

Recreation Meet Attendance High

Pacific Northwest district of the National Recreation Assn., which closed in Eugene, was not only the best in the history of N.R.A. but, according to Charles W. Smith, association field department manager from New York, the best attended of any held so far in the various sections of the nation.

The N.R.A. holds 10 annual conferences for recreation leaders each year. The North-western was the fifth to come off in 1952 and its 269 registered delegates made it the national pacesetter.

Attendees from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and certain Canadian cities included recreation officials of public agencies, plus officers of the armed forces and personnel experts from private industries. Eugene's Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Willamalane Park District were hosts for the convention.

THE THREE-DAY conclave wound up at the Osburn Hotel in Eugene Friday noon after selection of Great Falls, Mont., as site for the 1953 district conference.

Thursday night, in Springfield, delegates to the session attended a banquet in the Memorial Building and were told the genius of enterprise must be perpetuated with the help of purposeful recreation.

Dr. Frederick M. Hunter, honorary chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education told recreationists that theirs is an important job.

"Historians of the future will refer to this era in America as the 'Age of Fear,'" he said. The educator said Americans are not afraid of tangible enemies, but of war, communism and the revolution that precedes its domination, inflation, bankruptcy, and fear that the Russian empire will dominate the earth.

"AMERICA is always going to have free enterprise; don't you ever believe anything else," Dr. Hunter emphasized. In this age of fear, he noted, it is necessary to create certainties. His talk was built around the theme, "Recreation As One of the Certainties of American Life."

America must build stockpiles of materials to be used if war is necessary and must build armed forces, Dr. Hunter explained. But also America must have strong people to carry out this program. In World War II, he said, 40 per cent of American youth were termed unfit physically or mentally for armed services.

The recreation of many millions of Americans is unattended to, Dr. Hunter added. And even in Oregon, he observed, only a small per cent of the people have a policy in mind for providing public recreation.

Present and future generations, he believes, can be made stronger in body and mind through supervised recreation.

HE SUGGESTED that schools and public recreation groups more closely integrate their activities. Community centers such as Springfield Memorial Bldg., operated by Willamalane Park and Recreation district, he believes, are steps in the right direction.

He advocated establishing wilderness areas in national forests and providing outdoor opportunities for youth to grow up closer to wild life and other natural resources. The speaker ended his address with a suggestion that Americans re-study the preamble to the U. S. Constitution.

Recreation leaders, he said, are in a strong position to apply the ideas embodied in the preamble—to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty.

Eugene's Gleemen sang in the auditorium Thursday night for the delegates, under direction of Dr. Theodore Kratt. Stacey L. Green was piano accompanist.

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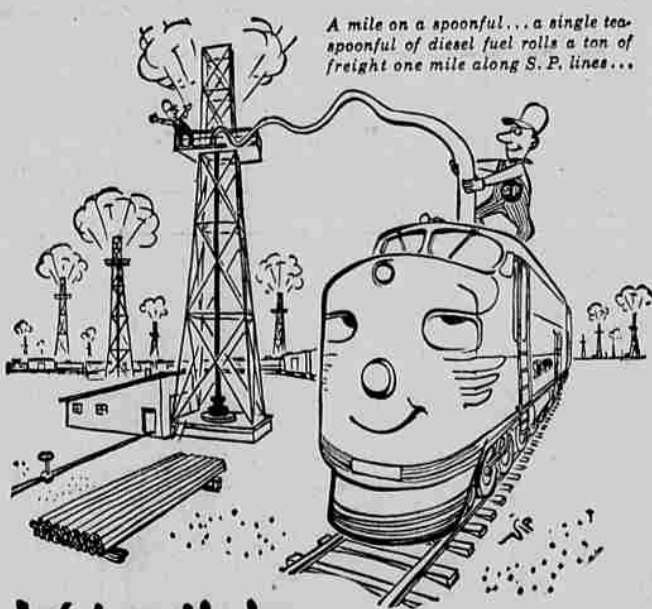
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There Was Never A More Direct Reply

HOLLYWOOD—A newspaper correspondent interviewed Marlene Dietrich when the perennially glamorous blonde was starring with Mel Ferrer and Arthur Kennedy in "Rancho Notorious."

"What do you think of men?" the correspondent suddenly asked. La Dietrich didn't hesitate a second: "The best opposite sex we've got," she flashed.

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"SNIPER" GETS FAYLEN

Frank Faylen has joined the cast of "The Sniper," now being directed by Edward Dmytryk. Faylen, who gained screen ascendancy with his memorable role in "The Lost Weekend," recently finished "Detective Story" with William Wyler and "My Favorite Spy" with Bob Hope at Paramount.

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