

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.
 Entered as second class matter May 7, 1920, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.
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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 \$1.00, six months \$0.50, three months \$0.25. By City Carrier—Per Year \$1.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month \$1.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year \$1.50, six months \$0.75, three months \$0.37.

DIVERGENT VIEWS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Reading through editorial columns of Oregon newspapers we find the subject of water receiving much comment.

While *The Albany Democrat-Herald* brags because the Pacific Northwest is "absolutely insured against dwindling water supplies," *The Bend Bulletin* speaks of "decreasing precipitation." *The Oregonian*, reports that "the flow of Columbia river has declined 30 per cent in the past 70 years." *The Oregon Journal* says "water can't be taken for granted; it must be treated with appreciation and respect."

The Democrat-Herald points out that the Pacific Northwest is "virtually guaranteed annual precipitation of more than 80 inches" west of the Cascades and that "there is no danger of more than momentary lack of water anywhere on the north Pacific coast."

It adds:

Here in the Northwest water surpluses are so great that by no stretch of the imagination can there ever be a general shortage of more than brief duration commensurate with that existing elsewhere, that is, unless Nature should reverse itself and send the southwest winds blowing steadily eastward.

This opens up another possibility of growth for the Northwest. As water supplies become inadequate in other areas, much population will probably move out here where water is abundant. Ample water, too, may attract more industries, not merely through development of hydroelectric plants but because of increased population, which industry always follows, and because of the great amounts of water some industries require for operation.

One comforting thing about water that is different from many other natural resources is that unlike forests, coal, gas, oil and minerals, it is not changed by consumption or use. No matter how it is employed it remains water and eventually returns whence it came.

The Bend Bulletin fails to share the enthusiasm of the *Democrat-Herald*. In fact, quoting an editorial from the *New York Herald Tribune* and commenting on same, the *Bulletin* says:

Out of the statistics come the facts that the Atlantic and the Pacific coast states, the northern tier of states and the Dust Bowl are getting drier and the lower Mississippi valley and the Ohio valley are getting wetter. This change is part of a long-term, world-wide change in climate pattern.

In the four states competing for the record for decreased rainfall we find Oregon with a loss of 3.78 inches. The others are Wisconsin 3.84 inches, New Jersey 3.81 and Washington 3.77.

Commenting on the statement of *The Oregonian* concerning a decline of 30 per cent in the flow of the Columbia river, *The Bulletin* adds: "We know that the annual run-off of the Deschutes river is less by many hundreds of acre-feet than it was 30 and more years ago."

From the opinions quoted above it is obvious that we are beginning to realize the importance of the water resources.

While the *Democrat-Herald* is correct concerning the value of the water resource in attracting population and industry, we believe the assumption that we are "absolutely insured against dwindling water supplies," cannot be sustained, either by climatical history, or current evidence. The fact that our stream flow is lessening and our water table lowering should give us much concern. We have ample evidence in the history of once fertile lands, now transformed into vast deserts, to show the destructive influence of Man upon God-given natural resources. It has been well-proven that forest removal, over-grazing, over-cropping, soil erosion and other such practices can destroy the water resource. We have only to travel our own Southwest, and particularly to review Southern California's history, to obtain ample evidence. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that abuse of soil, forest and water over a large area can upset Nature's climatic balance. The Dust Bowl is a case at point.

Unless the Pacific Northwest begins soon to repair damage to its watersheds, simultaneously conserving existing water supplies, we will have no assurance of continued precipitation ample for our needs. We could, conceivably, turn this country, over a long period, into another great desert, just as thriving civilizations of the Mesopotamia and Nile valleys centuries ago created those deserts by their abuse of natural resources.

Husband Of Late Amelia Earhart Passes On At 63

TRONA, Calif., Jan. 4.—(AP)—George Palmer Putnam, 63, publisher-husband of the late aviatrix, Amelia Earhart, died today.

He recently had operated Stone Pipe wells resort in Death valley. He has been under treatment for uremic poisoning and internal hemorrhages for four weeks.

