

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Appropriations. Two appropriation items of particular interest to the Fourth Congressional District were approved by the House this week. One was the operating appropriation for the Bureau of Mines Electro-Metallurgical Laboratory at Albany. On Friday, the House passed the Interior Department Appropriation Bill which included this item. The amount was substantially larger than the previous appropriation which will place the laboratory on a full scale operating basis during the coming fiscal year.

The other item of interest, not only to my district but to the entire nation, was an increase in the forest products research funds in the Agriculture Appropriation bill. This appropriation has been the subject of a long argument. The House Appropriations Committee refused to make the requested increase, whereupon the Senate amended the bill to include the increase. The bill then came out of the Senate-House Conference with the research item in disagreement. This placed the matter before the House for a final vote. Following quite a battle on the floor, the item was passed by a fairly close margin—168 to 143. The approval of this appropriation means that the wood utilization unit recently established in Portland to serve the Pacific Northwest region will have almost twice as large an appropriation as previously allotted.

Shrine of Liberty. Two weeks ago, I spent two days in Philadelphia with a subcommittee of the Public Lands Committee. We conducted a hearing on the bill introduced by Representative Bradley of Pennsylvania, which provides for setting aside a park area in the immediate vicinity of Independence Square. Our hearing was held in Old Congress Hall, which was completed in 1790 and which housed the Congress from 1790 until 1800. The rostrum on which the subcommittee sat was the same rostrum from which George Washington gave his farewell address. Independence Hall is the center building of the group of three facing on the Chestnut Street side of Independence Square. Independence Hall, you know, is the home of the Liberty Bell, and it was in Independence Hall that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were both signed. The Constitutional Convention met in that Hall. These buildings are the shrine of our independence and of the formation of the Government of the United States, but with the passage of time, they have become swallowed up in the center of a great city. The city has, in fact, moved on so that the buildings which now crowd in upon the Independence Hall groups are obsolete and some of them are fire-traps. The proposal is to acquire several blocks on the Chestnut Street side of the Square, remove the

buildings, and provide a park to make a proper setting for our historic buildings.

Following the hearings, the subcommittee went out to Valley Forge which is only eighteen miles from Philadelphia, and spent several hours at General Washington's winter headquarters and in going over the park. In the museum at Valley Forge, they have the original tent which George Washington used at Valley Forge and the flag which flew over it. The flag, by the way, was not the stars and stripes of today, but was a simple blue field with thirteen stars on it. This flag, of course, was made before Betsy Ross designed the present flag. The stars on Washington's flag are six-pointed stars. It was Betsy Ross who devised a way of cutting out five-pointed stars with a simple twist of the scissors.

As we were driving back to Philadelphia, the radio in the official car told us of the President's death. All further activities of the committee were, of course, immediately cancelled.

Academy Vacancies. July 28th has been set by the United States Civil Service Commission as the date on which preliminary qualifying examinations will be given for candidates for the United States Military and Naval Academies at West Point and Annapolis. Members of Congress must have a list of those desiring to take the examination to submit to the Commission by June 23rd.

I do not know yet how many vacancies I will have at the Academies. We will not be notified until some time in June. All I can say is that I believe there will be possibly two vacancies in each Academy. I make this announcement now so that young men who are interested in competing for an appointment may notify me as soon as possible.

Candidates may compete for both Academies on the same examination. For the Military Academy, candidates must have reached their eighteenth birthday before July, 1946, but must not have reached their twenty-second birthday. Naval Academy candidates must have reached their seventeenth birthday by July, 1946, but not their twenty-first birthday by that time. Young men in service are eligible to compete, and arrangements can be made in most instances for their examination wherever they may be stationed. Those interested in trying for appointment should write me, giving their legal residence, which must be within the Fourth Congressional District, and the date of their birth. Other information as to scholastic training and activities will be of interest. Appointments will be made on the basis of grades earned in the competitive examination.

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENVE

A while back, Mary M. Randleman, writing concerning early Bear Creek history, stated that either fact or legend had it that the late Dr. S. L. Lenve had killed a bear in the near vicinity of the creek in the early days and that the name was bestowed upon it by an Englishman. Mrs. Randleman is entirely right concerning her statement as to the naming of the creek, but it was not legend, it was a fact concerning my grandfather's killing a bear near the mouth of the creek. And while there was nothing remarkable concerning the killing of a large, black bear, in those days, there nevertheless was something remarkable regarding that particular killing, for the big animal was killed by a single blow of a club, in the hands of the doctor.

