

The News-Review

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U.S. IS PREPARING

By George Castillo

The cry that the United States was caught napping in the fields of science and mathematics education at the time of the orbiting of the first Russian Sputnik is a fallacy.

Proof of that fallacy is the program being carried on in four areas of the United States to improve science and mathematics teaching on the secondary school level. The program was launched by the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science two years ago. An evaluation of the program is being carried on this spring.

Much of the study work for the improvement program was carried on in Douglas County. Teachers with whom the directors of the program worked were drawn from Douglas High School in the Dillard district, Reedsport High, Roseburg High and Sutherlin High.

This week, Clarence E. Diebel, an assistant professor at the University of Oregon and counselor for the program in the state, and Dr. Norman Sundberg, associate professor of psychology at the University of Oregon, were at Roseburg High wrapping up the last part of the study.

Sundberg is an interviewer for the program, gathering information for an evaluation to determine just how successful the methods of improving teaching have been.

Oregon Included

Oregon is one of four states taking part in the study. The Oregon center is the University of Oregon. Others are the University of Nebraska, Pennsylvania State University and University of Texas. Results of the studies from these four states will be sent to Washington, D.C., where the AAAS will evaluate and determine the success of the program this year.

The program has been entitled the Science Teachers Improvement Program. STIP is designed to use science consultants with a breadth and depth of training in the sciences and mathematics, a background of outstanding accomplishments in teaching, ability to work with people and a practical knowledge of the learning process. These consultants, it is believed, will stimulate and guide teachers in the secondary schools, who, in turn, can do the same for pupils.

In the case of the Oregon schools, the emphasis in the program has been in providing in-service aid to teachers of science and mathematics, with stress on most recent developments, improved laboratory and demonstration techniques and good teaching methods.

At Roseburg, Diebel and another counselor Dr. Oscar Schaff, assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Oregon, conferred with teachers about once a month over the last two years. They also conducted a workshop for mathematics and science teachers and helped outline a program to beef up science departments.

They have even given help to teachers in the elementary schools.

Improvements Noted

Already improvements have taken place in the Roseburg District. The junior high mathematics program, for instance, is being integrated with the high school's program. Greater interest is being shown by students as evidenced by their increase in numbers. New facilities are being built at the high school. The high school's science and mathematics programs are being coordinated and expanded.

The final determination of success will be made in the evaluation, but there are evidences enough that the direction toward a stronger field of mathematicians and scientists has been found.

Two important points need to be emphasized. First, this is not a "crash" program. It was started some time ago because it was recognized that scientists and mathematicians were not being turned out of colleges at a rate to fill the job opportunities industry was offering. One of the reasons was a lagging interest among pupils for the fields. This interest and guidance had to be bolstered in the secondary schools, so pupils could be prepared to continue training in college.

Secondly, the efforts to improve the program are being carried on in the American way of cooperative study to find the best method. They are not the authoritarian methods of ordering that a program be set into operation, no questions asked.

Students will be lured, not forced, to the fields of science and mathematics.

Holmes Endorses Columbia River Corporation Bill

SALEM — Gov. Robert D. Holmes Thursday gave general endorsement to a congressional bill to create a Columbia River regional corporation.

The bill, prepared by the Northwest Public Power Assn., would set up the corporation to sell bonds to finance dam construction.

The governor's statement was prepared for the Senate Public Works Committee.

The governor said that since the Republican State Central Committee also favors such a measure, "at last we may be able to move ahead with orderly plans for power development in the public interest."

The bill, he said, contains some weaknesses, but does provide a chance for agreement by public and private power interests.

The governor added that the measure is the "way to counteract the present tendency to build the wrong dams in the wrong places at the wrong times."

"Only in this way can we avoid the existing senseless competition for dam sites among local interests purporting to act in self-defense—a competition which inevitably tends to sacrifice important objectives of river development."

Committee Approves Bill To Advance States Funds

WASHINGTON — The Senate Finance Committee Thursday approved a House-passed bill authorizing the federal government to advance money to the states for a temporary extension of unemployment benefits. The vote was 11-4.

Chairman Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.) said the anti-recession measure, endorsed by the Eisenhower administration, will be brought up for action in the Senate next Tuesday.

The committee rejected by a 10-4 vote a substitute proposal of Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) to liberalize the emergency measure and to strengthen the unemployment insurance system on a permanent basis.

