

# The News-Review

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CHARLES V. STANTON Editor EDWIN L. KNAPP Manager

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## REMOVE THE HANDCUFFS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Two Roseburg men are entitled to a lot more credit than they are receiving. In fact, few people know or appreciate the work they are doing. But future generations will have occasion to be very grateful.

M. M. "Red" Nelson, supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest, and James E. Slattery, district forester for the Bureau of Land Management, in our opinion are outstanding among federal forest officials in the field of conservation. Their management of public domain has been conducted with full consideration to the future and this principle has guided them in preservation of scenic and recreational resources, protection of watersheds, reforestation and other conservation practices.

We're going out on a limb with the declaration that no other section of public domain in this country is more efficiently managed along sound conservation lines, within the limits of federal regulations, than right here in Douglas County.

Timber removal is being managed with a minimum of damage to either scenic or recreational values. Logged-off areas adjacent to public highways, for instance, are kept screened by a forest fringe. Land bordering fishing streams is set aside for public recreational use. Watershed protection is considered in connection with every timber sale. Slattery has prepared the first timber sale which, insofar as we have been able to learn, requires as a part of the contract that the operator must prevent siltation in any of the streams leading from the logging show. Both Slattery and Nelson are, with cooperation from loggers, experimenting in controlling erosion. Operators are assisted by both men in locating logging roads in such manner that the roads, when no longer needed for logging purposes, will fit into a public use program.

Nelson and Slattery are undertaking much more work in the field of conservation than required from them by the respective agencies they serve. But they would go a great deal further if given opportunity.

Neither the Department of Agriculture nor the Department of Interior has adequate regulations to afford complete protection for natural resources. Considerable progress has been made in this direction in recent years, but much remains to be done before fully adequate management of the public domain becomes possible.

An important step in the direction of better conservation was taken several years ago through passage by Congress of the Knutson-Vandenberg Act. This law was aimed at improving policies of reforestation. It permits withholding a small amount of money from each timber sale to be used for rehabilitation of land, planting, stand improvement, such as pruning and thinning, etc. Application of authority granted by this act has resulted in much improvement in forest management.

The K-V Law, however, in our opinion, could be made far more effective with a few simple amendments.

There should, we believe, be created the office of Conservation Engineer for each National Forest and each Bureau of Land Management Master Unit.

This engineer should be a man trained in watershed protection, erosion control, water retention, flood control, cover crops, reforestation, etc.

As timber was sold from the public domain the engineer would write into the contract specifications for construction of siltation basins, filter dams, upland ponds, anti-erosion factors, land rehabilitation and other essentials. The cost of doing this work could then be considered in bidding for the timber. The logger would be required to do the necessary work before leaving the show, but, as he perhaps would not have equipment for some types of work, would be permitted to obtain cooperation from the federal agency which he would pay for its labor. The operator would have no additional expense, as he would deduct his costs from the price bid for the timber. Thus the land would pay for its own protection and restoration.

When a farmer removes a crop from his land, he immediately puts the land back in shape for another crop. We should be doing the same with our forests.

By building water retention into logged-off lands, we would be speeding the growth of a new crop, while protecting the water table on the lowlands. Furthermore, contrary to current policies of the Army Engineers in trying to control floods by lowland reservoirs, we would be properly handling flood control by slowing the progress of runoff water in the uplands, before it comes down to the valley floors with its load of silt.

While our own forest supervisors have made outstanding records in conservation practices, we believe they are typical of virtually all men in like positions and that supervisors everywhere would welcome laws permitting more complete conservation management.

Certainly congressional stewardship of the public domain is totally inadequate at present. Congress displays vast ignorance of the needs of our western forests, particularly in the matter of access roads, waste utilization, experimentation, water management, wildlife protection and conservation in general.

Until Congress gains better understanding of public domain management and passes comprehensive conservation laws, our forestry officials, no matter how much they may desire to do the job properly, are definitely handcuffed.

