

The American Way

SNAKES AND TAXES

By George Peck

Back in the 8th Century, Liu Tsung Yua told the following story:

CATCHING SNAKES

In the wilds of Hu Kuang there is an extraordinary kind of snake having a black body with white rings. Deadly fatal, even to the grass and trees it may chance to touch; in man, its bite is absolutely incurable. Yet if caught and prepared, when dry, in the form of cakes, the flesh of this snake will soothe excitement, heal leprous sores, remove sloughing flesh, and expel evil spirits.

And so it came about that the Court Physician, acting under Imperial orders, exacted from each family a return of two of these snakes every year; but as few persons were able to comply with the demand, it was subsequently made known that the return of snakes was to be considered in lieu of the usual taxes. Thereupon, there ensued a general stampede among the people of those parts.

However, there was one man whose family had lived there for three generations; and from him I obtained the following information: "My grandfather lost his life in snake-catching. So did my father. And during the twelve years that I have been engaged in the same way, death has several times come very near to me."

He was deeply moved during this recital; but when I asked if I should state his sad case to the authorities and apply for him to be allowed to pay taxes in the regular manner, he burst into tears and said: "Alas! Sir, you would take away my means

of livelihood altogether. The misery of this state is as nothing when compared with the misery of that. Formerly, under the ordinary conditions of life, we suffered greatly; but for the past three generations we have been settled in this district, now some sixty years since.

"During that period," he continued, "my fellow-villagers have become more and more impoverished. Their substance has been devoured, and in beggary they have gone weeping and wailing away. Exposed to the inclemency of wind and rain, enduring heat and cold, they have fled from the cruel scourge, in most cases to die. . . . They are all either dead or gone elsewhere while we, the snakecatchers, alone survive."

And he went on: "Harsh tyrants sweep down upon us and throw everybody and everything, even the brute beast into paroxysms of terror and disorder. But I, I get up in the morning and look into the jar where my snakes are kept; and if they are still there I lie down at night in peace. At the appointed time I take care that they are fit to be handed in; and when that is done I retire to enjoy the produce of my farm and complete the allotted span of my existence. My life. The rest is peaceful. Only twice a year have I to risk enough and not to be compared to the daily round of annoyance that falls to the share of my fellow-villagers. And even though I were to die now in this employ, I should still have outlived almost all of my contemporaries. Can I then complain?"

The story gave me food for much sad reflection. I have al-

ways doubted the saying of Confucius that, "bad government is worse than a tiger," but now I feel its truth. Alas! Who would think that the tax-collector is more venomous than a snake? Liu Tsung Yuan concluded by saying that he had recorded this story for the information of those whom it might concern. I have repeated it here for the information of the American taxpayer who should be concerned. His taxes, now almost unbearable, with socialistic schemes threatening to make those taxes even more onerous, unless he bestirs himself, the day is not far hence when he will be asking as did Liu Tsung Yuan, "Who would think that the tax-collector is more venomous than a snake?"

WEATHERMEN RECEIVES 10-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

The secretary of commerce, through Dr. F. W. Reichelderfer, chief of the U. S. Weather bureau, has just completed presentation of awards to all cooperative weather observers in the United States who have served the bureau in that capacity for 10 or more years. Those awards are in the form of small bronze miniature seals with a number beneath the seal to indicate the years of service. They are made up into lapel buttons for men and pins for women.

Among Oregon observers to whom awards were made this year is L. L. Gilliam of Heppner, who is listed in the 10-year group.

Mr. and Mrs. George Holden of New York City are visiting here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Claude Cox. The Holdens are spending some time at the coast and other Oregon points before returning East.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Edwards of Lexington were transacting business in Heppner Monday.

The Human Race



Mr. and Mrs. Evan Johnson from North Bend, Wash., visited Thursday night with Mrs. Whitmer Wright. The Johnsons were enroute to North Dakota where they spend their summers on their wheat ranch.

pressed with the beauty of the pageant. Scott McMurdo of Portland was a weekend visitor at the home of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. McMurdo. Bill O'Rourke and Wilbur Swaggart of Pendleton were business visitors in Heppner Monday.

CARD OF THANKS

Because so many of my friends have sent me flowers, cards and notes during my recent illness, which included several weeks in the hospital and the recuperation period at home, I am taking this means of expressing my sincere thanks. Friends are a wonderful source of comfort at

such time and your thoughtfulness helped speed my recovery. Mrs. L. D. Neill. Robert Collins enjoyed a visit of a few days with his mother, Mrs. Edith S. Collins, who came from Portland the first of the week and remained over until after the band concert Wednesday evening.

