

The News-Review

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.

Subscription Rates: In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; Six Months, \$6.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$15.00; Six Months, \$7.50. Single Copies, 10¢.

By News-Review Company—Per Year, \$11.00 (in advance); less than one year per month, \$1.00.

Entered as second class matter May 1, 1920, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon under act of March 3, 1879.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

By Charles V. Stanton

Water currently is the topic for much discussion around Oregon and elsewhere.

Army Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation officials recently have been holding a number of public hearings. Among those hearings were sessions at Grants Pass, Roseburg and Coos Bay. Irrigation, power, navigation, recreation, domestic and industrial supply and numerous other uses of water were considered.

The Columbia River has received much attention. Agreements have been prepared concerning diversion of water among tributary states, tentatively proposing a prohibition on the "export" of water to other areas. Reclamation and power projects on the Columbia and its tributaries are much in the news.

The Oregon State Water Resources Board recently received and partially approved a startling new objective by which the State of Oregon is expected to establish claim to a minimum flow of water in all streams.

Analyzing these meetings and activities as a part of one project, that of water development, we can observe marked changes in concepts concerning water usage and controls. We can see trends toward better conservation of the water resource. But we still have a long way to go.

Policy Changing

For many years our water policy has been described as: "If it runs, dam it; if it stands, drain it."

Under that policy we have caused much destruction. It is very questionable whether benefits equal the losses.

High, main-stream dams have been destructive to wildlife and fish populations. Valuable agricultural lands have been inundated to gain water for sub-marginal acreage at a time when we have been plagued with overproduction of agricultural crops and have been paying out billions of dollars in parity payments to provide props for farm industry income. We make a tremendous political issue of a federally sponsored high dam as opposed to three smaller dams proposed by private industry. Many people have been educated to believe that only by tremendous high and costly dams, monuments to engineering skill, can we properly utilize, harness and control our water resource. The high dam is presented as the universal panacea for power, navigation and flood control ailments.

In another phase of water management we have spent billions of dollars to drain wetlands. Although we already have too many acres in production, we continue promotion of costly reclamation projects, some of which impound waters behind monumental dams for purposes of irrigation, while others drain swamps and wet areas to permit more agricultural production. Hundreds of thousands of acres of drained lands have proved worthless for agriculture, despite the millions of dollars spent on them, and have reverted to waste lands, unfit for any useful purpose.

State Waters Abused

Our Oregon Water Resources Board finds that all too many of our Oregon streams have been overappropriated. Water rights have been granted far in excess of the minimum flows of those streams. Great damage is being done fish populations by excess water withdrawals. Recreational values have been impaired.

Some of the worst floods in Oregon's history occurred before we had any appreciable amount of logging. Yet the timber industry is getting blamed today for floods. Although only a comparatively small proportion of our total land area is subjected to floods, we propose to control floods by construction of enormous dams and reservoirs costing many times the value of the property endangered by flood. In most cases we could buy the flood plain and all its improvements for far less money than the cost of the proposed flood control structures.

The public is becoming aware of some of these obvious errors in our thinking concerning water control and water use. We are becoming increasingly educated to conservation practices.

Bright hope is held for the future in the fact that emphasis is being given the training of young people in various phases of conservation.

The Oregon Division of the Isaac Walton League of America will be holding its state convention in Eugene this weekend. In attendance at that convention will be a large number of Young Outdoor Oregonians, sponsored by the several chapters. The delegates will be selected students from high schools, who will have all expenses—transportation, meals and hotel bills—paid by the chapters they represent. They will have a convention parallel with the adult Waltonians and will attend many of the IWL's special convention features.

The subject for the youth conference will be water.

As more of our young people are instructed in fundamentals of conservation we will doubtless obtain correction of many of our mistakes and secure much greater efficiency in use and control of the water resource.

Lodge Assails Foreign Minister From Hungary

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., said Thursday the rule played here by Hungarian Foreign Minister Imre Nagy was "outside the pale of accepted international behavior and common decency."

The U.S. delegate questioned the good faith of Hungary in the latter's discussions with U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld about the possibility of a Budapest visit by Hammarskjöld.

In a statement to the press, Lodge said that if reports are true that the Hungarian Government has turned down Hammarskjöld's offer to go to Budapest Dec. 18, the General Assembly must consider what action it should take.

"The United States intends to enter into immediate discussions," he said, "with a view to determining what action would be most effective in the circumstances."

A U.S. spokesman declined to say what action Lodge had in mind.

Eugene Electricity Users To Get Rate Reduction

EUGENE (AP)—Electric users here will receive a general rate reduction of about 4 per cent next February, as the result of Wednesday action by the Eugene Water & Electric Board.

