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STAGGERING TASK

Charles V. Stanton

The Oregon Water Resource Committee is staggered by the enormity of the task to which it has been assigned. Such is the impression we gather in discussing the committee's activities with General Curtis T. Beecher, Winston, a member of the group appointed by Governor Patterson to conduct the interim study.

A series of public hearings was held recently. Meetings covered every section of the state. At each hearing the committee discovered water problems peculiar to that particular area.

The committee now is having the hearing data assembled. It will endeavor to evaluate the hundreds of ideas and suggestions received.

Putting together the many factors developed at the hearings, it will prepare a report submitting to the state legislature the various problems together with recommended legislation, formation of a commission to manage the water resource, and a program for future development.

Many Changes Necessary

General Beecher tells us that the task faced by the committee is one of great complexity. Just how the whole picture can be presented and a constructive program developed has the committee puzzled.

Knowing the General's penchant for direct action, however, and having confidence in the ability of other members of the committee, and particularly its able and experienced chairman, Lyle Watts, former chief of the U. S. Forest Service, in solving tough problems, we have no doubt that the report will offer a model of good conservation practice.

Present indications are that many changes in Oregon laws and agency structure will be necessary.

Opinion was virtually unanimous at all public hearings that the state should have a permanent water resource commission. The form this commission shall take, the authority it is to exercise and the program it is to follow doubtless will be recommended by the interim committee. The legislature then must enact the necessary laws.

When the matter gets into the legislature we can expect some heated debate.

If we are to have an effective water conservation program, many powerful interests will be affected. Each will have its influence upon legislation.

Agriculture will be vigilant to prevent any invasion of its rights to water for irrigation. If we are to preserve and protect our surface water, we will need amendments to our forestry laws to prohibit injurious logging practices. The logging industry will doubtless combat changes which might add to cost of timber removal. Industry, constantly seeking more water for industrial uses, will be represented in the lobby, as will municipalities needing water for domestic use.

May Take Much Time

Not only must we have a state code for management of surface water, if we are to do a real job of water conservation, but we also must have controls over ground water. We must correct many bad practices of land usage.

A water management program will be costly. We will need large sums of money if we are to build impoundment structures to retain surplus water in wet seasons for use in summer months. The cost of a water program doubtless will add to our taxes.

The enormity of the project is enough to stagger anyone, so it is not surprising if members of the committee are averted by the job ahead.

But, we anticipate, the committee and the legislature will agree that the program shall be developed in comparatively easy stages. Doubtless we will have a commission authorized to attack immediately urgent conditions and to initiate studies into proposed future legislation. Probably some of the law changes, even now seen as desirable, will be postponed to permit time for public education as a means of reducing opposition.

Analysis of all the ideas brought forth at public hearings opens wide avenues for study and research extending over many years. Conflicts between demands for water use will necessitate critical evaluations and possible compromises.

The committee has progressed sufficiently far, however, to see the imperative need for immediate water conservation practices. It doubtless will be able to formulate a policy that will put Oregon well into the forefront of states undertaking a constructive program.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — If you have met with repeated failure in trying to get something from life, do you try to forget your own mistakes?

"Why not, instead, put your fizzes out in the open on a shelf—so you can keep learning from them?"

This theory helped Lloyd Preston Garner, an RCA electronics engineer, to develop the world's most powerful vacuum tube. It took him 10 stubborn years and 2,000 separate fizzes to fail his way to victory.

The new super-tube—it has 2,937 parts—enables the U.S. Navy for the first time in its history to keep in instantaneous touch by wire with any of its airplanes, surface vessels, submarines or land outposts anywhere in the world.

It is also used in secret government projects. It is a big step toward the automatic factory of the future, in which electronic equipment will take the place of many human workmen.

The "fizzle shelf" is not just a figure of speech with engineer Garner, who is also a practical philosopher. The story of his own final success is dramatically told by a four-row glass fizzle shelf in his office which still holds the results of hundreds of adverse laboratory experiments.

"If we allow our failures to discourage us," said Garner, "it can only lead us to a mental graveyard. Our failures are our most potent teachers."

In 1943 Garner, who holds some 25 patents, was given a lab in the RCA plant at Lancaster, Pa., and a mission. The mission was to design and build a vacuum tube many times more powerful than any then known, a tube needed in hush-hush military projects, a tube far surpassing the power requirements of television.

