

George Putnam Writes Of Good-Roads Fights

Editor's note: George Putnam, editor emeritus of the Salem Capital-Journal and one-time editor and publisher of the Medford Mail Tribune, is now writing a column for the Salem paper, much of it devoted to reminiscences of earlier days in Jackson county. He has given the Mail Tribune permission to quote from his column, and portions of his writings of interest in southern Oregon will be printed here from time to time. The first of these articles appear below.

By GEORGE PUTNAM

To appreciate what a magnificent highway system Oregon has, one must travel over it. To more fully appreciate it one must have traveled the road in the horse and wagon days of half a century or more ago and only octogenarians like the writer can do this.

Having just returned from a four-day trip with stops to visit friends the world they know so well dubs "old," old personally in years, but not in spirit, in Eugene and Medford, thence home via Crater Lake and Bend, the writer feels qualified by past experiences to form judgment.

New Road

The only rough section traversed on Highway 99 between Salem and Medford was on the Myrtle Creek section, some miles south of Roseburg, where a new, wider road is under construction to eliminate angles and sharp curves of the old.

Between Medford and Crater Lake, resurfacing in two small sections only slows the speeders. Between Crater Lake and Bend resurfacing and some new construction nearing completion on a few miles makes rough going. Many long tangents make speedways.

All the region traversed seems prosperous. The lumber boom continues in both Eugene and Medford and in central Oregon, supplemented by good crop yields. Harvesting of the 3 1/2 million box Medford pear crop got underway late because a cold spring delayed sizing but the quality is superior. A surplus of potatoes looms in central Oregon.

Long Fight

The fight for good roads was a long one in Oregon lasting many years against strong opposition from those they meant most to. The battle for a road to Crater Lake was a fair example. In 1909 the writer and the late Dr. J. M. Keane, formerly of Salem representing Medford, spent nearly the entire session of the 1909 legislature lobbying through a Crater Lake road bill. It provided that the state of Oregon contribute \$100,000 and the counties of Jackson and Klamath provide \$50,000 each for starting such a road.

The bill was jockeyed about at all sessions but was finally

passed in the closing hours. Governor Chamberlin refused to sign it saying it was unconstitutional. Told that the attorney-general had approved it, he replied: "We call him 'Old Necessity' because he knows no law." But he let it pass without signing.

Bill Enjoined

The bill was promptly enjoined by L. H. McMahon of Salem and the supreme court held it illegal because the constitution forbid counties to exceed the sum of \$5000 debt. This necessitated a fight for amendments to the constitution. Initiative bills were passed in 1910 to allow counties to exceed the \$5000 limit indebtedness when approved by vote of the people. In 1912 it was amended to limit

indebtedness to two per cent of assessed values. In 1919 to six per cent.

These amendments opened the way to highway development in Oregon. Governor Oswald West created a highway commission, consisting of members of the Board of Control to formulate a program. H. L. Bowlby was appointed first highway engineer.

Jackson county was the first county to start such a program. Under County Judge Frank L. TouVelle a \$500,000 bond issue was voted and first contracts let for the Pacific Highway 99, paving from Central Point to Ashland and grading a new highway over the Siskiyou mountains to California to replace the old toll road. Samuel Hill, who had campaigned for the bond

Is That So?

Making long-range plans for next year's vacation? Perhaps including a cross-country trip, visiting the national parks?

Custom, of course, decrees that you elect the months of June, July or August. And that's a downright shame. Then, al-



most half the population is on wheels and this means dangerous highway travel, overcrowded accommodations, the bother with reservations, often inflated hotel and motel prices. To say nothing of bad weather.

This is by way of extolling a sadly neglected month—September. Not only is September one of the choicest months of the year, but, from the standpoint of cooler temperature, rainfall, wind and all-around agreeable weather, September is the best in over three-fourths of the provinces and states. And, happily, not so many people know it.

Although September can be hot and humid, it is rarely hotter or more humid than July and August. It can be rainy, too, but the chances are it will be as dry as the two earlier months and certainly as far as thundershowers are concerned—there is no argument—September has far fewer.

By EUGENE BURNS

Ranger-Naturalist

warm in September—in fact, along most of our seacoasts, the seasonal peak of warmth is not reached before early September. However, because of their limited size, inland lakes and ponds tend to cool off somewhat in September—but even so, until late in the month most of them will still be above 65 degrees.

Farther north, along the Coast of New England and Eastern Canada, September days can be chilly, admittedly—but then, in this area it is not so unusual, either, to find chilly days in both July and August.

