

EDITORIAL PAGE

# LA GRANDE OBSERVER

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## The Once-Pure Air Of The West

One of the big advantages the West has over the rest of the country—at least in the minds of those who live in the rest of the country—is the clearness and freshness of the Western air.

Western novels particularly have capitalized on this theme and exploited it. The hero can always see at least 50 miles ahead as he rides off into the sunset.

Well, Buster, that may be the way you read it.

But don't expect to find that clear air too often this year.

Oh, by comparison the air out here still is clear and clean—by comparison with other areas in the country, that is.

But by comparison with our own area, say 30 years ago, we're losing the fight. Clean air means the air is free of moisture and foreign particles, usually either dust or smoke.

That's why the dry area east of the Cascades, for example, usually has cleaner air than the country on the sunset side of the mountains.

But excessive dryness this year has added to those other two causes of most air pollution, dust and smoke. Forest fires over a major portion of the west have caused smoky conditions far worse than usual.

And the extreme dryness has caused considerably more dust than is normal.

To be frank, a pall hangs over much of the West this year.

Fly down, if you will, the east side of the Cascade summit into Northern California. It used to be that a person could

see mountains from Rainier on the north to Shasta on the south. No kidding.

Not this summer, though.

Now one can barely distinguish Mt. Hood to the north. Shasta doesn't come into sight until you get down to the Klamath Marsh, or beyond.

One used to be able to see, about the time he got opposite Shasta on Civil Airway Amber 8, the strange form of the Sutter Buttes rising out of the middle of the Sacramento Valley, far to the south.

Now, you fly sixty miles farther down the country before the Buttes come into sight.

From the air over Red Bluff it was easy to see the country around Chester and Susanville.

But not this summer. Side visibility over the weekend, for example, was limited to less than 10 miles.

Again the cause, forest fires and dust. And this is in the clear, non-citified part of the West. One has to use instruments to grope his way through the Los Angeles area. San Francisco, on occasion, is not much better.

Even Portland pours considerable quantities of pollutants into the air each 24 hours.

The hero in the Western novels is going to have to change.

From now on, when he rides off into that sunset, he'll be wiping the tears from his eyes.

Tears caused by smoke, dust and industrial fumes.

## They'll Want To Get It Over With

Don't be surprised if Congress gets busy and has its annual fight over civil rights legislation right away, rather than put this unpleasantness off till the end of the session as usual. Congressional leaders realize that the displays of bigotry which prevents enactment of laws concerning discrimination because of race, or religion constitutes dirty linen showing when a visitor comes.

And who is coming? Why Premier Khrushchev. How would it be to have him in Washington, D.C., while in the halls of Congress a debate was raging over a law guaranteeing that a colored citizen should have as much right to cast his vote as a white citizen? Khrushchev will have at least 150 correspondents following him around, straining to catch every word he says. What he would have to say about such a phase of American democracy would make interesting reading to the vast majority of the world's people who are not white. With one or two well phrased sentences he could undo most of the good achieved by our billions in foreign aid.

So Congress will hustle with the civil rights matter to get it disposed of before Khrushchev arrives. In fact, Congress wants to adjourn before he gets

here, so there will be no embarrassment about whether he should or should not be invited to address the legislators.

This situation ought to give the President an idea. Any time in the future when he wants Congress to get moving and wind up a slow session, he could hint that a big-wig Communist might come visiting.

## Barbs

It's easy to find popularity if you enjoy being bored.

All some people save for a rainy day is the nerve to borrow a friend's umbrella.

Tons of dirt circulate in the air of big cities every year. People WILL gossip!

Golf season is when, even though married, women will spend a lot of time looking for a husband.

It's nicer to feel for the unfortunate poor if you do it by feeling in your pocket.

Airplane courtships are quite common. What if a girl throws the fellow over?

DREW PEARSON SAYS:

## Nixon Found Nikita Drank Little Vodka During Visit

WASHINGTON — Vice president Nixon invited a few key senators to a private luncheon the other day and confided his personal impressions of Nikita Khrushchev.

After swearing the senators to secrecy, Nixon told how he vowed not to get a single vodka ahead of the Soviet Premier, in order to keep his mind clear for their talks.

