

# The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.  
 Entered as second class matter May 7, 1938, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 2, 1912.  
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 Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations  
 Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC. offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis.  
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$5.00, six months \$2.50, three months \$1.25. By City Carrier—Per Year \$3.00, six months \$1.50, three months \$0.75. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$5.00, six months \$2.50, three months \$1.25.

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Although the City of Myrtle Creek is in the doghouse because it is lagging in making plans for sewage disposal, other Douglas County municipalities are well advanced with sanitary plans and, in general, are far ahead of the state average, according to Claude Baker, county sanitary engineer.

Myrtle Creek, it is reported in a bulletin issued by the State Board of Health, ignored a request that it appear at a public hearing in Portland recently, where six cities and three industrial plants were represented, and where warning was issued that legal action may be used to enforce anti-pollution laws. The State Sanitary Authority has cited Myrtle Creek to appear at a hearing July 22.

Municipalities which lack sewage disposal facilities are being required by the State Sanitary Authority to submit specific time schedules for constructing and financing sewage treatment plants. At the same time the Authority is tightening its demands on industrial installations. Paper mills, dumping such large quantities of waste into the Willamette River that the oxygen content is reduced to zero during periods of low water, are extremely reluctant to install anti-pollution equipment, claiming that they had "been unable to find a satisfactory solution to the problem which would be economic." Laboratory reports show that industrial waste from paper mills can be eliminated, but installations are costly and mills are reluctant to add this cost to their operating expense.

Anti-pollution sentiment is growing rapidly in Oregon. Destruction of fish life, streams rendered unsafe for recreational purposes, impairment of scenic beauty and hazards to health have caused widespread demand for a speed-up of the state's anti-pollution campaign.

The State Sanitary Authority has been quite mild in its enforcement policies until recently and has been trying to secure improvement of conditions through cooperation rather than by force. But in recent months it has become a little more threatening and appears to mean business.

The Authority is working on a double-barreled program. First emphasis is placed on adequate water supply. Second in importance is sanitation and sewage disposal. Municipalities are required to keep the agency informed on plans and progress relative to these projects.

The City of Roseburg was one of the first Oregon municipalities to install complete sewage disposal facilities. Riddle is believed to be Oregon's smallest municipality with a full-treatment plant—a plant built cooperatively by the city and the Harbor Plywood Company. Riddle's disposal unit is nearing completion and will be in operation in the near future.

Extensive plans are being made for improved sanitation in the suburban areas of Roseburg. North Riverside Addition is completing work on its project planning and will advertise bonds after the new state law becomes effective in July. The new law authorizes the state treasurer to buy district bonds. Tentative plans for a sanitary district are being made in West Roseburg. The Veterans Facility will either join with North Riverside in putting in sewage disposal facilities or install its own plant. The community east of Roseburg is proposing annexation and is circulating petitions.

Reedsport is improving its water system, extending sewer lines, and is planning a disposal plant. Drain has completed engineering for a disposal plant and is preparing to submit a proposed bond issue to a vote of the residents. Oakland and Sutherlin are working on disposal plant designs.

Canyonville is in a very fortunate spot. It recently negotiated sale of timber from its watershed, raising thereby about \$90,000 which will go into installation of sanitary facilities. Glendale is extending its water system and has tentative plans for sewage disposal.

The county sanitarian is well pleased with the cooperation and interest shown by Douglas County municipalities in sewage disposal planning, he reports. He is finding some difficulty, however, in getting cooperation from private home owners with poor sanitation outside organized areas. He reports he has been in consultation with state and county authorities and a "crack-down" is in prospect on some of the uncooperative violators.

## Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

### DAMS AND FISH

The Dalles Chronicle Oregon has learned from repeated experience, including last week's hearings before the Hydroelectric Commission on the Pelton project, that the dams vs. fish controversy is highly complex.

Too many persons take a position in favor of one side or the other in the recurring debates without helping to work out a solution that would enable us to have extensive river developments and still retain much of our salmon and steelhead.

In dollars and cents, the river fishing industry is not large except in a few communities. It is not so important to The Dalles that we could not get along without it. But we would resist efforts to destroy all or part of it unless it were necessary to give it up in exchange for something of greater local and regional benefit.

Part of the fishing industry in The Dalles area already is in process of destruction as a result of the selfish and successful leg-

islative attack carried on by lower river gillnet fishermen. Banning of seines will leave only Cello Falls as a major fishery above Bonneville.

Because the Indian fishery at Cello and other nearby points is now a bigger business than ever, one faction which argues against The Dalles dam will strengthen its case. More money will be at stake at the tribal fishing ground.

The white commercial fishermen, however, have weakened their argument by dividing forces and waging another old-fashioned fish fight. Some of the upriver sentiment against The Dalles dam will shift toward support of the project as the union gillnetters fasten a tight monopoly on the industry. To this extent the initiative measure passed last fall and the defeat at Salem of the fixed gear moratorium bill represent the poorest sort of strategy by lower river fishermen.

In any event, Columbia River development is on the way and nothing now on the horizon, with

## Anyway, It's A Good Start



## Escapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnnett S. Martin

The way folks fly hither and thither these days! So casual about it, too, as if hopping off to Boston or Bangkok were a mere trifle in the day's activities. Well, if ever I take off any place, I shan't be casual!

I have been "up" 8,500 feet, but my own feet were firmly pushing against the floorboard, either Estrellita's or her predecessor's, and beside me "at the controls" was E.J. I do sometimes lay my hand gently on his knee when the drop-off on my side is a thousand feet or so, but I affirm, once more, I never left any black and blue marks!

To be sure we flew—if that is what you do in a blimp—in the Goodyear Resolute. It was fun. But we never had a second chance because Uncle Sam took it next day.

