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The Spoils of War



BEND WEATHER FORECASTS

Decision of the United States weather bureau to provide regional forecasts for Oregon is, we feel, recognition by the bureau that the state is a land of diverse weather—a broad land partitioned by several ranges of mountains that cannot be served by one general forecast. Under the new system, inaugurated this week, specialized forecasts will be issued for various sections. One of these will be for Bend, high on the inland plateau and close to the sheltering Cascades. Another will be for The Dalles, at the weather funnel leading out of the deep Columbia gorge. Another will be for Astoria, facing the Pacific ocean. There will be other regional forecasts for communities bordering the Blue mountains, and those facing the Great Basin.

The regional forecasts will be prepared by the weather bureau's new public service unit, composed of a group of weather specialists, at Portland. The Bend forecast will be for this community and vicinity, and roughly will cover most of Deschutes county. Two forecasts will be provided daily, except Sunday. The forecasts will be for the guidance of agriculture, industry and commerce in this area, but other groups will benefit, and we are sure none will scan the prediction with greater interest than anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

Bend and vicinity will, we are sure, welcome the new weather bureau service, but it is only fair to warn the forecasters that they will be "on the spot". Old timers of the upper Deschutes basin insist that it is impossible to predict weather in this area, and they say some uncomplimentary things about amateur forecasters. Generally, weathermen agree with the opinion of old timers, about Bend weather being unpredictable.

Problems that meteorologists face in providing daily forecasts for the Bend area are varied, for this is a region where Great Basin weather comes in conflict with that which sweeps in from the Pacific. Just to the east is the "high desert", and to the west are the snow-capped Cascades. Each of these topographic features affects the weather. Electric storms are factors that will enter the weather picture in the summer months, and forecasters will find that these storms follow definite patterns in their sweep out of the southwest.

However, Portland weathermen will not be blindly "guessing" at upper Deschutes basin weather. In Bend there is a U. S. weather bureau station that provides observations every three hours, night and day. Also, the forecasters will have for their guidance some 45 years of weather history, dating back to pioneer days when Bend's "weather station" was an instrument shelter on top of a pine stump.

Bend was setting building records last year but now, in 1947, it is apparent that the showing of the previous twelve-month will be far surpassed. Permits issued this February were for construction estimated at \$74,190. In the same month in 1946 the figure was \$34,775. The increase is 114 per cent. The local trend, it should be noted, is directly opposite to that generally observed in the northwest. The February total for 42 reporting cities, of which Bend is one, was 18 per cent less than a year ago. It is to be pointed out, however, that the number of residential permits is greater than that of 1946. There is still a possibility, it seems, that the housing shortage may be overcome before 1948.

Irrigation Water Outlook Meetings Scheduled Again

The annual series of irrigation water forecast meetings in eastern and southern Oregon has been scheduled by W. T. Frost, hydraulic engineer for the SCS in charge of Oregon co-operative snow surveys. Nine meetings have been arranged this year beginning March 29 and ending April 7, one more than in past years. The John Day basin and Harney basin have been divided this year with meetings at both Canyon City and Burns.

Results of snow surveys to March first indicated highly variable conditions, ranging from good prospective supplies to critically short prospects. A heavy storm that brought rain in the valleys and snow at higher elevations through most of the state occurred after these measurements which may improve the situation.

Final measurements to be taken in late March just before the annual series of meetings will record such changes and make possible a more accurate forecast of water supplies for the season, says Frost.

Snow Cover Short

Before this storm period the mountain snow cover was below average on 92 per cent of the snow courses in Oregon. On 37 per cent of the courses new low records were established for the period in which the detailed snow surveys have been made. The surveys in Oregon are carried on through a co-operative arrangement among the Soil Conservation Service, the U. S. C. experiment station, state engineer's office, Forest Service, private power companies and other agencies.

In conducting the series of forecast meetings Frost will be accompanied by John C. Burnett, extension editor of Oregon State college. The schedule follows:

- March 29—North central Oregon, The Dalles, courthouse, 9:30 a. m.
- March 31—Umatilla-Walla Walla, Pendleton, courthouse, 9:30 a. m.
- April 1—Northeastern Oregon, Baker, courthouse, 10 a. m.
- April 2—Southeastern Oregon, Ontario, city hall, 9:30 a. m.
- April 3—John Day basin, Canyon City, courthouse, 9 a. m.
- April 3—Harney Basin, Burns, courthouse, 2 p. m.
- April 4—Central Oregon, Prineville, courthouse, 9:30 a. m.
- April 5—South central Oregon, Lakeview, courthouse, 9 a. m.
- April 7—Southern Oregon, Klamath Falls, county chamber of commerce, 9:30 a. m.

