

The News-Review

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SURVIVAL THROUGH RESEARCH

By GEORGE CASTILLO

These trying times in the lumber industry signal a strong need for a "crash program" of research into both new products and economical methods of using wastes from the forests.

The value of such research was indicated to me in a recent trip to Richmond, Calif., to tour an oil research laboratory during Oil Progress Week.

Judging from the modern laboratory, the oil industry has diversified to such an extent, many of its products are completely unrecognizable from the original oil.

It's hardly imaginable that plastics, soap, synthetic fabrics for clothing, wax and other products can be manufactured from crude oil. But the laboratory dramatically proved it.

One executive of the oil company's research staff said some 1,200 different products are manufactured from or with the help of crude oil. Many of the products are the result of highly complex rearrangements of molecules, but research has proved first that the products can be manufactured and secondly that they can be made on a mass production basis for general distribution.

Research Emphasized

The value of the research is so strongly emphasized, according to the president of the California Research Corp., because it is a "matter of survival." Most companies in the oil industry are carrying on similar research in a battle to get an edge on other companies. The result has benefited the man on the street and has made money for the companies.

It was obvious as Northwest newsmen talked to the executives that the time of furnishing the simple products of gas, oil and grease was gone. Survival meant complete use of the product and diversification.

One man said: "We use everything, including the smell." He explained the smell is used as a warning device to detect leaks in homes using gas power.

The effects of the present lumber slump is indication enough that the industry needs a similar research program for its own survival. A dip in home building was felt immediately by such areas as Douglas County where it had no other products to offer to take up the economic slack.

The failure of the E. K. Wood Lumber Co. is a dramatic example of the disappearing age of primary manufacture alone in the lumber industry. William Tugman, astute editor of the Port Umpqua Courier in Reedsport, calls it "part of the pattern of industrial change. He says "the sawmill, as we have known it, is becoming a marginal venture. Unless the sawmill is integrated with plants which provide full utilization, it ceases to be competitive."

The E. K. Wood Lumber Co. was not equipped to compete, Tugman said.

Pattern Changing

Signs of the changing industrial pattern are starting to crop up on several fronts. Oregon State College will soon open up a new forest research laboratory. Pacific Plywood is operating a particle board plant in conjunction with its plywood operation. Roseburg Lumber Co. is making greater use of its waste. U. S. Plywood says it won't even have a burner to destroy waste. Potlatch, Idaho, plants are finding "waste" is becoming too valuable to burn.

These are steps in the right direction and may prove to be the first steps to survival of plants. But it is only scratching the surface.

More immediate action is needed to investigate the possibilities of diversifying the forest product through the tools of chemistry and physics. The reason is with us today. The future economy is too uncertain with the primary manufacture alone.

Obviously the companies comparable to Shell, Texas Co. and Standard Oil are few in the lumber industry, but a pooling of resources through some of the industry's associations or through support of expanded research at such laboratories as the one at Oregon State College might be an answer.

It means venturing into strange new fields, but the oil industry has proved it pays off. And economies of Douglas County may survive and prosper the same way.

—Bruce Blossat—

The Russians would be totally out of character if they did not attempt to gain maximum propaganda value from their success in probing outer space. They are crowing loudly, and showing no hint of humility in the face of the great and natural forces involved.

The worst aspect of this is that the Kremlin obviously seeks to capitalize on its scientific triumph to bulldoze the free world into accepting its disarmament proposals.

Using "Sputnik" as a kind of club, the Russians want to frighten tremulous neutrals and even sturdy anti-Communist peoples into submission.

To combat this effort gives to the United States and its firm friends perhaps the most hazardous diplomatic task they have had since the close of World War II.

FOR WHAT HAS dazzled the world is not only that the Soviet Union has catapulted into space a spinning object able to resist the pull of the earth. It is that by doing so they have revealed capabilities heretofore merely claimed or hinted at.

But we must not forget, and we must not allow our friends and the neutral nations to forget, that the United States has not—as a corollary of Russian success—lost its own capabilities.

