

The News-Review

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

Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.50; three months, \$3.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.00; six months, \$7.00; three months, \$3.75.
By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25.

Entered as second class matter May 1, 1926, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1912.

DEADLY WASTE

By Charles V. Stanton

Bruce Yeager of Roseburg, president of the Oregon Wildlife Federation, is expressing his pleasure these days concerning the victory won in Washington by the National Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the Izaak Walton League and other conservation agencies.

Conservationists beat back in the House of Representatives a drive aimed at scuttling a major part of the water pollution control program, which started last year with passage of the Blatnik Act.

The National Wildlife Federation, of which the Oregon Federation is a state affiliate, and with which the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club is a participating member, spearheaded the attack which saw 14 roll call votes on amendments to cut appropriations for the Department of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare.

Efforts to limit drastically the water pollution control program were labeled as a part of the economy trend for cuts in budgetary items.

The National Wildlife Federation, says Yeager, believes in the utmost economy. It believes all unnecessary governmental expenditures should be eliminated. However, it contends that there is another kind of waste that is even more deadly to the economy and welfare of America—the waste of natural resources.

Industry Fights Cleanup

One of the amendments beaten by conservationists was the Fisher bill, which would have knocked out the \$50 million budget for grants to municipalities to stimulate building of sewage treatment plants. By a standing vote the House passed the amendment 162 to 140. The following day, however, reconsideration was obtained and by roll call vote the amendment was beaten 231 to 185.

Pressure to eliminate the water pollution control program, according to the National Wildlife Federation, originates with the National Association of Manufacturers. The NAM, it is pointed out, includes many industries which now discharge industrial wastes into streams. It will cost those industries many millions of dollars to provide waste disposal methods. Consequently they oppose anti-pollution laws and fight vigorously against any state and national appropriations designed to encourage cleanup of rivers.

Cleaning up municipal sewage, the National Wildlife Federation declares, will point the finger of blame for water pollution directly at offending industries. As it is now, with raw city sewage contaminating many rivers, the public cannot sort out the smell of destructive industrial wastes above the general stench. If, however, city sewage is treated, the public will become aware of the enormity of industrial waste and will demand removal, which will be costly to many industrial operations.

Oregon Has Good Record

The battle for pure, clean water is raging bitterly throughout the United States. The National Wildlife Federation, the Izaak Walton League and other conservation organizations are leading the fight to take human and industrial wastes from our streams and make the waters suitable for recreational uses.

Residents of Oregon can take pride in the accomplishments in our own state. While we still have far to go, we have set up laws and have created an organization, the State Sanitary Board, to work on the program.

Considering the fact that the Sanitary Board has never had more than a mere fraction of the money it needs for the job to which it is assigned, it has made remarkable achievement. Despite continuing population and industrial growth, it has more than kept pace with pollution. Much of our industrial waste has been taken out of the streams. Many waters, which for years were virtually open sewers, now are suitable for recreation and are showing a return of game fishes.

It is true that there is still much work to be done, but Oregon is a leader among states in pollution control and far above average in the quality of its waters.

We must not rest on our oars, however. The declaration by the National Wildlife Federation that waste of natural resources is a deadly waste should ever be kept in mind.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from page one) and see if the researchers can solve the problem. Now for the ant. A researcher prowling around down in Africa has made what may be an epochal discovery. He found out that if he killed an ant and left it in the ant trail, the rest of the ants would get scared and pull out. He says he tried obliterating the trails, spraying chemicals, etc. But the only thing that would work was leaving a dead ant on the road. That did the business every time, he says.

Hummmmm. If that scheme works, all one would have to do would be to kill an ant and leave its carcass in front of the hole by which the ants enter the kitchen cupboard. I'm afraid it's too simple to be true. It violates the ancient rule that the hard way is the best way.

Waitress Refuses Tip From Revenue Collector DENVER — Several weeks ago the Internal Revenue Service here was reported to be investigating the income received by restaurant waiters in tips.

George H. Allan, director of the Colorado office of the IRS, said that when he was lunching at a downtown restaurant Wednesday, his waitress said to him: "I just found out you are the Internal Revenue Service's director." She then handed him a slip of paper. Allan unfolded it and read: "Don't you dare tip me. I'll have to give you back."

