

Malheur Lake and Blitzen Valley Restored as Bird Refuge

Huge Program Is Under Way

Trip to far Southeastern Corner of Oregon Is Full of Interest

This newspaper is co-operating with the Oregon State Motor association and The Oregonian in presenting a series of motor cruises. It is hoped thereby to stimulate travel in the Pacific northwest.

By FRANK BARTON
Protruding from the waters of Malheur lake are a series of hay hummocks now alive with nesting pelicans, gulls and other waterfowl.

These unusual islands, which have become colonies of wild life, are the tops of haystacks left by the ranchers when the federal government began flooding the region in its program to restore the lake and the Blitzen river valley as a refuge for migratory birds.

The haystacks are significant of the transition which is being made in the district, once the proud cattle empire of Pete French, founder of the famous P ranch.

Quacking ducks and geese are replacing the bellowing bees and men of the biological survey now rule a new kind of range where once French required a week's travel by buckboard to cover his almost feudal holdings.

Yet as we of the travel party, sponsored by The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor association, visited this huge project it almost seemed that the original owner of the P ranch rode again with his cowhands over the grassy valleys of Honey. Everywhere we met with reminders of the man who has become a near legendary character in this district.

The government is constructing a series of dikes, and canals destined, it is hoped, to make of the entire Blitzen valley a series of pools, marshes, hummocks and islands, ideal nesting places for the millions of migratory birds to be attracted to the region. The Malheur lake is to be restored to its original state if the cycle of wet years, now expected, will only do their part and deposit sufficient moisture in the Blitzen watershed.

In carrying out this work an attempt is being made largely to restore conditions existing before French invaded the district in 1873 and bought up the "marsh" land of Blitzen valley at \$1.25 an acre for himself and his partner, Dr. Hugh Glenn of Chico, Cal. Archie McGowan of Burns, who was born on his father's ranch where that town now stands, recalled for the benefit of the members of the travel party conditions in the early days when literally "acres" of pelicans, ducks, geese and other wild fowl made the Blitzen river and Malheur district their customary habitat.

The touring party composed of Charles A. Stryker, publisher of The Statesman; Ben R. Liffin,

Restored Lake Is Refuge of Birds



Top, one of the newly flooded areas of Malheur reserve; middle picture, the famous old "P" ranch house; lower, John C. Schartz, refuge superintendent, examines a spoon-bill duck's nest.

publisher of The Dalles Chronicle; Vinton Hall of the state motor association, and myself had spent the night at Ed Barnes' Hotel Welcome in Burns after an easy one-day trip from Portland over excellent roads. We went by way of The Dalles to pick up Ben, but cut off seven miles from the regular distance by taking the old Dufur road, so that the total distance for the day's trip was only 361 miles.

Close-up Taken
The next morning, escorted by John F. Branson of the United States biological survey and Merle Jacobs, hunter for the biological survey, we headed south for the headquarters of the reserve 30 miles away, located not far from where the Blitzen river enters the old Malheur lake bed, a group of attractive stone buildings constructed by the CCC.

Upon our arrival we were told about a spoonbill duck which was nesting in tall grass not far from an expanse of water a hundred yards away.

We carefully uncovered the eggs and took a picture after which we recovered them again. The old duck would never know the difference, according to John C. Schartz, superintendent of the refuge.

A trip by automobile through the refuge showed us the extensive program which the government is carrying out. Miles of dikes have been constructed. Acres of water have been impounded. And the Blitzen river, fed by snow from the Steens mountains, is continually pouring in more water to do its part in giving the country back to the waterfowl.

The project has been under way for about a year and a half and it is estimated that it will require an additional five years to complete it. Already 13 ponds have been created in the 40-mile-long Blitzen valley in addition to the series of canals for the control of the flow of water. A dam with spillways and gates has been built

at the upper end of the valley, thereby making it possible to direct the water into various channels. The dam is equipped with a fishway to provide easy passage of trout up or down stream.

Provide Natural Food
Rye grass and grain to provide natural food for the birds is being planted in suitable places about the refuge. The entire project has also been fenced. New fence totaling 178 miles was put around the lake and the 190 miles of fence around the old P ranch is being rebuilt and reinforced.

