

Illinois Valley News

An independent newspaper devoted to the development of the richest valley in the world, the Illinois Valley and its surrounding districts

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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WHAT ARE ROADS FOR?

For the past week the roads of the Valley, particularly the Redwood and Caves highways, have come in for a lot of scrutiny and discussion, fostered by the highway department's recent reduction of load limits to a point which makes the hauling of logs and lumber such a costly proposition as to be entirely impractical.

The issue would seem to boil down to this: are the roads of a community to be treated like plush carpets, rolled up and put down in mothballs when the last tourist has gone, then brushed and spread proudly before next spring's influx, or are they, as highway departments are fond of saying, "arteries of commerce, circulating the economic lifeblood through a community"?

Use hurts a road, just as it does a carpet, and we must ask ourselves whether we bought it to use or to look at — and we did buy it, you know. With increased centralization of government, omnipotent politicians would like to have you believe that your roads are a gift, but if you ever bought a license or a gallon of gas you know what we're talking about.

When traffic congestion is high and roads fall into disrepair, it is popular to blame the "trucks" — the heavy traffic. This, however, is in ignorance or disregard of the fact that if it were not for the high fees and taxes paid by this heavy traffic we would not have more than 50 per cent of the roads we now have, and this 50 per cent would not be in very good condition. The heavy toll taken from the "trucks" makes our present road system possible.

At least half-a-dozen mills in the valley are idle, either because they cannot haul in logs or cannot haul out their lumber after the logs are sawed. The revenue thus lost to the Valley, very conservatively estimated at \$20,000 a week, would build a pretty respectable highway right from scratch.

And are these highways in such bad shape? To a non-technical observer they're not. A few pot-holes, we also have them on parts of the highway where hauling was not curtailed. Perhaps the part you can't see, the ballast and "foundation," is not as heavy as on the Redwood highway, we wouldn't know about that, but there is no frost in the ground (over the portion needed) and it is well drained. The cracks and pot-holes in the surface will cause winter weather deterioration, whether used by trucks, wheel-barrows or foot traffic.

Our local highway crews have been thrown off their feet by the recent weather, just as everyone else has; they have had to use maintenance time to keep the roads clear of snow, and they have done an excellent job. Perhaps they would have to have more time and money made available for maintenance of the Caves highway if it were re-opened to hauling.

Our point is that it would be a cheap price to pay for such a large return — and the road should have winter maintenance whether it's used by trucks or not. Truck operators, through their PUC licenses, vehicle licenses and gasoline taxes pay to use the roads. Taxpayers, who rely on an economy balanced by truck operation, benefit from money spent to keep this road up, whether they live near it or not. And that goes for people out of this immediate area, who are crippled from not receiving our logs and lumber.

Many people of the Valley have asked the highway department to survey the situation and re-consider the closure of this vital road.

The thousands of dollars paid out weekly in unemployment checks would maintain this highway with small diamonds mounted every ten feet down the center-line. Yes we know "it's a different department", but it all comes out of the peoples' pocket.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Give Us Back Our Sidewalks, Slim!

I wrote that over an article in the Clarion last week, but I didn't like doing it. After all, the man it was aimed at — Slim Henderson — is a good friend of mine.

Slim came into quite a windfall last month, and bought the old Clarke place. The deed gave him title to all the land — right down to the street. Then Slim started to take up the sidewalk to make his lawn look better.

I felt it wasn't fair to the town and said so in my article. Next morning Slim comes around and wants to know what I mean — get-

ting folks riled against him. I felt ornery myself, and we had quite a set-to over the whole business.

From where I sit, that was foolish. Once we'd cooled off (over lunch and a bottle of beer at Andy's Tavern), Slim decided the sidewalks should stay — for the common good and I promised next time I'd take a good look at the other fellow's point of view before writing any articles about him!

Joe Marsh

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Send The Illinois Valley News to Your Friends

SNOCAT HAULS SUPPLIES, AIDS COUNTY OFFICERS

Residents of this area were given a graphic demonstration of the capabilities of the Snocat, a peculiar-looking vehicle designed to cruise over deep snow or ice, when the recent snow storms left at least two tragedies in their wake, and stranded several residents of the higher timbered country in eight to ten feet of snow.

Manufactured for several years by the Tucker Snocat company of Medford, they have been used extensively in the Crater Lake area for rescue and relief work in time of heavy snows, and a hard snow anywhere on the coast is sure to mean frantic calls to Medford for Snocats as soon as they can get there.

Jasper Tucker, son of the company's founder, last Friday drove a Snocat through heavy drifts from Grayback camp, the farthest the snowplows could penetrate, eight miles up to the Oregon Caves resort, towing two toboggan loads of food for caretakers and workmen marooned at the Caves for more than a week.

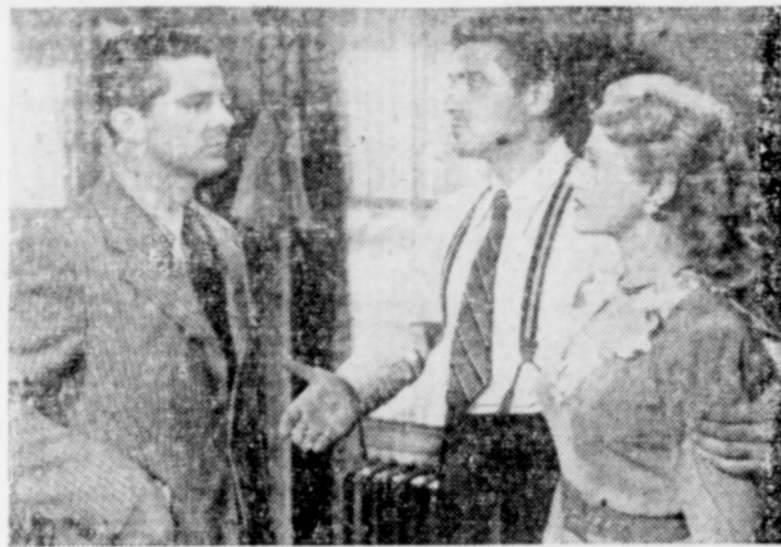
Upon his return to Grayback camp after dark, Tucker took Coroner Virgil Hull and his party aboard the Snocat and made a 15 mile trip over rugged snow-covered terrain to bring in the body of Bonnie McNeil.

