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and CENTRAL OREGON PAGES

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EAST OREGONIAN AND DE VOTO

In a recent issue of Harper's magazine Bernard Voto, in his editorial feature, The Easy Chair, wrote of the shameful manner in which timber lands came into private ownership back in homesteading days. Then he likened to those doing the tide lands business and the Interior department intention to leave the Hells canyon power decision to the Federal Power Commission. The Pendleton East Oregonian has reprinted this De Voto feature under its title, "The Sturdy Corporate Homesteader," with obvious approval of the criticism of the tide lands and power undertakings.

One of the De Voto assertions is as to the ownership of Idaho Power Company. "It is," he says, "not even a Western corporation: it is chartered in Maine and owned by Boston trusts." Even were the ownership as stated one wonders what that has to do with Hells Canyon. According to the company, however, it is not "owned by Boston trusts." In an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch we find that the company "declares that individuals own slightly more than half its voting stock, 81 insurance companies own not quite a seventh of the total, and educational institutions less than a twentieth. Aetna Life Insurance Co. with less than 2 per cent of the voting strength, is the biggest single owner; Harvard university appears to be next."

It seems to us that if the Pendleton paper uses the De Voto article as an argument against Idaho Power it should be sure that he has his facts straight.

When it comes to comparing the timber homesteading with the tide lands ownership there is one important fact to remember not noted by De Voto. This is that the timber went directly from public into private ownership. With the tide lands the case was quite different. For years the courts and the Interior department had held that the United States had no interest in those oil lands. What the Congress was preparing to do when the De Voto article was written—and has since done—was to confirm in the states the title everybody had, until a few years ago, recognized as theirs. In this transaction there has been no such skulduggery as characterized the timber transactions—in the redwoods—by De Voto.

THE BELKNAP SPRINGS-SANTIAM ROUTE

The opening of the McKenzie highway has given the Eugene Register-Guard occasion for editorial comment that includes a quick review of some of the history of the route and a final acceptance of the fact that it is not feasible to keep it open for winter travel. Our own opinion, based on studies made on the ground—and snow—has long been to that effect. We are glad to have our Eugene friend's agreement. Its editorial is reprinted on this page.

The Register-Guard reference to the "new road" from Belknap Springs to the Santiam leads us to suggest that the road is not exactly in the new class. It was built some years ago. It is new, however, with respect to its classification as a forest highway and perhaps that is what is meant. As such it may receive allocations of forest highway funds for improvement. Assuming that it is properly located improvement would include widening of the grade and then surfacing.

Accepting the fact that the summit section of the McKenzie cannot be kept open in the winter months the Register-Guard says that this Belknap Springs-Santiam road will be the most practical all-year route from the McKenzie valley and this is, indeed, the fact if only the McKenzie valley is considered as the western terminus of the route. If Eugene is taken as the starting (or ending) point on the route and Bend the eastern end then the Willamette highway has the advantage, as well as we can figure it from the state highway map distances, by some 12 miles. We cannot believe that much travel would originate in the winter in the valley above, say, Springfield. The greater volume would be out of Eugene and that city should be included in any planning.

McKenzie valley interests have promoted the Belknap-Santiam connection hoping that with that route improved more winter travel would pass their way. They are justified, certainly, in doing all they can to serve their interests. It seems hardly likely, however, that funds in any sufficient size will be made available for the improvement they want at any time in the near future.

Others Say

McKENZIE PASS IS OPEN FOR THE SEASON

(Eugene Register-Guard)
A front-page picture of an automobile wading between melting banks of piled up snow, serves to convey the news that the McKenzie Pass is again open for the season. There was a time—only 25 years ago—when the opening of this route to Bend and other parts of Central Oregon was "top head" news for many days preceding and following the accomplishment. The casual acceptance of the McKenzie Pass opening reflects highway progress in the development of numerous routes and roads.

In the old days, the opening of the McKenzie began with reports on snow measurements by volunteer ski patrols and prolonged agitation on both sides of the Cascades for the dispatch of snow plows. Thereafter the progress of the snow plows was a matter of daily bulletins. As the snow plows approached a meeting point, there would be motor car caravans from Bend and Eugene to witness the final break through. These were gala occasions.

It is now generally agreed that the new road which has been started from Belknap Springs to the Santiam, by way of Clear Lake, will be the most practical all-year route from the McKenzie Valley. The old route over the lava fields has too much drifting snow, too many deep cuts and too many sharp grades and curves which cannot be corrected without prohibitive cost. The Clear Lake route adds only nine miles to the total distance and it can be made virtually "snow proof."

