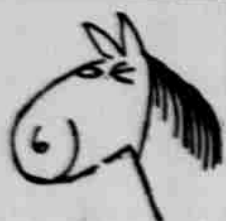


Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



There's a lot of speculation around the county over "what to do" with the 50,000-acre bombing range the Navy may quit. Just about everybody has expressed an opinion on the disposition of the land, including congressmen and the governor. It strikes me that the first people to consult on the future of this land in Northeast Morrow County is the Boeing Corporation.

Boeing has a 99-year lease on exactly 95,825.18 acres adjacent to the 50,000 acres the Navy uses as a bombing range. That lease specifies that should any land adjacent to Boeing's leased land become available, Boeing has the option to lease any and all such lands at same price it pays for the land it leases at the present time, which is 60 cents an acre. It doesn't make any difference whether the ownership of the land reverts to the state or to the Bureau of Land Management, Boeing's option to lease it must be honored. Therefore, what happens to the bombing range land is up to Boeing. Maybe somebody had better go ask 'em.

Back in 1969 when the bottom fell out of the aircraft industry, Boeing tried to break its lease on all its land in Morrow County. The state refused to let Boeing out of that lease. The state reminded Boeing that the lease is valid and ironclad. So it isn't likely that Oregon, now that it sniffs some profit in what was once desert wasteland, can break the same lease it ruled valid and ironclad back in 1969.

Jack L. McFadden, vice-president and assistant general manager of Boeing Agri-Industrial Company at Boardman, told the Gazette-Times last week that a proposal to make farms for Vietnam veterans out of the Navy bombing range would probably be considered favorably by his firm. "But if that land is going to be opened up for development by corporate farming and ranching interests, Boeing wants to do it," he said.

McFadden quoted Harold Kerr, agricultural county extension agent, as estimating the improvement of the bombing range land at \$800 per acre. Let us assume, McFadden said, that veterans were able to finance purchase of 640-acre family farms on bombing range land. Where would he get the \$512,000 it would cost to develop it into a productive family farm? Just putting in the necessary roads through 640-acre tracts would cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million, and who would like to pay for that? Obviously, the land in question will have to be developed by corporate interests. Few individuals have that kind of money, and few of them would want to invest that much in a farm gamble.

Boeing is, and always has been, a good citizen of Morrow County. It spends every dollar it can with Morrow County merchants. It is one of the best customers Morrow County Grain Growers has. It has done a remarkable job of turning worthless land into productive land. It is a big taxpayer. Last year Boeing paid \$55,000 in taxes to Morrow County on that leased land and its improvements, and will pay about \$65,000 for 1973 taxes. That's about 2 per cent of the total county tax bite. Not a bad record for a firm that took desert land 10 years ago, invested hundreds of thousands of dollars and a lot of agricultural genius in it, and made it productive to the point where just about everybody wants a share of the pie. Where were they when it was worthless, and when the county was getting peanuts off it in taxes?

Unless Boeing voluntarily surrenders its huge investment (which wouldn't be good business for it) the only way Oregon is going to get Boeing off that land is by instituting condemnation proceedings. If that is done, somebody is going to have to pay Boeing for all its improvements, plus damages.

I suggest the Chamber of Commerce invite McFadden to speak at one of its noon meetings on the subject of Boeing's position on the future of its leased holdings in the county. He could correct some misunderstandings that are becoming accepted as fact—one of which is that the Department of Veterans Affairs pays the taxes on the land Boeing leases. It doesn't.

Sen. Mark Hatfield is going to Thailand, India, Egypt and Turkey to see how much of our money those people will agree to accept in aid programs. A lot of people wish he'd stay here and make good on his promises to get funding for Willow Creek Dam. The Corps of Engineers has awarded a Richland, Wn., contractor \$2 1/2 million to improve picnic facilities along the Columbia River. A lot of people wish the Corps would build Willow Creek Dam and let the hot dog and potato salad people wait a while longer.

Roses is red.
Violet is blue.
(Violet is a streaker in Alaska.)

We who recall the days when goldfish swallowing, panty raids, jamming into phone booths and pushing beds across the continent represented the highest ideals of the American college system welcome the Sreaking Movement as a return to normalcy. Sreaking, for those who have been out of touch with the world, is a culturally relevant form of communication that involves shocking one's clothing and daring stark naked through heavy concentrations of people, the object being to stun, dismay, anger and confuse masses of people without being apprehended. This, of course, is what American colleges have been teaching their students for years.

