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WATER CONSERVATION

Charles V. Stanton

A multitude of small dams on the upper reaches of Douglas County streams is tentatively suggested by Ben R. Irving, county engineer, as one of the best steps in control and wise use of water resources. Irving's opinions were expressed at a Chamber of Commerce forum several days ago.

Irving, who is directing a study of the county's water problems, says much must yet be done before any program can be adopted. A large number of "trickle" dams, however, would, in his opinion, be a possible method of increasing water storage.

Undoubtedly many people will disagree with the engineer's opinion. Unfortunately the general public has been led to believe that the only approved method of storing water is behind huge dams. Nothing could be further from the truth. A comparatively few acres of soil will hold far more water than the largest dam. The problem is to get the water into the soil, which acts as a sponge, releasing moisture slowly.

But engineers, desiring to erect monuments to themselves and anxious to maintain jobs and federal payrolls, have succeeded in educating a large segment of the public that huge storage dams provide the only solution to the problems of flood control and water storage.

Valuable Lands Lost

By their methods, the engineers inundate thousands of acres of fertile river bottom agricultural lands as a means of getting water on submarginal hill lands. In many cases, the lands reclaimed are of less value than the acres taken over for water storage basins. This, of course, is not true of all cases. Many reclamation projects, putting water on deserts, have been well worth their cost. But, all too often, better results could have been achieved with much less expenditure had a system of many small dams been used in place of one huge structure.

Here in Douglas County we have been taking over our best agricultural land for mill and residential use. Our agriculture is being forced back into the hill land. This raises some new problems of flood control and water usage.

Mother Nature provides flood to maintain fertility of river bottom soil. But when river bottom lands are occupied by homes and factories, flooding becomes a serious economic danger. Fertilization of low areas, occupied by homes and mills, is not needed. But, with agriculture located on hill lands, minerals and other fertilizer elements are being lost through erosion—lost in the places where most needed—and carried to areas where they are neither needed nor wanted.

Better Practices Needed

It is entirely possible, however, for farmers, even though crowded back into hill lands, to take advantage of Mother Nature's plan and thereby improve their soil. With so much of our agriculture on hill land we should have an extensive program of water conservation. Contour plowing, running furrows at right angles to the direction of drainage, would go far to reduce the peaks of floods and put water into the soil. At the same time it would capture the fine, rich silt to enrich the soil. Other conservation practices would be to leave borders of trees, brush and a strip of unplowed ground along edges of natural waterways, and to fill gullies, ditches, etc., where erosion is occurring, with logs, brush and rocks, to slow the speed of water. Hedgerows should replace fences. Farm ponds are most valuable assets in flood control and both surface and underground water storage.

The small dams, advocated Engineer Irving, placed in streams will create ponds to retard the erosive force of flooding water and cut the peak of downstream flood crests.

Studies show that the greatest volume of flood water comes off low valley lands, rather than from forest lands. If every farmer would practice soil and water conservation, much of our problem could be eliminated.

State Dept. Security Chief Says Pauling Got Passport On 'Self Generating' Appeal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department's security chief testified Wednesday that a "self generating appeal" was a passport for Dr. Linus C. Pauling after he received the 1954 Nobel Prize for chemistry.

Scott McLeod, whose duties include general supervision of the Passport Division, told a Senate Constitutional Rights subcommittee that State Department officials "read the newspapers" and "don't live entirely in an ivory tower."

Pauling got a passport in November, 1954, so that he might go to Sweden to accept the Nobel Prize.

Pauling, a California Institute of Technology scientist, had been trying for three years to get a passport.

McLeod said Charles Saltzman, then undersecretary of state, ordered the passport issued. He said he did not know whether Secretary Dulles had anything to do with it.

Only about six weeks before the passport was issued, Mrs. Ruth B.

Shipley, then head of the Passport Division, had written Pauling that his latest passport application was being denied. She said it was being denied on allegations of "continued and prolonged adherence to the Communist Party line on a variety of issues."

In the course of seeking a passport, Pauling had filed at least a dozen affidavits denying he was a Communist or ever had been one.

McLeod insisted Mrs. Shipley's letter was a "tentative" denial to give Pauling an opportunity to refute the allegations.

McLeod conceded under questioning by Sen. Hennings (D-Mo.) and Sen. Hoyer, subcommittee counsel, that he knew of no additional information received by the department between the time of Mrs. Shipley's letter and the issuance of the passport.

