

The News-Review

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CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager

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IMPORTANT HEARING

By Charles V. Stanton

Excitement and interest aroused by the Roseburg school controversy, the political situation and other events, probably have caused most people to overlook the fact that a public hearing, important to the economic welfare of southwestern Oregon, is to be held at the courthouse in Roseburg April 24.

On that date the Public Utilities Commission will conduct a hearing relative to the discontinuance of rail passenger service in this part of the state.

The "Friendly" Southern Pacific several months ago removed the last vestige of passenger service in southwestern Oregon when it discontinued its "Nightcrawler," amid the excitement of the sensational Pony Express race.

The service was discontinued over the objection of the Public Utilities Commission. Commissioner Heltzel had ordered the company to continue its service pending public hearings. The "Friendly" Southern Pacific defied the order. Courts were asked to interpret the authority of the commission. It was ruled that the order to continue service pending investigation could not be enforced.

Public Opinion Sought

The commission now has arranged its hearings. It will specifically act upon a complaint filed by three Southern Oregon attorneys and legislators, including State Senator Paul Geddes of Roseburg. The Southern Pacific Company doubtless will be represented by an imposing array of expert legal talent. The public will be represented by interested people and organizations.

The hearings to be held here and in other cities of the area doubtless will produce plenty of complaint from the public, but it is doubtful if the Southern Pacific Company ever provides this area a decent passenger service even if ordered to do so.

The Southern Pacific Company doesn't want to be bothered with a passenger service. Carrying passengers is not a profitable activity. Profits come from movement of freight. Southwestern Oregon is the most productive area in the Southern Pacific's extended operations. The lumber freight business it gets here has contributed most materially to the company's financial success.

Because it has a monopoly on the freight haul, it doesn't worry about public relations. It isn't compelled to provide a needed public service, because it has no competition.

From the company's standpoint it isn't good business to sidetrack a freight train, carrying a high profit margin, to permit passage of a passenger train operating at a loss. So, being in a position to push the public around to suit its convenience, the Southern Pacific Company has no reason to maintain an unprofitable service, despite area needs.

Competition Is Answer

The "Friendly" Southern Pacific makes a great point of the fact that people wouldn't use its trains. It claims that it could not expect people to use the trains, particularly considering highway improvements, growth of airlines, etc.

The fact remains, however, that the Southern Pacific Company has not attempted to learn whether people would use the trains if given decent service. The company deliberately killed off usage of its service by making that service as unsatisfactory as possible. It then uses the decline in usage as an argument that passenger trains are impractical in this area.

Had the "Friendly" Southern Pacific made some effort to provide an adequate and satisfactory train service, and had then met with decline in patronage, it would be in a far better position to support its argument. The fact remains, however, that it not only failed to give a respectable service, but actually worked to discourage business.

Southern Oregon's development is greatly handicapped by its monopolistic transportation service. It is handicapped by a lack of passenger service.

The only solution to our problem is through rail competition.

If the "Friendly" Southern Pacific had to compete for its freight business, it would be a lot more anxious to serve the general public, and would unquestionably be actively promoting passenger service.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—The dreams of war prisoners are haunting things.

Because they can do little but dream and wait, their dreams have an intensity beyond the dreams of ordinary people. They dream of love, and money, and power. . . and food. . . but mostly food.

Many prisoners of war, when their nightmare ordeal is over and they return to peacetime living, forget the dreams they once found refuge in.

But not Gil Bloom, who for 13 months as a prisoner of the Germans dreamed constantly of—But let's tell his story from the beginning.

Gil, a tall, powerfully built private from South Orange, N.J., joined the U.S. Rangers shortly after the abortive raid on Dieppe. He himself fought at Gasia in Tunisia, Gela in Sicily, Salerno and Cassino in Italy.

A few days after the Anzio landing he was with spearheading elements of Rangers when his entire outfit was trapped and captured by a larger German force after seven murderous hours of battle.

He and 123 other Rangers, huddled so closely together in a single cattle car that they had to sleep standing up, rode for seven days and six nights before reaching Germany. In that time they were given only a single meal.

Pfc. Bloom began to dream. . . of food. Constantly hungry in dreary months that followed in a prison camp near Danzig, he found his dreams came down to a single vision.

"Day and night I dreamed of nothing but steaks. . . the big-

gest, juiciest steaks a man could think of. . . and mountains of snowy ice cream," he said. "And I made up my mind that if I ever got out alive, I'd spend the rest of my life surrounded by steaks and ice cream."

To escape the onrushing Russians, his captors started Gil and the other prisoners on a march across Germany in mid-January of 1945. They walked 700 miles before American troops liberated them in April.

"We had to scavenge what we could from the countryside," he recalled. "There were no meals. We started with 800 men, and there were only 350 to 400 left when we were freed. The rest had dropped out."

