

Duck Tracks

By Phil Johnson

Today, almost any athlete can go to college. In the old days, if we can draw conclusions from the experience of one Michael Mesi, a fellow almost had to be an athlete to go to college.

At any rate, Mesi was forced to rely upon every trip in the books in order to complete his cross-country jaunt to the University of Oregon.

Mesi, a 19-year old Pennsylvania lad, had a burning desire to go to college. Not satisfied with America's eastern institutions of higher learning, he wished to enroll at Eugene.

However, there was one flaw—his financial status was practically non-existent. And the colorful Willamette Valley was 4000 miles away. In 1927, four thousand miles was a long way.

Nevertheless, Mike decided to "start walking." His diary, recording the details of his 48-day trip to Eugene, was printed in the Eugene Guard (a newspaper, not a local prep football player) on December 19, 1927.

Excerpts from the diary:

Wednesday, the 12th—Left Albion for Buffalo with Joe and Caspar, who wanted to accompany me as far as L. A. Slept in a hotel.

Friday, the 14th—Got rid of Joe. Went to a friend's house. Took train for Cleveland. Caspar is thrilled.

Cleveland Peachy

Saturday, the 15th—Arrived in Cleveland about 5 p.m. Looked city over. Looked peachy. Went to two shows. Took train for Dayton. We slept on it.

Monday, the 17th—Looked for work we couldn't find. Caspar is driving me nuts looking for a burlesque show. That's all he wants to see.

Tuesday, the 18th—Looked the city (Editor's note: Cincinnati) over. I didn't like it much.

Wednesday, the 19th—Left Cincinnati. Saw Kentucky across the river. Slept in a haystack near Ind. Got drowned by a tornado. Trees and sheds were blown over.

Saturday, the 22nd—Left Indianapolis. Caspar spent 60 cents of last dollar to have fortune told. Rode about 130 miles, crossed the Wabash River. Saw Terre Haute. All Caspar wanted to do with his money was see a show. Sometimes we went to four shows in one day.

Ditched Caspar

Sunday, the 23rd—Got rid of Caspar . . . Got in to St. Louis about 10 p.m.

Monday, the 24th—Drove a new Chev. out of factory for a man to Bronville. Got caught in a tornado. Nearly shoved car off road. I was scared stiff.

(Editor's note: Mesi must have been anti-climatic by this time.)

Tuesday, the 25th—Caught rides from Bronville, Mo. to Kansas. I didn't stop in Kansas City. Slept in jail.

Wednesday, the 26th—I saw capitol . . . Slept in jail.

Thursday, the 27th—Caught rides from Salina to Oakley. Slept in jail. Took a bath.

Saturday, the 29th—Rode on fender of motorcycle to Kit Carson.

Monday, the 31st—Washed dishes. Earned \$1.20. Saw Pike's Peak. Slept in jail.

Thursday, the 3rd—Caught a freight from Las Vegas to Albuquerque, 186 miles. Slept in a freight car.

Friday, the 4th—Caught a freight. Went 30 miles before I found out it was going wrong way. Spent rest of day in Belen. I slept out and nearly froze to death.

Saturday, the 5th—Walked 6 miles to catch a freight. Put off in desert.

Mezi Not Lazy

Tuesday, the 8th—Earned \$1 mopping floors in a bakery.

Friday, the 11th—Spent day cleaning up barn. I had to use a pick. Reward five big blisters. Washed my clothes. It took two hours.

Sunday, the 13th—Caught ride from Barstow to Los Angeles, 145 miles. Spent rest of day looking over city. It is not bad looking.

Saturday, the 26th—Caught ride to Yreka. Went to a carnival and then slept in a barn.

Tuesday, the 29th—Caught two short and one long ride into Eugene. Saw U. of O. HOORAY!

So Mesi finally enrolled at Eugene where he shined shoes and boxed at the Armory. Unfortunately, several questions remain to be answered. Did Mesi continue his education (business administration) during the Depression or did he go back to the dish-washing, barn-cleaning, cross-country routine? Is Caspar still going to shows? What happened to Joe? These mysteries remain to be solved.

English Student Receives Grant To Finish Novel

John W. Evans, senior in English, has been informed that he has been granted a \$500 fellowship by the Eugene F. Saxton Memorial Trust for the completion of his novel "The Cold and the Dark."

Evans, who is taking English with honors, began his novel fall term in the novel course instructed by Robeson Bailey, associate professor of English. Continuing the course under S. N. Karchmer, instructor in English, he submitted the partly-finished novel in January.

The Saxton Memorial Trust, established by Harper and Brothers, New York Publishers, offers fellowships, with substantial grants of money, to creative writers, especially those who have never had books published. They are granted only for the completion of work definitely planned and begun.

