

OUT OF THE WOODS

By Jim Stevens

The Volga Valley Authority

There is also farm forestry in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. A 15-year plan has been started there that takes in 5,709,000 hectares of collective and state-owned farms. That would be about 14,250,000 acres.

Protection of the Volga Valley, the Ukraine and Central Russia from winds that blow off the Kizil Kum and Kara Kum deserts is the objective of the plan. The winds bring drought and dust storms that are often destroyers of crops and soils—as in 1946 and to some extent in 1948—in a region thus called Russia's breadbasket.

The main job is the planting of 34,000,000,000 tree seedlings to grow a vast network of shelterbelt forests on the middle and lower reaches of the Volga River Valley.

Such is the core of an article entitled "The Volga Valley Authority" in "Unasyiva," a magazine published by the Division of Forestry and Forest Products of the United Nations. The author is Raphael Zon, a fellow of the Society of American Foresters. His essay is an excellent piece of factual reporting.

What I get out of the article is

Toni Twin, Kathleen Crescente, says:

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scribed rotation of prescribed crops, required summer fallowing, prescriptions of pasturage and woodland maintenance, orders for forest nurseries for the growth of 34 billion (34,000,000,000) seedlings in the 15 years, demands for the building of 44,230 ponds and reservoirs, for fertilizing programs, and more.

Mr. Zon cites any number of other individually large and important jobs that are ordered by the decree. He says that thousands of other requirements that take in small details are stated by the decree, evidently a document as big as Babe the Blue Ox.

All come within the category of the things that some zealot in this country is always naming with the war cry, "There ought to be a law." Nobody is going to quarrel with the stated purposes of the Volga Valley Authority. The quarrel of Americans with this kind of Big Government authority is that land management projects of such magnitude can be put into effect only with giant police forces of the central government empowered to do anything to anybody anywhere that may be ordered by executive decree. This is the moral I make from Mr. Zon's plain facts.

The basic purpose of the Volga Valley Authority is identical with the stated purposes of our own valley authority proposals—to conserve soil and to increase productivity. This is a fair purpose any man's country. The zealous conservationist cannot help but be impressed by the ease and simplicity of devising a valley authority plan of greatest magnitude, with power to drive through to completion in a mere 15 years and with unquestioning compliance required of all the people. This compliance business—there's the catch, however.

Are there objections on the part of any individuals or groups in the territory of the Volga Valley Authority? Are injustices being done by arbitrary power in any way there? Are "inalienable human rights" being suppressed by the U.S.S.R. Forest Service on the Volga? How much police power will be needed to enforce the Moscow decree on millions of farmers?

Mr. Zon does not touch on such natural questions. He does tell, however, in his factual report that there are to be planted "eight long, continuous protection zones," each with from 1 to 6 forest belts, each belt from 30 to 60 meters wide, with strips 300 meters wide separating the belts, the total length of the zones to be over 5,300 kilometers—about 3,300 miles. (A meter is 39 inches.) This will mean large slices out of any number of farms. This will surely mean invasion of human rights on thousands of families on the collective farms.

But in the philosophy of the U.S.S.R. Forest Service, it is the plan that counts, not the family or the individual.

Some of the other elements of the 15-year plan decree to which all people in the region must comply are the planting of forest strips around fields and orchards, pre-

scribed rotation of prescribed crops, required summer fallowing, prescriptions of pasturage and woodland maintenance, orders for forest nurseries for the growth of 34 billion (34,000,000,000) seedlings in the 15 years, demands for the building of 44,230 ponds and reservoirs, for fertilizing programs, and more.

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The annual Kansas Picnic will be held at Bryant Park, Albany, Ore., on Sunday, July 31, 1949. There will be a basket dinner at noon. Plenty of tables and shade trees. Meet your friends in Albany and spend a happy day with us. Interesting events for all ages. Contests for the ladies with appropriate prizes. Games and foot races for the children. Fun for all!

Coffee will be furnished by the committee. Come early and stay late. This is an annual event and we have lots of fun meeting old friends and talking over old times in the Sunflower State. Please register immediately upon arrival. Tell your friends—all former residents of Kansas invited!

ELMER CURRY, President.
JOE UNDRED, Secretary.