Miss Earhart, who vanished on a Pacific flight in 1937, was the second of his four wives. Since she was declared legally dead in 1939, he has married twice. He instigated a long search for Miss Earhart after her disappearance.

His present wife, the former Margaret Haviland, was at his bedside at his death.

As a publisher, Putnam paid Charles Lindbergh \$100,000 for his book "We," the story of Lindbergh's epic non-stop flight from New York to Paris.

Richtad E. Byrd and Roy Chapman Andrews. In aviation, he was a pioneer in backing history-making flights. He was editor and publisher of the *Bend Oregon Bulletin*, was mayor of Bend, and then became secretary to Gov. James Withycombe who took office in Jan., 1915.

He entered the army in 1917 and after the war did not return to Oregon.

Negro Soldier Wounds Wife, Commits Suicide

SEATTLE, Jan. 5.—(AP)—A quarrel in a dingy hotel room in Seattle's skid road section ended Wednesday in the shotgun death of a Fort Lawton army sergeant and the critical wounding of his wife.

Detective Dale Schmeiser said the soldier, James S. Gant, 39 years old Negro, shot his wife, Marveline, also a Negro, about 27, as she attempted to flee from their hotel room, and then killed himself.

Mrs. Gant, an expectant mother, had come here from their Stockton, Calif., home to visit her husband.

Mrs. Gant received neck, chest and shoulder wounds.

Nope! He Didn't Go Away!



Scissors from the MENDING BASKET

By Vivian S. Martin

If you have as a hobby a cactus and succulent collection then it is no news to you that it's big business! I have just been looking over a catalogue from the Abbey Press, Pasadena — do you have one?

There is the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, edited by Scott Haselton, published since July, 1929 "without missing a single issue or changing its style or policy. It is known throughout the world as the leading cactus magazine." Well, there must be others, too, then!

"The Journal was founded in 1928 for the purpose of stimulating interest in culture of cacti and to record scientific and educational data so that this particular group of plants may attain the popularity which it justly deserves." (hear, hear!) "Back issues are a priceless possession and contain practically all that is possible to say on culture."

There's a book on night-blooming cereus... I remember how the townspeople in a small village in New York State used

to look forward to the cereus blossom on my aunt's big plant! Probably if a dandelion blossom were as rare it would have received similar interest. How many beautiful "weeds" are ignored because they are "weeds"; yet someone said that a weed is just a flower out of place.

There is also listed "a \$30,000 monograph sold at cost in order to create greater interest in these plants"—the *stapelleae* in this case. What in the world they are I have no idea. I could look it up in our unabridged, but I'll just let it go with the thought: Just think, if I were interested in *stapelleae*, I could have \$35,000 worth of information about them for only \$12.50 if I hurry. Price is going UP.

What isn't going UP these days? Each year I buy a blank book with each page dated as a calendar. Used to be a quarter, then 39 cents, then 69 and, believe it or not, the other day for the identical thing I paid an even dollar. Well, Californians paid a little more—sales tax!

from the late inimitable Bob Benchley. The "Autobiography of Will Rogers" also is a collection from his writings, arranged to form a life story of another of our most loved funny-men. Then there is "Morning Faces" by John Mason Brown, which will bring chuckles to anyone who deals with young fry, be he parent, teacher or neighbor. And "Raising a Riot" by Alfred Tombs is another account of the perils of fatherhood. Harzell Spence, who delighted readers with "One Foot in Heaven," and "Get Thee Behind Me," the saga of a minister's son, continues to have troubles and fun in "Happily Ever After."

These are but a few of many new books coming up during January. Present hours for service at the Roseburg Public Library are noon to nine, except for Saturday, when doors open at ten a.m.

Another big book of the season is A. B. Guthrie's "The Way West." Ardyth Kennedy, a descendant of early Mormons, writes about her people with humor in "The Peaceable Kingdom."

Readers of the better westerns should rejoice in a collection of Eugene Manlove Rhodes, who was an old master in that department. And for those who enjoy swashbuckling historical fiction, here is a new Sabatini: "The Gamemaster."

