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RESOURCES APPRAISAL

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Oregon newspapers are using much space in both editorial and news columns to discuss the proposed power dam on the Deschutes River.

The project is sponsored by private power companies planning to erect a high dam in a river gorge below the confluence of the Metolius River with the Deschutes. The Metolius is one of Oregon's best salmon spawning streams, while the Deschutes is a far-famed steelhead and rainbow fishing stream.

Sports anglers and commercial fishermen vociferously oppose the Deschutes dam, private and public power advocates are lined up on their respective sides, and newspapers are expressing divergent opinions.

Some newspapers are taking the stand that recreational values of the Deschutes and Metolius should not be destroyed. Others contend that, in view of the imperative need for hydroelectric power in the Pacific Northwest, every encouragement should be given the project. Still others are enthused over the fact that this is a private power project and should receive complete cooperation because it is a step away from public power policies.

We have yet to find a newspaper suggesting an inventory of values of the Deschutes and Metolius rivers, or proposing that a study be made by independent and qualified agencies to determine whether power AND recreational use of the river could be made to go hand-in-hand.

The *Bend Bulletin* reports there has been an unwritten understanding that water from the Deschutes River above Bend should be available for irrigation, and below Bend for power purposes. No thought for the recreational resource, although Bend is widely promoting its exceptional recreational facilities.

Construction of McNary dam is expected to mark the end of salmon migration on the upper Columbia system. The federal government is cooperating with the State of Oregon in attempting to build up the lower Columbia tributaries as nursery grounds for future salmon runs, hoping to create in these lower tributaries sufficient hatching and rearing facilities to restore salmon migration sufficient to offset the loss of the upper Columbia basin. The Deschutes and Metolius rivers are important factors in this program.

Legislatures of both Oregon and Washington have before them proposals setting aside the lower Columbia tributaries as salmon spawning streams. But Washington, like Oregon, is faced with a power controversy as the City of Tacoma seeks authority for a dam on the Cowlitz River.

The *East Oregonian*, Pendleton, calls attention to the fact that Bonneville and Grand Coulee contribute only 10 percent of the potential energy available from the upper basin of the Columbia. It contends that we should look to public power and speed construction of power projects proposed at Umatilla, Foster Creek and Hell's Canyon, confining hydroelectric development to the upper basin and using the lower basin for salmon propagation. The *East Oregonian* asks: "Why use a cannon to shoot a chipmunk where there is big game to be had?"

The state's Fish and Game Commissions are actively opposing construction of the proposed dam on the Deschutes and are supporting legislation which would prohibit high dams on any of the Columbia's lower tributaries. Both departments have large investments in hatcheries on the Deschutes watershed. The recently constructed Wizard Falls hatchery on the Metolius is the pride and joy of the Game Commission. It is unquestionably one of the finest hatcheries in the country today, incorporating all the latest scientific findings in its construction. Yet its efficiency would be materially impaired should a dam be built below the confluence of the Metolius with the Deschutes.

The troublesome situation, with its wide range of controversy, stems from the fact that Oregon has no natural resources policy-making board. A correction of this fault is proposed in the separate report made by John B. Ebinger to the majority findings and recommendations of the Interim Legislative Committee which studied wildlife policies and activities. Ebinger proposes a State Board of Natural Resources.

A department such as that proposed by Ebinger should not be hurriedly organized and should be studied and planned for at least two years. The current session of the Legislature will receive bills calling for the appointment of an interim committee to recommend the proposed department at the 1951 session. In the meantime, Governor McKay, who is deeply concerned with Oregon's lack of coordinated handling of natural resources, proposes a civilian advisory board to work with the various state departments and agencies in control of resources.

Some program must be arranged with the least possible delay to inventory our natural resources, appraising them for both their present and future use, and supervising their development in the interest of the state as a whole.

Mrs. M'Camant, Widow Of Ex-Oregon Justice, Dies

PORTLAND, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Katherine S. McCamant, widow of Wallace McCamant, Associate Justice in the State Supreme Court a generation ago, died at her home here yesterday.

McCamant, who died in 1944, bolted the Oregon delegation in the 1920 Republican nominating convention. It won him an appointment as a federal judge, but the appointment was blocked in the Senate by Sen. Hiram Johnson of California. Johnson had been the Oregon choice for president, but McCamant deserted him for Warren Harding, who won the nomination.

A son, the Rev. Thomas McCamant, Portland, survives.

OUT OUR WAY — By J. R. Williams

Scraps from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

"The thing that I found most helpful on the Alaskan trip was my black eye"—a ripple of delighted laughter swept over the audience listening to Martha McKeown Ferguson ("The Trail Led North;" MacMillan) at the Zonta International in Corvallis, and later by transcription, a wider audience—"because everyone wanted to know all about it, and then of course, everyone told me about the way she got her black eye and by then we were so well acquainted that I was able to get the things I wanted to hear from all those oldtimers without any trouble." Mrs. McKeown's "shiner," which she had acquired by bending over in her stateroom and striking her head on the washbowl, and which in due time 'spread to the other eye' too—brought forth one admiring oldtimer's assurance: "Your shiner beats any other I ever saw come out of Dawson."

