

Port Orford News

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Time To Take Another Look

"An excellent project for its intended purpose," Army Engineers said about the local breakwater upon its completion back in 1968. That statement was made when the Corps of Engineers officially accepted the breakwater following placing of the last rock on October 28 of that year.

Col. Robert L. Bengert, who was in charge of the Corps' district office in Portland at that time, further said that the breakwater "will permit the ocean movement of lumber and plywood throughout most of the year," and insure "increased use of the port as a harbor of refuge for fishing and pleasure craft, and provide a base from which the Coast Guard could carry out rescue missions on the high seas when entrances to the Coquille and Rogue River are too hazardous for small craft to cross."

But that was nearly five years ago... when the Engineers were basking in the glory of completing 550 feet of breakwater to protect the local harbor and dock... at a cost of only \$696,500. We say "only" because the Engineers estimate for the project was better than \$900,000.

Engineers were right when they said the breakwater was an excellent project... it does provide the protection it was designed for. It's even safe to say that a rock hasn't moved in the structure through five winters of storms.

But how can the Engineers justify the value of protection against the loss of an entire harbor... a commercial fishing fleet... a cannery... two fish buying stations... and a sport fishing operation.

And at the rate the harbor is sanding in... because the breakwater eliminated "flushing action"... it won't take but two or three more years before we lose the harbor facility. And that would be a blow this community would find hard to accept. In fact it would be a blow this community shouldn't have to accept. We had no part in planning the breakwater, or in its construction. That was solely the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers.

Fishing and cannery activities alone support the local economy to the tune of around half a million dollars annually. By the time those dollars are kicked around the area the estimated seven times, that amounts to about three and a half million dollars added to the local economic picture annually.

We believe it's time the Engineers took another look at their project here... then correct their mistake... so we can go about our business of operating a proper port.

After waiting a month, however, and finding the whites superior to both arrows and want, the patience of the Indians became exhausted and they made a treaty, which they have kept to this day.

"It was upon this hill that I spent the afternoons of two weeks awaiting the steamer that was to take me back to San Francisco. My companions were too lazy to climb it, and I was left alone to my book and my meditations.

"I say alone, but I was not quite so. Half the charm of the spot consisted of the company of a young Indian girl, who could not have been more than 16 summers and was the only beautiful Indian woman I had ever seen. She had seen me mounting the hill frequently and thought it no harm to follow, owing perhaps to my having paid her more deference than she was accustomed to receive, and perhaps also on account of some trifling presents I had given her.

"It was a beautiful spot where we used to sit, this wild Indian girl and myself, and watch the sun setting every evening in the Pacific. The trees and shrubbery completely sheltered us from the wind as well as from observation, behind; while in front of our grassy little nook, the view was open to the endless waves of the blue ocean. The atmosphere was of that pleasant nature which makes the mere sensation of existence happiness.

"You would have been blind indeed had you sat and seen those large oriental eyes beaming at you, without feeling some stirring within your heart. You would have been smitten, too, by those delicate features and that fair form, just rounded into womanhood; I pointed out my teacher of the Indian language. She laughed when I wrote down the names which she translated into her tongue, being as much puzzled by my hieroglyphics as I was by her barbarous speech.

"The dress of my young teacher was unique, and would have attracted attention on Broadway or Regent St. Her head covering was nothing more than an inverted basket, of various colours tightly woven, and fitting her head closely, like a jockey cap,

IFYE Youth Need Hosts

Have you ever thought about sharing your home-life with a visitor from another country? It's possible, when you serve as a host family to an International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegate, says Walt Schroeder, Curry county extension agent.

Home visits are an essential part of the IFYE (pronounced "If-e") program, which seeks to build international understanding through a people-to-people approach.

There have been 458 families in Oregon who have invited visitors into their home since the program began here in 1951 explained Lynn Breese, Oregon State University extension specialist.

This year, Oregon will host seven or eight IFYE delegates, reports Mrs. Breese. "Our goal is to introduce the delegates to Oregon and its people by having them live with families in different settings," said Mrs. Breese. "Each visitor will stay with several families for two to three weeks before returning to his home county."

Any interested family-- farm, city, young, old-- may apply to host an international delegate. The only requirement is that the visitor be treated as a family member, which includes providing room and board.

"Special entertainment isn't necessary," Schroeder adds, "these young adults are interested in your usual family routine."

Delegates range in age from 20 to 30 years, have a rural background and some experience with 4-H or similar programs. The delegates will arrive in the United States in late May.

Families interested in hosting a delegate may apply through the Curry county extension office in Gold Beach. Although applications are accepted throughout the year, families interested in this year's delegates should have their applications on file with the State 4-H office by April 1.

In addition to IFYE visitors, there is also a possibility that delegates will be available through the Professional Rural Youth Leader Exchange (PRYLE) program. These delegates are slightly older and are interested in gaining experience by working with county and extension youth agents.