Highways Not Crowded

When these areas are chilly, the air can be wonderfully bracing. And if nights are cold, days can still be plenty warm; it is not unusual at all for Halifax and Portland to report higher temperatures than Atlantic City and Cape Cod.

Besides—and I don't mean to keep belaboring this point—in September highways are not crowded with teeming hordes of vacationers many made short-tempered by the heat which bothers children particularly, travel may be cheaper because many hotels and motels have reduced their high summer vacation rates; waitresses, less hurried and harried, can give better and quicker service; and for me, best of all, trout fishing has reached a new peak—together with the zest of oncoming fall, and trees afire with color.

Begin to see why I like September? But then, don't tip off to many—that would clutter up the highways and beaches and hotels and cafes, and rivers for all of us who cherish September vacations.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Snake River Dam Permits Requested

Washington —(U.P.)— Pacific Northwest Power company applied yesterday to the Federal Power commission for licenses to build two new dams on the Snake river.

The firm, a combination of four Northwest utility companies, asked permission to build dams at Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley on the middle Snake on the Idaho-Oregon boundary.

The two dams would cost a total of \$210,000,000 and would produce 1,446,000 kilowatts of power. Plans submitted with the application said construction would begin next March with the first power to be made available in 1959.

Pacific Northwest Power is composed of Washington Water Power Co., Pacific Power and Light, Montana Power and Light, and Portland General Electric company.

NAMED MANAGER'S AIDE

New York —(U.P.)—Thomas R. Curran, vice-president in charge of South American operations for the United Press for the past 12 years, was today named assistant general manager.

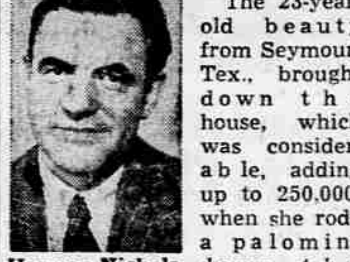
Wednesday, September 7, 1953

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Atlantic City, N. J. —(U.P.)— Miss Texas, June Prichard, stole the show in the annual Miss America parade Tuesday night on a borrowed horse.



Harman Nichols, United Press writer, is a specialist at straddling a pony. The 5-foot 6-inch cutie claims she was born aboard a bronc, and maybe she was. Any how, she grew up to be a right fine looking blonde with a bust of 37 inches, 37 hips—that's just about right with a 23-inch middle to match. At any rate, June grew up to

become known as Miss Texas in the Miss America Pageant, which gets under way here today.

You can hardly ignore the young lady from the Lone Star State. Don't be surprised if she is right up there.

Today the kids will compete in three categories—swim suit, evening gown and talent. In evening gown will be Miss Canada, Miss Chicago, Miss Connecticut, Miss Delaware, Miss District of Columbia, Miss Florida, Miss Indiana, Miss Kansas, Miss Mississippi, Miss Nevada, Miss North Carolina, Miss North Dakota, Miss Oregon, Miss South Carolina and Miss Texas.

In talent we will have Misses Alabama, California, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

In the swim suit there will be Misses Arkansas, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Mon-

tana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee and Utah.

There is only one winner. The 10 finalists will be announced Saturday night. From them five will be selected. And there you will find the kid who will pick up a \$5,000 scholarship, a hat-full of glory and a lot of other things.



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<p style="text-align: center;">6-Piece Bedroom Set</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Dresser lamps • Chest of Drawers • Vanity Dresser • Panel Bed • Box Spring and Mattress (good quality) <p>\$149.⁹⁵</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wrought Iron Floor Lamp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Enamel Base • Washable Parchment Shade • 3-Way Lighting • Glass Reflector Bowl <p>\$74.⁵</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Only—40 Inch Electric Range</p> <p>AUTOMATIC OVEN Reg. \$249.95 \$179.⁹⁵ Only \$5.95 Down</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">9' by 12' Part Wool Rugs</p> <p>Reg. \$79.95 \$49.⁸⁸</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6 Yr. Size Crib</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movable Springs • Drop Side <p>CRIB MATTRESS WITH PLASTIC COVER \$21.⁹⁵ \$9.⁴⁵</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clothes Basket</p> <p>Only 99^c</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Step Up & Cocktail TABLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAHOGANY • LIMED OAK <p>\$9.⁹⁵</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Strollettes</p> <p>With reclining... back with three adjustable positions. A wonderful buy at... \$14.⁹⁵</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">See Us for Your VENETIAN BLINDS NEEDS!</p> <p>Free Estimates</p>

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