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, $13.00; six months, $6.50 three months, $3.25. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, $12.00; six months $7.00; three months, $3.50.

By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, $13.00 (in advance), less than one year per month, $1.25.

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1930, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.

CHRISTMAS TREE HARVEST

By Charles V. Stanton

During the holiday season considerable comment appeared in various newspapers concerning the cutting of Christmas trees. Writers of letters to the editor complained of the "waste" of trees. Many retail dealers, they said, had large numbers of trees left and had to destroy them by burning. Correspondents felt that this waste should be avoided.

The public concern expressed in many parts of the state is most gratifying, even though at least partly in error. But the fact that so many people felt it necessary to complain about the use of a commercial type of tree as a Christmas tree, and particularly about the waste of trees, through overcutting, is a healthy sign. People definitely are interested in conservation of trees, these letters prove, and become anxious when they observe practices believed to be improper.

Actually, few of the trees cut for Christmas had commercial value, other than the value realized. Those burned were, for the most part, trees that didn't even qualify properly for Christmas trees.

Sale of Christmas trees has grown into a tremendous business. It is a business that gets larger year by year and is becoming an important segment of the timber industry.

Thinning Benefits Forest

Here in Oregon, where we still have an abundance of timber, many people go out into the woods and select their own Christmas trees. Some damage must be charged to these persons. They often select trees which have merchantable value, or cut them improperly. But, as trees become more valuable, the independent tree cutter finds he is not as welcome on private lands as in earlier years.

The Christmas tree business hasn't assumed as much importance in Douglas County as in many other parts of the country. Particularly is this true as it affects the Umpqua National Forest. Many of the national forests more heavily cut over, such as those in Washington and the upper Willamette Valley, do a thriving business in Christmas trees. Thinning new forests removes competition for remaining trees. Thinning permits removal of those trees suitable for Christmas use but not of a quality to produce merchantable timber.

Douglas County public domain forests have not yet reached the stage for commercial Christmas tree operations on a large scale.

The Umpqua National Forest, however, Supervisor Vondis Miller reports, realized $5,172 from the sale of approximately 2,000 trees in the Diamond Lake district. These trees, Shasta firs, were sold at a price of 50 cents per linear foot or around $2.50 per tree.

The Bureau of Land Management had no Christmas tree sales program in the county.

Eventually, as more logged - off lands are planted, Christmas tree production definitely will be a part of the U.S. Forest Service program, Supervisor Miller reports.

Planting Costs Recovered

When logged-off areas are planted, Miller explained, it is planned to alternate Douglas fir seedlings with white, Shasta, Noble firs, or other varieties of trees preferred for Christmas use. Then, as thinning is needed, the Christmas trees can be harvested, leaving the Douglas firs spaced at the recommended intervals. The sale of Christmas trees on forests where this plan is used pays the total planting cost, Miller says.

The growing Christmas tree market is getting a substantial part of its supply from privately owned Christmas tree plantations. At present these plantations cannot supply the total demand, but more acreage is being planted each year. Many owners of submarginal land are finding Christmas trees the most profitable crop for such lands. In a few cases crop lands are being taken out of production and put into trees, thereby becoming eligible for soil bank conservation payments.

—Bruce Biossat—

The leaders of the AFL-CIO evidently are determined not to be caught doing any original economic thinking.

When business is spiraling upward, they call for wage increases to keep pace with the rising cost of living.

When, as now, economic activity is in a decline, they call for wage increases to bolster workers' sagging income.

No matter what the time or circumstance, it would seem, higher wages in one form or another constitute organized labor's perennial answer.

But there are a good many economic analysts and observers who question the wisdom of this response, not only in the interests of the whole economy but of workers themselves.

TO BEGIN WITH, if higher wages are labor's stock reply whatever the situation, this answer becomes pretty meaningless. It can hardly have equal validity in all circumstances. That it is nevertheless offered in every economic climate suggests automatic behavior almost devoid of thought in labor's top echelons.

To push wages higher in a falling economy is to drive costs up and perhaps compel further price increases which only stiffen consumer resistance.

Except in the emergency of war, asking labor to accept a formal "wage freeze" is probably wasted breath. But responsible labor statesmen could achieve that same end simply through quiet decisions in union after union, not to press for more money while business is slumping.

Even in a booming economy, labor has never proved its case for steadily rising wages regardless of other important factors.

MOST ECONOMISTS believe that wage gains should be carefully attuned to an industry's advances in real economic wealth, in other words, to its ability to turn out more goods or services for the same or less productive effort.