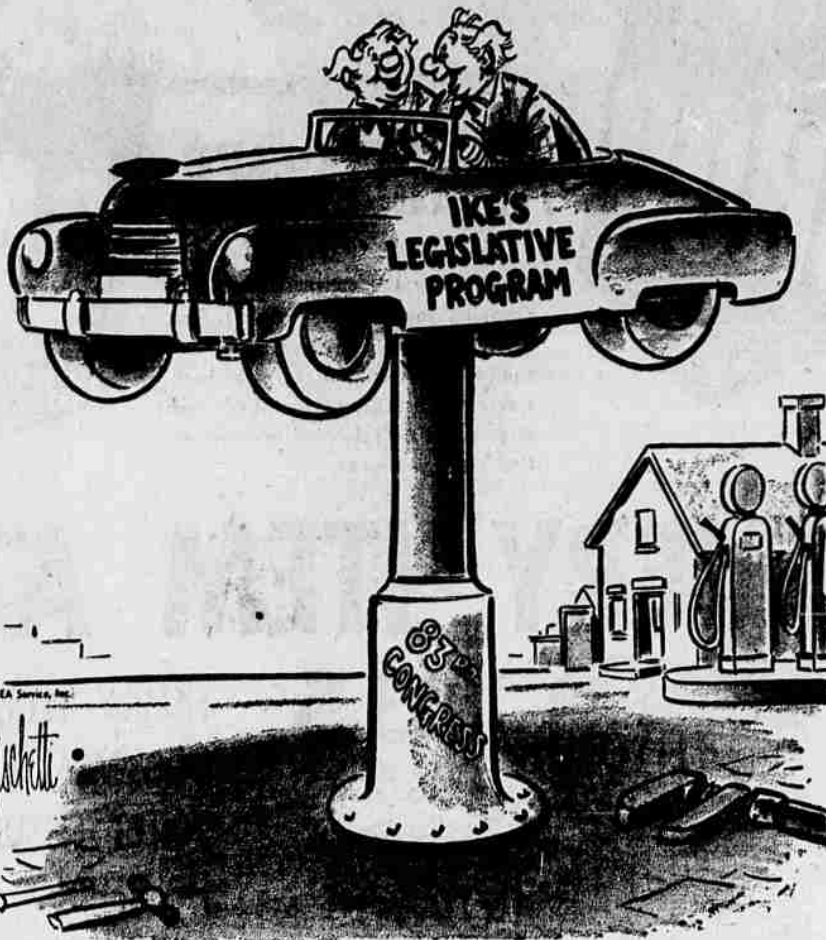
Most of the nine engineers on his staff were freshly out of college and that gave Garner the idea of his fizzle display.

"We were heading into uncharted waters, and I knew rough sailing lay ahead—plenty of it," he recalled. "If I could keep my boys from becoming discouraged, from piling their mistakes under a box, I knew we could make better progress."

"So I built those shelves and started with my own mistakes, accumulated over the years. You'd be surprised how that helped them up. Just getting a look at something that baffled the boss put over the idea, better than words, and in this business your blunders are the stepping stones to success."

But too often mistakes are sealed up in a box. That's what I

"Sure Rides Smooth!"



(Editor's note: "The Baby Wolf Who Would Not Mind" is fourth in the series of Umpqua Indian Legends, told by Mrs. Ellen Crispin of Milo.)

A long time ago a young wolf had a mate. They dug a hole in the side of a mountain. They lined it with furs and thistle-down. They used anything that was warm and soft. After a while five little babies were born. Their eyes and their ears shut tight. Mother Wolf nursed them carefully.

One baby was bigger and fatter than the others. As they grew Mother Wolf told them never to go outside unless she was with them. The big baby wolf would go outside and roll in the sunshine. She took him by the paw and pulled him inside. He showed his sharp little teeth.

One day she took them for a hunt. He was mad because he had to follow behind. "I want to go first!"

Mother Wolf killed a weasel and the babies went up and licked it. She opened it and they ate. The bad little wolf he did not eat.

"His mother said, 'Are you hungry?'"

He said, "I am. I will kill my own. I am no baby."

One day he sat out in the sunshine outside their teepee. He was five moons old. "I will do my own hunting," he said. "I am going away."

He went. He found a wood duck's nest. It was full of eggs.

He said, "Here is where I do something."

He ran to the spring. He stuck in his toe. He went back and sprinkled the eggs. The Wolf he hid behind a tree. Pretty soon old Mother Duck came. She talked to herself. She talked to her eggs.