"During our Sunday afternoon together," Nixon reported, "I made up my mind I would drink only what he did and no more. We didn't drink anything until the business was over."

"It would be a mistake," the Vice President concluded, "to think that Khrushchev is drinking too much vodka."

Nixon said the Russian leader was a different man in private than in public.

"Like a lot of us politicians, when he gets in front of a big crowd he can't help but ham it up," observed Nixon. "But in private, he is very controlled and well informed—erroneously informed but informed. He obviously has received a lot of bad information about us. He thinks our people don't like the system and the leaders they live under and are waiting to revolt. Apparently he believes that."

The Vice President was startled to find that Khrushchev had editorialized on his desk that had been printed in influential American newspapers the previous day.

"He read them even before I got to see them," said Nixon. He noted that the Kremlin boss was "sensitive" to American editorial opinion.

Byrd Worries About Red Taxes, During their private talks,

Khrushchev was alternately harsh and conciliatory, which Nixon took to be deliberate, hot-and-cold tactics. Khrushchev was boastful about Russia's "superior" missiles, which he tossed verbally around the world, telling how few it would take to knock out London, Paris and New York.

The most disturbing problem connected with Khrushchev's forthcoming visit was raised by Senator Harry Byrd, Virginia Democrat, who asked about the danger of some crackpot or malcontent taking a shot at the No. 1 Communist.

"My God!" declared Nixon, throwing up his hands, "that's what worries me the most!"

Earlier, the fiscal-minded Byrd unintentionally caused his colleagues to roar with laughter by asking the question that always seems to concern him most.

"What is the highest tax bracket they have on those rich people?" he asked Nixon about the Soviet upper crust.

After the laughter subsided, Nixon said he didn't know. But another Khrushchev interviewer, Minnesota's Senator Hubert Humphrey, volunteered that it was 13 per cent.

Senator Mike Mansfield, Montana Democrat, asked why Cardinal Wyszynski had refused to see Nixon in Warsaw.

The Vice President explained that Poland has "religious toleration" if not religious freedom, and that the Communist government even subsidizes parochial schools.

"It might have been harmful to this delicate relationship for me to be in direct contact with the cardinal," he said. He didn't mention that he had sought an audience with Cardinal Wyszynski against the state department's advice and that the cardinal was the one who politely declined.

Not Much Democracy Nixon said he was most impressed with the impact he made on factory workers when he stopped by to shake hands. He recalled the "tremendous look of amazement" on their faces when his identity was explained.

He said the Communist leaders ignore the common people, thinking in terms of efficiency instead of human values. The managerial class ride in Cadillacs with the shades pulled down and never bother with the common working people.

"They think in terms of production figures and efficiency," observed Nixon. "They don't think in human terms."

Describing the reaction of the factory workers over meeting the American Vice President, he said: "Here was a big guy in the American government who had come down to their level and shaken hands with the people. At first their faces would look startled, then a pleased expression would break out."

Nixon said Khrushchev "was

Harry Running and his mother, Mrs. Ida Running, came in Sunday from San Francisco to visit his brother and son Kenneth and family.

Mrs. Ted McKenzie and children came home from Brewster, Idaho, Thursday, where she had been visiting her sister, Mrs. Bob Sheets and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tippett left Thursday for Portland to spend a week's vacation.

After spending two weeks with her brother, Ed Clemens, Mrs. Hattie Short and children left for Seattle Sunday last.

Mrs. Evelyn Park and Jo Ann returned this week from Seattle and Portland where they spent ten days visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Gene Fuller and children returned to their home in La Grande last Wednesday after visiting for some days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy S. Collins.

Mrs. Donald McClain and children returned Friday from a 10-day visit with relatives in Portland and Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. David Dailey spent last Wednesday in La Grande visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Max McKenzie came back to Wallowa Wednesday after a brief visit in Boise, Idaho.

Joyce Milligan of Enterprise visited her aunt, Mrs. L. Lively, last Thursday.

## New Site Found For OTI Plant

KLAMATH FALLS (UPD) — A new site for Oregon Technical Institute has been selected by the OTI Site Fund Committee. The choice is subject to formal approval by the State Board of Higher Education.

