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IF SUMMER COMES

Charles V. Stanton

As this is written it appears that our long-belated summer weather is putting in an appearance although it may be snowing by the time this column goes to press. Surely, in spite of the "unusual" weather we've been having, we will get a few days of summer sometime. We're not promising, you understand.

But if summer comes we will again have fire danger with us. We should be thinking about fire prevention in woods and fields.

Despite the prolonged wet and cool spring, it requires only a few hours of low humidity to set the stage for a forest fire. Low humidity, particularly if coupled with a stiff breeze as so often happens at higher elevations, will convert the litter on the forest floor from a wet, pulpy mass, to a tinder-dry explosive in less than a day's time. Few people, other than those with experience in the woods, realize how quickly this transition can happen. It frequently occurs that the first few dry days are marked by a number of fires carelessly started by persons not yet aware that forests are no longer damp from recent rains.

May Impair Logging

It is quite possible we will suddenly be visited by successive hot, dry days. Existing rules call for discontinuance of work in the woods whenever humidity drops to the danger level. Continued low humidity could seriously impair our local economy.

Log hauling was delayed by wet weather in the early part of the year. We have lost some of our harvest as a result of the current labor dispute. We could lose more as a result of hot, dry weather.

We heard a great deal about unemployment during the winter and early spring months. The unemployment situation was complicated by the fact that many mills were unable to cold cut enough logs last summer to carry them through the winter season.

If we get in enough logs this summer to keep mills at full capacity during the coming winter, we will have to do some highballing from here on out.

Easier Restrictions Justified

It may seem paradoxical to urge precautions on one hand while calling for an easing of restrictions on the other. Yet we believe conditions justify encouragement of woods harvest even if we must assume a calculated risk. We believe the necessity of making up for lost time warrants an easing of the humidity rule, but only where operators can show adequate facilities, equipment and organization for combatting accidental fire. We doubt that any great increase in fire loss would result if the humidity regulation were to be lowered by 10 percentage points when coupled with safeguards. Yet we might be able to gain back the log losses so far experienced.

At the same time it would be necessary that the general public redouble its precautions, for woods crews can be called out to aid in fire suppression and a serious fire would take from the woods men needed to speed the harvest.

If summer comes, then, fire prevention should be of the greatest concern to everyone. Any carelessness with fire in the woods is a serious threat to our economy.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—They say the big city is a place where a country boy can come and, by hard work, earn enough money so he can afford to live in the country again.

The saying holds true for country girls, too—for example, Martha Wright.

Martha, a farmer's granddaughter, first learned to sing by crooning barnyard lullabies back in Duval, Wash. She hit the heights here, however, by "washing that man right out of her hair" through 1,048 performances of "South Pacific."

Today the blue-eyed farmgirl with the tumbled mop of red-blond hair, who was glad to get \$5 for her first radio appearance, now is in the \$100,000-a-year-plus bracket.

But while she thinks Broadway is a great street to make a living on, she agrees with most out-of-towners that it's no place to live for anybody who ever liked to go barefoot. She gets her mail at a post office in a country place near Westport, Conn.

"It was like going back to my childhood," she said the other day during a break in rehearsals for a TV show.

"I was raised on a farm, and used to love to ride farm horses. I don't have any horses now, but the place has two swans, a stray pigeon and a couple of black miniature poodles."

"No, I don't find it lonely. City tensions get me down. It is wonderful to be able to read a newspaper and relax—all by yourself."

"And I manage to keep busy. I do my own gardening and take care of the yard, too. My only romantic interest right now is the power mower at home."

Martha has retained the typical westerner's preference for simple informal living. She has a breezy dislike for all forms of fuss and ceremony. She drives to and from work herself, and this summer saw and her maid will take turns at the wheel on a motor tour to Seattle, where her parents live.

"About the only problem I have right now is this darned weight," she said, comfortably forking at a plate of chopped sirloin steak. "I don't have to fight weight hard, but sometimes I should fight it harder than I do."

When she has to take off a few pounds, she doesn't resort to pills or capsules. She has known little illness in her life and has a healthy person's distrust of medicines.

"I don't cut out any of my regular foods, not even butter," she

Latourette Sends Aide To Study Klamath Case

SALEM (AP)—Chief Justice Earl C. Latourette has sent his administrative assistant, Jonel Hill, to Klamath Falls to investigate the situation in the Circuit Court there.