West Coast Rodeo Finals Slated At Klamath Falls

KLAMATH FALLS — The West Coast finals of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo will be held at the Klamath County fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday with Oregon Tech as the host school.

Forty participants from 10 colleges will compete in saddle bronc and bareback riding, bulldogging, bull riding, team roping and calf roping.

California Polytechnic is the defending champion.



Seven Nike Guided Missiles Explode, Killing 7 Persons

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. — Seven Nike guided missiles exploded at their base here Thursday. Seven persons were reported killed.

Three others were missing. An Army spokesman said one missile exploded and then set off six others in a chain reaction.

The blasts shattered windows for miles around and showered missile fragments over the area.

Residents near the base reported hearing only two blasts. But the Army spokesman said the final six missiles exploded almost instantaneously. That would account for only two blasts being heard, he said.

"One missile exploded and set six others off," said the spokesman. The spokesman said five civilians were working as an ordnance team at the launching site of one of the missiles. They were installing a modification on one.

"One missile exploded and set six others off," said the spokesman. Capt. Grant R. Lasher.

Some fragments were found as far as two miles away. The Army sent out teams to pick up the pieces.

The missiles were the 20-foot Ajax type and were designed to carry conventional non-nuclear warheads. Lasher said he didn't know immediately whether the missiles were armed but he added:

"There was no atomic explosion."

Several trucks near the missile pits were destroyed by the blasts. Buildings were damaged.

Dense smoke rose from the base — one of a number guarding the New York metropolitan area.

Part of a missile was reported to have fallen in nearby Raritan Bay. Smoldering pieces of another missile were found strewn in the woods.

Mrs. Nixon Lays Keel For First Nuclear Ship

CAMDEN, N.J. — Mrs. Richard M. Nixon, wife of the vice president, Thursday laid the keel of the world's first nuclear powered merchant ship. It was the N.S. Savannah named after the first ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean under steam.

That voyage started on May 22, 1819, is commemorated each year by National Maritime Day.

Ceremonies at the New York Shipbuilding Corp. yard touched off this year's nationwide observance chiefly in New York, San Francisco, Portland, Ore., Portland, Maine, Galveston, Texas and in Hawaii.

A crowd of several thousand watched as Mrs. Nixon took up a radio-active baton — symbol of the atomic age — herbombed in red, white and blue. With this Mrs. Nixon directed the placing of the first steel section for this revolutionary new commercial vessel.

The wand was placed close to a geiger counter, causing a series of amplified sounds thus signaling an overhead crane operator to shift the 60-ton keel section into position.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC DOWN

SALEM — Highway traffic in Oregon during April was 4.5 per cent less than it was in April of last year, the state Highway Commission said Thursday.

The commission reported slight increases on U.S. 99W, while the volume was unchanged on U.S. 99. Decreases were reported on U.S. Highways 30, 97, and 101.

Traffic in the first four months this year was 1.3 per cent greater than in the similar period of last year.

TO PRODUCE FILMS

HOLLYWOOD — Four Star Films, Inc., today announced plans to produce 25 million dollars worth of television films for the 1958-59 season.

The company is owned by actors Dick Powell, Charles Boyer and David Niven.

—Peter Edson—

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Fifty-four U.S. Information Agency libraries and cultural centers in 21 foreign countries have been bombed, sabotaged, set fire to, mobbed or otherwise attacked in the last 10 years.

Responsibility cannot be placed against Communist agitators in every case. The most recent attack on a USA information center in Algiers was by a French Loyalist mob.

Attacks on USA libraries in Tripoli and Beirut, Lebanon, are attributed to a combination of pro-Nasser Arab rioters and Red-Crowd demonstrations against the USA center in Greece have been sparked by protests on the Cyprus incident.

In India, the Goa incident started trouble. USA director George Allen says, "Crowds attack U.S. buildings because we're biggest and strongest. They like to see the big fellow stub his toe."

President Eisenhower also told his press conference Wednesday that there was no single cause for these attacks.

But he identified the pattern of attack as a Communist habit.

IN ONE SENSE, this is the greatest tribute the Communies can pay to the effectiveness of U.S. information centers overseas in telling the American story and countering Communist propaganda. Communists want the libraries put out of business.