Pearl Buck enthusiasts will not wish to miss "The Long Love" by John Sedges, frankly a pseudonym. And did you enjoy "Miss Bunce's Book," and "Miss Bunce Married" a few years back? That author, D. E. Stevenson, has a new one, "Vittoria Cottage." Her books are always charming and amusing. Elizabeth Goudge also has a wide following who are happy to welcome her latest offering, "Gentian Hill."

Non-Fiction offerings much good reading and information. Similar titles, but totally different books are "The Plant in My Window," by Ross Parmenter, and "Barden in Your Window," by Jean Hershey. The former is a philosophical account of the influence of a potted philodendron upon a busy newspaper man. The latter is for the house-plant enthusiast, and full of ideas to make that window bright and gay.

For those who enjoy humor, there is first "Chips off the Old Benchley," a collection of items

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

road is a pretty useful citizen and plays an important part in the support of our state and county governments."

I quite agree with that. Our railroads are indeed MOST useful. If they were taken away from Oregon, we would go broke in no time at all.

THIR letter goes on:

"A considerable portion of these taxes goes to the maintenance of highways used by our competitors, Southern Pacific, as you know, maintains and operates its own right-of-way."

Yes, we know that. I presume, however, that the cost of maintaining their rights-of-way is included in the rates the railroads charge us when we use their services and we pay for it in our freight bills and our passenger tickets.

Besides, these competitive services, such as the trucks and the buses, bring a lot of business, both freight and passengers, from the back country to the railroad main lines. In the old days, before modern highways and trucks and buses, the railroads had to operate expensive branch lines to get this business.

WHAT really interested me in this tax breakdown was this statement:

"TAX PER MILE (per year) of main track in Oregon totaled \$284.11."

That is to say, JUST THE TAX on every mile of mainline railroad in Oregon runs up to \$184.11 in a year. That includes nothing for right-of-way maintenance. It includes no interest on the cost of the land and the rails and the ties and the ballasting and the original construction cost.

It is just the tax. And only the tax paid to the counties, at that. No federal government tax is included.

AFTER all, taxes run into a whale of a lot of money. And, in one way or another, we all have to pay our full share of all the taxes.

Fire Department Calls In December Reported

The city fire department answered 13 calls of which one was a false alarm, during the month of December, Fire Chief William E. Mills' report to the city council revealed.

While a total of \$345,800 worth of property was endangered in the fires, only \$400 actual loss was reported. This estimated \$400 occurred in a fire in a room on the second story of the Hotel Umpqua.

The report showed nine dwelling calls, at which there was no damage, two hotel fires and one motor vehicle fire. Fire causes were attributed to electricity and defective wiring, 1; explosion, sparks from combustion, 1; hot grease, 1; overheated and defective stoves, 9.

HOQUIAM, Jan. 5.—(AP)—W. Glenn Haney, 50, was appointed Tuesday as fire chief to succeed William E. Crawford, 70, who is retiring after 42 years as head of the department.

City council officials said, in confirming Haney, who has been assistant chief, that until his retirement on Jan. 1 Crawford was the oldest chief in point of service west of the Mississippi river.

Democrats Won't Lose in 1950 In Opinion Of Polled Press Editors

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—President Truman's "Fair Deal" program will not be repudiated by the voters in the 1950 election. And the Democrats will not lose control of either the Senate or the House.

These are the predictions of 70 per cent of the 345 U. S. newspaper editors responding to a political poll conducted by this column. Only 21 per cent of the editors said they thought there was a chance for a Democratic defeat. Nine per cent said they didn't know.

This editorial prophecy for the New Year is made in spite of the fact that 63 per cent of these same editors reported they were opposed to President Truman's re-election, and opposed to his program.

As for the things the editors don't like about the Truman domestic program, the editors were very specific. They cited taxation, spending, farm, civil rights and welfare issues before the new congress.