We waited on Westwood campus while the huge sausage-balloon with its tiny 6-passenger cabin settled gently until the ground-crew could grab the dangling ropes, and sometimes bounce, too. We climbed a little ladder and took our places. No one could be afraid after watching that blimp's coming down for

a landing. Not until the roar of motors assails your ears! I nearly jumped out of my skin. I had forgotten, in the quiet, a dirigible had engines!

We started up. My feet and head nearly met in my earnest effort to sit erect; until it occurred to me I could lie back in my chair, as E.J. was doing, and then—it was just fun. Suddenly we leveled out. The roar of the motors (or was there only one engine? I forgot) ceased. There we were floating in a blue sky high above Southern California. Not even a cloud to float on.

The pilot was as unconcerned about his job as a bus-driver. While we were shooting up he was scribbling in a little book. Then while we were floating he casually rolled the blimp until we were looking straight down through our window. Before we could get quite used to the idea, he politely rolled the blimp to port so the other half of his passengers could look down through their windows—and find out why we had gasped.

It was such fun! We didn't want to come down. But—I'm still "grounded" when it comes to these high-flying planes.

## Congress Discovers Taft-Hartley Act Not As Bad As Opponents Painted It

By JAMES THRASHER

It's up to the Senate now. But as far as the House is concerned the Taft-Hartley Act is still the labor law of the land. The administration's compromise between brave campaign promises and practical reality came too late, and the best Mr. Truman's cohorts could do was to kill the Wood bill, a sort of super-Taft-Hartley piece of legislation, and leave things as they were.

The last-minute compromise was whipped up when the Lesinski bill was clearly doomed. This was 90-odd percent Wagner Act, with a few minor changes, and at the end even its best friends didn't give it a chance.

One of the most interesting things in this connection is that the administration bill seemed to lose ground during the Easter vacation when most congressmen went back to talk to the home folks. The constituents are pretty good lobbyists themselves, since they are the ones who keep the members in steady work. And there didn't seem to be any overwhelming evidence of a "people's mandate" to repeal the T-H legislation.

Perhaps Truman deceived Mr. Truman certainly deceived a people's mandate" to go back to Washington for four more years. But it does not appear that this mandate was a blanket

endorsement of everything he promised in the heat of the campaign. Possibly the President, smart politician though he is, misinterpreted the people's sentiment. Possibly he was deceived by the excitement and glow of victory which persisted from election day to the day that the new Congress convened. Almost certainly Mr. Truman was short-sighted in consulting only with labor spokesmen in drafting what became the Lesinski bill.

It was pretty well established, even before the election, that the intensive publicity campaign against the Taft-Hartley Law was only partly successful. A great many people bristled at its very name. But when poll-takers broke it down for them and asked them what they thought of this provision or that, it developed that the hatred for the whole greatly exceeded the hatred of the sum of its parts.

Not Slavery Statute The Taft-Hartley Law has its imperfections and inequities. But it has never been the monstrous legalization of slavery that its opponents pictured it. In fact, the contrast between what the labor people said would take place under the law and what actually happened caused their propaganda to backfire. Labor may have sustained some minor injuries, but it also made substantial gains.

Even if a full 75,000 kilowatts of firm power were available the year around, Pelton could be nothing but an undertaking of temporary importance. Facing far short of long-range needs, its generators would be unnecessary when large new units came into production on the Columbia.

For the sake of a minor addition to the Northwest's power supply the permanent impairment of the Deschutes system as a fish spawning area would be extremely short-sighted.

The hysteria of organized labor's anti-T-H campaign didn't do Mr. Truman any good in the long run, either. He took the keynote of labor's campaign for his own. But the picture of enslaved labor was never there to back him up. The labor bill, in the light of succeeding events, obviously wasn't

## Germany Likely To Be Center Of Epochal East-and-West Struggle

By DEWITT MACKENZIE  
Associated Press Foreign Affairs Analyst

The hard-boiled anti-Communist mayor of Western Berlin, Ernst Reuter, says the New York agreement among the Big Four to lift the blockade of the German capital marks the "real beginning of a tug-of-war between the East and West."

Reuter means, I take it, that we are about to see the start of a great battle between Russia and the Western Allies for control of all Germany. It's the old story—pre-war Germany was the keystone of much of continental Europe's economy.

Wes. Gallagher, A.P. chief of bureau in Germany, reports that many international observers there believe victory for the West would shatter the Red iron curtain. The reason is that Eastern Europe traditionally has depended heavily on the Reich for necessities which it is doubtful Russia alone can provide.

We are harking back to the vast economic empire which Hitler gambled away because of his inordinate ambition to annex and enslave all Europe—and after that only heaven knows what. When Hitler launched World War II he was virtually czar of the whole of Eastern Europe up to the Russian border, because of his economic stranglehold.

I toured that whole area just before Munich, and still find it a matter of amazement that the Nazi Fuehrer should have staked so much on a throw of the dice. This strange chapter of history has been discussed in our column before, but I revert to it now because it's the chief explanation of the struggle which is boiling up over Germany.

Hitler held all Eastern Europe and the Balkans in the itching palm of his hand. Why? Because industrial Germany over a long

period had built up an economic structure under which she supplied agricultural countries with manufactured articles, and took from them in turn the agricultural products which the Reich didn't produce itself.



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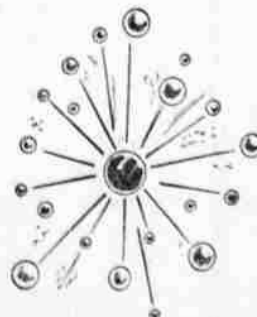
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