

Regionalism One Of Top Elements Of American Life — Help Preserve It

By BRUCE BISSAT

AMERICA is a land of 3,000,000 square miles, with probably more variety of climate, terrain and resources than any area of similar size anywhere. Yet life in this country is cast into an amazingly standardized mold.

For this we can thank the movies, the radio, the automobile, the railroad, the airplane and now television—all the influences that draw us together and tend to level out our differences. Insofar as this still-widening

Columbia Basin Rush To Outstrip Oklahoma Dash

EPHRATA —(P)—The rush to settle the Columbia basin project will make the Cherokee strip rush in Oklahoma 50 years ago look "like child's play," Reclamation Commissioner Michael W. Straus said here.

At Spokane, the Reclamation commissioner refused to be drawn into the controversy over the proposed Columbia Valley administration bill.

"I am promoting the Reclamation program, I am not commenting on the CVA," Straus said.

Movie On China Dated At N. Roseburg Church



"China Challenge," the sound-color documentary motion picture which graphically tells the story of China's physical and spiritual problems, will be shown for the second time in Roseburg, Wednesday at 8 p.m., at the North Roseburg church. This 40-minute film was photographed in natural color by Bob Pierce, pictured above, during seven months of travel across the length and breadth of ancient China.

The public is invited to the showing of this film. The North Roseburg church is located at 2043 Vine street, between Alameda avenue and Prune street, just west of Cloverdale Park.

contact among Americans leads to deeper understanding and greater tolerance of people, it is a healthy gain. No nation as big in territory as the United States has the unity of spirit we have. Most of us think and act as Americans first, and only secondly as people of a particular region or state or city.

This unity, this mutual understanding makes for the free flow of people, of ideas, of resources and goods across state lines. The result is the general enrichment of the whole country. Contacts betwixt the more common understanding.

But there is another side. Many potentially rich ingredients of American life are blotted out by the uniformity that spreads itself through our entertainment, our social activity, our daily habits. The high school girl in Vermont too often has the same basic tastes and interests as the high school girl in Texas or Minnesota.

Now we can't throw all our modern inventions into the discard and go back to living in ignorance of each other's problems and interests. These powerful influences for unity—and standardization—are here for good.

Still, a lot of social scientists think the American people ought not to succumb completely to a process that could rob their lives of all real social individuality. These scholars believe that what they call regionalism is a strong and necessary counteracting force

which should be developed further if we are to avoid a barren sameness in our living.

Regionalism is a term meant to express the bond in habits and ideas that exists among people of particular sections of the country. Those who put great store in this notion explain its possible role in America this way.

They say that even though standardization has made heavy inroads, striking differences persist in every distinct region of the United States. The wise course, they add, is to preserve and develop these regional traits so they will not be wiped out.

Regional folk music, art, and literature; habits of cooking and eating; manners of speech; unusual social customs; religious practices; distinctive educational features; these are samples of the characteristics the scientists have in mind.

But they don't want to exalt these traits and particular regional problems above national needs. They believe regional life should be thought of as contributing richly varied detail to the big national canvas. Without it the picture will lack the bright variety it could have.

The scientists distinguish regionalism from sectionalism, defining the latter as a narrow concentration on area interests at the expense of wider concerns. To use this force calls for con-

Rogue River Valley Escapes Hailstorms During Aerial Experiments With Dry Ice

MEDFORD, Ore.—(P)—A couple of pilots, armed with dry ice pellets, reported that they have apparently staved off damaging hailstorms during an entire summer season from a rich agricultural valley.

It is certain that the Rogue River valley of southern Oregon, which annually loses heavy pear crops to hail, had not one hailstorm this year.

The scientists cooperating in the weather control experiment couldn't be certain that it was the artificial work that did it. It might, of course, have been just a fluke in the weather.

But the results, disclosed by scientists and fruit packers, were encouraging enough to make them decide to go right ahead with their "stop the hail" scheme.

It was last May when fruit growers, working with the U. S. Soil Conservation service, irrigation districts, Oregon State college experiment station, and the Weather Bureau, decided to try stopping the hail that had wrecked half of one company's crop in 1948.

Pilots Harvey Brandau and Eugene Kooser operated on the theory that hail comes from vertical stacking of cumulus clouds.

Each time that the cloud formations threatened to grow to dangerous heights, the pilots flew over, dropping dry ice pellets into the thunderheads and dispersing the high stack of clouds.

The one-summer experiment is not considered long enough to be conclusive. But it didn't hail once in the valley the pilots were protecting. It did hail in the adjacent, unprotected areas.

The fliers said they believed they had stopped eight definite hailstorms. On Sept. 8—when the worst clouds appeared—they spent seven and a half hour drop-

ping their dry ice. It didn't hail there. But there were terrific hailstorms 12 miles off.

Irrigation Next Try

Now the experimenters are going to try something else. They want more irrigation water in the valley.

So the pilots will seed stratoform clouds during the winter, over the areas which normally get very little snow. They hope to start snow falling.

The snow depths will then be measured by the official government snow surveyors, to determine whether more has fallen on the seeded areas than on adjacent regions.

The fruit industry and irrigation districts, who are helping finance the project, envision "limitless" possibilities. In one 2,000 more acre-feet of water could be obtained for irrigation, they say, it would far more than repay the investment.

Cooperating in the experiments are the Rogue River Valley traffic association; the Medford, Talent and Rogue River Irrigation districts; Oregon State college experiment station; the Irrigation division of the Soil Conservation Service, and the Weather Bureau.

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Tues., Nov. 8, 1949—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 7

Oxygen Treatment Reduces Polio Death Average

INDIANAPOLIS.—(P)—The death rate of infantile paralysis victims given early oxygen treatment at Riley hospital has been only about half the national average, hospital authorities reported.

Evidence is this must be due to a great extent to oxygen treatment said Dr. Donald J. Casely, medical director of Indiana university medical center which supervises the hospital.

The hospital has had 277 poliomyelitis patients and 13 of these have died.

This is about half the average death expectancy in the nation and in Indiana as a whole.

This record was made despite the fact that the hospital took only serious or critical cases.

Dr. Casely pointed out that use of oxygen was not new, but that Riley hospital has facilities to try the experiment on a fairly

large scale. It has been common practice to give patients oxygen treatment and place them in iron lungs only after the victim had shown a bluish color caused by lack of oxygen.

But at Riley this year each victim was given the tests. At the first indication of lack of oxygen the patient was treated with oxygen and placed in a respirator.

Scientifically, the grey fox is known as the Urocyon cinereargenteus.

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scious effort. People in New England, the South, the Middle West and else where must look closely at their way of living now and as it once was. They must try to single out the unique elements and develop them vigorously, but they must be characteristics of real value today.

Only thus, says the regional experts, can these fine influences be made strong enough to resist the constantly encroaching standardization which finds its way into most every corner. If the effort isn't made, much of the remaining variety in American life may some day be buried beyond salvaging.

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