The old McKenzie Pass will remain as a summer route by one of great value for forest-fire fighters and summer travelers. It will never be abandoned. It is the short route to the Three Sisters area.

It has many memories. It was the original route of the freight and rail lines from the Valley to Central Oregon. The Craig Monument near West Lava marks the place where John Craig, pioneer mail carrier, lost his life in a snow storm. The Deceit Tower at the summit stands as a tribute to one of the famous packers of the region. Some of us remember the abortive gold rush to the lava field near Windy Point. There are innumerable stories and legends which attach to this piece of highway and the old Scott Trail which preceded it.

Delegates Set For Convention

REDMOND, June 20—When the Loyal Order of Moose and Women of Moose meet in Seaside June 25 through 28 for their annual state convention the Redmond lodges will be represented by several couples. Planning to attend are Mr. and Mrs. Corli Zemek, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Frier, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ammons, Mr. and Mrs. George Partin and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Partin. Zemek is governor of the local Moose lodge.

About 1500 are expected to attend the sessions. There will be special exhibitions by drill teams and escort teams, in addition to business sessions and entertainment. There will also be a breakfast honoring WOTM eligible for sponsor's pins. Mrs. Frier of the Redmond WOTM has qualified to attend this function.

A veteran traveler and lecturer listed Bangkok, New York, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Washington as five of the world's most fascinating cities.



FIT TO BE TIED—Representative George Bender (R., Ohio) displays some of the 8000 miles of World War II surplus rope stored in government warehouses. He said it is of poor quality, cannot be sold and is evidence that the Truman administration "ran hog-wild with taxpayers' money."

Russian Motives Puzzling

By Peter Edson
(NEA Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON—While American public interest has been focused on Korean truce possibilities, recent developments in the Soviet zone of East Germany have been no less significant.

They are highlighted by the latest case in which East German authorities relaxed a production speedup of 20,000 building-trades workers had protested in East Berlin. The mere fact that anybody under a Communist government can protest against any decree is surprising enough in itself. But the fact that the workers had their demands met is positively sensational.

It is possible that the long-repressed workers, taking this concession as a sign of weakness, were inspired to the widespread riots that brought out Russian tanks and machine guns and resulted in martial law being declared.

Before this, over the past couple of weeks, West Berlin and West German authorities have been astounded by these other events:

1. A change from a Russian military commander to a civilian high commissioner.
2. A halt on expansion of the collectivized farm system.
3. An offer of state bank credits to private businessmen to re-open shops and factories that had been closed down because they offered competition to state industries.
4. A promise of amnesty and return of property to refugees who would return to East Germany.
5. A relaxation of controls over the churches, church property, clerical and church organizations such as youth groups.
6. Issuance of ration cards to all East Germans, regardless of whether they had Communist Party political connections or not.

Intense Sovietization
The suddenness with which these reforms have been put into effect in this latest turnabout of Communist policy has of course sent all non-Communist government officials searching for motives.

When the U. S. High Commissioner to Germany, former Harvard President James B. Conant, returned to Washington early in June to testify before congressional committees, he made one radio appearance in which he laid great stress on the completeness of the separation between East and West Germany.

He emphasized that this sovietization of East Germany had been intensified over the past year. From the very day on which the new "contractual agreement" peace treaty had been signed last May between West Germany and the western allied powers, the Communists began to tighten their hold on East Germany.

The border had been closed at all points except the autobahn and the railroad into Berlin. Collectivization of farms was stepped up. More private industries were closed down. Production quotas on farms and factories were raised to levels impossible to meet.

The result was that the number of refugees fleeing from East Germany to West Germany increased. When West Berlin's Mayor Ernest Reuter was in Washington last March, he reported the refugee stream approaching 60,000 a month. Though Berlin had camps capable of handling 65,000 refugees at a time, the capacity was being increased by 25,000. Only half as many refugees could be airlifted out daily to West Germany as came into Berlin.

All Chained
The main reason given for flight was sovietization of the economy. When their property was confiscated, East Germans felt it was time to leave. Nobody knew what conditions would be tomorrow. Better leave today.

There was general feeling that the split between East and West Germany might last for 10 years. But before Dr. Conant could get back to his post, all this was changed. Communist policy did

another one of its inexplicable flip-flops.