So far the government has made no effort to take a census of the bird population in the refuge. As the work progresses on the project this will be done.

It is estimated, however, that some 2000 Canada geese spent the winter in the refuge and that the number of ducks visiting the area run into the tens of thousands. Approximately 10,000 birds are banded each year at the refuge, and some excellent data on the migrations have been recorded as a result of this banding.

Shore birds nesting in the area include the long-billed western Wilson's snipe, avocets, curlew, willets, Wilson's phalaropes, killdeer and spotted sandpiper. Other interesting birds in the refuge, besides those already mentioned, include black terns, Forsters terns, California and ring-billed gulls, black-crowned night herons, blue herons, white-faced ibis, glossy ibis and various grebes.

Significant of the return of white pelican to the district, Schartz said, was the fact that there is a colony of about 200 of these interesting birds on Malheur lake at the present time.

Statesman Book Nook

Reviews of New Books and Literary News Notes
By CAROLINE C. JERGEN

For the first time in several months "Good Earth" again appears in the list of current literary favorites. The cause of this renewed interest is thought to be the motion picture made from Mrs. Buck's story.

The lists, one of fiction and one of non-fiction, are compiled from reports of public libraries in 26 cities. The cities reporting include Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cleveland, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York City, Newark, Pittsburgh, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Springfield (Mass.) and Toronto. Others include his daughter, Penny, who writes plays because she has a typewriter she feels should be used; a son-in-law who manufactures firecrackers in the basement; one granddaughter who makes candy to sell for a living and otherwise practices ballet dancing; another granddaughter, the only normal member of the family, is a stenographer and is in love with her boss' son.

Non-fiction favorites are Carnegie, "How to Win Arguments and Influence People"; Heiser, "American Doctor's Odyssey"; Link, "Return to Religion"; Carrell, "Man, the Unknown"; Ludwig, "The Nile"; Hillis, "Live Alone and Like It"; Lande, "Wake Up and Live"; Gunther, "Inside Europe."

July Book club choices have been announced as: Book of the Month club, "Northwest Passage" by Kenneth Roberts. Doubleday; Literary Guild, "American Dream" by Michael Foster, Morrow; Junior Literary Guild, older boys, "Thor's Fire" by Alice A. Lide and Margaret A. Johansen, Lothrop; older girls, "A Row of Stars" by Jane Abbott, Lippincott; Intermediate group, "Lost Cove" by Edna Turpin, Random House; primary group, "The Little Boy and His House" by Stephen Bone and Mary Adhead, Winston; Catholic Book club, "In Christ's Own Country" by Don Ernest Grass, Oates and Washbourne; Book of the Month club, "The American Dream" by Michael Foster, Morrow; Junior Literary Guild, older boys, "Thor's Fire" by Alice A. Lide and Margaret A. Johansen, Lothrop; older girls, "A Row of Stars" by Jane Abbott, Lippincott; Intermediate group, "Lost Cove" by Edna Turpin, Random House; primary group, "The Little Boy and His House" by Stephen Bone and Mary Adhead, Winston; Catholic Book club, "In Christ's Own Country" by Don Ernest Grass, Oates and Washbourne; Book of the Month club, "The American Dream" by Michael Foster, Morrow; Junior Literary Guild, older boys, "Thor's Fire" by Alice A. Lide and Margaret A. Johansen, Lothrop; older girls, "A Row of Stars" by Jane Abbott, Lippincott; Intermediate group, "Lost Cove" by Edna Turpin, Random House; primary group, "The Little Boy and His House" by Stephen Bone and Mary Adhead, Winston; Catholic Book club, "In Christ's Own Country" by Don Ernest Grass, Oates and Washbourne.

Not long ago a letter came to me asking for a list of names of "recommended westerns" with instructions that these be "really good westerns." These are difficult to find in libraries unless the searcher knows the author.

It would be difficult for me to say just what is a "really good western." Westerns are not selected on merit of craftsmanship. Only a very few of the best come within hailing distance of literature. The "westerns" is "entertainment." If they serve as entertainment they have served their purpose.

