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NOW-OR-NEVER

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Roseburg's airport issue apparently is coming to a head. After many years of hemming and hawing, cussing and discussing, the project is to be placed before the voters. We are presuming, of course, that the city council will accept and act on recommendations made jointly by its own airport commission and the chamber of commerce airport committee that a proposal for a bond issue be submitted to voters.

We can share the feeling of urgency—almost desperation—expressed by the men who have been working on the airport project. They realize the heavy tax load incident to financing expansion of a city and community growing as rapidly as is the Roseburg area. They appreciate, too, the commendable watchfulness of taxpayers over extravagance and unwarranted expenditure of local funds.

But they also are aware that if the airport is not enlarged immediately, Roseburg probably will never have an adequate port, and if it should decide to go ahead with airport development at a later date the cost would be virtually prohibitive.

During the discussion of the matter the phrase "now-or-never" was used several times, and there is good reason for it.

Roseburg's present airport has a runway of approximately 3800 feet. The Civil Aeronautics authority will not certify for scheduled airline operations such a short landing and take-off strip. The runway can be extended only to the north, where the land is in private ownership. If the airport is to be enlarged the city must buy that land. The owner, if he does not sell to the city—and soon—plans to offer the property for residence purposes. Subdivision plans already have been drawn, the aviation committee report. Naturally the owner can't be expected to wait indefinitely for an answer. If the city doesn't act soon, construction of dwellings, and perhaps industrial or business buildings, will start in the near future. Once the land is improved, the cost of purchase for airport use would be enormous.

Procrastination Can Be Expensive

Hundreds of incidents could be cited to show the cost of procrastination and shortsightedness in buying land needed for public purposes. Roseburg's older schools are hemmed in because the district lacked vision to buy ground for expansion. Roseburg could have had excellent city parks had we anticipated years ago our present need. The State Highway commission, urged a number of years ago in this column to buy highway right-of-way north of Roseburg, because it would not be long until traffic congestion would require highway relocation, will be forced to spend many thousands of dollars more to do the job, which now has become imperative, because improvements must be bought along with the land.

It is believed that the city's cost of buying the land needed for airport enlargement together with the extension of the runway will approximate \$200,000. We may feel that we can't afford that kind of money. But if we wait until the land to the north is improved—and no one conscious of the way the Roseburg community is growing can doubt that the property would fail to develop if placed on the market—the cost of acquisition, alone, probably would amount to a half million dollars or more within a very few years. Consequently we ARE facing a "now-or-never" issue.

Federal Government Will Give Aid

The Roseburg airport has been designated as a project eligible for federal aid. The government will pay 25 per cent of the cost of land acquisition and 53 per cent of the port improvement expense. Thus Roseburg's \$200,000 in bonds would result in a construction job of around \$500,000.

Because this is a construction job, most of the money spent on it would remain in the community and would go into general circulation. Thus taxpayers would recover in direct and indirect returns much of the money invested.

Much could, and undoubtedly will, be said about the need for an airport—our isolation, inadequate transportation facilities, stimulus to new industry and business, property values, increased taxable wealth, etc.—but the important thing to keep in mind is the urgency of the project.

While some people feel we can't afford to build an airport now, they should seriously be considering whether we can afford not to, taking into account the fact that the cost will be enormously increased by delay.

Merits Of Golf Told By Tauscher At Meet Of Lions

Everyone can play golf, regardless of his size or ability. Norman Tauscher, golf pro at the Roseburg Country club told the Roseburg Lions club Thursday night. Tauscher talked briefly and showed two motion pictures, one on professional football and the second on golfing and golf techniques.

Many high school boys are not large enough or physically strong enough to engage in the more strenuous sports. Golf, said Tauscher, provides them a medium of exercise and provides them something to do in their leisure hours aside from roaming the streets.