Gotty's Shoe Store,
Oregon Headquarters.
"Sneakers for Sreakers."

Sreaking by college students makes more sense than carrying placards for Cesar Chavez and lying down in front of Army trucks. And it's a wonderful way to tell the boys from the girls, which we haven't been able to do for a decade. But how come photographers never get on-camera pictures of streakers at work? All of them are rear view pictures. If I had assigned a photographer to cover a parade and he came back with a picture of it disappearing in the distance I'd fire him. Newsweek ran a picture of a dozen streakers last week, taken from the rear, of course. It looked more like a platter of Parker House rolls. Remember when if a kid in college had a B.A. it was only a college degree? Ah, Spring!



"Think!"

Story of early-day logging reviewed

A good look at logging practices in the north Oregon Coast Range is given by Sam Churchill in his book about his parents, "Big Sam." Lucy Peterson, an Astoria native but long-time resident of Morrow County, reviewed "Big Sam" at a joint meeting of the Bookworms and the Topic Club on March 12 at the Weatherford home. Della McCurdy, an original member of the Topic Club, was a special guest.

Mrs. Peterson brought additional pictures of the Astoria area which she circulated and she added several personal recollections which enhanced her review. The book's author gives details about life near Astoria during the years that his father, Big Sam, worked as a logger and the family lived in nearby camps. Young Sam attended the University of Oregon for three years before he, too, became a logger. He is now farm editor of the Yakima Morning Herald and has had articles printed in Readers Digest and other magazines.

"Long before you could conjugate a verb you knew how to roll a choker so as to swing a long free of an obstruction. You could read the whistle signals before you could read and write. You were proud of your father. You lived a part of his life each day. And you yearned for the day when you, too, would lace on a pair of calk shoes and leave your own special imprint alongside the footsteps of your father in the woods."

The story of the author's mother, Caroline Snow Churchill, and her marriage to Big Sam and her adjustment to life in a logging camp, which differed so much from her Boston background, is interesting.

Loggers in the early 1900s were rated as "hot-tempered, rough talking, and capable of blowing a month's pay on whiskey and women on a Saturday night." The book includes an eight-page picture section that gives a look at the environment that Caroline and Sam knew in the early years of their marriage.

The edition from which Mrs. Peterson reviewed was printed by Ballantine Books, Inc., 1973, \$1.25. The book had been published earlier by Doubleday & Co., Inc.

Margaret Morgan is Topic Club president and Inez Erwin is Bookworms president. The Bookworms will meet at Mrs. Erwin's home on March 26. The clubs will meet together again on Wed. afternoon, April 3, at the home of Kathryn Lindstrom in Ione.

Water

(Continued from Page 1)

There is a 3-horsepower motor being used as a booster pump used to pump water to the area. He suggested a larger booster pump to satisfy the hour-by-hour demand of the hospital, to replenish the water supply to the hospital as it is used.

Anderson agreed with Lowe that the city could not go in and tap the existing six-inch line leading from the reservoir and use the water for domestic purposes.

"We hope that when we get through up there, if the development goes through, we can put in a large enough pump to satisfy the hour-by-hour domestic needs of the homes, so we wouldn't be cutting down on the fire capacity to the hospital. The pressure is to be maintained at all times," he said.

The storage capacity is already there. A booster pump is needed to maintain the capacity of the reservoir.

At the present time the hospital does not have the necessary fire protection. Proposed plans call for take-over of the county reservoir to utilize water now used by the courthouse, and use the well at the courthouse to water the courthouse lawn. The present reservoir would then be supplied with water from a larger booster pump. All water for the hospital will come directly from the reservoir, and even-

tually the hospital will be tied into all the city's reservoirs.

Bids are to be submitted to contractors for the proposed work on Well No. 3. Bids will be opened and read at the April 15 council meeting, with the work to start May 1. Completion of the work is expected to be July 1. The work involves replacement of existing pump and motor, installation of a pump control valve, and miscellaneous piping and valves.

The council meets again April 1. By that time it is expected to learn from the Corps of Engineers whether it will commit itself to pay its part of the relocation of transmission lines and reservoirs. If no such commitment is received by that date, the council will probably "go it alone" and begin renovation of its water system with bond money already voted for that purpose.

The council referred a variance request by Hubert C. Wilson to the planning commission after it was learned that the plans to put a mobile home on his lot at 441 Riverside. According to measurements submitted to the council, Wilson's lot was one foot short of the 75 feet needed for his trailer.

