

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Water as a Forest-land "Crop"

"Our forest lands provide the major part of the 20 million acre-foot average annual flow in the Willamette river. They furnish the water capital on which our agriculture and industry draw."

So writes William E. Bullard, of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment station in a highly informative article on "Study of Relation of Forests to Water Supply Needed" in the June issue of Oregon Business Review.

We usually think of the forests as supplying timber and providing a place for recreation. Bullard points out that water is another annual "crop" of the forest lands. For instance, rainfall in the Willamette valley averages 40 inches a year, in the forest-covered mountains 80 inches. The latter fills the streams and provides underground waters for human use.

So far comparatively little study has been given to the connection between forests and water supply. The question has been raised whether cutting of forests increases the flood hazards, but little effort has been made to get the right answer. Here are other areas of ignorance, according to Bullard:

"For this region we do not know the specific effects of a given cutting system on the snow pack, although it has been found elsewhere that forest thinning can increase the snow storage as much as 50 per cent. We do not know what plants are the best to use here in erosion control, though we know some that have been highly successful in other places. We do not know the comparative value of different kinds of vegetation in conserving soil moisture, which bears on whether or not we should let water-shed slopes be clear cut, and if so by what pattern. We know very little about interception of rainfall by trees and brush, or about sedimentation rates in our streams, or about a variety of other pertinent matters."

As we reflect on this we begin to see our upland forests in a new light. They are not merely stands of timber awaiting the woodsman's axe and saw. They are not just green oceans restful to the eye and inviting to the vacationer. They are reservoirs of water and snow, much of which will work a way to the settled valleys below. How to maintain or increase storage capacity, how to regulate the runoff to avert disastrous floods, how to reduce erosion and the excess of sedimentation these become problems for the patient scientist to work on.

In some regions thinning the forest cover will increase the snow storage as much as 50 per cent. Think how important that is in conserving water resources for use for domestic, irrigation and power generation purposes—and reducing flood damage. Again, if denudation of mountain slopes speeds the runoff and increases erosion how valuable it would be to advance the normal reforestation by plantings.

We come to see that the mountains and forests must be governed by wise policies of conservation, that private operations must be regulated in the broad public interest. The forests are not trees alone. They are water—and floods and irrigated fields and busy kilgwats and buoyant keels and agile trout and beverage and cleansing.

Writing the Democratic Platform

The democrats will need their smoothest phrase-makers to carpenter a platform that will satisfy the southern conservatives and the northern radicals. The skill and the prestige of Franklin Roosevelt sufficed to preserve at election time the uneasy alliance of the CIO and the unreconstructed southerners. With Roosevelt missing the breach becomes almost impassable.

Civil rights is the greatest source of division. Northern negroes and lone Aubrey Williams of Atlanta have appeared before the platform committee to insist that the democrats endorse the positive stand of President Truman for legislation to protect minority groups (negroes) in their rights as citizens and individuals. The southern office-holders however oppose such legislation with bitterness and do not want it approved in the democratic platform. The suggestion is made that the statement in the 1944 platform be brushed off and used again. That would satisfy neither side but would probably prevent a deepening of the cleavage at the convention.

Another spot of contention is on the Taft-Hartley law. President Truman vetoed it; the labor affiliates of the democratic party abhor it. It is hard to see how the convention can nominate Truman and fail to denounce this law. Yet the fact is that a majority of democrats in congress voted for it. How can the smooth platform-writers resolve this problem?

Actually the platforms are not of tremendous significance. Few people base their votes on what the platforms say; and few of those elected to office on such platforms take them literally when they discharge their duties. Republicans used to taunt the democrats for their disregard of their 1932 platform with its pledges of economy and sound currency.

Like campaign oratory platforms are in large degree political rodentage, distinguished more for sound than for sense.

Movies under the Stars

Salem's first drive-in theatre is in operation and those who visit it out of curiosity find out the arrangements for exhibiting pictures to people in automobiles works out very well. About the only disadvantage at this season is the long twilight which delays start of the showing.

A Hollywood report to the Wall Street Journal says that these outdoor shows have prospered because they tapped a new market, particularly young married folk who can bundle the kids in their car and go to the movies, sparing the expense of a baby-sitter. Invalids too are listed among the customers. Sales at the snack bars also contribute to profits.

Just how well the business will fare in the winter season is a question, but the owners of the local drive-in plan year-round operation, so they must think it will pay; and they have the Portland experience as a guide.

Solomon was only partly right: there is something new under the stars.

This is the summer camp season, when pop and mom get a real vacation by shipping the children off to camp. They get relief from the immediate responsibilities of parenthood and the youngsters get the valuable experience of camp life: some acquaintance with nature and training in group living. Summer camps are really big business. New England for example is dotted thickly with summer camps filled with boys and girls from the hot and crowded cities.

