OUT-OF-DOORS STUFF

By Lans Leneve

"This was sent to me. Put it in your collection. It's a bear of a bear story." This little note I received last week, together with the bear story, from a brother sportsman, F. A. Pook. I am very grateful for the story and I know that all the readers will agree with Mr. Pook that it is a "bear of a bear story." Well, here it is:

"Captain C. S. Leary, chief government whip in the British Columbia legislature, stirs the Yuletide log and sends these sparks up the chimney: Once he caught a bear by the tail—but here is now he tells it: I was hunting pheasants with a fox terrier near Burton City, in Southeastern British Columbia. Not a sign of game did I see, but on the way back I heard the hoot of an owl and took a shot at it as it perched on an old cedar eighty feet up. It toppled over and I went to get it, but it was not to be found. The cedar was rotted and had broken off, so I decided Mr. Hooter lay atop and I climbed up, leaving my gun. The big tree was hollow and as I looked down I slipped and ended up at the bottom. There lay my owl. I couldn't climb out and it was late afternoon. I had a two-bladed hunting knife and decided the only thing to do was to cut through the tree. Snap went the blade. I opened the other. Just then I heard my dog growling—then a yelp and all was quiet. It was getting dark and I could see the stars through the opening at the top. Then a cloud seemed to obscure them. A dark object started downward and I knew I was in a bear's bedroom, with only a small blade in close quarters. I had to do something in a hurry and I did. As Bruin came within reach I grabbed his tail, jabbed him in the rump with the blade and yelled like a Comanche Indian. He stopped for a split second and started up again. Hanging onto his tail, jabbing and yelling, I went up with him. When he got to the top he tumbled over and nearly took me with him. I was afraid to venture down in the darkness and perched on top until daylight. By that time the good folk of Burton City had organized a searching party and found a dead dog, killed by the bear, a dead black bear with his neck broken and myself shivering 30 feet up. Take it with a grain of salt or a cellar full, but believe it or not, it is true. You can ask people in Burton City."

Yep, that's a darned good bear story—no doubt of it. Hope Mr. Pook digs up another one for us in the near future.

Sunday afternoon, a couple of men from the transient camp walked up past the place. A small black dog accompanied them—a black spaniel. The dog was just a youngster, just about his first trip out to view the world at large. This breed of dogs usually possess bob-tails, their tails being bobbed when they are wee puppies, but this little fellow possessed a long tail. I am not positive of the fact but what there may have been a little "Scottie" mixed in the strain, from the appearance of the cocky little head. Anyway he was a cute little fellow and one to command attention. An hour or so later the men again passed the ranch, the pup trotting along at their heels. A car came by, the puppy trotted onto the road track. There came a sickening thump and what a brief second before had been an animated little body, lay bruised and broken, blood rushing from the crushed lungs. It's one of those occurrences that takes a lot of joy out of life and spoils a man's Sunday dinner. The question arises as to whether or not the driver was to blame. A turn of the wheel would have taken him from the beaten track of the road and missed the dog. He was not travelling fast and a sharp application of the brakes would have saved the dog's life. He was not meeting a car and it is a country road. He kept the road, the beaten track, which may be within the law, but nevertheless I would not call it an unavoidable accident. The driver did not purposely run over the pup. Yet, on the other hand, the quick turn of the wheel, or sharp application of brakes would have no doubt saved the pup's life. There are too many drivers who drive without showing proper consideration for dogs, stock, and even pedestrians. I see it demonstrated daily. There is nothing to prevent a dog, a cow, or even a person from stepping within range of a speeding car. If drivers would drive with a little consideration in their hearts for the lives and welfare of man and dumb animals, there would not be so many accidents resulting each year. Personally, when driving a highway I always slow down for a dog that is trotting near his master along a road and I pull well over to my side of the road. I am not setting my driving up for an example and yet if everyone would follow such a rule there would be fewer accidents enacted upon the highways.

