

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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The State's Report on Parks

Just issued by the Parks and Recreation Division of the State Highway Department is an excellent 128-page spiral-bound report on Oregon outdoor recreation. It is a study of non-urban parks and recreation, and the well-illustrated information contained therein is presented graphically.

It describes existing state parks, tells of 15 proposed new state parks and additions to 22 more by 1975, outlines policy in setting up parks, and makes recommendations, not only for state park development but for other governmental agencies, including the National Park Service, the U. S. Forest Service, Corps of Army Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Marine Board, State Game Commission, State Board of Forestry, and counties.

Thoroughness of the report shows recognition of the importance of recreation, including the economic value to the state as a drawing attraction for visitors.

The study is far-sighted in that it projects 13 years into the future and considers needs in recreation to that time. It estimates that Oregon population by 1975 will have increased by 575,000 persons, or 32.5%. However, in district 4 (Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties,) it envisions a population increase of only 1.2%. Number of visitors to Oregon will more than double by 1975, and all factors together will result in an increased use of recreation by 2 1/2 times in the same period.

Ironically, even if the state adds the 15 parks recommended and acquires 4,000 more acres for additions to present parks as planned, and if all other agencies carry out their plans for recreational facilities, the total opportunity for recreation will decline 35% by 1975, the study states, because of the factors contributing to demand for increased use.

Surely, Oregon's parks place it in a position second to no other state. This is a fact to be coveted and enjoyed by its residents, and the state should strive to hold this place.

The report points out, however, that the Federal government owns 95% of the recreational lands in the state, while the State of Oregon, counties and others own only 5%. The Federal government is spending relatively little on recreation, and the report thus concludes, "The future of Oregon recreation depends in large measure on the Federal government."

Disappointment of the study comes in when we view the report from a local standpoint. Out of the total of 60,000 acres in the state park system, Morrow county has not one acre, and no parks are contemplated in the recommendations. The entire district 4 has only one state park (Mayer, west of The Dalles in Wasco county) and has only two waysides, Koberg beach in Wasco county, near Hood River, and Dyer, in Gilliam county.

Another booklet just out is a campground directory from the U. S. Forest Service, and this points up the fact that Morrow county has no national forest campgrounds, either. Nearest is Bull Prairie Reservoir, 39 miles from Heppner, in Wheeler county.

According to the state report, choice of park sites by the state is made in accordance with two basic qualities: (1) high natural scenic values, and (2) outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities. It says, "Sites are distributed in the areas where the need for recreation has been shown to be greatest."

From the local point of view, there is no greater need for recreational sites anywhere in Oregon than there is in this part of the state. However, that big bugaboo to eastern Oregon—lack of population—is the factor that is against us.

There are 18 state parks along the Columbia River highway from Portland to Hood River in two counties (Multnomah and Hood River), but there is only one state park in the next four counties that border the Columbia—Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow.

Demand for parks and potential use can clearly be seen by going to Hat Rock park in Umatilla county on any warm summer day, and certainly there is a crying need for a similar parks along the river frontage of the counties to the west. Tourists making the long drive from Pendleton to Hood River along Interstate 80 have virtually no place to stop for relaxation or recreation, except at the roadside.

Orville Cutsforth of the county park board attempted to enlist interest of the state in a park site at Irrigon and in gaining assistance for park development to the south in the mountains, but he was unsuccessful in each instance, cost being given as a factor in the first case and lack of traffic as the factor in the second.

While it is to be recognized that parks should be established where they will accommodate the greatest number of people, some consideration should be given by the state to places where there are no parks at all, for the people living there, while in the minority, are paying taxes, have need for recreation, and should not be forced to travel almost prohibitive distances to find it.

Morrow and neighboring counties, while not possessing the lush green verdancy and rushing streams of some parks of the state, have a unique and picturesque beauty of their own in golden wheat fields, rolling hills, river front on the north, and pine forests and mountains in the south. Hunting season brings thousands here, but there are few public campgrounds available.

One factor probably curtailing possible state development is that most of the forest lands are under U. S. Forest Service control, and the Corps of Engineers has control of much of the riverfront area. Some steps should be taken to impress them with the need for parks and recreation here.

The report points out that flexibility in altering its program is provided. It is surely to be hoped that this part of the state be re-examined in light of the crying need for park facilities experienced here.

Incidentally, the parks report seems to hold far less hope for the future growth of this part of the state than the Department of Planning and Development. The 1.2% population growth indicated in the recreation report envisioned by the planning department in its work on the Boeing site. The Parks Division should also keep an eye on this development for additional needs in recreation that it may bring here.

The Main Street Bridge Hazard

With school's opening fast approaching, the PTA council Monday night, with Gene Pierce as spokesman, asked the city council if something might be done about the hazard presented by the Main street bridge for children walking to school.

