The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1946, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879

CHARLES V. STANTON — Editor
EDWIN L. KNAPP — Manager

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, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, $10.00; six months, $5.50; three months, $3.00. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, $12.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month, $1.25 Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, $11.00; six months, $6.00; three months, $3.00.

NOT FANCY, BUT GOOD

By Charles V. Stanton

One of the members of our party, engaged last weekend in a tour of the California Oregon Power Company's North Umpqua project, remarked, "I never believed it would be like this."

He had seen several of the huge federally-sponsored power developments, and, visiting the North Umpqua job for the first time, had expected it would be similar. He was amazed by the difference.

We have commented previously about how the North Umpqua's power potential would have been harnessed under federal direction. The country is ideal for the type of project the government boys adore.

The North Umpqua river, ages ago, was dammed by lava flow, possibly at the time Mt. Mazama erupted to form Crater Lake. Through long centuries the river ate into the barrier. It found a fault along the edge of the lava flow and there it cut a deep canyon. Rock formations are entirely different on one side of the river than on the other.

The gorge is from 1,000 to 1,200 feet deep. The walls are almost perpendicular. It would have been entirely possible and feasible to have built a dam 800 to 900 feet in height from wall to wall and to have impounded water creating a huge lake covering thousands of acres of densely timbered land. That, undoubtedly, is the way the job would have been done by the government.

Low Dams Divert Water

Copco's plan, however, utilizes low dams entirely. The highest is 58 feet, except a regulating dam of 126 feet. Application was made for a 25-foot dam above Toketee Falls to store water for the Toketee project, the first unit to be built, but such a request was too much of a shock for the federal crowd. They couldn't stomach the idea of such a puny little dam when there was room for one of their beloved monuments. They insisted it be built to at least 75 feet. It was eventually compromised at 58 feet.

Instead of a massive dam feeding one enormous generating plant, Copco has a number of small dams diverting water to eight units, which John C. Boyle, chief engineer and the engineering genius behind the development, refers to as "peanut plants," comparing them with the huge federal generators. Copco's units are strung out for more than 15 miles along the main river. One is to be located on Clearwater River, a tributary of the Umpqua. Water is carried as much as five or six miles in flumes and canals to powerhouse sites. The project is spread over many miles of rugged terrain. Water from streams such as Fish Creek and Clearwater, has been diverted from its natural course. A part of the flow from each stream is transported from five to six miles in flumes, emptied into clay-lined forebays at the edge of the precipitous gorge, then turned through steel penstocks, anchored to concrete foundations set in the canyon wall, and poured through turbines 1,000 feet or more below. Brought far upstream from the original point of confluence with the main river, water from these two tributaries goes on to power downstream units.

Water Level Held Constant

At Soda Springs, last downriver station, water is impounded behind the tallest of all the dams. This 126-foot structure is equipped with an automatically operated valve regulating the flow of water into the river below the project.

When upstream stations are operating at capacity, surplus water is stored behind the Soda Springs dam. Then, when the units are operating at only partial capacity and are storing water in their own reservoirs to be used during peak periods, Soda Springs releases its stored water. Thus water flow in the river is kept constant, within limits of one inch per hour. Prior to this installation, water level fluctuation endangered the lives of fishermen and caused damage to fish life.

Copco's North Umpqua project lacks, at first glimpse, the impressiveness of some of its more aristocratic brethren, but it staggers the imagination when one travels over its vast expanse to see the far-flung system of dams, canals, tunnels and penstocks, and witnesses the work of men hanging by ropes on the face of cliffs as they carve away the rock walls and place concrete structures and steel pipe to transport water to powerful turbines.

Viewed as a whole, Copco's North Umpqua power project is an impressive exhibit of engineering genius and demonstration of the ability of private enterprise to do a job the federal government is endeavoring to appropriate as its exclusive field.

Scraps From the Mending Basket

by Viahnett Martin - P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw him do it. When he told me to try it myself, and it worked with me, well, I still couldn't believe it!"

