

# The News-Review

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## ROGUE ISSUE UP AGAIN

By CHARLES V. STANTON

The Rogue River battle is in the news again. Petitions are in circulation throughout the state for a referendum on House Bill 395, passed by the last Legislature. This bill amends a law adopted in 1929 setting a deadline below which no high dams could be built in the Rogue River. H. B. 395 would move this deadline eight miles down stream to Lewis Creek, where a 250-foot dam is proposed.

The referendum, which would bring the matter to a vote of the people in 1950, is being sponsored by sports clubs of the state.

On the other side of the controversy are Rogue River reclamation interests and some business groups, granges, and others.

Proponents of the proposed Rogue River development are sending out literature intended to discourage signatures to the referendum petition. In this activity they are only exercising the privilege they have to fight for a cause they believe to be right.

But we resent the odium they endeavor to place upon the state's sportsmen, and, particularly, the charge that interference from outside the immediate Rogue River Valley is unwarranted.

A letter received from the president of one of the leading organizations battling for the Rogue River project speaks of "selfish interests from outside the area, and in many cases from outside the State of Oregon," and says that orderly progress "is made difficult by well-financed sportsmen's organizations who have no interest in the economic welfare of Oregon (Italics are our own)."

Those statements are neither truthful nor logical. Sportsmen's organizations are not "well-financed." Being affiliated with the Oregon Wildlife Federation and the Izaak Walton League, we know that both organizations exhausted their treasuries during the recent legislative session and will require special fund-raising activities to finance expense of circulating referendum petitions.

As to the "selfish interests, from outside the area and \* \* \* from outside the state, residents of the Rogue River Valley can't devote many years of effort in "selling" their glorious sports stream to the world and then expect suddenly to claim exclusive rights. The Rogue River has been most definitely "sold" through widespread publicity and advertising. After inviting the public to share the stream, it is not now possible to raise bars to participation in any project concerning it.

The statement that sportsmen have "no interest in the economic welfare of Oregon" obviously is untrue. Conservation of natural resources is the primary purpose for which thousands of sportsmen have developed their organizations. It is a matter of opinion as to who has the greater interest in the "economic welfare of the state," the sportsman desiring to preserve a natural resource or those persons willing to surrender a resource because of the glitter of temporary gold to be gained from a large-scale construction project.

The Rogue River development plan is estimated to cost approximately \$90,000,000. Anyone familiar with estimates by the Bureau of Reclamation knows that these estimates usually are far below actual cost. The combined assessed tax valuations of Jackson and Josephine counties for 1946, as listed in the Oregon Blue Book, are \$50,626,652.45. Naturally, the prospect of having spent in those two counties a sum probably double their total assessed valuations has a blinding effect. That the State Game Commission estimates the plan would reduce by \$809,000 per year the Rogue River's fishery, which produces from two and one-half to three million dollars annually in sports revenue, doesn't stand very tall in comparison with the ninety-million dollar figure, unless one stops to reason that in 12 years the loss in sports income will balance the development expenditure.

The effort also is made by proponents of the Rogue River plan to create the belief that only the Lewis dam is at issue. But the plan involves 15 dams in the upper river area—seven on the Rogue and eight on tributaries. As potential development—which we may be sure will follow if the Bureau of Reclamation once gets its hold on the area—are five dams on the Central and Lower Rogue and two on the Illinois River. One of these dams, Copper Canyon, more than 400 feet high, would be only 21 miles from the mouth.

On the other side of the picture we must consider the fact that population in the Rogue River valley has doubled in recent years as in other parts of Western Oregon. Also that tremendous population increase in California is enlarging the market for agricultural crops from the fertile soil of the Rogue Valley, which must have irrigation for production.

The answer is not to be found either in the position of radical sportsmen who would halt all use of the river for agriculture, power and flood control, or in the "whole-hog-or-none" attitude of the reclamationist who has no interest in the recreational industry, or in the avarice of those who hope to profit from construction dollars without regard to the future.

The answer, rather, must be obtained by a tolerant and understanding study of all factors involved and the most reasonable compromise affording maximum benefits to one resource consistent with minimum damage to the other.

## Spy-itis



## Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viaknett S. Martin

Some years ago a city in which we were living became suddenly determined to beautify itself: the results were amazing! Any other town or city could do the same if there is one level-headed individual in complete charge, with a fairly small committee made up of a number of representatives of the main groups in town, and a larger committee made up of representatives of every group in town.

