

# The News-Review

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## GOODBY, NIGHTCRAWLER

Charles V. Stanton

The "Friendly" Southern Pacific announces it will discontinue its famed Nightcrawler Aug. 1.

It is a shame that this unique train is not to be preserved as a museum piece. It is the ideal exhibit of how not to conduct a business.

The Southern Pacific has been weeping for many years because of the financial losses incurred in operating this transportation monstrosity. Faced by increasing deficits, it has decided to remove this final remnant of passenger service—so called—from Southern Oregon.

I am not inclined to object to discontinuance of this alleged service. It has been made so next to useless that it is of no great value to the area. We won't miss it, except in rare instance. The only people who ride it are those forced into it by extreme necessity. It is used chiefly to "deadhead" railroad personnel from one point to another, paying passengers are few and far between.

The Southern Pacific, "Friendly," reports averages of only 18 to 20 passengers per day. Certainly a passenger train can't be profitably operated on such revenue.

### Train Deliberately Killed

The Southern "Friendly" Pacific says it has made efforts to attract patronage by improving service. But that statement undoubtedly was made with tongue in cheek.

The poor old Nightcrawler obviously is the victim of premeditated murder.

Passenger service is a headache to nearly all railroads today. Railroads make their profit from handling freight. Few passenger trains can show a profit margin. But it is possible for a railroad to reduce operating deficits on passenger trains by giving better service. Even the "Friendly" Southern Pacific is doing that on other parts of its system.

Most railroads also recognize a public service responsibility. They maintain a passenger service, even though it operates at a loss, in areas from which they draw their freight business. Southern Oregon is one of the brightest revenue-producing sections on the entire Southern Pacific, "Friendly," system, but for years the company has been subjecting its passenger potential to slow starvation until the Nightcrawler is ready to give up the ghost.

Had the Southern Pacific provided this area with passenger service at decent hours and with adequate accommodations, it would have less complaint about competition from private cars, buses and planes. But the "Friendly" Southern Pacific, always with the eye for the dollar, and never an eye for public service responsibility, didn't want passenger service, doesn't want passenger service, and will get out of the passenger business entirely, if given the opportunity.

### Service Could Be Compelled

It is my understanding that the Southern Pacific Company could be compelled to maintain passenger service on this line.

When Oregon and California land grants were made, one of the provisions was the maintenance of passenger service on the lines financed by the grant. Congressman Harris Ellsworth once filed a complaint on that basis, but, because of wartime conditions, the action was dropped.

Possibly the communities along the line, if they were so minded, could reinstitute proceedings and force continuance of passenger service. Such action, however, would be valueless unless it included provisions for adequate service, which I doubt would ever be supplied unless constantly supervised by a federal authority.

So we can bid goodbye to the unique old Nightcrawler. Insofar as its value to the community is concerned, it will be no great loss. The "Friendly" Southern Pacific will be freed of even the semblance of a passenger service for its foremost bread-and-butter area.

## Hal Boyle

MARYSVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Davy Crockett, king of the frontier,

Why, man, there are people here in Davy's old home state who'll tell you he was nothing but a wet-oread boy in an oversize coonskin cap compared to Sam Houston.

Davy died in the Alamo, but Big Sam, who spent his youth here, was an even greater soldier and statesman and led Texas into the Union. It is hard today to imagine what Texas would be like if it hadn't been for Sam Houston (and old wells, of course).

Young Sam might have been judged a juvenile delinquent by modern standards, but he outgrew it. And to Mrs. Boyd McKenzie, one of a group trying to preserve as a historic shrine the old one-room log cabin in which Houston once taught school, Davy isn't in the same class with Sam as a frontier hero.

"We'd never even heard much of Davy Crockett until six months ago," she said firmly.

Mrs. McKenzie is the descendant of a family which owned land next to the farm on which Sam Houston's widowed mother settled in Tennessee. She made the trek here from Virginia with her nine children.

Young Sam was an avid reader and avowed to farm work. He used to run away and live with the Cherokee Indians who named him "The Raven."

"His first mention here was for public drunkenness at the age of 18," said Mrs. McKenzie. "He walked up and down the streets beating a drum and was charged with disturbing the peace."

During the next year he opened a school here to pay off debts of \$100—a big amount in those days. He had run up the bill buying presents for his mother and some Indian maidens.

"The previous teachers had charged \$5 a semester tuition," said Mrs. McKenzie, "but Sam raised it to \$8 and insisted that

# Federal Power Commission Opens Hells Canyon Dam Hearings In Washington

By JOHN KAMPS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Power Commission heard arguments Wednesday in the Hells Canyon case—one of the nation's biggest private-public power fights.

The argument is over whether the FPC should permit the Idaho Power Co. to construct three low dams in the Hells Canyon stretch of the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon. The private utility projects would flood the site of a proposed federal high dam.

Attorneys for Idaho Power were given two hours to support their applications for dam construction licenses. Counsel for public groups were allotted 90 minutes to urge that the FPC reject the applications and recommend congressional authorization of the federal Hells Canyon dam. FPC staff lawyers were given 45 minutes.