Grandfather and a man by the name of Caine, were crossing the river in a skiff, when a large bear was sighted swimming the river. Caine wanted to crack it with an oar, but grandfather protested, fearing it would overturn the boat. They rowed fast and made the shore ahead of the bear. As the bear scrambled from the river and started climbing the steep bank, grandfather struck it a hard blow upon the back of the neck, killing it instantly. The blow was delivered with a "myrtle peg," a stick of myrtle seasoned and hard as a rock.

In those early days this territory abounded with wild game. Elk roamed the hills and the glades east of Bandon; there were thousands of deer throughout the woods and glades and the bear were very numerous. The river teemed with salmon and trout and the creeks were alive with trout. The sooty grouse hooted throughout the forests, the ruffed grouse (native pheasant) drummed both in the bottom lands and in the forests. There were hundreds of coveys of mountain plumed quail. There were ducks by the hundreds of thousands and from out of the North came great V winged flocks of geese, thousands of them alighting in the fields on the north side of the river and in the sand dunes along the coast. It was a hunter's paradise, if there ever was one.

But into this setting came the commercial hide hunters, waging a relentless warfare upon the elk in particular. Thousands of the noble animals were shot down, skinned and the meat left to rot in the woods. On one hillside, within a mile of the cross roads here at Bear Creek, three hide hunters killed 83 elk out of one herd, taking the hides and leaving all that meat for food for the buzzards.

There were bobcats, cougar and hundreds of beaver, as well as marten, mink and raccoon in those days. There were 100 cougar then where there is one today, yet the deer and elk propagated in vast numbers, thus proving that Nature is pretty well balanced and that the fall taken from the ranks of the deer and elk by predators amounts to nothing when compared to the killing of these same animals by the greatest predator of all—man.

The hide hunters alone were responsible for the complete elimination of the elk in this district—the complete extinction of the thousands of them that roamed the mountains and glades.

The idea of conservation came too late to save the great herds. If given time, animals from some of the herds roaming Coos county might have eventually drifted back to this vicinity. But now, such a hope is merely wishful thinking, for with the season opened upon the few remaining herds in this county it means that never again will the big animals graze in this vicinity. And it means that it will not be many years until they will cease to exist in the entire county. They cannot buck both the predators (the cougar that destroy the calves) and the hunter.

The State Game Commission may be likened to the hide hunters of the olden days. They, through pure greed, in order to enrich the coffers of the Commission, have placed our elk upon the public auction block and that noble animal is headed the way of the American Bison or buffalo, if a half is not called before long on the slaughter of our few remaining herds.

In the first place, it was not shooting square or straight with our boys who are in the armed forces, to open the season when they were away. By the time they return, the cream of the various herds will be killed and if the Commission uses any judgment whatsoever, a season will be declared closed upon them by then, if they are to be preserved for future generations.

You have a "beef" about the tin can salvage effort here? Call the local salvage station and get it off your chest. Then save tin for the world-wide beef we're carrying on with the Japs!

Girls' League Tea Honors Mothers

The annual Mothers' Tea held by the Girls' League of Coquille High School took place in the gymnasium of the High School Wednesday afternoon beginning at three o'clock.

The gymnasium was effectively decorated for the occasion. Chairs were set in the center of the floor facing the stage, the whole area being enclosed by low white fences decorated with ivy. The tea table was set at the back of the hall. Spread with white and ornamented with white flags and cherry blossoms accented pink and white candles, the tables provided a beautiful background for the silver, china and dainty refreshments. The open curtains on the stage showed the suggestion of a garden scene, complete with shiny metal garden chairs, green fences and dainty birds and butterflies floating in the air.

The girls with their mothers and guests assembled about three o'clock. While the guests chatted and were served by their daughters, several of the girls played softly on the piano.

The program of the evening began at three o'clock, opening with the song "Mother" sung by Jeanne Griggs. The curtain then parted to show four attractive young ladies enjoying the garden. Jean Plieth was the reader for the occasion, and Wilma Drake played softly on the piano during the style show which followed.

The style show was the chief feature of the program. The girls of the Home Economic Club aided by their adviser, Miss Leone Ingram, assisted the Girls' League in this part of the entertainment. A large number of attractive garments suitable for all hours of the school-girls' day were modeled. Approximately half of these were made in the Home Economics Department of the High School by the girls themselves. Several of the dresses received especial mention from the guests. Thelma Bales wore a particularly smart green jumper which she had made. Sally Bonney's ensemble of teatime dress with a coat lined to match the dress was outstanding. In the sports clothes Leatha Trout's tennis outfit of shirt and shorts drew the attention of the audience. Among the formals Marianne Rackleff's light green dress was a real attraction. The outstanding thing about this style show was that all of the dresses shown, and particularly the school dresses, were so very attractive and so very appropriate for the high school girl. And all of the dresses were nicely modeled.