Perhaps some day Walter Edmonds will come to the west and call it a day. Perhaps a different western writer, H. L. Davis, author of "Honey in the Horn," for instance—will give us something a little more "exciting," something "typically western," and still be within the pale of literature. But more likely we will always have to take as the present accepted brand of "westerns," the adult fairy tale.

The "best" of westerns, recommended by libraries include two of H. B. Wright's, "When a Man's a Man" and "Winning of Barbara Worth"; two of Owen Wister's, "Lin McLean" and "Virginian"; five of S.E. White's, "Cabin," "Claim Jumpers," "Ranchero," "Riverman" and "Silent Places"; two of H. W. Morrow, "Elixir of the Lariat" and "Judith of the Godless Valley"; Peter B. Kyne's "Enchanted Hill," "Golden Dawn," "The Conqueror," "Lord of Lonely Valley," "Tide of Empire" and "Valley of the Giants"; Edna Ferber, "Simmarron" and "Come and Get It"; and novels by Andy Adams, J. B. Ames, R. A. Bennett, H. Bindloss, Max Brand, Robert Ormand Case, Stone Cady, Dana Coolidge, R. Cullum, E. Cunningham, Will Ervine, Laurie Erskine, Hal Everts, Peter Field, J. Gregory, Zane Grey, J. B. Hendryx, Ernest Haycox, Will James, G. M. Johnson, H. H. Knibbs, Alan Lee May, Lockhart, E. B. Mann, C. E. Mulford, W. R. Raine, E. Rhodes, F. Robertson, C. A. Zeltzer, B. M. Sinclair, C. H. Snow, F. H. Spearman, W. C. Tuttle, W. F. White.

You Can't Take it With You. By Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. Farrer. \$3.00. A play.

A clever play featuring 19 people of whom Grandpa Vanderhof, who collects makes and attends Columbia commencements is the central figure. Others include his daughter, Penny, who writes plays because she has a typewriter she feels should be used; a son-in-law who manufactures firecrackers in the basement; one granddaughter who makes candy to sell for a living and otherwise practices ballet dancing; another granddaughter, the only normal member of the family, is a stenographer and is in love with her boss' son.

The Economic Doctrines of Karl Marx. Translated by H. J. Stenning. 1937. \$1.50. Macmillan. A study in economics.

This is a concise account of the fundamental doctrines elaborated in Das Kapital. The author was one of the literary excoerators of Marx and Engels, and for more than a generation has been the leading theorist of Marxian socialism.

The Two Mr. Gladstones. By G. T. Garrett. Macmillan. \$3.00. 1937. A biography.

Gladstone's public career, extending over 60 years, was amazing both in variety and in influence. He has been described as the greatest speaker of his age, the outspoken leader of democracy, and yet the courteous courtier, a loyal churchman, and a lover of the past. The title of the book is explained by its emphasis on the dual nature of the statesman.

A Century of the Universal School. By William C. Bagley. 1937. \$1.00.

This is something that should be enjoyed by school teachers (the proverbial mailcarrier taking a walk on his holiday) during the summer months. It gives terse and lucid review of the rise and development of the common-school education from its faint beginnings in the seventeenth century and its rapid growth in the eighteenth century down to the present. The widespread dependence on public education in Europe, China and Japan as well as in the United States accompanies the expansion of nationalism. Dr. Bagley's long association with problems of education gives his discussion authoritative value. His critical estimate of public education in the America of today will challenge educators.

People in Cages. By Helen Ashton. 1937. \$2.50. Fiction.

Those seeking the "something different" in fiction should like this new novel of Helen Ashton's. The setting, which is the London zoo, is different; the central character, Captain John Canning, is different; and the plot is different.

Canning, handsome, wild and unscrupulous, reckless and shifty, was once involved in a major stock fraud, and knows that a warrant is being issued for his arrest. He plans to flee the country in the night but spends the hot July afternoon preceding in the zoo. At first he is bold and confident, proud of his cunning. But the heat of the afternoon sun begins to melt his nerve. His growing terror is skillfully portrayed and there are a number of sub-plots which keep the novel from being entirely too "different."

