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UNTO THE HILLS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A Roseburg man claims to know a method whereby fresh water can be distilled from salt water. He is reluctant to advance his idea because scientists and engineers long have been working on the problem and he feels they should know more than he about it.

The fact is that the experts frequently overlook obvious solutions. They work from established facts, on theories that the projects can be attacked only from data already available, often neglecting completely foreign lines of attack.

An example is found in the long and expensive research into color television. The very best scientists in the industry have been working for years on the problem.

But an amateur electrician went to the 5 & 10 store, bought 30 cents worth of odds and ends, and gave color to his home television set.

His device isn't the full answer, but he has come up with a gadget that works. He has set the engineers off on a completely new tangent which may soon give us color television at a greatly reduced cost.

Our patent office is full of inventions by men of amateur standing, who confounded the experts with easy solutions to problems on which they had been working.

Perhaps our Roseburg man can start a new line of study leading to a solution of the increasingly critical water problem.

Numerous proposals have been made to provide water for areas rapidly growing arid. Demands for more water come from many sections. Consumption in the city of New York, for instance, was drastically curtailed during an emergency period. Southern California is critically pressed and is on the verge of civil war with Arizona for possession of the waters of the Colorado. The President has appointed a water resources board to study the problem. Distillation of sea water is one of the projects upon which much experimental work will be done.

While many proposals for immediate relief are being studied, other interests are at work on engineering plans to build a "ladder of rivers," diverting "surplus" water from the Pacific Northwest to Southern California.

If all the snow in our mountains should start melting suddenly, we might wish we had an outlet to California, but otherwise we hope the government will not divert water from our rivers.

Who can tell what water is surplus? How long will we continue to have more water in the Northwest than we need?

Already the Coos Bay area has an inadequate supply and is badly handicapped industrially by the lack of fresh water. The Willamette valley's water table is sinking alarmingly. Much of central and eastern Oregon wants water for irrigation—water which with cheap hydroelectric power might be pumped from the Columbia. The rapid growth in population, the coming of new industries, vastly increases our water demand. Should we then permit California to limit our capacity for expansion by diverting water which may now be surplus but which may, within a few years, be essential?

Personally we believe the answer is not to be found in the distillation of sea water, nor in any other artificial means. We CAN produce all the water we need by cooperation with Mother Nature, rebuilding damaged watersheds, by emulating the beaver in building hundreds of thousands of tiny filter and trickle dams to hold back the runoff of flood waters, by building spread and check dams to keep water on the land instead of permitting it to race to the sea.

Our Roseburg friend possibly has the answer to mechanical production of water, but we have only to lift up our eyes unto the hills to see the very obvious solution to one of our most pressing and critical problems.

Industrial Giants To Face Congressional Probe

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—(AP)—Rep. Celler (D-NY) said after a White House call that President Truman told him to "go ahead full steam" with his investigation of concentrations of economic power. "He said he would continue to encourage me in the inquiry and would get all the (federal) departments behind it," Celler told reporters. Celler heads a House judiciary subcommittee which has been looking into the question of how anti-trust laws are operating and whether any changes are needed. Celler speaks of it as the "monopoly investigation."

Some hearings were held last year. Celler has set a new series of hearings to begin March 15 when the committee will look into operations of U.S. Steel Corp. Celler said that after U.S. Steel the group will go to:

1. The Canadian newsprint monopoly.
2. The "DuPont dynasty."
3. The soap industry, "particularly Lever Bros. and its British parent company, Unilever."
4. Pan American Airways.
5. The "distillers' control over" barrel making.
6. The "Shubert Theater trust."

House Appropriations committee members said the new fund is not connected with the hydrogen bomb project. Almost all the cash in the bill is for the Veterans administration, which would receive \$720,000,000 for this purpose.

WEIGHTY SUBJECTS

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—How much free mail does a congressman send out in the course of a year? About a ton and a half, says Rep. Edwin Arthur Hall (R-NY). Hall said that was "the average" during debate on a bill boosting most mailing rates. The measure does not affect the free mailing privilege of Congress.

Self-Protection



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

happens when too much power is held in too few hands too long.

THE other day the Republican big shots came up with a new slogan for the 1950 congressional campaign. This is it: "Liberty versus Socialism." It appealed to me as milder than dishwater, and apparently it didn't scare the Fair Deal boys much.

Anyway, "Veep" Barkley came back at the GOP leaders with a demand that they tell the voters specifically what Democratic-sponsored laws they want repealed. He added:

"Let them be honest and say whether they are for or against these laws. We're not afraid of their shibboleths or their promulgations."

