

The News-Review

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MILITANT CONSERVATION

By Charles V. Stanton

When military services began having trouble maintaining telephone wires in the extreme northern sections of the continent, personnel had visions of enemy sabotage. Investigation, however, revealed a quite different situation.

Telephone lines, it was found, were erected at a prescribed height. Snow storms, however, reduced clearance. Caribou, trying to pass under the telephone lines, entangled antlers in the wire. In freeing themselves, the animals disrupted communications. The situation was quickly remedied.

This is only one of several incidents related by F. Ross Brown, Albany, former state president of the Oregon Wildlife Federation, now western vice-president of the National Wildlife Federation.

Talking with Brown last week at the annual meeting of the Oregon group in Corvallis, I was told some of the detail of what is perhaps the greatest service to the cause of conservation in late years. The story was told in part in a recent issue of a popular magazine, but the article could not begin to convey the enormity of the service being done conservation in general, in Brown's opinion.

Conservation has been adopted as the hobby of the U.S. Air Force. In Air Force bases all over the world men have formed or are forming conservation clubs.

Official Blessing Given

This new development has been given the official blessing of the Big Brass.

When men in bases aren't busy with the tasks imposed by military defense, they are rearing game animals and birds. They are planting trees. They are improving habitat for fish and game. In some areas they have even cleaned up the trash left by litterbugs. Large military reservations are, in many cases, being used for scientific management of game. Florida's population of deer, it is reported, has been greatly expanded. Public shooting is being permitted on some reservations where harvesting is needed as a control measure.

The most promising feature, in Brown's opinion, is that thousands upon thousands of young men are being trained in the fundamentals of conservation, proper use of resources, management of fish and game, and various other factors. Upon return to civilian life they will be aggressive in conservation demands and critical of public apathy.

Brown, who has jurisdiction over National Wildlife Federation activities in the western states, including Alaska, makes frequent trips over the territory and has seen first hand much of the work done by servicemen. He says the people of this country owe far more gratitude to the servicemen than they know.

Roseburg Prominent

The Roseburg Rod and Gun Club, which has held a very prominent part in the work of the Oregon Wildlife Federation, continued its leadership at the recent state meeting.

The federation has been headed for the past two years by Bruce Yeager of Roseburg and Sutherland. Yeager has also served another term but not in sequence with those of the last two years. Declining to be a candidate for the presidency again, Yeager is to be succeeded by Charles S. Collins, supervisor of the Douglas County Park Department. Collins, a past president of the Roseburg club, has been executive vice-president of the federation during the last year.

Yeager will continue to serve until the June meeting, at which time the officers elected at the convention in Corvallis will be installed.

Convention reports indicate that Oregon's organized sportsmen are now in the strongest position in history. The state has two organized groups, the Wildlife Federation and the Oregon Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. Both have made important gains in membership and influence. They work in close cooperation through a liaison committee.

It doesn't take a long memory to recall when a person talking about conservation of natural resources and the protection of fish or game was considered to be "teched in the head." But conservation today is recognized by the general public as essential.

Considering that the whole future welfare of our nation rests on our abundance of resources and their proper utilization, it is perhaps significant that we find our military services defending our country not only with weapons but through militant conservation as well.

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Diefenbacher, D.D.
(Written for NEA service)

A little clot of blood in the brain or a small obstruction in various parts of the body can cause paralysis or other serious conditions. Many folks live in great fear of hemorrhages, embolisms, and other blockages. Inflammations, restrictions, contusions and scores of other physical ailments known by a thousand medical terms frighten many people to the point of prayer.

It is unfortunate that we cannot seek God's help until we are faced by a possibility of death. Actually God does more for the living than for the dead. After death all that we can do is to face a judgment where no strings can be pulled. No pressure can be exerted. No policies can be played. There is no graft with God. But after death it is too late to alter the facts.

While we are healthy let us live so that we can minimize our fear of death. We can be ready for the judgment many years before we die, if we turn our souls to God.