Drain's expostmaster, Claire Sawyer, laughed, remembering. We had stopped to pass the time of day. He had asked how our spring was holding out, and EJ had said "First rate, but I guess we'll put a well down if we do any irrigating." It was then that Mr. Sawyer was reminded of his own experiences in putting down wells.

"I had heard all my life about witching wells," he said with a chuckle, "but somehow I didn't believe in it. Said I'd have to see it to believe it. Well, my wife's stepfather, Frank Wilson, showed me how he did it, and then handed me the willow stick he had used and told me to try it.

"How big a stick? Well, if I recall it was about 3 or 4 inches long in the stub part, and the two branches were about 6 or 8 inches long. He held the stub and one branch tightly in his hands and walked across the ground. The free branch began to turn down until it pointed straight down 'You'll find water here,' he said. And we did! The first time I held the stick it didn't turn. He told me I wasn't holding it tight enough. The next time I walked with it held very tight in my hands, it turned down just where he had said there would be water."

Mr. Sawyer was amused at my questions. "No, I can't explain it. It doesn't seem possible. . . In fact when we figured on putting down a well on our present place (A St. and 3rd in Drain) well-witching didn't occur to me. But when my stepfather asked me where I figured on putting the well he nodded, and said, yes, there would be plenty of water there. When I asked how he knew he said, 'Oh I witched it.' Well, we got 3,000 gallons an hour there, the well driller estimated."

Pressed for more on the subject Mr. Sawyer added: "My stepfather would even tell how deep you'd have to go for water. I remember out on the other place he measured from where the stick first started to turn to the spot where it poined straight down, and said: "You'll get water here at 18 feet. We got water at 17 feet." Mr. Sawyer shook his head, and laughed. "I don't believe in well-witching. . . yet twice my stepfather was right!"

On Your Mark, Get Set . . .

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 — Next to being accused of advocating world government, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization reacts most violently when accused of being stupid about Communism and Communists.

Actually UNESCO may not have many Communists on its payroll, but there is certainly nothing in United Nations regulations against hiring them. In fact, it seemed almost a requirement, judging by the number of Reds and left-wingers who fled to the UN sanctuary when things got too hot for them on Uncle Sam's payroll.

Many of UNESCO's aims are socialistic and it is constantly offering choice bits of Communist literature to schoolchildren as superior reference reading.

Two of the guiding lights in UNESCO are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Senator William Benton. Benton's views on Communism can be dismissed with reference to his wiggling enthusiasm over Premier Stalin and the possibilities of "good, old Joe" aiding UNESCO in its vast global operations.

Mrs. Roosevelt is a horse of a different color. She constantly berates critics of UNESCO while globe-trotting around the world talking about democracy. She has some peculiar friends, including Alger Hiss, who, in her view, couldn't possibly have done all that thieving for the Soviet Union while running errands for her husband, the late President.

I don't know that Mrs. Roosevelt has ever scanned UNESCO's roster of Reds, but I can give you an idea of what her reaction would be if she ever found any roosting there.

In 1947, an american citizen got alarmed when Mrs. Roosevelt was acting snobbish about the Un-American Activities Committee. The woman, a California resident, wrote Mrs. Roosevelt a letter. She got this back in reply:

"I don't know why you should think I would not like what you had to say. I am always interested in how other people think, and consider that they have a complete right to express themselves.

"You are quite right that I would be interested to see the Un-American Activities Committee investigate Nazis—if they could be found. As long as they are investigating people whom they considered Communists, it would make a better balance, though I really think it might be better to ignore them both and save our money. As to bankers, corporation presidents, etc., I am not in the least interested in having them investigated. I think that idea is just as ludicrous as investigating Hollywood writers.

"I think it is quite possible that a number of people would refuse to answer whether or not they are Communists as a matter of principle. In the Bill of Rights we are given freedom of political beliefs as well as religious beliefs, and unless we advocate the overthrow of our government by force, our beliefs are of no concern to anyone but ourselves. Hollywood people, I am sure, don't want to overthrow our government and I certainly haven't seen anything to that effect brought out by the hearings of the Committee. I am concerned about the rights of human beings, my dear lady, and particularly about the rights which should be preserved by all people in the United States.