IFYE and PRYLE are privately financed international programs, administered on the national level by the National 4-H Foundation on behalf of the Cooperative Extension Service.

ness with which she acquired the English language. Why not educate her and marry her! She was the daughter of a chief. I should have been tempted to accept the offer. But on the other hand a salutary doubt decided me to let forest retain its own, and I declined an alliance with the blood of the Tagonishas.

"But the steamer comes in sight. Would you like to see my parting with this beautiful Indian maiden? Of course it was touching in the extreme, and my last act was to present her with my red hunting shirt... in virtue of which she now undoubtedly reigns as the belle of Oregon."



dellenback Report

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DELLENBACK

PROBLEMS AT THE POST OFFICE

At one point during the Christmas mail crush the Eugene Post Office was literally up to its ears in backlogged third class mail. Club meeting notices, circulars and magazines piled up while Christmas cards and the heavy load of other first-class mail received deserved priority attention. Similar situations existed all over the Fourth District.

Since that time I have received a great deal of mail about the problems of local post offices in Oregon's Fourth District. It's absolutely clear that we have in existence an intolerable situation-- equally intolerable to the public and to the men and women working in the Postal Service.

Early this year Postal officials responded to my inquiries by outlining the tremendous challenges they face.

SHEER VOLUME. In 1967, the nation's post offices handled 78 billion pieces of mail. This year they project the volume will exceed 90 billion, which means about 250 million pieces of mail each day. **TRANSPORTATION.** In the past this challenge was met with a system built around the nation's network of railroads. With regular mail trains now a thing of the past, the Postal Service must depend primarily on air and highway transportation, and this complicates the problem considerably.

PRODUCTIVITY. Studies indicated Post Office operations were far less efficient than in the nation as a whole, partly because of out of date and inefficient equipment and practices. New techniques in management, processing and distribution are being adopted, but new equipment is slow in coming.

BULK MAIL. Particularly difficult problems have been encountered in providing the timely, damage-free delivery of bulk mail parcels. One result has been that competitive delivery systems have developed and taken some business away from the Postal Service. I think such competition may be both healthy and helpful. A system of 33 specially designed automated plants to expedite the handling and damage-free distribution of bulk mail is being developed and should be operational within three years.

Most of the complaints I have received have resulted from changes made in local postal service. Most of these changes have come as a direct result of the Postal Reorganization Act which became law in the summer of 1970. On July 1, 1971, the United States Postal Service became a semi-independent government corporation charged with finding ways to become more self-supportive.

In his annual report for 1971-72, Postmaster General E. T. Klanssen said, "The process of turning around an organization as vast and geographically dispersed as the Postal Service will require time. Given the patience and understanding of our customers, our employees, the news media and the Congress, I am confident that the Postal Service will become a productive and creative force in the coming decade."

Unfortunately it is often difficult to be patient when one mails a birthday card to a nearby neighbor and finds that for some reason it isn't delivered until several days later.

Some of the efforts to streamline the Postal Service clearly have not, in the short run at least, helped improve local service. In some cases staff reductions predicated on the installation of automatic equipment were made far too fast, before local post offices were ready.

I have made clear my position that I want Postal authorities to review some of their decisions and practices, including relations with Postal clerks, carriers and supervisors, some of whom are being placed in unfair and intolerable situations. At the same time I think it would be a mistake to abandon the new system and return to the old. I would hope we have enough patience to allow the Postal Service a reasonable period to straighten things out.

Legislative Log

NEWS FROM COOS-CURRY LEGISLATORS
 Sen. Jack Ripper
 Rep. Ed Stevenson Rep. Bill Grannell

Wild Pot Luck

Starting at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Thursday, March 29, a potluck dinner featuring local wild food plants will be held at the Gold Beach Presbyterian Church. Everyone interested is welcome to attend.

Bring a potluck dish, wild or tame, your own plate and silverware. "Coffee" will be provided.

Those bringing wild food are asked to bring a specimen of the plant or plants used, and the recipe or instructions for preparing it.

Contact Margaret Schweers at 247-6268 for further information.

The Fifty-seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly has just completed its tenth week... and what a tense, exciting week it has been.

The long awaited showdown by the Oregon Senate to approve Governor Tom McCall's Tax Program, the property-tax relief bill, spearheaded by the Democratic Majority passed the final test during the Senate session on Wednesday, Sen. Jack Ripper reports.

Prior to the actual vote on House Bill 2004, the Governor's tax program which offers massive property-tax relief to the lower and middle income groups, two Minority Reports were voted on and defeated.

The Senate had convened at 9 o'clock in the morning and

It was 1:15 when the vote was taken on the tax program. On this first vote the bill was narrowly defeated by a 16 to 14 vote.

Senate President Jason Boe then adjourned the Senate until 2:15 then there was a motion for reconsideration, and on the final vote the bill was passed by 17 to 13, and final approval of the tax program. The House concurred with the Senate, and the tax program will now have to be approved by a vote of the people on May 1st.

Debate on the tax proposal was led by Sen. Jason Boe who stressed that this program, a bi-partisan effort, was a people-oriented program based on the ability-to-pay concept, and not a program that would benefit any special interest groups.