Sweeney appointed Ernest V. Joiner and Anne Doherty to the City Planning Commission.

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

Since your resurrection of the cute little Dot & Charlie weekly we have wavered weekly between hate, admiration, frustration, empathy, pique and a few other emotional facets.

At first thought Mark Twain had come to town. Good old Sam'll get us all straightened out. As earlier-than-you arrivals (by two years) from the Bay Area we affined with your early editorials anent the differences twixt there and here. Why, do you know, we haven't been hassled for change or 35 cents to make up the price of a fifth of muscatel for three years now. Hell, we ain't seen no Blacks or Orientals either. Now that's culture shock, coming from Telegraph Hill to our isolated 160 in the mountains north of Spray where we're either muddled or snowed-in 4-5 months of the year.

Then, you got a little crazy, Ernie. You started taking off on the environment and the environmentalists and welfare bums and environmentalists (we think) and ex-welfare bums (Joanie once took about \$500 from the state of California during a period of unemployment after 15 or so years of gainful employment) we took a bit of umbrage. (On occasion.)

However, you usually managed to balance out our differences with the beautifully high quality of your editorials when you got off of subjects which created remarks around here like "that bigoted sonovabitch" and, as that broad who once ran a fag-dyke bar in N.Y., Spivey, once sang, "I brought culture to Buffalo in the Nineties." I felt that you were bringing "culture to Heppner in the 70s." We'd read and remark (in our smug elitist manner), "I wonder how many people around here even know who Macaulay was."

However, with your editorial of March 7, all is forgiven; well, almost all. You can be as rotten as you want to Lois Winchester. It's not that we dislike animals. We have a passel of them. But we can't stand zealots, or CPAs.

We want to shake your hand the next time in town. If you're there, we will. We got Jim Eason in common, ain't we?

MIKE WELLS, Spray.

P.S. I'm not signing for Joanie. She is to follow with a 1500-word letter on the environment which she'll defy you to print verbatim.

No I'm not. I'm afraid you'd have the guts to print it exactly as written and without editorial comment. And one Lois Winchester's enough. But since I count among my idols both Albert Schweitzer and Mark Twain, your columns leave me seethingly schizophrenic, yet always, dammit, admiring of their style. I readily admit I prefer most deer to most of the hunters I've come across, and have even been known to rescue hapless fly mid-swat.

When our bigotries coincide, your wisdom enthralis me. When they clash, I wonder how you can sleep. Meanwhile, The G-T has risen, since your rescue, to the top of our reading pile. Though we couldn't care less which local jocks scorched whom, or what cookies the Kinzoof Koffee Klatch created, it's nice to have a maddening, literate gadfly for an editor of the only rag in town!

JOANIE WELLS.

EDITOR:

In your editorial column of Feb. 14 you state, "The Oregon Grape, Oregon's state flower, comes from California." And then you say, "I am now in deep trouble."

No, not deep trouble, you simply illustrated the saying, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Now I will do the same.

Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) is native from British Columbia to Northern California, so it did not "come from" anywhere else, it is a native of Oregon. And of Washington, British Columbia and Northern California.

HELEN M. McCULLOUGH, Cottonwood, Ca.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"Jake, now the bargain on this place, buy it by the section, then find somebody who will take it by the pound!"

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR EDITOR:

Two recent items in the papers has got me worried more than ever about the future of farming.

One reported where peanuts is a real good source of cheap protein and that this country is pushing peanut butter in parts of the hungry world that ain't never heard of peanuts.

The other said American farmers raised a record peanut crop last year, and that the Government is buying nearly a fourth of it because the Department of Agriculture's support price is two tenths of a cent more than the market price.

Mister Editor, this is bad news from ever angle. It's bad enuff that the farmer can't sell his peanuts at a profit, it's worse that the USDA is gitting the Government in the peanut business in a big way, and it's downright terrible that we're trying to peddle peanuts to help out other countries. This combination is bound to mean trouble, and it don't take much memory to know who fer.

If our peanut bargaining follers our pattern, we'll probable be eating Russian peanut butter in a couple of years. One thing fer shore, if the folks in Russia take to peanut butter sandwiches, they won't want fer bread, and we'll fix it so they can have all the peanut butter they want. Back in 1972, we sold wheat to the Reds fer \$1.65 a bushel. Now we're running short, and we're thinking of buying some of our wheat back from the Russians at the current price of \$5 a bushel. And we'll probable buy back the 30 million bushels the Russians bought that is still in this country. That way, we save the shipping cost while the sellers turn a \$100 million profit.

