

The News-Review

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FROM THE MAIL BAG

Charles V. Stanton

The editorial mail bag is an exasperating thing. Each day we must sort through a hundred or more pieces of mail to find perhaps four or five containing something of interest. Most of our mail goes in the circular file. We discard the many letters from chiselers, endeavoring to promote free advertising under the guise of an item of news interest. There is usually a flood of speeches by politicians, industrial magnates and others, trying to attract headlines. Letters from all kinds of organizations are numerous. And we get circulars, magazines, trade organs and various other pieces.

Occasionally we find a letter from a subscriber, an item or two of business mail, etc., but such gems are far in the minority.

At rare intervals we find something of interest, such as the discovery reported by the Industrial Forestry Association:

Oregon and Washington lead the nation in the vast quantities of "Material X," an amazing substance found within their borders.

Material X, which renews itself almost as rapidly as man uses it and for which new uses are constantly found, could be one of man's greatest boons and benefactors.

Material X has great natural strength and it is competitive in price with other materials intended for the same use. Its resistance permits it to absorb shocks which might rupture other materials. It has fine insulating qualities.

It can be produced in large sizes when large sizes are needed. It can be as readily worked into items of exceptional delicacy. It stands up ruggedly under abuse. When protected from moisture it will last indefinitely. Left in its natural state it offers an infinite variety of beautiful patterns. Painted, it presents a smooth, attractive, enduring surface. Its cellular structure causes it to absorb and deaden sound. It responds to the simplest of tools, and may be used repeatedly. It is relatively light in weight.

If Material X suddenly came from the researcher's laboratories or out of the scientist's test tubes and crucibles and reports, it would be acclaimed by all the world as the greatest discovery of man since the wheel.

The average Oregonian and Washingtonian is so familiar with it and takes it so for granted as a very part of his daily life, he probably didn't recognize the description of the most plentiful of all resources of this region, the amazing substance called wood—Material X.

Recreational Value Of Forests

A letter from the Oregon State Motor Association brings information that 4,075,000 visitors were attracted during 1953 to recreational facilities of national forests in the Pacific Northwest.

Quoting Mr. Ray Conway, manager of the association, the bulletin states that the 1953 usage of the forests was a considerable gain over that of the previous year, when 3,810,000 visitors were tallied. For the nation as a whole, it is stated, national forests during the past year drew 35,400,000 visitors.

The bulletin summarizes that this over-all total is an increase of 7 per cent over 1952 and 97 per cent over 1941, the highest pre-war year. "It shows the tremendous popularity of the forests, though it does not include an estimated 90,000,000 sightseers who drove over forest highways to enjoy forest scenery and spectacular views," said Conway.

Dedicated To "Friendly" SP

One little gem comes from a subscriber—the kind of mail we really appreciate.

This subscriber reports a conversation heard at the "Friendly" Southern Pacific ticket window in Roseburg. "It seems to me," said a traveler, considering a trip on the Nightcrawler, "that your rate of six cents a mile is nothing less than extortion."

"Well," said the alert ticket agent, "I'll admit it's a lot of money to pay, if you think of it by the mile. But just think how cheap it is by the hour—only about a dollar and a half."

Hal Boyle

By EDDY GILMORE
For Hal Boyle

GENEVA (AP) — Always a city famed for international intrigue and just plain spying, Geneva today has a cloak and dagger atmosphere rivaled by few cities in modern times.

The reasons are obvious: The Swiss are neutral and intend to remain that way. However, they are interested in just about everything and everybody.