We still have a huge and varied arsenal of atomic and hydrogen weapons and the ability to deliver these to the enemy. So long as we can put one hydrogen bomb over the Soviet Union, we have the capacity to render another war an

unbearable holocaust for the Russian people.

The evidence at this moment suggests that we are trailing Russia in the development of long-range guided missiles which could deliver nuclear warheads. But the race is not over. Just as the Soviet Union learned the secret of nuclear weapons after we had jumped into a huge lead, so we can redress the balance in the missile field.

OUR GREAT NUCLEAR arsenal plus the prospect of success in the missile and satellite field should give us confidence, though plainly there no longer is room for smugness and complacency.

Neither we nor our friends should be panicked into submitting totally or one by one to Russia. War is just as unthinkable for both sides today as it was before "Sputnik" was launched.

So long as this is so, our resolve to hold out for peace with justice for the great bulk of mankind in the free world should not crumble.

We have no reason to yield in fear. Rather we should resist in the sure knowledge of our undiminished strength, and set about adding to it with all the resources at our command.

BODY IDENTIFIED
MILTON-FREEWATER — A man found dead along the Union Pacific railroad tracks 4 miles south of here Monday apparently died of a heart attack while hunting.

Authorities identified him as 71-year-old Andrew M. Larsen of Milton-Freewater.

—Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK — S. J. Perelman, regarded by many as the wittiest man alive, believes America's greatest medical problem isn't hardening of the arteries — it's decay of the funny bone.

"Humor writing today?" he said. I just don't see much of it around.

"The immensity of life is a deterrent. Everything today has assumed such a terrific shape and size it dwarfs the individual and his point of view."

"The movies and television also have siphoned off a lot of possible humorists who became anonymous gag writers. They might have had a viewpoint or an identity, but instead they became part of a six-man team. They are well paid, but their work has no permanence."

A raffish Socrates who looks and talks a bit like Groucho Marx (as a matter of fact, he wrote two early Marx brothers movies), Perelman broke into the chuckle industry during the turbulent 1930s, the era of such men as John Held Jr., and Robert Benchley.

Gusto In Living
"We all starved together," he said. "But there was a tremendous amount of gusto in living in those days."

"But, like everybody else, I went on the auction block."

Since leaving Brown University, Perelman has turned out some 15 books and plays, more than 200 humorous skits for the New York magazine, and innumerable movies. Last year he won the Academy Award for his script, "Around the World in 80 Days."

A man who looks with skepticism on everything in life except the messages he finds in Chinese cookbooks ("these I accept literally"), Perelman said every young writer begins his career as a thief.

"He has to be," he said, "that is, in the sense he has to read and digest the work of good men who have gone before. Then he has to demonstrate his skill by turning out varnished pieces so well done they show no trace of the sources they sprang from."

Stolen From Good Men
"I must say I myself have stolen only from good men."

Perelman now lives in a 117-year-old stone house on an 83-acre farm in Bucks County, Pa., complete with a mortgage, high weeds and a slough of despond.

What does he believe is the funniest thing in the world?

"The spectacle of a middle-aged

Reader Opinions

Nigerian Boy Requests Pen Pals From County

I am a Nigerian boy writing you from Lagos, the capital town of Nigeria.

I am 17 years, 5 feet 6 inches tall and black in complexion.

I am seeking for pen pals in your city with whom I could exchange some African articles such as ebony carvings, crocodile handbags and snake skin handbags and wallets, decorating calabashes (gourdlike fruit of the calabash tree) and dagger knives, for shirts, trousers, jackets and camera.

I shall be much grateful if you can publish this in your paper for me, sir. May God assist you in your undertakings.

Bandus Josumus
2, Okeopona Marina
Lagos, Nigeria

Court Refuses To Dismiss Suit To Block Merger

SALEM — The U. S. District Court in Utah has refused to dismiss a government suit which seeks to block the merger of El Paso Natural Gas Co. and the Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp., Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said Tuesday.

Thornton was the only one of nine Western state attorneys general who asked the court to retain jurisdiction. The decision, which upholds Thornton's position, means that the court, rather than the Federal Power Commission, will decide the merger issue.