The lawyers are R. P. Parry, Idaho Power, Evelyn Cooper and Lucien Hilmer, National Hells Canyon Assn., and John C. Mason, FPC staff counsel.

The arguments marked an appeal to the FPC from examiner William J. Costello's initial decision in the case. Costello recommended, following a year-long hearing on Idaho Power's applications, that a license be issued for only one company dam—Brownlee.

He said failure of Congress to approve Hells Canyon legislation similar to bills pending would make it "useless" for the FPC to recommend a federal dam. Power from the company's proposed low and low Hells Canyon dams, he declared, would be too costly

## General Motors Stock Climbs With New Split

NEW YORK (AP) — General Motors Corp. common stock rose sharply Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange following Tuesday night's announcement of a three-for-one stock split.

The late transaction crossed the tape late in the morning—in 85,000-share block at \$128 a share, an increase of \$14.82 from Tuesday night's closing price.

It was probably the biggest single transaction, moneyswift, in the exchange's history, officials said. The 85,000 share block involved \$10,880,000.

Multipled by the number of GM shares outstanding, the \$14.82 advance represented an increase in market valuation of \$1,303,000,000.

Shares of DuPont, which owns 23.8 per cent of GM's shares, opened at \$249.50, up \$6. An in-the-over-the-counter market, Christian Securities Co., which owns 27 per cent of DuPont—climbed sharply.

GM shares closed Tuesday at \$113.37 after a gain of \$3.75 on the day.

The split will be voted upon by stockholders at a special meeting Sept. 23. Stockholders of record Aug. 8 will be eligible to vote.

GM now has the largest number of shares outstanding of any American corporation—nearly 93 million. After the split this will become about 279 million. The main reason for splitting a stock is to bring the price down to a level more attractive to the general investor.

Defense Secretary Charles F. Wilson, former GM president, sold his 40,000 shares of GM two years ago to take his cabinet post. He received \$65 a share for a total of around \$2,600,000. At Wednesday's opening price of \$128, his former holdings would be worth \$5,120,000.

## Trustee Is Held Under \$1,000 Bail

DALLAS, Ore. (AP) — The trusty who helped three prisoners escape is now held under \$1,000 bail here and those he helped are in jail at Eugene, held to the grand jury under \$5,000 bail.

James Eugene Smith, 19, who admitted he slipped hacksaw blades to the trio, had eight days left on a 90-day sentence for theft of gasoline. But now, said Dist. Atty. Walker Foster after Smith's arraignment Wednesday, he faces a possible five-year term.

It was at Eugene, near which the prisoners were captured Monday, that they were held to the grand jury on a charge of armed robbery. The three are Raymond Lowe, 22, Everett, Wash.; Burton Bryson, 20, Junction City; and Alfred Peterson, 46, Rockaway.

Meanwhile, County Judge C. M. Barnhart heard an inspection tour of the jail here. Last week's escape was the third this year.

Barnhart said no funds were budgeted for a night jailer, but emergency funds might be used to hire one if that were decided to be necessary.

## Life Insurers Begin Drive For New Members

Members of the Umpqua Basin Assn. of Life Underwriters have initiated a membership drive which is countywide. They have scheduled a fall and winter program, featuring outside speakers.

Association members met Thursday at the Hotel Umpqua to plan the membership campaign. In other business they voted to take an advanced course in life underwriting, starting in October, according to spokesman Gene Lincoln.

Special guest was the Rev. Alfred Tyson, Roseburg, President Robert Blackwell presided.

In 1924 a pair of ancient lead knucks with Sam Houston's name scratched on them were found hidden above the doorway. Did young Sam enforce discipline on his pupils with lead knucks? Nobody knows.

"But it isn't likely he needed them," said Mrs. McKenzie. "At 18 Sam Houston was 8 feet 8 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds."

Big enough even to handle Davy Crockett.

to sell in Oregon and Washington. All attorneys in the case filed appeals with the FPC, taking exception to the examiner's decision. Parry urged the FPC to license Brownlee, Oxbow and a low Hells Canyon dam. He said Idaho power from both Brownlee and Oxbow as soon as they could be built, and a market for energy from the third would develop.

Parry said the company obtained a preliminary permit eight

years ago and filed a license application for Oxbow Dam five years ago. But, he told the commission, opponents of the company had blocked its efforts to keep ahead of power demand.

"The attitude seems to be," he said, "that if you're foolish enough to live in an area served by a private power company, that's your fault. This is a strange twist in administrative procedure."

Parry objected to Costello's conclusion that power from Oxbow

and a low Hells Canyon dam would be too costly to sell in the Pacific Northwest. He said Costello's conclusion was based on a 191 million dollar construction cost estimate for the three dams.

Morrison-Knudsen Co., one of the world's biggest construction firms, has made an unqualified offer to build the three dams for 133 million. Parry said. The offer was made by a company official at the hearing.