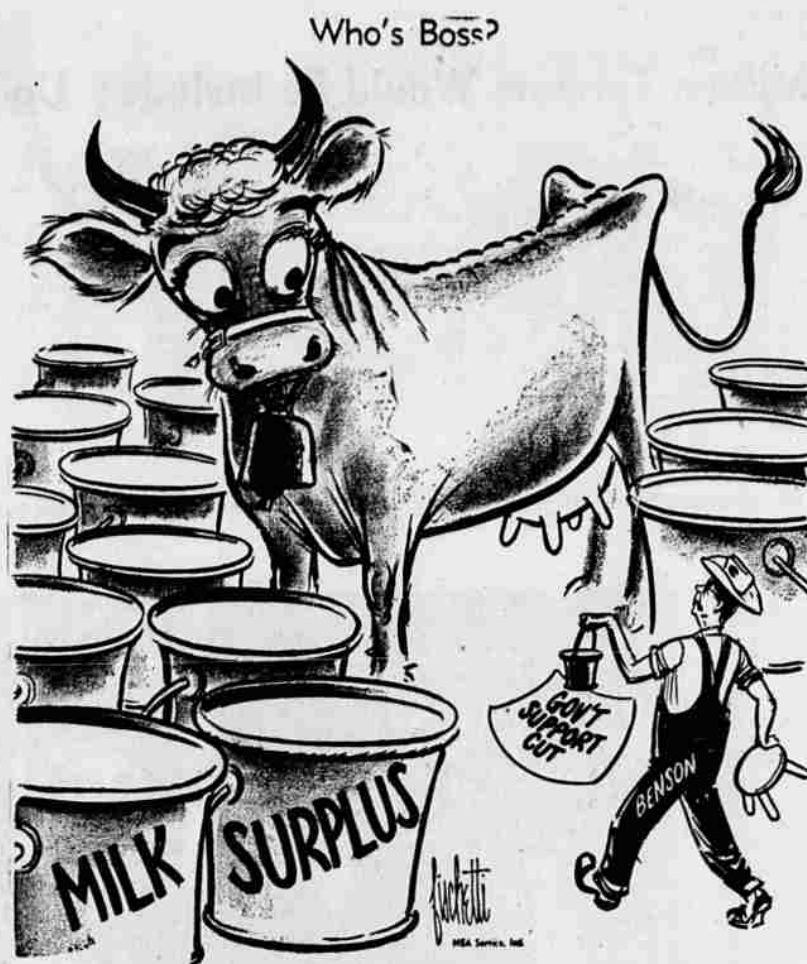
The Russians are here by the scores and one can be sure their intelligence and counter-intelligence corps are well represented. Late in the arena of international politics, the Red Chinese and the Koreans obviously have their gunboat squadrons. And the fact that Geneva has plenty of anti-Communist Chinese and anti-Communist Koreans is making them all ultra careful.

The British and French are quieter with their spying and counter-spying, but this does not mean they are less effective. The Americans can certainly be said to have their cloaks, if not their daggers, hanging in the dark halls of this city by the bright blue lake.

Strange things are happening and there is a whisper behind the potted palm of every hotel lobby. A high-placed delegate went to see another one. They had confidential matters to discuss. The man who made the call was surprised when he saw five men in the room—the man he'd come to see, and four others.

"It's all right," said the host, "We can talk in freedom." As the caller opened his discussion, each of the four unidentified men in the room marched to a corner, unfolded a newspaper and began reading aloud. This presumably would fool up any recording device.

While the two principals talked the four men kept reading. When they finished, shook hands, and said goodbye the four men folded their newspapers and walked quietly away.



Peter Edson

Editorial Comment

MARKET FOR FUN Industrial News Review

There is a huge market in this country which doesn't seem to have been given as much analytical attention as it deserves. It can be described under the highly inclusive word "fun." An article in the June issue of Fortune by Doro J. Saunders and Sanford S. Parker subjects that market to extensive examination.

The American people are spending something like \$30,000,000,000 a year on leisure and recreational activity, which is half as much again as we spend for either clothing or shelter. There are, of course, two obvious reasons why so vast a sum should be spent in this fashion. First is the shortened work week, which has given more people more free time—in 1929, the Fortune article says, the week was nearly 50 hours long, while now, leaving out agricultural workers and overtime, it averages about 40. This trend has been accompanied by a sharp rise in paid holidays and in the number of people receiving vacations with pay. Second is the dramatic jump in average family income. In 1929, writes Messrs. Saunders and Parker, only 20 per cent of family units were in the over-\$4,000 bracket (expressed in terms of 1953 dollars) and they accounted for 54 per cent of all income. Last year, by contrast, 45 per cent of these units took more than \$4,000 and their share of total income was 72 per cent.