The novel is now nearly finished in story continuity, Evans said. He hopes to have it completed sometime in the fall.

"The story deals in the not too distant future with a group of Americans maintaining a guided missile station on the moon," Evans stated. "However, it is not pure science fiction, but more the story of the reaction of people to a strange environment."

Psychological problems that will in all probability arise when man begins to conquer space are the general subject of the book.

Evans, who began fiction writing in the short-story course last year, plans to work for the masters degree in English on the campus next year. He hopes to continue his work in literature, ultimately being a college instructor, but will also continue to write.

200 Women Eat YW Breakfast

More than 200 junior and senior women gathered in the Student Union Sunday morning for the traditional breakfast sponsored for them by the YWCA.

Mrs. Roy McCall, local club-woman and wife of the speech department head, was principal speaker, discussing "Buys for the Activity Wise."

Giving an outline of possibilities for activities in clubs after graduation, Mrs. McCall stated, "I truly believe clubs are an important institution in our American society if the individual finds satisfaction and personal improvement in them."

Church work, charity organizations, service clubs, and specific vocation groups were mentioned as possible avenues for the University woman's interests. She stressed the benefits of the League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women.

Mrs. McCall's final advice was "Become a club woman in moderation."

Senior members of the YWCA cabinet were presented with gifts by President Ann Darby. Lois Greenwood, executive secretary, spoke on "National Y Week."

Carolyn Oleman, senior in music, entertained with a piano solo, "Fantasie-Impromptu," by Chopin. Mistress of ceremonies for the "Bargain Breakfast" program was Bonnie Birkemeier.

Professors Get Research Grants

Grants amounting to \$500 each have been given for research purposes to Theodore Stern, assistant professor of anthropology, and Bertram Jessup, associate professor of philosophy, by the Pacific Coast Council of Humanities.

Stern will do field work on the Klamath Indian reservation on folklore and linguistics. Jessup will tour libraries and museums in California and Mexico in preparation of a book on aesthetics.

Studies, GPA's Succumb To Popular Picnic Places

By Donna Hart

Now that spring term has rolled around everyone wants to go on picnics. There are more than a few places to go if you just know where.

One of the more familiar places is Hendricks Park, located high on a wooded hill overlooking Eugene. There are tables and benches and many paths to wander along. It's literally a place "where the deer and the antelope play," for the animals have their own fenced-in playground.

Another spot, located on the Willamette River, is on what is called Seavey Road, about eight miles from Eugene. The road goes down to the river and there are places to build fires along the bank. It's possible to swim there, too, if you want to swim in a polluted river.

More Spots

A popular stomping ground for most everyone is "the beach," or ABC Meadows. This is a nice sandy beach on the Willamette directly across the river from the Glenwood area. You have to go to Springfield to get there, but it's not hard to find. All you have to do is follow the direction of the light from the bonfires.

Going out through Springfield to a little town called Jasper, also on the Willamette, the road eventually comes to another picnic and swimming area. Fall Creek is a clean stream with many places for "party-time," including the Playground where you can also dance.

On the other side of Eugene, if you follow 99 N for a few miles and then turn off to the left, is Fern Ridge Dam. Almost every

place around the lake offers an ideal picnic spot. And there's a Yacht Club for sports-minded individuals.

One more place which cannot be omitted when speaking of spring term at Oregon is the McKenzie River. From Hayden Bridge to Clear Lake you find one continual playground. The McKenzie area



affords swimming (at Belknap or Vida), fishing, boating on the dam, and general loafing.

You won't need a guide to find all of these ideal places. Just hop in your car any of these lovely spring days, or one of the even lovelier spring evenings, and follow the crowd.

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BA Students Win N.Y.U. Scholarships

Scholarships to New York University have been won by nine seniors majoring in marketing and merchandising, according to N. H. Comish, professor of business administration.

The scholarships are worth from \$500 to \$1,000. The students will work for master's degrees in retailing, while doing part-time work in New York stores and part-time work in the NYU school of retailing.

Students include Robert C. Miller, Donald M. Pilling, Gerald J. Smith, A. L. Arndt, Patricia McGinty, Robert M. Cool, Robert E. Pearce, Leslie S. Collier, Fred P. Thompson.

Frogs, Lizards, Shown

A new display of reptiles and amphibians has been set up in the Museum of Natural History in Condon Hall by Arnold Shotwell, preparator.

Rattlesnakes, lizards, pigmy horned toads, salamanders, and frogs are displayed in their respective classification. The majority of specimens were collected in Oregon by Shotwell.

FACTS ABOUT EUGENE'S WATER & ELECTRIC UTILITIES



Your Eugene Water Utility is constructing two new water reservoirs this year. One will be in the College Crest area and the other in Fairmount. They will cost about \$150,000. Together they will hold 1,300,000 gallons.



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