Few people think of librarians as being in a particularly hazardous occupation. But the staffs of the 154 U.S. Information Center libraries in 64 countries are actually

on the front line of the war against Communism.

No American lives have been lost and no Americans have been seriously injured in these book-burning riots.

The attacks on Vice President Richard M. Nixon in Lima, Peru, and Caracas, Venezuela were the closest approaches to violence against American citizens so far. But many native visitors to overseas American libraries have been injured.

Last year nearly 12 million books were checked out of USA lending libraries. The average was about four readers for every one of the three million books on the open shelves. About 880,000 of these books are in foreign languages. U.S. newspapers, magazines and reference works in English are also available.

POSTWAR COMMUNIST - TYPE mob demonstrations against the United States began just 10 years ago. The first was rioting in Bogota, Colombia, April 9, 1948.

Since that time there have been eight bombings of USA libraries in Baghdad, Damascus, Buenos Aires, Tunis, Beirut, Saigon, Athens, and Oriente Province, Cuba.

Forty native visitors were injured by a hand grenade thrown in the USA library at Beirut, March 19, 1951.

The U.S. library at Athens was almost completely destroyed by a high explosive incendiary charge on Nov. 14, 1957.

Six cases of sabotage have been reported in libraries.

TWENTY CASES OF MOB action damage against libraries are listed. Four were in Greece, three each in Yugoslavia and India, two each in Brazil and Lebanon. One each in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, Venezuela, and Formosa.

The last — not of Communist origin — resulted in almost total wrecking of the U.S. embassy and information center in Taipei after the acquittal of Master Sergeant Robert Reynolds on charges of killing a native peeping Tom.

Nineteen other cases of harassment and minor damage to information centers are reported.

Portlander Shot; Rackets Blamed

PORTLAND — An ex-convict who once was named as an undercover buyer for federal narcotics agents was found shot to death in his car in N. Commercial Ave. early Thursday.

Howard Sylvester Jackson died with a thousand dollars in currency in his pocket.

Jackson, 35, had recently protested that he was not the stool pigeon in the arrest of Clarence H. Criss, now serving a narcotics term at McNeil Island Prison.

But in Criss's trial, police testified to having movies of Jackson buying heroin from Criss.

Immediately after Jackson's killing, Detectives Norman Leitch and Jack Sizer said they would probe the possibility of underworld revenge.

Elk Lake Still Covered With Ice, Not To Open

PORTLAND — The U.S. Forest Service Thursday said that Elk Lake in Central Oregon is still covered with ice and will not open for fishing this weekend.

The road to the lake is closed at Big Lava Lake Junction. From there on there is no parking and no turn-around is possible.

Camping and parking facilities at East and Paulina Lakes will be at a premium, the Forest Service said.

On the front line of the war against Communism.

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COWBOYS EN ROUTE

GRANTS PASS — Three Rogue River cowboys are en route to Brussels where they will represent the United States in exhibition rodeos at the World Fair.

They are Jack Herberger, 21, and his brother, Dave, 22, both professional rodeo riders and members of the Rodeno Cowboys Assn. and Phil Hillis, 23, an amateur rider.

They are part of a troupe of 40 which will present 11 rodeos each week at the fair.

—Hal Boyle—

By MURRAY FROMSON For HAL BOYLE
BANGKOK, Thailand — Among Bangkok's hundreds of green-topped canals and golden-spired Buddhist temples anything can happen.

Take the case of the young soldier turned part-time taxicab driver. A prospective customer waved a hand grenade in his face and demanded to be taken to a hospital. When the driver hesitated and then tried to abandon the cab, the would-be customer pulled the grenade pin. The explosion killed him and seriously wounded the driver.

Taxi drivers, who make every ride seem like a dash to a maternity ward, have been prominently in the news in Bangkok recently. Only a month ago, 1,000 cabbies angered by a gasoline price increase marched on government house and almost forced Premier Thanom Kittikachorn and his cabinet to resign.

Thanom bowed and said the taxis of Bangkok could buy their gasoline from government - controlled stocks at old prices. That didn't help the average Thai much, but it did pacify the men who have a virtual stranglehold on Bangkok's transportation.

Dictatorship Reigns

In this strangely exotic land of 22 million people, including 250,000 monks, a military dictatorship has reigned almost continuously for 25 years with only a few feeble changes, primarily because it has been responsive to public opinion.