"I don't mind criticism at all, and I should be delighted to hear from you at any time.

"Eleanor Roosevelt."

Mrs. Roosevelt's principal concern in UNESCO has been over the Commission on Human Rights. One of the issues voted on by the Commission in approving the report on human rights is the right of anyone to travel at any time in any country. Few of the 60 nations in the United Nations objected to this. They simply ignored it. Russia yawned, the U.S. Congress tightened immigration provisions and banned the travel of homegrown Reds out of the country.

So it goes. UNESCO, prodded by Mrs. Roosevelt and Senator Benton, comes up with new ideas on how to spend our money almost daily. They all sound wonderful to the left-wingers until they suddenly bump their heads against the Iron Curtain. Stalin just won't behave the way they want him to. And the American people are finally getting a bit stubborn, too.

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

Three Plan Livestock Entry At State Fair

Three people from this area plan to enter livestock in competition at the Oregon State Fair Aug. 30, according to the County Extension Office.

One junior heifer, two milking Shorthorns and an Angus cow will be taken to Salem for entry in the contest.

Lloyd Clumper, Canyonville, owns the junior heifer, which is a Guernsey. Junior heifers are those born between Jan. 1, and June 1, 1951.

The two milking Shorthorns are owned by Glen Jones of Camas Valley. Milking Shorthorns are distinguished from regular Shorthorns in that they are bred for dairy purposes while meat production is retained.

Nancy Esslestrom of Oakland will enter the Angus cow. Although it was not entered in the local Douglas County Fair, it is definitely of blue ribbon class, according to the County Agent's Office.

Housewives To Revolt, Support Ike, Assertion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mrs. Ivy Priest, assistant to the chairman of the Republican National Committee, said today the American housewives "are prepared to revolt" and elect Dwight D. Eisenhower President.

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics keeps putting out the bad news of the results of Democratic policy," she said in a statement issued by the committee. "A week ago it reported that the average city family spent $400 more than it earned in 1950. What the bureau did not note was that since then the cost of living index has jumped 19 percentage points, and the purchasing power of the dollar has slipped from 58.2 cents to 52.4 cents."

Couple Travels 1000 Miles To Oregon By Horse

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Perry of Moapa, Nev., arrived in Yoncalla last week after the thousand-mile-trip from Moapa to Yoncalla made entirely by horseback.

They are the son and daughter in-law of Mrs. John Weber of Yoncalla.

Leaving Moapa Valley June 7, with one pack horse and the two riding horses they averaged about 30 miles a day. The weather although hot was perfect for camping and horseback riding. They decided, that after trying most other modes of travel, that this would be the most leisurely and interesting.

ELEPHANTS STAMPEDE

SINGAPORE (AP) — R.A.F. bombings of Communist jungle hideouts have sent wild elephants stampeding into cultivated areas, the Malayan government reports.

Indifferent Attitude Towards Safety Driving Rules Must Undergo Change

By WADE JONES

Somewhere recently we read about a small airplane darting out of the sky to spot a particular motorist tooling down the highway. At the next town the motorist was stopped by the police. The driver's apprehension changed to bewildered astonishment when the cops pinned a medal on him. It was for careful driving.

The plane was one used by the state police to patrol the highways. After watching the motorist in question drive along for several miles, obeying all the rules and driving in a mannerly way, the plane police radioed to their headquarters in the next town that this guy deserved a medal.

They've been doing it for some time, now, and the results are reported fine.

This strikes us as one of the sharpest, smartest approaches we've heard of to a problem we wish we'd never heard of — the mass killing on our highways.

For one thing, the airplane gimmick is healthily positive. We have too many restrictive "don'ts" in our traffic regulations — don't turn left, don't go over 30, don't turn off the bridge or you'll drop in the Quahoosik River.

But instead of more "don'ts," here's a police force that says, in effect, you did a smart job of driving today, and here's a medal to prove it.

That sort of psychology seems from where we're sitting to be the one successful antidote to our dangerous lack of driving manners — the attitude that the smart guy is the one who breaks the rules and gets away with it.

