

The News-Review

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NIGHTCRAWLER PROJECT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Walter Meacham, executive secretary of Old Oregon Trail, Inc., has suggested in a guest editorial appearing in *The Oregon Journal* that transportation units use "spielers" to describe the state's "story spots" as buses and trains roll along historic highways and trails.

Meacham proposes that buses and trains install loud speakers and that drivers and other personnel be instructed and trained as narrators. They would give useful, interesting and constructive information about their respective routes.

Says Meacham:

On buses and trains we have ready-made audiences, which, no doubt, would be more than pleased to have interesting information imparted to them to relieve the monotony of their journey. Such a service would not be costly, would be the cheapest possible advertising that Oregon could buy, and would be very effective.

In order to amplify this service, recordings could be made and used at the proper places and time along the route. Our great natural resources—lumber, livestock, dairying, farming, orchards, fishing, power—have their places in this wide-spread plan to call the attention of the world to the Old Oregon Country.

Indian legends, too, have their place in the picture. Travelers like Indian legends and we have lots of them in Oregon. Our various highways, the Old Oregon trail, Applegate trail, Barlow road, John Day highway, all made history for Oregon and there are "story-spots" along every mile of their course. The Oregon Coast highway parallels the "sea trails" blazed by daring navigators who sought the Northwest Passage across North America. All of these things could, and should be brought out in a project of this kind.

Swell Idea For S. P. "Nightcrawler"

Meacham, we believe, has an excellent idea. Tourist passengers undoubtedly would be greatly impressed. Much interest would be developed in Oregon by such informative talks. Even local travelers, always interested in the history of their own areas, would enjoy the lectures the first few times, although we imagine they would tire of them if they had to ride buses frequently over the same route.

But we're thinking, primarily, of what a wonderful service this would be on the "Friendly" Southern Pacific company's Southern Oregon Nightcrawler, that unique train the Southern (Friendly) Pacific operates from Medford to Portland in the simply amazing (?) time of around 14 hours for a little more than 300 miles.

Can't you just hear that friendly voice of the "Friendly" Southern Pacific's "spieler" as the train travels through the Rogue River valley telling the history of the Rogue Indians, lauding the fishing resources of the Rogue river, describing Crater lake, Table mountain, and Mt. Pitt and recounting Indian massacres and wars, the gold strike and Chinese mining camps at Jacksonville, etc. and etc.?

And then he would say:

You are travelling through one of the most scenic areas of the West. The country around you is rich with legend and history. We're awfully sorry you can't see it!

A Fine "Break" For Roseburg

As the train traveled through historic Wolf Creek, he could tell about the famous Inn (lights of which might be visible) where stage coaches made their stops, carrying Presidents and famous people. Glorious Cow Creek canyon, with its tales of hardships to pioneer emigrants, the stories of train and stage robberies and Indian battles could furnish an interesting narrative, while the passengers stared out into the darkness, constructing in mind's eye, from the narrator's words, the scenic beauties and sites of historic interest hidden to them.

As the train pulled out from Roseburg, the "spieler" could say:

And now, ladies and gentlemen, you are leaving the Timber Capital of the World. No other city in the United States has such a backlog of timber. It is one of the most beautiful and rapidly-growing cities on the Pacific coast. We wish you could see it.

Off to your left you can see a red signal light. It is mounted atop the smokestack at the Roseburg Veterans hospital, one of the fine federal installations for the care of our beloved veterans. Within a few moments, on your right, we will be able to show you one of the few visible scenes on this famed Nightcrawler itinerary. You will be crossing the North Umpqua river, world-famous for its wonderful fishing, extolled by Zane Grey and other noted sportsmen-authors. The falls at the Winchester powerhouse are illuminated and there will be at least one beauty spot that you can see.

We are very sorry that in this particular section of the state, where there is a wealth of scenic beauty, natural resources, history and legend, we run our unique Nightcrawler during hours of darkness because our company is ashamed to have it seen in daylight. But our company is a "friendly" company and so we furnish you this description of what you are missing, that the tedium of your exhausting trip over this rough roadbed and in this antiquated equipment may be partially relieved.

Oxygen Tent Available From Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion auxiliary has an oxygen tent and hospital bed available without charge to anyone in Douglas county needing same, according to an announcement made by the president, Mrs. Ted Dauber. These two articles may be borrowed by registering for them with Mrs. Dauber and returning the articles in good shape when they are through with them.

The auxiliary also has a polo pack, which is available to anyone needing it. This pack may be borrowed by contacting the Douglas county welfare department.

ON HONOR ROLL

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Forest Grove—Robert E. Rogers, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Speidel, route 2, Roseburg, was among the 168 students listed on the honor roll here for the fall semester of the 1949-50 year, an announcement released by the registrar's office last week made known.

