

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the
News-Review Company, Inc.
Entered as second class matter May 1, 1920, at the post office at
Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.
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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers
Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago,
San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.50;
three months, \$3.25. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.00; six months, \$7.00;
three months, \$3.50.
By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$13.00 (in advance), less than one year,
per month, \$1.25.

LOGS AND WATER

Charles V. Stanton

Readers of *The News-Review* probably will recall a picture by Photographer Paul Jenkins and used as a part of Merle Pugh's report of Roseburg Lumber Co. operations on the North Umpqua-Little River working circle. The picture we hope you will recall is one showing logs being transported by a high-lead line from a deck at the bottom of a steep hill to a loading deck far up the hillside.

If you recall that picture, you will remember that the slope was very steep and that it had been clear-cut. The road at that point is almost on the summit of the divide. From the road the ground slopes very steeply toward Cougar Creek, which borders the logging show. All the land slopes to the corner occupied by the lower deck of logs.

If we visit that operation a few years from now, we expect to find several gullies in that hillside. If we had the ability, we probably could calculate the exact weight of several tons of topsoil that will be washed off that steep slope into Cougar Creek and from Cougar Creek to the North Umpqua River and down the North Umpqua River to the ocean.

Water Conservation Needed

The slope is being logged under the very best of current practice. Logs are being dragged uphill, which fans out skid marks, rather than cutting deep furrows as is the case with downhill high-lead operation. No criticism can be made of methods used under existing regulations. Criticism, however, is possible concerning the lack of needed regulations.

The Roseburg Lumber Co. in logging this particular tract will pay to the Forest Service a few cents per thousand board feet of timber logged. This money goes into a fund to assure proper clean-up, and to be used for re-seeding, planting, pruning, thinning or other reproduction and care projects. But not a thing is done about water conservation.

We are using this particular tract as an example because a picture was used in the newspaper to furnish an exhibit.

What is true of this particular tract also is true in at least some particulars on any other logging show.

But on the tract we have described, water will race down the slope. Until a new cover of grass, brush and trees covers the scars, tons of topsoil will be washed to that low corner and into Cougar Creek. Some shallow spots may even be denuded of topsoil, exposing rock outcroppings where no new trees can get a start.

Because the tract is denuded, water will drain off instead of soaking into the ground. The surface, under heavy rains, will become packed. It will become less absorbent. During the winter it will be covered with snow. But as the snow melts less of the water will get into the soil because of packing by fall rains.

Could Be Saved

Yet much of this damage could be avoided. If compensation were given the operator, he could, before leaving the show, place cull logs to form spread dams. Logs could be arranged to retard the flow of water down the steep slope. This would reduce erosion. Most of the silt loosened by rains would settle behind the logs, forming small terraces, producing excellent seed beds.

It would take only a comparatively few minutes for a bulldozer operator to raise a small dike around that low corner bordering Cougar Creek. Any silt-laden water collecting in that corner then should deposit its load of topsoil, building up a neat little meadow, which quickly would develop into a wildlife pasture until new tree growth shaded out lower vegetation.

But the Forest Service has no authority to require the operator to provide water conservation. Nor can the operator be expected to do this extra work without some compensation.

We believe each national forest should have a water conservation engineer. This engineer should map out water conservation procedure on each sale. The cost of leaving the land in proper shape to hold water and topsoil then could be included in the sale so the operator could be credited with the expense of the job, just as his cost for timber restoration and management is included in his bid.

A great step forward in watershed protection could be made if water conservation were to be included in every logging operation.

Hal Boyle

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — How can a middle-aged woman who has lost her husband and reared her children adjust to a world that suddenly seems empty?

That was the problem that faced Mrs. Arthur Wermuth, mother of Maj. Art Wermuth, the famous "one-man army of Bataan."

She found the answer by turning her back on the busy social life of Chicago and settling down in a cabin in this old, small (population less than 500) mining town in the Black Hills. She lives alone with her 8-year-old Dalmatian watchdog, "Sissy," and says she has found here a new peace and purpose in life.

"Ever since I came here," she said, "I have loved these hills so much that I could kiss the ground for the happiness they brought me."

Sitting in the living room of her log home, Mrs. Wermuth, a vivacious, dark-eyed woman whose age is still her own secret, told the story of her life.

"When I was in the third year in high school I had my appendix out," she recalled. "The surgeon had a son, who was also a doctor and helped him."

"I started hollering for the young doctor, and wouldn't let the old man take care of me. Before I left the hospital the son and I were engaged."

"I guess he fell in love with my insides," said Mrs. Wermuth, laughing, then added quietly: "But for more than 24 years no woman ever had a finer husband. He was a good man."

The young doctor became a famous overworked surgeon. In 1925 his wife talked him into coming to the Black Hills on a fishing trip, and each year after that they returned.

"In Chicago he belonged to the people, and the city finally killed him," she said. "But out here he belonged only to me—and here we found peace together."

Widowed shortly before the war, Mrs. Wermuth spent nine years traveling about the country with her daughter, Talia, who had become a professional dancer. They were tiring, anxious years.

