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GIVE NATURE A HAND!

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Some of our readers may think we've gone completely "off the beam" when we contend in this column that Deer Creek can be rehabilitated.

Deer Creek was once a "live" stream. It had substantial summertime flow. It was an important hatchery and nursery stream, contributing production from many miles of spawning beds to the fish population of the Umpqua River system.

Deer Creek was wrecked by abuses. It now carries silt-laden wintertime floods and runs almost dry in summer. It is seriously polluted.

But it is entirely possible to correct the damage we have done, to restore water retention facilities, to rebuild the productive capacity of the stream and to make the process of rehabilitation pay off in dollars and cents.

We do not belong to the school believing that man can control, in entirety, Nature's floods. Deer Creek always will flood in winter season. It always has. It is possible, however, for us to reduce the peaks of those floods. More important, we can — and without much trouble — materially reduce the amount of silt carried by the floods. Lessening the volume of abrasive material in flood water lessens erosion, for it is abrasive action that causes damage.

By causing water to soak into the soil, instead of hurrying off to the sea, we can fill the underground reservoirs from which seepages supply water during dry months.

Examples Found Elsewhere

In many parts of the country streams far worse than Deer Creek are being restored through proper land, forest and water management. The unfortunate thing is that we "never miss the water until the well runs dry." We allow destruction to continue until great damage has been done. Then we spend millions of dollars to correct our mistakes.

Because Oregon has an abundance of water, we feel that we can go on wrecking and ruining indefinitely. Few people stop to think seriously of the deterioration of our streams. But pause right now and think of the condition of small streams with which you are familiar and then compare them with their status only a few years ago. We crab and gripe about the depletion of fish life, but are we connecting that depletion with the destruction of natural hatchery and nursery streams?

For a score of years incendiary fires regularly set fires in the basin of the South Umpqua River. Thousands of acres of timber lands were damaged. Deterioration of the South Umpqua River as a sports stream dates from that period of incendiaryism.

Why?
Arthur H. Carhart in his recent book, *Water or Your Life*—a book loaned to us by Harold Schmeer, and one which every person interested in conservation should read—has collected data from a number of experiments pertaining to water runoff.

Burns Cause Water Losses

You will doubtless recall the Santa Anita Creek fire in Southern California. For four months after that fire, according to Carhart's report, that stream carried from 20 to 67 percent volume of sand and ash, while an adjacent stream, Fish Creek, flowing from an unburned area, had a negligible amount of silt. On another test, a burned forest area had 28 times more runoff and 10 times more silt than a neighboring unburned tract. Forest litter on unburned ground will absorb from five to six times its weight in water. When litter is destroyed by burning, the water runs unimpeded to the nearest drainage.

At Spur, Texas, water runoff was measured from an experimental tract. Land with grass cover had a runoff of 1.04 inches or 5.2 percent. Planted to cotton the land had 2.09 inches of runoff or 15.4 percent. The runoff on fallow ground was 4.09 inches or 20.3 percent. In another test a cottonfield, in which furrows were ploughed with the slope, had a runoff of 7.53 inches; a field with contour plowing had 4.7 inches, while a field with closed terraces had no measurable runoff.

At Boise, Ida., ungrazed land covered with bunchgrass sod had a runoff of 0.4 percent, carrying 6 pounds of soil per acre. The same type of land, heavily grazed, had 25.5 percent runoff, while 2,017 pounds of soil per acre were carried away through erosion. An adjoining tract, subjected to maximum overgrazing, had 60.8 percent runoff, while siltation amounted to 15,280 pounds per acre.

We can easily understand from the few tests reported by Carhart, who offers many more as evidence, why Oregon's streams are suffering—why Deer Creek and the South Umpqua River "ain't what they used to be." We also can understand how they may be rehabilitated. It is a simple matter of correcting abuses and giving Old Mother Nature a little deserved co-operation.



It was ten minutes to noon this morning (Saturday) before the sun burned through the heavy fog. I am sure that the water fog we had down in Long Beach, only there wasn't any fragrance from an oil refinery held down in it. Nor any soft coal soot as there used to be in London fogs. It reminded me of a recent letter from the editor-publisher of the Long Beach Independent, to whom I had sent a clipping of this column in which I quoted his editorial about how, we, the people, don't really elect our president.

