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EDITORIAL PAGE

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AGE OF EXCITEMENT

By George Castillo

Science is becoming so important to the world that a man is an anachronism if he hasn't some kind of speaking acquaintance with it.

The things which 15 years ago were just interesting facts recited by classroom teachers about astronomy, chemistry, physics and many other sciences are suddenly subjects of everyday discussion and high governmental action.

The practical aspects of science have made it so important the average man is certain to have some knowledge of the field. But this is only the beginning. Not only are the continuing discoveries and developments in science important, but they are extremely exciting.

With the new emphasis in the schools and great scientific strides which are noted in the newspapers every day, the next generation will find the field of science as common a subject of discussion as politics is today.

We are indeed on the threshold of the Age of Science. Some of its marvels were outlined this week in a speech to the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs by Dr. Raymond Ellickson, professor of physics at the University of Oregon.

Citizens' Knowledge Needed

He insisted that part of being an intelligent citizen now is knowing more about science because it has an effect on our lives in practically every field.

He told the women in Roseburg that one of the most obvious effects can be seen in government where millions are being spent on practically every field. It's important to the citizen because he has a direct stake in the advances made with the aid of government money. He is paying for them.

This practical reason, plus the exciting and dramatic nature of the sciences make them a natural to draw the citizen's interest.

It certainly excites the imagination that a man will reach the moon in a few years. Science is making it possible to get there.

It's exciting that man can build energy by splitting and fusing atoms. The involved corridors of science were threaded to make this possible.

But it's also exciting that sunflowers bend toward the sun. A few years ago a statement like that would have brought laughs from every quarter. What difference did it make and why should anyone want to find out?

This is a good example of the areas of pure science which are drawing more and more interest. This is the field in which no practical results are expected, but often are found. The scientist just wants to know why.

Sunflowers Investigated

Ellickson related that one man did investigate the reasons for sunflowers bending toward the sun. He found that the side of the stalk away from the sun manufactured a chemical which made that side grow faster. More experimentation showed that the chemical would kill dandelions.

Now the chemical is used by practically every person who cares for a lawn. He doesn't have to dig out every dandelion to keep his lawn clear of them.

Ellickson is right, everyone should learn more about science because it is something he is paying for, but he should also know more because he is a principal in a great chapter in history more exciting than a novel.

He is helping build the foundations for a new age of enlightenment greater than the world has ever seen. It will make the Golden Age of Greece and the Renaissance look pale.

Hal Boyle

Dog Lover Learns To Live With Small Daughter's Cat

NEW YORK (AP)—It is hard for a dog lover to learn to live with a cat in the house.

But it can be done—particularly if you have a small daughter who insists on having a cat as a pet.

It has been some six months since Lady Dottie, a tiny fur-pawed black and white power-house, came to our house to stay. Now she is a large and formidable power-house, and stomps around the place as if she paid the rent.

The only one who has any real authority over her is our daughter, Tracy, who is nearly six. She uses Lady Dottie as a pillow, dancing partner and substitute sister.

The cat has gone for so many rides in the baby buggy that she now believes it is her own private vehicle. We are even beginning to refer to it as "the family Cadillac."

Between Lady Dottie and myself there is a strange and rather undefined relationship.

As a lifelong dog-man I have always disliked cats, and been suspicious of cat-fond people, figuring that any human being who preferred a cat to a dog must have a hidden character defect of some kind.

Now I must confess to harboring a mixed feeling bordering on fondness for Lady Dottie.

Part of it is based on pure gratitude. I had heard the old wives' tale that cats at night would crawl up on your chest and breathe your breath before it reached you, thus dooming you to death for lack of oxygen. And I was afraid it might be true.

To me cats were sneaky, treacherous, wily beasts who took everything they could get and gave nothing in return. Why wouldn't they rob you of breath?

For three months I slept with the bedroom door closed, to isolate me from the possibility of any such midnight feline assault. Gradually, however, my secret

superstitious panic abated as I realized Lady Dottie was too sensible to try to rob me of my breath. She was too busy robbing my pocketbook for beef liver, cloth and rubber toy mice and all the other niceties of a modern cat's way of life.

