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FARMING OUR RIVERS

Charles V. Stanton

Reading the editorial column of the *Oregon Statesman*, published in Salem by former Governor Charles A. Sprague, we were impressed by an analogy used in a recent issue. The editorial writer was commenting on the closure of the fish canning and packing business by Seufert Bros. This business has operated at The Dalles since 1885.

In his closing paragraph the Salem editor said:

Fish canning is now concentrated at the mouth of the Columbia, and there the number of canneries operating is smaller. Civilization is hard on fish, and hence on industry based on fish. Rivers are like mines — their riches may be exhausted.

The analogy that "rivers are like mines" is all too true; true, that is, in practice.

A mine contains a fixed amount of ore. When that ore is gone the mine is exhausted. The mine has no further value. The resource has been utilized. It can never be replaced.

The pitiful thing is that rivers need not be like mines. Their riches could well be preserved for future generations if we were so minded. Yet we need not be denied their values while guarding and managing their assets.

Oregon Rivers "Mined"

Water, soil, forest, and wildlife are included in what we term renewable resources. They should each be "farmed," not "mined." Yet we find the mining process quite generally used on each of these resources throughout the State of Oregon.

Many communities have had their forests "mined" out of existence. Only in very late years have we conceived the idea of "farming" our forests.

Thousands upon thousands of once rich farm acres have been "mined" until their productive capacity is gone.

Stream after stream in Oregon has had its fish population "mined" either to total exhaustion or critical depletion.

We know the rules of good conservation when it comes to farming and forestry, even though our practice of conservation is much too limited. We know, for instance, the importance of preserving seed sources, improving quality and size, utilizing acres for the crops for which they are best suited, reducing soil erosion, using fertilizer and minerals to maintain fertility.

We all agree that those are good practices as they relate to soil and forest. They also are good practices as they relate to water. But what do we find as we look at our streams?

We find the seed sources for fish populations being destroyed because of inadequate escapement. We find the size of our salmon steadily going downhill because only the undersized are permitted to escape nets. Inadequate escapement of salmon reduces the fertilizer effect Mother Nature intended them to provide for a stream, thereby reducing productive capacity, not only for salmon but for other species as well.

Destroying Water Resource

Not only have we permitted our fishery resource to be "mined" to a critical point of depletion, but we also are suddenly awakening to the fact that we have allowed our water resource itself to be most seriously impaired. Our abuses of watersheds, careless withdrawals, siltation, pollution and misuse of land have dried up many streams at the source. Our streams flood in winter and run dry in summer. Some of our growing communities are experiencing extreme difficulty in finding enough water for domestic use. Our industrial capacity is limited by inadequate supplies of fresh water. Our recreational industry, now third major source of income to the state, is endangered. Yet we seem to show little concern as the "mining" of our renewable resource continues, threatening damage beyond opportunity for repair.

It is time we stopped treating our rivers like mines. It is time we began treating them like farms—harvesting their crops annually in reasonable volume; selling those crops in the best, not the poorest, markets; safeguarding their sources, removing pollution, preserving seed sources, and providing fertilizer.

Hal Boyle

BERLIN, (AP) — Pages from a touring notebook:

Berlin is a spy's paradise today.

There is probably more cloak - and - dagger stuff going on here than in any other big city in the world. Some 30 Allied intelligence services operate, and how many Russian agencies are in the field is anybody's guess.

Presumably they are all constantly checking on each other, and many a secret agent, looking back across his shoulders, must have the uneasy feeling that the guy following him is himself.

The normal discussion tone in Berlin is "The Big Whisper." After a few days here even the casual visitor finds himself talking with his hand over his mouth, and he begins to feel like a character in a B-Grade spy thriller. This sense of mystery of being involved in something going on that you don't understand, pervades the entire city.

Many Berliners have a dislike of being registered or catalogued in any way. The atmosphere of tension that hangs over a divided Germany has created an unwillingness in many to be publicly identified in any way with the cause. They fear that today's seal of approval may turn out to be tomorrow's death tag.

In the Berlin Amerika Haus, for example, thousands of Germans like to come and read the books or look at the films provided by the U.S. Government. But many won't take books home with them because to do so they would have to sign a library card.

Under the Amerika Haus program — there are 22 libraries scattered through Western Germany — There is no heavy-handed attempt to propagandize the Germans, but merely to make available to them the best achievements of American social and technical culture.

"We find that if we stick to the job of representing America rather than hitting somebody else over the head, they respect us more," said George Henry of Reading, Pa., director of Berlin Amerika Haus.