Says Editor Collins: "I was quite pleased to find myself quoted in your column... note you are a former resident and presume you don't take the fog so you moved to Oregon. We cannot say anything

Sitting Up With a Sick Friend



Fulton Lewis Jr.

WASHINGTON REPORT

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

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the House of Representatives are getting more work out of the Democrats this session than House Speaker Sam Rayburn has ever been able to do.

At the start of this session of Congress Republicans set a policy of attending all committee and subcommittee sessions in full strength. In several recent instances Republicans have outnumbered the Democrats present at committee meetings. If it continues, this will be painful to the administration, when the various committees vote on the numerous appropriations bills before them. To forestall such an administration disaster, Democrats are being forced to attend committee meetings. This includes even the New York Democrats who hardly ever stay in Washington for Congressional business.

Republican House members have in fact, agreed to vote against any increase in funds and against any increase in personnel for any government agency. By sticking together, and with better than average chances of picking up Democrat support in some instances, the GOP budget choppers feel now that they can stop President Truman's Heavy spenders in their tracks.

In a recent instance the Civil Service commission sent a representative to a subcommittee hearing with a proposal to take over some of the minor investigative work now handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI is bogged down with several hundred thousand investigations of bricklayers, carpenters, etc., who are employed on government projects. Consequently the FBI has little time left for its major assignment — keeping track of subversive elements inside the U. S. A.

With five Republicans and only two Democrats present at the session, Civil Service officials encountered a barrage of questions concerning the additional cost and the number of new hands that would be required if the switch were undertaken. Civil Service could not come up with satisfactory answers as subcommittee members sent them back to their agency with instructions to get the answers.

GOP members are convinced that Civil Service can do the job without any extra funds. They are sympathetic to the idea of taking the load off the FBI, although most of them admit they would feel more secure if the FBI continued the work instead of handing it over to a less experienced agency.

The point, however, is that at this juncture of the current session of Congress, Republican members are sticking together on budget trimming efforts and are attending all committee sessions wherein money matters are discussed. Plans are already made for a similar attack on money bills in the Senate. This is part of the strategy formulated by Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, new GOP minority leader. He has already demonstrated his ability to hold Senate Republicans in line on important votes.

or another, or has visited there.) I remember standing on Brighton Beach some years ago before the Navy and the shipyards took the Island over, when the wind was blowing the sand to beat every-thing. Some destroyers were anchored close in. They were hustling to up-anchor and get out of there. One destroyer lost its anchor — plates as we watched — yanked right out of its side. No wonder they called them "tin cans"! But oh, what we owed to them in the war!

When a meteorite struck the earth at Chubb Crater in northern Canada, ripples in the bed rock, 35 to 50 feet high, were raised as much as two miles from the crater.

Retiring OPS Boss Given Pat

WASHINGTON — Michael V. DiSalle, the little fat man from Toledo, Thursday neared the end of 14 months' service as the nation's price boss with a farewell pat on the back from President Truman for a good job done by "a wonderful guy."

Further, the President told DiSalle, "I hope you will succeed in helping the Democrats to retire a distinguished senator" in Ohio this fall.

Truman referred to Sen. John W. Bricker (R-Ohio) whom DiSalle hopes to unseat. The former Toledo mayor quits the price post Friday to go home to Ohio to begin his campaign for the Democratic senatorial nomination. If he wins that, he'll oppose Bricker in November.

The President spoke briefly in a surprise appearance at a testimonial dinner given for DiSalle by about 900 persons.

He said that DiSalle's efforts had made the price post "a bed of roses" for Ellis Arnall, ex-governor

of Georgia, who is awaiting Senate confirmation to become the new OPS chief—probably next week. Arnall attended the dinner and was introduced.

Malayan Reds Slay Three Police In Ambush
SINGAPORE — The British superintendent of Malayan police and two other police were killed Tuesday by a Communist ambush in a remote area of Selangor.

R. H. Jesse, 32, the superintendent, was travelling with a party of European government officials when their semi-armored truck was stopped by a fallen tree.

Twenty full armed terrorists lobbed grenades into the truck, killing the police.

A British police lieutenant and a Malayan corporal were wounded seriously.

The attack was similar to the one in which Sir Henry Gurney, British high commissioner, was killed last Oct. 6.

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