Once I realized she had a vested interest in me to protect, I lost my dread of her.

I noted one big difference between cats and dogs. A dog does you a favor by getting out of your way. A cat seems to have the idea that it is doing you a favor by getting in your way.

Lady Dottie, although her family tree disappears into the nearest alley, is as supremely proud and sure of herself as an Egyptian queen. When she decides to honor you by running up against your legs, you are expected to pause and be flattered, even though at the moment you may be trying to carry a message to Garcia.

For a brief time as our acquaintanceship ripened, I thought perhaps Lady Dottie and I shared the same world, as a man can share the same world with a pet dog.

It isn't possible. A cat will come into your world as far as it chooses, but you can come only to the outer fringes of its world. And if you try to go further the cat coldly and silently closes the door between you.

Lady Dottie has won my admiration because of her iron self-confidence. I have always had a grudging admiration for women because they have this factor of interior independence and resourcefulness of spirit.

But women now and then show a sign of weakness. A cat never does. A man has to take off his hat to anything stronger than a modern woman. And a cat is.

I suppose I'll always be a dog lover at heart because Lady Dottie, that walking fur fort, has taught me you never should underestimate the power of a cat.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Pondosa:

This tiny Eastern Oregon community, the nearest town to the NEW GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER of the United States, was sold at auction yesterday for \$33,925. The property, which was sold as individual units, included a sawmill, ten industrial buildings, a general store, a hotel and 53 homes, and 280 acres of land.

Its half dozen families and a few local ranchers viewed the demise of the community with remorse.

Hummmmm. Why was Pondosa sold? The answer is interesting. The timber in the area was CUT OUT and so the sawmilling industry MOVED ON.

It's an old story. In its day, it was a tragic story. Its day is rather recent. Three decades ago—even TWO decades ago—the story of the demise of Pondosa would have sent shivers running up and down our spines here in the State of Jefferson, where TIMBER is our biggest basic resource.

We would then have looked forward hopefully to the time when OUR timber would be cut out and the lumber industry would have moved on—if by then there was anywhere to move on to.

But—Something NEW has been added. This new ingredient in our economy is intelligent conservation for use. Because of intelligent conservation, our timber is no longer something to be MINED, like the

gold of our early days, and when mined FORGOTTEN.

Timber now is a CROP. It RENEWS itself—just like barley, or pears, or spuds or grass. Because it grows out of the ground and renews itself from year to year, it will always be here for us to use.

So the old fear is gone. Gone for good.

Another new ingredient has been added—FIBER.

By converting trees into fiber, vast new uses for our timber crop have been added. The fiber industry has glowingly optimistic prospects. Its possibilities are unlimited. They're even talking about disposable shirts to be made of paper. You'll wear 'em and throw 'em away. They're talking of disposable dresses to be made of tough, stretchable paper—and worn once and then discarded.

In the residue from the fiber industry there are valuable materials. Competent scientists tell us that a generation hence wood chemistry will equal petrochemistry.

And so on.

In conclusion—One word of caution.

The fiber industry requires WATER. Water in vast quantities.

Here in Southern Oregon and far Northern California, we must PROTECT OUR WATER as we protect our lives.

We mustn't let it get away from us.

James Marlow

Johnson Creates Image As Presidential Candidate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Lyndon Johnson—consciously or not—has created an image of himself which will come in handy if the Democrats in 1960 have to keep peace in the family by settling on

a compromise presidential candidate. This is the image of the tall Texan which emerges after his years as leader of the Senate Democrats and one of the most powerful men in Washington: A rather conservative compromiser who gets things done.

The 50-year-old Johnson who, like President Eisenhower, had a heart attack, has pooh-poohed the thought of presidential ambitions. This writer is one of those who has never been convinced.

Johnson, like others in public life, has a large ego. And to him power, even if it only means senatorial power and doesn't extend to the presidency, is very important. The White House carries with it supreme power and balm for egos.

The Democrats' overwhelming congressional victory in 1958, which meant they could now drown the Republicans in votes, caused some persons to guess that they would take a strong liberal turn and conduct their victory a mandate to do so.