"Legislation for extending social security coverage and increasing benefits is now before the Senate. I would like to ask the Republican platform-makers to say whether they call that socialistic and whether they are for it or against it."

EVERY time the Republican pooh-bahs get to muttering in their beards about the socialistic sins of the Democrats, the Democrats ask them that \$64 question as to just what they would repeal if given the chance. Every time, so far, it has folded them up like a ham-and-egg fighter when he gets a hard, straight one on the button.

I think the Republicans are going to have to answer that question, specifically, sooner or later—either that or stay out of power. One of the soundest of political maxims is that you can't beat somebody with nobody. It is equally true that you can't beat something with nothing.

The voters of this generation aren't going to be attracted by vague mutterings in the Republican beard about "socialism." If they are to vote the Republican ticket again, they must be offered something they can get their teeth into.

If I were doing it, I'd answer the question something like this:

"First, we're going to BALANCE THE GOVERNMENT'S BOOKS. We're going to spend no more (including annual payments on the principal of our debt) than we can raise by taxation. We think that keeping our nation solvent is the big issue."

"As for social benefits, they are fine. In these days of growing technological progress, with the machine and modern assembly line methods providing production of things in volume exceeding any dream of the past, it is possible to provide the people with social benefits that couldn't be even imagined a generation or so ago. We're all for such progress toward better living standards and fewer gnawing worries about old age."

"WE'RE GOING TO PROVIDE ALL OF THIS SORT OF THING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PAYING OFF THE DEBT WE HAVE ALREADY INCURRED."

I THINK a platform something like that would interest quite a lot of people.

Escape from the MENDING BASKET

By Vincent S. Martin

Since I used figures given in "Business Week" as a take-off for some thoughts of my own as to one possible reason for some of the large number of failures (living beyond one's comfortable ability to pay one's bills, and the family's responsibility in making it easier for the harassed businessman to curtail expenditures in a crisis—or better yet, before a crisis) I thought it well to send a clipping of that day's column to the magazine with a thank-you note.

Mr. Kenneth Kramer, executive editor of Business Week replied with such inspiring, challenging recognition of a woman's help at such times, that I'd like to share his letter. It could be a real lift to any woman these days: Not only to the woman seeking ways to lighten the load present day competition and obligations pile on the businessmen's shoulders; but also to the woman who has with her partner weathered such a crisis and can look back gratefully knowing she helped . . .

Says Mr. Kramer: "Thanks very much for your letter and the accompanying clipping from The News-Review. 'In your column, commenting upon our discussion of business failures, you raised a very interesting point. I would be most reluctant to say so in addressing a woman's club luncheon but I feel quite sure that many a businessman has gone down for the third time because the demands of his family were unreasonable and excessive.'"

"On the other hand, I would bet even money that many a businessman has stayed afloat because his spouse was as brave and daring and willing to do without as he himself was. And the spirit of a strong woman has acted as a blood transfusion on men who were not strong enough themselves to weather the storm."

I presume to differ on the phrase about "woman's club" . . . I think we women like to hear words in a speech that make us think. Pats on the back are very nice indeed. But the really satisfying value of a speech heard—or a book read—is the way it ploughs ground in our mental acres which we may not even have realized was fallow.

Seems to me that we women who bring into the world the speakers of the future should be able to take a few hard jolts from the speakers of today—and welcome them. A woman's word often tips the balance—one way or the other—in family decisions. And in the homes of all the decision-makers at the head of world affairs are women!

Butchers Plan Protest Of Meat Importation

SEATTLE.—(AP)—Butchers think too much meat has been imported into the United States.

So, Charles J. Mentrin, business agent of Local 186, Packinghouse and Poultry Workers' union, says delegates from 11 western states will meet in San Francisco March 3 to plan a campaign for restoration of quotas on imported cattle and reinstatement of the 6 cents a pound tariff on dressed meats and packinghouse products.

The conference will be attended by delegates from the AFL, Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen, with which Mentrin's union is affiliated.

Births At Mercy Hospital

RATHBUN.—To Mr. and Mrs. Hercules Everett Rathbun, Oakland, Feb. 8, a daughter, Marcella Mae; weight eight pounds, eight ounces.

ZIMMERS.—To Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie William Zimmers, route 4, Feb. 8, a son, Gary Everett; weight seven pounds six ounces.

MENTZER.—To Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Clayton Mentzer, 502 Ward street, Feb. 9, a daughter, Connie Michelle; weight six pounds eight ounces.

RADIGAN.—To Mr. and Mrs. Edward Arthur Radigan, Coates addition, Feb. 8, a daughter, Bonita Marie; weight eight pounds four ounces.

