

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the
News-Review Company, Inc.
Entered as second class matter May 7, 1926, at the post office at
Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 2, 1873

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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,
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—By Mail—Per year \$4.00, six months \$2.50,
three months \$1.50. By City Carrier—Per year \$3.00 (in advance), less than
one year, per month 25¢. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per year 5.00, six
months \$3.00, three months \$1.75.

CONFUSED PATTERN

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We visited Warner valley, in Lake county, last week to secure first hand information on a highly controversial reclamation project. We must confess that we returned more confused than ever.

We can't understand the source of insistence for the reclamation project, nor pin down the reasons for its insistence. After looking at the land involved in the dispute we can't understand the reasoning behind the proposed development, insofar as certain intended uses are concerned.

We asked a lot of questions and received many answers. We got evasive replies, individual opinions, expert data, and local sentiment.

Trying to put our information together, we find ourselves in possession of a lot of ideas which might be compared to the blocks our grandmother used in making a patchwork quilt. She was able, however, to use those patches to produce a pattern, while we, as yet, haven't been able to get a satisfactory pattern out of this Warner valley controversy.

Members of the State Land board are the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer. These state officials apparently had not fully informed themselves on the project previously. Some land board employees, however, evidently are completely "sold" on the project and are trying to convince the board the development should proceed.

Agriculture Versus Wildlife

Warner valley, located about 30 miles east of Lakeview, is about 40 miles long and five to eight miles wide. It has a peculiar geological formation. A fault developed and strata separated leaving a wide fissure which has filled in during countless ages to produce an almost flat valley floor. Warner valley drains from south to north instead of from north to south as is the case with adjoining valleys. It has no outlet. Therefore, water collects in lakes, swamps, sumps and potholes and is lost only through evaporation. The entire valley may have water in exceedingly wet years, while a very small portion of the area will have water in dry years. The northernmost lake bed has not been filled since 1900.

The valley is divided into north and south sections by a natural barrier known as The Narrows.

South of The Narrows lies Crump lake and Crump marsh. North of The Narrows lies Petri marsh. Water supply for Petri marsh, an extremely valuable waterfowl nesting area, comes from Crump lake and Crump marsh.

The State Land board, which controls about 34,000 acres of state-owned land in the area, proposes to raise the level of Crump lake, dike off about 8,000 acres in Crump swamp and use the land for agricultural purposes. The project would be financed by a \$3,000,000 private corporation which would lease the land from the state. A lot more detail is involved, especially in the matter of intermingled ownerships, and water rights.

The big dispute pertains to damage to wildlife resources, as Warner valley is rated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife service as second only to the Malheur lake area in value as migratory bird nesting ground.

Reasoning Hard to Understand

Advocates of the proposed reclamation project say they want to conduct an experiment into the possibilities of growing grain on reclaimed lake beds. It was our understanding that agricultural experimentation is the duty of the State Department of Agriculture rather than the land board.

The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation has twice rejected reclamation projects in Warner valley because the cost was not to be justified by low-value crops grown at such high altitude (4,400 feet), limited and variable water supply, etc.

The land board, of course, need not be guided entirely by Bureau of Reclamation findings, inasmuch as the state would be leasing to a private corporation which would be assuming all financial risk. On the other hand, if the corporation is to use the land to promote colonization, as has been rumored, it appears the state should have some moral responsibility to protect prospective settlers from locating on what assuredly is submarginal agricultural land.

Furthermore, it appears rather silly to be considering production of grain on an 8,000-acre tract immediately adjoining a marsh area which accommodates as many as 100,000 ducks and geese at the peak of migration. Of course, such an experiment would be fine for the birds, but we can imagine the sentiment of the farmer when his crop was harvested by ducks and geese. At nearby Tulalake it is estimated that ducks and geese consume about \$300,000 worth of that area's grain crop annually.

Altogether, despite our inspection of the proposed development project, we find it rather hard to understand just why there is so much insistence for what would be a duck pasture in Warner valley.

Industrialist Shows He Likos Employees

PHILADELPHIA, June 10.—(AP)—H. Newlin Hill, asbestos felt manufacturer who died May 17 at 64 apparently was satisfied with his employees.

His will probated yesterday disclosed he left an estate of \$100,000 and upwards to his family and nine employees.

Hill, who headed H. N. Hill and Co., directed that half of the income from the firm together with the income from three shares of Aftenhil, Ltd., of Canada and five shares of the Afton-Hill Manufacturing Co. be paid over to seven employees in varying percentages.

Upon the death of an employee the income share of such person is to be paid to his or her issue or surviving spouse. In event of liquidation of the companies the employees or members of their families are to get their share outright.

The income from three shares of

stock in Afton-Hill, Ltd., was bequeathed in equal shares to two of its employees.

It's Either A Feast Or A Famine—



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

the people of the United States . . .

Religious people are the greatest support a free government can have.