It is estimated that about one person in every 10,000 is an albino.

Atomic Energy Commission Acts to Safeguard Uranium

Washington, March 21 (AP)—The atomic energy commission acted today to safeguard this nation's supply of uranium and thorium. It issued strict regulations forbidding the sale of uranium materials from falling into unfriendly hands.

The regulations, effective at midnight March 31, apply to everyone handling uranium and thorium domestically or for export. In effect, the commission strengthened and extended to thorium the government's wartime edict which imposed the death penalty for major violations of its rules on uranium.

It set up a strict licensing system specifying that:

1. No one, unless licensed by the commission, may "transfer, deliver, receive title to, or possession of, or export from the United States" any material which contains as much as 1/20 of one per cent of uranium, thorium, or any combination of them.

2. After April 1, any person not licensed who obtains 10 pounds of raw uranium or thorium, or one pound of refined source material, must report to the commission within 30 days.

3. After April 1, no further supply of uranium will be authorized for use in ceramic products, glass products or photographic film, negatives or prints "other than under exceptional circumstances." Articles already manufactured, however, may be transferred within the United States without licensing.

Exempted from all licensing requirements except export control are incandescent mantles and vacuum tubes as well as "certain rare-earth metals and compounds."

The commission said it did not want to place unnecessary restrictions on business but that it was determined to have effective safeguards.

Applications for special export licenses will be handled by W. E. Kelley, head of the commission's New York office.

Earth Curvature Shown in Picture

Washington, March 21 (AP)—Now you can get a small-scale idea of how the earth looks to the man in the moon.

The navy, with the aid of a special camera and a V-2 rocket, has come up with a picture of the earth from an altitude of 100 miles, highest ever reached by the camera's eye.

If you're doubtful about the shape of the earth, the picture will present visible proof that it's round.

The rocket, with the camera set in the tail, was fired towards the moon from the White Sands, N.M., proving grounds on March 7. The camera began grinding away at the peak altitude and then was blown clear in the descent.

The picture shows 200,000 square miles of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

Conservation To Help Halt Waste Of U.S. Cropland

Shrinking cropland and increasing population in this country make conservation of soil resources of concern to both farmers and consumers alike, 1,300 Oregon farmer AAA committeemen have been informed by E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the state PMA committee.

The harvested crop acreage in 1946 amounted to 2.4 acres for each man, woman and child in the United States, Miller reported. While this is the highest per capita cropland acreage of any nation in the world, it still represents a loss of almost one acre per person compared with 25 years ago.

Since the introduction of government-sponsored conservation programs 10 years ago, annual losses of plowland have been cut in half—from one million to a half million acres lost through erosion and depletion. Despite this progress, Miller pointed out more cropland is being lost each year than is being brought into production through irrigation and reclamation.

"It's obvious why this situation of shrinking cropland and increasing population should be a matter of public concern," the PMA chairman declared. "It tells the story of why public funds are being spent for conservation work—of why the government, through the agricultural conservation program, is spending about \$1.50 for each person's 2.4-acre share of the cropland to assist farmers in taking care of the land."

About \$3 million has been made available to share with Oregon farmers and ranchers in the cost of carrying out 43 approved erosion control and soil building measures under the 1947 agricultural conservation program, Miller said.

Peru is now producing liquid chlorine, principally for water purification and sewage treatment locally and in neighboring countries.



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Rubber Control Renewal Planned

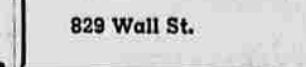
Washington, March 21 (AP)—The senate banking committee has cleared the way for renewal of most federal rubber controls. It approved house-passed legislation continuing until March 31, 1948, the government's authority to stockpile rubber and to maintain allocation, specification and inventory controls. However, the bill would end exclusive government purchase of imported rubber this March 27.

AUTO OWNERS!

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MORE ENTER HOMES
 Washington, March 21 (AP)—The veterans' administration today reported a 26 per cent increase during 1946 in the number of veterans in VA homes for the old and permanently disabled. The increase was from 10,745 to 13,498.

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