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CHARLES V. STANTON Editor
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IT'S A GOOD START

By CHARLES V. STANTON

The Douglas County Budget Committee has included an item of \$10,000 in the tentative 1949-50 budget for use in acquiring land for recreational purposes. The appropriation was requested by the newly-organized Umpqua Basin Conservation Council, the coordinating body for the sports clubs of the central part of the County. Sports clubs of the western part of the County are affiliated with the Southwestern Oregon Sportsmen's Association, but the Umpqua Basin Council's proposal to the Budget Committee was referred to sportsmen of the Lower Umpqua area, who not only gave their own unanimous approval but secured endorsement as well from the Lower Umpqua Chamber of Commerce and Reedsport Lions Club. Bruce Yeager of Roseburg, Council secretary, who circulated the petition among the directors for signatures representing the member clubs, reported he could have obtained hundreds of voluntary signatures had he desired. Employees at the Martin Box Co., Oakland, where he stopped to contact a Council director, almost commended the petition that they might join in the request. Yeager stated.

Readers of this column know that acquisition of recreational areas has been one of our pet hobbies. We are delighted that the Sports Council has taken the initiative in sponsoring the program and that the proposal has met favor from the Budget Committee.

The amount allotted in the budget is altogether too small to do more than make a bare start, but we are positive that residents of the County will demand more and more investment in recreational lands once the plan has been proven. Eventually, we hope, it will be possible to set up a county-wide recreational district with an annual levy of one or more mills, money to be used in purchase and improvement of recreational grounds, employment of a park superintendent and recreational director to supervise public recreation grounds and to direct improvement work.

We had hoped more money would be made available for the forthcoming year (the Sports Council asked a minimum of \$30,000) but we believe excellent use can be made of a \$10,000 appropriation and that such an amount, even though it be small, will prove the value of the project.

We have been very shortsighted in public land acquisition. Some of our older residents, for example, will remember when "The Grove," that section of land lying between the railroad tracks and the South Umpqua River, south of Lane Street, could have been bought by the City of Roseburg for a mere \$2,000. Had the City purchased the land when it was offered, Roseburg would have had Oregon's finest municipal park.

Later the City rejected an opportunity to buy Alexander Park, now known as Umpqua Park, for \$4,500. Then, a few years ago, to obtain a fairgrounds site, the County bought about one-half the acreage for \$30,000.

The County Court only a short time ago had an opportunity to buy the point of land at The Forks for a small sum. The land was widely used for picnic and recreational use. About 50 boats were moored there. But the Court passed up the opportunity and the public now is excluded.

Hutton's Grove also was obtainable by the County at a moderate price. Here is one of the most beautiful spots along the river. It was frequently used for large group gatherings, as well as private picnics, and served as a moorage for many boats. Now it, too, has passed into other ownership and the public is barred.

We have listed only a few lost opportunities in and around Roseburg, but we could add dozens more affecting every community in the County.

Douglas County's population has doubled since 1944. It probably will double again in the next few years. Due to shorter work weeks, more paid vacations, shorter business hours, etc., people have more leisure time and require more room to play. Furthermore, growing population is absorbing more and more of the desirable picnic groves, recreational spots and river frontage, at the same time barring access by the public. If prompt action is not taken to acquire lands, the public soon will be unable to find a place to spread a picnic lunch or reach a stream for fishing without going into the national forest.

It is our hope that the County Court will make land acquisition a major project in the coming years. The County should obtain access ways into favorite fishing spots. It should encourage donations of recreational lands to the County's park system. Whenever rights-of-way are purchased for roads bordering or paralleling streams, the purchase should include land between the road and water.

Personally, we believe it is as much the responsibility of the people of the County, through their elected representatives, to consider recreational facilities for the public as seriously as we treat health and safety. The County Court, in our opinion, is as responsible for safeguarding recreation as for protecting health.

This responsibility is not yet fully recognized because, with sparse population and ample playgrounds, it was not too important. But, thirty years too late, we are beginning to awaken to necessity. The cost now will be higher than thirty years ago, but it will be less than ten years hence.

We're very pleased that the Budget Committee is recommending a start, small though it may be, on the recreational land acquisition program.

Whittler's Paradise



By Viahnett S. Martin

When the comparatively short history of these United States is spread over nine volumes, as in my bright red set, by Ellis, The Library of American History, and goes no further than the year 1902, it is not surprising that many details are included which, for lack of space, more condensed histories must omit.

Delving into the intensely interesting period immediately after the Revolutionary War, I gathered these nuggets for this column:

Every gentleman, we are assured by Edward S. Ellis, M. A., powdered his hair, and wore it in a queue. Frequently in a silk net. He wore knee breeches, silk stockings, buckles on his shoes, and ruffled laces at his throat.

The "artisan" on the other hand, wore leather breeches, a checked shirt, a red flannel jacket, and a cocked hat. The only hat factory in the country turned out cocked hats only.

Buttons being scarce and very expensive were often dispensed with; laces and pegs fastened trousers.

Imprisonment for debt was customary. It was also customary for the inmates of a prison

to greet a newcomer to their midst by robbing him of everything he had. In Connecticut an old copper mine was used for a prison.

Robert Morris, the man who had financed, on his own personal credit, the Continental Congress when it was up against difficulties to the amount of \$50,000, and is credited with helping turn the tide for the revolutionists, was permitted by his grateful (?) countrymen to languish for a while in prison for debt.