I don't know when I have listened so delightedly to a talk. Mrs. McKeown remarked at the beginning that years before at a program upon which she was to appear, an elderly man had said, seeing her speech in her hand, "You going to read it? If you can't remember yourself what you're going to say how can you expect others to? Why don't you just TALK?" And 'just talk' she did, accompanied by many a ripple of amusement from the audience.

The author spoke with appreciation of the four hours every day her husband had helped her to have, secure from interruption, for work on the manuscript. The first 300,000 words had gone to the publisher and they were waiting for the rest. So there was an element of pressure about it, and also a bit of a "gamble" for not even the writer felt sure she would ever see her book in covers!

"Where I live," said Mrs. McKeown, "people drop in in the afternoon and evening for coffee and to visit—but they don't write books!" So one time when a neighbor had dropped in and inquired about his hostess who was not visible Mr. McKeown explained she was "writing a book." After a polite "Oh?" and a moment's silence, the visitor said, "My wife is knitting a green dress!"

But the bit I liked best was where at 2 o'clock one morning she was typing "and when I type I fairly shake the house. And I have a habit—I know it's revolting—a burst of laughter from the audience greeted this—of chewing gum at the same time. So I was typing and chewing gum, and then I discovered Archie at my side. He put his hand on my shoulder and said: "'Honey, wouldn't it be easier just to BUY a book'?"

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

weren't afraid to fight for your rights, but you will have also a lot of bruises and bumps and maybe a couple of closed eyes.

At that, you will come off better in your tiff with Bulging Biceps than the landlords if they tangle with Uncle Sam. You will HAVE THE SYMPATHY of most of the bystanders, who incline naturally to side with the under-dog, but one of the fundamental facts of life is that nobody loves a landlord. Nobody knows that better than the politicians—and our government is run by politicians.

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OUR lack of love for landlords is an atavistic throwback to the time when they held the power of life and death over their tenants. There was a time in feudal England when the landlord (lord of the land) had the legal right to sleep on her wedding night with the bride of his tenant. Things such as that burn deep into the fiber of human nature, and the scars LAST.

We don't know why we distrust landlords (many of whom are kindly and friendly souls) any more than we know why we dream of falling from high places (we are told by people who like to guess at such things) goes back to when our ancestors lived in trees and every now and then lost their hold on the limb and fell into the clutches of the saber-tooth tiger waiting on the ground below. Our attitude towards landlords is a similar survival from the misty past.

The politicians, of course, know all about prejudices, atavistic and otherwise, and nothing would please them better than to tangle with landlords in a finish fight. You can almost see them rubbing their hands in glee and hoping that nothing happens to stop the scrap. According to their way of thinking, it would be SWELL politics.

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LET'S suppose, just for the sake of argument, that construction of rental property becomes permanently unprofitable. In that event, no more private rental housing will be built.

But we won't go without houses to rent. What will happen is that THE GOVERNMENT WILL SIMPLY TAKE OVER THE HOUSING JOB. Nothing is plainer than the present political challenge that government will do for the people whatever private enterprise fails to do. That is the handwriting on the modern wall. Anyone with half an eye can see it and read it.

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IN that event, the GOVERNMENT will be your landlord.

That raises an interesting question:

Do you suppose you'll be any fonder of the government as a landlord than of the private individual who now owns the house you rent?

Will the government, as a landlord, inherit all the prejudices that have come down to us from the misty centuries of the past?

You answer it.

It's too much for this writer.

Stockman Badly Injured In Tumble From Train

DENVER, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Rollo Jackson, 57, of Goldendale, Wash., was in serious condition today after he apparently fell off a Union Pacific passenger train on the Denver outskirts.

He was found unconscious beside the tracks Sunday night. Detectives said marks in the snow indicated he had been dragged more than 800 feet. Jackson had lain in the snow in near-zero temperatures for about two hours after his disappearance.

Jackson, a stockman, was reported on his way to San Antonio, Texas, for a wool growers' convention.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

PLEASE, MR. WEATHERMAN

(The Oregon Statesman)

We hate to come to it, but as this is written the frigid circumstances just won't brook further delay. We here and now must demand, unqualifiedly, that the weatherman get the temperature above the freezing mark as least long enough to get our faucets unplumbed.

We have appreciated the sunshine, the invigorating air, the chance for the kiddies to get a rare go at the snow and ice. We have not complained thus far, other than politely, that our fuel bill resembles the war debt. We have taken the icy roads in stride, kept the lanterns going in the pump house, carried pails of water by the hundreds for the chickens, kicked in frozen-shut doors and wrapped the outdoor pipes until there isn't an old shirt or pair of pants left.

Our dog got arthritis, the hens won't lay, the cat won't hunt gophers. It is too cold to chop wood. The only way to dig in the yard is to blast. The car won't start short of a tow rope and we're getting tired of hot soup for lunch. There's too much moisture in the high lands and if things keep up we'll be forced to build an ark against the forthcoming flood.

