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BRUSH AND FISH

Charles V. Stanton

In his forthcoming book, "In The Happy Hills," Author Claude A. Riddle, Roseburg printer, offers a theory for the decline in fish population in the state's streams. Scientists will be inclined to argue with Riddle's theory, we imagine, yet it cannot be denied that he offers an interesting point for discussion.

As a boy Riddle roamed the southern part of Douglas County at a time when it was still in primitive state.

Having been afforded an opportunity to read the manuscript for the forthcoming book in advance of publication, we found Riddle's theory on diminishing fish population to be intriguing.

(The book now is in the hands of M-M Printers in Roseburg and is scheduled to appear in limited quantity in mid-August.)

Creeks Too Shaded

Reading Claude's manuscript, and having his permission to report his observations, we find most interesting his opinion that fish life has suffered from the growth of brush in the forests.

He recalls that every small stream teemed with fish in the early days. Every creek was a nursery for fish populations.

But in those days, he reports, there was very little undergrowth. There was much grass and peavine which harbored a tremendous crop of grasshoppers and other insects. Sun on the water was conducive, Riddle believes, to production of aquatic feed. Altogether, he contends, there was a great abundance of feed to produce the fat little trout to be taken in unlimited numbers by the angler.

Discontinuation of burning has promoted the growth of brush, Riddle believes. Now the small streams are shaded by dense undergrowth. Exclusion of sunlight, Riddle thinks, has lowered the production rate of bottom feed, while the change in bordering vegetation has reduced the feed which previously fell into the water.

Discussing the theory with Riddle to obtain amplification of his ideas, he suggested it might be interesting to study two small creeks with similar characteristics. Existing fish life would be measured as accurately as possible. One stream then would be opened to the light while the other remained shaded. Continuing checks would be made to ascertain the rate of fish production.

It is certain that the population of any stream depends upon the availability of feed. Just as the amount of forage on an acre of pasture determines the pounds of beef it can produce, so in a stream the pounds of fish to be maintained in any given stretch of creek or river depends upon the volume of food production.

Other Factors Involved

We rather imagine people who have made a study of this sort of thing would discount Claude's theory to some extent at least. It certainly can't be discarded completely.

It is more probable, however, that loss of fertilizer effect because of depleted salmon runs, resulting from excessive commercial fishing, dams, hatchery racks, etc., has been of greater damage to fish life. Stream characteristics also have been greatly changed through land use and watershed impairment.

Many of the streams from which Claude could take trout in his early years doubtless run dry with the first breath of summer nowadays.

Others, situated on higher levels, have been silted with mud from logging roads and logged off lands. Chemical changes have occurred in the water itself.

It would be interesting, however, to perform the experiment Riddle suggests. Perhaps some sportsmen's club would cooperate with the Game Commission by furnishing manpower for a clearing job if sufficient interest is aroused to test the theory.

Hal Boyle

By CHARLES MERCER
For Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — My frivolous thought for the day recently cast a feeble ray of optimism on the effects of an atomic bombing. It could, I thought, just happen to do a little good for a very few survivors by destroying (1) birth certificate records and (2) marriage license records.

The boon would be great to women in their 40s who long to be 31. Who could deny their claim to eternal youth if the record were destroyed? To some women the claim of youth appears so precious that they would gladly forfeit their stocks, bonds and bank accounts to a holocaust.

Then there is the case of some married couples. Imagine John and Mary wandering back to the wreckage, and suppose that Mary has been tired of married life with John for some time. As they approach each other in the smoking ruins, John cries, "Darling! Mary scowls at him and says, "Get away from me. Who are you anyway?" John, aghast, exclaims, "Your beloved husband." Smiling triumphantly, Mary says, "Prove it, you heel." And there goes another marriage.

This frivolous thought occurred to me as I was strolling down the west bank of Fifth Avenue on my way to chat with a fellow named Charlie Costigan.

Costigan, who lives in Oradell, N.J., was preoccupied at the time installing a 30-ton door on a massive vault in the Manufacturers Trust Co.'s new building. This vault, by the way, sits right up front in the building behind what will be one of the world's biggest sheets of plate glass. Thus if a burglar ever starts tampering with Charlie Costigan's big door he'll attract quite an audience on Fifth Avenue.

Costigan is a lean, limber, quick man who looks 50 and is 60 years old. The Mosler Safe Co., which

employs him and his crew of men to go around the country installing vaults, says there are only a half-dozen men in the nation who can do the job that Charlie does.

This hasn't gone to Costigan's head. He is, in fact, remarkably modest. When confronted by the statement he "flips vault doors like pancakes," he smiles helplessly at the floor.

