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COMMENDABLE PROJECT

Charles V. Stanton

The Lower Umpqua community is making plans for its annual tree planting project. Youngsters from various schools of the district next Friday will plant thousands of seedling trees in an old burn. Hundreds of children will participate and will be entertained at a picnic dinner.

This project has been maintained for several years, and has resulted in the planting of hundreds of thousands of trees in areas where natural reseedling failed. A good many young people in the Reedsport, Gardiner, Scottsburg, Winchester Bay communities can look upon healthy young forests resulting from the work of their hands.

Needless to say, every person who as a child has participated in a tree planting project will have a keen interest in the planting of forests and the wise utilization of forest products in the years to come. The Lower Umpqua community doubtless has no greater protection for its industrial future than the thousands of people who, over recent years, have had a hand in making that promising future possible.

This most worthy community activity, widely acclaimed by foresters, is one of the outstanding conservation events in the country. It has been nationally publicized, and has served to inspire many other areas to adopt similar practices.

Youth Being Trained

Leaders in conservation place their hopes for advancement in the nation's youngsters. It is hard to teach old dogs new tricks, it is said, and this holds true in conservation. Adults are slow to assimilate conservation ideas and slower to put them into practice. But youngsters learn quickly. Once interested in conservation, they become enthusiastic exponents.

One organization doing outstanding work in the field is the Boy Scouts of America.

A report on the 1954 National Conservation Good Turn by Boy Scouts recently was submitted to the White House, reports the National Wildlife Federation. Twelve Explorer Scouts, representing the nation's twelve regions, accompanied their high officers to the White House to present their report to President Eisenhower.

Included in that report are 41,721 different projects in soil and water conservation; 38,125 projects in forestry; 29,323 projects in fish and wildlife conservation; 30,450 activities designed to keep America beautiful by eliminating litter along roadways, parks, rivers and streams. In addition to all these projects, Scouts built some 40,940 public exhibits and demonstrations; gave 56,678 talks at public gatherings on conservation, and distributed more than 3,000,000 conservation posters.

Wide Field Covered

Scouts improved shores of streams and lakes to prevent erosion and make water more suitable for industrial use, recreation, fish and wildlife. They planted hedgerows to protect topsoil from wind erosion and to provide food and cover for wildlife. They worked on eroded gullies to prevent further soil loss and to help rebuild land for agricultural use. Thousands of acres of land were planted in grass to provide protection for top soil, to prevent rapid water run-off, and to develop pasture land for livestock.

In their study of forestry, Scouts planted more than six million trees, improved more than 50,000 acres of woodland, aided in fire suppression, and distributed fire prevention posters. A total of 1,112,093 Scouts and Cubs enrolled as Junior Forest Rangers in an education program of the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Committee.

Numerous other projects included the planting of food shrubs, erection of nesting boxes, construction of brush piles to provide food and cover, and stream habitat improvement.

All over the nation, as these figures show, America's youth is making a valuable contribution to the conservation of natural resources. One of the outstanding projects is that conducted in the Lower Umpqua community in Douglas County. The participating youngsters and their adult helpers are deserving of the highest commendation and appreciation.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — An open letter to Dr. James A. Tobey, of Newton, Conn.:

Dear Doc,

I just want to tell you how much my backache has improved since I took your hint to quit walking upright and start running around on all fours.

It has made such a change in my life you'd hardly recognize me as the same man.

For years my poor aching back had caused me intermittent trouble. But I could never track down the real reason for it.

Then, some weeks ago, I came across an article by you in "Today's Health," published by the American Medical Assn. You listed poor posture as among some 38 possible causes of backache.

"Standing erect may help distinguish man from the apes, but it certainly lets him in for a lot of trouble," you wrote. "The human skeleton is not particularly well adapted to this upright position, except possibly during that relatively brief time of youth when man is more or less lean, lithe and buoyant."

"For most of the rest of his life, this erect posture has made man prone to pains in the back and other ills which might not occur if he ran on all fours."

Was this the answer to my problem? I decided to go about on all fours for a month to find out.

The month is over. I am happy to report that not only has my backache largely disappeared, but my sinus is cured. My vision has improved so much I have thrown away my glasses. My appetite is fine and I have lost 15 pounds. I feel like a tiger—except at work.

Since most of your readers probably lack the courage to try to remedy a backache by going around on all fours, I'd like to

give you a case history of what happened, to me—and the predicament I now find myself in.

First of all, I asked my wife if she had any objections to my making so drastic a change in my everyday posture. She said she'd have to see how I looked. I promptly got down on all fours.

"Why you look much better that way," she said. "It hides your stomach."

The first few days I ran around my immediate neighborhood late at night. My back and arms hurt terribly, and every time I tried to go faster than a dog trot I fell on my face.

But as my muscles strengthened, my shape thinned down, and the callouses thickened on my palms and fingertips, I found I could gallop around the block without getting tired.