Thornton, who said the merger might be prejudicial to the interests of the state of Oregon, appeared before the court in Salt Lake City Monday.

Thornton said the merger would give the proposed new company a monopoly in natural gas distribution in the West, and that this monopoly could destroy the incentive to provide gas at reasonable rates.

Oregon's industrial future, he said, depends on obtaining gas at reasonable rates.

He said he also fears that if the merger is allowed, gas from British Columbia would be piped to California, to the detriment of Oregon.

Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp. now serves Oregon with natural gas.

Sun Photographs From Balloon Termed Success

MINNEAPOLIS — An unmanned balloon flight into the stratosphere Oct. 17 to photograph the sun, was termed an outstanding success Tuesday by researchers after viewing photographs taken from 83,200 feet altitude.

Dr. Martin Schwarzschild, Princeton University astronomer who headed the Office of Naval Research project, said the edge of the sun appears on the photographs in unprecedented sharpness.

Hot turbulent eddies in the solar atmosphere are visible even quite close to the edge, he said. Hot magnetic storms also can be detected.

Researchers explained the atmosphere at the sun's edge is not quite as deep, thus photographs will be superior for evaluating atmospheric temperature and temperature fluctuations.

About 5,000 photographs were taken through a specially constructed telescope camera. The balloon remained at its predetermined ceiling of 83,200 feet for about five hours while pictures were taken at one second intervals on 35 millimeter film.

When the photography was completed, the camera gondola automatically released. It parachuted to earth near Scarville, Iowa.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

EARNINGS AND PENSIONS

Cool Bay World

Elderly citizens eligible for social security pensions are being treated unfairly because of United States social security regulations. So contends New York Congresswoman Katharine St. George. May she be right.

Men over 62 and women over 62 have this choice: They can take their social security pension — the average is \$64 per month — plus a maximum of \$1,200 earned and live on it; or keep their job paying more than \$1,200 and be deprived of the pension they've built up over the years through compulsory savings.

Mrs. St. George, in a recent Sunday supplement article, is strongly critical of the limitation on earnings. She has introduced a bill to take off the ceiling on earned incomes and is seeking public support.

Her argument is that pension payments plus \$1,200 do not add up to an adequate annual income. Opponents of her bill contend it would necessitate raising social security deductions. She replies that the increase would only be about one half of one per cent in the percentage of wages paid by employers and employees; and that the money would return to the economic lifeblood of the country.

Unless we're overlooking some aspect of the problem, her bill seems well advised. Social security was born during depression years. It was partly designed to keep elderly people off the labor market as to ease the unemployment problem. Moreover, the schedule of payments still reflects the lower cost of living prevailing in the 1930's.

Adoption of the St. George amendment might encourage more elderly citizens to work. Is this a good idea? Lack of jobs, as we know in Oregon, is a problem today. With added automation, unemployment may be more of a problem tomorrow. Yet we cannot consider this prospect a valid reason for discouraging a section of the population from working.

Instead we should face the challenge of developing an economy — for peace as well as war and cold war — which will provide employment for any man who wants a job; and an economy which discriminates against no citizens through inflation. Yes, we know it's a tall order.

So perhaps the St. George bill deserves whatever support we can give it. Social welfare legislation must allow, as much as legislators can devise, for human difference. It must take every care not to abridge individual freedom unfairly. After all, social welfare laws fall within that paradoxical and very delicate function of government — guaranteeing and promoting human freedom through regulation — r.f.

TIPS ON NAMING THE UNNAMED

Eugene Register-Guard

Phil Brogan, the Bend Bulletin's expert on Oregon geography, geology, paleontology, meteorology and human history, writes that he, of which he is a member, has filed names for 35 previously unnamed Cascade lakes with the U. S. Board on Geographic Names. Most of the new names sound like good ones — with color, with character, descriptive when possible, and not likely to be duplicated in the next county.

Witness Jacob Lake, named for a mule that served well as a beast of burden in the Deschutes Forest. The finger-shaped lakes, less than a quarter mile apart, are now to be called Little Finger Lake and Big Finger Lake. Snowshoe Lake gets its name from Snowshoe rabbits which were often seen there.

