

Sen. Lowry States Dog Racing Brings Political Effects

(Editor's note: The county court is expected tomorrow to give a decision on its recommendation to the state racing commission regarding the licensing of dog racing in Jackson county, which has been proposed by a group of Medford and Ashland men. They will base their decision on testimony given at a public hearing held here Friday morning, and on letters and other expressions of opinion from local people. Among the letters is one prepared by State Sen. Philip B. Lowry which, because of its special interest and the background it gives on certain phases of the proposal, is published here. The letter was addressed to the three members of the county court.)

Gentlemen:

This letter is written to you in connection with a petition filed with the Jackson county court to establish racing and a system of pari-mutual wagering in Jackson county, Oregon.

No doubt the moral, legal and economic issues here involved will be, or already have been, brought to the attention of the court. I believe that these considerations, standing alone or in combination, will fully justify this court in denying the petition before you.

Political Consideration

There is, however, in my view, an equally compelling and additional ground for denying this petition — that is the political consideration.

My recent experience at the Oregon legislature gave me an opportunity to observe certain definite political evils that will flow from the licensing of racing, and its attendant pari-mutuel betting, in any part of the state. The inevitable result is that the racing and allied interests succeed in piercing and infiltrating the fabric of government wherever a government compromises with such enterprises by licensing them.

Historically, gambling and pari-mutuel betting appear to have gained footholds through government authorization by the illusory promise of revenues to that government. It is always argued that it is a method of easing the tax burden or avoiding tax increases. This argument, however, is most fallacious. It may remain true for a time, and, then, to the extent that these people can penetrate and control the government they set about running it to suit themselves.

Steady Expansion Effort

Dog and horse racing with pari-mutuel betting fortunately have heretofore been confined to northern Oregon. A steady effort has been going on to introduce such operations into the populous Willamette valley. Thus far the residents there have succeeded in fighting it off. We see in this petition an effort to spread this pattern into southern Oregon.

It is the stock in trade of the pari-mutuel operators that their activities in Oregon have been clean. Notwithstanding this claim, the racing interests sponsored a series of bills at the last session of the legislature which were said to be for the purpose of allowing them to clean up some of the mess which goes along with this sort of business. One bill provided that any employee of the race track could order anyone off the premises with or without cause. This was said to be necessary because unlicensed bookmakers were operating in the stands, with the result that a substantial amount of betting was not going through the pari-mutuel windows. Another bill provided that the employees of the tracks would be Oregon state employees, paid by the state of Oregon. It was represented that this would enable the operators to overcome the evils that had arisen through the employment of privately engaged personnel.

Beat Tax Increase

The most significant fact to me, however, was that the pari-mutuel betting interests succeeded in beating a determined effort by a number of legislators to increase the taxes on pari-mutuel betting. This demonstrates the power and influence of these interests when you stop to consider that individual income tax payers were given a 50 per cent. life insurance, fire insurance and casualty insurance taxes were increased and previously exempt organizations were taxed for the first time.

The records of the legislature indicate that I moved in the Senate tax committee that that committee present a motion on the floor of the Senate to take the bill amending Oregon Revised Statutes 462.060 from the calendar and re-refer it to the Senate tax committee for the purpose of considering a tax increase on pari-mutuel wagering. Both motions were successful because they were unexpected. Within hours the racing lobby went into action and the formidable opposition to the proposed tax increase took shape. The chairman of the Senate tax committee, the same day, received a telegram from Mr. Kyne in California, threatening not to open Portland Meadows, if we persisted in our

efforts. San Francisco lawyers appeared at the hearings which followed before the Senate tax committee. Opposition from all parts of Oregon to the proposed tax increase were soon heard.

