

Construction of Dams Along Rogue River Seen Detriment To Major Recreational Area

Latest statement of the Rogue River Basin Committee of the Izaak Walton League of America in the committee's campaign to prevent further damming of the Rogue river was issued last week in the form of a booklet given wide distribution among residents of the area affected. The league committee believes "that the present recreational scenic value of the beautiful Rogue river is being threatened with extinction."

Declaring that surveys for sites for high dams on the Rogue river are being made by the federal government, the statement reads: "Because construction of any more dams in Rogue river will destroy a scenic and recreational asset that belong to all people of the state of Oregon that should be preserved for posterity, the Izaak Walton League is opposed to any and all such barriers being constructed and cites herein some of the many arguments in support of its contention."

"To prevent such destructive dam construction the Oregon State legislature, at its 1929 session enacted, under section 116-460 OCLA, a law prohibiting construction of any dams in Rogue River that would prevent the free passage up or down stream of migratory fish."

"Under section 116-459 OCLA, a similar bill enacted by the legislature prohibits the construction of any power dams whatever, on Rogue river. Further legislation would have to be enacted before any such dams could be built. It was to forestall the possibility of any further encroachment on the natural advantages of the Rogue river that caused the legislature to endeavor thus to protect the future of the stream."

"Any promise of the Bureau of Reclamation or the United States engineers that the devastating effects on migratory fish caused by high dams can be eliminated by fish ladders, elevators or transportation of fish for artificial propagation is perfectly refuted by the millions of dollars wasted in unsuccessful experiments by these agencies on the Columbia river where the industry of many millions of dollars each year is admittedly threatened with complete destruction. The same experience is being had below Shasta Dam on the Sacramento river."

"In opposing any further Rogue river dam construction the Izaak Walton League, and Oregon's other conservation organizations, emphasize they are not opposed to tributary irrigation promotion that does not interfere with the main stream of Rogue river. They contend that other sources of water should be used for irrigation for the benefit of private interests as opposed to the irreparable damage that would result to the river and to the entire State of Oregon by dam construction."

"There are already in existence in the Rogue River Basin countless private water rights and diversions, and irrigation dams at Savage Rapids, Gold Hill and Emigrant Lake, Fish Lake and Four-mile Lake. There are power dams at the Gold Hill Portland Cement Company and Gold Hill sites, and the sites near Prospect. The basin has the following irrigation districts in operation: Grants Pass Irrigation District; Gold Hill Irrigation District; Eagle Point Irrigation District; Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; Medford Irrigation District and the Talent Irrigation District."

"While it has been impossible to secure complete information or copies of projected plans of the United States Engineers and the United States Reclamation Service, it is known that dam sites in the Trail section and the Lewis Creek section of Rogue river have been surveyed. The first mentioned dam is planned for approximately 30 feet in height and would inundate the area of present river frontage approximately a mile below Trail, and extending up river above Trail to Lewis Creek, a distance of approximately two

miles. At Lewis Creek a dam, approximately 200 feet in height, would floor an area reaching approximately 15 miles upstream.

"These two dams, plus the reduced flow downstream to the projected power house at Reese Creek, would destroy the present stretch of river frontage for a total of approximately 33 miles, and total river frontage, as it exists in its present scenic grandeur, for that distance. The storage and diversion ponds above and below these dams would destroy a tremendous area of the finest migratory fish spawning grounds in the entire Rogue River and leave in the summer recreational season a mire banked pond behind the Lewis Creek dam as stored irrigation water was drained off. The banks of these drained off shore lines would soon become entirely sterile. For 16 miles downstream from the lower dam, if water is diverted at Lewis Creek for power, the river flow will be cut down to about one-half of its normal summer flow in the dry months."

"Thirty-three miles of one of the finest river front areas in America for summer homes, camping, resorts and recreational advantages for generations of American families would be destroyed forever for such use. These uses can not be replaced by water frontage on storage reservoirs that draw off large quantities of water in the summer time."