This is the proper way to name physical features. Often it is wise to preserve Indian names, as we hope will happen to the lake behind the dam at The Dalles. Now called officially "The Dalles Dam Reservoir," it may someday be recognized as Lake Celilo, thus perpetuating an honored Indian name, and a beautiful one. Old settlers can be honored in this manner, too, as witness Skinner's and Spencer's Buttes.

What we don't need in this state is a new rash of Lost Creeks, Beaver Creeks, Mud Lakes, Devil's Hills, Lava Lakes, Spring Lakes, Hidden Lakes, Bear Creeks, and Jumpoff Joes. One of the happiest achievements along this line came when the people around Bend took their old Lost Lake and summarily renamed it for an old settler, Uncle John Todd. Now the lake is Todd Lake, the only one in the state, and not just one of several dozen lost lakes which are not lost.

Names should stir the imagination. Quitter's Point is a fine name, giving rise to all sorts of speculation. So is Powder River, Fingerboard Prairie, Pistol River, and the Donner and Blitzen rivers are the sort of names Oregon deserves. Even Princeton, being where Princeton is, leads one to wonder how the dickens that fine old name, just reeking with culture, ended up miles from nowhere in the Steens Mountain region. (Actually it was named for Princeton, Mass., an old homesteader's home town, and not for the college.)

Officer's Inquisitiveness Results In Booking Man

PORTLAND — Policeman Ed Lesowski Tuesday saw a man picking up money off the street when he went to investigate a \$45 holdup at the Nortonia Hotel.

Lesowski grabbed the man's arm to take him into the hotel. Then, the policeman said, he felt a pistol being pressed into his abdomen.

Disregarding this, Lesowski pushed the man to the ground and held him until another officer came to his aid. Lesowski said a .38 caliber pistol was found on the man he grabbed.

He was booked as William Reginald Davis, 38, on charges of assault and robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, grand larceny, and being a convict in possession of a firearm.

Bail was set at \$13,000.

BACK HOTEL PLAN

PORTLAND — Forty-five Portland businessmen have agreed to back a 3 million dollar Portland fund raising campaign for a new Hilton Hotel here.

Present plans call for construction of a 500-room hotel costing about 11 million dollars. The first project is getting the money lined up.

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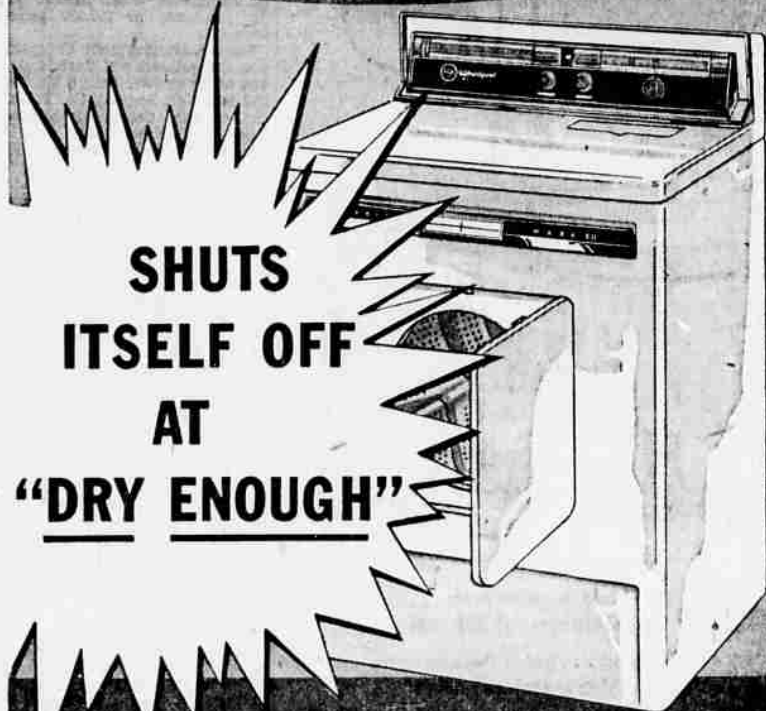
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