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THE SAME OLD SONG

Charles V. Stanton

The Oregon Fish Commission has one tune and one tune only. It keeps playing it over and over, like a one-record juke box.

Last Sunday a large group of sportsmen from the western part of the state was invited by the commission to attend a meeting at Corvallis. These sportsmen, most of them leaders in the continuing effort to close coastal streams south of the Columbia to net fishing, were hopeful that the commission would have some constructive suggestion. Instead the needle-weary refrain was repeated without change.

According to the Fish Commission, the depletion of salmon in coastal waters does not result from overintensity of commercial fishing. Instead it results from watershed damage, excessive appropriation of water, pollution, dams, removal of gravel and any number of other sources. Sports anglers also are cited as contributors because they catch small salmon and steelhead while fishing for trout. These factors, the Fish Commission declares, are wrecking the coastal salmon and steelhead fishery, not the tons of salmon taken by gillnets on the way to the spawning beds.

In fact, says the commission, if it weren't for the gillnets there would be too many salmon. An unmanaged population, it is insisted, would eventually result in even greater depletion than we now have.

Many People Misled

There is just enough truth in this old and oft-repeated refrain to mislead many people.

It is true that fish cannot be produced without water. When we take all the water out of a stream for irrigation and industrial purposes, or we fill the water with excessive pollution, the capacity of the stream to produce fish is either seriously impaired or completely destroyed. The Fish Commission has no lack of examples. In fact, it has procured a number of slides of isolated cases to supplement its contentions. Sportsmen attending the Corvallis meeting were shown pictures of streams blocked by log jams, diversion dams and other obstructions.

Nor can anyone question that competition for water, removal of gravel, damage to watersheds, construction of dams and other such factors contribute to a decline in fish life. It is no difficult matter to point out these sources of damage and thus lead away from the fact that commercial fishing destroys as many or more salmon than all cited factors combined.

There also is some truth in the declaration that an overproduction of fish can cause declines. Records of commercial catches made over a long period of time show more or less regular cycles. Fish can become so numerous that they exhaust the volume of food in a stream, thereby causing succeeding cycles to lessen in numbers. Then, as populations decrease, food becomes more abundant and the trend reverses itself. But this condition occurs only when population becomes excessive. Certainly no one, not even the Fish Commission, can point to excessive population in any coastal stream today.

Tax Money Involved

The Fish Commission, until recent years, was self-supporting. It obtained its revenue from poundage fees collected from commercial fishing. But in late years, because of population declines, it has been necessary to provide money from the general fund to keep the commission in operation.

And while the commission is telling the public that it is permitting ample escapement of fish to maintain salmon migrations, it is pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into operation of hatcheries. If escapement is sufficient as the commission claims, it seems to me, these hatcheries are totally unnecessary and constitute a waste of taxpayer money.

The commission is doing a good job on stream clearance, habitat improvement, enlarging spawning areas, and other such tasks. It is to be commended on this program. Yet it is obvious to anyone familiar with our coastal streams that existing spawning beds are not now fully utilized. This fact is substantiated by the commission's own spawning bed counts. So, though the stream improvement program is commendable, it is of no real value until there are enough fish to make the need for additional spawning area necessary.

Records furnished by the commission show that the take of salmon since 1945 has been about one-half that of the average from 1930 to 1945. In other words, the catch has dropped in round figures from eight million to four million pounds.

A great improvement could be made, many of us believe, by permitting a greater escapement. Removal of gillnets would add from 10 to 15 per cent to the escapement which, while not the complete answer, would be a move in the right direction.

But the commission apparently is determined to stick by its guns and continue playing the old words and music to the public as coastal stream closure continues at issue.

Hal Boyle

By ED CREAUGH
For HAL BOYLE

WASHINGTON (AP) — This is the season of the amateur photographer. Innocent bystanders should take to the hills. The shutterbug we have with us always. He goes forth laden with expensive cameras. He comes home with the rent money spent on film, filters, exposure meters, tripods. In between, he takes some pictures. You want to see them? Don't worry. You will.