Rogers, a graduate of Roseburg high school, is a freshman business student.

Loch Sloy, at an elevation of 800 feet in the Scottish Highlands, is the site of the largest hydro-electric plant in the United Kingdom.

Ready for the Deep Freeze



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

but for a couple of tense weeks we kept hoping that the once-great French army would rally behind a new line and stop the invaders.

At this strained and critical moment, with the fate of half the world hanging in the balance, King Leopold SURRENDERED THE BELGIAN ARMY, and himself along with it. That cooked the goose of the British army which had been trying to back up and reinforce the French. The Germans poured around the left wing of the French and the British, which was left undefended by the Belgian surrender.

THE debacle of Dunkirk followed. In that grimly heroic disaster, the British lost the flower of their military forces, and at the moment it certainly looked like the jig was up.

It was in that black hour that Churchill delivered his blood, tears and sweat speech that will stand forever as an expression of deathless courage by a leader. The bold words of Churchill were backed up by the British people with their lives and their fortunes and what followed followed.

IT is one of the splendid stories of history. Basically the sacrifices made by the British people in that awful hour and the bloody and awful hours that followed are responsible for the fix they are in at the present time. This struggle so weakened them that they have been unable to meet fully the problems of the post-war world.

That, fundamentally, is why they have a "dollar shortage" problem.

BUT let's get back to Leopold. His surrender SAVED BELGIUM from the horrors of war. The little nation rode through those years as a conquered people. Leopold rode through them as a prisoner of war.

The British FOUGHT through them and bled themselves white.

I'VE retold this story to explain in part why the Belgians have been a bit torn with doubt by the dilemma posed by the possible return of Leopold to the throne of his fathers.

Some of them are GRATEFUL TO HIM, probably, for the fact that they are alive. Others, I suspect, still feel the shame of the surrender.

WHAT I started out to say is this:

We are pouring arms and treasure into Western Europe in the hope that if a RUSSIAN BLITZ SHOULD START the nations of Western Europe would hold the line while we rally our forces as the British rallied theirs after Dunkirk.

How do we know that will happen?

We don't. We're sure of the British. Whatever else they may be, they're a tough and hard-bitten lot. They'll stand in the face of a Russian blitz, as they stood in the face of the German blitz. Win, lose or draw. They're that kind of a breed.

But the rest of Europe is uncertain. It could do as Belgium did. We can't blink that possibility.

Soaps from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

If the district in which you live has consolidated, are you glad or sorry? And did you find it affected your property value upwards or downwards? Folks in Northern Douglas county are working right now on the problem. According to a recent state inspector's report, there are so many things the matter with our particular school that it seems a case of the gun needing a new lock, stock and barrel.

Yet, considering everything involved, the school has served the community very well indeed. However, with the teacher feeling a bit like the old woman in the shoe, one can't stretch the walls with satisfaction over past performance! It's build, consolidate or—the third possibility is definitely "out" because to persist in staying as is would mean no more money forthcoming from state funds. There are standard requirements.

During the days when I satisfied my desire to live in the country by reading farm journals, I recall that the modern trend does seem to be towards consolidation. It seems simpler all around, too! Yet the

voters opposed to the idea are very sincere in believing it has its disadvantages. But whatever is decided upon, there will be some disadvantages. It seems a question of adding up all the pros; adding up all the cons, then seeing which way the balance weighs.

One firm belief is that "to lose the local school will lower valuation on property." But one who seems to me well qualified to know, a man who has lived all his life in Oregon and is in close touch with such things, says in answer to the query: "My experience indicates that it (consolidation) has the effect of increasing the value of the property due to the fact that it immediately gives a more suitable place to live for people with children. It results in increasing the number of potential buyers and as the number of potential buyers increases, you will recognize that property value will increase rather than decline."

Well, whether one has children in school or not, it is of first importance to be informed that one may vote intelligently for the greatest good to the greatest number.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

THE PEOPLE ARE AT FAULT

(The Astorian Budget)
 There is something very irritating in the spectacle of Los Angeles police pleading with gangster Mickey Cohen to tell them who the people might be who tossed a bomb into his home, threatening the lives of neighbor children as well as his own worthless carcass.

The spectacle of law impotent before swagging crime is always disgusting.

Gangster Cohen is a professional gambler. He is immune from the law because the people of Los Angeles are tolerant of the existence of gambling. Multitudes patronize his games and refuse to give evidence to the police. It is possible that the wealth he has obtained from gambling has enabled him to spend a little money in softening up police force members where it does the most good.