RICHMOND.—To Mr. and Mrs. James Gould Richmond, 314 West First avenue N., Feb. 9, a son, Douglas John; weight eight pounds.

DEMOCRAT FILES

SALEM, Feb. 10.—(AP)—Howard Morgan, Portland Democrat who served in the State House of Representatives in 1949, filed his candidacy Thursday for State Labor commissioner.

Circuit Judge William G. East, of Eugene, filed for reelection.

Outstanding War Hero, Stunt Flier Wants To Finish Grammar School

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(AP)—A young army hero who won the nation's highest award for valor at the age of 18 now is attacking an educational objective.

"I want to finish grammar school," said Master Sergeant James R. Hendrix. "After all I'm 24 now, and I ought to be getting on with my schooling. I want to learn all I can."

The stocky, red-haired, freckle-faced paratrooper, who came here to appear in a film short for the American Cancer society, plans to attend a school at Camp Campbell, Ky., his present base.

"I only got to the fourth grade before the war," he grinned. He said he quit to go to work so "the younger kids" could have a chance. He is the second oldest of 14 children in the family of a Lepanto, Ark., cotton farmer.

War Valor Remarkable Hendrix is a man for whom death has taken a holiday.

He went through 8 months and 21 days of doughboy combat overseas without a scratch. On Christmas eve, 1944, in Belgium he went on a daylight battle rampage that won him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Between dawn and dusk he:

1. Pulled three wounded American soldiers from flaming vehicles.
2. Drove the crews away from two 88 field guns by his rifle fire.
3. Destroyed two enemy machine gun positions.
4. Killed 7 Germans with his rifle.
5. Captured 13 other Germans.

"All I got was a few bullet holes through my clothes," he recalled. As a medal of honor winner, he could pick his branch of service. So he transferred out of the armored infantry into an airborne division, which had turned him down earlier because of his color blindness.

Last September he had another miraculous escape from death. While making his eighth jump from a plane, both his chutes failed to open and he plunged 1,000 feet to the ground. The durable Hendrix wasn't even dented.

"But I did make a two-and-a-half-foot hole in that plowed field," he laughed.

Since then he has made six more parachute jumps without incident. "I feel sure now I'm going to die of old age," he said.

Hendrix hopes to put in 30 years of service, retire at 48 to an Arkansas farm "and raise cows, hogs and chickens."

"The Army has been good to me," he said. "I was drafted into it, but once I got in I found I liked it. Up to now it has given me everything I wanted in life. A lot of the fellows who were in it overseas stayed in for that reason."

When I asked him if there wasn't anything in the world he was afraid of, Jim thought a while and said: "No, I guess I can't think of anything right now I'm a-skeert of. Well, if I am a-skeert of anything, I guess I'm a-skeert of dying."

100 ADOPTIONS MADE

PORTLAND.—(AP)—The boys and girls aid society reports that it placed 100 children for adoption last year. It was the largest total in the society's history.

The society cared for a total of 791 children including those placed in foster boarding homes, and provided medical care and living quarters for 233 unmarried mothers.



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Vital Statistics

Marriage Licenses Issued

EVANS-URBEN — Donald Ray Evans, Oakland, and Peggy Ann Urban, Umpqua.

MARLOW-TILLOTSON — Daniel Marlow and Betty Viola Tilotson, both of Myrtle Creek.

GRAY-THORPE — George Sherlock Gray and Ella Marie Skinner Thorpe, both of Roseburg.

HARVEY-COOPER — Dale Harvey and Viola Elizabeth Cooper, both of Sutherlin.

Woman Is 'Man Of Year' For Service To City

LaCROSSE, Wis.—(AP)—The winner of the "man of the year" civic duty award in LaCrosse is a woman—Mrs. Alf Gundersen.

The physician's wife, mother of three children, was presented with a plaque by the Chamber of Commerce in recognition of outstanding service to the community.

Mrs. Gundersen is a past regional director of the Girl Scouts, served four terms as president of the League of Women Voters and currently is regional director of the league of women voters.

Last year she was one of two Wisconsin women chosen to view and study sessions of the United Nations as representatives of the league of women voters.

MOVIE PROTESTED

OREGON CITY, Feb. 10.—(AP)—The Oregon City Woman's club joined the list of those protesting the motion picture "Stromboli" yesterday.

A resolution asked that the film not be permitted in Oregon City. It was passed only after lengthy discussion in which one opponent commented that Ingrid Bergman, star of the film, would be "punished sufficiently by public opinion" and that efforts to ban the picture would instead publicize it.

Before 1921, there were few mechanical refrigerators in domestic use.

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