Unions To Give 5 Days' Wages To Hospital Fund

SPRINGFIELD, March 18—(AP)—More than 340 union workers in five local lumber plants have signed agreements with management to work five extra days and contribute the earnings, more than \$24,000, to the McKenzie-Williams hospital building fund. Agreements were signed by four CIO groups and one AFL group. CIO crews are those at Bennett Lumber Co., Fall Creek Box and Manufacturing Co., Fall Creek Lumber Co., and South Fork Logging Co. The AFL group is at McKenzie River Shingle Co.

ive of the mode of travel von Borstel will take when he leaves Medford by plane and travels thence by air to New Zealand. He has been a member of the club since coming to Roseburg about two years ago to take over 4-H work. The club has voted to sponsor two Hi-Y members to the model legislature in Salem soon. A father-daughter banquet will be held on March 30.

Speaking of Spring Cleaning---



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

for upkeep of the 2500-acre family estate, which is hard hit by high taxes. She is Lady Lees, wife of Col. Sir John Lees, and she will put in her week-ends selling cold sausages, pork pies, jellies and soft drinks to motorists from a roadside stand outside their 45-room house, Lytchett Manor.

"She'll do some of the cooking herself. A relative and an Estonian cook will help."

DO you reckon it's the real thing? Or is she doing it for a stunt? I wouldn't know, of course, but even if she is doing it as a stunt it's a more useful one than this Larry Hightower's, of Ellensburg, up in the state of Washington. He's pushing a wheelbarrow over the United States, and has just toiled the thing up to the 14,100-foot summit of Pike's peak. It took him five days to make the ascent, and he figures he'll come down in two.

It certainly takes all kinds of people to make a world.

PROBABLY the day's grimmest joke is the New York taxpayer who listed his state senator and his U. S. CONGRESSMAN as dependents on his income tax return, explaining: "My taxes support them." That's too true to be even funny. (His claim, by the way, was disallowed by the income tax people.)

IN New York, the biggest income tax payment received on Wednesday (the fatal day of March) was a check from a corporation for 36 million dollars. It was the first quarterly payment, and the district collector says the firm's tax for the whole year was \$144 MILLION DOLLARS!

WHEN you think of that as a tax PAYMENT, earned by the sweat of workers' brows and the toil of managers' brains, it sounds simply staggering.

But our national administration proposes and our congress appropriates tiddy little items of 144 million dollars as casually as you and I put a penny in a parking meter.

THAT, by the way, is one of the prime reasons why prices stay high. Taxes, whether we believe it or not, are included in the cost of everything we pay money for and so HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PRICE.

If taxes were lower, prices would be lower.

Pictures To Deal With Emotional Disturbances

The second in a series of motion pictures dealing with emotional disturbances will be featured on the Monday night meeting of the Douglas county branch of the Oregon Mental Hygiene association. Beginning at 8 p. m., the meeting will be held in the recreation building of the Roseburg Veterans hospital, with Dr. Frampton B. Price in charge of the movies and group discussions.

Association members and the general public are invited to attend. During their first month of operations from two airfields on Okinawa, Marine fighter pilots knocked down 209 Jap planes while losing only four in aerial combat.

Scops from the MENDING BASKET

By Viannett S. Martin

Seems so silly to say that since we came to live in a house with woods around it, I miss the birds! Might as well not be any right now for all I see of them! But when there was snow, how the foxy little feathered friends did crowd around! A bit later in summer they will be around again. But now—they have gone up into the woods further away from us.

We had a thirteen-foot pool which was supposed to be a fish pool but the birds liked it too. At any rate it had about two hundred gold fish ranging from the original six, about six inches long when last I saw them, to the tiniest newly hatched ones. E J laid it out one day when I was attending a PTA affair in Santa Monica. My only plea had been: Have it where I can see it from the kitchen sink!

He made it as natural-looking as possible and very simply. It was a daily delight to ourselves, and to visiting children and adults too. The fish ate from my fingers; couldn't have been tamer! But let me take a little net in hand to dip out three or four for a child to take home — not a fish to be seen! It is a fact. They seemed to know that net, or to sense my intention. Yet they would eat bread greedily, making sucking noises, as I held it in my fingers.

E. J. fixed what at once came to be known as the "peninsula"—a long point built out where the water was never more than an inch deep. On that the birds moved in by the dozen! All but the blackbirds. We used to watch them solemnly pick up a piece of bread, and walk quickly over to the pool, and dunk it. Then either eat it on the grass or fly off with. When they bathed, they swooped down into the pool, again and again, in the deeper part, then off to a fence post to finish by shaking and preening.