Funds Divided

To understand the Oregon opposition, it is necessary to know how the racing revenues paid to the state are divided. Two-fifths of the racing tax goes to the state general fund. The remainder in any one year is divided as follows:

\$35,000.00 to Oregon State Fair
\$35,000.00 to Pacific International Livestock Exposition held in North Portland
\$7,500.00 to the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show at Union
\$5,000.00 to the Mid-Columbia Livestock Show at The Dalles
\$7,500.00 to the Pendleton Roundup at Pendleton
\$2,400.00 to the Northwestern Turkey Show in Douglas County
\$5,000.00 to the Klamath Basin Roundup Association, Klamath County
\$2,500.00 to the Spring Lamb and Derby Show at Canby
\$2,400.00 to the Pacific Coast Turkey Exhibit in Yamhill County
\$2,500.00 to the Oregon State Corn Show to be held under the direction of the Director of the Department of Agriculture of Oregon State College

Any remainder is appropriated to the several counties in equal parts, for the benefit of their county fairs.

The naming of these beneficiaries through this pork barrel device of course creates a tailor-made and seemingly reputable lobby for the racing lobby. These Oregon organizations, in effect, become puppets for their racing masters. Many of them seem to feel that their very existence is dependent upon pari-mutuel betting. Any intervention by the legislature into the established setup provokes the immediate opposition of many of those receiving a hand out. Many of them only need to be alerted by the Salem racing lobby to rise to the occasion.

Reluctant With Books

The hearings before the Senate tax committee were of extreme interest to me. They revealed that the Senate tax committee could only secure the books and records of the Multnomah Kennel club to examine their earnings if the stockholders approved. This, despite the fact that the skyscraper organizations, private utilities and insurance companies had all given such information without hesitation. Upon my request for a balance sheet and profit and loss statement, Mr. Kemp of the Multnomah Kennel club did on the following day produce a document which showed that the racing corporation had sustained tremendous book losses. Further interrogation revealed, however, that this corporation, which has a dog racing license at the suffrage of the state only, had paid a \$100,000 dividend in December, 1934. A final and grudging production of additional records of this corporation showed it to have paid about 100 per cent on the investment in each year since it started in 1933.

The Senate tax committee and the Senate passed the bill increasing the taxes on pari-mutuel betting. Word was passed along that we were wasting our time because things were prepared in the House. This proved to be true, although many members of the House would have supported the tax increase, had they been given an opportunity to vote upon it. The House refused to concur in the Senate amendments to the original House bill and in the course of conference committees the tax increase on pari-mutuel betting in the bill was eliminated and the bill was then re-passed.

This was a convincing demonstration to me of the fact that gambling and good government do not mix any better than gasoline and alcohol on our highways.

For this reason, and the others above noted, I earnestly solicit the court to deny the petition pending before it.

Your very truly,
Philip B. Lowry

POPULATION GAIN

Washington — Population of the U. S. has gained one-fifth since 1940, and at the same time the number of children has increased by about two-thirds.



SCOUT CAMP SCENE — The picture above, taken at an earlier session of Boy Scout summer camp at Camp McLoughlin, is typical of the activities which take place each year. It shows the Protestant service conducted each Sunday at the natural chapel in the

woods. A one-week camping period for Explorer Scouts only opens this week, and the regular five one-week periods will begin next month. A history of the scout camp work in southern Oregon is given in the accompanying article.

Boy Scout Summer Camp Nears; History of Organization Told

More than 650 Boy Scouts and Explorers of the Crater Lake Area council, including Josephine and Jackson counties in Oregon and Siskiyou county in California, will attend Camp McLoughlin at the Lake O' Woods this summer.

The camp is located on the northern end of the west side of this beautiful lake in the Rogue River National forest.

Camping in this council has had a varied history. The first organized Scout camp that the records show was held in 1924 at Diamond lake with 105 campers. It cost each scout \$5 per week, but it actually cost the council \$8.25 per scout. This camp was held before the formal organization of the Crater Lake council.

In 1925 Camp Hy-U-Sku-Kum was held at the Lake O' Woods with 76 scouts attending. From 1926 to 1929, the camp was held on the Applegate river, opposite the Star Ranger station.

Present Camp Secured

In 1930 the present camp area at the Lake O' Woods was secured. The Crater Lake council then included Klamath, Lake, Josephine and Jackson counties. In 1933 there was no camp held because no scout executive was employed in the area. After the formation of Modoc council with Klamath Falls as headquarters, the two councils used the camp together for a while. Later each council took part of the summer for their own scouts.

