Out-of-Doors Stuff

by
LAND LUBBER

A large formation of geese flew over the Coos Bay area a while back, were spotted up a dozen times or more. They flew into the green, killing several, the leader evidently being killed, judging from the actions of the big birds in the days that followed. They flew aimlessly about the bay, coming down to low levels and using no caution whatsoever. They were killed from boat pursuit, potted on the mudflats and at various points about the bay.

People wondered at their foolish flight, as they flew about squawking for their lost leader. But it is a known fact that when the leader of a flock is killed that the remainder of the flock is upset, seeming to be totally lost without his guidance. In war, when a military leader meets death, there is always another officer to immediately fill his shoes, but it appears that geese rely strictly upon one leader to pilot them through the skies, from the frozen north to the feeding grounds of warmer climes; that all their faith is placed in the leadership of this one bird. As a demonstration of this, we will cite you an experience of "Hoot" Matson several years ago.

Over on his brother's place on Coos river, a large flock of big Canadian honkers took up their abode. They would feed out in a large field each day and many hunters tried sneaking on them, but none could get within shooting distance owing to the fact that the sentry on duty for the flock, (every flock has such a bird), gave warning and the birds would take to wing.

A long ditch ran through the field and early one morning, "Hoot" armed with a Winchester pump twelve gauge shotgun, containing just three shells (Hoot figured that's all he would need), crawled along on his stomach through the shallow ditch until he came within much effort, to within range of the flock. He rose to his feet and the big birds took wing. "Hoot" fired three times and brought down three geese but, in doing so he bagged the leader of the flock. The flock, with loud honks, flew close overhead. They circled the field, returned to where the dead leader lay upon the ground. Their great wings beat the air close above "Hoot's" head. What a few moments before had been a cautious, well organized flock of wary geese were now merely a flock of great, foolish birds, flying aimlessly about and crying hoarsely for their departed leader for, without his guidance, they were hopelessly lost. They flew so close to the hunter that he could almost touch them with his gun barrel, till he could feel the air fanning his face from the powerful beat of their huge wings. Had "Hoot" possessed the shells and the inclination to do so, he might have slain a large percentage of the entire flock.

When one takes into consideration how wary geese are as a rule, it is hard to feature how foolish they really become at the loss of their leader; how that organized V formation of wise old birds will be thrown into panic and go wandering aimlessly about when their leader meets death. One moment it is a well organized movement of flight, each bird flying in formation, the flock forming a huge V in the sky. There comes a shot, the leader falls and immediately the flight is disrupted. That old expression, "silly as a goose" never applies to geese that have a leader, but it certainly applies to those which suddenly lose their leader.

Geese live to be one hundred years of age. It would seem that birds at an advanced age would know enough to fly away when danger threatens them, even without a leader to guide them. But is it a question of guidance or is it loyalty that keeps them circling in search of their leader when he has been slain? It is assumed that it is his guidance that they seek but no one can vouch for that fact. It could be loyalty, for geese are loyal to the extreme in their love and mating affairs, for once a wild goose loses its mate, 'tis said that the remaining bird will never mate again. This statement is made by many naturalists, although we cannot vouch for it ourself. Moreover, a hundred years is too long to have to study the habits of geese.

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Arago News Items

David Moomaw came in from Corvallis Wednesday evening and spent the Thanksgiving holidays at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Moomaw.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gillespie came in from Salem and spent the Thanksgiving holidays with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Trigg, at Norway.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Zeller became the parents of a baby daughter, born to them last Wednesday at the Mast hospital in Myrtle Point. The young miss has been named Darlene Dell.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish and Mr. and Mrs. Orvus Miller, Phyllis, Alice and Orvus, Jr., of Myrtle Point, were Thanksgiving day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller visited at the home of John Stone at Johnson Mill last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Rigger.

The young folks' choir practice was held at the church Tuesday evening with Misses Thelma and Nola Crawford as hostesses. They served refreshments of sandwiches and pop to the following: Misses Glenda Lillie, Pamela and Maureen Evans, Dona Moomaw, Messrs. Junior and Darwin Gulstrom. They will meet again this Wednesday at the church.

The Arago Grade school gave a Thanksgiving program at the gym last Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p. m.

Thanksgiving service were held at the Community church on Thursday at 11 a. m. with Jake Moomaw conducting the services and with an attendance of 37. Following the service a potluck dinner was held in the church basement which was enjoyed by all attending.