There was a fountain spray in which the hummingbirds flew joyfully whenever we turned it on. The soil was sandy so we let the overflow keep the water fresh. The water lilies were regular clocks—four colors. Other water things added to the natural effect.

I used to wonder as I sat by the pool, noting the way each fish had the whole pool to itself because of the harmony with which they swam around, why people couldn't get along as smoothly.

DIME-A-DOZEN SKETCHES

By PAUL JENKINS

It's my observation (and yours too, no doubt) that women love flowers. They may greet their respective husbands casually; maintain their savoir-faire when presented with a bridge prize; even preserve at least a semblance of restraint—but show them a beautiful arrangement of flowers and they melt into a state of complete balmyness.

A feminine friend of mine, whose mother at present is mildly sunning herself in Honolulu, recently received from the latter, via air-mail, a magnificent orchid lei. Characterized as ordinarily by one of the most practical attitudes I've ever witnessed in any woman, recipient of these gorgeous flowers threw her into a condition of unreckoning, dithery bliss. If she hadn't fallen ill there's no saying what folly she wouldn't have been capable of. If she could have anticipated their arrival, I reckon she'd have sent out announcements, as couples do upon the birth of a child.

Some women, although the proportion of these as related to all who love flowers is small, enjoy growing them, too. The washing machine may rust, the skillets stay cold for days, the floors become knee-deep in litter, while they dig and plant and cultivate in the garden. If I only could apply myself to my work as they do to their play, my pictures soon would hang in La Louvre and all the world (tourists anyhow) would come to marvel.

Another woman I know with a lively interest in her flower garden has developed (as a direct result of this interest) a deadly allergy for dogs. Dogs do damage her flowers at times, but it is the damage which she is afraid they will do that gives her acute mental unrest. So when she sees a dog in her yard, she tosses a fire-cracker under him. You know, one of those little ones all braided together in a bunch. She did that to one not long ago. His reaction was instantaneous and unbridled. Voicing an anguished howl which could have been heard in Winchester, he leaped with a fervor that tore out divots from the lawn. One more leap (another set of divots) and he was out of it and it was a big lawn. He streaked for home so fast the rush of his going was like the hum of a high wind in telephone wires and when he got there he circled the house twice before he could slow down enough to dive through the open door of the back porch.

All in all, I reckon it's a fortunate thing for men that women do love flowers. When we're in the dog house as we so frequently are with our wives, daughters or sweethearts (seldom with our mothers, bless them) it does give us a handy means of bailing ourselves out. It's surprising how often it works.

Hearing Set For Co. Roads Gift To City

District Attorney Robert G. Davis was instructed by the Douglas county court to give notice of a hearing to be held in the offices of the county court at 10 a. m. Friday, April 21, at which time certain county roads will be proposed for dedication and surrender to the City of Roseburg. The court will also consider any objections to the proposal.

Roads involved are located in West Roseburg and Sleepy Hollow-Millers addition areas recently annexed to the city. The order was issued following notification from the city council that the county roads now located within the new city boundaries could not be maintained by the city, unless the county would agree to surrender its jurisdiction over the roads.

These were described as county road 113, Umpequa avenue, 40 feet right-of-way from the river south to Harvard avenue; and from Harvard avenue to Mill street, a platted road 60 x 2,500 feet; Umpequa avenue and Military road, 80 x 3,450 feet; county road 160, Main street, 60 feet right-of-way by 1,800 feet; county road 160A, Booth, Starmer and Marsters streets, 50 feet right-of-way by 2,500 feet; county road 184, Harrison street, 40 x 1,280 feet; county road 192, Brown avenue, 45 x 1,500 feet; county road 193, Ball street, 45 x 115 feet; county road 194, Wharton street, 40 x 1,059 feet.

Dog With Spring Fever Goes AWOL

"Red Rover," a reddish-brown Doberman Pinscher, has sprung free. He recently left his home at 2010 John street for parts unknown.

No one would begrudge "Red" the privilege of enjoying the wide open spaces, except for the fact that his master, Milton Compton, who is suffering from a heart ailment, depends upon him for companionship during the long and lonesome days of his semi-invalid confinement. Mrs. Compton is a teacher at Riverside school, and their daughter, Ming, is a student in the same school.