The board approved rate reductions which will average about 4 per cent for residential customers with only moderate use. For customers with electric heat and other higher residential uses the average reduction will run from 4 to 10 per cent. Commercial customers will have a reduction of about 5 per cent.

Supl. R. E. Boas said the city should amount to an overall reduction of about 4 per cent in rates.

This will be the 12th rate reduction in EWEB history with the last coming just a year ago.

SIGNS JEEP CONTRACT

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Prime Minister Ali Sastroamidjojo said Thursday he has signed a contract to buy 150 jeeps from the Soviet government for the Indonesian air force. No weapons will be bought from the Soviet Union "for the time being," Sastroamidjojo said.

Reader Opinions

Rowdism Cited As Need For Teen-Agers Center

I suppose most people read the article in The News-Review Dec. 1 about Roseburg businesses closing early because of juvenile rowdism. One business even went so far as to refuse service to anyone under 21 years of age. That business probably will lose a lot of money by doing it.

To get to the point, if we teenagers had a club building in which to hold dances, had a soft-drink fountain, etc., we wouldn't have to chase around in cars all night. If the people of Roseburg and the city's business interests had helped us out when we were working hard to earn money to buy a building, it would have given the teenagers a chance. But the public won't cooperate with us on anything.

Maybe there is a reason the people of Roseburg won't help us teenagers. If there is I sure would like to hear it. I guess the people in this town just don't care what happens.

Most of us teenagers don't want to get into trouble and will do everything we can to keep out of it. Most of us are normal and respectable. It is just a few kids that aren't and all of us have to pay the penalty.

All I can say is that I blame all the people of Roseburg for all of the juvenile delinquency and not just the teenagers.

Miss Dianne Hayman, 1149 N. E. Summit Lane, Roseburg, Ore.

E. Douglas Farm Bureau Supports Dog Officer

The members of the East Douglas Farm Bureau wish to express publicly that we are in complete support of our fine dog control officer, Robert Hill, and commend him for the job he is doing so well.

If more people could see the terrible way the gentle, little, family dog turns into a vicious killer, leaving death and mutilation in a flock of sheep or in a neighbor's chicken yard, we would all get behind our dog control officer and help him, our dogs and our friends, and keep our beloved dogs safely at home where they belong in the first place.

East Douglas Farm Bureau, Mrs. Harold McCormack, Sec. Rt. 1, Box 495, Roseburg, Ore.

Year Necessary To Restore Oil Supply To Europe

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A government oil official said Thursday it may take a full year to restore normal oil transportation channels disrupted because of the Suez Canal crisis.

H. A. Stewart, director of the Interior Department's Office of Oil and Gas, told the Interstate Oil Compact Commission that all through the Suez Canal may be cleared in six months, it may take a year to restore damaged pipelines to normal capacity.

Meanwhile, the United States is stepping up its domestic production both to meet its own needs and to help relieve a serious shortage in Europe.

"It would appear then," Stewart said in prepared remarks, "that we are looking at a foreign petroleum shortage which might be reduced greatly by the middle of next year and perhaps entirely corrected a year from now."

Meanwhile, however, stocks of crude oil and products both here and abroad will be seriously depleted.

"Consequently, abnormal efforts must be made to rebuild these to a reasonable level and at the same time make maximum contributions to current demands at home and abroad."

Eugene Plywood Plant Reopens

EUGENE (AP)—U.S. Plywood Co. called its workers back to its Associated plant Thursday, reducing sharply the number of jobless in this area from the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad strike.

Company officials said they had arranged a truck shuttle service to another firm's Southern Pacific Railroad loading dock, allowing the recall of 385 laid-off workers.

However, around 500 men were still idle at a half-dozen local area sawmills dependent on the SP&S.

ASTORIA (AP)—The Astoria Plywood Corp. began shutting down its plant here Thursday because of the crippling effect of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad strike.

The company employs 23 workers.

Columbia River Packers Assn. said it was being hampered in its tuna packing by failure of tank cars of soy bean oil to arrive.

And Pillsbury Flour Mills reported that operations could be continued this week but next week's outlook was uncertain if rail service still was lacking.

Farm Woodlot Prices Hold Generally Steady

CORVALLIS (AP)—Prices for logs from the farm woodlot are generally holding steady, but with many mills closing it often is difficult to find a market for small logs.

That was reported Tuesday in the farm forestry report of Oregon State College and the Department of Agriculture.

Steady prices have been especially hard hit by the lumber price decline and there have been an important market for the farm forest.

Lest We Forget—Our Unpreparedness



NEA Service, Inc.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—Nobody worries about Santa Claus—but he has his problems.