She said, "Oh! Oh! All wet, all wet. What happened to you?"

The eggs could not talk. The baby wolf came out. He said, "How smart I am!"

She scolded him and asked him why he did it. She said she would tell his mother. "No. You must not tell my mother. She does not know where I am." Old Mother

wanted to get away from it. It's a darn nuisance to dig mistakes out of a box. It's a lot easier to have them out on a shelf where they can haunt you and stimulate you."

Soon there were a hundred new fizzes on the shelf. The number kept growing, but each time Garner told his staff patiently:

"Put your fizzes on the shelf. Then we'll all sit down together and look at it. We'll try to figure out some way we can turn it from a failure to a success."

Some visiting engineers shook their heads on seeing the crowded fizzle shelf. They felt it was almost as unprofessional as if a doctor, for example, should hang photographs of his dead former patients in his waiting room.

Their criticism—some of it vocal—didn't dismay Garner. He still has his fizzle shelf and confidently expects to add to it. It is a guarantee against making the same mistake twice.

"I was taught not to be ashamed of failing," he said. "There is no reason for either shame or humiliation if things don't turn out as you expect."

"Even in simple experiments I'd say we get what we hope for only about 15 per cent of the time. But we wouldn't have the 15 per cent except for the experiments that are 85 per cent unsuccessful."

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Duck told him his mother would soon find out he was thinking of bad things to do. He went along. He was happy that baby wolf. He came upon the crawfish. He said, "Go with me."

Crawfish said, "I cannot walk as fast as you can. I am hungry too. I do not want to go."

Wolf said, "I will catch something for you to eat."

Crawfish climbed up on his head. He rode along until Baby Wolf saw something. It was digging a hole.

He told Crawfish, "Here is something for you. Catch it quick."

He gave his head a big shake. He shook it hard. Crawfish fell off and lit on skunk's behind. Crawfish was scared. He pinched Old Man Skunk on his behind. Skunk was scared. He was hurt. He mumbled that crawfish.

Poor crawfish was sick. He felt sorry for himself. He said, "It was not my fault."

Wolf said, "It was somebody's fault. How did you get here?" Skunk asked Crawfish that.

Crawfish said, "Baby Wolf brought me."

Skunk said, "Where is he? He is gone. I don't think he brought you."

Baby Wolf ran fast. He was very happy. He picked up a hornet. He did not know what to do with the hornet. He met Field Mouse. He said to that mouse, "I have something nice for you. Open your mouth. Shut your eyes. I will put it in your mouth. It is good."

Poor Field Mouse did that thing. He opened his mouth. Hornet stung him many times. He screamed and cried. Baby Wolf laughed. He said that wolf, "The next time you will not believe what people tell you."

He went to Coon's house. "I want some corn," he said to Coon's wife.

She said, "In a little while. I want to put Baby Coon to sleep. Wolf looked around to see what he could do. Finally Little Coon went to sleep. Mother Coon went to get corn. She put it on a maple leaf. When her back was turned he pinched that baby on the ear. The baby began to cry and scream. Mother Coon was mad. She said, 'Wherever you go you always cause trouble. If your mother was not so good we would all sit you off.'

Wolf laughed. He ate the corn. He started out. He would make more trouble, that wolf. He met Bluejay. Bluejay told him where Bumble Bee lived.

"Oh," Baby Wolf said, "I will get some honey."

Bluejay said, "No. You cannot. It is in a hole over the water."

Wolf said, "I will get it. There is no one smart as I am."

He followed Bluejay to Bee's house. It was over the water. He could not get any honey. The bees had all gone hunting. Only the baby bees were there. Wolf could not get down to their house. Bluejay brought him a bill full of honey. It tasted so good he made Bluejay help him up a tree. He crawled on a limb and hung over Bee's house. He got to the honey. He fell off that wolf. He fell in the creek. He cried and he cried. Bluejay was scared. He flew to tell the animal people and the bird people. They wondered how they would get him out.

Bluejay and Raven got the horned owl. He was mad. "What do you want me to do?" That owl said that.

"Oh, Baby Wolf is in the creek. You get him out."

They found Hawk.

Horned Owl could not see good. It was daylight. He told Bluejay to guide him. Bluejay was scared. Baby Wolf would drown. He wondered what old Horned Owl would do. Old Horned Owl swooped down. He caught Baby Wolf by the head. He could not lift him. Hawk took one leg. Raven got another leg. They pulled. They worked hard. They got him on the bank. Baby Wolf could not whine. He was that weak.

