

THE BEND BULLETIN

and CENTRAL OREGON PRESS
The Bend Bulletin (Weekly) 1908-1951
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday and Certain Holidays by The Bend Bulletin Co., Inc.
148 S. Third Street
Entered as Second Class Matter, January 6, 1917, at the Postoffice at Bend, Oregon, Under Act of March 3, 1879.
ROBERT W. SAWYER—Editor-Manager
HENRY N. POWLER—Associate Editor
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A Good Pair to Represent the Party



WASHINGTON COLUMN

By Peter Edson
(NEA Washington Correspondent)

WHERE THEY STOP FOR CHAINS
On the Willamette highway roughly 17 miles out from Oakridge, there is a steepish, heavily dished, curving bit of road that has spelled trouble for many a motorist. Marvellous going in dry weather, it is transformed by a little snow into very tough going. It comes suddenly upon the motorist, just as he is beginning to think what a clever fellow he was for not taking time to put on chains at the bottom of the hill or, if coming from the other direction, just as he is congratulating himself on the seeming certainty that he will get down the hill without difficulty.

Then, quite unexpectedly, unless memory warns him, he is confronted by a concentration of cars, spotted here and there across the highway. There may be a dozen of them or more. If they were not there, tires with chains would get him through, tires without chains might. But the clutterment is there. Cars have skidded slantwise of the road or have slipped to the down side, some of them pointing in the right direction and some in the wrong direction. The drivers of some are busily engaged in putting on chains under the worst conditions in many miles for putting on chains. The drivers of others, whose cars were properly equipped may be helping, either because they love their fellow man or in order to clear a way so that they themselves will be able to get going.

Those who know the road and its peculiarities, those who know that, in winter, it may be dangerous within a few hours after it was in prime driving conditions, ordinarily check the signs of approaching trouble and slip on chains before they reach the difficult spot. But there are many traveling the road who are unacquainted with its peculiarities and its winter hazards. Let snow come at night, especially on a Saturday night, and in the hours that follow the passing of the snow flow complications will develop. Crews may not be at full strength on Sundays and the sanding truck may be slow in coming. At least it seems that way. Or another snow, just heavy enough to cover the sand and packed hard and become slick as glass, may come as the truck has passed.

So the traffic snarls and creates a bottleneck for other traffic while the battle of the chains goes on. Hours are wasted but the people are good natured about it. The experts add the inexperience. The man with the shiny new car just out of the dealer's hands wonders how in the hereafter he is going to get out the book of instructions and reads it to him and he carries on "by the numbers". Eventually they are on their way. With all the opportunity presented accidents happen with surprising infrequency.

The Sunday just past was one of those tie-up days on that particular curving, sharply dished, steepish bit of polished snow and ice on the Willamette highway. Service station men at Oakridge were ready to warn, if asked, that snow was "pretty bad up on the mountain", but that was about all.

After being cautioned there we fully expected to come upon a sign reading, "Stop, put on chains"; instead, we saw the milder, "Motorists are advised to carry chains". It occurred to us later, while we were waiting with what patience we could summon, for our turn to thread the traffic jam on the mountain slope, that the imperative wording on the sign would have been much more in order. Some day, after there has been shocking tragedy as an out-of-control truck has plowed through the congestion at this dangerous point, the warning may be given an insistent note. Or it may be that there will even be a state patrolman stationed at the foot of the hill (this is done on the Mt. Hood loop on occasion) to turn back all vehicles not equipped with chains.

But until then such gatherings as that of Sunday may be expected on the Willamette in season. They're not uncommon.

Brannan Defends Subsidy Program

Oklahoma City, Feb. 21 (UP)—Secretary of agriculture Charles F. Brannan says farmers need not apologize for taking government soil conservation subsidies because industry has been receiving subsidies for years.

"We offer certain heavy industries an assured market," Brannan told 2,000 members of the National Association of Soil Conservation districts in convention here last night.

"We offer them advantages, such as rapid tax amortization to get them to expand and produce as the nation requires. We have long aided industry with tariffs. We subsidize postal service and airlines and shipping."

Brannan said expanding farm production is vital to the national welfare in view of the shipment of food to drought and famine-stricken areas of the world.

Food Supply Assured
Earlier, he told newsmen that current price support statutes assure an abundant food supply, although "improvements" may be needed.

Brannan explained his new directive ordering the soil conservation service, the production marketing administration and the U. S. treasury service to work more closely together.

He said the newly organized liaison among the agencies would give 2,300 local soil conservation districts more effectiveness.

"Henceforth," Brannan said, "the agricultural conservation program (of the PMA) will be planned at the state and national levels with the direct assistance of the soil conservation service and the U. S. forestry service."

