

The News-Review

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DISCUSSING THE WEATHER

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Things are never so bad they couldn't be worse.
"Back in 1888 Roseburg had a foot of snow and it stayed on for six weeks," Art Mahoney told us, while we were complaining about our "unusual" weather.
"Temperature dropped to six degrees below zero and the river froze over," Mahoney related.
A. C. Marsters, according to Mahoney, had just opened the Marsters Drug Co. store. He built in an icehouse. Residents laughed at him and asked how he intended to fill it. "I'll cut ice off the river," he replied. And that is what he did—the only time in a period of 40 years such a feat was possible.
The winter of '88 still holds the record for severity, but the storm of '49 may set a record for duration.

Comment concerning the storm is varied and interesting. One hears many unique theories. Most common, of course, are the charges that our weather has been upset by radioactivity released by atomic bombs. Then, too, we have heard reports from persons who claim to have knowledge that the Japanese current, which tempers the weather of the Pacific Coast, has moved further offshore.

The weatherman reports that gremlins have mixed up wiring on the weather panel and everytime the button is pushed for fair weather we wind up with cyclones and blizzards. He offers the further depressing comment that no one so far seems to be able to unscramble the mess and predicts that we have several days of continued stormy weather in prospect.

However, we believe personally that the whole blame rests on the Democratic party, because we were told by one of its prominent leaders prior to election that it would be "a long, cold day before the Republicans ever came into power." He apparently knew what he was talking about.

It is to be hoped that the storm moderates gradually rather than suddenly. Snow level in the mountains is exceptionally deep. A few warm days could bring down floods such as we have never experienced. Gradual melting, however, could be most beneficial, producing better summertime flow in our streams, serving agriculture with satisfactory sub-irrigation, and bringing general benefits, particularly in the way of faster forest growth.

The danger of floods brings up again consideration of present-day plans for flood control. Harnessing floods, such as may be anticipated if we are pessimistic, would be virtually impossible with the type of structures currently proposed for that purpose. Yet, thousands of tiny trickle dams on the upland tributary streams could at least lower the flood crests which cause the most damage.

Some day, perhaps, we will learn that Nature has a plan behind the upland marshes, tiny lakes and ponds, which we drain with reckless abandon while operating logging equipment, or building grazing lands, and then fail to replace. Perhaps, too, we will learn that the countless deep pools on the upper reaches of small tributaries are carved by Nature as holding and settling basins, and that they are inadequate when we overload streams with water by removing surrounding ground cover. Yet it would be a comparatively simple matter to restore upland bogs and ponds after a tract of land had been logged, and to build supplemental holding pools to take care of surplus water we feed into our streams.

Maybe we'll learn some day to work with Nature rather than against her. It is to be hoped we don't have to learn the hard way.

LETTERS to the Editor

Douglas County's Cost Of Schools Criticized

SUTHERLIN—Farm and other property, outside of the towns of Douglas County, had their taxes almost doubled last year by the operation of the rural school law. This relieved the tax payers of some of the towns like Myrtle Creek, Drain, etc., by spreading school taxes over the entire county, exclusive of Roseburg.

But this relief is only temporary, for the prospect for next year are for much higher taxes to run the schools of the county. The rural school system provides for each district to furnish its own budget, and the entire county outside of first class districts: to pay the tax bill. Thus, the men, the officials, who spend the money do not have to provide the funds, that duty devolving on the county school board. It is like getting money "from Papa."

One district I know had a \$35,000 budget last year, and has asked for double that this year. The school districts of the towns have a tendency to add extra teachers, secretaries, janitors, whenever possible, and build up the school staff as large as possible. Why not? The county pays the bill.

The present system also permits duplication in school facilities, especially high schools. A high school with from 300 to 500 pupils can be operated at a cost of from \$300 down to \$250 including buses. High schools from 50 to 200 generally cost about \$500 a student.

More important, the larger unit will generally have better teachers, better "labs," more classes, as trade work, Smith, Hughes, "Ag" work, and a better school with more outstanding pupils.