If accepted by the people, it would insure local control of school districts by shifting the support of schools from property taxes to an equitable personal income-tax formula. This program would also shift the burden of responsibility to larger corporations to pay their fair share of the costs easing the load on the lower and middle income groups.

In calling for the passage of HB 2004, Pres. Boe said, "This is the first time in Oregon history that a plan has been offered to help the people who have been paying the bill... the average guy in the middle, the working citizen earning less than \$16,000 a year."

All three of your Coos and Curry Legislators have supported the concept of the Governor's tax proposal, in their campaign, and in the Legislature. The people's mandate to provide an acceptable program for all the people has been heeded. We have reacted by presenting a "people program" for the citizens of our state to make the final decision at the polls on May 1st, a school tax reform which will benefit the great majority of people in southwestern Oregon.

The Full Committee of the Joint Ways and Means committee met on Friday following the Committee's return from various state-operated and state-supported facilities in Klamath Falls, Ontario, Pendleton, and The Dalles. The six sub-committees continue to review budget proposals which include the State accident insurance fund, the Executive Department and the Department of Education, and the Mental Health Division of the Department of human resource. The bill was passed out which reimburses community colleges for all full-time equivalent students during the 1971-72 fiscal year and funded projected enrollments for 1972-73. The bill also eliminates the existing 105 percent policy, and as a result community colleges in the future will be reimbursed based upon actual enrollments, according to Sen. Ripper, member of Ways and Means.

Rep. Ed Stevenson was the opening speaker last weekend, at the District Conference of County Treasurers in The Dalles.

Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Port Orford Cemetery for Maude Hensley, 68, Myrtle Point, with Rev. Don Parsons of the Zion Lutheran Church officiating. Mrs. Hensley was born April 3, 1904, in Port Orford, and died March 19 in North Bend.

Surviving are the widower, John, Port Orford; brothers, James Hurst, Myrtle Point and Perry Hurst, Port Orford; sisters, Drewella Seagren, Junction City, Millie Miller, Memphis, Tenn., and Daisy Dick of Nevada, and many nieces and nephews.

Campbell-Watkins Chapel of North Bend was in charge of arrangements.

Oregon Today

by Don Willner

What are the priorities for this session of the Oregon Legislature for preserving our environment? Nearly everyone agrees that Senate Bill 100, the land use planning bill, is of greatest importance and is creating the greatest controversy. Oregonians have traditionally been very fearful of government interfering with their freedom of action. This is especially true if that government is some distance away. Urban dwellers tend to be more willing to accept planning controls because they see the results of lack of planning all around them in high rise buildings that block the sky and freeways that block access to the river. Rural Oregonians who are often closer to the land want to use their land any way they please.

Senate Bill 100 which started out with a good deal of built-in state controls is gradually being changed to emphasize more local control. At this writing it is unclear what will be the ultimate fate of this most controversial bill.

Possibly the next most important proposal calls for an Oregon Environmental Protection Act. This would require every agency of government when they are about to take or approve action which has a substantial impact on the environment to first file an environmental impact statement. This would be a study of what effect a road, a power plant, the major clear-cut on state lands, the large sanitary land fill would have on the environment. It would give no one a veto but would require a good deal of thought and public review of the impact of such governmental actions which are often completely irreversible. Often times it is not the private subdivision who has the greatest impact on the environment, it is the units of state or local government that make a decision in terms of a single perspective without really considering what other effect their decision will have.

Groups interested in the environment are also watching closely bills dealing with coastal management, Cape Kiwanda, subdivision controls, off-road vehicles and modifications in the Scenic Rivers system.

It seems probable that this Legislative session will not see the tremendous numbers of environmental bills passed as did the 1971 session. But if this Legislature can do a thoughtful job on protecting the land of Oregon, particularly in the Willamette Valley where the threats are the greatest, it will have accomplished much.

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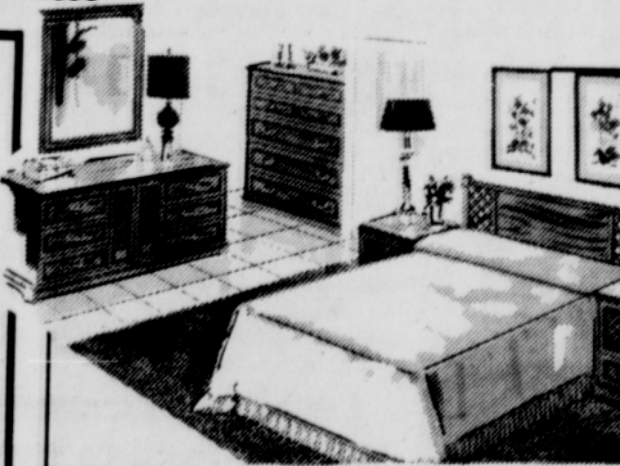
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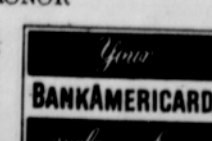
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