For some reason the dogs I met in these early non-normal training ramblings resented my four-limbed posture. I had fights with a police dog, a dachshund, two fox terriers and a French poodle. Oddly enough, the poodle put up the best scrap. I had one devil of a time proving to him I was the better man.

For comfort going about on all fours I find the best costume is loose-fitting slacks, a sweater, open shirt, tennis shoes (for traction), and a cap (my hat kept falling off and showing my bald spot).

The first time I climbed into the bus on all fours to go to work

Handwriting on the Wall



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (NEA) — An American plan for greater defense mobilization effort in Western Europe is now being urged on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

While this idea has not been presented to the Europeans in specific preparation for the day when U.S. military aid to NATO will be further cut down, the net effect is the same.

It has been pointed out to the NATO countries that if a new European war should break out, Atlantic shipping would be much more hazardous than it was in World War II.

It would therefore be extremely risky for the European defense forces to depend on the United States for supplies of new military equipment, spare parts for repairs and ammunition to the extent they have been relying on America in the past.

This action was taken at a meeting of NATO's "High National Production Authorities" in Paris at the end of January.

IT RECEIVED NO NOTICE at the time because the closed meeting came just when news from Formosa and the China coast was at peak interest.

Originally, Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, director of the U.S. Office of Defense Mobilization and sponsor of the new NATO defense mobilization plan, was to attend the Paris meeting. Because he is also a member of the U.S. National Security Council he could not leave Washington during the Formosa crisis.

ODM's Deputy Director Victor E. Cooley, board chairman of Southwestern Bell, St. Louis, went instead. He was accompanied by Thomas P. Pike, assistant secretary of Defense for Supply and Logistics, Chairman of the meeting was Lowell P. Weicker, president of Squibb, who has been assistant secretary general of the past two years.

I felt a little self-conscious. I was afraid of being stared at. But after a startled first glance the other passengers made room for me to read my newspaper on the floor, and paid me no more heed. You have to do more than get down on all fours to attract attention in Washington.

The same thing is true at cocktail parties. My new posture actually has reduced my social drinking. For when I lope up on three limbs to my host, holding up my glass for a nip for the road, he looks down as if seeing me for the first time, and says, "Really, old fellow, don't you think you've had enough?"

My only trouble, Doc, is at the office. My boss says that for policy reasons he can't allow me to do my work on all fours, the only way I now feel comfortable. He says that if I don't work sitting up at my desk like everybody else, backache or no backache, I'll be fired.

But, Doc, those eight hours at a desk are sheer torture. Once you learn the carefree pleasure of noine about on all fours you can never be happy again even in a semi-upright position.

Once you get the habit of traveling on all fours you find it harder to give up than smoking. The other night, coming home on all fours as usual, I saw a golden full moon rise, and felt a sudden intoxicating desire to lift up my head and bay like a dog.

But what can I do about this? I'd like to quit my job, and I would too — if I knew of any other way I could earn a respectable living working on all fours.

It isn't my posture that gives me backaches now, Doc. It's the rule-bound posture of civilization; and it causes most of our headaches as well as backaches. How are we going to cure people of civilization, Doc?

Hopefully yours,
Hal Boyle

Cain Maintains Security Program 'Octopus-Like'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Republican Sen. Harry P. Cain Friday blasted as "octopus-like" the government's personnel security program and said "we have built our systems faster than we could control them effectively or fairly."

Now a member of the federal Subversive Activities Control Board, Cain also assailed "some in authority" who use the term "Fifth Amendment Communist" with its "power for destructive evil."

In an address prepared for the seventh annual conference on civil liberties, he termed a "bulwark of freedom" the Fifth Amendment guarantee that a person may not be compelled to testify against himself.

"We should be less concerned," he said, "by the few who hide behind the privilege without justification and much more concerned by those who trifle with and prostitute its significance."

Cain, a former senator from Washington, did not name in his prepared text specific persons in authority as his targets.

"When some in authority refer to Fifth Amendment Communists," he said, "I shudder because of the lack of understanding and power for destructive evil which is inherent in those statements. One who refuses to testify against himself may be a Communist but there are solid and proper reasons why he may not be."

Those who use the term, he said, are as guilty of disrespect for the Constitution as any Communist could be.

Centuries of inquisitorial tortures, mental and physical, and misgivings over man's inhumanity to man, Cain said, "forged and tempered the bulwark of freedom that the individual shall not be required to convict himself."

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Oil, Gas Interests' Battle With Consumers To Come Up In Congress Next Week

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — A battle of oil and gas interests vs. consumers begins in Congress next week which is destined to determine the level of natural gas rates to Pacific Northwest householders and industries after pipelines have been laid to the Northwest from southwestern U.S. and Canadian gas fields.