Brannan said county offices of the soil conservation agencies under him would be combined, thus offering the farmer "one-stop" service.

"We hope to eliminate three or four things that have been a source of irritation," he said.

Brannan said the most important fault to be corrected is the situation at the local level where the soil conservation service has sometimes favored practices to which PMA officials objected.

Regional meetings to explain the new program are scheduled in March at Birmingham, New York, Chicago and Salt Lake City. State and local meetings will follow.

HOSPITAL CRISIS LOOMS
The Dalles, Feb. 21 (UP)—The city council was investigating the possibility of church sponsorship of a new hospital here today as the deadline for closure of the city's largest local hospital neared.

The Dalles hospital will be padlocked by the state fire marshal's office March 1 unless certain fire hazards are reduced.

George Stadelman has been authorized by the city council to check into the possibility of a hospital sponsored by the Catholic church. He has invited Rev. Francis Leipzig, Catholic bishop of Baker, Ore., to confer with local officials on the proposal.

Pork is an excellent source of high-quality protein.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



Washington (NEA)—The television industry today offers as good an example as you can find to show why small business is scared by the defense production outlook.

The government has not yet issued any orders cutting back or shutting down on TV set manufacture directly. Through its grapevine, however, the industry has been anticipating that such an order may drop before March 1, to be fully effective about July 1.

National Production Administration refuses to confirm or deny this rumor. All NPA has done so far is limit the amount of a few critical materials, like cobalt, which can be used in non-defense manufacture.

Anticipating that a cut-back or shut-down order will come eventually, however, Belmont Radio Corp. of Chicago has recently been promoting a plan thought up by its vice-president, W. L. Dunn. Purpose of the plan is to save TV distributor, dealer and repair organizations from destruction by defense production competition.

Main idea of the plan is to have the government let its contracts for new electronics equipment to the companies now making television sets. These manufacturers would in turn be required to let sub-contractors for parts assemblies to the TV dealers.

Repairmen and salesmen—even their wives if the men themselves were called into service—would be put to work making these sub-assemblies in their stores and shops. The completed sub-assemblies would then be shipped to the factories for final assembly.

This is the essence of the "Electronics Dispersed Manpower Plan," as it is called. It is something like the "bits and pieces" production plans employed to a limited extent during the last war.

From the TV manufacturers' and dealers' standpoint, the beauty of this plan, on paper, is that it would leave their sales and service organizations intact. They would be instantly ready to go back to selling TV sets to the eager customers as soon as production curbs were lifted.

From the Defense Production viewpoint, this plan is now looked on with a somewhat fishy eye, for several reasons.

In the first place, new electronics equipment wanted by the armed services is now described as little more than "a gleam in somebody's eye." What is meant is that some general thinks he would like to have some fancy gadget like a radar that will permit a jet airplane flying 1000 miles an hour at night to find a submarine at the bottom of the ocean, aim a rocket at it as soon as the sub gets in range, then

fire automatically so it never misses.

Before any such Alley Oop time-machine gadget can be built, the electronics engineering companies have to go to work. There are only a few of the 40 TV set makers who have research departments of say 100 scientists competent to tackle such assignments. So naturally, they get the prime contracts.

The TV assemblers, who buy licenses under a couple of patents, buy the sets from one parts' maker and the wooden cabinets from another, may do a better merchandising job and may sell more sets than the manufacturers. But they can't produce new equipment.

Sub-assembly methods employing labor in scattered repair shops are considered so costly by comparison as to be impractical. Costs would be piled up by having to send instructors around to train workers, delays in shipping materials out and sub-assemblies back, extra inspection and repair of equipment damaged in transit.

What this all adds up to is a case history which shows why small business may have particular reason to feel glum over the defense production outlook, as now being planned in Washington.

Out On the Farm
By Ila S. Grant
Feb. 21—Tomorrow is Washington's birthday, and as good a time as any to reflect on the joys of being an American.

Patriotic holidays are always sort of nostalgic to the sentimental, and on Washington's birthday, thoughts go back to grade school, when there was always an assembly program sometime around the 22nd. It was the occasion for dusting off the powdered wigs and panier skirts in the costumery, so the boys and girls who best fit into the outfits could perform a Virginia reel on the stage. Then there were usually spelling bees in the classrooms, with lots of words like "Potomac," "Schuylkill," "Chesapeake," and "Fredericksburg" thrown in for colonial color.

It's still lots of fun to do the Virginia reel, but you can pass me up on the spelling bee. Thank goodness, it's no reflection on one's intelligence to refer to the dictionary.