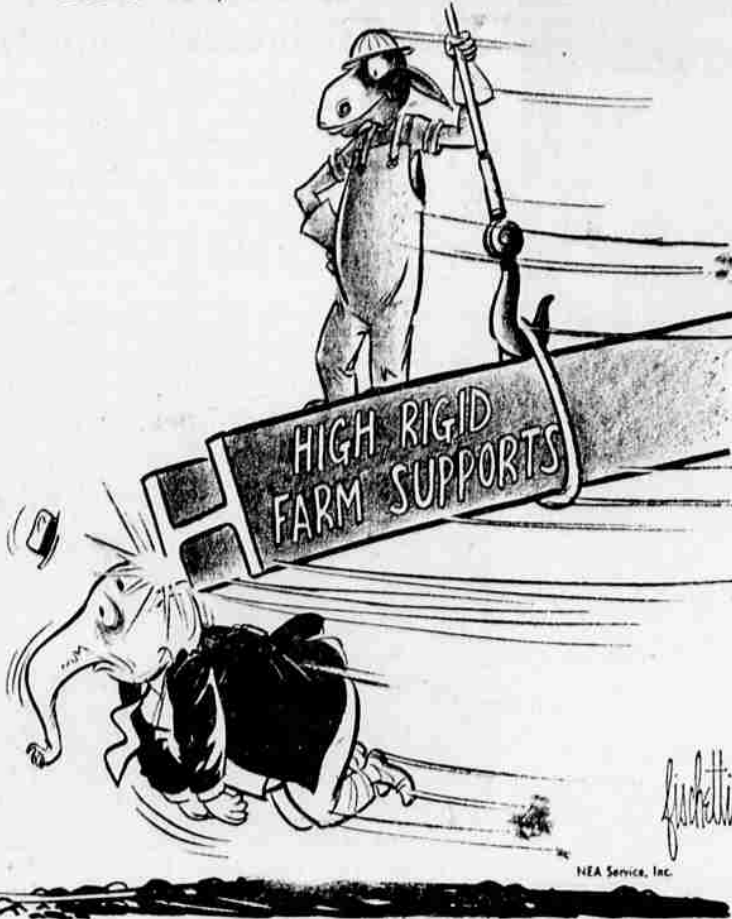
McLeod was questioned in detail concerning the department's procedures in handling passport applications, particularly that of Pauling's, and some others which have become controversial.

Asked by Hoyer whether there were cases of denials based entirely on undisclosed sources, McLeod said that was "conceivable." He said passport actions were based on "total information," including that from anonymous sources.

The Senate subcommittee is making a general study of what Hennings terms the "areas of erosion" in the federal government by the Constitution.

On passports, it is taking up the cases of Pauling, Judge William Clark, former chief justice of the Allied High Courts in Germany, and Martin D. Kamen, professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

Brand-New, Old-Fashioned Building Site



In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

all our people the higher standards and wider opportunities which are mankind's universal dream. These are now within our reach, not simply for the favored few, but for every family in America.

Our danger lies in the ambition of a new tyranny for mastery of the world and in communist exploitation of the hope and discontent of the two-thirds of mankind who now demand a share in the good things of life.

He concludes: "In partnership with our friends and allies, with confidence born of strength and influence born of magnanimity we must work to uproot the deep causes of conflict and tension and to outlaw the very means to war in this atomic age."

"The task of the Democratic party is to make 'Prosperity and Peace' not a political slogan but an active search for a better America and a better world."

"I am ready to do what I can to that end either as a worker in the ranks or at the top of the ticket if my party sees fit to so honor me."

It is a statesmanlike statement, and I am quite sure Mr. Stevenson means every word of it. I can think of nothing that would be better for our country, in this period of great opportunities and great dangers, of which he speaks so feelingly and, I'm certain, so sincerely than a 1956 Presidential campaign with Dwight Eisenhower, strong and well, heading the Republican ticket and Adlai Stevenson heading the Democratic ticket.

In that event, we would have every reasonable assurance of sound leadership in the critical years to come for the personal platform that Mr. Stevenson outlines in his announcement of his active candidacy would set the pattern of the campaign that it would be obviously wise for the Democratic party to wage.

What of his chances to win the nomination?

It is too early as yet to hazard even a guess. Fate hasn't yet dealt all the cards. It is possible that President Eisenhower may return to complete health. Many men have suffered heart attacks and have recovered sufficiently to lead a wholly normal life.

It is possible that President Eisenhower might do so. It is possible that in that case he might prefer to continue as the leader of his country in this period when his particular talents would be so useful. That decision will be his to make, when the extent of his recovery is determined by time.

If President Eisenhower should be a candidate for another term, it seems probable now that comparatively few people would want to change horses in the middle of the stream we are now fording.

If he is not a candidate (which is presently the best guess), Mr. Stevenson will be a strong contender for the Democratic nomination.