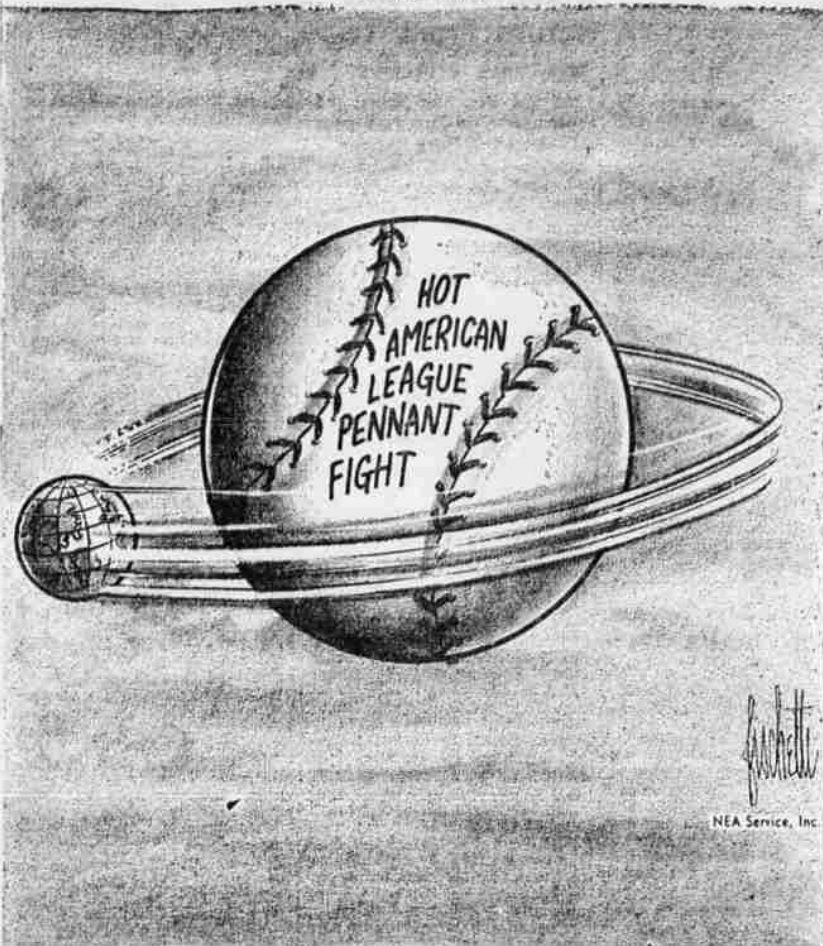
He is with us the year 'round. He is the shutterbug. But come this time of year, the peak of the vacation season, he is everywhere. He teeters on the brink of the Grand Canyon. He leans over Niagara Falls. There is no escaping him.

Just try escaping him. Go to Europe. What do you find? Amateur photographers outnumbering the pigeons in Venice's St. Mark's Square. Shutterbugs shoulder-to-shoulder blocking your view at the Folies Bergere.

For this is by no means an American peculiarity. This picture snapping it used to be said every German child is born with a camera in his hand. Today it appears every Japanese child is born with an F1.4 lens in the middle of his forehead.

A more immediate danger than the hydrogen bomb is the shutterbug himself. Picture him — without a camera, please — as he wheels down the highway, photographic gear beside seat. A plaintive cry arises: "Dad-

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Pentagon Will Spell Out Code For Prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Summer White House in Colorado and the Pentagon planned to spell out late today a new code for conduct for American servicemen who become prisoners in another war.

President Eisenhower, vacationing at Fraser, Colo., was reported ready to sign an executive order authorizing the new program.

A commission of retired senior officers and Pentagon civilians prepared a report to guide the services in training their men.

The new code is known to represent a compromise between the stern attitude of the Army and the far more lenient viewpoint of the Air Force on conduct of prisoners of war.

The commission studied cases growing out of charges that some Americans yielded to Communist pressure in North Korean camps and either signed false confessions or collaborated with the enemy to obtain better treatment for themselves.

Only the Army has actually court-martialed anybody on such charges. In eight completed cases two men were acquitted, one officer was dismissed after a finding of guilty and five servicemen drew sentences ranging from 2 to 20 years.