Minor Federal Clerks Can Hold Up Defense Funds

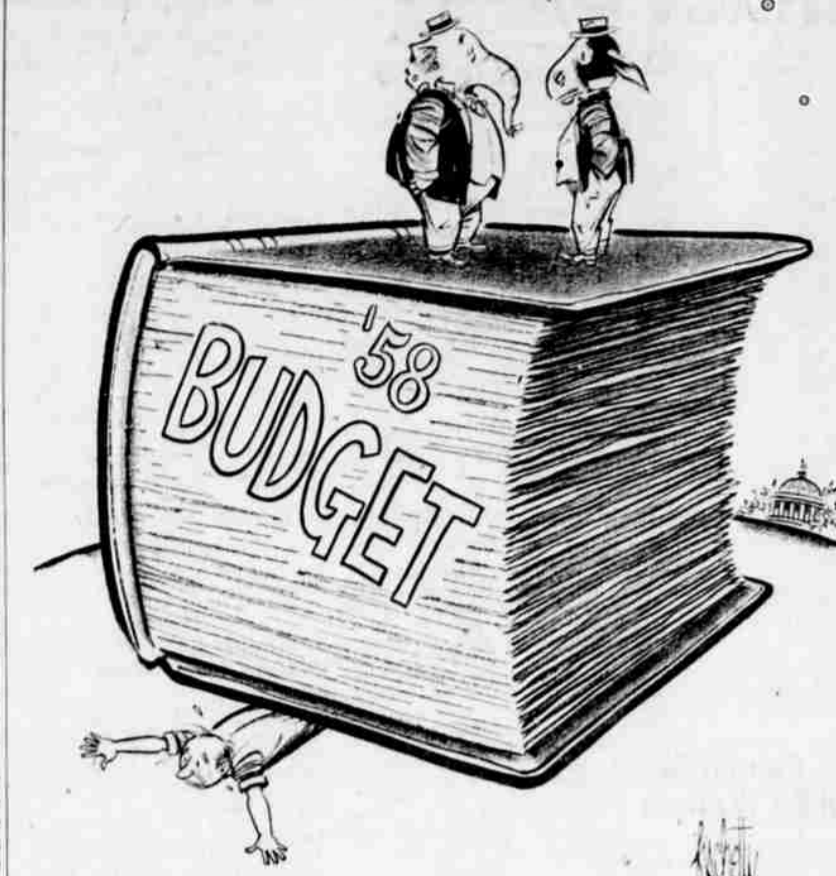
WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson claims that minor government clerks and accountants can hold up millions of dollars for major defense projects even after they are approved by Congress and the joint chiefs of staff.

The Texas Democrat's criticism came at a public hearing of the Senate missile-satellite inquiry, in which several industrial leaders testified that efforts to counter Russian threats could and should be speeded.

Ray T. Hurley, president and board chairman of Curtis Wright, told the Senate Preparedness subcommittee some defense officials have the idea that the "way to get action is to hold on to the money."

He said this had slowed many key defense contracts because "the people trying to push the job say, 'What hell's the use.'"

"What Happened to the Fellow Who Was Going to Carry It?"



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Anyone wanting details of President Eisenhower's program for the second year of his second term will have to wait for his budget, economic and later special messages to Congress.

This became obvious when the President's state of the Union message revealed his objectives only in the broadest of general terms. Observers sized it up as being more notable for its omissions than for its recommendations.

The President admitted that his own conclusions on defense reorganization had not yet been "finalized." Critics were quick to point out that this is one subject on which the President—as an ex-General of the Army—should have had expert and ready answers.

The President's recommendations on an accelerated defense program were sized up in Washington as being far less specific than those outlined by Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson several days before.

THE PRESIDENT sketched in a four-billion-dollar increase for the defense budget. But he indicated this would have to be paid for out of current revenues without deficit financing.

How this can be done was not specified. Financial experts indicated that to do it would be a neat trick than launching a Sputnik.

Foreign aid and foreign trade recommendations of the President offered nothing new. Furthermore, these are subjects for which there is little enthusiasm in Congress.

Previous Eisenhower proposals for federal aid to public school construction were not repeated in this year's message.

Substituted was a rough outline for a four-year, 250-million-dollar program to aid science education. National Science Foundation funds for this purpose are to be raised from 15 to 75 million dollars a year. Basic research funds are to be increased from 15 to 32 million dollars a year.

ONE ANALYSIS of the State of the Union message shows that the first 80 per cent of it dealt with war or preparation for war. Only the last 20 per cent dealt with the subject of peace.

This last section, however, is seen as presenting the Eisenhower administration's greatest challenge for leadership.

Every one of President Eisenhower's State of the Union messages since 1953 has emphasized his concern over world peace.

His second inaugural address, titled "The Price of Peace," was devoted entirely to his interest in this cause.

Reiteration of this theme has established the President's position as one world leader dedicated to peace. Not even Communist propaganda labels Eisenhower as a warmonger.

But between being a peace advocate and being able to do something constructive to establish peace is a great gap.

THE PRESIDENT's bold proposal for a "Science for Peace" crusade, to be run in cooperation with Soviet Russia and all the other nations of the world, offers an intriguing idea for combating disease. But much work will have to be done to make this idea a reality.

In the same vein, much more work will have to be done to bring to fruition the President's dream of a disarmament agreement with the Russians, negotiated through the United Nations.

One great omission in the President's State of the Union message is that it gives nothing on the administration's position with respect to recent European suggestions for new negotiations with the Russians on East-West relationships.

