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GRANT LAND SQUABBLE

By CHARLES V. STANTON

We are hearing and reading a great deal today about O. & C. grant lands, converted lands and national forests. Many factors are contributing to current controversies. Some of these factors apparently involve political motives, as they are being kicked around as a political football by persons seeking public office. Advocacy of radical changes affords a good publicity vehicle.

Failure to clarify certain issues, particularly management of converted lands, is particularly damaging to local economies in some of the land grant counties, especially here in Douglas County. A meeting held this week to consider management problems was unsuccessful. It appears there can be little relief until Congress, which has been dilatory in correcting the situation, gets down to realistic action.

It is possible that some of our readers, newcomers in the area, are not acquainted with the basis for dispute, hence a brief explanation may be in order.

In the year 1869, to encourage settlement in this area, the United States government granted to the Oregon & California railroad company alternate sections of lands for a distance of 30 miles on each side of the right of way, with the provision that the lands be sold to settlers at \$2.50 per acre. The purpose of the grant was to help the railroad company finance construction of its rail lines and thereby promote settlement. It was found that some of the land originally granted the railroad company had been claimed by homesteaders and squatters. Subsequently the government extended the grant another ten miles on each side, rather than displace occupants of the original grant.

Lands Reclaimed By Government

Because the railroad company withheld some lands from sale, and charged more per acre for some sections than authorized by the act, the government, in 1916, after litigation, reclaimed the unsold portions of the lands. Provision was made for paying the railroad company for the reversioned land at the specified price of \$2.50 per acre, and, after a showing by counties that reversioned was stripping tax rolls of money previously paid by the railroad company, Congress enacted legislation authorizing payments in lieu of taxes. Later this provision was amended to provide that counties should receive 50 percent of revenue until debts against the grant had been discharged; that after retirement of the debt counties should receive 75 percent of revenue. The debt was paid off last year.

Congress now is reluctant to give the counties the additional 25 percent, pointing out that the federal government is expending large sums of money on roads, bridges, management, fire protection, etc. Several alternate proposals have been made. One would provide a 50-50 distribution after all expenses had been paid. Another would reduce the share paid counties to 30 percent. The Association of Land Grant Counties, proposes to settle for 50 percent of the gross revenue.

Converted Lands Sore Point

In contrast to the 50 percent of revenue paid counties from O. & C. lands, with 75 percent now owing, the U.S. Forest Service pays only 25 percent. This has resulted in a ticklish situation relative to converted lands, the 10-mile strips later added to the grant. The U. S. Forest Service claims jurisdiction over lands intermingled with national forests. The Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, also claims title and jurisdiction. Congress has never settled the dispute. In the meantime management is a joint proposition between the two agencies and is serving, locally at least, to handicap access road construction.

Revenues from timber sales on converted lands have been placed in a separate fund, awaiting settlement of the jurisdictional dispute. The fund now amounts to more than 5 million dollars. If the lands should be awarded to the Forest Service, counties would get 25 percent. If, on the other hand, administration goes to the BLM, counties would have a claim to 75 percent.

Lane County has instituted legal action to force distribution of the fund. Communities are demanding settlement of the converted lands issue. Much publicity has been given a proposal that the grant lands be surrendered to the State of Oregon. Politicians are riding various proposals as a means of gaining publicity. Congress is reluctant to free frozen funds or to pay sums in amounts due the counties. It is torn by disputes over proposals to consolidate forest administrative agencies. Altogether it is quite a mess.



If Bonnie had been commanded by some stern-faced adult to do what I just watched her do spontaneously, no doubt she would have collapsed in the doing. With two inches of snow, slush, and a steep hill to navigate in her mother's boots — dear me, why wear her own if she could borrow her mother's? — what did the eight-year-old do but pick up Skip, the fat black terrier, in her arms, and lug that heavy dog all the way home.

How like that child we grownups are, too, at times, aren't we? We do hard tasks with spontaneity and find no fatigue because we want to do them! Or enjoy doing them. But oh, how we can sigh over a task nowhere near as tedious or difficult or strenuous, perhaps, if it is a "must" and we don't feel in the mood!

A wise mother of four daughters, a former neighbor, constantly

Where the Dawn Comes Up Like Thunder



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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

WASHINGTON—It is interesting, on occasion, to compare current events with the past. Sometimes it shows up

early in the day ordered Admiral Dewey to get steam up and strip his ships for action.

"If no further word is forthcoming from your government inside of four hours, the President will order Admiral Dewey to set sail for Venezuela immediately to take whatever action is necessary."

"With that, my father withdrew from the German embassy. In about 2 1/2 hours the American minister to Venezuela reported that the German fleet had pulled up anchor and was pulling out to sea."

"At the turn of the century, when the United States was far smaller and far less powerful in the family of nations than we are today, we had one outstanding factor in our favor—we had the courage to speak out and demand our rights."

Interesting, isn't it? Maybe it could give Mr. Truman a clue to "what can you do" in a case such as kidnapping of American nationals—that is, it might if under his administration we had the courage to speak out and demand our rights to which Mr. Loeb refers. Apparently we don't have.