Enjoys Workshop

Mrs. W. M. Briner of Agness who has just returned from a two weeks workshop at Southern Oregon College of Education in Ashland reports that she enjoyed her work there very much. The weather, however, was extremely warm in Ashland, being 100 one day in a school office.

Dog Salutes For Sentinel Staffers

Something new in dog etiquette was shown Sentinel staffers Saturday when a purebred registered cocker spaniel out of "My Own Bruce" stock, came in to visit The Sentinel office, and promptly saluted all present by standing on his haunches and coming to a smart attention.

The two year old cocker is the pet of Lt. and Mrs. George H. Whitney of Fort Ord, Calif., who have been visiting Lt. Whitney's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Preston of Coquille.

Accompanying the Whitney's were their three children, Caroline, Thomas, and Billy.

Accounting Office Opened By Burt

Formal announcement of the opening of an accounting office in the First National bank was made by the Edward R. Burt company this week. The office was formerly that of Al Montgomery.

In charge of the office is Jerome MacMurray who is resident manager.

Mainly About People

At Home III—Mrs. William Peart, a member of the J. C. Penney company staff, is at home ill this week.

At Herman's—Howard Hunsaker of Salem is taking charge of Herman's Men's store in Coquille during the two weeks that Chet Murray is on vacation. Mr. and Mrs. Murray left on Monday morning for Idaho where they are planning to play golf, swim and fish for two weeks.

At Waldport—Mr. and Mrs. Harold McCue spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Waldport attending to property interests there. They also attended a party given in honor of Nancy Lee Ward.

From Kuster, Washington — Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kruse of Kuster, Washington, were week-end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Stevens. Mrs. Kruse is Mr. Stevens' sister.

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Returns From Wisconsin

Mrs. George Terrio has returned to Coquille after spending six weeks visiting friends and relatives in Wisconsin. She went from Coquille to Milwaukee, and later visited in Neenah, Menasha, Green Bay and Bowler. Before returning home she stopped in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to visit her grandson, Philip Seeber, and his wife.

On Penney Store Staff — Miss Waunda Kintzley, formerly stenographer at the Consolidated Freight office, is now on the staff of the J. C. Penney company store.

Spends Week-End At Powers — week-end at Powers visiting her mother, Mrs. H. H. Edwards.

On Business Trip — Mr. and Mrs. Orville Haga, and Bob Davidson attended a Frigidaire meeting in Portland last week. Mrs. Haga also visited with her sister while she was in the city.

Returns From Portland — Mrs. George Maynard returned by plane on Friday from Portland where she spent several days attending to business matters.

Visit Here From Atlanta, Georgia — Rev. and Mrs. A. Brogden, and son, Jack, of Atlanta, Georgia, are visiting in Coquille this week with Mrs. Brogden's mother, Mrs. Margaret Brewster. The Brogdens came to Coquille from San Diego where they visited two of their daughters. They spent some time also in San Francisco where they visited friends and will return via Chicago where Mr. Brogden has a sister. This is their first visit to the West Coast and they are delighted with the Oregon climate.

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COQUILLE, OREGON.

Sentinel

JULY 21, 1949.

In Portland—Harry Johnson is in Portland this week on business. He will be away for several days.

Return For Visit—Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Van Burger, formerly of Coquille, now of Klamath Falls, are spending two weeks visiting friends and relatives in Coquille and North Bend.

To Attend Photographers' Convention—Mr. and Mrs. Ed Throckmorton will go to Gearhart on Saturday to attend a convention of Oregon Photographers.

Visit Here—Mr. and Mrs. James Nutter and three children of Merrill, Oregon, visited in Coquille for several days with Mr. Nutter's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Sims. They left on Monday and will drive down the coast as far

as Crescent City and return home via Grants Pass.

Go To Minnesota—Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCuskey, Lois and Richie, left on Tuesday for Minnesota. They will visit relatives in the neighborhood of Duluth, and expect to be away for two weeks.

Hot In California

Mrs. R. E. Smith of Coquille who is visiting relatives at Watsonville, California, wrote her husband recently that the central area of California is experiencing a real hot wave. Mr. Smith plans on driving to Watsonville soon to bring Mrs. Smith and her mother back to their Coquille home on North Taylor street.

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