Even so, the authors point out that the consumers' leisure preferences "are strongly influenced by habits, by social trends, and by other factors that have little connection with how much time he has or how much money is in his pocket." And the market's movement in late years bears that out. For even as the total market has shown a great growth in dollar volume since World War II, expenditures for some items which are part of it have declined either actually or relatively—hard liquor and movie admissions being examples.

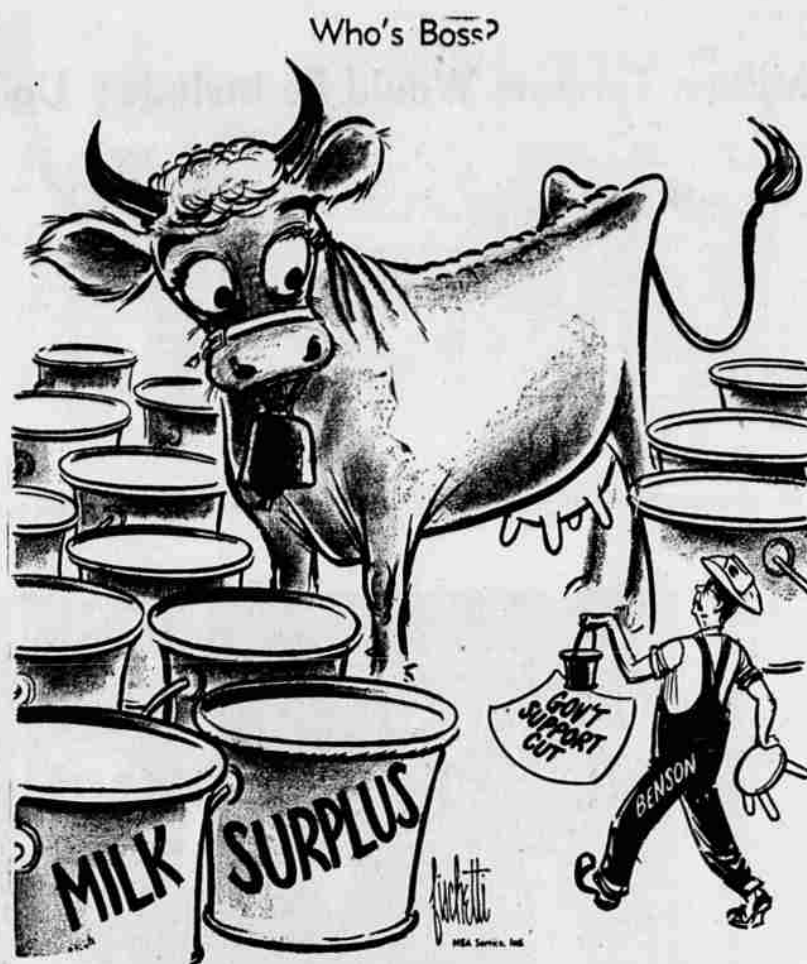
The authors divide the market into two parts. First are the most obviously recreational activities—travel for fun, games and sports, and so on—which account for \$18,000,000,000 a year. Their second classification includes spending for alcohol, casual eating out, television, radios, records and musical instruments, which totals \$12,000,000,000. This second group, they say in effect, is more or less static, taken as a whole. It is the first group that the great growth has taken place and that the major potential for future growth exists. There are, however, exceptions here, and it is found in the fact that more and more people "itch to do things rather than sit and watch." Thus, between 1947 and 1953, total amusement (except for horse racing, which involves the additional element of gambling) slumped, even though consumer income and all the other important recreational factors rose, in some cases very materially. By contrast, the spending for the infinitely diverse things people can actually use with their own hands—golf, balls, hunting and fishing gear, boats and motor, home power tools, photographic equipment and so on—all soared. So did spending for mobility, in the form of auto expense, and train, plane and bus fares.

As for the future of the leisure market, it can be influenced by too many economic factors in and outside itself to make safe predictions possible. But it won't be surprising if it zooms on.

SEEK REFUGE

GUATEMALA (AP) — Five more critics of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman's regime were reported to have sought refuge in Latin American embassies here after an official report had been uncovered.

Who's Boss?