Her son had won fame by killing more than 100 Japanese single-handed in patrol actions on Bataan before being taken prisoner.

"For more than 3½ years I worried every night that they would kill him in prison camp," she said.

After the war she settled here with her daughter, who is married to a businessman in nearby Clatskanie. Her son is now in the insurance business in Denver.

"To this day we have never talked about the war," she remarked. "Some day, mother, I'll tell you about it," he said, and some day when he is ready, he will tell me. But it is over, and now he doesn't want even to hear about it.

"So far he hasn't even looked at the scrapbook I collected about his heroism, but some time he will. I also still have the gavel used in the House of Representatives to declare war on Italy and Germany. It was given to me by Ben Sam Rayburn of Texas. He said the gavel used to declare war on Japan had been stolen."

The shelves of her four-room cabin are crowded with souvenirs of her travels. The shelf above the fireplace holds the bronze first baby shoes of her two children—and the skull of a gorilla, given to her in Seattle.

Mrs. Wermuth now is a familiar figure in the Black Hills, and tied in high affection for her acts of kindness. Even the cruelest old prospector waves as she wheels by on a trout fishing trip.

"No, I don't miss the city social life I used to know," she said. "Here they have something much better than society—a neighborliness you don't find in many places."

"The Rocky Mountains are so big they give you a feeling of loneliness. But the Black Hills give you a feeling of serenity and peace."

"I don't know whether you know what I mean by that, but you will when you are older."

She reached down and patted Sissy, the big spotted dog glanced up and looked at her thoughtfully. The two understand each other.

Low Pay in Rural Areas Blamed For High Turnover Of Teachers

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP) — Facing a 25 per cent increase in the number of school children in the next six years, Oregon is headed for more trouble in finding enough teachers to man the class rooms.

Mrs. Joy Hills Gubser, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, says that of the state's 8,500 grade school teachers, 19 per cent now have emergency certificates. That means they don't have the requirements to be regularly certified teachers.

She predicts the shortage of qualified teachers will get worse. For the school year beginning next month, the state's school districts are hiring 1,198 new grade teachers. Mrs. Gubser estimates that only 200 or 300 will come from the 1954 graduating classes at Oregon colleges which train teachers.

The rest will come from outside the state, or will be teachers with emergency certificates. At this time last year, there was a need for 3,249 teachers. But all positions were filled by the time school started, although half of the new teachers had emergency certificates.

Emergency teachers can teach four years. At the end of that time, they either must have become qualified, or quit.

The shortage doesn't exist in high schools, or in schools in the larger cities. But it's bad in rural areas and small towns.

Mrs. Gubser has some ideas as to what to do about it. "In the first place," she says, "we must induce all the graduates of teacher training courses to teach. Many complete their courses now, and then go into other fields."

"We have to take steps to reduce the turnover. In the United States last year, 60,000 teachers left their profession."

"We must maintain better standards for the profession. We lose good teachers now by reducing the standards."

"We must maintain adequate salaries. The salaries generally are good in the larger cities, and these cities don't have much trouble getting good teachers."

Mrs. Gubser said salaries are so low in some sections of the state that the districts can't keep good teachers. She cited Eastern Oregon as a low salary area, asserting that this part of the state is strongly influenced by low teacher salaries in Idaho.

"Some men," she continued, "go into some areas as teachers for \$3,600 a year, which isn't enough to support their families and to take the extra college work that is required of them. Many of these men teach a short while, and then they go into business."

Beards important "Another factor in getting good teachers is for the public to be alert to the election of good school boards. Some communities don't pay any attention to what goes on in their schools, and they elect school boards that don't know very much about running the schools. Consequently, it's hard to keep good teachers in those school systems."

Mrs. Gubser thinks the teachers can do something about it, too. "Teachers have to take a more positive attitude toward their profession. They don't have to apologize to anyone for being a teacher," she said.

She thinks there should be more financial help for students who are taking courses to become teachers. But she pointed out that the Oregon colleges which train teachers couldn't get rid of all of their

scholarship money last year. There weren't enough students who applied for the aid.

The high schools, she thinks, can do something about influencing their students to become teachers. She also suggests that standards can be raised for principals and school administrators. If this is done, she says, the teaching profession will be more attractive.

Congress Chat

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

The closing days of a term of any legislative body are always hectic. So far as the House is concerned, the end of this session is proving to be a little more orderly and less confusing than others have been—but the term hectic is still applicable. The basic cause of the last-minute jam is inherent in our legislative system. All legislation is first handled by committees. Those groups of members work through the two sessions of a term of Congress on the various bills and resolutions introduced. The actual session, or working time, for a term of Congress is generally about 14 months. Even with the sincere, hard-working effort put in by the committees and their staff people, months and months of hearings and investigation and study are required on the important bills. This means, of course, that many pieces of legislation are not completed by the committees and ready for floor action until near the end of a term of Congress. Thus, in the last two weeks there must be a very heavy schedule of floor activity.