Gentlemen from England. By Maud and Delos Lorelace. 1937. \$2.50. Fiction.

This is really much more exciting than the title would indicate. The plot centers around Richard Chalmers, third son of an English family, who comes to America full of ambition, and settles on a farm in Crockett county, Minnesota. He becomes involved with one woman, falls in love with another. Scandal makes him usually an outcast in the town. He falls at farming, rescues an enemy from lynching, organizes the Rambo Riders and eventually comes back into the town's favor. That is about all one can ask of anyone character in a book.

Eugene Planning New Trail Stunts

Pioneer Celebration to Be Staged July 22 to 23; Pageant Highlight

EUGENE, June 19.—Eugene, "end of the pioneer trail," turned its collective calendar back 94 years this week as its citizenry began preparing for the gigantic Oregon Trail celebration to be held July 22, 23 and 24.

Main streets of the valley metropolis are filled with be-wigged males and costumed women as the entire town picks up the pioneer spirit.

"Chain up and come to Eugene" has been adopted as the slogan for the pageant, held last in 1934. New features, plus the two traditional parades and the far-famed Oregon Trail pageant will be highlights of the festivities.

A cast of more than 2000 people, scores of horses, oxen, cattle, sheep, authentic costumery, colorful scenery and the largest stage-set in the world put Eugene in a class by itself. There will be performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Equal in importance and interest will be the Pioneer parade held Friday, and the Industrial parade on Saturday. An innovation this year will be the new entertainment center, "Settlers' Valley," which will include games, dancing and amusement resorts.

Sage of Salem Speculates

By D. H. TALMADGE

(Continued from Page 4)

and he asked me would I mind stepping down through the blizzard and having my nose punched. So I stepped down to the old Salem hotel and, figuratively of course, had my nose punched. He was somewhat more sarcastic, I thought, than seemed entirely necessary. He left for California that night. Said he figured he might as well call on all the Hars while he was out here. I never heard from him afterwards. Not even a postcard. Just a stony silence.

It has been quite some time now since I have made any promises as to what the climate will do at certain seasons. It is better, I think, to treat the matter as something to be considered under the rules governing elastic averages.

Man at Well!

Man at Well! gentlemen's clothing store asks for "storm windows." Says his wife has used both his suits for mop rags. Thinks he'll put on get some more and put 'em up. Something wrong here. . . . Flashes of the wedding of the Duke of Windsor and Mrs. Warfield in the week's newsreels. . . . Sarcastic tourist at one of the hotels says he has been in the valley only two weeks and has sprouted a fin. The poor fish!

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Attention to Dahlia Garden During June, July and August Will Pay Dividends

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Special attention to your dahlia garden this month and throughout July and early August will insure good bloom in autumn. Beds should be cultivated regularly to insure proper aeration of the soil, to conserve moisture, and to keep the surface free of weeds. If cultivation is kept up religiously, irrigation should not be necessary until buds begin to appear. If it should really rain, be sure to cultivate at once so that the soil does not crack or harden.

This week, just before you cultivate, apply a feeding of balanced plant food, using a heaping teaspoonful to each square foot of space around the plant. Be careful to keep the fertilizer away from the stalk of the plant. Work it into the soil. Then soak the soil thoroughly, and don't forget to cultivate the soil before it bakes.

Permit only one or two main stalks to develop to a plant. Pinch back the center as soon as the fourth pair of leaves develops.

Spray for Aphids
If aphids or other pests bother, use a nicotine sulphate spray. Stakes should have been set when the tuber was planted and early in July begin to tie the plant to the stake. Use some soft material such as tape or gauze in binding so as not to injure the stalk.

Feed the dahlias again in July, and in the latter part of the month when the buds begin to appear begin to soak the dahlia flowers are wanted, disbud, leaving only one terminal bud on each shoot.

As soon as the plants begin to bloom, cease cultivation and use a mulch such as peat moss to conserve moisture and keep weeds down. Pull out all weeds which make a showing above the mulch. Remember to set your mower high this month. Too close cutting exposes the crown of the grass plants to the hot sun.

Give your annual flowers another feeding at this time. Dig the plant food lightly in about the plants and then water thoroughly.