STANDING there in that simple, not-too-awful pulpit, talking to delegates who had come to Washington from all over the country to attend the annual synod of their church, Harry Truman was just his simple, sincere self. For a moment, he stepped out of character as the titular leader of the Democratic party, with thousands upon thousands of associates and supporters depending upon him to keep the Democratic party in power so that their jobs and their careers may go on uninterrupted, and was just a plain, honest little man upon whose shoulders weighty problems rest.

He wanted the prayers of good people all over the country. He needs them. Unaffectedly, genuinely, he asked for them.

NOBODY wrote that speech for him. It came from his own heart. He is often like that. When he is like that, he is at his best.

Personally, I wish he could be like that all the time. I like him when he is just his genuine, sincere self. I find that at those times I am inclined to trust him.

If he could be like that all the time, he could lead us in the direction we ought to go—for in his own natural person, just BEING HIMSELF, he has great charm and great power to command trust and confidence.

I THINK all sincere men are like that. But here is an odd thing about men—they are sincere some of the time and some of the time they are not sincere. I imagine we are all more or less that way.

I'm sure Harry Truman is. When he just speaks from his heart, as he did in that Washington church, he means what he says. When he talks about spending and spending and spending and spending or bothing our heads about where the money is coming from, just being sure we are getting richer and richer and happier and happier by the process of spending money we have not earned by the sweat of our brows, he doesn't mean what he says.

He is then the leader of his party, the man upon whom his associates and his supporters depend for the continuance of cushy jobs.

ANYWAY, I like Harry Truman in the moments when he shrugs all this off and is just his natural self.

Winnipeg Flood Ends

WINNIPEG, June 10.—(AP)—Canada's worst flood in modern times ended officially today in greater Winnipeg.

An excited voice at James avenue pumping station, where the Red River level is read, announced: "Eighteen feet—exactly."

That is the point all Winnipeg had been waiting for—the point at which all flooding in the twin cities of Winnipeg and St. Boniface starts—or stops. Now the river is going down.

Saws from the MENDING BASKET

By Viannett S. Martin

"Sawdust or wood chips are a cheap organic matter and excellent soil conditioner, according to a recent issue of the Forest Products Research Society bulletin—to quote the Forest Log published in Salem. The species that contain large amounts of tannin and terpenes are quite suitable since the soil organisms quickly destroy these chemicals. This would mean that the pine and fir sawdust that is available throughout Oregon at the cost of transportation only would make a good soil mulch.

"The mixing of wood with the soil has been determined to have no toxic effects on plants due to such wood constituents as essential oils, resins and tannins. Certain woods decompose more readily than others; hence more nitrogen is 'grabbed' by the organisms. The nitrogen 'grab' is more pronounced with sawdust than with chunk wood.

"Results from incorporating two inches of sawdust with soil on yield of tomatoes have shown that yields were less for the first crop and higher for the remaining crops than yields on check plots that received equivalent applications of nitrogen. Nitrates were depressed the first 18 months after which time they began to accumulate, the moisture level in the soil was increased, a softer crust was formed and a looser soil resulted.

"The mixing of sawdust and shavings into a soil, especially heavy soil, has been found to improve the capacity of the soil to take in and hold water without decreasing the crop yield. Adding organic material to a light (sandy) soil gives it 'body' and the ability to retain moisture. Because wood chips will not decompose as rapidly as sawdust, it can be assumed that their use would be preferred because of longer lasting beneficial results."

I clipped the above some time ago and mislaid it, or it would have been in this column sooner. I rejoice each time I see a new place where sawdust has been used rather than burned! Why in the world more use of it is not made is beyond my understanding! Why waste something of value when we can use it to advantage? And thereby lessen the hazards of fire?

Taking Picture Of Supreme Court Is Suggestion

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., (AP)—Kent Cooper, executive director of the Associated Press, suggests that Press photographers seek permission to photograph the U. S. supreme court in session.

Lesser courts might be influenced by the granting of permission, Cooper said.

He told the National Press Photographers association: "I caution you that the picture itself might not be newsy, but the mere silent taking of it in the august room by permission would be widely acclaimed as news."

Most courts in the nation bar photographers.

Cooper was awarded the association's Joseph A. Sprague memorial award for a non-photographer.

The citation commended Cooper for his part in the development of wirephoto, thus promoting the recognition and advancement of press photography. Wirephoto is a coast to coast leased wire network over which photographs are transmitted to Associated Press member newspapers.

The Sprague award is in memory of Joseph A. Sprague, a Graflex, Inc., executive who died two years ago.

Bill McMillan of the Kosciuszko, Miss. Star Herald, received the association's \$100 first prize for the best photograph of the year. Second prize of \$50 went to Jervan W. Baldwin of the Des Moines, Ia., Tribune and Register. Charles Hoff of the New York Daily News received a \$25 third prize.

Masons Slate Dinner

Members of York Rite Masons, Ascalon commandery and Laurel chapter, are making plans to entertain their wives at a joint dinner Tuesday, June 13, at 6:45 p.m. at the Masonic dining hall.

