

Motorloggers Tote Geiger Counter Up Rogue River on Mail Boat Trip

Scenic Wonders More Plentiful Than Uranium

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing June 19 in The Sunday Oregonian Northwest roto magazine. It is one of an annual series sponsored jointly by the Oregon State Motor Association and The Oregonian.

BY RICHARD NOKES
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Time was, in the memory of not-so-old inhabitants, that the only way to reach Agness, upriver on the Rogue 32 miles from Gold Beach and Wedderburn, was by sailing and poling flat-bottomed boats.

Then 35-odd years ago the outboard motor replaced the sails on boats going up the raging river.

Progress took another step 20 years ago. That was the year the first motor vehicle—a tractor—reached Agness overland. A CCC crew worked three days to push that tractor the last 11 miles through mountain and forest.

Then the forest service in 1937 drove the first road through to Agness from Powers and motorists began driving into America's last frontier.

Next spring a new mode of transportation will reach Agness—the airplane.

Just about everything that has come to this wild country has come by boat. Even the first automobile.

That happened shortly before the Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor Association began co-operating in motorlogging the West a quarter of a century ago.

Edward M. Miller, now assistant managing editor, learned in 1928 that there existed a man in Oregon who had never seen a real car. He was the postmaster at Agness, the late George W. Rilea.



Bill Nokes (right) tests rocks for possible uranium on banks of Rogue river near Agness while brother Greg baits fish line.

Miller persuaded a Chevrolet dealer to put a new roadster aboard one of the flat-bottomed boats that ran the Rogue.

There was a considerable hullabaloo among the dozen residents of Agness when the boat carrying the automobile pick-a-back mastered the last riffle and put onto the beach.

We felt sort of like pioneers one recent day as we stood with our fishing tackle, luggage and Geiger counter in the boat-house at Wedderburn waiting to ride up to Agness.

We had thought our Geiger counter (rented in Portland at \$3.50 a day) might be the first to investigate the possibilities of pitchblende or other hot rocks up the Rogue gorge.

Uranium Claims Filled

In that we were disappointed. Old-timer Hickford Messervy and some others gathered around our Geiger counter at the boat dock, and I talked knowingly of what I had read the night before in an atomic energy commission handbook on how to hunt uranium. I felt taken aback when Messervy said he and 12 others were interested in a claim at the Lost Soldier mine some 16 miles up Tom East creek north of the Rogue.

And later I learned from Mrs. Oleta A. Walker, Curry county clerk at Gold Beach, that "the woods are full" of uranium hunters. She said Harris state park nearby had been pretty well staked, but she thought none of the samples that had been tested had turned up any uranium.

The mail boats (one or more

depending on the demand) leave Wedderburn, which is on the north side of the Rogue across from Gold Beach, daily at 8:30 a. m. and return about 3 p. m. Passengers may make the round trip at \$4 a head. Reservations should be made in advance.

In the shallow water season the 32-mile trip upstream is a three-hour battle against riffles and gravel bars where the boatman has to spit over the side to get water to float his boat. The scenery, mile after mile of mountain and virgin forest, is incomparable.

The mail boat lands at the Singing Springs ranch dock and on a gravel beach just below Lucas hotel. The passengers not interested in fishing or uranium hunting may remain at Singing Springs for a truly delightful chicken dinner (\$2 for a plentiful serving).

Most of the 25 to 35 persons who come upriver in each mail boat will return when the boat shoves off from Agness at 1:15 p. m.

For those who want to stay, as we did, there is the Lucas hotel at the end of Cougar lane. And to our way of thinking this is the real Agness.

It was shortly before dinner our first night that we took our Geiger counter out. We searched diligently along the banks of the Rogue and a short distance up the Illinois river, beautiful green water that loses itself in the Rogue at Agness.

The only valuable rocks we found were a couple of agates that we have added to our unpolished collection contained in buckets in a dark corner of our basement.

Witness Declares UCLA Coeds Posed For Nude Photos

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—A blonde divorcee has told the Senate Sub-committee on Juvenile Delinquency that many of the models used in a million-dollar a year nude film and photography business here were UCLA co-eds.

The witness, Mary Dorothy Tager, 44, of Balboa, Calif., testified Saturday before the committee headed by Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.)

On Probation
Mrs. Tager said she and her former husband and a third partner made \$3000 to \$4000 daily from nude pictures and films from 1948 through 1951. She is on probation on a conviction of sending obscene literature through the mails in Rhode Island.