When such advances are made, they feel labor and the consumer and the investor should share fairly in the resulting heightened profits for industry. Few quarrel with this view.

But when wage gains are exacted from an economic pie that is shrinking or merely holding size, no one benefits in the long run. In the one case, a decline tends to be deepened. In the other, inflationary pressures tend swiftly to wipe out the gains.

Organized labor's stubborn insistence on the "wage increase" policy as a workers' cure-all represents a barren contribution to national leadership at a juncture when constructive proposals would be widely welcomed.

Former Labor Leader Loses Prison Appeal

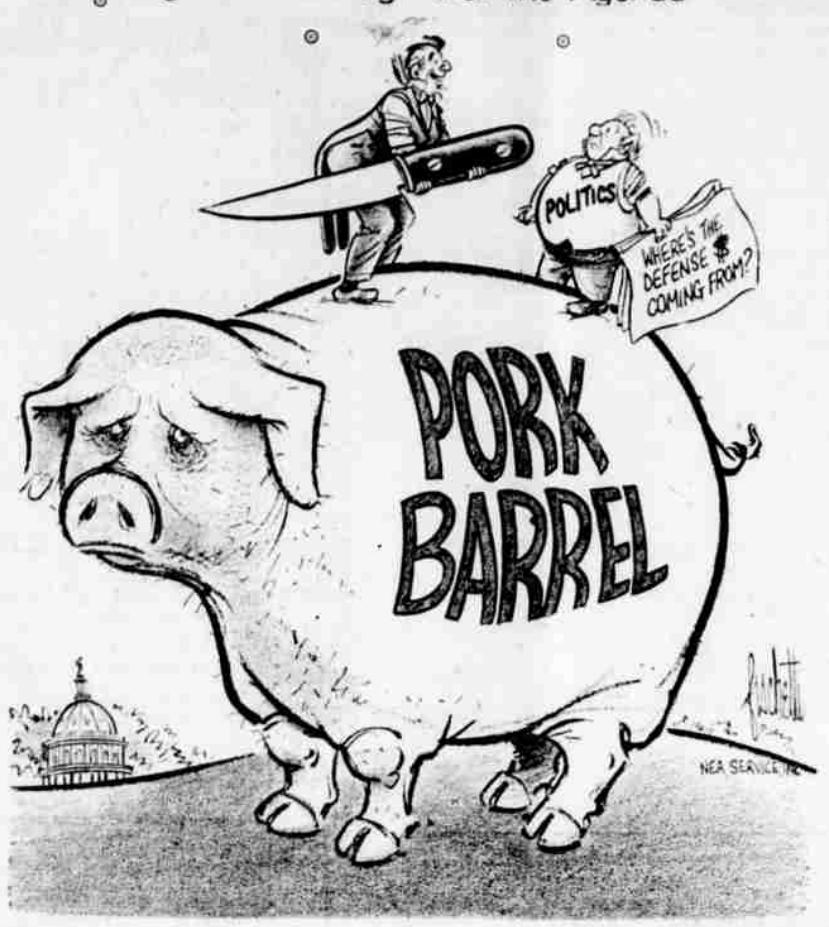
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hugh Bryson, a former labor leader, lost his appeal Friday against a five-year prison term to which he was sentenced for swearing falsely that he had no connection with communism. He was convicted in 1955.

Bryson, 43-year-old real estate agent who once headed the now defunct National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards, had asked that his sentence and $10,000 fine be halved.

Federal Judge William C. Mathes turned down both requests.

"Nowhere in his affidavit do I find a renunciation of...denunciation of communism or Communist doctrine," he said.

High on the Hog---and the Agenda



—Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK (AP) — Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

That life will be better if we can just hold out until 1975 . . .A poll of 50 top U.S. business leaders predicted that by then the work week will be down to 35 hours and average family income will be $7,500 compared to $5,500 last year.

That 39 per cent of people over 45 complain of one form or other of back trouble.

That more than 100,000 kinds of sea shells have been identified.

That on Broadway they tell of the bopster at his first rodeo who, bug-eyed, watched a cowboy wrestling a steer. . ."Man," he exclaimed, "what a crazy way to order a steak!"

That in 1800 it took nine men on a farm to produce the food for themselves and one other person . . .but today one farmer raises enough for himself and 17 others.

That a psychiatrist says there are only a million normal people in the United States . . .(wonder who the other 999,999 are?)

That there are 182,573 street lamps in New York city . . .proving that this is one town where you can lean on something besides relatives.