Under the present rural school law, each little town is building, has built, or is planning to build a new building costing two to three hundred thousand dollars. After all this treasure is expended, there still will be a little "B" grade sub-standard high school.

Instead, communities like Elkton, Drain, and Yoncalla; Riddle, Canyonville, and Days; Creek, Oakland, Wilbur, and Sutherlin, should be combined into a high school for each group and give our boys and girls throughout the county more opportunity.

Reedsport and Gardiner have done this voluntarily.

The best way to do this is probably to create a single district unit for the county, and avoid all this useless duplication, and the petty "graft" for personal benefit.

The next few years will be a severe strain on the people who pay taxes, whether it be withholding, real property, or specific taxes. It catches the working people for every theater ticket, every shipment of freight, and innumerable other things, are taxed by federal government, state, or locally.

This high cost of living is the high cost of government, including schools, more than anything else.

W. J. MATTHEWS
Sutherlin Oregon

Ha, Ha, Lookit Who Wants to Come Aboard!



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viannett S. Martin

Boy Scouts, and everyone who loves them, owe a debt to the Unknown Scout, the young lad who, seeing a stranger unable to find his way in London's pea-soupy fog where one can't always see the next lamppost, offered his help.

The stranger was a Chicago publisher, Wm. D. Boyce. The lad refused a shilling for the service: "No, sir, I am a scout. Scouts do not take tips for services." This so aroused Mr. Boyce's interest that he asked questions. The next year in this country was incorporated the BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. How much scouting can mean to a boy, to his parents, to his home, and radiating outward, the community!

The Boy Scout
TRUSTWORTHY, the Scout: by his word he stands,
No lie will tell nor trespass others' lands;
He is LOYAL to country, home, and school.
He practices daily the Golden Rule;

—Viannett Martin in
The Christian Science Monitor.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

COLUMBIA VALLEY AUTHORITY AGAIN (The Bend Bulletin)

In his state of the union message President Truman said, "We must push forward with the development of our rivers for power, irrigation, navigation and flood control," and he followed that sentence with the assertion that "We should apply the lessons of our Tennessee valley experience to our other great river basins." Those words foreshadowed administration backing for valley authority proposals and on Monday came the first step. This was a direction by the president to government agencies to begin work immediately on legislation for a Columbia valley authority. Whether proposals for authorities in other basins will now follow in short order remains to be seen. A Missouri valley authority proposal is said to be ready but legislation for other basins may be delayed while the CVA is undergoing its laboratory test.

The bill now in preparation will, by no means, be the first to be introduced for the creation of a Columbia valley authority. Several have been before earlier congresses, the latest being S. 460, of the 79th congress. This was the child of the then junior senator from Washington, Hugh B. Mitchell. It got nowhere and in a campaign for election to succeed himself, Mitchell was then (in by appointment) with the CVA a major issue, he was defeated by Harry P. Cain.

Now it is a significant fact that this Mitchell bill and its numerous predecessors and associated measures were all on the docket for democratic congresses—and none of them had any success. The MVA bill of the 79th congress, S. 555, had hearings before two senate committees and became the victim of rejections by each. In short, as the record shows, democratic-controlled congresses have never favored the extension of the valley authority idea beyond the original guinea pig—the Tennessee valley. Moreover, when the CVA was a state-wide issue in Washington in a senatorial election its chief advocate took a beating. The fact that he has now returned to congress (in the house) has no CVA meaning when it is observed that the district he represents is not in the valley of the Columbia.

POOR SALESMANSHIP LOSES CUSTOMERS

The Cottage Grove Sentinel.
Why does a retail store lose customers?

Writing in the latest issue of Dun's Review, Professor N. H. Comish, of the University of Oregon, unveils some startling answers. The professor based his conclusions on thousands of interviews with retail customers, mostly in the small towns of Oregon. While high prices stood well up among the things customers do not like, prices were not nearly as important as "indifference of clerks" as a reason for not buying. Poor salesmanship stood out above everything else as the principal reason people boycott one store and try another.