Apparently, the city's hands are pretty well tied on alleviating this hazard, which is certainly a real one. The bridge is owned by the state. It has a narrow walkway on the west side that leads a pedestrian, walking north, into the sharp curve at the curb that has been hit many times by autos driven by those who have misjudged the angle in approaching the bridge.

City Superintendent Vic Groshens points out that the state highway department has taken engineering surveys with the idea of constructing a new bridge, but construction, even if approved, could not be undertaken until it is decided whether the Willow Creek Dam, now under survey by the Army Corps of Engineers, will be installed. This might make changes in the creek channel.

The city apparently cannot install a warning sign at the roadside nor paint one on the asphalt surface to indicate a school crossing without highway department permission, and Groshens said that the department has expressed reluctance previously because a crosswalk at the end of the bridge, due to the rather blind crossing and sharp curve might become more of a death trap than a safeguard.

However, Groshens and Chief of Police Dean Gilman have

a practical suggestion to parents that is a good one. They point out that there is no reason for children to cross the bridge at all. Those living to the southwest should use the crosswalk at Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co. in crossing Main street as they go to the elementary or high schools. Those in the northwest should cross the Hinton creek bridge on the walkway on the east side, continue on that side of the highway, going south to Quaid, where they turn east to school.

Their suggestion: Parents concerned about the hazard should walk with their children over the route before school starts or on the first day of school to impress it upon them and avoid the bridge entirely.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THAT OLD Jupe Pluvius is a crazy mixed up kid. Last fall when we needed rain for seeding, he snoozed away and didn't drop a bit on our parched landscape. Now, in the middle of August, he has blundered around and spilled his whole rain can on us.

If he had gotten busy six weeks ago, everyone would have blessed him, but now, to farmers who look out upon half-harvested wheat fields (and some not harvested at all), the moisture is just a pestiferous doggone nuisance. It should mean one of the latest harvests on record.

ON THE OTHER hand, look at that D. O. Nelson. He must really live right up there in the northern part of the county. He got his crop all harvested and came out with an average of 25 bushel, which is mighty good for his part of the county. The torrential rain has made it possible for him to go right into seeding his winter grain, and then he can take it easy while others are still in harvest. (Just think how much time that will give him to attend school board meetings). And there are several more who just beat the rain, too.

BUT WHILE farmers are glumly contemplating the deluge, they might meditate on how happy it has made Ranger Sam Miller of the Forest Service and his boys. They haven't had to fight a fire of any consequence yet. Although it may turn out hot again and give them trouble later on, they are really enjoying it now—fire-wise.

—AND THE soaking moisture is giving the new Gazette-Times roof a good test. Irv Anderson's idea of installing foil aluminum has proved to be fine so far—not a single drop coming through to wet down the paper staff. It's a luxurious feeling!

JIM AND Louise Farley and family took off late last week for a few days to relax in the sun (!) at the beach. When they headed over the Sunset Highway towards Seaside, they had the right lane of the highway all to themselves, and the other side—streaming home in the unseasonable down-pour—was almost bumper to bumper. The brand spanking new motel in which they stayed at Seaside had had 17 checkouts on the day that they arrived.

ANOTHER OUTFIT, like the Nelson farm operation, that must live right is Bechtel Bros., contractors on the addition at the Houghton elementary school, Irrigon. We took a trip to the school Friday with Darrel Reisch to get a picture and story on the work. It was raining so hard as we proceeded on the bomb range road that we could hardly see to drive, and it was still coming down at Irrigon.

But the big addition was dry and cozy inside. The roofers had just barely finished their job as the first drops started to fall! That made it secure for concrete to be poured for floors this week.

SPEAKING of Darrel Reisch, new director of special services for Morrow county schools, we must point out that we may have a couple of new contenders for titles at the rodeo this year. We understand that Darrel and Gene Harryman, new principal at Lone, are considering entering some rodeo events this year. The grapevine has it that these two 'pokes are champion calf ropers and may even try their hands at bulldogging.

BILL COLLINS last week was pretty excited about seeing an unidentified flying object hurtling across the sky one night. He had scanned the heavens for the satellite, Echo, and picked up a flashing object that he at first thought to be a satellite, but it was going in the wrong direction. Its speed also was incredibly fast, and he estimated that it was going ten times the rate of Echo, though this could be attributed partly to the fact that it was lower. He discounted any thought that it was an airplane, even a jet, for he said no jet could go that fast. By coincidence, the Unidentified Flying Objects society was meeting in Washington at the time, and maybe some of the residents of Mars or some outer galaxy were putting on a special show for their benefit.

Some of the UFO gang are willing to swear that we already have people on some of the other planets, not bothering to wait for the government to send them, but going on their own.