The animal people did not know

Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M. C., 4th Oregon District

With the completion of the bill relating to housing, the House has pretty well cleared its slate of big and controversial bills. After acting on one or two more appropriations bills we will take an Easter recess from April 16th to the 26th. After that I hope hearings can be held on my bills (Senator Cordon has introduced identical bills in the Senate) to authorize the construction of the Talent Section of the Rogue River Irrigation and Reclamation Project and on the bills calling for the construction of the two important Willamette project dams—Cougar and Green Peter. I am hopeful also that the House Committee on Agriculture will be able to give consideration to my bill to provide a system of timber access roads to be financed by loans from the Treasury. If committee action can be completed on these bills in the reasonably near future it will be possible, I believe, to get them to the floor of the House before the end of this session.

Favorable departmental reports have been received by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on the bills introduced by Senator Cordon and me which would settle the inter-departmental dispute over some 462,000 acres of O & C lands. The House Committee has already conducted a hearing on this bill and it seems possible that committee action can be taken on it in executive session without further delay. Legislation for the purpose of settling this dispute of long standing has heretofore been controversial as between the two departments, each of which had important Congressional supporters. Now, however, that an effective and satisfactory compromise has been worked out, a final settlement and distribution of funds held in suspense by the Treasury may be made as the result of action on the bill.

The Housing bill, which has just been acted upon by the House, is based upon recommendations made by an advisory committee appointed by the President last year to study the subject. Its basic purpose is to encourage the building of homes by individuals by attaining the following objectives:

First, Maintaining a high volume of residential construction;

Second, Providing a more even flow of home mortgage credit to all areas and assuring flexibility in home mortgage terms to keep pace with general economic conditions;

Third, Placing much greater emphasis on improving and conserving our existing supply of housing through—

(a) FHA insurance programs which will assist repair and rehabilitation work of homeowners provide mortgage insurance for rehabilitation projects, and bring mortgage terms for existing housing up to those applicable to new housing; and

(b) Financial assistance to help the community attack on a new broad basis its overall problem of urban blight and deterioration through rehabilitation and conservation, as well as slum clearance and urban development;

Fourth, Providing mortgage insurance to assist in bringing new privately built housing within the financial reach of a larger segment of our increasing population; and

Fifth, Substituting private sources of funds for Government expenditures wherever possible, especially in connection with the provision of a secondary market for home mortgages.

MEMPHIS (AP)—A proposal that the nation's vast agricultural surpluses be stockpiled in all parts of the nation, as emergency food in case of attack, won quick approval Wednesday from farm scientists and industrialists.

The proposal was made by Wheeler McMillen, chairman of the board of the National Farm Chemurgic Council, at the council's annual meeting here.

Dr. G. E. Hilbert of Washington, chief of a division of government research attempting to find uses for surpluses, said he sees no technical reason why the food can't be stored.

Other council delegates said the idea would solve two problems—feeding disorganized populations scattered over the countryside in an atomic attack, and utilizing "embarrassing" quantities of surplus foods.

McMillen, editor in chief of the farm magazine, Farm Journal, proposed stockpiling food in caves, burying it deep in the ground, or using any other available storage methods.

The caves, he said, would prevent stores from becoming contaminated by radioactivity. He said he planned to send the suggestion to the White House.

days ago to the new and fearsome poison gas we've just developed. It sounds almost as shivery as hydrogen bombs.)

President Eisenhower put his finger on the real truth last night when he told us it is THE KREMLIN and not The Bomb that is the real threat.

As long as men like those in the Kremlin THINK WAR PAYS there will be war. Before we can be free of the threat of war, we'll have to teach men like that that war doesn't pay.

How? I don't know.

But I'm sure it can't be done by getting scared out of our wits and running for holes and pulling the holes in after us.

Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The great new power of the H-bomb plus the fact that some 280 human beings were instantly exposed to it, has whetted the interest of many people in knowing more about what constitutes a dangerous dose of radiation.

Bomb explosions or not, there is naturally, at all times, a certain amount of "background radiation" in the atmosphere. There have been a number of reports that the Geiger count on background radiation in the U.S. have gone up since the H-bomb tests in March. There have been a number of inquiries at the Atomic Energy Commission on whether there is any new or greater danger to the American people from this source than there was from the A-bomb tests.

