



EDITORIAL PAGE

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BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

By Charles V. Stanton

We are reportedly suffering from a rash of forest fires. Our Oregon newspapers are filled with headlines concerning fires and possibility of fires.

Here in Douglas County we have little need to recount the loss resulting from a fire in the forest. We know full well that every foot of merchantable timber destroyed by fire means the loss of jobs and payrolls. Our economic well-being depends upon timber. We can't afford to have the resource upon which our industry and business depends go up in smoke.

That hasn't always been true in Douglas County. Only a few years ago our timber was valueless. We had a very limited lumber industry. Such industry as we had owned its own timber. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, as the land grant organization now is known, had virtually no demand for timber. Our Umpqua National Forest had no roads of any consequence. We had a hard time getting a one-way road with turnouts scratched out as far as Steamboat Ranger station. The forest had some trails. Skeleton protection crews were maintained. But no one got really excited when lightning set a fire, or a careless camper or smoker started a blaze.

Attitude Change

Around the face of our timber area, some on the national forest but principally on the grant lands, incendiary fires were common. We deliberately burned over thousands of acres each year.

We had, and, of course, still have, a large sheep industry. Grazing land was of far greater economic value than forests. So we burned trees off the public domain to provide more pasture.

We had a few areas—remote areas—where it seemed people burned forests just for pure devilment. We know that in some regions fires were set in the early summer to provide better hunting.

In the fall of the year, when the deer season opened, a fresh burn would start throwing out tender green shoots. Deer would collect in the burn. Hunters would find it easy going to pick up the deer to which they were entitled and, in some few cases at least, do a little poaching and selling of venison on the side.

Then there were a few individuals who found arson in the forests quite profitable. We apprehended and sent to prison some men who were setting fires, then getting jobs as fire fighters. They managed to keep busy most of the summer that way. The practice was a lot more common than was generally realized.

Protection agencies finally started employing regular crews, instead of picking up fire fighters as needed, whereupon there was a substantial drop in the number of fires, particularly of the incendiary variety.

As our forests have increased in value and in their relation to our general economy there has been a great change in public attitude.

Care Required

Public thinking today is far different than it once was. Where we once protected the incendiary, our feeling today is that, if he can be captured, he should have the law book and all its penalties thrown at him.

Then, too, the Douglas County court once seriously considered an offer of \$1 per acre for all the forest land it had taken in on delinquent taxes. In fact, the court was criticized by the taxpayers association for rejecting the offer. That, mind you, was an offer of \$1 per acre, not \$1 per thousand board feet of timber.

Today the major part of our county's expenses are paid by revenue from timber sales.

Where our mills once could buy all the timber they wanted for two or three dollars per thousand board feet—even less in fact at one time—they now are bidding up to around a top of \$50 per thousand.

Certainly we can't afford to have that kind of a resource damaged by carelessness.

We can't keep Mother Nature from starting fires with her lightning storms. But it is seldom that a fire resulting from lightning ever gets big or dangerous. Fires that have done the most damage have been man-caused fires. Many of those fires were the result of pure carelessness.

Even though we may be aware of the seriousness of a forest fire; though we may recognize that its consequences may be extremely costly, yet we're apt to become careless or negligent if we fail to keep our minds on what we're doing.

Therefore, let's all be careful with fire no matter where we may be, but particularly in the forests.

DEAR ABBY

Abigail Van Buren
I'm With You!

DEAR ABBY: We are three 15-year-old girls with the same problem — our parents. Last night we and three very nice boys (one is 16 and the other two are 17) drove to a nearby lake with our parents' permission. We agreed to be home by 11:00 p.m., but we had car trouble and didn't get back until 2:00 a.m. When we got home our parents hit the ceiling. They didn't believe us, and wouldn't even let us explain. Now we aren't allowed to see these boys all summer. I thought parents were supposed to trust their children. Is this fair?

A. F. and H. and I. DEAR GIRLS: No. Your parents reacted out of anger and fear. I hope they simmer down and reconsider because your excuse was valid. If this is your first offense, you deserve a pardon. Unjust punishment makes young people bitter — not better.

DEAR ABBY: Our neighbors have two small children. The boy is 14 months old and the girl is two and a half. They let these children play outside without a stitch of clothes on. I went over and told the mother to put pants on the children and she said I was an evil-minded old lady and the children were only "babies." Is there something wrong with me, or has the whole world gone crazy?