Compton explained that "Red" has been gone for about a week. "He is a good dog," explained Compton, "and the only possibility of his killing sheep or other stock would be if he got in bad company with dogs that might lead him astray."

"The dog answers to the name, 'Red,' if it is spoken in a strong, commanding voice. He is a large dog, stands very erect, and gives the appearance of a bronze statue. Anyone having information about this lost dog may contact Mrs. Compton at the Riverside school, or call the North Roseburg church at 220-J-4.

Vital Statistics

Marriage Licenses Issued — SWIFT-COOK — Ralph George Swift, Brockway, and Oriene Rae Cook, Tenmile. — REE-NEUFELD — Hugo Victor Ree and Esther G. Neufeld, both of Eugene.

Divorce Suits Filed — NORDSTEN—Thelma vs. Ragnar O. Nordsten, Married June 14, 1930, at Eugene. Plaintiff charges cruel and inhuman treatment. — NUFER—Betty Jane vs. Joseph Arnold Nuffer, Married August 3, 1946, at Ferndale, Wash. Plaintiff charges cruel and inhuman treatment; asks custody of one minor child and \$50 per month support.

Divorce Decrees Granted — VROMAN—Charles LeRoy from India Lynn Vroman.

GATES—Margaret B. from Joe Budd Gates Jr. Plaintiff awarded custody of two minor children and \$50 per month support. Property settlement made.

SELKIRK — Margaret L. from Fred Selkirk.

BIERWARD—Jessie from Joseph Bierward. Property settlement made.

BENNETT — Bonnie Jean from Douglas F. Bennett. Plaintiff awarded custody of three minor children and \$75 per month support. Property settlement made.

More U. S. Warships Going To Atlantic Pact Nations

WASHINGTON, March 18—(AP)—The navy has tabbed 10 additional destroyer escorts for transfer to North Atlantic treaty nations under the arms aid program. The navy also has announced that two submarines are being refitted at Philadelphia for transfer under the arms aid program.

Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. William Castor, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Wales, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Walker, Bellflower Spikler, Harry Dunbar and James Kidwell.

Mrs. Wayne Rice and Mrs. LeRoy Churchill were hostesses at a pink and blue shower held at the Wayne Rice home last Monday night for Mrs. James Watson.

Games were played with Mrs. Amorde winning the prize. Many gifts were opened and refreshments were served to the guest of honor. Those attending were Mrs. Watson, Mrs. William Harms, Mrs. Ervin Rice, Mrs. Glenn Walker, Mrs. Frank Churchill, Mrs. Emmett Churchill, Mrs. Herman Amorde, Mrs. Archie Amorde, Mrs. James Kidwell, Mrs. J. W. Wales, Mrs. Ralph Emerson, Mrs. Kenneth Lamar, Miss Barbara Lamar, Mrs. Jimmie Wales, Mrs. Don Atkinson, and the hostesses.

Alaska Highway Ready For Record Tourist Influx

EDMONTON, Alta.—(CP)—The famous Alaska highway is set for a record year of tourist traffic, Major Woodrow W. Coward, senior staff officer of the road system, says. The highway will be in first class condition, he added, and accommodation, repair and supply facilities will be plentiful.

Since the highway was "handed over" to the Canadian government in April 1946, maintenance crews have worked steadily to improve the 1,244 miles of gravel road. Major Coward said there are indications of an early spring break-up which will give road crews an early start at putting the road in top shape, and will also lessen flood threats. Drainage facilities have been improved, he said.

Longest distance between tourist accommodation now is 50 miles.

Josslin Scolds Party's Candidates For Governor

PORTLAND, March 18—(AP)—William L. Josslin, state Democratic central committee chairman, took his party's three gubernatorial candidates to task Friday for attacking each other.

Josslin, who once considered running for governor himself, notified Lew Wallace, Walter J. Pearson and Austin Flegel that he would "not sit quietly by and let you throw away the governorship. He asked the three to "confine yourself to setting forth your own record and program, and leave to the Republicans the attacks upon your brother Democrats."

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*Extract from May 1948 Journal, American Concrete Institute

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