"I am," he says, "a traveling mechanic."

The obvious fact about a vault is that it's no safer than its door. If you've ever put on a screen door you know it's tricky operation. And when you visualize a 30-ton door that must fit to a hundredth-thousandth of an inch and swing at the pressure of a finger you can imagine the highly exacting nature of Costigan's work.

"It is," he says, "all a matter of balance."

While we talked, his crew was jacking up the 30-ton door and cribbing it preparatory to the big moment when they'd swing it across the opening and Costigan would delicately set it in place.

Finally I put the big question to Costigan. "This vault would withstand an atomic bombing—wouldn't it?"

"Why, yes," said Costigan thoughtfully. "Yes, I think it would."

Then, I told Costigan about my frivolous thought, my Fifth Avenue fantasy. He listened politely, but gradually he took on the ex-

The Table Is Set



Reader Opinions

Myrtle Creek Residents Criticize City Attorney

MYRTLE CREEK — The council having decided to wreck Myrtle Manor and not keep it for rentals without considering the wishes of the people, citizens who had the interest of the city at heart circulated invitational petitions to allow the voters to decide the issue themselves. These petitions were circulated and more signatures were obtained than required.

These petitions were presented to the recorder and he in turn referred them to the City Attorney for examination. The City Attorney rejected the petitions on the flimsy excuse that they were not in proper form, saying that the names of the petitioners, and the oath were not on the back of the petitions and therefore, could not be accepted.

If this is not legal, why are the original petitions written up by Mr. McGinty, the City Attorney, for the committee to circulate?

At the last council meeting, which the Mayor and Mr. Ireland were not present, the subject of Myrtle Manor was taken up. Mr. McGinty stated he would not approve the petitions because of a technicality and Mr. Ireland was very vociferous in supporting Mr. McGinty's attitude, and we are wondering why Mr. Ireland is so anxious to have Myrtle Manor torn down. Why is the council accepting Mr. McGinty's peculiar reasoning for rejecting the petitions when they are not required to do so, but are free to use their own judgement regardless of Mr. McGinty?

It is our belief that some of the councilmen have been very reprehensible in their attitude toward the citizens of Myrtle Creek, in that they ignored the mandate of the people to keep Myrtle Manor as long as needed. They have taken methods and means of discouraging renters, such as raising rents without improvements or justification. They have refused to rent any of the apartments since June 1st, thus depriving the city treasury of several thousand dollars of badly needed revenue.

There are several interested parties who would be willing to pay up to \$50,000 for Myrtle Manor with an added \$30,000 for improvements. Can we afford to have these buildings torn down and lose that kind of money? We do not think so. What do you the citizens of Myrtle Creek think about it?

We wish to express our very sincere appreciation to Mr. Ireland for his single-handed fight for right and justice in handling the city business.

H. J. ARMSTRONG
J. W. ADAMSON
E. M. BRINER
MARVIN R. SMITH
EDGAR S. ALLEN
Myrtle Creek, Ore.

pression of a man who feared another was putting words in his mouth.

Slowly he backed away. "Well," he said, "I've got to get back to the job."

He was happy to get his hands on something solid like a 30-ton door that had to fit to a hundredth-thousandth of an inch.

Bruce Biossat

It's warm, the open road is inviting, and the crazy season for drivers is upon us again. That means it's time for another sounding-off on motorists' bad — and unsafe — highway habits.

Some of this may strike the eye as repetitious. If it does, we'll have to blame it on the fact that drivers keep on doing the same old crazy, irresponsible things when they get behind the wheel. Underlying most of these bad practices is a single basic weakness of attitude. Too many motorists evidently regard their car as some sort of large toy, to be flipped around on the road with a careless finger or two on the wheel.

It ought to be clear by now to anyone who can read — including youngsters of 15 and more — that a modern automobile in careless hands is a weapon of death. In this respect, it is at least a match for any gun ever fired against an American by a German or Jap in World War II, or a Communist in the Korean war.

We politely suggest to all drivers, and particularly the young ones:

Stop driving with one hand. The

Sunday Session May Be Needed, States Knowland

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Leader Knowland (Calif.) refused early Thursday to rule out a possibility that the current Senate session might extend into Sunday, although he said he didn't anticipate that it would.

Knowland reiterated, in talking with newsmen, that he would hold the Senate in continuous session until it disposes of an Eisenhower administration bill to revise the atomic energy law.

The session began at 10 a. m. (EDT) Wednesday and had been running for more than 19 hours when Knowland made the comment. He said he would keep the session going until the bill had been acted upon, no matter how long it took.