Efforts To Better Service Listed In S. P. Co. Report

NEW YORK, March 17.—(AP)—Southern Pacific Co. is meeting with some success in efforts to solve the problem of "diversion of freight and passengers to subsidized or inadequately regulated competitive transport," stockholders were told here.

President A. T. Mercier in the annual report said freight ton-miles dropped 10.7 percent in 1949 and passenger-miles were off 14.7 percent, but both "remained at a high level in relation to pre-war volume."

Prospects were unchanged, he said, by continued spectacular growth in the territory served, with population of the eight states traversed by Southern Pacific system lines up 34 percent since 1940, against a gain of 9.5 percent in the other 40 states.

Inauguration of the "Shasta Daylight" and "Starlight" streamliners improved the railroad's position in competition with buses and the coach service of airlines, Mercier reported.

Freight rate increases provided a measure of relief from higher operating costs, he said, and sub-

stantial savings resulted from the practice of strict economy, increased use of diesel power and reductions in the price of fuel oil.

But the net railway operating income for 1949 declined to 2.8 percent of net property investment, against 3.6 percent in 1938.

Consolidated net income of Southern Pacific transportation system and solely controlled affiliates for 1949 was \$32,675,618 equal to \$8.66 a share compared with \$43,770,280 or \$11.60 a share in 1948.

Of \$89,694,488 invested in 1949 in improvements, the system spent more than 85 percent for purchase and construction of new rolling stock. Acquired during the year were 135 new diesel locomotives, 6,017 freight cars, 80 cabooses and 61 passenger-train cars.

ENTERS RADIO SCHOOL

MULTNOMAH COLLEGE, Portland—(Special)—Harold C. Miles, of 2123 S. E. Hawthorne Blvd., and a former student of Roseburg high school, has entered the Multnomah college radio school for an 18 months' course in radio theory and broadcasting. He will receive instruction designed to prepare him for examination by the Federal Communications commission for his first class radio telephone operator's license.

Miles will take his training at the Swan Island division of Multnomah college.

"Tick's" Tips On Veterans Hospital

By L. J. "TICK" MALARKEY
 Who do you think drew the illustrations spread over the front sections of the spring opening edition of the News-Review?

By accident we discovered the artist. His name was written in letters so small that this reporter queried Warren Mack and Roy Inman for a verification. We won't call the lad a cartoonist. He is DAN MINDOLOVICH.

Several years ago Tom Loutitt, who was one of the top coast referees in football and prize fighting, used to draw sports cartoons for the Oregon Journal. All of Tom's many friends enjoyed his art and in Dan's first big job is displayed a talent which may rival the fame of Homer Davenport who was born, and made his first drawings, in the little town of Silverton, Ore.

"All that I want is your good will."
 These are the words of Barber Mentle Lee when thanks was offered for a haircut that he had given in the shop because a turn had been missed on Ward 6 when the three-tonorial artists were on duty there a day or two before. This trim-up was given by friend Lee on his own time—it was his lunch hour and "Private M" wanted to look his best because a job interview was to be made.

The sailor left the attendants. "Red" Kinder, standing on Ward 6, has bought for cash 137 acres of farm land out in the Look-in-glass valley and there when he was on a 10-day annual leave moved wife Dorothy, daughters, Virginia 7, Carla 5, and son, Bobby 6. "Red" sailed the seas for our Navy and was so good with his fists that he fought as one of the top-notch light weights around "Frisco Bay and Hollywood Legion club.

Wife, Dorothy, didn't like the boxing business so he quit while "he had all of his marbles," and with money he had earned and saved while in the service and in the ring came to Roseburg and enlisted under Niels Jensen, supervisor of attendants. County navy time he has eight years toward retirement.

On the ranch there is a 7-year-old "Dobbin" that took to the kids right away. A hundred baby chicks are already growing up and a cow is the next step toward a home on the range.

"We were never so happy in our lives," is the way friend Kinder sums up the life he and his fine family are now having in the Valley of the Umpqua.

Peg Corcoran Bates, admission and discharge clerk, returned from annual leave this past week. Peg is a daughter of Erin that every patient knows—first when he is admitted and then when he leaves for home. With her husband "Beans," farmer from Lane county near Junction City, they made a tour of the beaches most of their time being spent around Seaside. Might add that Peg's brother "Mutt" Corcoran is with the state license examiners' department and makes his home in Roseburg.

Emmett J. Corcoran is the way the Secretary of State's office carries him on its payroll. Now for the payoff: "Mutt," as his sister Peg calls him, has been given permission to wear civilian clothes and to green tie on March 17. Erin co Bragh, Macusia, Colleen, or what have you!