Gil's weight had dropped from about 175 pounds to 98 pounds. He fainted in the chow line waiting for his first real meal and spent weeks in a hospital.

"When I came home food was a passion with me," he said. "I couldn't get enough of it. I went back into his old business as an electrical contractor, but Gil couldn't get that wartime dream out of his head. He wanted to be surrounded by steaks."

Today he is. Gil took his passion, and, teaming up with a Green-



Reader Opinions

Secrecy Claimed Green Sanitary Dispute Issue

ROSEBURG — The April 18 issue of The News-Review carried another article about the Green Sanitary District in which Mr. Hanna, an official member of the board, took exception to Mr. Engdahl's policy of releasing publicity without any consultation with another board member. Mr. Hanna did not object to the release of letters as the issue at point, he objected to the secrecy involved and the assumption of total authority by one member, it would appear.

That is nothing new in the short history of the Green Sanitary District. It was founded on secrecy and the withholding of information from any except the ones who were in favor of a sewer at whatever cost that might entail. Even after formation of the district no one could say even approximately what the cost of a sewer would be to any homeowner in the district.

A committee was formed by those interested in knowing what a rural sewer would cost them and after much haggling finally a set of figures were given out, and the feasibility study was obtained. Since then almost an even split of voter opinion has divided the district. The ones who oppose the sanitary district have no choice but to seek the only avenue of escape offered by the law which enabled sanitary districts to be formed.

They have appealed to the promoters of the sewer to dissolve a district of approximately nine square miles in which there are only 322 homes to be served, and reform their district within the boundaries where the population density might justify a sewer.

All appeals have been ignored. The side opposing the sewer has been accused of meddling, stubbornness, one member has even been accused of an untruth in an open meeting, when he quoted from the feasibility survey upon which basis the district was formed.

An average of two meetings have been held per month since the sanitary district was formed, one public, the law requires that, but all official business seems to be transacted at the special meetings. Only the information considered favorable to the sewer ever reaches the voters. "Taxation without representation is tyranny" is an old quote; perhaps it has survived because it is true. It would seem that Mr. Hanna, a member of the sanitary board should be allowed to know what is going on. If there is nothing to hide why not let all the voters know the facts?

If it is possible to cut the costs of a sewer, as the officials of our cities have done, why is no consideration given to possible economy?

Marjorie Dovie
Roseburg, Ore.

which Village restaurateur named Johnny Johnston, opened a steak and chop house called "The Charcoal Room" at 45th and 2nd Ave. not far from the United Nations.

The place boomed from the start. One gimmick that helped: Patrons were allowed to don a chef's cap and cook their own steaks.

"People like to show off a little," explained Bloom tolerantly. "Now that his dream has come true Gil is as cheerful as a child with a new tricycle."

"I like to see people happy, and they're never happier than when they're eating," he said. "There's only one road to happiness—through the stomach. I found that out."

Gil admires a good trencherman and says heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano is the best he knows.

"I can go two rounds at the table with him and that's about all," he admitted. "Rocky can put down a 4-pound steak and then call for lamb chops. But I get filled up on a 2-pound steak plus a dish of ice cream covered with chocolate syrup and whipped cream."

But achieving a dream always carries with it a penalty.

Gil, surrounded by steaks and ice cream, now weighs 215 pounds and is considering going on a diet.

Fluoridation Expensive, Of No Value, Opinion

ROSEBURG — In the past several months we have heard the subject of water fluoridation discussed to the nth degree, both pro and con. Now I would like to put in my two cents' worth, regardless of whether or not my little say-so is appreciated.

For those of us that have taken the time to delve into this subject, fluoridation, we know, will not help anyone under any circumstances. It will only be a big expense.

Flouride, Flourine, or what ever you want to call the element, is an accumulative poison that not only damages the kidneys and liver, but all parts of our human anatomy. And we know—or by now everyone should know—that it is a by-product of aluminum. On good authority, or rather, I should say the best authority, flouride is of no value to the teeth whatsoever.

Now I want to state to the public, and I mean men, women and children, if we would be more calcium conscious, and take our daily requirements, our teeth would take care of themselves, so to speak.

I once heard a prominent authority say that over 90 per cent of the American people are calcium deficient. I also am wondering how many people right here in Roseburg realize that you do not get much calcium from the milk you drink, due to the mineral being washed away in the topsoil from so much rain.

Therefore, we need a supplement, and you get that by taking calcium in some form or formula.

I think that the sooner people realize this need, the less dental bills they will have. I sincerely hope the Roseburg people will vote "No" on the fluoridation bill.

Mrs. Jean Radcliffe
Roseburg, Ore.

Student Reporter Denies Paper Improperly Used

ROSEBURG — In a recent radio broadcast the statement was made that the high school newspaper was used by the school administration as a means of propaganda for the school budget. This is entirely false.

The Orange R is a student project and is under the supervision of the editor and the teacher-advisor only.