Facing a record corn crop and a near-record wheat crop grain dealers see the end of the grain shortage and probably the beginning of another surplus. Meantime the price of meat keeps soaring—it takes several months to turn corn into pork and beef; and first you must get your pig and calf. Quicker results may be obtained in poultry raising. Abundance of feed and high prices for eggs and fryers should bring an early expansion of production.

The navy is enlisting women in its regular force. They get the appellation of "gobettes." And the Fuller Brush Co. is going to hire women to sell, well not the familiar brushes, but cosmetics. They will be called "Fullerettes." This helps answer the question what women would do when the war was over.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



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I must say I admire the President... HE'S one politician who's sticking by the administration...

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

(violin, cello, piano) who are internationally famous, Ezio Pinza, operatic basso, Marina Koshetz and Kathryn Oaks, soprano, Jean Handlik, contralto, Walter Mieser, tenor. Assistant Conductor for the Sunday afternoon concert is Miss Jeanette Scott, violinist, well known in Salem, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Scott.

There is every reason why this undertaking should succeed. The northwest appreciates fine music; the summer climate at Hood River is well suited to outdoor performances; the city is convenient to population centers. With proper direction and support this festival may become the northwest counterpart of the Berkshire event. (It is quite premature to call it an "American Salzburg"). Other summer music festivals which have flourished are the Central City, Colorado, festival, Green Mountain festival at Middlebury, Vermont; and others at Brevard, North Carolina, Chautauqua, N.Y., Charlottesville, Va. Last year the University of Oregon sponsored an Oregon festival of contemporary music.

Some communities have rodeos and roundups for mass entertainment. Other communities go in for other things. Ashland features its season of Shakespearean plays, Portland its Rose festival, Salem its Cherryland festival which comes this week. Hood River's unique offering of a summer music festival should enlist support from music lovers all over the northwest.

Air Shipments For Salem Top Month Record

The extensive June air activity in Salem prompted by flooding of Portland's Columbia airport led to a record month's air express shipment of 17,633 pounds from Salem. It was reported Saturday by W. A. Link, Railway Express agent here.

Link said the volume of air express compared with a 2,800 pound average for shipments in preceding months this year. In number of shipments, the total of 463 in June was more than double the June, 1947, total of 205 shipments.

Link credited air express as playing a large part in Portland recovery from flood effects, stating, "Thousands of pounds of typhoid serum and other medicines were flown to Salem and then transported by Railway Express via Southern Pacific to emergency relief stations in Portland." He said much of the express in June was in chicks, machine parts, dogs and cats.

YMCA Camp Activities Full Despite Weather

At the end of the first week of the current Silver Creek YMCA camp period, the young campers reported Saturday a full schedule of activity despite several rains. Besides group activity in swimming, riding and other sports, other activity to date shows Richard Nelson leading in a checkers tournament and George Kaunier leading in ping pong.

FISH ON THE MAIN DECK
ST. HELENS, Ore., July 10—(P)—The Ezra Barkers went back to their house after the Columbia river to find:

A carp in the bedroom; a sturgeon in the living room; a mystery in the kitchen.
The mystery was a crab—and how it got there from the ocean, 70 miles downstream.

RESERVE UNIT TO TRAIN
PORTLAND, July 10—(P)—An estimated 300 members of the reserve 104th division will leave Oregon and Washington cities tomorrow for Fort Lewis to attend the outfit's first postwar training camp, July 11-25.

A new cosmic ray laboratory has been built on the edge of a glacier in the Italian Alps.

Two Candidates At Albany Win Scholarships

Two Albany high school graduates will receive cash scholarships to attend Willamette university this fall through the auspices of the Albany high school PTA, according to Walter Erickson, WU director of admissions. David Hobbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hobbs of 832 W. 7th st., Albany, and Elaine Wallis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Wallis, route 4, Albany, will be granted \$100 each at their enrollment at Willamette university this fall. The scholarships were made known to Erickson in a letter signed by Mrs. Verna C. Berry, PTA president, and Mrs. Mary A. Vance, PTA finance chairman, both of Albany. Both Hobbs and Miss Wallis were active in extra-curricular projects during their school years at Albany, as well as ranking at the top of their class in scholarship. Hobbs, a three year letterman in baseball, and annual sports editor, will major in education. He also was active in DeMolay and Hi-Y work. Miss Wallis was president of the girls' league her senior year, was a member of the Rainbow Girls, and is interested in literary work. Both were active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Hobbs as president and Miss Wallis as vice president.

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