Two College Students Selected For Debate Tour

CHICAGO (AP)—Two college students have been chosen for an European debate tour. The Institute of International Education announced Wednesday.

They are Joseph Trattner of Pittsburgh, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, and Philip McLennan of Forest Grove, Ore., a student at Pacific University.

The representatives were chosen in competition at Northwestern Tuesday. Debaters could choose their own topics during the two-day trials.

Trattner and McLennan will go on a six to eight week tour of either Great Britain or the Scandinavian countries, the institute said. Exact dates of the tour were not announced.

The tour is sponsored by the Speech Assn. of America in cooperation with the institute.

Reader Opinions

Cost For Sewer Service Said To Be Too Great

GREEN — Three years ago we bought four acres in the Green district. We wanted out in the country where we could have a few head of livestock. The real estate person through whom we bought called it a rural district. There are many farms, both large and small. The Green sewer district has brought an insupportable financial burden to us and many others. The sewer charges are so fantastically high that the only possible outcome will be the loss of our home.

According to the district map, the main sewer line runs along our back fence. We will be forced to hook on from there. This fact we confirmed when we talked to the engineer for the Sanitary district. The distance across the back of our place is 264 feet. This figure, times 150 foot depth, times 15 cents per square foot, equals \$584. The above is called the direct assessment charge. Then comes the \$25 hookup fee, and we shall use that figure, although we have been told it could be much higher. Now the sewer service charge of \$3.50 per month or \$42 per year. Eighteen months, that's \$75.60. Then the mileage, so fabulous that Mr. Rice, the engineer for the district, said it could be 6, 12, or 18, or who knows what, miles.

Here's the clincher! From the lateral at our back fence to our house is 500 feet. A reliable excavation company told us that the standard charge is \$2 per foot. But considering the fact that our property is down hill from the sewer, and because there is solid rock just under the surface of all our land, it will be much more. Every inch of the 500 feet will have to be blasted out. Our sewer would cost us over half the entire value of our property, and we are not alone in this outrageous situation. Does this make any sense to you?

We have tried to borrow to pay for the sewer, but, although those contacted were most sympathetic to our incredible plight, the answer was no. So that's out for a lot of us, as quite a few others have tried to borrow and have received the same reply we did.

We who are luckless enough to own more than a lot were told at the district meeting in October that we could subdivide to enable us to pay for our sewers. But can we? I have before me a book put out by the Douglas County Planning Commission. Anyone can have one on request. According to this book it takes money, a lot of it, to subdivide. So that's out for most of us.

Maybe we should just sell out and leave. Well, here's how that goes. We had a potential buyer like the place; that is, until we told him about the sewer which, in the name of decent and honorable dealing, we were bound to do. He left hurriedly. But, as he got into his car, he said, "I am no longer interested. Why should a person buy trouble?"

Green is a workingman's community. The Green Sanitary District, as it is at present, is out of reach financially for all of us in Green. We are for progress, but when such an overwhelming debt spelled progress for anyone? Should this present sewer set up be thrust upon us? Green will be blighted by debt from which it will never recover.

Mrs. Grant R. Cross
Green, Ore.

PLANS DIAL SERVICE

ASTORIA (AP)—Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. has announced that bids now are being invited for construction of a new dial central office building here.

Bids will be opened Dec. 7 in Portland.

R. E. Jensen, local manager, said that by 1957 the company will start installing dial telephones.

Seaside also is in line for dial service, Jensen said.

Cost Of Sewer Dist. Deplored By Resident

GREEN — As winter sets in and we are faced with the additional cost of heating our homes, plus higher electric bills, I wonder how many of my neighbors in Green district realize there is about to be a squeeze put on them from which some will not recover; that is, with their homes intact. And in many cases a financial burden which will take not a few but many years to pay off.

On the twenty-second of this month we will all be asked to decide if, added to the already overtaxed community for school and water expenses, we are to take on still more in the form of a sewer. No one in this community or anywhere else in these United States wishes to tell another person how to vote. But before going to the polls in this small community, it is possible to uncover all of the facts concerning this sewer situation. While the sewer board has been very helpful, there are some things they seemed to have missed in their proposed plan for a sewer. And by now any interested person in this locale should be well aware of the fact that there are some of us that are making the other side of the picture available.

For instance, it is only feasible to suppose that the addition of a sewer in the community should up the value of your property. Supposing that you had two lots with your home on one and decided to sell the other one, the original price being \$300.00 assessed value.

With the addition of the sewer, the board tells us, the estimated cost will amount to around \$250.00 to \$300.00. With this added to the original price and with real estate as it is now, is it likely that buyers will beat a path to your door? According to one neighbor, the real-estate companies aren't interested in these places that are situated within the Green sanitary district. In fact, they will not consider taking them for sale. When businessmen such as these decline the offer to do business in this territory, is it likely to suppose it is a good business prospect?