As this is written, the House of Representatives has completed most of its legislative program. In fact, we have passed a resolution calling for adjournment on July 31, the date set in the Legislative Reorganization Act. However, the House action was technical only. In order to stay in session after July 31, a resolution must be passed by both House and Senate continuing the session and setting a new date for adjournment. What the House did in effect when it passed the resolution was to say to the Senate, "We are ready to adjourn when you are, just name the date in this resolution (by amendment) and we will concur."

The bill to authorize the construction of some new works and the rehabilitation of existing facilities of the Talent Division of the Rogue River reclamation project was passed by the House by a vote that was much too close for comfort—163 to 144. This bill was bitterly fought by members from the populous North Atlantic states and by many of the members from Midwest farm states. Even though the authorization was so worded that practically all of the federal funds used on the project would be paid back either by the power revenues with interest or by the land owners, the big states, who claim they pay most of the taxes, just don't want to spend any more money for improvements (in OUR country that is) even on a loan basis. Farm state people have a little better reason for opposing reclamation projects. They think that such construction merely brings in more farm land to be in competition with them.

Earlier a reclamation project in Colorado was defeated by the House on a roll call vote. Perhaps I am still groggy from the impact of the opposition to both the Colorado project and our own small Rogue River project, but it seems to me that the future possibility of the House passing legislation for new reclamation projects is dim indeed.

I expect (and hope) that the letter next week will be the last one for this session. These letters are sent to the newspapers only while Congress is in session. Adjournment next week seems likely. Meanwhile I shall be getting my notes together for a complete and fairly lengthy "Report to the District." This will be a short general summary of this Congress but will relate in detail my own activities and accomplishments as your representative in Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Oregon during this 83rd Congress.

Public Power Groups Ask Time In Hearing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public power groups have asked 60 more days in which to file written arguments in the Hells Canyon case.

William J. Costello, Federal Power Commission examiner, said Thursday he had been asked to grant more time for the filing of briefs in connection with Idaho Power Co. applications to build three dams in the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon.

Attorneys for groups advocating a federal dam in the area requested that they be given until Nov. 1 to submit arguments against Idaho Power's applications.

When the year-long Hells Canyon hearing ended July 9, Costello set Sept. 1 as the deadline for the filing of main briefs by all parties. An additional 3 days were allowed for reply and rebuttal arguments.

Oregon Tax Chief Asks Change In Tax Deadline

SALEM (AP) — State Tax Commissioner Ray Smith said today he would ask the Legislature to change the date of filing state income tax returns from April 15 to March 15.

His reason is that the federal government is changing its filing date from March 15 to April 15. Smith thinks it's too much of a burden for Oregon taxpayers to have to pay their federal and state taxes on the same date.

Peery Medicals

The star-like flowers of the camas plant are in full blossom on the roadsides and meadows of Douglas County. This would be harvest time for our Umpqua Indians could we roll back the scroll of time for a century. These beautiful flowers bear a bulb at the base of which was an important part of the fall and winter diet of our natives.

For her camas digger the Indian woman selected a hardwood limb with a slight curve at the end. The point of the curve was sharpened with a crude stone knife and above this she left enough of the wood to form a handle approximately three feet long. The sharpened end was held over glowing coals until it began to char, when it was quickly dipped in a bowl of fish oil or animal fat. When it was partially cooled it was held over the fire again until it was charred all the way through and the same process was repeated by dipping in oil until the wood became almost rock hard.

The other end of the handle was rounded and fastened to a piece of hard wood or mountain goat horn by thrusting through a hole in the latter where it was wedged much as a modern woodman wedges the handle in his axe. The charred end was rubbed with a sharp stone until the oil saturated wood beneath was reached and the latter was then highly polished by rubbing with a smooth rock and finally rubbing on the thigh or forearm until it took on a bright sheen.

An Indian woman could gather as much as two bushels of these onion shaped bulbs which were about the size of a small walnut. She roots as she gathered them were thrown over her shoulder into a harvesting basket she carried on her back. The young girls who began at an early age to learn the art of securing food would oftentimes accompany the elder women and add the result of their own harvesting to the baskets of their mothers.

The barbecue method was commonly used in preparing the food. A hole about two feet wide and a foot or more deep was dug in the ground and red hot rocks from a fire were placed in the hole with the use of a wooden long. Green ferns were placed to form a layer on the hot rocks, the camas roots were placed on, and more fern or greenery placed on top of the camas and the whole covered with a piece of blanket. Dirt was piled over the heap and the squaw proceeded to her other domestic duties while the first version of the fireless cooker did its stuff.

When the food was cooked, the cover was removed, revealing white mealy puffs similar to overgrown kernels of popped corn. If there were a surplus, the housewife would pack it away in a basket made for the purpose, a basket lined with fresh salmon skins that were self sealing and formed an air tight container. In these packing cases the food would keep for a period of two years or more under proper storing conditions.

As you drive along the road these sunny days and admire the beauty of these blossoms you may, if you will, conjure these same fields crowded with those women of ancient days who were finding in their domestic duties an environment of beauty, whole meadows of blossoming car-as-flowers.

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