According to Sam Warg, who made the announcement Saturday, preparations for the dinner are in charge of the Masons. "This will be no potluck affair," he said, "the women are going to enjoy themselves." He added that a program will follow the dinner hour.

Milner Denies Saying Solomon Was Communist

WASHINGTON, June 10.—(AP)—Lawrence A. Milner, an Oregon State employee, denied Friday he ever said Federal Judge Gus T. Solomon of Portland, Ore., was a Communist.

"I never knew Mr. Solomon as a Communist. I never said he was a Communist," Milner testified before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Judge Solomon's nomination by President Truman is being considered by the committee. The judge is serving on the federal bench now under a temporary (sine vacante) appointment.

Milner testified after Daniel C. Mahoney, a Portland federal law clerk, reiterated previous testimony linking Solomon with Communism.

Mahoney told the committee Monday Solomon is a Communist and quoted from data he said he got from Milner, one-time special investigator of Communist activity in Oregon.

Judge Solomon after hearing Mahoney's testimony earlier in the week told reporters "there's no truth to it."

Mahoney testified today: "It is my firm conviction that Mr. Solomon for the past 15 years has been an active member of a group whose primary purpose is to destroy our form of government and make it similar to Communism."

He said he gained his information from reports Milner made to the Oregon adjutant general between 1936 and 1940. He said he had obtained the reports from Milner who knew he intended to present them to the committee.

Willy Schmitz German Champ For Fasting

FRANKFURT, Germany.—(AP)—Willy Schmitz is a 48-year-old German who would warm the heart of any boarding house cook.

Nobody has to set the table for Willy. He's been fasting for 43 days now in an effort to set a new world record for going without food.

All Willy gets are four bottles of soda water and lot of cigarettes each day and he's as pleased as a man with a T-bone steak.

Willy, who styles himself as a "hunger artist," is set up in a glass cage in the Frankfurt zoo. He does his fasting under the sharp eyes of Red Cross nurses. A doctor visits him every day and makes a thorough physical examination weekly.

So far Willy has lost 58.5 pounds, and he has 10 more days to go. He wants to set a new record at 53 days, and already claims the existing record.

Willy says he first went on his hunger endurance stunt in 1926 and did without anything but his smokes and soda for 48 days. Then in Luxembourg he did a stretch of 20 days but pulled the big one off in 1949 in Krefeld, Germany. He fasted for 50 days.

How does a man feel who has been going without food in a glass cage for more than a month?

Willy patted a stomach as lean as a piece of picnic bacon and smiled wanly.

"I'm a little weak," he said. His manager, Hans Schneider, frowned in concern.

"Willy sleeps very little. But he's in good shape. He's a phenomenon."

The phenomenon moodily pulled on a cigarette and watched a small girl munching a sausage. He looked hungry.

Farm Dwellers Show Water Saving Methods

Cities are learning that they as well as farmers have to conserve water. And they're planning to use methods much like those by which irrigation farmers have long picked up excess water on the downhill side of their fields and used it on other fields.

City industrialists who use large quantities of water for cooling, in refrigeration and air conditioning systems, may have to return that unconsumed water to deep wells so that it can help replenish the ground water supply.

decisive" tank commander, Mezhitian had been awarded the Order of Lenin and other high Soviet decorations. He had served in the Soviet army for 18 years and had been a member of the Communist party since 1941.

State Patrolmen At Strike Scene

MORRISTOWN, Tenn., June 10.—(AP)—State highway patrol reinforcements were ordered to the strike-bound American Enka Corp. rayon plant today in the wake of new violence called "the worst yet" in the ten-week-old dispute.

The company said automobiles of workers leaving after the midnight shift change were waylaid by a mob of "75 to 100." One car was overturned, a man was injured and a procession of about 12 automobiles was stoned while halted by a barricade, reported T. W. Berman of New York, a company lawyer on the scene.

The incident followed by less than eight hours the withdrawal of the last 100 of more than 300 national guardsmen sent here May 29 to preserve order following other flareups.

At Nashville, state Adj. Gen. Sam T. Wallace said he was told all available highway patrolmen were being rushed to the Morristown area to supplement the eight patrolmen assigned here. He estimated the number of reinforcements at 35. A highway patrol dispatcher at nearby Kingsport, Tenn., said 15 men from that division had been ordered here.

TOP RED DEAD

MOSCOW, June 11.—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Ivan Mezhitian died here suddenly today.

Characterized as a "daring and

Fiery Crash Fatal To Auto Racing Driver

ATLANTA, June 12.—(AP)—Skimp Henshaw, auto race driver, died today 12 hours after he was thrown from his flaming car into a pool of blazing gasoline.

The 37-year-old St. Augustine, Fla., driver had sat in the flames yesterday, stunned and helpless, for about five minutes. All his clothing except underwear burned off before firemen could get to him.

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