Mr. and Mrs. John Felsher, of Myrtle Point, and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Burtis were Thanksgiving day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Evans.

Thursday afternoon, Dona Moomaw, Pamela and Maureen Evans, Junior Gulstrom, David Moomaw and Kenneth Dority drove to Coos Bay to attend the football game.

Mrs. Ida Myers, Frank Lane and Mrs. Althea Harrah, of Coquille, were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs Stanley Halter.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Dority and Kenneth, of North Bend, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burbank were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Mason.

Mrs. Stanley Halter and Mrs. S. C. McAllister met with Mrs. Tyrrell Woodward at her home Thursday evening to make out the list of leaders for the Missionary society for the coming year.

Choir practice was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Werner Plaep with the following in attendance: Mesdames Albert Lillie, Albert Gulstrom, Stanley Halter, S. C. McAllister, O. H. Aasen, Messrs. Malden Carl and Wayne Woodward, with Mrs. Plaep directing. They will meet on their regular date of Friday evening this week.

Chester Willson and Chloe, of Myrtle Point, called at the Ward Evans home Friday evening. Miss Chloe remained at the Evans home for a short visit.

Friday evening the young folks choir group gave a progressive dinner in honor of David Moomaw, who was home from Corvallis for the holiday. They had their soup course at the Jake Moomaw home, then the salad course at the Ward Evans home, on to the Albert Gulstrom's for macaroni and cheese and from there they went to the Albert Lillie home for pumpkin and apple pies, then to the A. B. Crawford home, where they spent the time popping corn and roasting marshmallows. Those attending were Misses Thelma and Nola Crawford, Glenda Lillie, Dona Moomaw, Pamela and Maureen Evans, Messrs. David Moomaw, Junior and Darwin Gulstrom.

The Ladies Aid bazaar and cooked food sale will be held at the Arago store, Dec. 8. Everyone is urged to come and purchase their Christmas aprons from the ladies.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mast and Carol Youst, of Allegany, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Myers, of Myrtle Point, visited at the home of Mrs. Ida Myers, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Halter and Mrs. Ida Myers were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barklow.

Mrs. Ward Evans, Pamela and Maureen, Mrs. Chester Willson and Chloe, Misses Glenda Lillie, Thelma and Nola Crawford, attended the Methodist church Youth meeting last Sunday evening. Mrs. Willson came home with Mrs. Evans and spent several days.

Lena, Albert and Ralph Herker visited at the Nile Miller home last Tuesday.

Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller drove to Bridge and attended church there. Mr. and Mrs. Miller remained at the Fish home for dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Malden Carl and Douglas Mr. and Mrs. John Carl and Herbert were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cross and family. Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Cross and Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Krib, Larry and Sandra, of Coquille, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Malden Carl.

Rev. M. D. Rempel, of Coquille, conducted the regular Sunday morning church service, Sunday school followed with an attendance of 39. There will be services again next Sunday, preaching at 10 a. m. and Sunday school at 11 a. m.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby McAllister, Scott and Marc, of Myrtle Point, were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. McAllister.

Kenneth Sumerlin was a Tuesday evernight guest of Franklin Crook.

Phone Lines Extension To Be Post-War Project

A joint committee or representatives of Bell and Independent Operating Telephone companies throughout the United States has been formed to advance the nation-wide postwar programs which the various telephone companies have been working on individually to extend and improve farm telephone service, it is announced from the West Coast Telephone Co. headquarters in Marshfield.

"Rural telephone service is more highly developed in this country, under the American system of private enterprise, than in any other country in the world. However, it is by no means as highly developed as we in the industry want to see it, and the industry intends to do everything in its power to provide more service, and better service, at a cost which the farmer can afford," said the co-chairmen of the committees working on the program.

"Since operating telephone companies throughout the whole country have been working on this problem, a representative joint committee has been formed consisting of a number of their most experienced officials. We believe that the application of new facilities and methods which were under development by the industry before the demands of war interrupted our research and construction program will help to bring telephone service to many new farm customers. As soon as war demands are reduced, we propose to resume and expand our research effort and, along with it, the intensive program for extending farm service which was being carried on before the outbreak of hostilities.

"Over one-half million miles of telephone pole lines serving rural areas have already been built so that more than two-thirds of all rural families in the United States can be served from existing line. Since 1935 more than 500,000 additional families in rural areas have become telephone subscribers — an increase of 35 per cent. One of the major objectives is to continue this upward trend by making the service over existing lines increasingly valuable and attractive. This the industry intends to do to the limit of its ability.