Vern Owens, committee chairman, announced the selection of the site, at the north edge of the city limits, here adjacent to Kit Carson Way.

Owens said the committee still lacks \$10,940 of the \$40,000 needed for purchase of the tract. He said local citizens have pledged assistance in raising the remainder.

State board approval was assured for the proposal, Owens said.

FORMOSA MEETING DELAYED WARSAW (UPD) — The scheduled Aug. 26 meeting between United States Ambassador Jacob Beam and Communist Chinese Ambassador Wang Ping Nan on the Formosa question has been postponed until Sept. 1 "for administrative reasons," the U. S. embassy announced.

## Crop Dusting Pilot Thankful For Investment

STOCKTON, Calif. (UPI) — Pilot Allan Blewett bought a crash helmet Wednesday — although he had never worn one in his hazardous work as a crop duster.

Thursday, Blewett's head went through the dashboard of his plane when the craft smashed through two trees, sheared off a power pole and crashed on a road.

The pilot walked away from the crash without injuries.

"It was the best investment I ever made," Blewett said, rapping his scarred helmet.

## Father Tells Plan To Change His Sex

LONDON (UPI) — Alec Dawson, 45-year-old garage mechanic and father of three children, said today he would undergo a series of operations that would change him into a woman.

"When I come out of Guy's Hospital in nine months' time I shall have changed my sex and my name," he said. "After that I shall make a fresh start."

Dawson, proprietor of a garage in Wootton, said his decision to change his sex meant "a clean break" with his family — wife Peg, 43, and his three children, John, 21, Stephen, 15, and Barbara, 8.

"I have always had feminine characteristics," Dawson said. "Even as a youth, my friends called me Alice. I ought to have gone for treatment years ago, but I kept putting it off for the sake of my family."

Albany Man Dies In Plane Crash

NEWPORT, Ore. (UPI) — A light private plane plunged into a residential district three miles south of here Thursday, killing Jack Draper, 39, prominent Albany home builder.

The falling plane narrowly missed a home as it ploughed into the ground in the Surfland residential area.

Ironically, water spraying from a main ruptured by the impact extinguished a fire which broke out in the wreckage.

The plane hit the ground less than 50 feet from the home of Jerva Feld, a Newport hospital nurse.

TRAIN "DIVE BOMBED" ARAMACHI, Japan (UPI) — A Siberian Black Kite dive bombed the Hayabusa (Falcon) express train near here Monday, shattering the windshield of the locomotive and causing a five minute delay. The big bird was killed instantly.

couple to clobber me" the first couple days, then settled down and became more friendly.

After the confidential luncheon, even Nixon's most outspoken Democratic critics agreed he had increased in stature, that he had done a competent job.

## Mental Test Due For Boy After Attack

NEW SALEM STATE PARK Ill. (UPI) — A mental test was being arranged today for the 13-year-old son of a Michigan minister who stabbed a bride harem-mooning at this Abraham Lincoln shrine.

Police said Glen Sampson, son of the Rev. Orval Sampson of the Congregational Church of Hart Mich., showed no remorse over the attack on Mrs. Bruce Brainard, 25, of Hamden, Conn.

"He acts like he hasn't got a worry in the world," police said. "He isn't the least concerned."

Police said the boy offered no explanation for the attack.

State's Attorney John Grosboll said Glen would undergo a psychiatric examination at Godfrey, Ill., to determine if he should be charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Grosboll said delinquency charges were certain to be filed against him.

Glen stole into a bathroom Thursday morning and grabbed Mrs. Brainard from behind. He clamped one hand over her mouth to stifle her screams and with the other drove a six-inch steak knife into her chest.

Mrs. Brainard, bleeding profusely, slumped to the floor as the boy ran from the bathroom. She said he was "giggling" as he made his escape.

A passerby heard the woman's screams and found her lying on the floor. She was taken to a nearby doctor who said the wound was not serious, although the knife came within a half-inch of her heart.

## QUOTES FROM THE NEWS

United Press International

WASHINGTON — AFL-CIO Vice President James B. Carey, in a letter to the 229 House members who voted last week to substitute the Landrum-Griffin bill for a milder labor reform measure:

"We wish to assure you . . . that we shall do all in our power to prove to the working men and women in your district that you have cast your lot against them and they should therefore take appropriate action at the ballot box."