Lot of Poison Ivy

That Frank Pipal, an Omaha, Neb., consulting forester, found a poison ivy vine more than 50 feet tall and with a trunk more than five inches thick. (P.S. it is not for sale.)

That mosquitoes from behind the Iron Curtain are fighting to save American timber. . .Some 1,600 specimens of aphidoletes thomsoni were imported from Czechoslovakia to attack woolly aphids that infest silver fir trees in Oregon and Washington.

That American hunters fire almost three times as many shotgun shells at the lowly cottontail rabbit as they do at duck and geese. . .and (shades of Davy Crockett) it takes 15 shots for the average nimrod to bag one duck.

Never Steal Zebra

That you should never steal a man's pet zebra, because he can always prove it is his. . .The reason: Just as no two human beings have the same fingerprints, no two zebras have exactly the same markings.

That Lisa Kirk says a fellow in Hollywood has the world's softest job. . .He's Yul Brynner's hairdresser.

That the pony population of the Shetland Islands is falling. . .The supply is dwindling because of the increased demand for them in America.

That Belgian actress Monique van Vooren, hailed as one of the most glamorous of the current crop of lovelies, came to this country as an exchange student. . .to study for a law career.

That you probably have 4 to 5 million red corpuscles per cubic millimeter of blood in your body, but a goat has 9 to 10 million. . .No wonder old goats are so active.

That it was Spinoza who observed, "those who are believed to be most abject and humble are usually most ambitious and envious."

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

he is prouder of his 1957 Oregon Rosebowl football team than of any team he has ever coached.

He adds:

"Everybody said we'd be humiliated. But we went out there and put up one whale of a battle. It was a real example of guts."

He has reason to be proud. He turned out a bunch of do-or-die fighters who gave everything they had, at every minute of the game, against long odds.

If the state of Oregon will go out and tackle its problems in the spirit displayed by those youngsters at Pasadena New Year's Day, there will be little cause to complain of Oregon's economic progress in the future.

Oregon political note:

Secretary of State Mark Hatfield has left the door open on the possibility that he may yet file for the Republican nomination for governor, even though state Treasurer Sig Unanader has already announced his intention to seek the nomination.

Hatfield has so far declined to say flatly that he would not oppose Unander for the nomination. While remarking that he could not conceive of circumstances that would cause him to enter the race, he admits that he is open to re-evaluation of the situation.

Well, I hope nobody gets pushed out. This is a free country, and every qualified citizen who wants to run for office ought to be free to do so and let the voters decide.

A lot of good men are running for state offices in California. But a lot of political maneuvering has left a bad taste in the mouths of California's voters.

It will be that way in Oregon if there is too much political maneuvering.

Unemployment Fund Below $42 Million

SALEM (AP) — The Unemployment Compensation Commission's trust fund, out of which it pays jobless benefits, now stands below 42 million dollars, the lowest point in 15 years.

During 1957, the commission paid out $31,500,000 in benefits, or 58 per cent more than in 1956.

It collected 17 millions from employers, a new high mark.

The average payroll tax on employers has risen from 1.44 to 1.85 per cent, but even these higher rates might not prevent a flat 2.7 per cent rate from being levied on all employers beginning in April.

The 2.7 rate will go into effect if the trust fund falls to 31.5 millions.

Jobless payments in December totaled $4,600,000, an 80 per cent increase over the figure for December, 1956.

Eighty thousand workers have filed claims since last July 1, and 50,000 have drawn at least one check. About 2,500 have already drawn the maximum benefits they can get during one fiscal year. They can't get any more benefits until after next July 1.

Salmon, Steelhead Production Sought

PORTLAND (AP) — A program to protect salmon and steelhead during logging and road building along streams has been recommended by representatives of the lumber industry and state and federal agencies.

Dr. John Rayner, chief of the fishery division of the Oregon Game Commission, said that the program was formed at a recent meeting in Salem.

The program proposes leaving a buffer strip undisturbed between roads and streams to keep silt from entering streams and provide shade and cover to maintain stream temperatures.

It also recommended that a few channel changes as possible be made and that large road culverts be installed to permit passage of fish.

The game and fish commissions are to be advised of road building and logging plans far enough in advance to permit analysis of fish protection measures needed, Rayner said.

POSTAL RECEIPTS UP

PORTLAND (AP) — Postal receipts here during 1957 hit an all-time record for the city, $12,073,-322.

It was $30,000 above the previous record set a year earlier.