Complications rising out of a running feud between Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg and Klamath County Dist. Atty. Frank Anderson were cited by Latourette as reason for the investigation.

The chief justice had dispatched Judge Ralph Holman to Klamath County to hear criminal cases pending there, but the new judge was immediately assailed with a series of motions, objections and demurrers by counsel for defendants he was to try.

Latourette said he was also conferring with officials of the Oregon State Bar concerning the Klamath problem.

Meanwhile Vandenberg has been assigned by Latourette to Deschutes County to hear the case of Bradetich vs. Plesse.

Commonly Known as Buying a Pig in a Poke!



River Transportation May Be Restored To Willamette With Barge Line Application

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP)—An examiner for the Interstate Commerce Commission has recommended approval by the ICC of an application by Albany Barge Lines, Inc., to provide river barge transportation on the Willamette River between Eugene, Salem, Oregon City, Portland and ports downriver on the Columbia.

Approval of the application would permit restoration of the first commercial river shipping up the Willamette as far as Eugene in more than 50 years. The stern-wheelers City of Eugene, City of Corvallis and the Gypsy, which plied the river to Eugene, passed into history in 1901.

Albany Barge Lines began its present operations on the lower Willamette Dec. 13, 1952, and since then has been moving oil to a tank farm near Albany, and agricultural limestone to Albany, Dayton, Wheatland and Newberg. It has also shipped lumber, steel and bulk cement.

Examiner Marion L. Boat, who presided over hearings on the ap-

plication in Portland last October, noted that construction of flood control dams in the Willamette basin "will improve navigation conditions above Oregon City" by storing water during the rainy season and releasing it gradually during the dry months in order to smooth out the river level the year around. Detroit dam was completed last year. Lookout Point dam is nearing completion. Congar, Hills Creek and Green Peter dams are being pushed for early construction, but Congress has yet to give the final go-ahead to their being started.

Until additional dams are operating, navigation to Eugene could be performed only 5 to 6 months a year, even with specially designed shallow-draft vessels built for Willamette River travel.

"Canned goods, plywood and lumber are typical of the cargo which applicant expects to move as well as other commodities that cannot be economically moved by other forms of transportation."

Boat declared in his report that population growth would generate additional traffic in the area. Boat noted the following favorable signs that indicated the desirability of barge transportation:

1. An Albany lumber company had ordinarily ships about 2,000-600 board-feet monthly by rail depots, which in order to move its lumber to docks at Portland for export, enabling the firm to cut expenses which is necessary to meet export competition.

2. A Salem paper manufacturer whose plant is on the Willamette testified in behalf of the service, contending that many products made or used in Salem could be handled by barges, particularly commodities handled in great quantities, such as sulphur used in paper making.

3. A Rickreath farmers cooperative with 1250 members says it would use barges to bring in from Portland docks about 150 tons of sacked fertilizer monthly, as well as bulk and sacked lime and fencing used by its members.

"The use of limestone in the Willamette Valley is greater than in any other area in the Pacific Northwest," Boat reported.

Railroads and truckers serving the Valley have protested the inauguration of barge service on grounds it would be competitive with their rail and highway service.

"Although it may be... that there is adequate service by rail and highway between most of the points which applicant would serve in its interstate operation, that fact alone would not warrant denial of the authority sought to perform water carrier operation," the examiner concluded.

Thorne's Body Is Exhumed

CHICAGO (AP)—The body of Montgomery Ward Thorne was taken from its Roschill cemetery grave Tuesday for further tests to determine what caused the 20-year-old boy's death.

The exhumation order was signed by Charles S. Dougherty, chief justice of the criminal court at the request of Coroner Walter E. McCarron.

The body was taken to McCarron's laboratory in the Cook County morgue where it will be examined by experts for a second time since Thorne was found dead June 19 in his tiny apartment.

McCarron said the examination by a panel of pathologists probably would take about two hours, but results may not be determined for several days.

Dr. Joshua J. Moore, a pathologist and treasurer of the American Medical Assn., was named to represent the dead youth's family at the examination.

Mrs. Marion Thorne, Monty's mother, gave her consent to the exhumation.