## The Main Event



## Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

"God is at the organ!  
I can hear  
A mighty music  
Echoing, far and near.  
God is at the organ!  
And its keys  
Are rolling waters, storm-strewn  
moorlands  
Trees!  
God is at the organ!  
I can hear  
A mighty music  
Echoing, far and near.  
(Egbert T. Sanford)  
When the breeze comes down  
the canyon it is sometimes cold,  
bringing with it the breath of  
The Three Sisters, and their  
neighboring peaks. But when it  
comes up the canyon it may be  
warm and lovely, as it is today.  
It brings music with its sephyr-  
song.  
I went out for the mail a while  
ago, and despite cherries waiting  
to be tucked into a pie, the drop-  
ped rose-petals on the living room  
rug, (and dust from logging  
trucks!) I paused a few minutes  
on the porch to listen.  
The music comes first very

softly, as if far away, then grows  
louder until it tosses the leathery  
leaves of the three walnuts and  
the great branches of the maple  
over the house, and the tall firs  
all around. Then, as the breeze  
rushes on up the canyon the air  
around us is quieted again. But  
only for a moment, on a day like  
this—such a glorious summer  
day! One to remember!  
Up the canyon again, the wave  
of sound comes; the rushing,  
pushing breeze tussles again with  
all the trees as it passes... how  
gracefully the firs bend the slender  
tips before it. How the maple  
rustles its branches, not to be  
shaken out of its dignity; as  
Pretty, the white cat, allows her-  
self to be the "prey" of the leap-  
ing, frolicking kittens, but stays  
unfuffled through the play.  
Sometimes when the wind  
from the west is strong I stand  
at the back door, listening to the  
wind come over the hill with a  
rush that grows to a roar in the  
firs on the hill crest above us—a  
great crescendo.  
I love the music made by wind  
and trees. Don't you?

## Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

**Wood Waste Industry**  
Astorian Budget  
The Oregon postwar readjustment and development commission goes out of business this week as the new fiscal year opens.  
The commission in its final report just made public has some interesting discussion, under the heading "Oregon Opportunities," of the possibilities of wood waste utilization to provide new industry for the state.  
Production of wood by-products is a logical industrial development for the state, since we have the raw material in abundant quantity.  
This is the sort of industry that seems most logical for such a community as Astoria, the center of a timber producing region which suffers too greatly from the "tree farm" conditions imposed upon our county by major timber owners.  
We have sawmills and a spruce veneer plant but there is no plant for conversion of waste into any useful product. We need such a plant to round out our industrial setup.  
Here is the postwar development commission's comment on this subject:  
Possibilities for developing resources are almost limitless. As an example a \$750,000,000 industry employing 150,000 additional workers can be initiated with \$2,000,000 capital. This industry would be based upon the wood waste. From this waste can be manufactured rayon, sugar, synthetic rubber, acids, alcohol, dyes, baking powder, toothpaste, charcoal, pulp and paper, lacquers and explosives. From the waste can be obtained essential oils for perfumes, plastics, films, glue, yeast and ink. Ten percent of the available sawdust will yield sufficient acetic acid to make hundreds of thousands pairs of women's stockings and wood waste would supply cellulose needed in the process.  
One acre of trees will produce more sugar than an acre of sugar beets, and 25 pounds of chips converted into fuel equals a gallon of gasoline.  
Consider that one ton of sawdust can yield 1,000 pounds of valuable plastics ingredient, 120

pounds of acetic acid, 60 pounds of furfural, 500 pounds of sugar. Plastics from wood waste could furnish 10,000,000 door knobs.  
The forest service reports 1,000,000 tons of sawmill waste going into burners from Eugene south to the southwest section of the state and costing mill operators from .05 cents to 85 cents a ton to dispose of it. A small portion, treated chemically, will soon be used for sulfate plants, but there are odds and ends that can be used for wooden toys, ironing boards, ladders, handles, base ball bats and radio cabinets. These latter items are now being manufactured but on a small scale.  
Wood waste represents a gold mine in Oregon that has scarcely been scratched. Experimentation, know-how and a venture capital are opportunities for development by free enterprise.  
In this connection, the postwar commission received this month, an inquiry from an eastern concern considering locating a rayon plant in Oregon. The requirements cited were: site, 250 acres; employment 2,000; water, 20 million gallons of good quality, low color daily; power wanted, 10,000,000 kw with demand 4,000 kw; steam requirements, one billion pounds annually (1,000 btu per pound); 500 tons of chemicals by rail weekly etc.

**Man Shoots His Ex-Wife On Streetcar, Kills Self**  
DALLAS, Texas, July 12.—(AP)—A 30-year-old aircraft worker boarded a streetcar yesterday, gravely wounded his divorced wife and then killed himself before astonished passengers. One of the riders was wounded slightly.  
Dennis Garnie Edgar of nearby Grand Prairie was the gunman, police said.  
His divorced wife, Mrs. Grace L. Edgar, 44, had three bullet wounds. She told police she was en route to work when Edgar boarded the same street car she was riding.  
The injured passenger, hit by a stray bullet, was T. M. Conway, 36.