The library here draws from 300 to 1,000 visitors a day, many of them dwellers of Russian-occupied East Berlin anxious to get a first-hand peek at the American way of life.

Commie organizations to which they belong usually try to discourage such visits by warning of terrible punishments the Americans will inflict upon them.

"Recently a young Eastern sector mechanic came to the library to see a film," recalled Henry, "and repeatedly refused to sit in one of the light metal chairs provided for the audience.

"Finally, he reluctantly told why. He said he had been warned that the metal chairs were wired, if he sat in one it would give him a shock, and when he woke up he'd be fighting with the French Foreign Legion in Indochina."

Life has been so weird in Germany for the last 15 years that it takes time for any truth to catch up with and kill a tall tale.

Bar girls are banned in most American cities today, but they still flourish in some German night clubs for the edification of the tired business man.

The girl dances with the T.B.M. or sits across the bar from him, lapping up split bottles of champagne as he tells her the sad story of his life. This form of entertainment comes high. For in return bending her ear, the tired business man is supposed to fork over a big tip as well as foot the champagne bill.

The Germans have a very descriptive name for these entertainers — "animation girls."

Reader Opinions

Cost Of Roseburg School Buildings Below Average

ROSEBURG — There has been much discussion and a great deal of criticism directed at the local school board, some of which indicated public displeasure at the quality of building construction recently completed in the Roseburg School system. I wonder how much of the above criticism can be based on reliable facts. The Senior High School P. E. building, being a fire resistive building containing 35,438 sq. ft. was built for a contract cost of $11.01 per sq. ft.

From a national study of school building costs published in the American School Board Journal of December., 1953, we find the following averages; these are divided into nine sectional parts of the United States and we find the average in the far west of fire resistive high school buildings to be $16.68 per sq. ft. Taking the average of the nine areas, we find that the national average cost for buildings of this type to be $12.88 per sq. ft. It is the writer's belief that we should not critize a local school board unless we have the facts in our possession. Hence, a building such as the High School P. E. plant which proved its need at the commencement exercises of June 1, which was built for $1.87 less per sq. ft. than the natitonal average and $5.67 less than the far west average indicates careful watchfulness by the school board in building costs.

Much criticism has been evident because of the glazed tile walls in the shower and dressing rooms. Anyone familiar with building construction should thank the far-sighted school board for providing such facilities which will be practically free from maintenance, painting and danger of contagion.

The most recent of the new buildings in Roseburg is the Joseph Lane School being a Junior High of semi-fire resistive quality. When the contract was let for this building, there were many alternates proposed. Among them deletion of two classrooms. When the low bid was tabulated it was found that the per sq. ft. cost was $9.67, hence the board exercised good judgment in completing the first section of the building without any deletions provided for in the old proposal. Using the same report we find that the average cost of semi-fire resistive buildings nationwide to be $11.81 while the far west shows an average of $14.70.

The Rose Primary school being a six room building containing 8,889 sq. ft., complete with heat plant and asphalt tile floors had a contract price of $103,200 which makes a per sq. ft. cost of $11.61. The national average for elementary schools of this type is $11.76, while the far west average is $16.65. Hence, it is obvious that any accusation of extravagance in construction is without foundation in fact. I am interested in the continuance of a high type of educational opportunity for modern youth, both in the facilities and the quality of instruction offered. All new buildings in the Roseburg schools have been legally advertised and the low bid accepted whether by a local or foreign contractor. Strict adherence to specifications has been insisted upon that the public receive the full value of its expenditures. I am sure the school board realizes that the schools of District 4 are owned by the people and will do the best they can with whatever budget the people of the district pass. It is a plain fact that excessive curtailment of finance will surely react to the detriment of all our children. The most effective weapon for the maintenance of freedom remaining to us is the public schools and as such should be adequately maintained.

Anyone interested may verify these figures by consulting the records available to the public. I would suggest anyone writing concerning the schools should make sure the accuracy of their statements before having them published in print, as misstatements cause confusion to the voting public, undoing the fine work of the school board, the budget committee, and the citizen's committee.

J. W. (JACK) DOYLE
Roseburg, Ore.

People Must Know Facts About Needs Of Schools

ROSEBURG — I have before me several of the letters printed in the Reader's Opinion section of The News-Review, also an informative circular distributed to the school kids during the last few closing days of school, all concerning the proposed school budget. My compliments to the lady with the three children and to Mr. Deller for expressing their opinions with the least bias.

