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CHARLES V. STANTON Editor
EDWIN L. KNAPP Manager
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MORE POWER TO 'EM

By CHARLES V. STANTON

A reader of *The News-Review* spoke disparagingly, in a letter recently published on this page, of the project being undertaken by the Roseburg Junior Chamber of Commerce to provide a juvenile fishing area along Deer Creek.

There can be no disputing some of the facts presented by the writer. Deer Creek is worthless for a summertime fishery. It becomes stagnant and polluted. But the Jaycees propose to do something about it and, if they succeed, they will be performing a service of extraordinary importance.

The Jaycees are fully aware of the problems posed by the writer. They know that the stream will have fishing value for only a comparatively few months under existing conditions. But even in those few months it will be possible to provide lessons in sportsmanship and conservation to many youngsters.

Junior Chamber of Commerce members have contacted all affected property owners. They are extremely grateful for the cooperation shown by land owners in granting permission for juveniles to cross private lands within the fishing area.

If the project does nothing more than create respect for property rights it will be well worth while. Viewing the vandalism and abuse of property rights throughout the county, it is obvious that if the stream can be used for no more than a month, and if youngsters learn lessons of good sportsmanship, the scheme will have fully justified its promotion.

Stream Improvement Planned

Deer Creek once had abundant fish life. It carried a summertime flow of clear cold water. Early settlers tell of salmon and steelhead runs in such volume that the stream was black with them as they crowded one another out of the water. Deer Creek is one of the thousands of exapples to be found in Oregon of the abuse of watersheds and the destructive effects of our carelessness and negligence.

Because of poor farm and forestry practices, the stream carries a tremendous volume of silt — rich topsoil — in its winter floods. In the summertime its flow is reduced to a mere trickle. Water is polluted and stagnant. The stream bed is littered with all kinds of garbage and refuse.

The Jaycees plan to carry on a program of stream improvement and rehabilitation. It is not a program that can be achieved in one year or even five years. It is one that will take many years. It can be accomplished, however, if the organization has the perseverance to stay with it. To accomplish the restoration of a stream as badly abused as Deer Creek would be an achievement which might be of outstanding inspiration for an improved water policy for all of Oregon.

Deer Creek Not Hopeless

Deer Creek is not a hopeless stream, insofar as possibility exists for rehabilitation. It has a comparatively small watershed. The upper watershed has not yet been too seriously damaged. The greater damage is to be found in the lower levels. Through planned water conservation policies the stream can be rebuilt. These same policies, if given cooperation by the land owner, will prove extremely profitable through reduction in erosion, preservation of topsoil, improved subirrigation, and better values for submarginal acres. The program must include reforestation of acres best suited for growing forest crops. With the coming of the pulp industry, the farm woodlot will be in a position to yield annual revenue. The wise land owner today is planting his submarginal ground to trees, because he will be able in the near future to start harvesting a crop of more value than could otherwise be procured from other use of the land. Every tree grown in the watershed will increase the volume of water flow in Deer Creek, will serve to slow run-off, thus reducing erosion, while putting more moisture into the soil. The program will require better ground cover, construction of trickle dams in small tributaries, stream bed cleaning and clearing, and many other improvements.

It is not an easy task nor a quick one. It will take years to achieve. But there is no reason it cannot be accomplished. If the Jaycees are successful, they will have, through their efforts, trained hundreds of children to be true sportsmen with a respect for the rights of property owners, improved productive quality of the agricultural lands of the basin, helped land owners in developing a new source of income, reduced erosion losses, and turned a dirty, filthy summertime stream into an all-year freshwater playground.

Perhaps that sounds fantastic. We assure you it is not. Similar miracles have been performed elsewhere. More and more streams are being rehabilitated in many parts of the country today. Some were or are far worse than Deer Creek. The Jaycees can do it if everyone will lend a hand.

More power to them, we say.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET
 by **Vahnett Martin** - P.O. Box 874, Drain, Ore.

It's hard to believe we could have any more winter weather when a day like today gives us all spring-fever. Such a heavenly day! For two weeks now there has been a flock of robins, a big flock, making our lone oak on the skyline seem all blossomed out in birds. The bulbs have buds. All I needed today was a handful of pussywillows. The sunshine brought out three of my nearest neighbors, so I enjoyed a little visit with each.

The Steimüllers were out watching a streak of vapor whizz across the sky from north to south. We couldn't see the plane so it wasn't a skywriter. Did you

see the trail it left, like a long narrow ruffle all ready to be sewed on? Mr. S. thought it was some kind of a rocket. But the young man hauling rock to our driveway was sure it was a jet plane. Well, it was fascinating to watch and think about: man's dominion over gravity—as long as the engine keeps operating!

The school bus balked this morning, so Rufus Pfister summoned aid by telephone. (He has been driving a school bus for twenty years. "Hauling the second generation.") Merry-o was one of the eight or nine cars that shared the precious load usually carried in the bus. EJ picked up the nearest



NEW HEADQUARTERS — Mrs. O. E. Amundson poses at her desk in the new office of the Camp Fire Girls, which was moved Tuesday to Room 2, Masonic building. The office formerly was located in Miller's Store. (Picture by Paul Jenkins)

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON — The Army Quartermaster Corps, with an assist from several pork barrel-minded congressmen, has demonstrated again that it will soon surpass the Army engineers in the art of acquiring cash from Congress for boondoggling purposes.

Since 1947 the QMC has been heckling the House Appropriations Committee for funds to construct a research center at Natick, Mass., about 30 miles from Boston, despite the fact that both the military and private industry already operate numerous testing centers for Army clothing and supplies.