With the backing of the Eisenhower administration, oil and gas producers are pushing legislation designed to end federal regulation of gas rates charged by producers at the gas wells—a rate which ultimately becomes part of the monthly billing received by consumers from their local gas company.

Hearings on this legislation began next week before the House Interstate Commerce Committee, where congressmen representing producing states such as Texas and Oklahoma are expected to clash with solons representing largely consuming districts.

The Pacific Northwest has no congressmen on this committee. But in the Senate Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) holds the strongest position to influence the outcome of this political battle as chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee. Magnuson would kill rate regulation.

Debate centers on a controversial section of the natural gas act of 1938 which was designed to require the Federal Power Commission to regulate rates of natural gas piped across state lines. FPC interrelated the act to mean it should regulate only the rates charged by interstate pipeline companies for piping the gas, not the rate charged by the gas producers who sell gas to pipeline firms at the well.

Last spring, however, the Supreme Court ruled that the 1938 act required the FPC to regulate gas rates charged by producers at the well—and so that is the law.

Producers who want the act changed to exempt them from regulation claim that competition among the nearly 5,000 producers hold down the rate within reason. They argue that if regulated by the government, their rates won't be high enough to encourage full development of new reserves since it customarily takes some nine well drillings to come up with one good well. They contend that their price for gas at the well is but a fraction of the consumer's monthly billing, and that even if they gave their gas away consumers would save less than half a dollar a month.

Farm, labor and public power groups, although less well organized against changing the gas act, have gone on record and mustered some consumer opposition to try and block the gas bills. They claim that history has demonstrated a need for consumer protection through government regulation of utilities that have a monopoly franchise. They argue that ruthless dealings, such as producers splitting profits with pipeline companies in order to sell gas to the pipeline companies at high rates, make regulation mandatory in the public interest.

Observers forecast gas interests will have difficulty getting their bill all the way through this Congress, despite support for it from House Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.) and a special advisory committee to the President which recently came out in favor of the gas bills.

Biggest hurdle for the bill is expected to be the House, where populous northern consumer states such as New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin far outnumber southern producer states in congressional representation. If it gets past the House, Magnuson thinks chances good it may be blocked in his Senate committee.

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U.S. Living Standards Dependent On Resources

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Unless Americans concern themselves with preserving what is left of our natural resources, they will face a drop in their standard of living, a national Federation of Women's Clubs official said this week.

Mrs. Marion T. Weatherford of Arlington, Ore., conservation chairman for the federation is here to attend the Western states and regional conferences of the federation's Western leaders.

She expressed her views in an interview prior to leading a discussion on the subject Thursday afternoon.

"Women's organizations are beginning to realize," Mrs. Weatherford said, "that America is reaching a point of no return in using up the abundant natural resources we once took for granted."

"They know that if they don't interest themselves in preserving what is left, the nation cannot maintain its present standard of living."

INCOME TAXES DOWN
SALEM (AP) — Oregon's personal and corporation income tax collections in the eight months ended March 1 totaled \$30,908,355, the Tax Commission said Friday.

The total is \$2,900,000 less than in the similar period of a year ago, and almost \$6,000,000 below the record total of the same months in 1951-52.

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Monday Noon Hotel Umpqua
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Speaker: Robert Hansen

Mr. Hansen will tell of the OBJECTIVES of the Umpqua Improvement Association. He is Acting President of the Association, an active civic leader and the owner of a furniture and appliance store in Sutherlin.

This announcement is sponsored by

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TAYLOR RETURNS

TOKYO (AP) — Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, who takes over April 1 as U.S. Far East commander, has returned from a 12-day tour of Southeast Asia.

Slaughterhouses State Inspection Urged At Hearing

SALEM (AP) — Strong pleas for state inspection of slaughterhouses were made here this week on the ground that much unsafe meat is being sold in the state.

Appearing before a legislative Ways and Means Subcommittee, Herbert E. Barker, Salem labor leader and member of the Oregon Live Stock and Meat Marketing Board, said Oregon is a dumping ground for meat that can't pass inspection in Washington, Idaho and California. Those states have inspection.

The Department of Agriculture estimated it would cost \$447,000 to administer the proposed law for the next two years.

All of the witnesses for the bill said the state should pay the cost, as opposed to taxing the slaughterhouses.

Sen. Charles W. Bingner, La Grande, chairman of the subcommittee, commented that most of the complaints about poor meat come from Jack and Josephine counties.

The only witness against the bill was Henry L. Page, Canby farmer. "The bill would put family-sized outfits out of business," he said.

Roseburg Women Named To Dispense Information
Two Roseburg women have been named to dispense information in Douglas County about a forthcoming Pacific Northwest Conference on Family Relations.

The two are Helen Chandler of the Douglas County Extension office and Mrs. Bette Tauscher of the Douglas County Tuberculosis and Health Assn.

The conference is scheduled March 24-26 at Portland State College. The conference has been organized to improve conditions for family living and family stability.