An executive committee acts as a check on the head of the enterprise so he won't go off the deep end in his enthusiasm, and is one which can take action without calling the large group, every time they want to decide which color to recommend for the garbage cans.

That garbage can business got to be a joke in the executive committee! A joke on the head of it. For no matter what we started to talk about, it always seemed he had us discussing the ways and means of getting "all those garbage cans painted!" And if he did happen to forget, some one

of us would with a serious air bring up that point—Major Bateson finally caught on, and laughed, too. He was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, not to mention other activities. Long Beach certainly had a going over that year of the Exposition. No, no, it was the Olympics year in Southern California!

In the News-Review recently there was a mention in the editorial column about beautifying Roseburg. Well, why not? (From the air it is a very pretty city but even so, any city can stand a bit of beautifying.)

I was reminded of that when I saw in a recent Better Homes and Gardens that their City Beautification project will be active again this year. It began in April and ends November 1, 1950. The application blanks will be sent to religious, fraternal, civic or any representative group requesting the blank.

The entry requirements are simple: A 2,000-word article with good pictures. Before and after pictures. First prize \$2,000.

## Toastmasters Hear Talks On Speech Brevity, Anti-War Thinking, Highway Tour And Tourist Potentialities

Roseburg Toastmasters at this week's meeting in the Hotel Umpqua, decided to hold their meeting next Tuesday at Umpqua Park, with families of the members invited.

Carl Permin served as toastmaster, and introduced as speakers Pat Turner, Phil Hartill, Herman Mattioff and John Dentler. Turner opened with the statement, "We need a revolution—not one of bloodshed, nor of overthrowing the government, but a revolution of thought." Wars have been fought by unthinking men, directed by leaders who thought themselves "greater than God," he stated. He advised that we, as individuals, join hands, and go forward as one.

Hartill spoke on the tremendous tourist potentialities of Douglas County, and urged that a project be started in which local citizens would serve as individual greeters to visitors to the city to point out the recreational opportunities afforded in this locality. He suggested a "Greeters Club," members of which would take it upon themselves to visit the tourist camps, auto courts, motels and hotels, contact strangers, and sell them upon the recreational opportunities, here, to keep them from going on to more noted places.

"Time is the essence" stated Mattioff in referring to the importance of timing speeches. Anyone can give an hour's talk; it's not so easy to speak for half an hour; it's difficult to prepare a 15-minute speech, still harder for 10 minutes, and almost impossible to limit oneself to five minutes, he stated. He then proposed the best method for presentation of the shorter talks by leading off with a strong punch line, then taking one or two strong points, sticking to them throughout the speech, and closing with a well-chosen, forceful sentence.

"Highway 80 West" was Dentler's talk. He told of a trip he made from Florida to Mississippi, where he entered Highway 80, and continued west. The greatest thrill, he said, was upon arriving at the "great divide" and the West Coast. He described the Northwest as the playground of America. "Let's sell it to the world," he concluded.

## Long Trip Ended By Myrtle Creek Auto Tourists

A visit to their place of birth, observing government in action and a luncheon engagement with Congressman Harris Ellsworth were highlights of a six weeks' vacation trip by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Weeks and Donald Hurst, all of Myrtle Creek.

Altogether, 10,000 miles were covered in a motor trip that started in Oregon, extended to Yellowstone National Park, then to Nebraska, south to Texas, where the party "just missed" a cyclone by about three hours, into the other Southern states, up to Washington, then to Canada and back to Oregon.

While in Washington, D. C., the Weeks and Hurst accepted an invitation to lunch with Congressman Ellsworth in the Capitol Building restaurant. The Oregon congressman accompanied the vacationists on a tour of the Capitol building, after which he presented them with passes to the gallery.

They heard Ellsworth argue in favor of letting the chairman of Armed Forces Unification committee have more "say" in committee sessions. Weeks said he was surprised that not more congressmen were attending the legislative sessions, "but then, perhaps they were out to lunch," Weeks added.

In their visit with Ellsworth, Weeks related the congressman inquired how things were going "back home." They also discussed current events.

While in Texas, the trio visited Mrs. Week's birthplace, where she lived from 1907 to 1914. Picture snapping and visits with old friends and relatives occupied their time.