Paul Robeson Denied Request For Passport

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge here has rejected Paul Robeson's request for an order requiring the State Department to issue him a passport.

U. S. District Judge Burnita S. Matthews ruled the State Department had not acted arbitrarily in demanding that the Negro singer sign a noncommunist affidavit.

Robeson had refused to sign the affidavit. Miss Frances G. Knight, director of the passport division, has refused to give him a hearing on his passport application unless he does so.

Robeson told a reporter after the judge's ruling that he would never sign such an affidavit.

"I consider it an invasion of every constitutional liberty that I have," Robeson said.

Robeson has long sought a passport in order, he said, to fill singing engagements abroad.

dy! Pul-lease. I mean it this time. I got to stop at a rest-room."

He doesn't even get a kinder Daddies would, "Shaddup!"

His eyes are both glazed and drooping. He is looking for pictures. He is looking for that magic combination of color, composition, "Sneezek!"

His brakes squeal and his wife squeals simultaneously. Behind him, other drivers brake and comment on his forebears. The shutterbug does not hear. Out the door, across the highway, flutters fumbling at the camera controls.

"What a vacation!" his shaken wife moans.

"What a vacation!" the exuberant shutterbug cries, when and if he gets back safely across that busy highway. "Got Old Faithful geyser reflected in the eye of a bear! Greatest scenic shot I ever made! Greatest anybody ever made!"

Well, it turns out, of course, after the film is developed, that the bear's eye was closed. No reflection of Old Faithful. The shutterbug is not discouraged, however. "Greatest close-up of a bear's eye ever made," he exults. "I planned it that way."

And you're going to see this foggy, out-of-focus, underexposed picture of a bear's eye, friend, wherever you live or wherever you hide. The amateur photographer will track you down. J. Edgar Hoover has no agent more cunning than the shutterbug who wants to exhibit a picture.

I know because I am an amateur photographer. And, since we're talking, I happen to have a picture here. It was supposed to be the Empire State Building, but some butter off the popcorn got smeared on the lens, and —

Hey, wait! Where are you going? Come back!

Reader Opinions

Opposition Expressed To Planning Commission

CANYONVILLE — Perhaps you or some reader of this paper could enlighten me on how a decision can be reached by a few persons and an ultimatum forced on a community as large as Douglas County and affect such a large portion of the population as the recent order by Mr. Boniols and the planning commission that, from this day henceforth, anyone building within the County of Douglas must and shall have a building permit and this said building shall comply with the Pacific Coast Building Officials code, without one citizen to my knowledge having one thing to say either by voice or vote.

If a little thought is given that order, one will find a lot of pill for one swallow of water.

Who in this county has the power to pass such a momentous order with utter disregard for any person's opinion? Let's us hope that this same commission doesn't take it upon themselves to ration air.

As a builder I am in favor of everyone in Douglas County having at least a twenty room mansion with all the trimmings. It would be nice for every worker to be able to come home from work and say, "James, draw my bath!" This may seem a bit foolish but it does not seem a bit more foolish than this Napoleonic edict just handed the people of Douglas County by its mysterious planning commission. To build a house to that code and do it literally will cost a minimum of \$7,500 and it will be a small one at that.

Any person who has had anything to do with real estate in south Douglas County knows that financing homes is as sorry here as any place in the United States.

These short term loans that are available will make the buyer of a home wish he had a tent shortly after he has moved into his new home.

Perhaps the planning commission will have this all bundled up with the rest of the package and furnish or establish means of financing these Utopian homes. I would like to call this planning commission's attention to people such as myself who are not really poor but have neither money nor negotiable securities.

I find the people of this county very resourceful and, when conditions are as unbearable with the financing as they are, they will do the best they can with what they can get to do with. To solve their housing problem a good many people have purchased tracts of land outside of the city limits and are building as they can and when they can. This same plan built the great nation that we live in today.

If this type of building does not jeopardize the health or welfare of anyone then I say that it is up to the action of even attempt to stop it. No one lives in a shack because he or she wants to and if someone does and is bothering no one I feel that it is their business and theirs alone. The terrible truth is that there still happens to be a few poor people even in Douglas County and Jesus assured us about two thousand years ago that there would always be some.