## Seasonal Decline In Unemployment Shown In Report

Seasonal declines in unemployment, after continuing uninterrupted since the February cold spell, were halted during late June by a lull in farm activity, temporary letdowns in lumbering, and additions of many students, migrants and housewives to the labor force.  
The number of those actively seeking work July 1, as reported to the State Unemployment Compensation Commission from 26 local offices, increased to 42,400 as compared with 39,600 a month before and 30,500 a year ago.  
For the first time in more than eight years at this season, labor surpluses were reported from every agricultural area. Bean picking in the Willamette Valley will gain headway later in July, grain harvests are picking up in Eastern Oregon, while gathering and processing of hops and late fruit and vegetables will absorb thousands of in-migrants, families and students during August and September, but it seems doubtful whether summer employment will reach the 1948 peak.  
Industrial jobs also were expected to increase during the summer, but the number of unfilled openings reported by local offices fell off again—indicating a quick acceptance of offers from employers. Local office placements for June reached 46,394, of which 5,844 were in non-farm activities.  
The Portland tri-county area continued to account for more than half of the unemployed with 22,300, but Salem with 3,700 and Eugene with 3,300 both reported increases. Astoria with 1,500 and Toledo with 610 had more out of work than for 60 days past.  
With a new benefit year just getting under way, 17,318 new claims were on file at the commission's central offices—55.4 percent more than a year ago. Meanwhile compensable claims the last week of June were 13,715 as compared with 7,887 last year—an increase of 80.8 percent.

## Court Denies Union Plea To Oust \$2,250,000 Suit

SEATTLE, July 12.—(AP)—Federal Judge John C. Bowden denied yesterday an Aero-Mechanics Union motion to dismiss a \$2,250,000 suit brought against the union by Boeing Airplane Company.  
The judge granted a union motion, however, to make the Boeing Company complaint "more definite and certain."  
The Boeing suit named the union's Local 751 and the International Association of Machinists as defendants. The company asked a judgment for asserted violations of the union's contract in a Boeing strike that began on April 22, 1948.  
Because of its tropical situation and reliance on monsoon rains, India is more vulnerable to crop failures and famines than any other country in the world.

## Opposition To Access Roads Comes From Large Timber Firms, Sen. Morse Charges

WASHINGTON, July 12.—(AP)—Senator Morse (R-Ore), unsuccessful in his effort to win Senate approval of an appropriation of \$30,000,000 a year for access roads to timber tracts, asserted in the Senate the only opposition was from large timber companies.  
Morse's bill was called up when the Senate was considering bills to which there was no opposition. He said he was willing to accept a committee amendment cutting the amount to \$12,500,000 this year which would be added to \$17,500,000 provided for in legislation previously passed.  
Morse told the Senate that if the timber companies build the proposed roads to timber tracts it would be necessary to permit bids on large tracts which in effect would freeze out the small timber companies.  
Senator Cain (R-Wash) objected to the bill on the grounds that it is more than the government departments have estimated is needed per year and because he wanted to know where the roads are to be constructed before the money is appropriated. He raised a number of other questions.  
"I know where the opposition to my bill is coming from in my state," Morse said. "It is coming from some of the large timber operators, because they know I stand for real conservation of the national forests. They know that I know the difference between their talk about sustained yield and their actual cutting practices."  
He said it was unfortunate that some of the operators "have raped our national forests to the devastating extent that has occurred in the Pacific Northwest." He said his proposal would help check such operators.  
"Let those who oppose me in my state on this bill get ready for a fight," Morse said. "Because I will take it to them in the campaign of 1950."

The bill finally was laid aside on motion of Senator Thye (R-Minn.)

### VITAL STATISTICS

**MARRIAGE LICENSES**  
JACKSON-METTAEUR — Edward Winter Jackson, Roseburg, and Harriet Jean Mettaeur, Sutherlin.

Mount Rainier, Washington, is an extinct volcano 14,408 feet high.

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that performs best in your car. Automotive research engineers agree that once the maximum anti-knock requirement of a car is satisfied, there is no more performance to be gained by paying for a higher octane fuel. If your car operates smoothly and without knock on regular Mobilgas, then by all means save the difference.

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by using the gasoline your car requires. If yours will perform on regular Mobilgas, pocket the difference. If your car knocks on the grade you are now using, then, unless the engine is badly in need of a tune-up, you will increase performance, get better mileage and actually save money by using Mobilgas Special!

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