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ANOTHER FLOOD SEASON

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We are in the midst of another flood season. Evacuation of homes situated on lowlands along the banks of the Willamette and other Oregon rivers was necessary recently. Careful measurements are being made of snow depth in mountainous regions as engineers seek to determine probable spring run-off, hoping that the combination of snow and weather will be such that repetition of last spring's disaster along the Columbia and Willamette can be avoided.

Dispatches largely measure flood damage in terms of lives lost, buildings destroyed, farm crops ruined. But there is another loss which receives little attention in the news but which should be given most serious consideration. That is the loss of topsoil.

During the 1948 Columbia River flood, which was climaxed by the Vanport disaster last Memorial Day, it is estimated that more than \$30,000,000 worth of topsoil was sluiced into the ocean. It takes nature 500 years to produce one inch of fertile topsoil. Two and one-half acres of land are needed to provide minimum food supply for each person. Yet each year hundreds of thousands of acre feet of topsoil are flushed down the nation's flooding rivers. We are rapidly approaching the bare subsistence level in land capacity, yet our waste goes on.

As a nation we are spending billions of dollars on what is termed flood control. We may be able to take the top off dangerous crests of raging streams and thus save lives and buildings, but we are doing virtually nothing to preserve topsoil.

The erosive power of a stream is not measured by either the volume or velocity of flood water. It is the amount of abrasive material carried by the current that largely determines erosion factors. The more sediment carried by a swollen stream, the more soil the flood will loosen and carry away.

Soil covered by sod and bound by roots is more resistant to erosion than is uncovered, bare soil. Consequently, one way to prevent erosion is to keep soil covered with trees, grass or brush in non-agricultural areas, and, where the ground is used for agricultural purposes, to use established methods of holding sediment in contour-plowed furrows rather than allowing the silt to be drained into streams.

We are accomplishing no saving of topsoil when we impound rivers behind high dams, which, in course of time—and a comparatively short time at that—will have their reservoirs filled with silt.

If we are to save our topsoil, we must stop our floods at their source. If we are to lessen erosion damage, we must reduce the abrasive content of floodwaters.

This can be done. It is not an easy job nor a cheap one, but it is neither more difficult nor more expensive than the faulty policies we now support. But it will pay far better dividends for the money and effort expended.

We must learn that as we remove trees, we must immediately restore cover to the land. We must replace upland bogs and marshes, which act as settling basins for silt. We must create artificial settling basins and build trickle dams in small streams—streams not more than two or three feet in width. Thousands of such trickle dams could be built on tiny streams at less expense than one huge engineering marvel blocking the channel of a mighty river.

Nature builds these little rivulets with successions of pools which act to remove silt and slow down velocity. But when we permit excessive run-off by changing the character of the watershed, through forest removal, agricultural uses, burning, etc., naturally created pools are not sufficient to handle the extra load. It is possible for us, however, to add artificial pools, build artificial ponds, marshes, and bogs, and to cover bare soil and plow our fields to supplement nature's original flood control facilities. Thus we could reduce the terrible waste of topsoil, lessen the erosive power of our floodwaters while controlling floods at their source rather than trying to imprison our rivers.

Immunization Is Given Students

Immunization of 178 Junior High School students Wednesday completed the Douglas County Health office's diphtheria, tuberculosis and smallpox prevention campaign in Roseburg schools.

Mrs. Ruth Palmer, school nurse, said some students received all three immunizations, while others received only one or two.

Superintendent of Schools Paul E. Elliott said he was "very appreciative of the fine work done by the County Health office in Roseburg schools."

Mrs. Palmer made all the arrangements previous to immunizations. Three preparatory movies on diphtheria, tuberculosis and smallpox were shown to students to help promote the campaign.

The school nurse stated she was "grateful to parents" for giving written permission to conduct the "well-worth program" of immunization.

Clemency Denied Oregon Youth Facing Execution

DENVER, Dec. 15—(AP)—A plea for clemency for Paul J. Schneider, 23, Hubbard, Ore., man condemned to die Friday night for the slaying of a filling sta-

tion operator here, has been denied.

Gov. Lee Knous denied clemency after conferring with state psychiatrists, who said Schneider was sane.

His sister, Mrs. Marie Nash, and brother, Ray Schneider, both of Hubbard, and the condemned man's lawyer had appealed for the executive clemency.