"Most of the models we used came from UCLA," Mrs. Tager testified.

She said 60 per cent of the customers on the firm's mailing list were doctors and professional men and "some of them claimed they were artists."

Mrs. Tager, mother of two teen-agers, said the coeds posed in exchange for free photographs of themselves in street clothes. "You didn't have to go to them," she said. "They came to you. The girls would pose for practically nothing."

The Senate committee conducted its four-day hearing into an alleged \$300,000,000 nationwide business in "smut."

Cause of Crime Increase
Kefauver said he believed that pornography was the cause of a recent 100 per cent rise in juvenile sex crimes.

He said his group would recommend to Congress that production of sexy films be cut down and also would suggest several changes in the motion picture advertising code.

Geoffrey Sherlock, director of the Motion Picture Production Code, said he believed the Senate investigation "has done the industry much good in calling attention to mistakes which have been made."

Colorado Publisher Elected by NEA

Banff, Alta. — (U.P.) — Don Hardy, publisher of the Canon City, Colo., Record, was elected president of the National Editorial Association at the group's 70th annual meeting yesterday.

Hardy succeeded Ed M. Anderson of Forest City, N. C., who presided over the three-day convention attended by some 300 editors and publishers of U.S. daily and weekly newspapers and their wives. Anderson was named chairman of the board. A. W. Epperson of Morgan, Utah, was named vice-president, succeeding Hardy. E. W. Briles of Stafford, Kan., was reelected treasurer.

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'Tain't So, Danny Claims; Denies HRH Called 'Honey'

London — (U.P.) — Danny Kaye today denied reports he had called Princess Margaret "Honey."

The allegation was made by Sunday Pictorial columnist Rex North who headlined his outraged dispatch "H. R. H. Honey."

Even the princess' best friends call her "Your Royal Highness" or "Ma'am" — including her male escorts.

But columnist North said comedian Kaye greeted her backstage at the Palladium with "Hello, Honey. I didn't expect to see you back here."

The Pictorial added: "H.R.H. Honey . . . taken aback . . . swallowed once or twice and countered, if a little limply, with "Hello Danny."

Not so, Kayes said today. He said it was untrue that he greeted his royal admirer with such a familiar word as honey — "I know better than that. I call the princess Ma'am."

"Why they drag things up like that I don't know," he said. "It's not funny."

Not only that, he said, but "these silly rumors annoy me."

Strong Quake Recorded Near Aleutian Islands

Weston, Mass. — (U.P.) — A "strong" earthquake probably on the ocean floor off the Aleutian Islands, was recorded today on instruments at the Boston College seismograph station here.

Weston officials said the quake was recorded at 6:18.25 PST and was some 4765 miles northwest of Boston.

FOE Auxiliary Holds Initiation

Mrs. Pearl Hannaford was initiated into the Fraternal Order of Eagles' auxiliary at a meeting last Thursday. Following the meeting, members of the auxiliary joined the men for square dancing and refreshments.

Tuesday evening, June 21, a meeting of auxiliary officers is scheduled, and all committee chairmen are asked to meet with the officers at 7:30 p.m. No meeting is scheduled for June 23, as the state convention opens that day in Roseburg. The next meeting will be June 30.

Middlebury, Conn. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Raymond Grant's diamond engagement ring is back on her hand after 23 years. A relative found it while digging in his back yard.

Heppner Man President of ONPA

Roseburg — (U.P.) — Robert Penland of the Heppner Gazette Times Saturday was elected president of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association at the group's annual convention here.

Penland replaces Lucien P. Arant of the Baker Democrat Herald.

Other officers include: M. J. Frey of The Oregonian, first vice-president; C. L. McKinley of the Junction City Times, treasurer, and Carl Webb, who was re-elected secretary-manager.

Arthur Lowe of the Corvallis Gazette-Times was elected as a director to replace McKinley. Other directors, who were re-elected, include Philip Bladine of the McMinnville News-Register; Ed Comas of the Woodburn Independent; Hal Schlitz of the Myrtle Creek Mail; Fred Weybret of the LaGrande Evening Observer, and Charles T. Duncan, acting dean of the journalism school at the University of Oregon.

Degree of Honor To Meet Tuesday

Degree of Honor Protective association will meet Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Tarr, 1620 Prune street. A covered dish dinner will be served, and members are to take table service.



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