Please, Mr. Weatherman, we've had enough of this and we don't see any sense in saving up further the rain which you'll probably soon douse us with anyway. We hate to complain to your boss, the Great White Father in Washington, particularly since we realize that good weather thus far has not been made a part of his platform. But, honestly, we've got to do something. Have you got a spare muffler?

ELECTRICITY FOR FARMS

(The Dalles Chronicle)

One of the outstanding achievements of the last 10 or 12 years has been the steady progress toward electrification of America's farms. In 1935 only about one farm in 10 had central station electric service, although a good many more than this number had their own small generating plants. As of June 30, 1948, more than two out of three farms had high-line service.

The job of extending power to farms and giving rural people new tools with which to do their labor was accomplished by both private utilities and the rural electrification administration.

Stimulus to carry on the task was provided by the demands of farmers themselves. In many cases private companies did not feel justified in extending lines because of little prospect for reasonable earnings, so farmers organized cooperatives and provided themselves with a service otherwise unavailable.

Utility companies in Oregon long had been active in the rural electrification field, placing this state far above the national average before Nebraska's late Sen. George Norris and others started the REA program in congress. So rapidly have rural lines been built that only 4.8 per cent of Oregon's farms were without electricity as of last June.

Many other states have not been so fortunate. North Dakota, for example, has more than 77 per cent of its rural electrification task ahead of it. South Dakota is only a shade better off, and Minnesota is still 31 per cent unelectrified despite long strides in rural construction in recent years.

REA's program is sound because it enables local initiative to start projects and permits local people to operate them—subject, of course, to the usual regulations of a federal agency. The relationship of REA to the farmers' cooperatives is that of lender to borrower. Funds are provided by the government under a contract which provides for definite interest and principal payments until the power system becomes the property of the farmers.

There is a subsidy of course, in the supervisory and other services which REA provides without adding to borrowers' debt burden, but it is relatively minor. The program is a form of federal investment that is largely paying its own way.

L. L. Powers Succeeds Clute As Red Cross Chapter Head; Other Officers Also Chosen

Resignation of Allen E. Clute as chairman of the Douglas County Red Cross Chapter and the election of L. L. (Jim) Powers to succeed him, was announced Monday by Russell M. Stephens, executive secretary of the chapter. Powers, who has been vice president, will fill out the unexpired portion of Clute's term, which ends June 30.

Clute's resignation, Stephens said, was submitted at a recent board meeting. He said he wished to resign for reasons of health. A real estate man, Clute had served as chairman for the past year, being elected at the annual meeting in January, 1948, and again in the summer, when a new date for the annual meeting was fixed.

Stephens also announced that Mrs. Eugene Kent has been elected secretary pro-tem, taking the place of Mrs. Esther Dyar, who has resigned.

New directors elected to the board include J. Roland Parker, William T. Evans, Don Reed, Tom Pargeter, Roland West and Ray B. Hampton. Reed was elected treasurer in place of S. W. McLaughlin, who also has resigned.

It was decided the board shall meet the first Monday of each month hereafter. The board also discussed plans for the opening at the annual Red Cross fund campaign March 1, and proposed improvements to the Red Cross production rooms in the Armory.

Stephens said a group representing the local chapter went to Reedsport last week to attend a public health meeting held under joint auspices of the County Health Department and Reedsport civic groups. The functions of the Red Cross in the public health picture were explained.

Those who represented the Red Cross at Reedsport included Powers, Harold E. Schmeer, Mrs. Claude Baker, Miss Cynthia Palmer and Stephens. Plans for reviving the Western Douglas County branch of the Red Cross were discussed, as well as organization of the forthcoming fund campaign.

Mother, 95 Lbs., Bears Twin Boys Totaling 14½ Lbs.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Feb. 1.—(AP)—Birth Saturday of twin boys, with a combined weight of 14½ pounds, to a woman weighing only 95 pounds, was reported by Valley hospital in nearby Van Nuys.

Heaviest twins ever born at that institution, they and their mother, Mrs. Irene L. Stevens of Canoga Park who is only four feet, 11 inches high, are doing nicely. Her husband is a contractor. They have another son, Jack, three.

Senior High Radio Class Dates Visit to KRNR

The Senior High radio class will go on a field trip to station KRNR Thursday, reported Mrs. Alice Broaddus, advisor.

The class will be shown through the studio and explained how the controls and other objects around the station are operated.

This trip is in preparation for later in the school year, when the class will run the station for a day.

Atomic Board Cites Huge Cost of Hanford Plant

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—(AP)—The Atomic Energy Commission gave out some big figures yesterday on its Hanford, Wash., plutonium plant.

It cost nearly $350,000,000 and work is still going on.

The size of the Hanford reservation is 400,000 acres—more than half the area of Rhode Island.

Water diverted from the Columbia river during the war to cool the three reactors on the project (uranium and graphite piles used for the production PF plutonium) would have equaled the water consumption of a city with 1,000,000 inhabitants.

The temporary construction camp for the project housed 60,000 people.

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