Schneider was arrested at Pikeville, Ky., and admitted slaying two Detroit, Mich., men in addition to Frank J. Ford, Denver, Ford was killed Sept. 20, 1947.

Wind Velocity Record Tied During November

The month of November tied the record for maximum wind velocity with 25 miles per hour from the southwest on Nov. 1, according to a report from the local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

The sunshine was 50 percent below normal with only three partly cloudy days and none clear. However, the mean temperature was only one degree below normal. The precipitation was .20 below normal, the report showed.

The highest temperature for the month was 65 recorded Nov. 1, and the lowest was 26 on Nov. 8. There were no clear days, three were partly cloudy and 27 were cloudy. A total of 4.66 inches of rain fell during the month.

OUT OUR WAY



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

"What shall I give to this one or that one?" Perhaps this Scrap may suggest something different and also useful as gifts for housewives, students, elderly relatives and friends, almost anyone!

One idea is the gift of a rubber stamp with the name and address (don't forget the zone, if any) which becomes increasingly handy and time-saving as new ways to use it occur to the giftee. It's something clubwomen, parent-teacher workers, housewives—anybody can use! Adolescents are charmed with one. (Strips of adhesive make a good base where the stamp cannot be used directly on a surface as in marking children's things.) I used them one year for little gifts to the board with whom I had worked as president; they were delighted.

Another idea is a lapboard of plywood or heavy material such as masonite. Have it long enough to extend well beyond the arms of a chair, and wide enough to be of real service, but not too wide. Mine is about 16 inches wide by 30 inches long, with the sawed off half circle in the center about 11 inches at the narrowest point. This gives the student a place to sit in comfort. The teacher can sit in a more comfortable chair and position when working on "papers" in the evening. Dad finds it handy to do a little home-work he brought home in his brief case. Grandma can lay the big Bible on it, or a

heavy magazine that is hard to hold will lie flat and easy to read. If desired the front edge can rest upon the edge of a small table placed in front of one, but usually I lean back in a rocking chair and find reading, studying and sewing made pleasanter by such a lapboard.

One more suggestion. There are so many little office gadgets that are just as useful in the home. Why not have them? For instance a stapler, small or large. Ideas for its use multiply until one is 'lost' if some day the box of staples happens to be empty. Staple the wax bags in lunch boxes or holding odds and ends of food in the refrigerator. Let the children use up scraps of paper by making "books" (they love to do it for busy work, using, if too young for regular scissors, the dime-store blunt pointed kind); staple that sample to your shopping list; use it for a hundred and one things, in sewing, letter-writing, in the kitchen, making place card novelties, favors, tallies, calendars; in the garden—I'd certainly be 'lost' without mine!

Did you ever wrap sheets of stamps in wax paper, then lay in a handkerchief box, and wrap as any other gift? It's a welcome gift for just the right recipient. A box of typewriter paper is a nice thought for many a person, even for those who don't have typewriters!

cerned themselves with the future of Europe."

That is to say (putting it brutally) Mme. Chiang is getting the brush-off.

CAN anybody dispute the wisdom of this decision (if it is a decision) on our part?

Probably not. This is the point: WE'VE REACHED THE PLACE WHERE WE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING WE'D LIKE TO DO AND HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT WE CAN DO.

We have to realize that if we bite off more than we can chew, the ensuing case of acute indigestion may kill us.

MEANWHILE we start work on the NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY ALLIANCE.

Representatives of the United States and Canada and the five Western European countries—Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg—settle down to work in earnest on the drafting of an all-for-one, one-for-all pact whose purpose is to resist Russia, by force, if necessary.

This is the kernel of that decision: Force is all that Russia respects.

CLOSING on a somewhat lighter note, there is the case of the New York slot machine fan who got his finger caught in one of the things. He tried vaseline, oil and applications of cold water—without success. Mechanics came in and worked for an hour dismantling the machine, and finally got his finger out.

There is no record that he kicked up any disturbance. He reasoned, presumably, that the business of slot machines is to KEEP whatever is put into them.

By J. R. Williams

Husband Slain By Wife in Quarrel

HEPPNER, Dec. 16.—(AP)—District Attorney P. W. Mahoney said Mrs. Thelma Hughes admitted that she shot and killed her husband, Arthur Lee, about 3 a. m. yesterday, soon after he had returned home with two friends.

Hughes and his friends had had a few drinks in Heppner, Mahoney reported. Mrs. Hughes admitted "doing some drinking" during the afternoon, Mahoney said.