Despite the generally high cost of living, Thailand continues to be a favorite stop for foreigners. Almost 75,000 people visited Bangkok last year. Airline and travel agents expect the influx to double or triple with the introduction of jet commercial airliners in 1960.

The Thais so far have done little to prepare for the anticipated increase of visitors. There are only about a half dozen adequate hotels and they are usually full.

Bangkok is also a big center for diplomatic activity. The United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, France and Japan maintain large embassies here and Bangkok is the regional Asian headquarters for many U.N. organizations.

Thailand does not recognize Communist China and the three million Chinese who live here seem to be rather indifferent to the political debate which goes on about them.

Thriving Business

In Chinatown gold shops to a thriving business in earrings, rings and bracelets, primarily because the Thais and Chinese still

believe it is wiser to put their savings in gold than in banks.

Buying in Bangkok goes hand-in-hand with music appreciation. The Thais and Chinese believe there is nothing like good, loud music to lure the customers into their shops.

If it's precious stones you're looking for, you may have to wade through the first movement of Tchaikovsky's piano concerto blaring from the shop front. But if you want ivory, leather goods manufactured from crocodiles and snakes' skins, bronze or sterling, you may have to fight off a couple of choruses of "Get My Blue Suede Shoes."

Some slickly combed lad may slide up and offer to be your guide for the day. More than likely he will want to introduce you to the brassy cabarets, the smoky opium dens, or perhaps if you haven't seen an unexpurgated copy of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" lately.

In Thailand, which literally means "land of the free," you can get anything—for a price.

The National Geographic Society, which leans normally toward the weightier subjects, has come out with a bulletin on poison ivy. Among other things, it reports that about 60 kinds of birds feed on the berries of the poison ivy plant with no ill effects.

Shucks! Birds can do a lot of things humans can't do. Sleeping while roosting on a limb, for example.

The bulletin goes on to say: There are no sure cures for ivy poisoning. But science has been making long strides in research laboratories. One of the newest discoveries is a saline developed at Syracuse University. It contains zinc and an anti-histamine drug. For some people, injection of a special extract from the plant's juice has an immunizing effect. There are pills designed on the same principle.

But the best treatment is to STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM THE STUFF AS POSSIBLE.

That one makes sense.

Out here in the Golden West, we don't have poison ivy. But, as so often happens, we have something just as bad, or maybe worse—poison oak. There are Westerners who claim you can catch a bad case of poison oak by looking at a picture of it.

One reasonably successful method for poison oak is to fill your shoes with lead and jump in the lake. If you don't come up, it won't bother you much from then on.

Another remedy recommended by extremists is Russian roulette.

Over on the other side of the mountains, they have a proud boast — there's no poison oak in the high country. And no poison ivy.

They have their mice. Rattlesnakes lurk in the sagebrush. And their mosquitoes, nourished on DDT, are beginning to approach the size of pelicans.

But they have no poison ivy.

Britain Cuts Bank Rate Another Half Per Cent

LONDON — Britain today cut its bank rate another half per cent, reducing the Bank of England's rate for lending money to 3½ per cent.

It was the second reduction in nine weeks in the fight to bolster the British economy. The rate was cut on March 20 from 7 to 6 per cent.

The bank rate is the control valve on the nation's economy. It had been sent skyrocketing last September to 7 per cent—highest in Britain since 1921—in a fight to lighten credit and steady the value of the shaky pound sterling.

WANT NEW BRIDGE

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Court will apply to the federal government for \$34,000 for building a new bridge across the Umatilla River at Thornhol-

low.

The state Highway Department has asked the court that the money is available. The county would have to raise an additional \$3,000.

Agriculture Dept. Hopes To Triple Soil Bank Land

SPOKANE — The Department of Agriculture hopes to triple the amount of land in the soil bank's conservation reserve by 1960, Howard Doggett, national director of the program, said Wednesday.

He said the USDA is aiming for a 32 million-acre conservation reserve within two years, compared with the present 10 million acres.

Here for a visit, he told a reporter that state agriculture stabilization and conservation committees are being asked to give estimates of how much land they think should be retired from production and placed in the conservation program.

The conservation program, which provides payments for diverting land to nonproductive uses, is being expanded this year to offset discontinuance of the acreage reserve, which pays farmers for diverting land from production of price-supported crops.

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