CONTRACTS AWARDED
SALEM — The Oregon Highway Commission has awarded these contracts:
Curry County — Grade 418 miles of Oregon Coast Highway, north from Brookings. Peter Kiewit Sons' Co., Medford, \$1,056,025.
Jackson County — Grading and paving .79 miles of Medford-Provost highway between Elm and Front Sts. in Medford. M. C. Lingerer & Sons, Medford, \$106,830.

—Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK (AP)—A great leader never quite dies altogether. He lives in the spirit he kindled among those who followed him.

So it is that, in a very real way, William Orlando Darby, founder of the American Rangers in the second World War, is still very much alive, although he died two days before the war closed.

"Even after all these years we can't think of him as dead," said Charles Contrera, who served as driver-interpreter for the brilliant young West Pointer from Fort Smith, Ark., whose career was ended at 33 by a German artillery shell on the Italian front.

"To us he was almost a God. To the men he seemed super-human. He was wounded three times, but we never really believed he could be killed—he had been through so much."

Hollywood recently "discovered" Col. Darby, an officer many believed was destined to be Army chief of staff, and Warner Bros. has told part of his story in a notable film of battle action called "Darby's Rangers."

Contrera was one of a number of former Rangers who attended a preview of the picture here the other night. Now 38, Contrera is an upholsterer by trade. He and his wife, Lucille, have bought a home and are hoping to adopt a baby.

Fights War in Sleep
He rarely fights the war anymore "except sometimes at night in his sleep," said his wife, but when he does think of it, his thoughts turn always to Col. Darby.

Charlie was one of the first to volunteer when Darby was given the assignment of creating an elite spearhead force for the Army's force comparable to the U.S. Marines, but smaller.

As a FFC, Contrera landed with the Rangers in Africa, but it wasn't until after the group had stormed the beaches of Sicily that he came to know Darby well.

"He wanted a driver who could also act as an interpreter," Contrera recalled, "and when I told him I could speak a couple of Italian dialects he said, 'get behind the wheel. Let's go.'"

"I didn't know what that would mean to me—or I might have kept my mouth shut. We lived on the front line. We were in tight squeezes all the time."

"The Colonel liked to do his own reconnoitering for his night attacks. When we couldn't go any further by jeep, we'd climb aboard donkeys. And when we got to places in the hills where even the donkeys balked, we'd jump off and go on by foot."

Foes' Fire Disdained
Contrera remembers later in Italy how, day after day, he had to speed his jeep across a 75-yard open area of road swept by machine gun fire.

"The Colonel got a kick out of timing the enemy fire and beating it. 'Don't give up! Don't give up! Don't give up! Don't give up!'"

"When he was told the men couldn't infiltrate back because they were trapped," said Contrera, "the Colonel put his head down on his arm and cried for several moments. He broke down. He had always put the safety of his men first, and he couldn't stand the thought of what was happening to them."

"But none of us ever blamed him. It wasn't his fault."

The last time Contrera ever saw Darby was when the Colonel came to visit 119 surviving Rangers at Camp Butte in North Carolina.

"He never made a speech to us—just talked to us one by one, or in small groups. He was very sad."

After 11 months on the Army

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

Human beings aren't all cast in the same mould. When differences of opinion arise, we have to argue things out. But we could be much more reasonable and effective about it.

A suggestion: Some evening or some Sunday when you have nothing better to do, reach up on your five-foot shelf and take down your Ancient History and read up on the golden age of Ancient Greece.

The city states of Greece, led by Athens, built up a civilization that was more wonderful than anything that had ever existed before on earth. But these city states could never learn how to reach and retain a reasonable state of agreement and cooperation over any considerable period of time. They disagreed and argued and fought and scratched and bit each other in the leg from time to time.

Eventually the barbarians swept in from the surrounding outer darkness and put an end for good to the golden age of Greece. You'll find the story an interesting one, well worth the time it will take to read up on it. You may be able to draw from it some morals that will be useful.

One further thought while we're in this philosophical mood: If you'll carry your historical researches far enough, you'll learn that the bulk of these barbarians who swept in from the outer darkness and put an end to the glory that was Greece were known broadly and generically as Scythians.

These Scythians lived on the treeless plains of ANCIENT RUSSIA, from the Danube river to the Volga, and they spoke a language that was distantly related to modern Russian.

History, you see, tends to repeat itself.

One more thought in closing. If you'll go on with your reading, you'll learn that the Scythians invaded the Kingdom of Media and occupied it for ten years. The king of Media, a wise and crafty character who succeeded in escaping liquidation by the invaders, eventually got rid of the Scythians by GETTING ALL THEIR CHIEFS DRUNK AT A BANQUET and killing them.

Khrushchev, BEWARE! History might repeat itself again.

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