In Virginia, where Weeks was born, he encountered some difficulty in finding his former home, having only lived there a period of four years. After considerable questioning and following "cold trails," he finally located the "old homestead."

"We never stayed at any place longer than two days," Weeks said. The Myrtle Creek agriculturist was amused when southerners who listened to his speech, pointed out they "knew we were not southerners from listening to our Oregon 'brogue.'"

Weeks was impressed with highway travel in Oregon as compared with other states. "In 10,000 miles, of travel, Oregon is the only place where we saw any accidents—two to be exact."

He pointed out that in all the miles traveled, the Pacific Highway was the narrowest and the slowest for the amount of traffic thereon.

All other roads, with a comparable amount of traffic, are four

## Age Reduction For Scouts Calls For Budget Boosts

The hearts of many boys will leap with joy upon learning of a decision just made by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. The decision, according to Alton F. Baker, National Council representative from the Oregon Trail Area Council, will change the lower age of the three branches of scouting. Effective Sept. 1 of this year, the new Cub Scout age will be eight years, the new Boy Scout age will be 11 years, and the new Senior Scout age 14 years.

The changes in ages will have far-reaching effects, according to Baker. He pointed out that this will bring many new boys into the program and will have an effect all down the line, including the organization of many more scout units of all kinds. A need is seen for stepping up Council budgets to meet both the expected flood of new boys from this change plus the already surging tide of war births. He also said that plans were already underway throughout the Oregon Trail Council territory of Coos, Curry, Lincoln, Douglas, Benton and Lane counties to adequately meet the need.

The changes in ages came about through thoroughly democratic processes of the organization, when representatives from all of the 545 Councils in the United States officially convened in Boston at their annual meeting recently.

In addition to the changes in ages another far-reaching change in program was decided upon in which all Senior Scouts will be known as Explorer Scouts. There will be Explorer Air Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Explorer Sea Scouts. In each of the divisions of the Scout program boys will automatically graduate from one division to the other. Thus the Cub Scout will graduate on his eleventh birthday to Boy Scout and the Boy Scout will automatically graduate on his 14th birthday to Explorer Scouting. In the Explorer program a young man may choose to be in a separate Explorer unit or he may belong to an

Explorer crew connected with his troop. The troop committee, in the latter case, would provide an advisor for these Scouts who at 14 will be designated "young men" of the Explorer program.

## Morals Case Trail From Douglas County Ended

SAN FRANCISCO, June 18.—(P)—A federal jury yesterday convicted a 28-year-old woman of bringing a 14-year-old girl here from Oregon for prostitution.

The woman convicted was Ruby Freeman, also known as Shirley Nelson. She was arrested at Eureka.

The young girl, now pregnant, told of many visits to hotel rooms here with Orientals, at the woman's direction.

Mrs. Freeman was convicted on two counts, of bringing the girl here from Bandon, Coos County, by bus, and from Gar-

diner, Douglas County, by automobile.

The court postponed sentencing for one week for a probation report. The maximum sentence could be 15 years in jail and a fine of \$1,080.

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## Roseburg—1886



Rodeo week with all its old-time, western atmosphere brings back favorite memories of Roseburg in the earlier days. Sixty years ago Roseburg was a typical western small town. Cass and Jackson streets were heavily graveled but even then, wagons sank to their axles during the rainy seasons. On either side of the main streets (Cass and Jackson) board walks abutted business houses. Saloons with their typical swinging doors were common. In an old photograph we see a large livery stable near the center of Washington street between Main and Kane streets.

Indians of local tribes including the Umpquas were part of the local scene. Except for sorties of yelling and wild riding inspired by "fire water" they were a serene people who stood about the streets showing little concern for local events and proceedings.

There are many women in Roseburg today who can attest the Indian squaws' interest in the white women's long, blonde tresses—truly a novelty to the redskins. Indian women admired the soft, light hair of the white women so much they couldn't resist feeling of the hair to test its quality.

Knudtson's Jewelry Store, then "Bryan's Gift Shop," was a part of this era. Established in 1886 by Johnny Bryan, father-in-law of the present owner, the store occupied the location north and adjacent to Miller's Department Store.

Naturally, we at Knudtson's don't claim any special distinction because we have been here so long . . . we only want to point out that our service for the past 63 years has always been reliable and trustworthy—our charges reasonable. We have been rewarded by generous patronage through several generations of Roseburg residents. In the future, as in the past, you can always rely on this consistent service to you.



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