The search for motives behind this reversal is as fruitless as most speculation about Communist policy. It is generally recognized that the new policy could be reversed again on no notice.

Why the Communists allowed the refugee stream to pour into West Germany is a mystery. One guess is that the Communists were deliberately trying to rid their zone of anti-Communists in this way. There were wild rumors in Germany last year that the Russians wanted to repopulate East Germany with Russians—or even Chinese.

When the net effect of this policy was that 10 per cent of the East German population had migrated or been sent to concentration camps, food production began to fall off sharply.

East Germany—once Europe's richest breadbasket—may this year have an actual food shortage. This economic factor alone might be sufficient reason for the Communists to relax their sovietization of East Germany, to lure back the refugee German farmers.

Another motive might stem from an awareness of the anti-Communism boiling under the surface. If so, the reforms came too late to prevent the hatred from exploding into the biggest anti-Red riots ever staged in a Communist country.

REPORT ISSUED

MADRAS, June 22—City Recorder Joe Palin reported Saturday that building permits issued since June 1 for \$24,000 of new construction, bring the total for 1953 to \$119,400. The major items of building here this year are for the better type of homes, the records of Palin reveal.

Day in Cairo Begins Early, Reporter Finds

By FRED SPARKS
NEA Staff Correspondent

CAIRO, (NEA)—Five a.m. Ancient Cairo stirs. The bare legs of the sleeping millions (in homes, on sidewalks, on lawns) twitch as battalions of flies start their buzzing.

A cannon blasts. Bells ring. A timeless prayer is wailed from a minaret. The sun floods everything, the Nile, the Pyramids, suddenly, like a tidal wave.

The awful heat of the Cairo day races in across the desert sands. Even as you step out of your shower, before you dress, you feel soggy.

There is already much activity in and around the simple home of Mohamed Naguib, General of the Egyptian Army, Premier, Boss. His five room house is ringed with barbed wire, machine gun dugouts, troops on guard. An old brown man with a horsehair fly whisk circulates with a portable cola container.

Dispatch riders, roaring their motors, race down the dusty lanes, shaking mongrel dogs snoozing in the shade. Inside a battery of phones jingle, politicians confer. After four hours rest Mohamed Naguib is already hard at labor. In the tenth month of his revolution there is hardly time to ponder the Korea a five times daily, the obligation of all Muslims.

Last summer, with brother officers, Mohamed Naguib seized all power in a brilliant coup d'etat, and sent fat King Farouk into play-boy exile aboard the royal yacht. As the Arab world studies his every move, Mohamed Naguib b

trades threats with Sir Winston whose forces—under lease—occupy vast bases along the Suez Canal. Naguib calls the British an unwanted tenant and demands their eviction—by force if need be.

Despite broad support, many inside Egypt question the wisdom of complete army rule, of co-opting, including those who profited under the former King and members of the Moslem Brotherhood, religious extremists.

Today to further his case, Mohamed Naguib goes whistling—not unlike a campaigning Ike or Adlai. Our convoy, led by Tommy gunners in polished, jazzed up jeeps, tears through Cairo, startling pedestrian as well as camel and water buffalo traffic. But Mohamed Naguib—who Sir Winston calls a "dictator"—stops for every red light.

First is a school for learning the words of the Prophet. Barefoot boys in striped pajama gowns form a gymnastic pyramid in greeting to the Premier-General, who hands out a wad of piasters.

A teacher, in semi-hysterical state, waves his prayer beads and tells me: "This is the first time perhaps in all the history of Egypt that a ruler comes among us! Farouk, our sultan, played cards and other things and never left his palace."

Some more schools visited, a hospital, a building project, then a surprise pop into the huge Kasr-el-Nil Barracks, home of a regiment guarding Cairo against possible British "counter-action."

The soldiers, in tan shorts, leggings and berets, tumble into the quadrangle in response to a nervous trumpet. They are, generally thin, small-boned boys, products of a thousand years of vitamin deficiencies, but their dark eyes are alive with excitement as Mohamed Naguib tells them to prepare to hit the glory trail.

He needles Winston Churchill, insists that with Allah's aid Churchill's nerve war—including the "senseless" evacuation of British families—is falling.

OPERATION OWL
MUNCIE, Ind. (AP)—To prove the wisdom of its aims, the Municipal public library has borrowed two owls to rid the building of pigeons.

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