With reference to the \$5,000,000,000 deficit which the Federal government faces this fiscal year, the editors were asked: "Should the 1950 Congress raise taxes to balance the budget?" Seventy-four per cent voted "No." Twenty-one per cent indicated they would support a tax rise, however, preferring it to operating the government in the red. Five per cent of the editors expressed no opinion. But opposition to a tax increase was five-to-one in the South, three-to-one elsewhere.

Spending Cut Wanted
What the editors seem to think the country really wants and needs is reduced government spending. So they were asked where they would economize—on national defense, foreign aid or domestic programs? The answers were something of a revelation.

Only 37 per cent said national defense expenditures should be cut. Those who expressed this opinion said they should be cut the least.

Fifty-two per cent of the editors said they thought foreign aid should be cut. But they qualified this by saying that the amounts should be cut gradually. In another, parallel question, editors were asked, "Do you favor continuing the Marshall plan two years more?" Seventy-two per cent said "Yes," but again emphasized cutting gradually.

But 87 per cent of the editors voted in favor of cutting domestic expenditures — vociferously and sometimes with profanity. There was strong write-in voting in support of the Hoover report. There were abundant vitriolic comments about the extravagance of bureaucracy.

Here again the editors backed up their answers with specific proposals, as on farm policy. "Are present farm support prices too high?" they were asked. "Yes," answered 87 per cent. This vote was four-to-one in the South, nine-to-one in the Midwest and almost unanimous on East and West coasts.

Other parts of the "Fair Deal" program up for consideration before the coming Congress fared no better. Did the editors support Truman's health insurance plan?

December Police Service Reported
The December report submitted to the city council by Chief of Police Calvin Baird shows 11 felonies, arrests, and five misdemeanor arrests, in addition to numerous traffic cases.

Municipal court fines collected totaled \$232,500, and parking meter revenue for the month was \$3,487.70.

Other activities for the month included the following arrests: intoxication, 33; disorderly conduct, 5; vagrancy, 7; driving under the influence of alcoholic liquor, 3; basic rule violation, 17; speeding, 12; non-stop, 10; no operator's license, 15; other traffic violations, 32; traffic warnings, 33.

Eight accidents and 136 complaints were investigated. There were 17 money escorts of city funds to the banks, 10 funeral escorts; 53 illegal parking tickets and 825 overtime parking tickets issued.

Prisoners worked 178 hours on city projects.

Two Couples Exchange Mates After Divorces
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Two couples, who exchanged mates after divorces at Las Vegas, Nev., Saturday, reestablished housekeeping next door to each other today, with appropriate reshuffling.

They are Howard W. Moore, 35, auto parts store manager, and his bride, Frances, 39; and David J. Hardy, 41, and his bride, Leno, 29.

They have been neighbors for five years. The two women went to Las Vegas for the required six weeks residence, then obtained divorces, each on the ground of cruelty. Then each married the other's former husband, in separate ceremonies.

The divorces included joint custody of three children involved, Raymond Dean Moore, 10; Thomas Wesley Moore, five, and Douglas James Hardy, seven.

"The children are all with us now," said Mrs. Moore. "They've always gotten along wonderfully together and they'll stay here for awhile. But of course they can and will visit back and forth."

OLDEST FIRE CHIEF OUT
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Soviet Journal Boosts Atheism

MOSCOW.—(AP)—The Soviet Journal of Science and Life says many people in the U. S. S. R. continue to believe in God. It called for education of the masses in the spirit of militant atheism.

The Journal, organ of the all-union society for the dissemination of scientific knowledge, declared that the struggle against religious prejudices is one of the forms of the struggle for communism.

An article by F. N. Oleschuk said, however, that anti-religious propaganda must strive at convincing the masses by remaking their consciousness and not by compulsions or prohibitions. He said administrative measures to curtail religious thought would be "harmful."

Oleschuk said it would be a big mistake to consider that all is up with religion in Russia. He said many people here continue to believe in God and hold religious beliefs and superstitions. Even among the youth, he said, there can be found churchgoers.

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