SIERRAVILLE, Calif. — Sierra County District Attorney Gordon I. Smith, after filing a murder complaint against Larry Lord Motherwell in connection with the slaying of a rich Washington, D. C. widow:

"It's not the easiest case in the world to prove, but we think we've got enough to go after him."

LOS ANGELES — A secretly-recorded voice that police charge is that of Kris Albert, wealthy Beverly Hills motel owner, offering a farm worker \$1,000 to kill his crippled wife as an "act of mercy":

"It isn't worth that much, Mike. Believe you me, I've been tempted to do it myself at times, but then the finger would always point to me, who else? I go in there and just stuff a pillow up against her mouth and in three minutes, she's a goner. But as soon as this would happen, they'd check on me."

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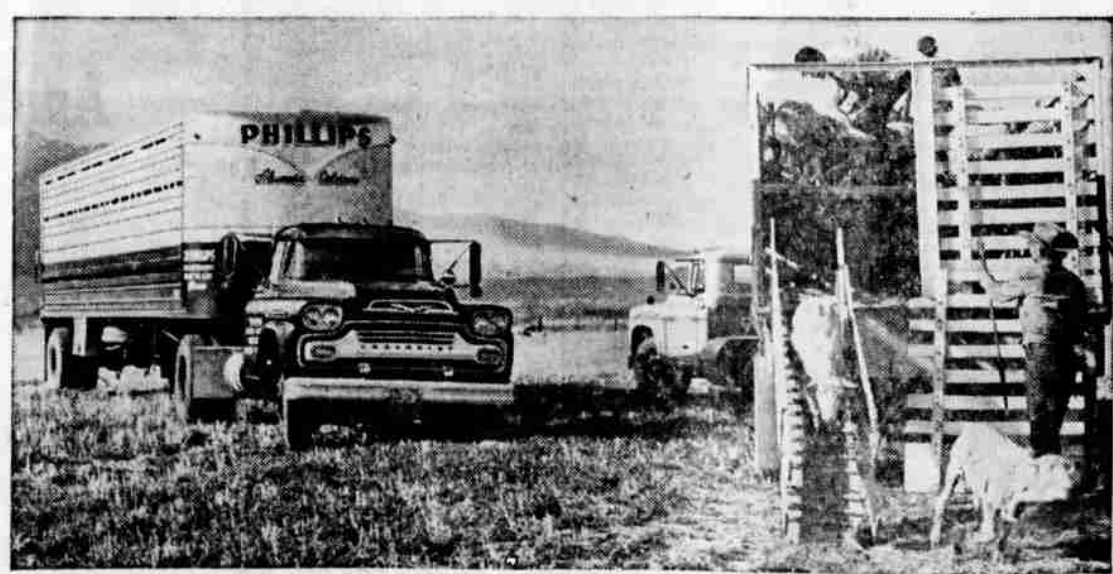
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## Top hands on high-country hauls!

Ask any trucker who's been over Wolf Creek Pass, 10,850 feet up in the San Juans: a 9-mile pull to the summit and low gear all the way down. Mr. C. H. Phillips of Alamosa, Colorado, has a 6403 and a 6503 Chevrolet truck that are up over this route the year round, taking sheep and beef to pasture, later marketing the stock in Denver. In less than a year, his Chevy middleweights have averaged about 50,000 miles of

this kind of treatment—and they're going stronger than ever!

Watch Chevy trucks at work out in range country. It's a sight to see the way they pack into high-up mountain pastures and handle through brush and rock like a cowman's favorite cutting horse. Take any truck work for that matter. Chevy middleweights probably handle a bigger variety of jobs than any trucks alive. About anything you name, includ-

ing work that used to be reserved strictly for bigger rigs. When a truck's built the way a Chevy is, lean-muscled and rawhide-tough, it takes to ugly trails the same way most trucks roll over the highway. It just keeps going, without a big to-do, but looking good every mile of the way. How they do it is your Chevrolet dealer's department. He'll be glad to supply details and specifications on the type of models you need.

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