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TALE OF THE POOR FISH

By CHARLES V. STANTON

The Oregon Fish commission is hopping mad because escapement of a fluid used in refrigeration at Detroit dam on the North Santiam has destroyed brood salmon held at the hatchery. The entire year's cycle of salmon, it is feared, has been destroyed.

Perhaps the commission can realize now how we feel here on the Umpqua about the removal from the river of salmon eggs representing not one year's cycle but a full five-year life span of spring chinooks.

More than 34,000,000 spring chinook salmon eggs were taken by the fish commission from the Umpqua river system, with 24,000,000 eggs being transferred to other streams from 1914 through 1919, a five-year period. Transfer of salmon from the Umpqua to other watersheds continued until 1944.

Today the Umpqua river's spring salmon run faces extinction. Responsibility for the river's plight must be placed in large part at the door of the fish commission, which not only robbed the river of its fish population, through transfer of eggs, but permitted excessive commercial fishing to deplete the few remaining fish.

Compared to the officially sanctioned destruction on the Umpqua river, the tragedy on the North Santiam pales into insignificance.

In fairness to the commission, it should be stated that the present administration is working along more scientific lines than the earlier commissions responsible for the Umpqua's ruin and has eliminated many of the destructive practices of past years. Through scientific studies the commission has learned a great deal about management of the fishery resource and now is endeavoring to do a good job of conservation.

FISH POPULATION ENDANGERED

The incident on the North Santiam resulted from inexcusable negligence. Workmen responsible for releasing ammonia into the stream could have obtained from any scientist information concerning the lethal effects of the fluid. Now the river apparently has suffered not only the loss of a full year's salmon population, but many other game fish also have been destroyed, while it may take several years for aquatic food life to rebuild.

Oregon has long been known as a fisherman's paradise, but the days of that reputation may be numbered. Many influences are at work to destroy the sports fishery.

Our own Umpqua river is being damaged by siltation resulting from the Copco hydroelectric projects. How seriously this siltation will affect future fish runs cannot be determined for several years. It is a certainty, however, that it is far from beneficial, as it smothers eggs and destroys bottom feed. This condition should be largely eliminated with the completion late this year of the regulating dam at Soda springs. Next year, however, we probably will be getting siltation from road construction in the Steamboat area.

But siltation is not confined to the Umpqua alone. It is to be found in many of our rivers of western Oregon where flood control projects, multi-purpose dams and other construction activities are in progress. Many streams have had much worse conditions than the Umpqua.

DAMS KILLING OFF FISH RUNS

Siltation, however, is not the only factor detrimental to fish life. Much publicity has attended failure of temporary fishways at McNary dam, stranding thousands of salmon on their upstream migration in the Columbia. Prospect for other high dams in the Columbia and tributaries predicts the doom of migratory fish runs in the upper waters of that great stream. Promises were made of a fish sanctuary on the lower Columbia below McNary dam. Plans were to transfer, by means of hatcheries, the upper river migrations to the lower tributary streams. Efforts now are in progress to install hydroelectric plants on the Cowlitz and Deschutes rivers, two of the best spawning streams of the promised sanctuary.

We find more and more water being appropriated for irrigation and domestic uses. In fact, James Vaughn, district game supervisor, reports that water rights on the South Umpqua river, if exercised simultaneously, would take more water than flows in the stream.

Limited in water area available to them, and with volume of flow greatly reduced, fish also must contend with industrial waste from canneries, pulp and paper mills, untreated human sewage, mill waste and other types of pollution.

If fish survive all the abuse they have received and are receiving through official ignorance, commercialism, negligence, carelessness, monumental engineering, industrialization and competition for water usage, it will be a miracle.

We at least have good reason for the saying, "poor fish."



MENDING BASKET
Viadnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

"This is one way to hold the paint brush." Mrs. Edna Helgeson, (Myrtle Creek) who specialized in Art, suggested a while ago to the other teachers of Douglas County chapter A. C. E., as better way than arbitrarily insisting that the child hold the brush only in a certain way. "Do it this way." A child is thus left free to experiment, and doubtless will in time decide for himself that the teacher's way of holding her paint brush is all right for him, too. There is a real value to the child in letting him express himself freely as he learns by doing. And there is a good hint in this thought for parents, too, isn't there? I just came across the item in my little looseleaf notebook all ways in my purse. Another jotting

from Mrs. Helgeson's talk (she was reporting on her trip to Seattle where she went as delegate to the International Association for Childhood Education) was this pithy definition of a workshop meeting: "A place where mature minds pool their problems, contribute ideas, then take home and share what they have received." Another jotting from my notebook is J. C. Penney's rules for success, as summarized in Life magazine not long ago when items about Mr. Penney were much in the news: "Preparedness, hard work, honesty, confidence in men, appeal to the Spirit, the Golden Rule." My notebook also reminds me of a librarian's contribution to a workshop meeting for librarians



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

By ERIC JOHNSTON
Economic Stabilization Administrator

WASHINGTON — During the past year, we have made great strides toward our goal of adequate strength to meet the threat of aggression. Despite this magnificent progress, the hard pull in our national defense mobilization program still lies ahead of us. Probably two years will be required to get us over the hump.