With predictions of bread going to \$1 a loaf, it's natural that the price of peanut butter will have to go up fer the sake of fair trade or somepun. It wouldn't look right to have a peanut butter sandwich made out of a quarter's worth of bread and only a nickel's worth of peanuts.

And Government learned a long time afore the gas shortage that the way to make shore prices keep going up is to keep everything scarce.

Actual, Mister Editor, we might do better dealing our peanuts to the Arabs. The more oil they won't sell us, the more peanuts we sell 'em. That's what we're doing on wheat and other grains. I see by the papers where we're selling twixt the grains now the Arabs than we were a year ago afore they shut off the oil spigot.

Course, I reckon everybody in them Arab countries is gitting plenty of protein cause they got so much money they can import our beef that we can't afford to eat unless we mix it half and half with soybean mush. If the USDA starts buying up our soybean crop there won't be nothing left to eat we can buy.

Furthermore, if it ain't enuff fer us to teach the world how to deal in farm products, I see the U.S. Army is helping private landowners in Germany build golf courses. That'll show the Germans how to run short of everthing jest like we did fore we plowed up the golf courses to plant wheat to sell the Russians.

Yours truly,

MAYOR ROY.



Nixon's Jesuit weapon

BY LESTER KINSOLVING

WASHINGTON—The Rev. John McLaughlin, S.J. — who is President Nixon's \$25,000-a-year Jesuit assistant — is no longer a speechwriter, according to the White House press office.

"He is involved in international humanitarian projects, such as the Southeast Asian refugees," explained Press Secretary Ron Zeigler's staff assistant, Tom DeCar.

This column has tried repeatedly to obtain an interview with Father McLaughlin, but his secretary has disclosed that he has been either on extended lecture tours in such distant places as California, or else has been encumbered with a heavy schedule of TV, radio and local lecturing.

DeCar was asked, therefore, if it is not true that while Father McLaughlin is no longer a Nixon speechwriter, he is quite definitely a Nixon speechmaker.

Replied DeCar: "Yes, like many others in government, Dr. McLaughlin is a spokesman for this administration."

This is to wallow in understatement. For the likes of Father McLaughlin have not been seen since the oratorical heyday of ex-Vice President Spiro Agnew.

For example, there is Father McLaughlin's having engaged his Jesuit seminary classmate, Father Robert Drinan, S.J., in what might be described as "The Jesuit Battle of Pennsylvania Avenue."

Father Drinan (D-Mass) is the first Catholic priest ever elected to Congress (although by no means the first clergy-Congressman, for there have been 95 Protestants). On Jan. 20 of this year, Cong. Drinan described the Nixon administration as "the most corrupt administration in the history of the republic."

President Nixon had no need to respond to this charge, not when his Jesuit assistant promptly counterattacked — by comparing Cong. Drinan to the Sanhedrin.

Father McLaughlin went on to charge Father Drinan with rape (of justice) for not having disqualified himself from the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiries, considering a Drinan impeachment bill.

Father Drinan had already brushed off a less erotic GOP suggestion to this effect by replying coolly that no Congressman who introduces a consumer protection bill is expected to disqualify himself from the voting.

But the usually doughty and intrepid Massachusetts Congressman amazingly, and promptly, backed away from McLaughlin's comparison of Drinan to the Sanhedrin (which put Jesus Christ on trial). For he replied with an uncharacteristically limp rejoinder, "My intuition tells me to decline all comment."

This left the distinct impression that President Nixon has quite cleverly discovered that the way to neutralize one pesky Jesuit is to use another.

Meanwhile Father McLaughlin, as Nixon speechmaker, has announced around the nation:

"I think Nixon will be viewed historically, and in his own time, as a great moral leader."

"The churches have their own histories of irregularities, disorders and scandals."

"My feeling is that senior officials in the White House are no better, no worse, no more sinful, or less sinful, no more sullied or unsullied morally, ethically, or spiritually than people in all other occupations — including the clergy."

This column has by no means been reluctant to expose ecclesiastical venality. But we know of no denominational headquarters (or even pseudo-denominations) which have currently amassed so many criminal indictments charging the bugging of rivals and the burglarizing of psychiatrists.

On the other hand, there is the apparently apocryphal remark which has been attributed to the late Al Capone, as he was boarding the boat for Alcatraz: "Well, nobody's perfect."

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