Eisenhower Presents First Major Change In Control Plan For Columbia Basin

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Eisenhower administration has dispatched to the governors of the Pacific Northwest states a detailed proposal for making what it terms "the first major change in the main control plan for the Columbia River basin."

The plan is in two parts: (1) a Corps of Engineers proposal previously outlined publicly for construction of the Bruce Eddy and Penny Cliffs dam on the Clearwater River in northern Idaho; (2) a Bureau of Reclamation proposal, not heretofore publicized, for construction of two dams in the middle Snake River below Hells Canyon.

The latter part of the plan becomes the highlight of the overall scheme because it is related directly to the controversial Hells Canyon argument which is bearing its first anniversary in public hearings before the Federal Power Commission.

Here is what the administration has asked the governors to approve in order that the plan can be sent to Congress for authorization.

The Bureau would build two dams in that stretch of the Snake above the confluence of the Salmon River and below Hells Canyon. The first would be a 158-foot dam at the Mountain Sheep site, and the second a 402-foot project about 20 miles upstream at the Pleasant Valley site. This latter dam would back slack water right up to the Hells Canyon site.

This plan is designed to be adaptable to either of the Hells Canyon schemes — either the high dam or the three smaller projects proposed by Idaho Power Co. But the benefits from the two newly proposed dams would be greater if the high Hells Canyon dam were built, according to the report to the governors.

Integrated with the high Hells Canyon dam, Pleasant Valley would have an installed capacity of 720,000 KW and Mountain Sheep would have 300,000 KW, the report states. If integrated with Idaho

Power's three dams, Pleasant Valley would generate 630,000 KW and Mountain Sheep 250,000 KW.

This difference of 140,000 KW by which the former scheme would exceed the latter is attributable to the greater water storage in the high dam as compared with Idaho Power's Brownlee project — 3,800,000 acre-feet vs. 1,000,000 acre-feet.

The report made it clear that the two Reclamation projects plus the two Engineers projects were not being considered by either agency as a substitute for high Hells Canyon dam. The report declared that the addition of these projects "whether or not the high Hells Canyon dam is built" will "give more flood control storage than was provided by the Snake area" in the present main control plan.

"This additional flood control storage can all be utilized to advantage, the governors were informed. They were told it would help make up for the 2,000,000 acre-feet of water storage that Sen. Guy Cordon (R-Ore.) has proposed to eliminate from the downstream John Day project in his bill by which Portland General Electric Co. would jointly finance the project."

"The proposed reservoirs will increase the firm power output and the economic benefits attributable to all of the dams downstream, namely, the four authorized dams on the lower Columbia River, John Day, The Dalles, McNary and Bonneville dams," the report said.

This four-project scheme is designed to avoid major clashes with fish interests, for it would leave clear the Salmon River which is considered the main upriver spawning grounds. One feature is to allow for a future diversion tunnel from the Salmon River to the Pleasant Valley dam, but this would not be undertaken at the outset.

The report mentions tying an irrigation project, presumably in Idaho, to the Reclamation Bureau dams but does not detail this proposal.

Dogs Ruled Out Of FHA Benefits In Home Loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has ruled out any more government insurance of loans for such things as tennis courts, dog kennels and other home "luxury" items.

This ruling was announced Friday by acting FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason, who said in a statement:

"Uncle Sam unfortunately has been underwriting the financing of items which lend themselves to selling abuses and which most certainly are not basic to the livability of American homes."

The Eisenhower administration and two congressional committees have been investigating alleged abuses under FHA's home repair and modernization program. Several members of Congress protested during hearings that the program never was intended to furnish government insurance of loans for such "extras" as barbecue pits and swimming pools.

Mason announced at the same time that a public hearing was being arranged for June 14 at which Hurlon C. Bovard would be permitted to answer charges that he failed to perform satisfactorily his duties as FHA general counsel. Bovard has refused to resign and has been placed on leave.

134,344 Civilians Now Off Federal Payrolls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Byrd (D-Va.) said today the Eisenhower administration accomplished a net cutback of 134,344 civilian federal employees between July 1953 and May 1954.

Byrd, chairman of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures, said in a statement that federal employment—not counting men in the Armed Services—averaged 2,335,296 during April, a drop of 4,841 from the previous month.