Sheriff's office deputies who accompanied Hull said the runners rode easily over the seven feet of snow at about 10 miles an hour and could have made the journey in about an hour and a half if fallen trees had not blocked the path. This was one thing the Snocat could not cope with, but the two crack woodsmen of the party, Bud and Walt Doney, made short work of such obstacles with axe and power saw. It was estimated that the trip in for McNeil's body would have been a tough two-day grind for an experienced party on snow shoes. The Tucker company did not charge for this use of the machine.

Sheriff Loyd Lewis, pointing out that the county probably could not invest in such a vehicle which would stand idle through the summer, expressed the hope that the telephone or power company or other private concern would find that the machine could be profitably used in their enter-

The Katzenjammer Kids, Snuffy, Wimpy, and Jiggs join the March of Dimes

AT IVY THEATRE SUNDAY



Dana Andrews and Virginia Mayo in a scene from "The Best Years of Our Lives," the academy award winner's cast includes Frederic March, Myrna Loy, and Theresa Wright.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

January 27 and 28

Look what's cookin' in AFRICA-Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

While turning their light on the Dark Continent, in "Africa Screams", Bud and Lou are accompanied by such doughty personalities as Frank Buck, the bring-'em-back-alive man, and Clyde Beatty, famed lion tamer. Also in the top drawer cast are Hillary Brooke, the beautiful blonde heroine. Max Baer, former world's prizefight champion, and his brother Buddy, and comedians Joe Besser and Shemp Howard. Also included are elephants, cannibals, man-eating lions, crocodiles, orangoutangs and a friendly gorilla!

SUNDAY AND MONDAY

January 29th and 30th

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is a must on your calendar. It is truly a wonderful picture. It does not need all the superlatives to describe how wonderful it is. Bring a handkerchief or two, ladies, as some parts of the movie you'll want to shed a tear.

In the story there were three veterans of World War II, an air force captain, who had been a soda jerker, a sergeant who had been a banking executive, and a sailor, who had lived on the wrong side of the tracks, and who had the while lost his hands in a bombing at sea. By storybook coincidence they all returned to their same hometown in mid-USA, on the same plane, and had a time of

it with adjustments to wives, sweethearts and employments.

The cast is headed by Myrna Loy, Frederic March, Dana Andrews, Teresa Wright and a host of other leading actors and actresses.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

February 1 and 2

"Force of Evil" is primarily the story of the conflict between two brothers, John Garfield, a lawyer for the numbers combine and Thomas Gomez, a numbers banker who tries to remain free of the syndicate but is engulfed and finally brought to his death. It is also the story between Garfield and two women, one a courageous secretary who loves him, the other the wife of the numbers king who wants him. Marie Windsor and Beatrice Pearson are the leading fems.

Silver Trails headed by Jimmy Wakely, is a Western. Wakely finds the body of a murdered man and is accused of killing him, but is exonerated by testimony of an old and widely respected friend. This is in Old California. Investigating, he discovers that the dead man was killed by marauders who are obtaining valuable grant-title papers by dishonest means, preparatory to making a rich haul. Several people are killed before he gets matters all straightened out.

Cannonball Taylor and Christine Larson help make up the cast.

prises, so that one would be available for rental or use by county officers in cases of emergency. Earlier requests for a Snocat from Crater Lake National Park authorities, made by Oregon Caves resort officials, could not be granted because the National Park Snocats were busy on relief work in the Crater Lake area. No National Park personnel is stationed at the Caves through the winter.

American Legion Basketball Team

The American Legion basketball team played Larry's of Grants Pass in the Lincoln gym last week. The Cave Junction Legionnaires won by a score of 30-25. High score man was Wes Baird, with 7 points.

The Legion team will face the Grants Pass Plywood team at 2:30



FRI., SAT., JAN. 27 and 28

AFRICA SCREAMS

BUD ABBOTT LOU COSTELLO

SUN., MON., JAN. 29 and 30

FOR Warmth, Reality, and DRAMA... The Best Years of Our Lives



CLOSED TUESDAYS

WED., THURS., FEB. 1 and 2

FORCE of EVIL

JOHN GARFIELD THOMAS GOMEZ

AND

SILVER TRAILS

JIMMY WAKELY CANNONBALL TAYLOR CHRISTINE LARSON

4-H SEWING CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Stitch It Straight club met at the home of Mrs. Bud Hoskins at 5:00 p. m. on January 24. The girls sewed on tea towels and pot holders. Refreshments were served by Lylabelle Cross, Donna Zimmerman and Shirley Miller.

The following officers were elected: Janet Miller, vice president; Sara Hoskins, secretary; and Sara Kelly, news reporter.

The next meeting will be on February 7 with Sara Kelly.

YOUR \$\$ IF YOU WILL GO FAR READ THE ADS

p. m. Sunday in the Kerby gym. Admission is 35c.