Senate Probers To Talk Over Probe Of UAW

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Rackets Investigating Committee will meet this week to discuss a subject of sharp controversy within the group—the planned probe of the United Auto Workers Union.

Chairman McClellan (D-Ark) announced that the committee will hold a closed meeting "as early as we can" after Congress convenes Tuesday.

At that time, the chairman added, the group will take up a letter from UAW President Walter Reuther, who has accused some of the committee members of being prejudiced against labor. Reuther also has said John McGovern, chief counsel to the committee's Republican members, tried to smear the UAW.

McClellan said he has only acknowledged Reuther's letter of protest.

The controversy started after the committee announced it would start its second year of work with hearings on violence in UAW strikes in Wisconsin and Indiana, and on UAW boycotts against products of various firms.

Sen. McNamara (D-Mich), a member of the committee, said some of his colleagues want to "get" Reuther and the UAW. And McNamara said McGovern should resign.

But Sen. Mundt (R-SD) said allegations of bias "simply because Reuther is a big wheel in the Democratic Party are as phony as a $3 bill."

The committee is made up of four Democrats and four Republicans.

McClellan said Reuther will appear voluntarily before the committee "at the proper time," and that he will be subject to the same sort of questioning as any other witness.

Aid To Woodland Farmers Planned

SALEM — A program whereby woodland assistance to the farm owner will be set up on a statewide basis has just been inaugurated by the State Forestry Dept. according to an announcement issued today by State Forester Dwight L. Phipps.

The forester said that the state has been divided into three separate districts, with a farm forester assigned to each of the districts. Working out of the Salem headquarters is Robert Madsen who will have charge of all of Northwestern Oregon north of Lane County and also Hood River and Wasco counties, Phipps added.

In the southern end of the state Jack Mace of the Medford office of the Southwest Oregon state unit, will have charge of the balance of Western Oregon and also Klamath, Lake, Harney and Malheur counties in Eastern Oregon. Edward Gubernick will have charge of the balance of the state and will make his headquarters at the offices of the Central Oregon state unit in Prineville, Phipps indicated.

"These men have been assigned primarily to work in connection with the Conservation Reserve Program," stated Phipps, "and will aid the farmers who wish to take advantage of the federal program which provides for cost sharing and annual payments where crop land is taken out of production and planted to forest trees."

He added that the farm foresters will also aid in other phases of the woodland assistance program where such services might be needed.

Missing Eugene Family Located In Florida

EUGENE (AP) — The Carl R. Thompson family, missing from Eugene since Nov. 13, has been located in Tampa, Fla., according to Sgt. Robert Baker of the state police here.

Sgt. Baker said police located the four family members. He said there was no indication whether the family plans to return to Oregon and their home here.

A search was launched for the family at the request of relatives who said they suddenly vanished from Eugene.

Curtailed Lumber Production Will Affect Market

PORTLAND (AP) — A firmer lumber market hinges on the prospect of curtailed production, lumber news services reported.

Many mills closed for the Christmas holidays and the status of the market will be determined to a large extent by the number which return to production Jan. 6, the weekly market letter, Random Lengths, said.

Some are expected to remain shut down unless there is a definite upswing in prices, the report said.

Loss of production could strengthen prices unless there is a big slump in demand, Crow's Lumber Market News Service said.

Crow's reported a slight flurry of orders at steady prices for mills willing to bill buyers after the first of the year.

But the prospect of a 2 per cent increase in rail freight rates Feb. 1 is a serious one for the industry, Crow's said, because mills are not in a position to absorb the cost. Western lumbermen are seeking a suspension of the increase.

Increased charges also are scheduled for services such as stopping in transit to complete loading or to partly unload, for diverting cars and for changes in destination, Crows said.

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Dieffenbacher, D.D.

(Written for NEA Service)

Patience is a jewel from the crown of the King of Kings. It is not a jewel which thieves wish to steal for their own possession. It is not a material stone which can be reshaped to suit man's will. Nor is it so brilliant that it dazzles those who look upon it.

This spiritual jewel is buried deep in the souls of a few people. It grows like the pearl hidden in the oyster, except that this spiritual pearl cannot be pried loose and sold on the market place. A tiny grain of patience can be nurtured by a loving God if it exists in a devoted spirit. Patience once grew within the spirit of Christ until He prayed for his tormentors, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

All who travel the way of the Master will need patience beyond all normal expectancy. Such patience exists only for those who live very near to God. Let us plant a bit of patience in our souls and help it to grow.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

FREEWAY WORK DUE

Eugene Register-Guard

It has been 18 months since Congress approved the $40 billion federal interstate highway program. The program, which will make four-lane routes through most areas of the nation, is expected to take 13 years to complete.