Right now he's playing the stock market in an effort to pile up enough cash to tide him over from one Christmas to another.

"Even a jolly old Santa likes to eat regularly," said Santa. "I sure wish I could get on a steady payroll. As it is my work is highly seasonal, only about two months out of the year."

"I can't get enough consecutive weeks of work to draw unemployment insurance. I had to go into the stock market. This year I hope to top the \$2,000 a year bracket."

Santa is Lucky S. Squire, a portly gentleman in his 30s with a grumpy, foot-long white beard. It's the real beard he feels, that sets him apart from the phonies in the hot-bof-bof-and-redstocking-cop industry.

"I gave up two other careers to 'fake up this one,' said Squire, who is top man in his field and wants it clearly understood he is no Bowery-type Kris Kringle. Squire, who was born in Hungary (and likes to pun, "I still am hungry"), has been a lay preacher, a physical therapist and a children's camp counselor.

About 18 years ago his old-fashioned moustache began to whiten and the camp kids started calling him Santa Claus.

"I decided I would be Santa Claus," recalled Squire. "It took me two years to grow the beard."

"Since then at least a million children have sat on my lap and told me what they wanted for Christmas. During the season I work sometimes from 7 a.m. to midnight. I've worked for a dozen department stores. I've been on calendars, greeting cards, in newspaper and magazine ads, beauty pageants, auto shows, radio television."

"Why don't you stick to one department store?"

"Each move I make I bettered myself," said Squire, who is a stout (222 pounds) advocate of the free enterprise system.

He starts fattening up in

Bruce Blossat

There is justified concern in many capitals over the increased Soviet Union has made the Middle East. At the same time, powerful offsetting factors can't be overlooked.

In suppressing the revolt in Hungary the Russians have made nearly every conceivable mistake. Indeed, from the viewpoint of their world standing it is reasonably accurate to say they have done nothing right.

They have employed a brutal weight of arms, mass deportations and cold and hunger to crush the embarrassingly protracted uprising. And how they have added kidnapping to their catalog of crimes, having made off with former Premier Imre Nagy after pleading Yugoslavia they would give him a safe conduct to flee from his refuge in the Yugoslav embassy.

The ruthless bludgeoning of Hungary below the world's eyes has brought havoc to the Russian cause in quarters heretofore never disturbed by Moscow's course of tyranny.

THE Communist parties of Western Europe have been badly shaken. A number show strong signs of veering off on an independent path. There have been reports of Red members marching to party headquarters, bearing their cards in the presence of leaders, and staking off in fury.

The Red Chinese government in Peking has voiced an indirect but still unmistakable disapproval of the scale of Soviet repression in Hungary.

Yugoslav President Marshal Tito, so recently judged to be moving back to closer affinity with

Moscow, has once again turned sharply away from the Kremlin. The Nagy kidnapping incident seemed likely to drive a deep wedge that no chummy meeting with Bulganin and Khrushchev could quickly close.

More broadly, the whole United Nations again and again has been fit to condemn Soviet actions in clear and overwhelming terms. And in one of its most recent censures, the lead was taken not by the West but by neutral India, Burma and Indonesia.

IN this vote test, Poland, itself having just hammered out a small measure of freedom from Russian dictate, boldly abstained from supporting the Kremlin. All the satellites are in great ferment.

The net effect of Russia's Hungarian depredations has been to elevate the United States in the eyes of the Afro-Asian nations, while downgrading Moscow's position. The gains, to be sure, are still tenuous, but they may become more solid when Prime Minister Nehru visits President Eisenhower in December.

Obviously when a new balance is struck in the continuing East-West struggle for supremacy, it is far from a foregone conclusion that the scales will tip more definitely in Moscow's favor. They may in fact swing more strongly toward the United States and its friends.

Daily Bible Reading

Message By
Roseburg Ministerial Association
TODAY'S TEXT
John 4:1-28

Christmas is not merely a holiday; it is a Holy Day. It is not simply a celebration; it is an experience. Neither is it a time for exchanging many gifts; it is a time for receiving the gift.

In the day's scripture lesson, Jesus speaks to the woman of Samaria saying, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Christmas is our opportunity, once more, to ask for "The Gift of God." And upon asking, we shall receive. As we search we shall find. And the gift we receive will be love, come down to us through Christ, the Son of God. For as Christ was born at Christmas, so was love.

"Love came down at Christmas. Love all lovely, love divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign."

Asa Mundell
Associate Pastor
First Methodist Church

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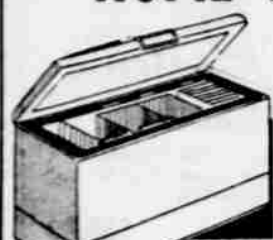
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