Oregon, in a year when tax money is hard to find, is thinking of spending a lot of money to get rid of ragweed. Maybe we'd better wait a while

Whoosh!



Peter Edson

Magnuson Going After John Day Dam Appropriation

By FRANK W. VAILLE

WASHINGTON — Hoping to get money to start construction this year of John Day dam on the Columbia River, Sen. Magnuson (D-Wash.) said Friday:

"Personally I'm for going after the full eight million dollars but will compromise for less if that's what we have to do to get construction started."

Army engineers have told Magnuson and other John Day backers that eight million dollars could feasibly be used on construction money for the Columbia River project this year.

Referring to possible "compromise" figures, Magnuson said a three million dollar appropriation would permit only a "minimum construction schedule" with no money to start work on the first cofferdam.

The full eight million allocation, he said would permit earmarking of 2 1/2 million dollars for cofferdam construction.

Although no money is provided for John Day in the budget now before Congress, Magnuson said a start on its construction during the 12 months beginning July 1 is "dictated by soaring Pacific Northwest power needs."

Magnuson, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he has been joined in the drive for John Day money by all Democratic members of the Oregon, Washington and Idaho House and Senate delegations.

John Day Dam, estimated to cost 350 million dollars, would have installed power capacity of 1 1/2 million kilowatts and would provide slack water navigation to the P a c o-Kennewick-Richland area through controlled water storage.

PORTLAND — The Portland Parks Bureau, faced with a \$116,800 cut in its budget for the coming year, reported Thursday that it will have to close a number of its swimming pools, shut down its day camps and reduce its playground staff.

The Park Bureau and other city agencies have to operate on reduced funds so that promised pay raises can be provided for city workers.

Coquille Representative Receives More Mail Than Any Other House Member

By GORMAN HOGAN

SALEM — Rep. Clarence Barton, Coquille Democrat, gets more mail than anybody else in the Oregon House of Representatives.

That's because he's chairman of the House Tax Committee, which has the responsibility of coming up with the program for raising the money to operate the state for the next two years.

Everybody agrees that Barton's job has been a big one, but he doesn't get too much sympathy. While he didn't ask to be committee chairman, he did request appointment to the Tax Committee, so they figure he's getting what he asked for.

His mail comes from those who want the state to spend less money so they can get some tax relief and from those who want the state to spend more money, mostly for school support.

One correspondent asked that her income be exempt from taxation because she was confronted with a "shortage of money," something Barton says seems to be afflicting a lot of other people.

Another wanted his federal pension declared exempt while a third asked Barton to help figure out her income tax.

A rural telephone company asked for a shift from property taxation to gross income. Employer groups writing to the chairman generally "just want the taxes kept down."

"Trouble is," he says, "most everybody wants the state government run at someone else's expense."

The solution, of course, Barton points out, is to arrive at a fair and equitable program that will pay the bill.

"The difficulty there," the chairman adds, "is that everyone has a different definition of fair and equitable."

The tax program drawn by the committee is being shaped to finance a 265-million dollar budget "give or take a few millions," Barton says.

A title insurance business owner in Coquille, where he was born and has lived all his life, Barton became interested in taxation as a member of the city council and through his business associations.

He saw some things he didn't like in the Oregon tax structure, so he decided to seek a seat in the Legislature to try to do something about it. That's why he wound up on the Tax Committee.

"I don't feel that the timber industry was paying its fair share of the tax load, in my county, at least," he says, "for another thing, studies showed that vast amounts of personal property were going untaxed. These things, he believes, will be corrected by the Legislature."

After being elected, the 46-year-old University of Oregon and Willamette Law School graduate, took time off to hold up in libraries to study tax programs.

His Tax Committee has encouraged full and sometimes lengthy hearings on the tax situation.

"I don't think star chamber sessions are right," he says. "Public hearings may take longer but I believe they are good public relations and those who have to pay the taxes have the right to approve or object."

Besides, Barton says, the public hearings also served to help educate inexperienced committee

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