Jack Patterson, the fine 19-year-old son of Bernice Patterson, secretary to Floyd Powell, assistant hospital manager, is convalescing in the Roseburg sanitarium as a result of a serious industrial accident. For a time it was feared that Jack would have to be encased in a body cast. This morning his doctors think that a brace will bring him back to good health. Personnel and patients are happy with this good news for Bernice is one of our popular ladies and a smile, despite more than one adversity, seems always to light her face.

Don Isakson, storekeeper, V.A. hospital.

That is the title near as this writer can tag it.
 With his flannel shirt and working clothes it was easy to see that things get done where he labors. Got quizzing around and found out that Don is one of the Kids of Fracas Two who stopped a slug in Italy—believe he was hit in one of his arms. Wouldn't know it ever happened from the way he juggles supplies.

At home in Roseburg there is wife Elsie, son Donny and daughter Carrol.
 Staid at attention a Kid that saw a little bit more than his share passes by!
 "So"—NOW—"TICK"

Six Prisoners Die In Jail Fire

SPRAY, N. C., March 17.—(AP)—Six prisoners - - five men and a woman - - perished in the Spray jail early today after a mattress caught fire. Three were white and three negroes.

All of the six who died had been charged with public drunkenness. Police said there was a possibility that one of the six - - all faced this morning - - had deliberately set the fire. The jail was only slightly damaged.

The victims were Lucille Wimbush, 30; Junior Yarbrough, 22; and Marion Morrison, 25; all white; and Harvey Cole, 34; Joe W. Willis, 21 and Bonnie Martin, 34, negroes.

They apparently were asleep when the fire started, and were suffocated.

Spray is a textile town in north central North Carolina. Many of the Marshall Field industries are located here.

Big game animals found in Utah include mountain lions, deer, elk, porcupine, antelope, bighorn sheep, bobcats, bears, lynx and coyotes.

Submarine Menace Impels U. S. Navy To Urge Increased Fund For Stronger Defense

WASHINGTON, March 17.—(AP)—Its funds and strength clipped sharply, the Navy is pressing a top-priority program to deal with the submarine menace in any future war.

But naval strategists made plain in disclosures to Congress that they are not too happy about the state of the Navy's readiness.

They said the billion-dollar budget cut they are taking means the fleet air arm will have to fall back on second-line aircraft next year, while combat ship strength will be trimmed to 239 vessels from the present 288.

Presenting a \$4,008,700,000 spending figure for the 12 months starting next July 1, Adm. Forrest P. Sherman of naval operations, said the navy is following the old maxim of doing the best it can with what it has. Of all the thinned-down programs, he said, submarine defenses "come first."

Throughout the Navy's appropriation requests ran evidence of veiled concern over Russia's reported concentration on her submarine fleet—especially her adaptation of the elusive snorkel-type subs.

These subs, perfected by the Germans, can remain submerged for long periods by using a chimney-like "breathing" device.

The navy is earmarking more than \$190,000,000 in 1951 for research and development. Most of it, it was indicated, will go for gadgets to track and kill "snorkels," which are now able to evade conventional search methods.

Sherman Frank in Urge
 But Sherman made clear he did not consider the money adequate for the job of meeting a World War III submarine menace.

He told the House appropriations committee:
 "I would be less than candid if I did not indicate to you that a reduction of 30 patrol-plane squadrons to 20, and from 170 destroyers to 140, decreases the means available to the chief of naval operations to meet his responsibilities for the naval defense of the country."

"In other words, while I support this as being the best program available to us, it is far from providing the navy completely adequate means for combating a submarine threat."

It is in its air forces that the navy faces its most drastic cut-backs.

Although President Truman upped naval air appropriations to \$338,718,000 from \$497,523,000 recommended by Secretary of Defense Johnson, the navy says it must:

1. Eliminate 6,000 enlisted aviation billets and remove 1,273 naval aviators from flying duty.
2. Reduce flight training by 800 students a year.
3. Close five air stations and reduce five more to a partial maintenance status, and shut down four more major overhaul and repair establishments.

PHONE 100
 between 6:15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.
 Ask for Harold Mobley

FOR . . . SERVICE . . . EXPERIENCE . . . CO-OPERATION . . .

Investigate the services offered by your "Home-owned, Home-operated" bank. Money left on deposit with us remains in DOUGLAS COUNTY. All facilities available for your individual needs.

Douglas County State Bank
 Member, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Dexterous Daphne

"No, I'm not getting married . . . I'm invited to a dinner at the RAINBOW CAFE and everyone will have on something new. Their food is 'out-of-this-world.'"

"QUALITY FOODS WELL SERVED"

RAINBOW CAFE

120 SOUTH STEPHENS - ROSEBURG, OREGON