"Poor salesmanship will do more to drive your customers away than high prices," says Professor Comish. Only prompt, pleasant and courteous clerks can sell goods that won't come back to customers who will.

Funeral Costs Of World War 1 Vet May Be Paid by VA

Funeral expenses up to \$150 may be paid by the Veterans Administration in event of the death of World War 1 veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Additional costs, covering transportation, may be allowed if the veteran dies in a VA hospital or domiciliary home, while hospitalized at the expense of the VA or while in transit from a VA hospital, home or regional office at the expense of the VA.

All claims for VA burial allowances must be filed at a VA office within two years from the date of permanent burial. The allowances are payable only to undertakers or to reimburse the person who paid the funeral expense.

A United States flag with which to drape the casket, and to be kept by the next-of-kin, will be furnished by the VA upon application to any county seat post office or other post office designated by the VA, or to any VA field station.

For further details about burial allowances or other federal veteran benefits administered by the VA, veterans or their families should contact the nearest VA office.

Sen. Morse's Ex-Aide Freed of Robbery Charge

SEATTLE, Feb. 8.—(AP)—A robbery charge against Miss Mary Notice, a former secretary to Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, was dismissed yesterday by Superior Court Judge Roger J. Meakim.

The 31-year-old University of Washington graduate was accused of being an accomplice in the \$20,000 holdup of a night club here last September.

Her attorney, John F. Walther, contended there was insufficient evidence to prove she knowingly drove one of two other defendants to Portland after the robbery. The trial against the others continued.

Baby Dies in Home Fire Following Oil Blast

CORVALLIS, Ore., Feb. 8.—(AP)—Edward Gardner, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gardner, was burned to death Saturday when flames destroyed the frame house in which the Gardners lived at the Hazel Glen Lumber Company camp in the remote section of Lobster Valley in Southwest Benton County.

Benton County Sheriff C. N. Lilly said an oil explosion apparently started the fire which burst out immediately over most of the house. Three other children were rescued but suffered burns.

CAT FILLS HEN ROLE

SEDRON WOOLLEY, Wash., Feb. 8.—(AP)—Mitzi, a pregnant cat, has been sitting on two fertile chicken eggs for nearly three weeks.

Her owner, Lester Stephenson, had the eggs but no chicken to sit on them. He gave them to the cat. Mitzi didn't squawk. They should hatch any day now, he said.

sets checked, including those in night clubs and bars, were tuned to the grand opera telecast.

The modern generation, you see, isn't as low-browed as it is generally painted.

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Mrs. L. L. Powers

One-Way Streets Speed Traffic, Baldock States

SEATTLE, Feb. 8.—(AP)—One-way streets allow 50 percent more traffic to pass through intersections R. H. Baldock, Oregon State Highway Department chief engineer, said today.

He spoke at the annual three-day Pacific Northwest road building conference.

He said off-street parking is another method to speed up traffic. "A serious defect" of taxation programs is that road funds come from road users only, he declared. He said Oregon studies show that one-third of road costs should be paid by heavy vehicle operators. A similar California study shows they should pay one-half the cost, he said.

Accident rates on one-way

streets are from one-third to one-half less than on two-way streets, he pointed out.

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Personal Property Tax Warning

Personal property declaration forms were sent out Jan. 1, 1949 with a request for their return by Feb. 1st. To date a great number of these forms have not been returned.

Section 110-349, OCLA 1941 reads as follows... "The assessor shall cause blank forms for such returns to be prepared and distributed, but failure to receive or secure the form shall not relieve any such person, managing agent or officer from the obligation of making any return herein required... All returns filled under the provisions of this section shall be confidential records of the Assessor's office."

Section 110-608, OCLA 1941 "Any such person, managing agent or officer who shall with intent to evade taxation, refuse or neglect to make any return herein required and to file it with the assessor with in the time specified or as extended shall be subject to a penalty of Ten Dollars \$10.00 per day of the continuance of such refusal or neglect..."

These forms may be obtained by calling at the Assessor's office, or will be mailed upon request.

NED DIXON

DOUGLAS COUNTY ASSESSOR