"The construction of these dams would necessitate the re-routing of the Crater Lake Highway, taking the traveler through a dry unattractive area away from the river. The new Tillamook Trail highway recently completed would also have to be re-routed, the two road changes entailing a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money."

"The scenery along Rogue river on the Crater Lake Highway is the most beautiful on the entire route to Crater Lake. The necessary re-routing of the highway as contemplated would deprive the traveler to Crater Lake of ever seeing the river until it was crossed about 25 miles above the present point of view, where only a momentary view would be afforded."

"The dam construction would destroy one of the state's most beautiful public parks just below the mouth of Big Butte Creek as well as miles of the indescribably beautiful Big Butte Creek, noted for unexcelled fishing and recreational advantages."

"The Oregon State Game Commission's egg taking stations would be destroyed and the successful propagation of Rogue river migratory fish would be an impossibility in the future."

"Rogue river is one of the world's most famous streams for sports fishing for Chinook salmon and fly fishing for Steelhead trout and other migratory ocean going fish. For many years anglers have traveled from all parts of the world to enjoy this great sporting attraction."

The destruction of the many miles of the river's best spawning grounds by these dams would make the necessary artificial reproduction of these species of fish entirely impracticable.

"The dam impoundment would tend to greatly increase the temperature of the water in the summer season, a threat to all salmonoid fish. Present river diversions have accounted for water temperatures in the summer season that are dangerously close to the maximum under which these fish can exist."

"The impounding of water behind the dams, plus the diversion of waters from the surface of the irrigation reservoir with the resulting percolation of water from irrigated lands back to the river, coupled with the reduction of river flow in the hot weather months below the lower dam, will cause river temperatures to pass considerably above this maximum point."

"The storage of the higher dam waters behind the higher dam would establish an even flow of water below the dam thus causing the stream to become a stony, mossy, algae infested flow lacking of winter flood waters to scour out a clean beautiful stream as it presently exists."

"Government engineers advise that the fall and course of Rogue river is such that any large expenditure for flood control would be economically unsound."

"No demand or need for additional power developments exists in the Rogue River Basin."

"The Oregon State Game Commission's recent survey of the commercial advantages of Rogue river as a recreational stream, (based on 1940 figures), declares the direct income to the Rogue river basin area to be more than \$1,000,000.00 per year. This does not include indirect income to southern Oregon cities in their various lines of business. The Game Commission officially opposes any further dam construction in Rogue river and cites its many reasons for its opposition in a report as of April 30, 1945."

"Rogue river furnishes the major stream recreational advantages for all people in Jackson, Josephine and Curry counties in southwestern Oregon and for hundreds of thousands of people from other parts of the United States. Close to the centers of population of southwestern Oregon counties, the river affords camping, fishing and bathing facilities to the majority of these people who are unable to afford long and expensive vacations to distant resorts where similar advantages are available. To destroy the many miles of present river frontage by the proposed damming of the river for storage impoundment would be a loss to the communities in the Rogue River Basin and to the entire State of Oregon that never could be replaced."

"Admitting the right of any commercially activated group to extend its operations for its own profit or even for fantastic schemes for real estate promotion, the Izaak Walton League takes the stand that the invasion of the general public's rivers and outdoor recreational benefits for such purposes is selfish in its principle and confiscatory in its very nature."

"These are some of the reasons why the Izaak Walton League throughout the United States, in cooperation with the Oregon State Chapter of the league and the other wild life conservation organizations throughout the state of Oregon are supporting the Oregon State Game Commission in opposition to any further dam construction on Rogue river."

Valley Sailors Are Pals Aboard Noted Warship Missouri

James Doe, F1/c, and Robert Dale Kenney, F2/c, were serving on the USS Missouri at the time official news of the Japanese surrender was received. Doe, whose mother, Mrs. Z. M. Doe, resides at 146 South Holly street, and Kenney, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Kenney, Jacksonville, have been on the Missouri for some time and are pals aboard ship. Both have been on the famous battlewagon for about nine months.