Some drivers no doubt think, "Oh well, it's only a dog," and keep up their speed. But any one who loves a good dog will naturally show them consideration. I never travel any where or have to get to any place fast enough, no matter how important the mission may be, that I am unable to slow down on speed and even stop if necessary, rather than endanger the life of a human being or some family's pet, whether it be a dog or an old black rooster. No matter what sort of a dog it may be it's a pal to some one; a playmate for a child, a companion for man or woman and perhaps a household guard. The killing of a dog is bound to bring grief to somebody and lovers of canines will readily agree with me on this, I am sure.

A good dog is mighty hard to replace. Dogs are like humans owing to the fact that they possess individual personalities. Like humans, I have failed to ever find two dogs exactly alike as to habits, intelligence and personality. A dozen dogs born in the same litter will possess different mannerisms, different likes and dislikes, just as a dozen humans would. But there is one thing that practically one hundred per cent of all dogs possess and that is loving devotion to their master, regardless of whom or what he may be. The death of a dog to me is tragic, whether I own him or not, for I look upon all dogs as friends and in addition to that I can understand the feelings of those who suffer their loss. And that, friends is why, no matter how important my misison, I will slow down or stop my car at any time rather than jeopardize the life of a mere canine. Any creature as loyal and faithful as a dog should be shown the same consideration upon a highway as a man. Some of you may not agree with me upon this. If you do, okay, and if you do not, I care not, for such is my contention and I shall stick with it.

To me there is really something sadly missing in the makeup of a person who can see no good in a dog and one who shudders at contact with them and can see nothing to admire about the noble head and bearing of some breeds, or the peculiar make-up of such breeds as "Scotties." To me they are all friends, whether a lop-eared nondescript pooch without a pedigree, or one with a pedigree a mile long. They are all loyal to their masters and when you gaze into the eyes of your fellowman if one could but glimpse the friendship there that lies in the brown orbs of a faithful dog, what a wonderful world this would be—a world free from all graft, double-crossing and crime. And again I repeat, as I have often said before, man should look up to his dog instead of looking down upon him and follow his dog's example of loyalty to his friends.

I suppose I should beg your pardon for dwelling so long upon the subject of dogs in this issue, but a person likes to talk or write upon a subject that is dear to their hearts and after seeing the tragic end of the little black puppy today, I couldn't keep away from my pet subject—dogs.

There isn't much more to say this issue excepting that I trust I have stirred up certain thoughts among my readers that will tend them to exercise a little more care and caution while passing our canine friends upon our highways.

Praise for District Attorney

The Ninety and Nine Men's movement was held at the Church of Christ in Myrtle Point last Thursday evening at seven p. m. Approximately 45 men of the county were present with representatives from North Bend, Marshfield and Coquille.

The principles of the movement were discussed and a branch of the movement was organized Sunday morning. Those present voted a letter of endorsement to be sent to the district attorney for his stand on gambling and law enforcement. A program of speaking and singing was enjoyed by those present after the dinner.—Herald.

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WOULD PROTECT BANKING FIELD IN RURAL AREAS

American Bankers Association Announces Purpose to Combat Return of Excessive Number of Banks

CITES LAX CHARTER POLICIES IN THE PAST

Finds a Chief Cause of Bank Failures Was Too Many Banks—Existing Sound Banks Serving Communities Well

NEW YORK. — Existing sound banks, especially the small banks in the rural districts which are serving their communities well, should be protected from any return of the over-banked local conditions caused by former lax chartering policies, which were mainly to blame for the unfavorable failure record of the past, says the Economic Policy Commission of the American Bankers Association. This is brought out in a report covering an investigation by the commission of bank failures and public policies in chartering banks.

"The Commission's study gives an impressive revelation of how great a part mistaken public policies in the chartering of banks played in creating the unsound banking structure which finally collapsed with the Bank Holiday in March 1933," Robert V. Fleming, president of the association, says in a foreword.