"A second major objective is to extend service at reasonable cost to families not now reached by existing lines. The telephone companies also plan to study the possible application of microwave radio systems to rural telephone service and to make use of this and any other new methods which will be helpful in giving service to the farmer."

Coos Quota Is $1,870,000 For Sixth War Bond Drive

Coos county's 6th War Loan quota of $1,870,000 was announced this week by Harry Chapman, Coos county war bond chairman, and Kenneth G. Martin, executive manager, Oregon war fiance committee.

A county total of $1,190,000 is scheduled for sales to individuals. Of this amount, $620,000 has been set at E bond quota. Corporation sales will try for a total of $680,000.

For the first time in war loan history farm quotas are being suggested by war bond officials. This county's suggested farm goal is $300,000.

Martin expressed confidence in the ability of county war finance committee workers and the people of Oregon to do their share in meeting the state's 6th War Loan quota of $107,000,000. The state's quota for E bonds is set at $34,000,000; sales to individuals (all series, including E), $62,000,000; corporations, $45,000,000.

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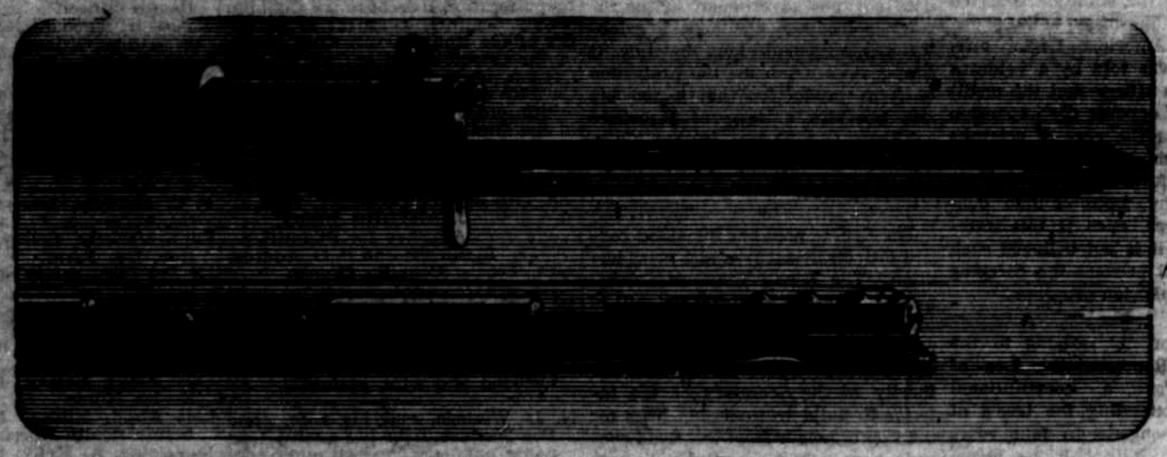

How we know the part we played in the Philippine invasion

The news of the successful invasion of the Philippines stirred the nation. For it was an amazing achievement—landing great numbers of troops and enormous quantities of supplies thousands of miles across the Pacific.

It was a thrilling triumph for our Army, Navy and Merchant Marine.

We railroaders got a special thrill from the news too, not only because we are Americans but also because we know now that months ago the Philippine invasion started on the railroads. And many a railroader who, in recent months, has worked double shifts to keep the war freight rolling to Pacific Ports, knows that he, too, had a part in putting those men ashore on Leyte Island.

This mighty blow at Japan placed an especially large burden on the Western railroads. Serving a less populated territory, the Western lines normally do not have the density of traffic of the eastern trunk lines, and their trackage was designed accordingly. Yet the western roads, in spite of a manpower shortage, have handled their enormous war burden efficiently and on schedule. Theirs has been a real achievement too.

Since Southern Pacific is the largest Western railroad and serves the major ports of embarkation on the West Coast, a very large portion of the troops and war material destined for the Philippines moved over our rails.

From now on, more and more of America's might will roll West over the railroads for the final showdown with Japan. Southern Pacific's 100,000 railroaders know well how important it is to keep these war trains rolling. But they need help. They need the help of thousands of men and women for this job.

There's a job waiting for you in the supply line that backs up our men in the Pacific. If you want a good job with a company whose biggest job still lies ahead, please visit one of our employment offices, or see your nearest S.P. Agent today.

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