AEC has a stock answer for all such queries. It doesn't tell much in detail. It admits that there has been a small increase in natural background radiation in the past month. This radioactivity is said to be still far below levels which are dangerous to animal and plant life. It will decrease rapidly until the radiation returns to its normal, ever-present level.

This normal background radiation comes from radioactive materials in the earth's surface and from the cosmic rays from outer space. A layer of soil one foot deep and a mile square will contain, on the average, a gram of radium, three tons of uranium and six tons of thorium. About six minute cosmic ray particles per minute cross a horizontal surface one inch square.

This background radiation is greater in mountainous regions than at sea level. It may be increased as much as ten times by rain and snowfall which seems to absorb radioactive particles in the air.

Radiation can be measured because it causes damage to the parts of the body through which it passes or in which it is absorbed. This process is called ionization. What it means is that the radiation causes the molecules in the body tissue, which carries no electrical charge, to break down into charged parts called ions.

The unit for measuring the ionizing effect of radiation is called the roentgen. It was named after the discoverer of the X-ray. The definition of a roentgen is so technical that only a scientist can understand it. The simplest thing for the average person is to take the roentgen for granted, like the horsepower or the kilowatt.

In more understandable terms, a routine intestinal X-ray examination exposes anyone to about one roentgen, or 1 r. of radiation. A small skin cancer could be exposed to 4000 r. of X-rays with no effect other than ionization of the cancer cells. But a single exposure of only 400 r. to all parts of the body at once would probably cause death to half the persons who got it.

The maximum safe exposure has been determined to be three tenths of one roentgen a week, indefinitely.

The natural background radiation in the U.S. has been measured as from eight one hundredths to eight tenths of one roentgen (0.08 r. to 0.8 r.) a year. This is obviously well under the limits of safe exposure given in the paragraph above.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission maintains 121 observation stations all over the U.S. to keep a check on radiation count. Any time the radiation fallout from atomic or hydrogen bomb explosion dust gets at all close to danger levels, they'll let you know.

By A. ROBERT SMITH, News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — If you were educated in Oregon's public schools, statistics indicate you are smarter than the average American educated elsewhere.

This is a conclusion of the National Education Association which has launched a drive here to convince Congress that it should enact legislation to improve educational standards throughout the nation.

On the basis of a comparison NEA made of Oregon with the other 47 states, it finds the state ranks near the top in most of the important categories which it says reflect the quality of its school system.

Practical benefits of an Oregon public school education showed up in a comparison of the number of men from all states who flunked the armed forces qualification test during the first year of the Korean conflict. Throughout the country, 16.4 per cent of the inductees failed the test, while of those inducted from Oregon only 2.2 per cent failed.

Only two states showed a better record than Oregon: Minnesota, 1.3 per cent, and Utah, 1.9.

At the other end of the scale, over 50 per cent of the South Carolina inductees flunked. And seven other states—Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia—showed one out of three inductees failed.

Developing a case for national control of raising educational standards in all states, NEA points out that wartime manpower burdens fall most heavily upon the states with the least educational deficiencies, while the states with the lowest standards supply a lesser number of men for the armed services because of the high number rejected on educational grounds.

Oregon's high standards were reflected in the following NEA comparisons:

1. Adult Americans (25 years or older) on average have attended 9.3 years of public schooling, while in Oregon the average is 10.9 years. Only Utah could say that its citizens averaged a full 12-year high school education or its equivalent.

2. Oregon ranked eighth behind Utah, California, Nevada, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado and Massachusetts.

3. 11 percent of adult Americans never got beyond the fifth grade, but in Oregon that percentage is only 4.3 percent, second only to Iowa. Worst offender is Louisiana, which NEA figures show have one in every three adults with less than six years schooling.

4. With 6.8 percent of its adults having had at least four years college, Oregon topped the national average of a percent. California ranked first with 8.1 and Arkansas last with 1.1.

5. Teachers' salaries averaged \$3995 in Oregon in 1953-54, \$3606 in the U.S. and \$1741 in Mississippi, lowest state in the country in this respect. Led by California with \$4600, 11 states pay higher than Oregon.

6. The high wartime birthrate which has aggravated teacher shortages has meant that one in three elementary school teachers in the U.S. had less than a four-year college education. In this respect, Oregon's standards suffered, for 43 percent of its elementary teachers had less than four years. This condition ran as high as 99 per cent in South Dakota, as low as 2.5 in Arizona.