Our Mr. Oliver advocates critical and reflective thinking, and that is the point of this letter. Our forefathers, realizing the importance of public education, provided for the support of a school system by taxation so that everybody's kids could have an equal opportunity to obtain twelve years of schooling. All property is taxed and there are few instances where the tax paid by any one family would actually equal the $1.89 per day per child in that family let alone the amount apportioned to school tax. Were it not so, there would be no public schools as we have them today.

Point No. 3 of the circular Mr. Deller distributed stated, "A school district is required by law to provide education and specified facilities." Seems to me since the voters are the ones to approve or disapprove any proposed budget the voter should have, for comparison, both a knowledge of exactly what the legal requirements are and be informed as to how the revised proposed budget compares. If the new budget will support only a sub-standard school we need to know it. Also, if it allows for items and facilities over and above the legal requirements we need to know that, too, and to have the expenditure substantiated.

Now, a word about "standards." In every question we have a range of opinion from extremely conservative to very radical. When I went to school some twenty years ago, it was not to a little red schoolhouse but I am sure no one would actually have our schools return to that era. On the other hand, neither would we lend any more weight to the other extreme of the scale. Since the voters approve the school operation by election of board members, or, in this instance by budget election, their opinions and desires, whether it be the legal requirements or something over and above, is the standard and not the "ideal situation" as advocated by some.

Very few people would want to deprive the child of a good education or hamper the teacher by false economy but ask any farmer about the law of diminishing returns. Have we reached or passed that point in our school system? Can we not have these pertinent factors explained to us so we, the people, paying the bills can make a proper decision?

M. H. YOUNG
Roseburg, Ore.

Girl Blown Off Boat Into Columbia, Drowns

PORTLAND (AP) — A gusty wind blew a 13-year-old girl off balance and into the Columbia River from her father's sailboat Tuesday evening, then blew out of her reach life preservers tossed toward her.

The girl, Tamara Green, drowned.

Bruce Biossat

If the United States and its Western friends needed any further evidence that freedom is in trouble in Guatemala, the recent suspension of constitutional guarantees of civil liberties should supply it.

On the flimsy pretext that an emergency was created by the reappearance of an unidentified aircraft dropping leaflets over Guatemala City, the leftward-leaning government has lifted these guarantees for 30 days.

And under the Guatemala constitution, this time limit is virtually meaningless, since the suspension is renewable at the government's will.

The liberties that now go by the board include the right of assembly, the right to organize political parties, protection against arrest without written order, safeguards against home entry without court authority, and against the examination of private documents without order.

In other words, a government widely considered to be Communist in sympathy has now established for itself the conditions of rule by decree. At least temporarily, it has swept away the hampering controls of a constitution designed—in theory, anyway—to assure individual freedoms.

And this is the government, we must remember, which recently received a substantial shipment of arms from Communist Europe.

These new developments lend great point to the fresh urging from Secretary of State Dulles that a special inter-American meeting be convened to study the Communist threat to the Western hemisphere from Guatemala.

Dulles properly disparaged effort by Guatemalan officials to represent the current problem as simply one between their country and the United States, over the position of the United Fruit Company in that area.

He said the problem of Red infiltration in Guatemala would exist—and would menace the hemisphere—even if United Fruit "gave a gold piece for every banana."

Talks with other American governments are now in progress on the question whether to bring the matter before the 21-nation alliance of American states. One report has it such a conference may be called for July 1.

From our vantage point in the north, Guatemala seems clearly to have urgency. It is an actual and potential focal point for Communist activities fanning all over the hemisphere.

Its relative nearness to the Panama Canal is an evident peril. It stands athwart the land routes between the continents. In the grip of aggressive Communists, it could quickly become a major sore spot.

The march of communism in Asia shows how the Red infection spreads once it gets a foothold. The way to check it is to snuff it out at the source.

Alaska Pulp Mill, Costing Seven Times Purchase Price Of Territory, Now Operating

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP) — Alaska's first pulp industry, a project that cost seven times what the U.S. paid Russia for the whole territory 97 years ago, has started operation in a modern plant built in two years in a coastal wilderness.

Ketchikan Pulp Co. announced Thursday its $52,500,000 mill at Ward Cove, eight miles northeast of here, now is working on a round-the-clock basis turning out pulp at a rate exceeding 100,000 tons a year. Formal plant dedication is set for July 14.

For Alaskans, the project caps years of effort to get a major industry started in the territory's vast southeastern timber region with its untapped virgin forests. It's an area of heavily wooded mountains rising sharply from the sea and indented with many long inlets. Until now, it has been little touched by modern development since the United States picked up Alaska from Russia for $7,200,000 in 1867.