There is no question that a sewer is needed in some localities of this district and at a future date, when there are enough people needing it, that is the time to consider this plan. In the meantime, we trust that you are informed as to cost, not of the minimum-sized pipe, but with regard to distance, depth, etc. of your place and will seriously consider if now is the time for us to vote in a sewer. And most important of all be sure to vote.

Mrs. Violet Stroup
Rt. 4, Box 365
Roseburg, Oregon.

Coos Bay Branch Banker Transferred To Portland

SALEM (AP)—Lewis Wiltshire has been appointed vice president of the First National Bank of Portland and manager of the bank's Salem branch. C. B. Stephenson, president, announced Wednesday.

Wiltshire succeeds the present Salem manager, Arthur Atherton, who is joining a San Francisco banking firm.

Wiltshire has been manager of First National's Coos Bay branch since 1950. He will be succeeded at Coos Bay by Phelan Binford, who has been his assistant there.

North Central Wyoming Due For Uranium Rush

PUMPKIN BUTTES, Wyo. (AP)—North Central Wyoming is due for a big uranium rush Thursday.

About 46,440 acres of land will be thrown open to entry at 10 a.m. and authorities look for a horde of prospectors seeking to stake uranium claims.

Wyoming officials are working out plans for keeping order, including observers from the air in communication with ground officers.

Bruce Biosat

Adlai Stevenson, whose announcement of presidential candidacy was made this week, is entering a period of test and he knows it. On many sides he has heard it said that he must "make a fight of it."

By that it is meant that he must show a willingness to take on all comers, both within and without his party. That includes readiness to match strength in various 1956 presidential primaries with any other Democrats who many choose to run.

Recently Minnesota leaders endorsed him and urged him to enter their primary. A day earlier Stevenson had given a Minnesota audience a sample of his fighting talk.

He said the Republicans are "creating and encouraging the illusion" that all is well "or at least better" in both the foreign and domestic field. In his view the illusion is false.

What he appeared to be saying was that the nation is not so prosperous as the GOP claims, nor is it so close to peace as constant emphasis on the great "Geneva Spirit" suggests.

This sort of talk may or may not sound good to Democratic ears in some future primary test. There is surely a question how well it will be received by voters generally.

In the first place, both before and after the summertime Geneva meeting "at the summit," many key Republicans in government warned against expecting too much from the conference. They did not allege "miracles" as Stevenson declared.

Secondly, outside the farm area, wherever everyone acknowledges the problem of the long price decline, the evidence does not seem to lend much support to Stevenson's contention that prosperity is an illusion.

Certain it is that there are bad unemployment spots, but so there were in the prosperous years under the Democrats. Some of these have been stubbornly unyielding for years.

Certain it is, too, that there are

dangers in present prosperity—the expansion of credit, renewal of inflation, and so on. But one needs only to look back to the pre-Eisenhower years to realize that perils of this sort are bipartisan.

The truth is that if the Democrats were in the saddle today they would be glad to take credit for the present condition of the country.

Surely issues exist or will develop on which Democrats may vigorously and honestly oppose the party in power. The GOP is more perfect than were the Democrats before them. But Stevenson, seeking out this combat ground, has begun with an artificial effort that is not too likely to register well with Americans who have their own eyes to see how things are.

NEST EGGS PAYS OFF

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—A financial nest egg that has been accumulating since she was a minor has hatched handsomely for screen star Mitzi Gaynor. The 24-year-old actress picked up \$16,250 from County Clerk Harold Ostly. The money represented 10 per cent of her earnings impounded under a 1947 court order.

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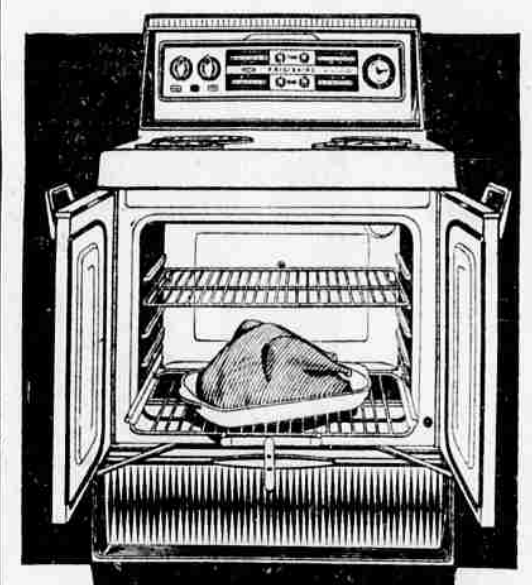
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