DEAR ABBY: I had the dearest little puppy a while ago. She looked like a little fox. She died, Abby. Is there room enough in heaven for dogs? I know a boy who asked his Sunday School teacher and she said there wasn't.

DEAR ABBY: I am sure that God, in His goodness, has made room for all of His creatures.

DEAR ABBY: Please do the hands who work in motels and hotels a big favor? Tell folks who want to tip us to please give it to us in person. Guests frequently leave something for the maid, and the housekeeper comes in to "check" the room immediately after it has been vacated, and she takes the tip.

THE ONE WHO DOES THE DIRTY WORK

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? For a personal reply, write to Abby, Box 3365, Beverly Hills, Calif. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

For Abby's booklet, "How To Have A Lovely Wedding," send 50c to Abby, Box 3365, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Peter Edson

Fall Election Campaign Moves To Hottest Burner

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The 1962 congressional election campaign is revving up to be one of the hottest in history.

This has been assured by the Senate vote to table the medical care for the aged plan under Social Security, and earlier House action killing the Kennedy farm program.

Whatever compromise farm legislation finally emerges, it will by no means solve the problem. There is even a possibility no new farm bill will be passed this year. That would put the country back on the 1958 wheat grain program, with 1958 wheat quotas at 1949 price support levels and Secretary of Agriculture Freeman required to reduce the corn support price from \$1.20 to \$1.05 a bushel.

Since medical care for the aged under Social Security is dead for this year, it leaves less than half the country enjoying benefits under the existing Kerr-Mills bill.

Even Senate Majority Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois says provisions of the Kerr-Mills bill should be broadened this year. But as matters stand now, the only real victors in the Senate vote are the doctors who will collect state and federal government fees for handling charity cases among the aged in the 24 states that have ratified and are operating under the Kerr-Mills act of 1960.

Strangely enough, both Republicans and Democrats feel there is good campaign material for them in the existing legislative situation. Care must be taken with such broad statements, however, for both parties are badly split.

Goldwater-type Republicans are fighting the National Citizens Committee, which the Eisenhower-type Republicans want to set up as an advisory and money-raising group for the GOP. More specifically, on the medical care bill, five progressive Republicans were for it while 31 conservative Republicans opposed it.

The Democrats were split even deeper, with 21 voting against the medical care program — 19 of them from the still solidly conservative South — while 43 supported it.

These Northern and Western Democrats — with only three Southerners to support them — feel that the Senate's rejection of medical care under Social Security will give their party a real "get out the vote" issue with an appeal to all senior citizens and lower income groups.

In any midterm election, an issue that brings out large numbers of voters usually works to the Democrats' advantage.

From the Republican point of view, any defeat handed the Kennedy administration is good news for the GOP.

There is still considerable feeling that the country is about as evenly divided between liberals and conservatives as it was in the 1960 election. The close vote on medical care reflects that.

And in such an atmosphere, coupled with economic instability, any kind of political prediction becomes an impossibility.

There was the commitment to other bold and far-reaching civil rights action by Congressional legislation. Republican campaigners were outphased by Kennedy's gleaming phrases and socko punch lines. That could have been the margin of his slim victory.

It is Kennedy's promise to get the country moving, however, that has been translated by circumstances into a passionate 1962 campaign issue. Even the Republicans were impressed by candidate Kennedy's campaign performance and his early months in office. The opposition was almost of a mind to give up.

Hope Reborn

But there has developed in the past few months a ripple of Republican confidence that Kennedy and the Democrats are not unbeatable. During Kennedy's first year of office there was no evidence of Republican confidence that their party could get up off the floor. They had no hope. They now have much hope and some confidence.

The foundation for this Republican hope and confidence began in a small way with the disastrous attempt to invade Cuba. It gained when Kennedy smote U.S. Steel. The multi-billion dollar stock market plunge brought a bloom to Republican prospects like a transfusion of blood.

Republican hope and confidence, obviously, depend on talk and fear of a recession, on the continued high rate of unemployment and on the rejection by a Democratic Congress of much of Kennedy's domestic program.

The squabble between the 83-year-old chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and his 84-year-old opposite number in the Senate was a sad, sour and ridiculous contest of wills. This dispute about which should first tip his hat to the other cost the Democrats votes and they know it.

Chance For House?