He said April was the 21st consecutive month of falling federal employment and all except 44 of the April net decrease took place in the Defense Department.

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REVIVAL MEETING

June 6 through June 13

Garden Valley Community Church

★ EVENING SERVICES 8 P.M.

★ SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 10:45

Services Conducted by Rev. Raymond Connors

Rev. Roy Hull, Pastor

Guillaume Takes Place Of Gen. Ely

PARIS (AP) — Gen. Augustin Guillaume, former resident general in Morocco, has been named chief of staff of France's armed forces. He succeeds Gen. Paul Ely, the nation's new political and military chief in Indochina.

The appointment was announced Friday by Premier Joseph Laniel's office. It said the cabinet had approved the new assignments of both Ely and Guillaume at a meeting Thursday night.

The posting of Ely to his double-barreled Indochina job leaked out shortly after the cabinet session. He succeeds Gen. Henri Navarre as commander-in-chief and Maurice Dejean as French commissioner general.

In Saigon, Dejean described Ely as "a great soldier and a great patriot."

There was no word of Navarre's reaction to his replacement. The government has not indicated any new assignment for him.

Three Steeplejacks Fall 150 Feet; One Lives

BOLTON, England (AP) — Three steeplejacks fell from a 150-foot chimney here Friday. One of them died and the other two were injured.

Arthur Willis, Edward Vaughan and Gordon Ainsworth were cutting old stonework from the chimney top. One stone fell through their platform and sent them hurtling to the ground.

Ainsworth and Vaughan perished but Willis, after plummeting 130 feet, clutched a rope that ran the chimney's length and slid to the ground. He suffered burned hands.

Reader Opinions

Thalia Players Express Thanks For Cooperation

ROSEBURG — On behalf of Thalia Community Players I wish to express our thanks to those who gave their support toward our recent play, "Blue Spirit."

We are grateful for newspaper and radio publicity and to all the many firms and individuals who helped with contributions and services. Especially our thanks to the responsive audience which made our play possible by its presence and support of this non-profit, civic organization.

ANN OGDEN
Publicity Chairman
Thalia Community Theater
Roseburg, Ore.

WAR PRISONER ESCAPES

HANOI, Indochina (AP) — The first French officer to escape his captors at Dien Bien Phu and flee through enemy territory has reached Hanoi.

Lt. Raymond Makowiak, 32, said he survived on corn and rice sneaked to him by friendly natives during his long trek through rugged mountains and jungles to the little post of Nam Bac.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

ter than the man who drew the bowstring to his ear and AIMED the arrow. It wasn't the American squirrel rifle that licked red-coated Pakenham at New Orleans back in 1815. It was the MAN BEHIND THE SQUIRREL RIFLE who really did the job.

In all our flurry over modern machines and modern weapons let's not forget that is MODERN MAN and the quality of him that will tell tale.

More from the teletype: The British liner Queen Elizabeth is due to be a steeper vessel next winter, despite the worst sea can do in the way of a storm. She will be fitted with stabilizing fins which extend and retract through the hull beneath the water line.

What of that, you ask? It's like this: The flat fins, thrusting out from her sides, will stabilize the big Queen and keep her from rolling so wildly.

If you're a landlubber, you may ask: "What of that?" If you'd ever been seasick in a big way, you wouldn't ask. You'd know. Seasickness is one of the major trials of human flesh. It's all the worse because you know it isn't going to kill you. When mal de mer reaches its peak, death would be a welcome relief.

By controlling the roll, the Queen Elizabeth's new fins will help to control seasickness aboard her.

Don't forget this: Before these stabilizing fins could be added to the mighty Queen, A HUMAN MIND HAD TO IMAGINE THEM.

We talk a lot about frontiers. Of all the frontiers, the FRONTIERS OF THE MIND are the greatest. The frontiers of the mind are limitless.

Ho Hum. Do you reckon the time will come when human minds will be good enough to imagine a way to make it rain when we want rain and make it quit raining when we've had enough and can't bear the thought of any more?

asked what delegation he represents, invariably replies: "I'm Mr. So and So from the State of Chaos."

He says the telephone operator has just as invariably replied: "Just a moment, I'll put you through."

One visitor swears he has made several telephone calls and when