In 1937 the Crater Lake council purchased the Modoc council's share of Camp McLoughlin, with Mel Hogan heading the Medford group handling arrangements, under the direction of Larry Schade Sr., president of the council for many years. Many improvements were made at the camp during the next few years. It reached a maximum capacity of 90 campers and 10 staff members per week.

Five Year Plan Laid

In 1949 a complete study and a five year development plan was adopted by the council. George C. Flanagan was chairman of the long range plan and then was made camping chairman. It is under his leadership as camping chairman that the camp has been remodeled. In 1951, the new dining hall called Elk lodge was completed. It is designed for 200 campers and staff.

From one large circle of tents and cabins for 90 campers, the camping area has been dispersed to form seven smaller troop sites which house 24 scouts in three tents in each site, for a total capacity of 168 camping scouts per week. In addition to this there is one special troop site. A troop furnishing its own leadership, tents and food may use this special troop site at no cost and still participate in all the program and activities at camp.

New Dock

A new waterfront dock was completed and also the new, well-equipped hot water shower house was built last year. Many other improvements and additions to camp have been made in the five year camp development. Water was piped to each camp site, a new electric power system and two new power motors have been added to assure full electricity for the dining hall at all times plus many other items that now make Camp McLoughlin one of the most outstanding camps in the country.

A new troop site was completed this year called Modoc. This area has been previously used for troops and Scouter families who do their own cooking at camp. A new area has been secured for the troop camping and family area. One of the old buildings has been remodeled to form new living quarters for the Explorer Scouts who are serving on the camp staff in the kitchen and dining room.

A new experiment is being

conducted this week, June 28 to July 3, at the request of the Explorers in the council. Explorers are the young men in the Scout program who are 14 years old and over. A week of camp for Explorers only will be held. They will plan their own program and activities, including advancement, mountaineering, hiking, expeditions into many new areas, waterfront and field sports.

"This is an entirely new and interesting program," Flanagan explained, "and about 60 Explorers will take part in this special event."

July 5 to 10 is designated as staff training week for the men who will serve on the regular camp staff during which the program facilities will be completed.

The 1955 camp staff includes Fred McMullin, field executive of the Crater Lake council, as camp director. He is serving his third year in this capacity. Robert Stothers is returning as program director after serving in the Army. He has been active on the camp staff in many capacities since 1946.

Larry Hammond, Post 8, Medford, will serve as activities director and will be assisted by Gary Kliever and John Van Dyke of Post 3, Medford. Pat Niles of Grants Pass is the aquatics director and is returning after serving in the Navy. Assisting him is Wilson Gilinsky, Troop 9, and Wayne Breeze, of Post 8. Jim Dunn of Jerome Prairie is the field sports director. Quentin Spangler of Post 21, Grants Pass, is the archery instructor. Don Weber of Troop 9 is again serving as the camp clerk and bookkeeper. Dennis Patton of Post 3 will be the new trading post manager. Carl Gordon, Post 8, is serving his first year as handicraft director. Dick Swinney, Post 8, will be the camp truck driver.

Mrs. Paul Throne of Gold Hill is again serving as the cook. This year she will be assisted by her husband.

As Leaders

Many Explorer Scouts are serving one to two weeks each as provisional unit leaders and as assistant stewards in the kitchen and dining hall.

Henry Van Berger is returning for his 18th year as the camp engineer and caretaker.

The Crater Lake Area council sent four of the men from the camp staff to a National Camp Staff school for a week of special training in program development. Robert Stothers attended the program and activities development session; Carl Gordon participated in the handicraft training; Pat Niles and Wilson Gilinsky attended the aquatics school. This school was held near Tillamook, Ore., in the Portland area at Camp Meriwether on the coast.

For Five Weeks

The Boy Scout Camp proper will be held for five weeks starting on July 10 and changing periods each Sunday until Aug. 14. Many doctors in Jackson county have volunteered their time to come to camp each Sunday and recheck the incoming scouts for contagious diseases or other last-minute ailments that a boy may develop just before coming to camp.