All the traffic between New York and Philadelphia was handled nicely by two stage-coaches. Beef, salt fish, pork, potatoes and hominy were staple articles of diet the year around. Complaints were made that the crockery dulled the knives of the users thereof. When a man had enough tea he placed his spoon across his cup to stop refilling of the cup.

A workman considered himself well paid at two shillings a day, English shilling value, of course, about forty-eight cents, or a little less at present exchange. It is interesting to note how long the newly formed United States held on to pounds, shillings and pence.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

If you've skimmed even so much as the headlines this week, you've noted that young FDR has been elected to Congress in New York City's congressional district to fill the vacancy created by the death of Congressman Sol Bloom.

Franklin Jr., wasn't even a resident of the district, which is distinctly across the tracks in New York. He moved in when he decided to become a candidate and put up in a not too hotsy-totsy hotel. By doing so, he became what we used to call a carpet-bagger in politics. He moved into a district where there was a vacancy just to run for office.

Not only that, but he became the candidate of the Liberal Party, which is a new outfit. (The Democrats, dominated by Tammany, would have none of him.) Everybody ganged up on him. The Democrats, the Republicans, the American Labor Party, all poured it on him hot and heavy.

That made it a cinch, because we're invariably for the under-dog and proud of it. A year ago, everybody was agreeing that Harry Truman, the little man from Missouri, didn't have a chance. It was too bad, but he was just out. That made Harry the under-dog and we all know what happened on the fateful second day of November.

BESIDES, young Franklin has CHARM. In fact, he is lathered with it. He inherited plenty, and added on his own account to what came to him in his blood stream.

If anything is certain in this country, it is that we like charm in our candidates.

LETTERS to the Editor

Urges Retention Of High School Teacher

ROSEBURG—I am one of the many parents who would like to know why Mr. Glick of the Roseburg Senior High School teaching staff is leaving his position. Here is one teacher who not only gets his students interested in his subjects but "he's an alright guy"—the highest honor any student gives his or her teacher. Good teachers are born, not made. If another high school has given Mr. Glick a better position, then I think the people of Roseburg should do all in their power to keep him here. This is the opinion of one parent who has a student under his tutelage.

MRS. M. W. KRUYSMAN, Roseburg, Ore.

Truman To Start Power At Grand Coulee Dam

COULEE DAM, Wash., May 19 — (P) — President Truman will press a gold key in Washington, D. C., Friday morning that will make Grand Coulee Dam the greatest producer of electric power in the world.

The president's act will throw into production the first generator in the east power house at the big dam across the Columbia River. Bringing the new generator "on the line" will increase the dam's rated kilowatt capacity to 1,100,000 (m).

Bureau of Reclamation records show the Hoover Dam across the Colorado River has a capacity of 1,038,000 kilowatts.

The new generator will have a rating of 108,000 kilowatts, the same as nine others in the completed powerhouse on the west bank.

Eight more generators will follow the one to be put in action by the president Friday morning. Two will go into service later this year, three in 1950 and the final three in 1951.

Sierra Nevada Passes

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Proposed Duel Between Top Air Fighters Of Navy And Air Force Draws Objections In Congress

WASHINGTON, May 20.—(P) Two congressmen objected Thursday to a high altitude cop-and-robbers duel between the Navy's Banshee fighter and the Air Force's B-36 bomber.

They don't like the idea, they said, because it could let loose some information that neither the Navy nor Air Force would like to see disclosed.

Reps. Johnson and Hinshaw, California Republicans, suggested dropping the whole idea.

The argument between Navy and Air Force over the vulnerability of the giant B-36 was pushed to the fight-it-out stage Wednesday by the House Armed Services Committee. It suggested that now would be a good time to settle the dispute, eight miles up in the air.

The question is whether the B-36, operating ordinarily at 40,000 feet above, could be intercepted by any fighter plane now in existence. The Air Force says no. The Navy says sure, and we are the ones who can do it.

This argument started a long time ago. It reached the boiling point over a Navy proposal to build a super aircraft carrier capable of carrying large bombers.

The Air Force position was that the multi-million-dollar carrier would infringe on its own long range bombing assignment, and that the money might better be spent in building more B-36s.

Some Navy people scoffed at Air Force claims for the huge bomber. Secretary of Defense Johnson finally ordered a halt to construction of the big carrier, but that didn't stop the argument. That's when the House group stepped in with its suggestion.

The air duel presumably would be fought with cameras, with a referee to decide whether bomber or fighter shot first and best.

The committee said it should be an impartial test conducted by "appropriate authorities in the armed forces." It did not suggest where an impartial referee might be found.

The Navy jumped at the suggestion. It promptly offered a list of four planes—three besides its jet-powered Banshee—as candidates for the job of puncturing the B-36's reputation.

The Navy claims the McDonnell F2H-1 Banshee, its newest and hottest plane, can whip up to 40,000 feet in seven minutes. Some others, it says, are not quite that good, but are still good enough to lick the B-36.

A Navy spokesman suggested

another jet, the Grumman F9F-2 Panther, and two conventionally powered planes; the Grumman F8F-2 Bearcat and the Chance Vought F4U-5 Corsair.

From Baritone to Tenor
Like many great tenors, Lauritz Melchior began as a baritone.

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