If your pansies have become scraggly pinch back the ends of the branches, give a little lime and balanced plant food and water thoroughly. Then spray the bush with Bordeaux or dust with a sulphur dust. The soil about the bush should also be sprayed. Watch well for certain diseases.

T. O. of Salem complains she bought a small Japanese snowball bush early this spring, that it bloomed a little and now is a standstill. I suggest she give it a feeding of balanced fertilizer. Dig it in lightly about the little bush and water thoroughly. Give the bush a thorough soaking once a week during the summer. Cut the faded flowers off at once.

Web on Coloneaster or Firethorn can be checked by a thorough spraying of Black Leaf-40.

In answer to the complaint of Mrs. H. A., that her coloneaster bush bloomed well last year but failed to set berries, I suggest she give her bush a number of good soakings this summer. Too many

people just sprinkle and let it go at that. The berries will not form or will drop off if the bushes are growing in too dry soil. I know one gardener who has a grand display of holly berries each Christmas, who opens the nozzle on his hose and lets the water run beneath his holly for a full half hour each day from June first until the fall rains set in.

Brown patch and fairy ring on the lawns are not the same disease. Creeping bent is particularly susceptible to brown patch. Mercury compounds are efficient in the control of brown patch.

Flash Pool Suggestion
In reply to A. N., Salem, fish in pools may have died because of too fresh content. When concrete has set, fill pool with water to which one pint of vinegar has been added for each 50 gallons of water. Allow to remain in pool for four days, drain, rinse once and refill with pure water.

Reply to McKinnville Gardener: Irises may be replanted almost as soon as they are through blooming. Burn any soft rhizomes. If some of you particularly wish to save have small soft or decayed spots, cut these out, and dip rhizomes in a solution of one teaspoonful potassium permanganate to one quart water.

Reply to Newberg Reader: Calla lilies will winter outside. On a gardener tells me she has grown hers outside for several years and some of them have grown four and five feet tall. They are in bloom out-of-doors now in many western Oregon gardens. One woman tells me that she inverts a small barrel, painted green, over the plants in the winter and removes it early in the spring. The green paint is to keep the barrel from being too conspicuous during the winter. Too few people care enough about how their gardens look in the winter. I saw this gardener's Calla lilies in bloom Sunday and they were gorgeous. I wonder why more of us don't grow Calla lilies out-of-doors here.

Fertilizing Laurels
Reply to Inexperienced Gardener, Hillsboro: A balanced fertilizer may be scattered around beneath rhododendrons, azaleas and laurels now. Be careful not to get it on the stalks or leaves. Water it well down. A mulch should be placed around the rhododendrons, azaleas and laurels. If you have not done so, carefully break the top soil around them so that it will not crack, and then place the mulch at once. Hoisting about these three plants destroys the feeder roots and prevents growth and bloom.

Reply to P.W., Portland: Do not feed your peonies until fall. Care must be taken that peonies are not overfed. Some bonemeal may be added to the soil about them this fall—along in September. It will then be available for early spring growth.

Almost every day brings me complaints of peach leaf curl with requests for information on control. As I have said in former articles, there is little one can do at this season of the year. The control must be in fall and autumn. Peach leaf curl, contrary to some beliefs, is serious. It will completely kill trees if not controlled. Spray with Bordeaux in autumn. Just before leaves fall off. Clean up and burn all leaves after they have fallen. Spray again in late December or early January.

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OPTOMETRIST AND OPTICIAN

Amelia Is Forced Back Second Time

(AKYAB, Burma, June 19.—(Saturday)—(AP)—Amelia Earhart returned to Akyab at 7:43 a. m. today (Friday) in the face of treacherous monsoon weather.

On their first attempt to reach Bangkok yesterday Miss Earhart and her navigator, Captain Fred Noonan, were forced to return to Akyab after a two-hour battle with a monsoon.

Former Seattle Solon Pleads Guilty, Bribery

OLYMPIA, June 19.—(AP)—Rex Strickland of Seattle, a former state legislator, pleaded guilty in superior court Friday to charges of attempted bribery and was fined \$5,000, which was suspended.

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