STAR REPORTER

Admission prices afternoon and evening, unless specially advertised to be otherwise: Children: Mat. Price .17, Fed. Tax .03, Total 20c; Grade and High School Students 13 years and over: Mat. Price .40, Fed. Tax .10, Total 50c; Adults: Mat. Price .50, Fed. Tax .10, Total 60c. Every child occupying a seat must have a ticket.

Sunday shows continuous from 1 p. m. All evening shows start at 7:30 p. m., unless otherwise advertised

Thursday-Friday-Saturday, April 20-21-22

Challenge to Lassie

Edmund Gwenn, Donald Crisp, Geraldine Brooks, Lassie. Color by Technicolor.

Based on the novel "Grayfriars Bobby" by Eleanor Atkinson. . . . a solid story that combines heart with suspense.

—PLUS—

ARCTIC FURY

Alaska adventure containing warm human interest, astounding ingenuity, excitement and suspense in addition to an overall picture of life in the Arctic. Good stuff for children and adults, both from an entertainment and educational point of view.

Sunday-Monday, April 23-24

MRS. MIKE

Dick Powell, Evelyn Keyes, J. M. Kerrigan, John Miljan, Angela Clarke, Nan Boardman

Benedict and Nancy Freedman's great book becomes a great picture! In the film, the story has lost none of the pathos, humor and adventure of the rugged northwest mounted policeman who brings his bride to a desolate north country outpost.

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 25-26

BEYOND THE FOREST

Bette Davis, Joseph Cotten, David Brian, Ruth Roman, Minor Watson, Dona Drake, Regis Toomey

Nobody is as masterful as Bette Davis in portraying a relentless, selfish and calculating Jezebel. . . . Stuart Engstrand's novel gives Miss Davis just such a thespian field day.



Appraisal of Elevators, Warehouses, Etc. Underway in County

By RUTH F. PAYNE

Earl Giffen, representative of the appraisal department of the State Tax Commission, Salem, is in Heppner this week making an appraisal of all grain elevators, warehouses and storage buildings throughout the county in order to equalize their assessment value for the county assessor's office. Mr. Giffen will also make a study of some of the newer, larger homes that have been constructed recently in various districts. He is accompanied on the trip by his wife and mother.

Miss Margaret Gillis returned Sunday from Portland and Salem where she attended the governor's conference on children and youth. She was accompanied to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hughes who visited with Mrs. Hughes' sister, Mrs. A. E. Williams in Portland and Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes in Salem. The Hughes' spent one night with their children, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Marshall, in McMinnville before returning to Heppner Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. W. E. Carsner and two daughters of Stockton, California are in Heppner visiting with her mother, Mrs. Armandus Ladoucer.

Mrs. E. R. Prock and son Faris motored to Portland Tuesday taking the Prock grandson, Gregory Merrill, to his home. Gregory has been visiting in Heppner with his grandparents for several weeks.

Mrs. E. E. Gilliam and Mrs. Alva Jones drove to Pendleton Monday to spend the day shopping.

Those from Heppner attending the wedding of Mary Moore and Francis D. Squires at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pendleton Saturday morning were Dr. and Mrs. A. D. McMurdo, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. John Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. John Brosnan, Mrs. Harold Cohn and daughter, Sally, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan D. McCurdy, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. J. Nys, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hsler, Mrs. Pat Healy, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Dagggett and from Portland, Mrs. Glenn Jones, Mrs. Glenn D. Dennis and Mrs. Oscar Borg.

Mrs. J. O. Hager has returned home from Lawton, Okla. where she spent the past two months with her son-in-law and daughter, Major and Mrs. Clayton Shaw, and where she welcomed her new grandson, Steven Mark. He is the Shaw's second son. Mrs. Hager attended the Passion Play at Eastertime in Lawton. This is a pageant on the hills and was attended by 100,000 persons. Mrs. Hager was much im-

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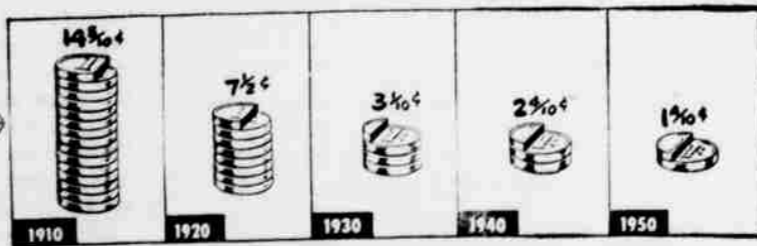
1910 FORTY YEARS AGO, when Pacific Power & Light started in business, electricity on a farm was practically unheard of. When the farm wife wanted water she pumped it by hand. A big job was ahead for the new, pioneering electric company.



1950 TODAY, after 40 years of consistently extending electric service, over 98% of farms are electrified—in the area served by PP&L. The water bucket has been replaced by the electric pump. And the farmer's wife, like her city cousin, uses cheap electricity generously to help do her housework.

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