Ketchikan Pulp, a joint venture of Puget Sound Pulp and Timber Co. of Bellingham, Wash., and American Viscose Corp. of Philadelphia, made a deal with the Forest Service for eight billion board feet of timber in the Tongass National Forest. Officials say it's enough, with reforestation and natural regrowth, to permit perpetual operation.

At Ward Cove, which was only a wooded coastal harbor when work started June 1, 1952, massive and intricate machinery has been installed in a plant utilizing latest manufacturing methods. Sulphite liquors, otherwise wasted, are recovered for fuel to generate steam and power. Chemicals are put to repeated use in a digester system.

Three miles above the mill site an 85-foot-high concrete dam has been built across Ward Creek. It provides the mill with a water supply of 50 million gallons daily, enough for a city of several hundred thousand.

About 900 will be employed in mill and logging operations. To meet housing needs in this city of about 7,000, an additional 300 family units are being built.

American Viscose, producer of rayon and transparent wrapping material, has contracted for virtually the entire outpout of the mill for 20 years.

Test runs of the complicated machinery have been in progress for several weeks. In the past few days all buildings and equipment have been turned over to the operators by contractors.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

body says it ought to be stopped.

But everybody LOVES it.

Everybody loves inflation because it means that wages go up today and prices go up tomorrow and wages go up again the day after that and prices go up the next day in an exciting cycle that keeps everybody happy and thrilled.

It's wonderful.

Until the CRASH come.

Then everybody is sour and mad and disillusioned and discouraged and says bitterly that it hadn't ought to have been allowed to happen and that somebody ought to go to jail for it.

That's the inflationary cycle.

But—

You say—

Everybody has been yelling and wailing and crying for years about the crash that inevitably follows inflation.

It hasn't come.

We're still doing business at the old stand.

How do you explain that?

Remember the shepherd boy who cried WOLF?

The villagers came running, but there was no wolf.

A few days later he did it again and again the villagers, impressed by the danger, came running to stop it.

But again there was no wolf.

So the villagers came to the conclusion that the boy was just seeing things that weren't and that all this wolf danger he was yowling about was tommyrot.

Let's let Aesop carry the tale from here. He says in his Fable of the Shepherd's Boy:

"Shortly after this the wolf actually came, but this time the villagers thought the boy was deceiving them again and nobody came to his help.

So the wolf ate up all the sheep and then ate up the boy.

That's the way it is with inflation.

Pony Express Riders Compete Modern Style

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Pony Express riders from Ogden, Utah—1954 model—scored a clear-cut victory over a like crew from Kansas City, Kan., in a race ending here early Wednesday.

The horsemen in the Weber County, (Utah) Mounted Sheriff's Posse galloped into town at 10:55 p. m., completing a 604-mile journey from Ogden in 34 hours and 55 minutes.

Their Kansas rivals, the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Posse, received the disheartening news at Callahan, Colo., 40 miles east.

Since the race was lost, a spokesman said, the Kansas riders loaded their mounts and completed a 613-mile trip from their home town in escorting trucks and cars. They arrived here shortly after 2 a. m.

The Kansans reported they lost time after encountering nearly 15 hours of steady rain in the western part of their state.

Their race was staged to publicize the 34th annual United States Junior Chamber of Commerce convention, now in session at this resort city.

A good part of the 5,000 delegates on hand joined about the same number of Colorado Springs residents in the throng jamming downtown streets to cheer the Ogden party's arrival.

FATHER-SON COMBO

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) — Boat racers, Cappy Trotter, 16, and his dad, Ernest, have collected 27 trophies in the last two years by winning amateur boat races.

Cappy drives 'em and pappy Ernest keeps 'em in trim.

100 Acres Land Offered Coos-Curry 4-H Clubs

GOLD BEACH (AP) — One hundred acres of land has been offered Coos-Curry 4-H Clubs by Jack Kronenberg, logging operator, as a camp site and forestry demonstration project.

The land is located on Flores Lake in Curry County. It has some second-growth fir, but most of it has been cut over. It is well covered with young trees due to natural re-seeding.

The land was offered on the condition that it be used as a re-forestation project and for forest recreation by members of 4-H clubs, and that any revenue from the sale of forest products be used for that purpose.

Coos and Curry County 4-H leaders have asked the state attorney general's office to earn what steps will be necessary to accept. A non-profit corporation of forestry and school officials to administer the project and property has been suggested.

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