Mrs. Cooper said the FPC should consider, in addition to power, "whether a limited plan of development would destroy comprehensive, multiple purpose development" of the Snake River. . . . "whether permitting Idaho Power Co. to supply its customers would deprive all the people of the Northwest of the fullest development of river and land resources. . . their economic heritage."

She objected to a remark by

Costello that it would be useless for the FPC to recommend that Congress authorize the federal dam because Congress has failed to do so in the past. But she approved his conclusion that the federal project would be superior to the

three dam plan. The arguments will be completed late Wednesday. Mason, FPC staff counsel, will be heard Wednesday afternoon on his recommendation that Idaho Power be licensed to build three dams.



WASHINGTON (AP) — Sweeping charges in the U. S. government's electric power, flood control, navigation, irrigation and reclamation policies are to be recommended soon by the Hoover Commission task force on water resources policy. It's headed by Adm. Ben Moreell, board chairman of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., of Pittsburgh.

A hint of what is to come in this 270-page report was given in a series of five speeches made by Adm. Moreell and his four subcommittee chairmen before the American Society of Civil Engineers at its recent St. Louis convention.

Without disclosing any of the specific recommendations to be made in the report when it is released in the near future, Adm. Moreell and his associates told the engineers what they found and what they thought about things personally.

THE DEPARTMENTS of Interior, Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers and all their bureaus which administer water resources projects won't like what comes out. Only the private power companies and various business groups which oppose federal government spending on these projects are apt to be pleased.

"Having in mind the rapidly mounting public debt," said Adm. Moreell, "it is evident that critical examination is overdue."

There is no clear-cut federal water policy, he charged. Among the abuses and the corrective measure which he himself believes should be taken are these: In hydro-electric development, the federal government has invaded a field which should be reserved for private enterprise.

No additional projects should be started and a beginning should be made on disposing of existing projects to state and local governments.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has used power and water developments for indirect social and political ends.

Navigation improvement projects have been constructed solely to bring pressure on railroads and truckers to reduce freight rates.

The federal government has paid too large a share of the cost of water resource development and required too little repayment.

In recent irrigation projects, required repayments have been between one-fourth and one-third of the capital cost.

On flood control projects, the average local contributions have

been only one-eighth of total costs.

An analysis of 212 Department of Agriculture upstream flood control projects showed the federal government bearing over 98 per cent of the cost.

Many projects have been constructed without economic justification of any kind, the Admiral declared.

THE TASK FORCE found 43 officers and bureaus of the federal government engaged in water resource development last year.

"There is every indication," said Adm. Moreell, "that there is a lack of coordination which fosters competition among these agencies which causes controversy, confusion, duplication and waste and encourages bureaucratic ambitions."

"It is my firm intention to do all in my power to mobilize effective public support for those recommendations of the Hoover Commission with which I agree."

Knowing Adm. Moreell as one of the toughest seadogs that ever hit Washington, the capital is preparing for a simply lovely fight.

## Sec. Dulles Says Soviets Are Now 'Overextended'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dulles says the Soviets are "overextended" and have adopted new policies in search for "some respite against strains" created by free world opposition.

He told a House appropriations subcommittee in testimony released Thursday the new Kremlin policy is born from necessity and not a change of heart.

Testifying June 10 on the foreign aid budget, Dulles said: "My analysis of the whole world situation is that the Soviets are overextended and now they are seeking for new policies. . . which will grant them some respite against strains which they have been under in trying to do all of the things which they have felt they needed to do in order to keep up with the pace which has been set by the free world."

"Dulles was asked if this "apparent change in the Soviet policy is due to necessity and not to a change of heart."

"Yes, sir," Dulles replied. "The secretary elaborated in off-the-record testimony.

## In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

out, along with the peach crop of the entire South, by a bad freeze at the wrong time.

On the Fourth of July—which is an odd date for a communist big shot to be speaking up on such a subject—Nikita Krushchev made a crack in Moscow to the effect that nothing good can come from the Geneva conference unless the West treats the Soviet Union "as an equal."

What's the matter? Is Krushchev suffering from an inferiority complex? President Eisenhower comes right back at Krushchev. He tells his press conference in Washington that the United States will negotiate in good faith at the Big Four conference in Geneva this summer, "and the Russians can be sure of it."

He adds that no member of the U. S. government has ever said that the Russians will be negotiating from weakness at the Geneva parley.

If we could be as sure of good faith on the part of the Russians at Geneva this summer as the Russians can be of good faith on our part, it would be possible to wind up all the cold war troubles and set the world's feet on the path that leads to peace.

There is bad trouble up at Walla Walla, where armed convicts have revolted and are in virtual control of the Washington state penitentiary and its 1784 prisoners.

I don't know what the real root of the trouble is, but I can't help believing that if the inmates of the prison had been kept CONSTRUCTIVELY BUSY in the past the revolt wouldn't have happened.

What is "constructively" busy it's doing REAL work, not "made" work. Everybody rebels instinctively at being compelled to do work that isn't getting anybody anywhere.

As long as we keep convicts herded together in what amounts to idleness in our prisons we'll have prison troubles.

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