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The Road Up the Chetco

If there were one project which would insure the future growth and stability of the Brookings-Harbor area, that project would be the construction of a highway up the Chetco River.

And now is the time to get it.

The question of a road across the mountains to the valley has been debated and discussed for a long time. In recent years, a group of men, headed by Art Knox, Chairman of the Chamber's Road Committee have established relations with the cities of the valley, and have promoted the construction of such a road.

For many years, there was no real enthusiasm in the valley, if not downright opposition. For one thing, Grants Pass was tied tightly into the Redwood Empire Association, and was working to promote the Redwood Highway to Grants Pass. Medford was at work gaining new improvements in highway 99, and Klamath Falls and Ashland could not be interested as long as those gaps were open.

But the work done by Art Knox and his group has shown definite changes in the thinking of the valley cities. They are becoming extremely conscious of the forest and mineral wealth that is locked in the valley of the Chetco, and they are as anxious as we are to free it. They are developing interest in low cost water transport, and they know the first ingredient for it is a short road to the sea. And, finally, they have discovered the vacation land that lies in their own back yard, and they don't like driving over Oregon Mountain to get here.

So—psychologically—the time is right. And, from a practical point of view, the time is right too. These are the reasons:

The Forestry Service has asked an appropriation of \$17,000,000 for the construction of access roads to free the blocked timber that it holds, so that it can sell the timber which is now being lost through inaccessibility. The Chetco is one of the basins which holds timber not now being marketed, and which would be freed by the construction is most complacent.

Increasing attention is being paid to the mineral deposits of the west, as evidenced by the development of the Riddle nickel deposits. There is no doubt that the government would like to have the chrome and nickel of the Chetco made more accessible . . . and water shipment may be the answer.

And, finally, this is an election year. If we are to wrangle funds from Congress for our development, it must be done when Congress is more complacent.

Now, there are pitfalls ahead before such a road can be built, and we would be foolish to minimize them.

For one thing, the State of Oregon has no great interest in a highway which covers so much Federally owned land. Therefore, we must devote our efforts to getting the forest access roads built here, so the state will have a reason to reach them.

Secondly, there are rough areas in the Chetco region, which produce little timber. But part of these areas have produced timber in the past, before being scourged by fires, and will produce again. The Forest Service says that fifteen million feet per year can come out of the Chetco on a sustained yield basis. But, they say, ninety million feet could come out if the burned lands were planted and made accessible. In the interests of conservation, such a planting program would dictate more than ever the need to open this land which now produces nothing, and could produce so much.

So we must fight for our road . . . and keep on fighting.

The time to begin is now. Ed Ackley, local attorney who was recently in Washington, brought back word that Congress is more receptive to plans for the development of access roads now than it ever has been. It is his opinion that a campaign now would have greater chance of success than it ever has had.

But it must come from us . . . the people of Brookings and Harbor. We need that road desperately, and we must do all we can to get it.

WATCH FOR OPENING

O'HOLLERAN'S

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M.C.

Never did I think it would ever be my lot to see a miracle occur—but I did. I saw four people with four automatic pistols fire 30 or more bullets directly into the midst of some 260 Members of Congress and floor employees in the House chamber with the miraculous result that no one was killed and only one person was really critically wounded. Three of the assassins fired almost continuously for what seemed to be more than a minute. The fourth did some firing, I think, and perhaps reloaded some of the guns for the others. He disappeared from the gallery before the shooting ended.

Where was I while this was going on? As it happened, I was perfectly safe but standing where I could see it all very clearly. However, I only saw the beginning and the finish. Some five minutes before the shooting I had made a speech in what we call the "well" of the House and had then taken a seat right behind the committee table because the Rules Committee, of which I am a member, was handling the bill then under consideration. One of the doorkeepers then came to tell me that a visitor wished to see me at the main door—which is at the opposite end of the center aisle from the Speaker's rostrum. I was standing back of the rail near that door awaiting the result of a vote which had just been taken when I heard the first shot—and out of the side of my eye saw the gun flash. Instinctively I dropped to the floor. After lying there for perhaps a minute while the popping was going on, I finally decided that it must be a crazy demonstration by some kids with cap pistols—it sounded like that—so I stood up again and watched the end of it. I saw one of the men unfurl the flag. Then, backing up into the corner was the short man still attempting to shoot but he was apparently having trouble with his gun which at that time was pointed toward the floor. At that instant the man who was "relaxing" in the visitors gallery dashed up the corner steps and facing the gunman threw his arms around him, hauling him down the steps and out the gallery door.

It was not until some minutes after that, in fact not until I walked back down toward the well of the House and saw Congressman Bentley on the floor bleeding, that I realized real bullets were fired. I don't know why it was but the shots did not sound like any gunfire I have ever heard. The noise was that of small firecrackers or toy cap pistols.

It was a terrible incident. The only good thing about it is the fact that as this is written it seems certain all who were struck with bullets will fully recover. Representative Bentley of Michigan is, however, still in a serious condition.

The House is about to begin working on the big bills of this session. The second regular appropriations bill has been completed — one to provide money for the State, Justice and Commerce Departments. Next will come the tax code revision bill, an excise tax bill, the big Federal-aid highways bill and the first bill of the President's health program is ready. As I heard Majority Leader Halleck remark—we are about to start running in the big gear.

WEATHER MAN HERE

Edgar G. Johnson, U. S. Weather Bureau, Forecasting Department, Seattle, was a brief visitor at the local station last Wednesday.



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

The most perplexing problem facing me or any citizen today is that involving Senator McCarthy. So many confusing elements are involved that even those well-informed in national affairs become bewildered.

Primarily to be decided is the matter of communism. Is it a definite threat to the survival of the nation or is it merely something to be shrugged off as fantastic and impossible? Some of those who take the former stand, particularly Senator McCarthy, are inclined to froth at the mouth and shoot at every shadow on the possibility that it may be red.

At the other extreme are those who tasting the sour grapes of political defeat in the last election become fanatic in their attempt to portray McCarthyism as an even greater danger than communism.

Personally, I can accept neither. International developments of the past ten years convince me that communism is an ever-present menace to any democracy. Yet I

feel that the best defense against such a threat is the preservation and strengthening of those very principles of humanity which the communist seeks to destroy.

McCarthy's methods would in the end destroy those foundations of justice which we wish to protect. But even though his methods are repugnant to the American mind, most of us still have enough faith in the democratic processes to be confident that McCarthy will eventually go the way of all those others whom history records as having forgotten in their delusions of grandeur that they represented the people.

President Eisenhower faces a tough problem. He has my sympathy, but he also has my confidence. It may not happen tomorrow, but sooner or later the president along with the citizenry which he represents will cut to size the senator who has become too big for his britches.

This decline of the senator, however, must not come as a result of the efforts of those who oppose him because he fights communism. It must be the decision of a people rejecting a method, not a principle.

TEEN-AGE NEWS

A Teen-Age club dance was held last Friday evening at the V. F. W. hall.

Our chaperons were Miss Fitzgibbon and Miss Hewitt.

We hope to see a good turn-out next time.

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