The longest Senate session in recent years came at the windup of the 80th Congress' regular session of 1948. Beginning on a Friday morning, it extended 44 hours and 14 minutes into dawn on Sunday.

Informal Senate records list the longest session as a 54-hour, 10-minute meeting during debate on a ship purchase bill in 1915.

The debate on the atomic bill, now in its ninth day, has produced no really lengthy speeches, as Senate efforts go. Sen. Morse (Ind-Ore) holds the record for a single talk under present rules. He spoke 22 hours and 26 minutes in April 1953 against a submerged lands bill. Sen. Malone (R-Nev) spoke 11 hours and 38 minutes in 1950 against a slot machine measure.

Taking the floor early Thursday, Morse announced "this will be a relatively short speech—five or six hours, more or less."

Other senators opposing the atomic bill denied any intent to filibuster, but Morse said, "This is a filibuster. I never said under false colors."

But he said he would be glad to yield the floor any time for a motion to take up his proposal to block filibusters—the procedure of talking a bill to death. He said he has sought for years to change the rule which provides unlimited Senate debate.

Bonneville Administration To Discuss Power Plans

PORTLAND — Bonneville Power Administration officials will discuss power problems at a Southwest area customer meeting here Monday.

W. E. Trommershausen, area manager, said discussions will include transmission facilities under construction or planned, power supply, reorganization, contract amendments and proposed changes in BPA rates.

Also to be discussed will be the impact of reorganization and plans for consultation with customers.

Peery Medicals

BY W.K. PEERY

Fire is an essential element and a great boon to humanity so long as it is kept under control. Even the casual student of history realizes that many of the essential human factors on which great empires have been built, have had in themselves the means of their own destruction and that of the culture within which they grew.

Let's take for instance the matter of personal liberty, a good democratic concept. How, one could ask, would personal liberty be the means of destroying the society in which it existed? That could well be answered by saying that when personal liberty becomes personal license then personal liberty is due for a fall.

Even in democratic America we have had some rather unusual exhibitions of personal liberty going off on devious paths. We fought a great war among the states for no other reason than a proportionately large segment of the population thought they were at liberty to keep slaves. While this was a form of class democracy such as we see in Russia at present, the fact remains that the idea flourished at one time in the United States.

If one interprets liberty as license to criticize our neighbors, cross stop signs if we feel like it or build a doghouse beneath a neighbor's dining room window, then liberty will be the means of destroying itself for the simple reason that the neighbors simply won't stand for such an interpretation.

When we feel at liberty to criticize a person because we do not like him, when we claim the right to keep a dog, even though the latter used the neighbor's rose garden for his exercise ground, then we are really putting the idea of liberty to a test.

Nations have perished because

they have put the wrong interpretation on the word liberty.

TVA Fight Not Dead, State Losing Senators

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators who lost a bitter eight-day fight to block a government contract for a new private power plant in the Tennessee Valley said Thursday the issue isn't dead.

Sen. Gore (D-Tenn), leader of the losing fight, told newsmen:

"I'm going to take it to the people. I'll speak throughout the country, calling the people's attention to the capture of the Eisenhower administration by the public power trusts."

Other senators said they hope President Eisenhower won't go through with the contract even though the Senate voted Wednesday night to authorize it. The President showed no signs of retreating in telling his news conference Wednesday that those who say he is out to destroy the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) are in error, to put it mildly.

The Senate voted 55-36 Wednesday night to reject an amendment to an atomic energy act revision bill which would have prohibited the private power contract.

Minutes later, by voice vote, the Senate adopted an amendment to authorize the contract. Then it nailed down that voice vote, 56-35.

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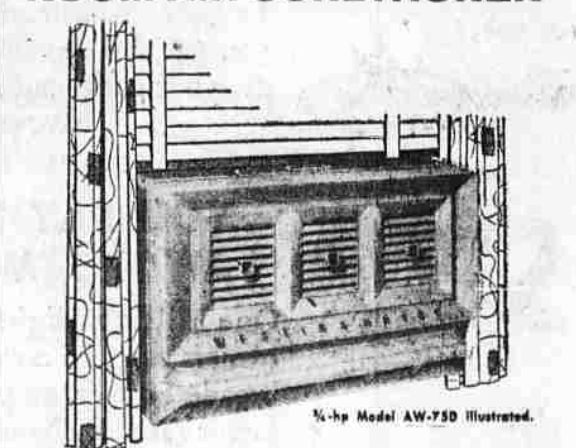
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