TEARS WIPED OUT
Memphis, Tenn. (UP)—Mrs. Ellie B. Lockhart, hailed into court on a minor traffic charge, started weeping. "It's no disgrace to be in a traffic case of this type," Judge Carl Stokes assured her. "The other day I had a preacher up here for running a stop sign. Then the judge dismissed the case."

Sale of Timber Set for March 19

Prineville, Feb. 21—With the temporary freeze order on sales of timber lifted, H. C. Hulett, supervisor of the Ochoco national forest, announced yesterday that a sale of 27,000,000 feet, chiefly ponderosa pine, will be advertised for March 19. The timber, however, cannot be sold at a price to exceed a ceiling of \$52.35, the highest price received for ponderosa pine during a period from December 1, 1950, to January 25 this year.

The body of timber to be offered March 19 is located on Dick creek on the headwaters of Trout creek. It is in the extreme north end of the Ochoco forest adjacent to privately owned holdings of the Alexander-Yawkey Lumber Co.

In order to qualify for further oral bidding on the day of the sale, prospective purchasers of the timber must first submit sealed bids, Hulett reports.

YOUTH RALLY HELD

Madras, Feb. 21—Special vocal solos and duets were features of a meeting held Monday evening at the Madras Baptist church, where delegations from Jefferson county communities greeted George Friesen, recently named Youth for Christ director for central Oregon. Rev. Alfred R. Reimer of Bend was in charge of the song service, and Rev. R. E. Nicholson of Bend was master of ceremonies.

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Bend's Yesterdays

(From The Bulletin Files)

THIRTY YEARS AGO
(February 21, 1921)
Date for the reopening of the Shelvin-Hixon Company mill here is still indefinite. T. A. McCann, general manager reports. Because of economic conditions, it is expected that the big plant will operate under a "slow ball" when it does reopen, sometime after March 1.

When stills and other confiscated liquor-making equipment become too numerous, the only thing to do is to destroy them, Alvin Willis, U. S. marshal, announced here today. As a result of this instruction, Sheriff S. E. Roberts will chop up many yards of copper tubing and destroy several boilers.

Lucius Franks is on his way to Marysville, Calif., where he will start the shearing season next week.

CITY TO EXTEND MAINS
Madras, Feb. 21—With Art Hilbrands as spokesman, 12 residents of the east edge of Madras, where Hilbrands had just completed a residential development, have applied to the city for service of its municipal water system. An agreement was reached, whereby the property owners will each pay \$100 for the extension of city mains. They will be reimbursed by credit for water service up to \$100.

SAME PRICE
Boston (UP)—A high-class Boston men's shop, which never has markdown sales, headlined a big newspaper display advertisement as follows: Men! Our \$145 cashmere overcoats are now \$145.

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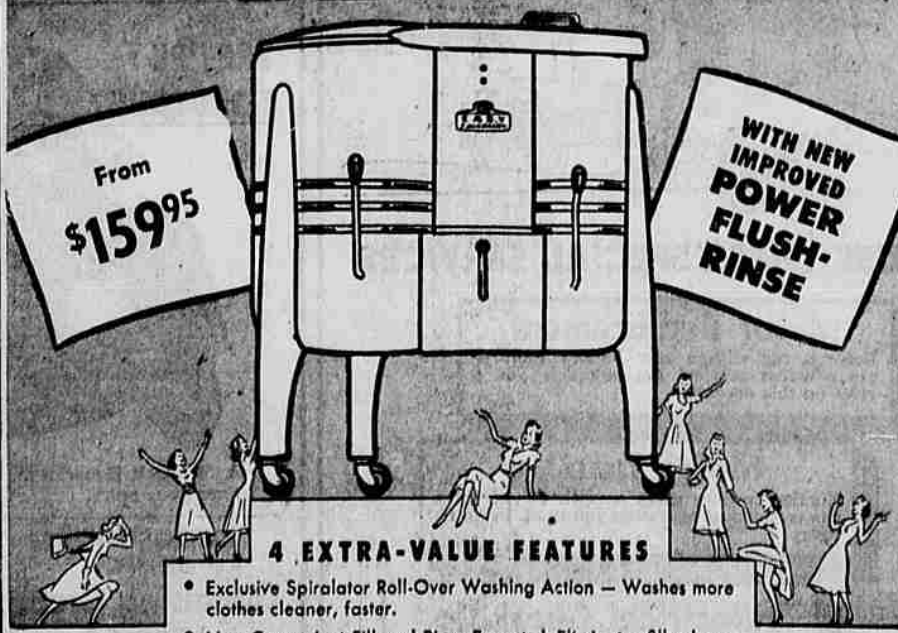
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