We will be seeing the first evidence of this program here in Lane County during 1958. The State Highway Commission has budgeted $2 million for structures (presumably over and underpasses and controlled access points) and grading from Judkins Point to the county line on the north. Another $1.74 million is budgeted for the section from the Lane County line to Albany. The best estimates of the state highway department indicate that this part of the freeway will be completed in 1961, or five years from the time Congress approved the program.

We could wish it would be much sooner, but from reports we've seen on progress in other states it would appear that Oregon is doing well in keeping freeway development rolling.

The section between Salem and Portland is almost done. A small section in Portland is not completed and the bypass at Salem is scheduled for four-laning. This work will be finished in 1959. Also by 1959, the addition of two lanes to U.S. 99 between Salem and Albany will be accomplished.

The fact that the portion between Eugene and Albany will take two more years is understandable when one considers that it involves the complete relocation of U.S. 99.

Included in the project between Eugene and Albany will be the Q St. project which will provide access to the freeway from Eugene and Springfield. This will be a four-lane highway with a huge cloverleaf in the Willakenzie area.

From 1961 on, it will be a matter of completing four-laning south of Eugene to the California border. Some of this work has been finished already.

The fact that the interstate freeway program is well underway in Oregon, while it is apparently lagging in many states, is a credit to the efficiency of the Oregon State Highway Department.

PLANE FOR NIXON

Eugene Register - Guard

No matter what you think of Vice President Nixon, it is proper that he has been authorized an airplane of his own for his many trips. He needs it to do his job, just as much, certainly as assorted admirals and generals need the planes accorded them, and just as much as top executives in business need the planes they often maintain for their own use.

Historically we have been stingy with our vice president. He has not had the staff, the quarters, the home nor the transportation that other nations accord men in similar positions. Often a vice president, entertained in a palace abroad, returns the social favor by entertaining, in turn, at a Washington hotel. He has no official mansion. Few of our vice presidents have been wealthy enough to purchase, with their own money, the kind of homes they need to entertain their huge numbers of guests in proper style.

President Eisenhower's illnesses have cast new light on the position of the vice president. Many have felt that he should be taken into the government more than Mr. Nixons predecessors have been. Much of the work, some have felt should be shared by the next-in-command, when law permits. But if the vice president is to do all that is expected of him, he must have the tools and the help to do it.

1957, AS SOME SAW IT

Salem Capital Journal

Before washing 1957 completely out of our hair, we want to repeat what perhaps is the most honest summary of the year we've seen.

It's the headline on the Jan. 2 issue of Random Lengths, the lumber market analysis published in Eugene. It reads "Goodby, 1957—and Good Riddance."

Bill Dean, the author, deserves journalism's brand-new (we just thought of it) Oscar for unmealy-mouthed writing.

And a low - ranking bottom-scraping, bankruptcy - inviting, lousy year it was in the lumber business of Oregon. So Dean can be excused for skipping the usual Chamber of Commerce-type silver lining which is a traditional part of almost all year-end reports.

He does, however, end with what the mealy-mouths might call "qualified optimism." New 1958, he concludes, just can't be as bad as 1957.

So buy a new set of calks, you lumbermen, and be happy.

SPELLMAN IN SAIGON

SAIGON, Viet Nam (AP) —Francis Cardinal Spellman arrived in Saigon Saturday on a globe-circling trip. After a brief call on officials, he visited refugees from communist North Viet Nam, many of whom are Catholics.

The New York archbishop flew here from Manila. He was guest for lunch of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

GETTING UP NIGHTS

If worried by "Bladder Weakness" (Getting Up Nights or Bed Wetting, too frequent, burning or itching urination) or Strong Smelling, Cloudy Urine, due to common Kidney and Bladder Irritations, try CYSTEX for quick help. 30 years use proves safety for young and old. Ask druggist for CYSTEX under money-back guarantee. See how fast you improve.

FOR CAREFREE COMFORT HEAT WITH AUTOMATIC

gas

It's an easier, more enjoyable life for families with automatic gas heating. You just set the thermostat — do nothing else. Fast, flexible gas adjusts instantly . . . clean, wholesome, healthful heat is maintained evenly and economically in every room. Plan your installation now.

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SO AUTOMATIC
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SO FAST
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