"Over-production of banks, literally by thousands, over many years in the face of insistent warnings not only from bankers and others who recognized the danger, but even more so from the mounting records of bank failures themselves, is clearly shown to have constituted as a whole one of the greatest single economic errors in the history of the Nation."

A Recurrence Feared

He refers to fears of a recurrence of over-banking recently expressed by Federal banking authorities, to the powers given the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation by the provision of the Banking Act of 1935 over the admission of banks to membership in the insurance fund, to strengthened state laws and to the policies now being followed by both national and state supervisory authorities aimed to safeguard the nation against over-banking.

"But sound laws and conscientious officials are not of themselves always sufficient safeguard in any field of our complex national life unless they have the active support of public opinion," he adds. "It is the purpose of the American Bankers Association to aid in marshaling public opinion in support of both national and state supervisory authorities in their efforts to strengthen and protect the banking structure."

The Economic Policy Commission summarizes its findings in part as follows:

"The facts show a distinct causal relationship between the over-chartering of banks and the abnormal bank failure conditions that prevailed from 1920 to the bank holiday in 1933. It is desirable that studies be made on the basis of experience to develop standards governing the number of banks or the volume of bank capital which can be successfully operated.

"Such a study would embrace the question whether banking facilities can best be supplied to the rural districts by small unit banks or by branches from banks of substantial capital in larger centers. Existing sound banks, which are serving their communities well should be protected from any return of the over-banked local conditions caused in the past by lax chartering policies.

Banking Officials Queried

"An inquiry among state bank commissioners shows a preponderant opinion against increasing materially the number of banks, coupled with the fact that present laws give them sufficient discretion to prevent a repetition of the grave errors of the past.

"Under prevailing abnormal conditions, with the Federal Government extensively exercising loaning powers in competition with the banks, and with industry itself so largely supplied with funds as to render it to a great degree independent of normal bank borrowing, the banking structure even with its present reduced numbers, finds it difficult to support its existing capital investment and operating personnel.

"These are new factors, intensifying the need for highly prudent and restrictive chartering policies. We urge the retirement of the Federal Government from the banking business as rapidly as the return of normal business conditions warrant."

Conference on Banking

NEW YORK. — An eastern states conference on banking service will be held by the American Bankers Association in Philadelphia January 23 and 24 as a part of the organization's nationwide program on banking development, it has been announced.

Robert V. Fleming, president of the association, will preside over the meetings. It is stated that this conference will be the first of several to be held in various parts of the country presenting a program the details of which are now in the course of preparation.

The general topic of the conference will embrace the managerial, legislative and operative problems confronted by all classes of banks. An outstanding phase of the meetings will be the development of plans for promoting a general better public understanding in regard to bank functions and policies.

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Safeway President Talks on Taxation Increases

The public always pays the bill of increased taxation regardless of whether the tax is concealed or direct, L. A. Warren, president of Safeway Stores, Inc., said in a statement issued today on the present tax crisis.

"Specific taxes by themselves," Mr. Warren said, "may not appear burdensome, although in view of the unceasing effort to impose new taxes it should be remembered that the total tax burden is constantly absorbing a greater share of the national income.

"As a matter of fact it is estimated that the 1935 national tax bill will be in excess of 350 per cent above the 1913 level. The year previous the country's tax bill amounted to $9,500,000,000, whereas the national income totaled only $47,600,000,000. This means that taxes absorbed 20 per cent of the total national income.

"Even the most simple analysis will reveal to any thinking citizen that the individual consumer must, in the long run, pay the bill. It means that a constantly increasing share of the individual income will be inevitably absorbed by an ever-heavier tax-burden.

"Economic recovery, as a consequence, will be blocked, for in the final reckoning the properity of the nation is based on the properity of its individual citizens.

"It is false logic to expect any business to operate under an oppressive tax burden for if the tax is sufficiently heavy to erase all profit and substitute a loss, evil consequences, such as increased prices, unemployment, or a diminution of the tax base result, and as a consequence the consumer, as always, is forced to pay the tax bill in the form of a higher cost of living," Mr. Warren concluded.

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