Hear Fulton Lewis Daily On KRNR, 9:15 P. M.

Arkansans Aid Penniless Arab To Get Schooling

JONESBORO, Ark. — Things are looking up for the young Arab who appeared here for the "free" education he thought had been promised him.

The Jonesboro Rotary Club voted Tuesday to underwrite his tuition of \$300 at Arkansas State College for a year.

An unidentified couple offered to let him live in their home until March 1.

A Jonesboro business man, whose name also was withheld, offered financial assistance to the tune of \$50.

The 20-year-old Arab, Shukri Mohammed El-Khatib, arrived at Arkansas State Tuesday after a journey from his native Israel. Shukri started the trip as a result of a mistake. He read a prospectus from Arkansas State in which life on the campus was described as "full, free and friendly."

"Free" meant only one thing to Shukri. He sold a small farm for \$400 and used the money to come to Arkansas State for a "free" education.

O.E.A. Meeting Held Recently In Jr. High

The Douglas County unit of the meeting was held in the Roseburg Junior High School library Saturday with President Mrs. Margaret McGee presiding.

Music was provided by Darrellene Carter, Riddle High School sophomore at the piano, and Arlene and Darlene Botsford, Dillard School, who played accordions.

The budget was approved during the business meeting.

A committee was appointed to study county division in a move to reduce teacher travel by selecting centrally located meeting places.

Mrs. Margaret Kimmel, public relations chairman, gave a report on work in the county.

Betty Parrett, secretary, read

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page 1)

when the mercury drops below minus 45 reduced visibility at night to about 30 feet.

"Because of the difficulty of starting cold engines, drivers are keeping their motors running 24 hours a day. . . If deliverymen tarry with a load of groceries, they have apples as hard as rocks, eggs that smash like glass and canned goods that freeze and bulge the container. . . Cans of beer freeze in less than 45 minutes."

Why print all that frigid stuff? Here's why:

When we hear of somebody who is more uncomfortable than we are, it makes us all feel better. That is why newspapers print and radio stations broadcast news of rough weather ELSEWHERE. Aren't people funny?

They're funny in so many ways. They'll do little mean, tricky, selfish things and then they'll go out and GIVE THEIR LIVES in some noble and unselfish cause. Whatever you do, don't sell people short.

Another one for the books. Sunday morning, Tom Waters and I were out shoveling snow off our front walks. The white stuff was coming down as if Old Mother Goose were picking all her ganders at once. When we got within hailing distance, what do you suppose we did?

We leaned on our shovels and spent a half hour chewing over ways and means TO SAVE SOUTHERN OREGON'S WATER. At that moment, water was running out of people's ears all along the Pacific Coast.

Well-I-I-I, let's keep our sense of balance.

At Klamath Agency, they have a cross-cut of an 800-year-old pine tree whose rings tell us that at more or less regular intervals during all those eight centuries wet cycles and dry cycles have alternated but in one period back in the 1700's there was a drought that lasted 65 years.

All over this Western country of ours, water is the basis of all of our wealth. How to use our water to the best advantage is the biggest problem we have.

an invitation, which was accepted, from Myrtle Creek teachers asking the association to meet with them. The joint session will be held March 12 at 6 p.m. All executive committee members are asked to be present, and all O.E.A. members are welcome.

Reports of the Representative Council meeting, recently held at Reed College, Portland, were given.

It was decided to hold an all-county meeting at Roseburg in April. The time, date and place will be announced later.

In Person

SKINNAY ENNIS

and His Orchestra

Thursday Jan. 24
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

JOHN'S CURVE

On Highway 99 South, 2 Miles North of Myrtle Creek

ANNUAL FIREMAN'S BALL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

At The
Community Hall Sutherlin

Music by
Billy Hamelton
AND HIS DIXIELAND BAND

Dancing from 9 'til 12:30

Admission: \$1.50 Couple
(including tax)

Sponsored by the Sutherlin Voluntary Fire Department

MAKE SURE

your best hired man won't quit!

ALLIS-CHALMERS

SALES AND SERVICE

FARM & INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT CO.

PACIFIC HIGHWAY NORTH DIAL 3-6266

SPECIAL DANCE

Friday, January 25

FEATURING
Joe Massey

Heard Over KRNR Weekly, Joe Powell and the

OKLAHOMA MOONSHINERS

You'll enjoy dancing to the music of the MOONSHINERS and laugh at their rollicking activities on the bandstand.

ADMISSION: \$1.50 Couple
(tax included)

Dancing from 9 'til 1

Kennedy's Dutch Mill

2 Miles South of Roseburg on Highway 99

INVENTORY TIME

AT UMPQUA VALLEY HARDWARE

from
Monday, Jan. 28 to Thursday, Jan. 31.

Do Your Hardware Shopping Now!

Umpqua Valley HARDWARE

202 North Jackson St. Dial 3-6628

Re-open on Friday, Feb. 1