There are some very independent people who will not incur an indebtedness to own a home where the contract reads that the payments shall be made from now to eternity.

Only a fool would say that inspections and the congested areas in the wooded areas. But how can this commission eradicate all the ills of rural housing by merely saying, "You bastards build these houses this way?"

Personally I hope that the edict and all connected with it catch a raw blast from China I wouldn't mind the mild shakedown in the form of the permit if it would stop there, but there is too much reserve power that can be turned on with a setup like that to trust any part of it.

When the losses in these Douglas County hills lessen as much freedom as the execution of this will

bring I do hope that there are enough people in the county that feel the same way I do about it and bring this to a screaming halt. Until the people of this county have had a chance to vote on an issue as large as this I hope every prospective builder will be in a position to tell this planning commission to go to some place I've thinking about — it isn't heaven.

Edward H. Geisler
Canyonville, Ore.

Mistakes Of Roseburg Cited By Wilbur Man

WILBUR — For many years I have read the "Letters To The Editor" with great interest. I can say that I've agreed with all of them, but nevertheless, I have found them interesting. Now I would like to air a few of my pet peeves.

Roseburg, the "Timber Capital of the World." What a laugh! It should be called a home for the near-sighted. I would like to go back in history a few years to prove my point.

First, the "friendly" Southern Pacific terminal. A gift of a few acres of ground would have kept this in Roseburg, thereby employing a great many local men. But, not The City Council couldn't see beyond the end of their respective noses. In fact, if my memory serves me correctly, the mayor said Roseburg was far too beautiful a city to be cluttered with lumber buckets. This near-sighted act not only gave Eugene a big boost, but it also cost us our passenger service.

The next big mistake wasn't made by city officials, but rather by the farmers and ranchers. Can you remember when land owners, during the depression, hired men to slash east mountain sides of growth? They were going to grow pasture. The only thing I ever saw growing on a slash was blackberry, fern, and other non-edible brush. Think what that timber would have been worth today.

And a few years ago the last, and by no means the least, of these errors was put in force when a few of the people with their fine homes passed a zoning law to keep out a pulp mill. The waste timber could have kept a pulp plant going for years and years, but some people say that they smell. Did you ever smell a handful of dirty, greasy money? It stinks too, but people are crazy for it.

We own our own home too. Not a big home, nor a fancy one, but I hope when all the timber is gone that we will still be able to find enough work to pay the taxes on it.

And, speaking of taxes, what about all these big new school buildings we taxpayers are paying for? Five years of timber left, the experts say, then all the people from other states that have been drawn here by big wages and plenty of work, will go back home or on to some far-sighted community. What are we going to use those schools for then, sleep barns?

Mrs. John E. Thomas
Wilbur, Ore.

Two Portlanders Draw Terms For Embezzlement

PORTLAND (AP) — Two Portlanders drew prison terms this week one for embezzlement and one for mail fraud.

Murray Ent, 38, one-time bank manager, was sentenced to 15 months and Morton L. Vines, 38, former head of a credit jewelry firm, was sentenced to 18 months.

The government said Ent embezzled \$30,000 in bank funds and that Vines got \$200,000 in fraudulent sales contracts over a period of five years.

Ent restored about half of the money taken from the bank, the court was told. Vines said he lost his money gambling.

Judge Claude McCulloch gave Vines a week's stay to arrange care for his wife and three children.

Bruce Blossat

Some of our marriage specialists say that the people most likely to make a success of marriage are those who refuse to allow any differences to become big enough to break up the relationship.

One might say that lately President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin of the Soviet Union have been acting like a married pair determined to let nothing spoil their blissful state.

Perhaps the outstanding impression gained from the Big Four meeting at Geneva was the resolve on all sides to keep smiling through every difficulty.

More recently the world was treated to an even more striking example of this developing attitude in both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Bulganin offered the Soviet Assembly a basically temperate report on Geneva, but appeared to reject flatly Mr. Eisenhower's plan for mutual U.S.-U.S.S.R. inspection of their military installations.