Several musical numbers were given during intermissions in the style show. There were piano solos by Wilma Drake and vocal solos by Laura Swanson. The High School Girls' Glee Club, under the direction of Mrs. Thora Watson, sang two numbers, "Cradle Song" and "The Spring Is Here Again" in their usual fine manner.

The Girls' League is to be highly complimented upon the very fine work shown in presenting this important social event of the school year. Shirley Slater is president of the Girls' League and Miss Madeline McKeown is the faculty advisor. Members who attended as chairmen for the various committees were: Program, Phyllis Litzenberger; decorations, Arlet Crook; reception, Dorothy Howe; tables, Gloria Haga; invitations, Bettie Preston; refreshments, Leota Neely; models, Eulia McCracken; style show, Thelma Bales. Assisting by pouring at the tea tables were Mabel Roberts and Genevieve Berry.

The girls wish to thank everyone who helped them in many ways, and especially to thank those who loaned properties for the occasion.

Coquille Townsend Club No. 2

Townsend Club, No. 2, met at the home of Mrs. Mae Curtis, April 26, with 13 members present. The meeting was called to order by President Alma Halter. Mrs. Buckner rendered prayer, which was followed by salute to the flag. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, as was the treasurer's report. It was also reported that fifty-five cents was taken in from sale of the papers. Mrs. Halter reported on the Townsend meeting at Eugene. Those members reported to be ill should be remembered.

The Auxiliary president took charge of the auxiliary meeting and social and sick reports were heard, and a flower committee was appointed.

Door prize was received by Viola Liday, while the penny drill prize went to Mildred Miller. The next meeting will be held with Mary Keck on May 10. Please be on time, at the meeting will start promptly at 2:00 o'clock.

"It Pays To Insure. In Sure Insurance." See Ernest R. Smith, office Roxy Bldg. Phone 97.

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Eagles Notes

Nominees listed on the ballot for election of officers for Eagles Lodge on May 4, include: Ralph Flanner, worthy president; Martin Kincheloe, vice president; E. R. Johnson, Alva Perkins, Ira Royer, chaplain; F. R. Bull, secretary; Charles R. Butler, treasurer; Claude Lemon, George Royer, worthy conductor; Austin Kyle, Peri Miller, Clarence Plott, inside guard; Louis Lehman, Wayne Miller, outside guard; Earl Schroeder, Glenn Story, one-year trustee; E. W. Albion and J. N. Jacobsen, three-year trustee.

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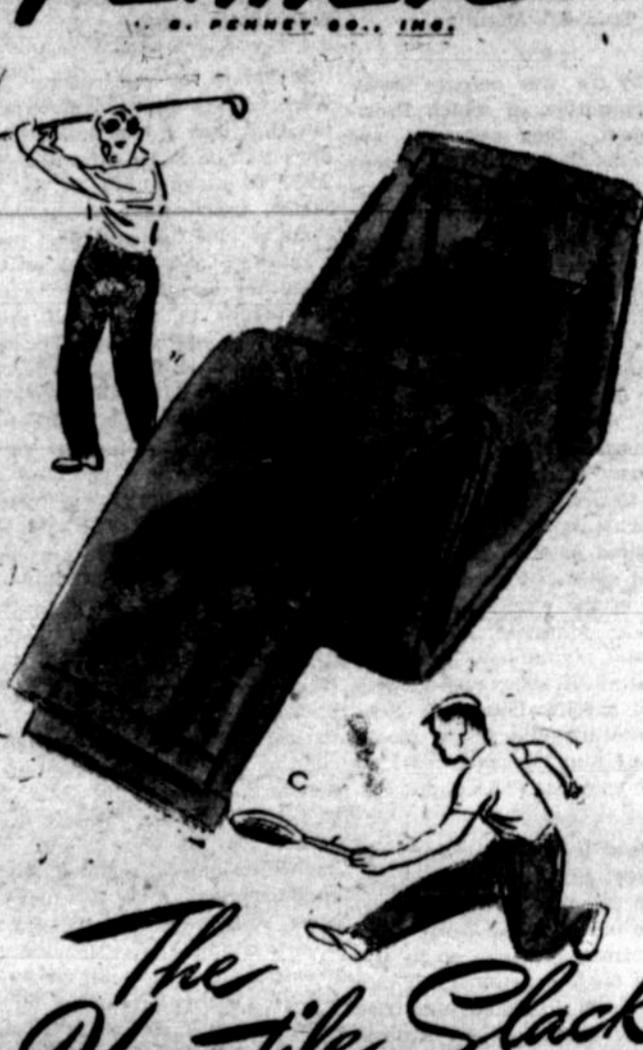
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