Brownell's Plan On Subversives Given Reversal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Judiciary Committee Tuesday rebuffed Atty. Gen. Brownell by dropping administration proposals to bar suspected subversives from defense plants and to dissolve Communist-dominated organizations.

Instead, the committee began consideration of a bill authorizing commission to make a preliminary study of the whole question of security in industry before any new legislation is adopted.

Both Brownell security proposals were part of the administration's anti-subversive program sent to Capitol Hill for enactment at this session.

Tuesday's action came after a Judiciary subcommittee reversed previous approval of a bill giving the government authority to bar suspected Communists, spies or saboteurs from defense facilities.

A new bill was given the full committee to establish a "commission on security in industry" with directions to report to Congress by next Jan. 15.

The commission would be composed of 12 members appointed by the President and six advisory members appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House.

No committee action has been taken on the proposal authorizing the government to dissolve any organization upon finding it is "Communist infiltrated."

If the commission study is approved, as expected, this bill would be pigeonholed.

Eisenhower Asks Funds For Reclamation Jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower asked Congress Tuesday for \$5,963,000 to start work on three reclamation projects and to continue work on four others.

For further work on going projects the President asked: Yakima, Kennewick division, Wash., \$900,000.

Reclamation Commissioner W. A. Drexler appeared before a Senate appropriations subcommittee in support of the requested funds.

He also asked \$875,000 for general investigations to be used for: Willamette River Project, Ore., \$50,000; Middle Snake River Project, Idaho, \$100,000; Owyhee River Project, Ore., \$58,000.

BOMB KILLS ONE
CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP)—A homemade bomb thrown into a group of Moroccans here Monday night killed one and wounded eight others seriously.

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Bruce Blossat

For some time now the State Department has been suffering from a lack of good foreign service recruits. Consequently any plan that promises sensibly to make up this lack merits the thoughtful consideration of Congress and the country.

A special committee has come up with a proposal that perhaps contains that promise. Secretary of State Dulles has approved it, and the matter thus is up to the lawmakers.

What the plan recommends is that entry into the foreign service be placed on virtually the same plane of prestige and talent as admission into the Army and Navy through West Point and Annapolis.

No special foreign service school would be set up, but several hundred scholarships would be handed out annually to selected students in various colleges. Upon graduation, these students would go immediately into the State Department and serve a minimum of six years. This would assure the foreign service of a steady inflow of qualified young men.

As things presently stand, the number who pass the necessary tests is comparatively small, and often successful applicants have to wait two or three years for an assignment.

The committee estimates the cost of the "scholarship recruitment" plan at \$2 million a year. This seems a fairly modest price to pay for a program that may in time do much to elevate standards of performance in so vital a sector of government as the foreign service.

No other agency of government has been subjected to such damaging and constant assaults as this one. Indeed that very fact is to some extent responsible for the difficulties of recruitment.

If Congress believes this department has many times shown gross incompetence at the foreign service level—as one must gather from the general tone of criticisms over the years—then the lawmakers ought to welcome eagerly any program which offers seriously to bring qualified personnel into the service.

A new lease on life for the foreign service will not alone restore the State Department to a high pitch of morale and efficiency. Many other factors are involved in its current low status. But this hopeful plan could help to build a stouter framework for the future.

It's Nice To Know
Not too many men in public life ever live to know in what esteem they are held by the people of their country. Usually the accolades are not piled on until they die.

Former President Harry S. Truman is now one of the lucky few. Because he fell seriously ill after an operation a few weeks back, he got a chance to see how the American citizenry gauged his worth. During his unexpectedly long

tenure in a Kansas City Hospital, the former President has received more than 100,000 telegrams and letters from all parts of the United States.

The messages have come from every kind of individual but there was an unusual number from servicemen. Many came from either Republicans or Democrats who said they had never voted for Mr. Truman. Indeed, some newspapers which were among his bitterest political foes have wished him well in this trial.

Such expressions of friendliness and warmth must gratify Mr. Truman deeply. And they are a well-

Peacetime Spying Would Be Punishable By Death

WASHINGTON (AP)—Peacetime spying would be punishable by death, for the first time in U.S. history, under an administration bill passed 323-0 by the House. The measure now goes to the Senate.

The bill would also remove the present 10-year limit on prosecution for espionage.

come sign of America's fundamental humanity.

WE'RE MOVING! SEE PAGE 3

Nationwide Man Hunt Underway

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