Texans Conservative Others in Washington, remembering something, took a more limited view: Johnson and his counterpart in the House, Speaker Sam Rayburn, a fellow-Texan, not only completely bossed Democrats in Congress but have shown themselves over the years to be essentially conservative.

So it could be assumed that with their power and attitude they would lead Congress down a middle road. And that's what they've done so far in this first session after last year's election triumph.

But to any Northern liberals dissatisfied with his leadership, Johnson can offer a solid and realistic explanation: The Democrats as a party far outnumber Senate Republicans. But Democrats and Republicans are divided up into a small group of liberals and a big majority of conservatives in both parties, particularly among Southern Democrats.

On any issue they considered too liberal, the conservatives of both parties could and would team up, throwing aside party labels.

Yet, on the liberal side Johnson can point to something no liberal or any other Senate leader in this century can claim: He engineered through the Senate in 1957 the first civil rights program of modern times.

Party Held Together

It was much less than the liberals wanted, much more than the Southerners could easily accept. But it was a step forward in the civil rights field, opened the door to more of the same later, and was done without splitting the Senate Democrats.

Liberals and Southern Democrats may have grumbled about Johnson's performance but he came through the experience without engendering any hostility for himself. Quite a performance, particularly if a man has presidential ambitions.

And this year again he is working to steer through some further expansion in civil rights. If he does, it's a good bet the bill again will be too little for the liberals, too much for the Southerners, but not enough either way to hurt the party or him.

Johnson acts like a man who long ago figured this way:

"In the Senate, with all its divergent views, if I ever hope to get anything done, I'll have to compromise. Some progress is better than none. And compromise between North and South is the only way I can get Democrats to stay together."

It's doubtful that in 1960 Northern liberals will make Johnson their first choice for the presidency. But if they try to ram through someone who makes the Southerners gag, a compromise candidate may be necessary.

Johnson can protest he has no presidential thoughts, but his fellow Texans are preparing, just in case. Their Legislature has passed bills which would let Johnson run for both the Senate and the presidency in 1960.

Bruce Bissatt

Challenge Of Our Heritage

We who live in America and the Western world have a great many things in our heritage to be thankful for.

There are wonderful things to read, from beautifully told stories to perceptive histories to the speculations of the philosophers. There is music to stir the heart and delight the ear, and of many sorts to please the eye and touch that same heart.

Some of these high marks of our cultural accomplishment are comparatively new. Others have come down to us from a past that ranges from a few decades ago to distant centuries.

In every age, some of the new things are not recognized for what they are. Experiment with new forms and ideas may actually be leading to new levels of greatness, yet people used to conventional ways of writing or composing find themselves resisting the change.

In every time, too, there are many who look only for the new. They imagine that good books and good music and the like are the products of fashion, like women's hats, and that somehow last year's or last century's writings are no longer worth looking at.

Those who feel this way are of course themselves the losers. The great things they turn their backs upon will endure longer than the individuals who spurn them.

One thoughtful fellow put it like this: "The great works of our civilization are not on trial before each new generation. They have stood the test of time. They have already

proved themselves with millions of human beings who examined them and found them rich in reward.

"It is we, looking at these things today, who are on trial.

"The question is whether we can see in them their true substance, glean from them the reward they hold, appreciate the comment they make upon life.

"If we cannot, it is we, not the great works that have failed."

A magnificent heritage is ours for the taking. No one of us ought to ignore it. To do so is to travel on the thin surface of life, never probing its depths. It is to move in the clamorous present, detached from the solid anchor of the past. It is to reduce living close to mere existing.

With all its perils, the world Western men have built is worth living in. But to live in it, to the hilt, we must meet its challenge, and not expect it to meet ours.

Invitation To Nikita Denied In Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—A State Department spokesman said here he found "no serious consideration" is being given to a visit to the United States by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

Press officer Joseph Reap was asked about a published report that U. S. officials are seriously looking into the possibility of inviting Khrushchev to open the Soviet exposition in New York at the end of June, if he should send word he would like to do so.

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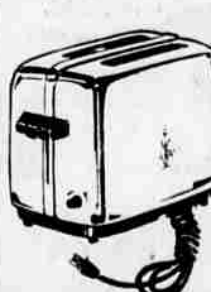


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