, sight reading and microphone techniques — all under the direction of Mr. Waring, his assistants and members of the Waring organization staff. Extra curricular activities at the Workshop include a regular schedule of recital by individual Pennsylvanians and a full program of recreational activities around Shawnee Lake which is reserved for the exclusive use of Workshop members and the Pennsylvanians.

The 1948 session is the second year of the Fred Waring Music Workshop at Shawnee and more than 500 school, college, church, community, and industrial music directors will attend the one-week sessions.

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