One part of our job is to build up our armed strength. To do this job we need more men under arms, more and better weapons, and more capacity to produce the hardware of war.

The decision to build up our armed strength was the decision of all the American people. It was not made by a few officials in Washington. In facing the threat of Communist aggression, we all realized that aggressors respect only force and we knew we must be strong if we wished to remain free. Aggressors talk in terms of firepower and we must be prepared to translate our determination to survive as an independent nation into language they will understand and respect.

Another part of our strength depends on our capacity for production and the efficiency of our industrial machine. Our people have a demonstrated genius for mass production. Management, labor and the farmer have the know-how to produce in large volume. An it's that knack which counterbalances communism's superiority in manpower.

In order to keep our industrial machine operating at a high degree of efficiency, we must have economic stability. That means we must preserve the value of the dollar. We need a stable dollar so that when the Congress appropriates money for the armed forces, it can do so with the assurance that the dollars it provides will buy the required number of guns. We need a stable dollar so that when the worker contracts for a certain wage, he will be assured a measurable standard of living. We need a stable dollar so that when the housewife sets out for the market she will be able to buy the things she needs.

Normally, we have been able to rely on our high volume of production to preserve the buying power of our money. The fact that we have been able to mass-produce quality merchandise of all kinds has made goods available to the consumer at prices he can afford to pay. Production is the antidote to inflation.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page 1)

to order men into certain death. The responsibility of life and death should be given ONLY to men of the highest moral and intellectual quality. The West Point code of honor is designed to produce men of that caliber.

The West Point honor code is based upon certain principles. When he enters, a cadet accepts these principles.

Briefly, they mean that he does not lie, cheat or steal. His word and his signature must be above question. The honor system is above personal friendship. Each cadet knows that he is honor bound to report any violation of it that comes to his attention.

That's what it takes to be an officer and a gentleman.

Is that bad? I don't think so. This would be a better — A SAFER — nation if more of us were bound by that same code of honor.

One more point: At the moment, I don't know how many cadets there are in West Point. But their total number is many times 90. The code is administered by the cadets themselves, through what is known as the cadet honor committee.

That means that the remainder of the corps put HONOR above personal friendship and personal association and enforced the principles of the code against those who broke them.

One more thought: As affairs are drifting now, we'll all have to make up our minds sooner or later as to whether we want General Eisenhower for president. Many are opposed to the idea of a military man in the White House.

Personally, in this crisis in our national career, I'd rather take a chance on a man schooled in the code of the military cadet than on a politician trained in the cynical code that ANYTHING GOES so long as it gets you elected.

When the Korean war broke out in June last year we did a lot of panic buying in anticipation of shortages. And we've paid the price for that fear and speculative buying. In the past 18 months, price increases have cost American consumers some \$22 billion. Every one percent increase in the cost of living adds \$2 billion to the consumer's bills. We've had an 11 percent increase and that adds up to \$22 billion.

On top of that, higher prices have taken one dollar out of every five we have paid in taxes, because of added costs of inflated prices in the rearmament program.

Reader Opinions

Damage From Kraft Mill Told From Experience

ROSEBURG — (To the editor) —After reading your editorial, "Let's Face Facts," I wonder if you have considered the real damage from a pulp mill in this area. At one time I lived about 35 miles from a Kraft mill. That far away the fish in the river died. They assured us that there would be no damage. After that the value of our property was cut almost in half that far down the river. Within a few miles of the plant the paint on the houses was ruined. These fumes — "odors" you call them — are also harmful to the lungs.

Please print this letter and see if you can find anyone in this area or county who is willing to sacrifice millions for one of the nation's lowest paid industries.

If you are interested in our fish and property as you say, it would be wise to investigate Kraft mills and conditions around them before you take their word for it.

FRANK M. KEES
Rt. 2, Roseburg, Ore.

A Tule cyprus in Mexico, 36 feet in diameter, is believed to be older than any of the California redwoods, often referred to as the world's oldest living things.

Clowning Around . . .



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