JIM BARRATT, athletic business manager at Oregon State Uni-

versity, dropped in for a little visit Wednesday after bringing his wife and family over for a stay here, together with his dad, Garnett Barratt and Mrs. Barratt, who had flown back from Arizona for a vacation from that hot place!

Jim is quite enthused about the prospects for Dick Ruhl on the OSU football team this fall and figures he is due for first string linebacker. Says he thought Dick might be one of those fellows who hits so hard that he hurts himself, but hasn't proven out that way.

Got to talking about Parker stadium's record on weather. The Corvallis stadium has no roof, and to western Oregonians that would seem like quite a gamble (or in eastern Oregon in early August!). But three of every four games played in Parker stadium so far have been in fine weather. A roof would cost almost as much to build as the stadium itself.

One time a woman wrote for tickets to a ball game, Jim said, and said she must have seats under cover.

Jim wrote back and said, "I'm afraid you won't like the only place we have under cover. It is in the rest room, and you may have trouble seeing the game through the small windows."

Eldon Gammell Dies in Eugene

Eldon J. Gammell, 45, who was born in Lexington and lived in Heppner for many years, died August 3 at Eugene from pneumonia, according to word received from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gammell of Veneta.

He was born July 17, 1917, at Lexington and was living at Veneta at the time of his death. Besides his parents, he is survived by two brothers, Floyd and Edwin, of Veneta; three sisters, Mrs. Lee (Edna) Pearson of Hoquiam, Wn., Mrs. Harold (Helen) Stevens of Hardman, and Mrs. John (Vada) DeMoss of Moro; 20 nieces and nephews; 11 great nieces and nephews; and grandmother Gammell of Salem.

Eldon had many friends and was known for his ready smile and willingness to help anyone in need.

TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Editor:

Al Ullman's opponent for his seat in Congress appears to have mounted a horse and rode off in all directions in his talk of phoney issues as reported in Saturday's East Oregonian. If the republican candidate for congress wishes to make the treatment of agriculture a campaign issue, I am sure nothing would be more pleasing to Congressman Ullman.

First, if we exclude costs of wars, past and future, the largest remaining budgetary item is agriculture. This present fiscal year the agricultural program will cost \$5.836 billion—almost five billion for price support alone, much of which never reaches the farmer.

This year, President Kennedy and Secretary Freeman proposed rational permanent farm legislation. Legislation as fair to the consumer and the taxpayer as to farmers. The administration offered the farmer supports adequate to maintain his farm income at past levels, and asked the farmer to accept conditions dictated by realism.

The administration offered the farmer a choice: "Tell the government to get out of the farm business and we will get out—but if you want supports, accept the necessary controls." Profitability and we will get out—strains can no more reduce our farm surpluses than traffic lights without policemen can generate traffic safety.

This approach to finally eliminating surpluses through lowered production was defeated in the house by a solid Republican vote except one. This farm legislation contained provisions to make surplus wheat production

an eligible feed grain through the domestic parity program. Wheat could have been raised for feed on diverted acres in place of barley. The bill also gave the secretary permission to eliminate quotas or acreage restrictions on varieties of wheat found to be in short supply, such as on Western White. Do our wheat growers favor this approach or do they favor lower and larger supports and larger and larger surpluses as 1958 law provides and which would automatically become operative with the defeat of the Kennedy proposal?

I will not comment on any other of the many so-called phoney issues except to challenge the statement that India does not wish to buy our wheat because of State Department policy. Last year India bought about 95,000,000 bu. of U.S. wheat under the 480 program. The agricultural department required them to purchase two-thirds of this in red wheat as that variety is in heavy surplus and should they have bought all of this in white wheat we would not have had enough of that variety to supply our Japanese and other cash customers. Mr. Shanker, Indian minister of Food, said at Kansas City that when India had the full say it would buy all western white wheat instead of red, as that is their preference, but never indicated any unhappiness over our own government policies. Anyway, accents speak louder than words and India did buy 4,000,000 bushels of white wheat for cash this spring when it could have gone to the other countries mentioned and received wheat at less than our export price.

Our present stock of white wheat in the hands of the trade including storage elevators, is 14,122,000 bushels which is hardly enough to keep the pipeline supplied until new harvest shipments are felt. Markets are above loan and we are in good position so it would seem that the Repub-

Examiner Due Aug. 21

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, August 21, at the county courthouse between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., according to an announcement received from the Department of Motor Vehicles of Oregon.

Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

Guests over the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Markham Baker, lone, were Mrs. A. Larsen and Irene Larsen of Methow, Wn., Mrs. Elmer Moore, Pendleton, and Mrs. Ronald Baker and daughters, Sheila and Colleen of Hermiston. They were here to attend the bridal shower for Mardine Baker in lone Saturday evening.

ican candidate for Congress is the victim of erroneous information.

Sincerely,
Al Lamb

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