And that goes back to the fact that somewhere along the line we've acquired a whole set of false values regarding our conduct while in the driver's seat.

Everyone knows too well the kind of person who is as gentle and considerate as he can be until he gets behind the wheel of his car. Then something comes over him. His jaws clench, his eyes narrow, his hands grip the wheel And woe betide the driver who crosses his path.

His ordinary good manners completely desert him as he darts dangerously through holes in the traffic line, forces other cars out of their paths, blows his horn, and in general becomes a 160-horsepower bully.

It would probably be oversimplifying to say this too-general failing is all the result of trying to compensate for a feeling of social inadequacy. That may be part of it, but there seems to be more.

Somehow we've gotten sidetracked into thinking that traffic laws are something it's smart to beat — like betting on the horses and winning, or not paying your county tax.

It's that attitude which must be changed if we hope to save some of the more than 30,000 lives which are lost in traffic accidents each year. Just saying "don't" isn't enough. That already has been proved.

So why not try a switch to the positive — a system of awards for good driving? And let's be a little dramatic and original in our thinking and planning on the subject. The cops in the airplane is good for a starter. Let's go on from there.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

and trust will help.

Sign of the times—maybe:

"Flush with good living, members of Hoboes of America, Incorporated, arrived in Hamburg, New York, today for their 44th annual convention . . . In automobile (their own) and by plane, the vanguard of 800 delegates poured in for the six-day gathering in Ed Haas' bar and grill.

"Jeff Davis, king for life of the knights of the road, air and seven seas, said good times have "made our members prosperous."

Along with the speculators, the gamblers and the rest of the inflation-loving, get-rich-quick ilk.

Another sign—of something; I'm not sure what:

Back in New Jersey, the NUDISTS are holding a convention. This time, they broke down and let the photographers in. The picture magazines and some of the Eastern newspapers have gone to town on it.

Don't pay too much attention to the hoboes and the go-nakeders.

They're the screwball fringe.

I suppose all nations have 'em. They make NEWS—but it's the decent, hard-working, save-something-for-a-rainy-day folk who keep civilization advancing.

Cause-and-effect note:

Higher automobile liability insurance rates go into effect in Oregon today. The increase amounts to from $3 to $20 a year MORE for private passenger cars.

The National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters announces the increase, adding that accidents have increased and so have costs of repairs and medical fees.

A point to remember:

Insurance isn't manna from heaven. It's a wise and human modern BUSINESS device that spreads the loss so that the poor devil who gets hit doesn't have to stand it all.

You work and PAY for it. Like most of the things you work and save to pay for, it's GOOD.

But—

The more accidents, the more cost.

Agriculture Secretary Brannan, in a book just published by this department, says man may be losing his age-old battle against insects.

He writes:

"We have more insect pests, although we have better insecticides to use against them and better ways to fight them."

He adds:

"Insects are costing the country approximately four billion dollars a year in damage to crops and property."

Cynical thought:

Is that a build-up for four billion dollars more federal spending?

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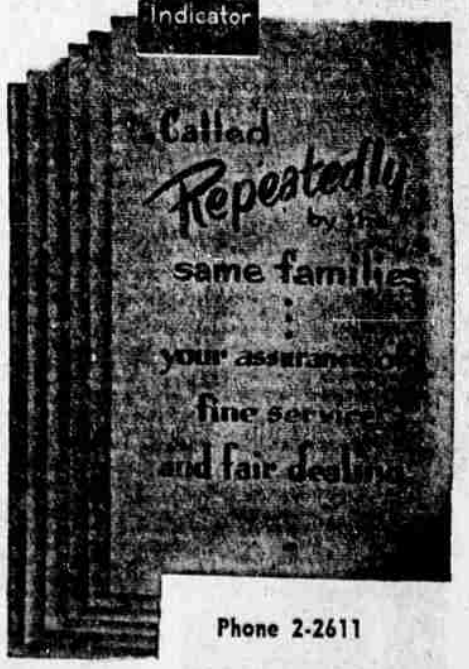

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