The staff discussed the matter and came to the unanimous decision to publicize the budget election because the outcome will affect the students primarily.

We attempted to bring in both sides fairly, but were somewhat hindered by the fact that no very concise statement was made by those who were opposed.

We tried to state the facts and to clear up many of the misconceptions. Our purpose was to encourage people to vote—to vote which ever way they might choose.

Carolyn Sinclair
Staff Reporter, The Orange R, Roseburg, Ore.

100 Students Members Attending CE Conference

Nearly 100 student members of Douglas County Christian churches are in Salem attending a three-day, state-wide Christian Endeavor conference.

Representatives from churches in Sutherlin, Myrtle Creek, Winston and Roseburg left by car Thursday to participate in the event. They were accompanied by several adult advisors.

HEARING WAIVED

Sherman R. Preslar, 23, Salem, waived his right to a preliminary hearing Thursday, and District Judge Warren A. Woodruff held the defendant to answer in circuit court to a forgery charge. Bail was continued at \$1,500. Preslar was returned here April 3 to face the charge, involving an \$87.65 check.

Attorneys From Opposite Sides Of Border Advance Opinions On River Rights

SEATTLE (AP) — Attorneys from opposite sides of the border advanced conflicting opinions Thursday on Canada's right to divert part of the upper Columbia River flow into the all-Canadian Fraser River.

Leon J. Ladner, prominent Vancouver barrister and former member of the Canadian Parliament, contended the Canadian-United States treaty of 1909 gives each nation complete control over the waters within its boundaries.

He asserted the treaty provides sovereign rights over water as basic as sovereignty over land and allows either nation to use or divert streams as it desires.

Should the two governments fail to reach an agreement, Ladner declared, "The charter of the United Nations and the statute of the International Court of Justice . . . provide a final method of settling" the dispute.

The Canadian also quoted Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) as having described the issue as the gravest crisis in modern U. S.-Canadian relations.

Elwood Hutchison, Yakima city attorney, argued that "nowhere (in the treaty) did the United States consent that Canada could make unlimited or any substantial diversion to another river system."

He asserted it "would be unjustifiable and wrong—legally, equitably and morally."

Water rights are an old principle of English law, he declared, and the diversion, "as now proposed, would be a most clear, palpable and flagrant violation of this well settled principle."

The attorneys spoke before a regional meeting of the American Society of International Law.

They agreed the treaty would allow legal action for damages from any injuries sustained downstream by diversion of the water flow.

Hutchison added, however, that the treaty also would provide the United States with the right to have such diversion action blocked by injunction — if the proposal should advance that far. He declared "it would be the absolute duty of her (Canada's) courts to enjoin" such action.

The proposal that has stirred the international disagreement is for diversion of about 25 per cent of the upper Columbia into the Fraser for development of hydroelectric power in the stream which flows westward through British Columbia to the sea.

Both speakers cited changed conditions as factors to be considered in any interpretation of rights.

Ladner declared the rising Canadian population creates a crisis in international river administration and that future plans should take the growth into account.

Canadian cooperation, he said, hinges on American agreement to the principle that Canada must share in downstream benefits to the United States through river projects in Canada.

Hutchison contended that the treaty provision against interference with navigation indicated the intent of the treaty-makers to safeguard water users in both countries. He said that if there had been any idea in 1909 of the harnessing of the river for multiple modern uses, they also would have been safeguarded.

The Yakima attorney argued that the purpose of the disputed Article II of the treaty was merely to reserve to each government the control of the river within its boundaries insofar as use by its citizens was involved.

Let's skip the staggering job of building a railroad through these vast wide open spaces with Irishmen and wheelbarrows and mules — working all the time behind the screen of soldiers who fought off the Indians with guns while the builders worked with their shovels.

Let's glance for a moment at the task of FINDING THE MONEY at a time when Americans were so busy with the job of taming a raw new continent that they had no time to save up the money for investment. We had to go abroad for a LOT of the money—Europe was then sending its money to America just as America is now sending its money back to Europe.

There were scandals galore—including the Credit Mobilier. There were land grants on a huge scale. If Senator Morse and Senator Neuberger had lived then, they would have had something to talk about in the way of "give-aways." And the politicians of those days DID talk. And protest. And howl to high heaven.

But, at long last, the job was done. And the end it paid off. The land that was granted to the railroad made possible the BUILDING of the railroad and the building of the railroad made valuable all the rest of the land.

And it MADE the West. Other transcontinental railroads followed and when transportation was provided the West began to grow. It has never stopped growing.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued From Page One)

of America reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

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Fred Doyle Sentenced To Year In County Jail

Fred Charles Doyle, 66, Roseburg, was sentenced to one year in the county jail and granted probation Thursday by District Judge Warren A. Woodruff.

Doyle, charged earlier with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of indecent exposure.

He had been scheduled to go on trial in circuit court this week. He was arrested by a deputy sheriff on Jan. 30.

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