President Kennedy is unable even to get the Democratic Congress moving. Republicans have begun to campaign on the theme that he can't get the country moving, either. So the campaign is on to turn against the Democrats in 1962 candidate Kennedy's best-advised 1960 campaign promise.

For these reasons, Republicans are beginning to convince themselves that they have a chance this year to win the House. If they do that, the Republicans reasonably might hope to lick Kennedy in 1964. It won't be easy. He may be the smartest politician of the lot.

All of this recalls President Eisenhower's comment after Eisenhower's first White House visit. He was impressed by the scope and flair of his successor. But over a scotch and soda, he remarked to a few friends: "I don't believe that young man knows what he's up against." To that Kennedy now might say "amen."

COULDN'T BE SWAYED

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (UPI)—"Duke," a member of the police canine corps, must be having some second thoughts today.

Carrying out his assigned task of marijuana sniffing during a narcotics raid at a restaurant recently, Duke came upon 10 pounds of frankfurters in the refrigerator. He impatiently brushed aside the meat and under it he found eight packages of marijuana.

News Analysis:

Kemi River Development Means More Electric Power For Finns

By PHIL NEWSOM

UPI Foreign News Analyst

ROVANIEMI, Finnish Lapland — For 400 miles the Kemi River hurries southwestward through this land of reindeer and pine-covered forests to its mouth in the Gulf of Bothnia near the Swedish border.

The logging run is almost over now, but the logs still float down by the thousands.

This is Finland's green gold, providing 79 per cent of its national exports.

Grand Jury Probes Drug Approval

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A federal grand jury is investigating circumstances surrounding government approval of a drug which was withdrawn from public use after two years because of dangerous side effects.

The investigation of the drug, used to retard formation of cholesterol, was disclosed in a letter to a congressman from Commissioner George P. Larrick of the Food and Drug Administration.

The Justice Department acknowledged that a grand jury inquiry was in progress. Neither Larrick nor the Justice Department said where the grand jury was located or what type of evidence was being collected.

Larrick said in a previous letter, however, that the case was being investigated "to determine whether false statements were made in connection with new drug applications or whether there was a failure to disclose material facts."

The FDA first gave its tentative approval of the medicine April 19, 1960. The drug, MER-29, was withdrawn by its manufacturer April 11, 1962.

The side effects caused by MER-29 included formation of eye cataracts and the loss of hair.

"The MER-29 matter is under consideration by a federal grand jury," Larrick said in a letter dated July 16 to Chairman L. H. Fountain, D-N.C., of a House government operations subcommittee.

In a second major development, Larrick bowed to congressional pressure and opened to House investigators FDA files concerning MER-29 and another drug, Flexin, also withdrawn because of dangerous side effects.

Flexin was used about five years for the treatment of gout and as a muscle relaxant but has recently been suspected of being linked with cases of infectious hepatitis.

State To Unveil New Teaching Aide

SALEM (UPI) — The latest in teaching machines will be unveiled here Monday at the state Education Department's workshop on the \$3.5 million program for improvement of education in Oregon.

The console unit was created by Jack Edling of Oregon College of Education, and was developed by a colleague of Werner von Braun, the noted German scientist.

The 10 day work shop, running through Aug. 10, is expected to draw hundreds of educators from Oregon and the nation. Sessions will be held on the Willamette University campus.

The main purpose is to acquaint those taking part in the Oregon program with new teaching devices and practices as they exist across the nation. The workshop also will allow planning time for the 26 school districts and nine colleges which are taking part in the Ford Foundation-backed program.

Near Crash Hurts Plane Passengers

AMSTERDAM (UPI) — A Pan American World Airways Boeing 707 narrowly missed colliding with another plane over eastern Holland Thursday and 26 persons, including two American women, were taken to a hospital for emergency treatment after the jelliner landed.

An Air Ministry spokesman in The Hague said an investigation disclosed the other plane in the incident was a single-engine Dutch air force De Havilland Beaver transport.

"An Air Force committee is now investigating whether anybody has been at fault," the spokesman said.

Thirteen passengers were taken to the hospital in stretchers while the other injured were able to walk to ambulances.

Two American women, Mrs. Marlene Padman and Mrs. Prior (no first name available), received fractures in the accident.

The plane was on a scheduled flight from Duesseldorf, Germany, to New York, with a stopover at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam. There were 79 passengers aboard.