The boys' parents recently received a printed form letter issued by the crew of the Missouri in which they told some of their experiences aboard ship and of their celebration when peace was declared.

Mrs. Kenney said she heard her son speak on a radio broadcast from the Missouri at the time of the signing of peace documents.

MEDFORD YOUTHS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NAVY CHOICE

A group of Medford youths have taken advantage of the navy's new enlistment plan and joined the regular navy in Portland Sept. 8 according to Chief Stewart, recruiter in charge of the Medford recruiting station. Enlisting were Robert Lee Wobbe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Wobbe, 906 West Eleventh street; Byron Richard Ellis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Byron N. Ellis, Route 4, Box 7, Medford; Richard Dean Kennedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Kennedy, 503 Haven street, and Louis E. Greenwell, Jr., son of Mrs. Adrienne E. Haymon, Cargill Court, Medford.

Navy recruiting stations throughout the nation are initiating an all-out drive for voluntary enlistments, particularly in the regular navy, among men in the age group of 17 to 30 inclusive since President Truman's order lifting the ban against voluntary enlistments in draft ages, a navy release states. The drive is designed to speed demobilization of men with long war service, to reduce the navy's calls through selective service and at the same time to enable the navy to fulfill its extensive responsibilities through the transition

period and beyond. The term of enlistment in the regular navy has been reduced from six years to four and physical standards have been lowered. In addition, men between the ages of 17 and 30 may now enlist in the naval reserve without further reference to selective service or other wartime controls.

THE GRANGE

Eagle Point Grange
Master G. E. Ousterhout presided at regular meeting of Eagle Point Grange Sept. 4. Mrs. Humphreys read an article on Noah's Ark.

Lecture hour was taken over by H.E.C. Mrs. Mathews, the president, announced the following numbers:

Songs with accordion accompaniment by Bill Holmen; readings, Mrs. Clave, Mrs. Werts, Mrs. Davies; old time tunes on the violin, by Ed Cowden; play, "Ladies Choice," by Mrs. Chamberlain, Hubbel and Beebe; saxophone solo, by Richard McCorkle.

Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke and son William took 1st and 2nd degrees.

H.E.C. will meet at Mr. and Mrs. Wertz's home Sept. 19 all day. The men are invited. The hostess will furnish meat and dessert. Please bring what you

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 1945 MEDFORD MAIL-TRIBUNE—FIVE

wish and be at the Grange Hall at 10 a. m.

Serving committee for next Grange will be Mr. and Mrs. Ed Russell and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Beebe.

TIMOR JAPS SIGN
Sydney, Sept. 12 — (U.P.) — The Japanese surrender of Dutch Timor was signed at noon today on the quarterdeck of the Australian Warship Moresby in Koepang Harbor, Timor, in the Malay Archipelago, is the largest and most important of the lesser Sunda islands.

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Boys' Felt SKULL CAP Large variety of colors and color combinations to choose from. Regular 15c Jumbo Value 7c	Hershey's MILK CHOCOLATE Candy Bars 5c Orbit Gum 5c Mint Filled Peanut Clusters 50c lb. Orange Slices 25c lb. Wooden Clothes Pins ... 20 for 10c Steel Straight Pins 10c pkg. Fountain Pens \$1.00 We Reserve the Right to Limit These Items	Ladies' RUBBER GLOVES For Fruit Work and general household use. Regular 58c Jumbo Value 37c
Delicious Lemon Flavored PECTIN SQUARES Regular 70c lb. Jumbo Value 48c	Children's PLAID DRESSES Size 7 to 14—A Special Lot Only \$1.85	Candy Covered FRUIT & NUT MIX Regular 50c lb. Jumbo Value 28c lb.
STICK HORSE Colorful head with two-wheel base. Leather reins—Regular 69c Jumbo Value 57c	TOY WAGONS Made of 7-ply veneer. Well constructed. Regular \$1.89 Jumbo Value \$1.47	Toy Wheelbarrows Wood with Masonite sides. Sturdy construction—Regular 98c Jumbo Value Only 77c

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