Many ministers of the Protestant faith come to camp on

Sunday morning and conduct church services to help the scout in his oath and law—"A Scout is Reverent." The Catholic scouts travel to Klamath Falls, Medford or Ashland for their services.

Radio Used

One of the special precautions that is taken at Camp McLoughlin is the short wave radio that is tuned with the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association station in Medford for any emergencies. Lewis "Doc" Simpson has directed this program for several years. "We believe that Camp McLoughlin is the only camp in America that is equipped and prepared in this way," Sam Taylor, assistant camp chairman and one of the men who has helped build the well planned camp, has said.

The scout attends camp with his troop, or, in some cases, as an individual. He arrives at camp after the noon meal and before 3 p. m. on Sunday. He may be brought to camp by his parents who wish to see the camp. "This year we hope that all the parents of scouts will visit Camp and see the facilities and program for their son," stated Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of the Crater Lake Area council. "They will have a better understanding of the program and will be proud to have their son there." The camp period ends Sunday after the big noon meal and most of the scouts ride home with the parents of the boys just arriving in camp. Transportation is furnished by the scouts themselves.

Waterfront Popular

The waterfront is one of the popular sports at camp. The scouts are taught swimming, life saving, canoeing, rowing and many aquatic sports. Personal attention is given to scouts who cannot swim as well as to those who are beginning swimmers, by trained instructors. Safety is stressed at all times.

The activities staff is also well schooled. Pioneering, outdoor cooking, camping, hiking, compass training, axmanship and ropework are just a few of their skills and abilities.

In the field sports, there is the rifle range for safety instruction in firearms, as well as the handling and shooting by each Scout. Archery will again be popular and has an added feature of field shooting at animal targets set throughout the archery area. The new sport that was added last year will be more popular than ever. It is called Mo-Sheet, using a 22 calibre rifle bird shot fired at small clay pigeons. Also in the field sports will be a new feature, plug casting and fly casting instructions.

Hikes Conducted

Another popular activity held each year is that of hiking to other lakes and climbing Mt. McLoughlin.

Scout advancement is stressed under the leadership of the camp staff, who assist the scoutmasters of the troops.

The first and fifth periods are the only periods open to troops and scouts who are not already registered for camp. If a scout who has not yet made his camp reservation belongs to a troop that has registered for camp in a period that is now full, his registration will still be accepted for that period so that he may attend camp with his unit.

Mail Tribune Carriers Enjoy Deep Sea Fishing Experiences

By DICK SIMONSON
Mail Tribune Circulation Department

Last Saturday 34 carriers of the Mail Tribune proved that they were more than just paper boys. They spent the day deep-sea fishing at Crescent City and brought back nearly 500 pounds of assorted salt-water fish to show for their effort.

It all started when a big Greyhound bus parked in front of the Tribune office and soon every seat was taken by a potential fisherman. They were all so eager to get to their destination that every few minutes one would ask the driver if he couldn't go any faster.

Boys' Refuel

Near the California border we made a "refueling stop." By "refueling stop" I mean that all the boys replenished their supply of candy, cookies, pop, peanuts, milkshakes and anything else the cafe had for sale.

A few miles ahead the winding mountain road caused a few to feel the effect of eating too much. One fellow having a rather bad time keeping his supper anyway was the point of a rather timely joke. For some reason all was quiet for a moment and then one of his friends spoke to him, "Hey Chuck, want another cookie?"

We had hardly stopped laughing over this when a stop was made at the California inspection station. The inspector came aboard and every boy had a comment for him. I remember him asking one fellow if he had any oranges in his suitcase. The reply was, "No, but I have a horned toad in my pocket."

Upon arrival at Crescent City they engulfed the Surf hotel and within minutes the sound of running feet could be heard in the halls as all were out exploring the surroundings. For many it was the first time away from their families and this was their big chance to be on their own.

More to Eat

Even knowing that they would have to rise at 6 a. m. didn't have any effect upon causing them to settle down. From out of the suitcases came more delicacies to eat, and everything from playing cards to monopoly sets to provide the excuse for staying up until the wee hours of the morning.