The pilot, Capt. James Magenis, 53, Manhasset, N.Y., said he saw the smaller plane and pulled his aircraft sharply and then the nose dipped, sending the passengers, who had not fastened their safety belts, swirling around the cabin.

Cholera Hits Oregon Resident In Formosa

TAIPEI (UPI) — Health officials have disclosed that an Oregon man has been stricken with cholera, reportedly the first known cholera case on Formosa in 15 years.

The case involves engineer John A. Winn, 32, of Portland, who has been working on Formosa under contract with the Nationalist Chinese Air Force.

Doctors at the U.S. Naval Hospital where Winn is being treated said he is out of danger and "doing great."

Health authorities said Winn recently visited the central and southern sectors of Formosa where 68 cases of paratyphoid including two deaths, have been reported during the past week.

Paratyphoid is milder and distinct from cholera.

The Japanese government announced later it will air-lift vaccine sufficient to inoculate 1 million persons on Formosa against cholera and paratyphoid.

The green gold of Finland's forests represents its inherited wealth. The Kemi is the means to transport this wealth to the mills at the river mouth. Now the Kemi itself is producing a new kind of wealth.

Huge cranes, earth moving equipment and men's muscles are building dams and cutting tunnels through miles of solid granite to provide Finnish industry with millions of kilowatts of new electric power.

When the Kemi program is completed, nine new power stations will be pouring power southward to a growing industrial complex which centers 600 miles away around Helsinki.

This is the land of the midnight sun and the contrasts that come when one season has 24 hours of daylight and another 24 hours of darkness.

Now the work on the dams goes forward in shifts 24 hours a day. In winter, when darkness comes and the freeze goes deep

into the ground, the work still goes on but it will be slower.

Today, in Rovaniemi, it is possible to read a newspaper by natural light at midnight.

By 1 a.m. the bright sunlight of a new day will come pouring through the windows of the new, modern Polar Hotel.

At the Polar a Spanish orchestra plays "Mack the Knife." A lapland girl may dance the night through in a dress straight from Paris, purchased through the wealth of her father's reindeer herd.

The coming of the dams and Finland's rush toward full use of her water power have brought few other changes in the lives of the Laplanders. A man's wealth still is counted in the number of his reindeer.

The tax collector is an unfriendly person, and to ask a Laplander how many reindeer he owns is a breach of etiquette comparable to asking him about his bank account.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:

'13' Apparently Bodes No Ill For American Astronaut Glenn

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Most of the scientific information obtained from astronaut John H. Glenn's space flight has now been correlated and evaluated.

Among other things, the first U.S. orbital mission is credited with shattering the superstition that 13 is an unlucky number.

At least, that is the interpretation placed on the flight by the Anti-Superstition Society of Chicago.

The society, which makes a practice of defying evil signs and portents, empowered one of its members, Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen, to hold a special meeting here in Glenn's honor.

Dirksen accordingly reserved the Senate conference room for the hour of 10:13 a.m. Wednesday, decorated the premises with black cats, and invited 13 fellow senators to join him there.

Dirksen broke a mirror. Then, having called the meeting to order by breaking a mirror, he presented Glenn with a watch whose dial markings show the figure 13 rather than the usual numerals.

The ceremony was in recognition of the fact that the space capsule in which Glenn rode around the earth was the 13th to be launched by the United States.

The society seems to feel that because Glenn got safely up and down in the capsule there is no need for the rest of us to worry about the number 13 bringing us bad luck. But is that a valid assumption?

The way I see it, all that Glenn proved was that 13 apparently has no malignant powers in upper, or outer, space.

Offers Explanations

It may be that the radiation belt encircling the earth neutralizes the number's malevolent signals. Or it may be that a jinx can't operate in a state of weightlessness.

Whatever the explanation, I believe it would be folly to assume that 13's quiescent behavior in orbit means that it bodes no malice on the ground.

And here's another thing that should jar the Anti-Superstition Society's composure: Glenn, in accepting the watch from Dirksen, commented that 13 was his lucky number.

In my view, it is just as superstitious to feel that 13 will bring you good luck as it is to feel that it will bring you bad luck.

It would therefore appear that the society may have been premature in concluding that 13 was not a factor in the flight.

Future astronauts undoubtedly will provide more data on the question of superstition in space. Until then, better keep your fingers crossed.

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