The President refused to take the statement as it seemed to be meant. He said the Russians had not really closed the door on his plan, but simply expressed a preference for a disarmament program of their own — one they had advanced last May 10.

The very next day, Bulganin picked up where the President had left off. He said his earlier remarks had been misunderstood. Russia was not refusing to find ways other than its own plan for

solving the tough disarmament problem.

This series of exchanges is plainly significant. It shows that the mood of Geneva was no accident both sides are intent on keeping their voices down. They mean to preserve the civilities at least long enough to find out whether any progress is possible on the real substance of their differences.

Other conferences in the weeks and months ahead will decide that question.

All that can be said now is that the atmosphere established a new being maintained with painstaking care by U.S. and Russian leaders alike is moderately hopeful. And after the grim history of the last decade, that alone is quite a statement. But we should not forget that these differences are very great.

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In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

day, a motorist swerved sharply to avoid a dog that was crossing the street and paying no attention to traffic. The swerve threw the motorist's car out of control and he smashed into a power pole.

His car was wrecked and he was badly battered, but will escape without permanent disfigurement.

Foolishness?
Sentimentalism?
I wouldn't say so. People who are kind to animals are apt to be kind to people.

We need MORE, rather than less, kindness in this world.

Incidental information:
Oregon ranks third in the United States in production of DRY ICE. The center of the industry is Ashland, in our own State of Jefferson.

To make dry ice, carbon-dioxide gas is compressed to a liquid in several stages and cooled between each stage. Carbon-dioxide snow is made by evaporating some of the liquid. The snow is then compressed into solid blocks of dry ice.

Ashland's raw material supply for this material comes from wells whose water is rich in carbon-dioxide. Water from the wells is pumped into a separator in which the gas is liberated from the water. It is then put through the compression-and-cooling process which ends up in the ice blocks.

As everyone knows, the particular merit of dry ice is that when it melts it doesn't leave a messy liquid behind.

Our State of Jefferson is RICH in raw materials of all kinds, including strange and unusual ones such as dry ice. In Douglas County, there is a mountain of low-grade nickel ore that has resulted in the investment of 30 million dollars of Eastern capital. Chrome ore is scattered widely over Jackson and Josephine and probably other counties.

In Klamath County a hot water well has been brought in whose flow is sufficient to provide hot water enough for irrigation of a considerable area of land if it should turn out that hot water irrigation has commercial possibilities. Some day some smart operator will use Klamath's abundant hot water to heat cheaply huge greenhouses for large-scale production of flowers and winter vegetables.

Siskiyou and Modoc counties have mountains of volcanic glass. Pumice, a fine which important volume uses will some day be found — is scattered everywhere. By this time, everybody knows about Lake County uranium.

Keep your eye on the State of Jefferson.

Board Of Control Approves Security For Hillcrest

SALEM (AP) — The State Board of Control approved Wednesday a \$27,500 project for construction of a strong security section at the Hillcrest School for Girls here.

The action follows two recent disturbances in which girls caused more than \$8,000 damage at the school.

The Board of Control decided to ask the State Emergency Board to approve the project. However, it will delay making the request until a budget survey of the school is completed.

The Oregon Pulp and Paper Co. submitted a \$4,181 claim for damages as the result of the arson outbreak in Mill Creek. Walter Keys, lawyer for the company said the plant had to close down for eight hours last March 25, as it uses water from the stream.

The oil leak was caused by the blowing up of a prison furnace.

The board, admitting the state should pay at least some damages, said it doesn't have any money for this purpose.

Gov. Paul Patterson, board chairman, said the state would investigate, and then recommend to the Legislature that damages be paid.

The board also approved start of a pavilion savings plan for purchase of U. S. savings bonds by state employees.

Sweetland Admits Morse Not Certain Of Winning

BEND (AP) — Monroe Sweetland, Oregon Democratic national committeeman, said it will take a lot of hard work for his party to re-elect Sen. Morse (D-Ore).

"In fact," Sweetland said, "the senator will be re-elected only if the average man and woman in Oregon turns politician from now until November, 1956."

Sweetland spoke Sunday at the annual picnic of the Deschutes County AFL unions.

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