The shooting, with a .32 caliber rifle, took place in the living room of the Hughes' Butter Creek home after the couple had argued about some checks, the district attorney said.

Mrs. Hughes had filed divorce proceedings against her husband in Pendleton Nov. 12, charging cruel and inhuman treatment, and asked restoration of her former name. The sheriff's office served papers on Hughes the same day. Married March 9, this was Hughes' second marriage.

Formal charges are being delayed pending further investigation.

'Unsanitary' Meat Given Oregonians, Assertion

PORTLAND, Dec. 15.—(AP)—A state meat inspection official reports that Oregon consumers are getting large quantities of "unsanitary, unwholesome and unsatisfactory" meat.

Writing in the current edition of the State Agricultural Bulletin, Dr. James K. Taylor, assistant state veterinarian, said consumers are afforded no protection by the present state law.

He recommends inspection of live animals headed for slaughter houses and another inspection of the carcasses before the meat goes to consumer outlets.

Skiing Instruction For Boy Scout Unit Planned

Members of the Boy Scout honor campers organization, Order of the Arrow, will leave Monday, Dec. 27 for a two-day encampment at Santiam Lodge for skiing instruction at the Hoodoo Bowl, according to J. R. Bruckert, council president.

Lodge Chief Norleigh Alford and Field Executive Don Reeve will be in charge of the encampment. Reservations are being made through the Boy Scout office. Members of Order of the Arrow come from troops throughout the council who have qualified as honor campers of this organization.

Myrtle Creek High Clubs Plan Christmas Formal

The "Block M" and C.A.A. Letterman Clubs of Myrtle Creek High School are sponsoring a public Christmas formal Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 9 p. m. to 1 a. m. in the gymnasium with "Snook Lester and his Swingsters" providing the music.

Theme for the formal is "Christmas Holiday." Chairmen of the committees are, Decorations, Carl of Jacobson; advertising, Pat McKinny; ticket sales, Pauline Kusler; refreshment stand, Arlen Weaver; clean-up, Dede Weaver.

Be Spic and Span for the Holidays



705 S. Stephens

Job Training In Oregon Shows Only Small Decrease

Three years after V-J day, 22,537 veterans are pursuing education or job training in Oregon under the G. I. Bill or Public Law 16, which marks a decline of only 8.2 per cent from a year ago.

This is shown in the Veterans Administration's regional report of Dec. 1, Clifford Fields, VA representative at the Roseburg Veterans Hospital, pointed out today. Oregon schools counted 19,192 ex-GIs studying with federal aid as of that date, 1093 fewer than a year ago. The decline was only 5.4 per cent, much less than was generally predicted.

On-the-job training was being given to 3335 ex-GIs, 21.4 per cent fewer than last year. Job training fell off steadily after wage ceilings were imposed in August, 1946, but since last May, when ceilings were boosted, GI job trainees have gained slightly month by month.

Farm Training
Surprisingly, trade and vocational schools have lost only 1.7 per cent in veteran enrollment, despite sharp declines in flight training and the often-time hobby by courses. Fields said. E-GIs in the vocational-type schools numbered 6286 the first of this month.

Farm training has risen by one-third to 1265, and the outlook is for new gains, the VA aide stated. Some trade schools, particularly the Klamath Falls vocational school, and correspondence courses have greatly increased GI rolls.

Colleges counted 12,936 students who receive VA financing, 7.2 per cent fewer than a year ago. The independent colleges held almost even, but the state system has lost around 10 per cent.

Burglary of Post Office Charged to Three Men

SALEM, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Three Junction City men were charged here yesterday with burglarizing the Aurora postoffice north of here.

Donald O. Garlin, 24, and Edson E. Culver, 20, pleaded innocent before District Judge Joseph Felton, and are being held in lieu of \$2,000 bail.

The third man, Alfred Ecker, 24, has not been caught. He was released from the state penitentiary only Monday.

State police said Garlin was caught shortly after the burglary near Hubbard, and Culver was caught in Clackamas County.

The postmaster's son, scared the men away and sounded the alarm.

Garlin is accused of acting as lookout for the other two men, who are charged with attempting to steal stamps.

Two Fined For Sprees, Disorderly Conduct

Arthur Wayne Hill, 43, was fined \$100 and committed to the county jail for 30 days on a charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct, to which he pleaded guilty in the court of Justice of Peace Thomas C. Hart.

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