

For What It's Worth

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

I AM CONVINCED that the most impressive thing that came out of the recent inauguration was a picture taken by an amateur photographer.



Standing at the rostrum on the platform was Harry S. Truman, his face reflecting the wear and tear of more than seven years as the country's chief executive. He was leaving his

post firm in the conviction that history would eventually establish him among the great.

At his side was the incoming President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, serious in his awareness of the tremendous problems awaiting his solution. To all who saw him he represented the future.

Behind them and in the background, a position which had been his since 1932, stood the nation's oldest ex-president, Herbert Hoover. He reflected the calmness of the past—a past distant enough that already his place in history was coming into focus as high and honorable.

As I studied the scene, the last quarter of a century came to mean much more to me than ever before; for I had lived with these men.

I had known Herbert Hoover as the greatest humanitarian in the world, and I had seen him driven from office, cursed by the millions who had formerly adored him.

I had known Harry Truman as a humble man, acknowledging to all his inadequacy for the position into which an untimely death had thrust him; and I had seen him transformed into an arrogant little man who had lowered the

prestige of the high position which he had earlier held in reverence.

I had known Dwight Eisenhower as a hero of the world as he directed the Allied invasion of a Nazi-ringed Europe and then solidified those Allies in a common defense against an ever-menacing, creeping Communism.

Now he, too, stood ready to be tested in the crucible of public opinion. Using the past as a yardstick, one would hesitate to predict, but he certainly should follow the new leader's example by being willing to pray.

CO. EXTENSION AGENT NEWS

The introduction of the amendment to the Oregon Produce law in this session of the legislature is meeting with some opposition from the Oregon Nurserymen's association.

The amendment has been drawn up by the Lily Growers requiring dealers who handle lily bulbs to take out a licensed insuror bond in the state of Oregon.

The main points of opposition were brought out at a meeting of the Oregon Nurserymen's council held in Portland on Jan. 27, at which time Clifford Walker, secretary to the Pacific Bulb Growers association, representing the growers, Rod McKenzie, legislative from this district, attended.

Another meeting is being arranged by John F. Weiman of the State Department of Agriculture for Clifford Jenkins and Dave Shaw, of Gold Beach, to meet with the nurserymen in an attempt to work out a satisfactory compromise so that this amendment may be introduced in this session of the Oregon legislature.

IRRIGATION MEETING

February 9, 10 and 11 are the dates when E. R. Jackman, farm crop specialist, and Marvin Sherer, irrigation specialist, from Oregon State college, will be in Curry county to help farmers figure out specifications for individual sprinkler irrigation systems and to develop seeding and fertilizer and a pasture improvement program involving seeding fertilizer requirements, irrigation, etc. Three meetings will be held in the evening, the first one at the Sixes Grange hall on Feb. 9, at the county agent's office in Gold Beach on Feb. 10, and at the Chetco Grange hall on Feb. 11. These will be meetings to develop a pasture improvement program and subject matters information on irrigation such as increased production through irrigation, irrigation costs, irrigation laws, use of water, etc. During the daytime individual farm visits will be made to those farmers requesting assistance in laying out irrigation systems for their respective ranches and for developing a pasture improvement program. The farmers wishing help in this field should contact Clifford Jenkins, your county agent, prior to Feb. 9.

Black Skimmer

By
E. LAURENCE PALMER

FLYING IN SPECTACULAR unison close to the water of some river mouth, bay or harbor is a relatively compact flock of good sized birds that appear conspicuously black above and white beneath. They look much like slen-



Black Skimmer
©1952 National Wildlife Federation

der-billed gulls but fly more rapidly and on close examination with glasses we may see that the bills are red with black tips. The birds may fly one way across a stretch of water, wheel and come back over the same path. On occasion one may dip its bill into the water but continue its flight with little interruption. I you are in the proper place at the proper time the flock being ob-

served may be Back Skimmers.

Black Skimmers breed from southern New England to Florida, Texas and south to Central Argentina on the Atlantic coast and from Ecuador to Chile on the Pacific coast. They winter from North Carolina southward. Sometimes the birds are found as far inland as Tennessee and one race lives in central South America. The presence of the birds in the northern part of their range may be erratic. Hurricanes may be responsible for their appearance in regions where they have not been seen before.

The male Black Skimmer is slightly larger than the female. He may be 20 inches long including a 6-inch tail with its 1½-inch fork. The wing-spread may be to 50 inches. If the bird can be observed closely, identification may be made simply through the bill. The lower part of the bill is definitely longer than the upper portion and the whole bill is conspicuously compressed. With a structure like this the bird may skim along the water surface while flying with the bill in position to quickly pick up a small fish or other animal that may serve as a meal.

Black Skimmers nest in colonies on bare ground such as shell beaches or sand flats. They build no nest but lay to three to five

eggs in a mere depression. The eggs are 1 2/3 inches, white, greenish or brown and are spotted or blotched with brown, gray or lavender. While the birds nest in colonies, the individual nests are not too close together. Incubation is probably by the female only and there is but one annual brood. In the northern part of the range the nesting period is from the middle of May to the middle of July. The young birds have bills that are more nearly equal in length than are those of the adults and because of this they may pick food from the surface of the ground, a feat that is practically impossible for the adults.

The birds are themselves inedible but the fresh eggs are sometimes eaten, in spite of the fact that it is illegal to collect them. It is quite probable that egg collectors have done much to reduce the range of these interesting but not economically important birds. The National Wildlife Federation joins with other organizations interested in the protection of wildlife in urging the protection of these birds. They do no harm and only prable value lies in providing for some nature lover an interesting field adventure.

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