Once I paused and knocked at a door that filtered sounds of at least five or six boys. After a scurry of footsteps there came the question "Who is it?" "Police," I answered in a husky voice. Immediately there was a commotion and from within came the answer, "We didn't do anything." "Open the door," I insisted. Trembling hands finally turned the key and as the door opened all were sitting around the room in a very orderly fashion.

At first there was the look of astonishment on their faces but then broke out in laughter when they saw it was me instead of the police. After an onslaught of remarks everything settled back down to a mild roar. And so far into the night one would hear running footsteps or muffled voices behind doors.

Down to Beach

A scant few hours later I was awakened by the noise of running out in the hall and a conversation between several of them trying to figure out where my room was so they could wake me up. Long before breakfast most were out of the hotel and down to the beach seeing what if anything had been left by the receding tide.

The word that breakfast was ready spread like fire in gasoline, and the aroma of fresh bacon and eggs brought all running to sit down for a few moments.

A passing policeman on his early morning beat stuck his head into the dining room and was met with a barrage of remarks about everything from why it was foggy outside to the price of tea in China. Soon all were outside and ready to fish.

Visit Aquariums

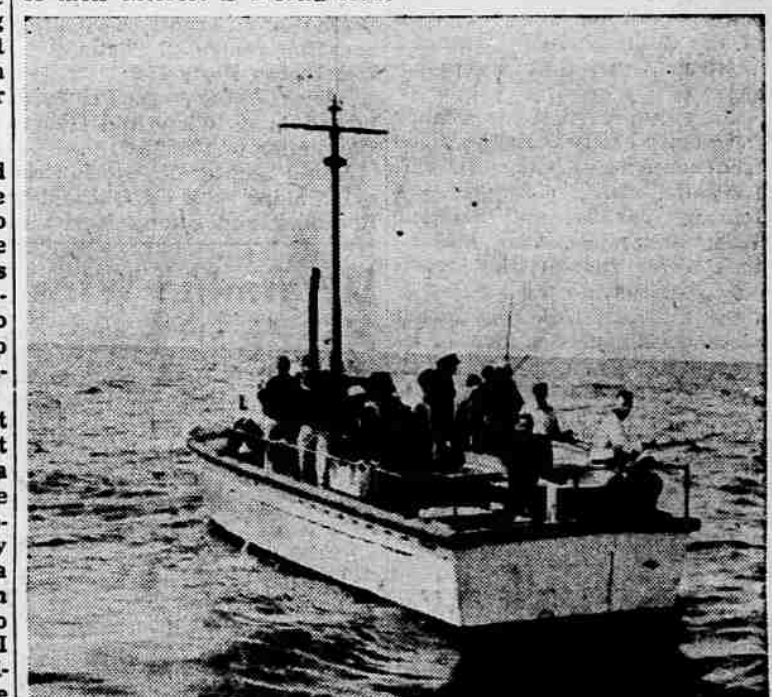
One group didn't get to do their fishing until the afternoon, so we explored the beach, found starfish, snails and baby lobsters under the rocks. A visit to the aquarium completed the morning and all were starved when

the other two groups returned at noon.

In the afternoon the third group went fishing and after a slow start caught more fish than either of the boats did in the morning. Seasick pills were given to all in my group except me. And who couldn't take it? Yours truly — the old sea dog. All had a swell time and many of the mothers will remember for a long time the after effects of their son's first deep sea fishing trip — staying up most of the night cleaning the darned fish!



EXPLORATION ON BEACH — Four of the Mail Tribune carrier boys who last week end went to Crescent City for a deep sea fishing trip are shown above as they explored the beach during a non-fishing moment. Left to right they are Bill Young, Kenneth Brookman, Keith Harrison and Leslie Little. The object of their interest is a sand crab.



MORNING SHIFT — Boys in the Mail Tribune party were divided into three groups and fished at separate times. Shown above is the boat carrying group No. 1, who fished the waters of the Pacific off Crescent City from 7:30 a. m. to noon.



ANY BITES? — Group No. 3 of the young fishermen was on the water from noon to 6 p. m., collecting a substantial number of fish and a lot of peeled noses. A close-up view of the fishermen is shown above. None of the younger boys got seasick, perhaps due to the fact they all were furnished seasick pills.

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