QMC started out by asking \$5,760,000 for the Boston research center, which will be known as the Institute of Man. In 1951, as a result of pressure from House Majority Leader John McCormack of Massachusetts, and other members of the state's congressional delegation, QMC was authorized to spend \$11,000,000 for the project. Actually, the research center will cost from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 to complete, construction experts estimate.

The expenditure is unnecessary. In fact, the basic planning for the project got off to such a ridiculous start that economy-minded Appropriations Committee members thought they had it licked for good. The first survey in the Boston area for a land site resulted in a fiasco. Construction engineers selected a site as ideal but had to change their minds when warm weather arrived. They had decided on a swamp area that looked fine until the thaw set in.

QMC has a large research center at Philadelphia. It also has the use of other government research centers, such as the Bureau of Standards in Washington. Philadelphia is centrally located insofar as Army clothing mills are concerned. It has adequate transportation facilities and housing. To move research efforts to Natick would require construction of homes for 600 families. It would also require construction of a spur railroad line and perhaps a new airfield.

The Philadelphia QMC installation is valued at many millions of dollars. Laboratories there test chemicals, plastics, leather, and textiles, and include a fully equipped dye house capable of dyeing small production lots of any type of cloth, either for research and development or for the manufacturing division of the depot. There is a general laboratory, also, which does basic research on bacteria, mold, and mildew for the entire Defense Department.

QMC insists that it needs the new research center so that it can bring all of its testing efforts under one roof. It also has other ideas about the center, which appear somewhat removed from its basic function of supplying fighting men with clothing and equipment. Here is a sample of what the Institute of Man will be if QMC has its way:

The Quartermaster General will conduct basic research on all aspects of the relationship between man and his environment. Man is frequently the weakest link in a military operation conducted under extreme environmental conditions. All environmental conditions will be studied at the Institute of Man. This research will consider the psychological as well as the

children, Bonnie, Barbara and Tommy, and kept on until the car was packed full. Guess he had fun. When Bonnie learned that he was at last about to complete the job of getting our blinds up, she remarked approvingly: "That's good. Now we won't have to look at an old bare house any more."

Living on the south slope as we do, with no trees near, it was a choice of shutting out the sun and view with shades or curtains, or having slatted blinds. But I don't like venetian blinds! Too much like bars. And dust catchers! What's the use of having windows if we are going to cover up the glass? But come summer, and the sun blazing in, I guess I'll let the blinds stay down, very thankfully.

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Belgian Cabinet Out; King Snubs London Funeral

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The Social Christian Government of Premier Jean Van Houtte was defeated in a vote in Parliament Tuesday over King Baudouin's decision not to attend personally the funeral of King George VI of Britain.

A Socialist-Liberal motion expressing regret at Baudouin's action and blaming the government was not presented as a vote of confidence, however. The vote was 91 to 84 with one abstention.

Young King Baudouin has depuized his 17-year-old brother, Prince Albert, to attend the British King's funeral.

The Socialist Newspaper *Le Peuple* said the decision "will surprise and distress" Belgians. It said the government tried to persuade the King to change his mind.

One explanation is that Baudouin did not want to go himself because the Prince of Wales, now the Duke of Windsor, instead of King George V, attended funeral services for Belgian King Albert in 1934.

Another explanation was that Baudouin resents British criticism of his father, the abdicated Leopold, for surrendering to the Germans in 1940.

BAKER LEADER DIES

BAKER (AP) — Joseph Jacob Heilner, 74, the man after whom Baker's air field was named, died here Monday after a brief illness. A native of Portland, he was an attorney here for 54 years. He was active in civic and fraternal affairs.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
 (Continued from Page 1)

good authority that it is already back to half the normal height of a rain. One of the main bridges on the Santa Ana River, they chortle, was so thoroughly washed out in a minor cloudburst that no single trace of it was ever seen again. Searching parties were sent out to look for the wreckage, but no dice. Not so much as a splinter of it was ever found.

They then go on to tell you that in the same year, over in the upper end of the Imperial Valley, 20 miles of railroad track suffered the same fate. Not even the rails ever turned up. They are supposed to have been buried in the sand washed down by the swirling waters.

Old timers, questioned on the subject of current rainfall, shrug their shoulders deprecatingly and aver that shucks! this isn't anything at all. Why, they say, you should have seen it when it really used to rain down here.

They relate that away back in 1916 there was a rain that really was a rain. One of the main bridges on the Santa Ana River, they chortle, was so thoroughly washed out in a minor cloudburst that no single trace of it was ever seen again. Searching parties were sent out to look for the wreckage, but no dice. Not so much as a splinter of it was ever found.

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I hope that story is told over and over and over again down here this winter. We'll remind them of it if and when they start making sheep eyes at OUR water.

As to the political talk, it is all on the Presidential side, so far. There is plenty of it. So far, at least in the places where I've listened, it is free from rancor. It is largely on the Republican side, as it seems to be taken for granted that Truman will either run himself or will dictate his successor.

There is almost no talk AGAINST any of the four Republicans whose candidacies have been more or less formally launched. That is to say, people tell rather freely why they are for whomsoever they are for, but spread no poison about the others. You hear it widely said that any one of the four would make a good President.

There is plenty of backing in California — as there should be — for Governor Warren, but there is also a lot of outspoken talk for General Eisenhower. He seems to command, in California, as elsewhere, the faith and the confidence, and the trust of large numbers of people. Senator Taft has a large following in all the casual talk one hears. There is little mention of Stassen.

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