

TABLE ROCK Flood Destruction Told

BY R. E. NEALON

Table Rock—The road to the Bybee bridge was open Friday morning, Dec. 24, after a 24 hour closure. The road bed shows the effect of a terrific beating, with a stretch of the black top torn up and rolled off the road bed, the big tile culvert partially uncovered, and boulders and logs scattered over the roadway.

During the high water two cars were stalled near the Bybee bridge, one being driven by Dick Reum, with his wife and small son as passengers. They were coming home from Medford about 9 p.m. Wednesday and would have made the crossing had he not tried to dodge a floating log, causing the car to slide off the crown of the road. A state trooper stationed at the bridge, assisted in getting Mrs. Reum and young son out of the car, then taking them to their home here. Later a wrecker arrived, which the trooper had called by radio, and the car, after some three hours in the water, was towed out. During the intervening time Dick was waiting in the car with the water steadily rising until it was in his lap, when the car was finally pulled out.

Telephone service, which was disrupted for the Table Rock Community and the Beagle district Wednesday night, when the cable crossing the river went down, was restored about 6 p.m. Friday.

Friends and relatives in other sections were somewhat anxious about our plight here during the high water, owing to radio reports about the community being isolated, with no telephone service, and no way of getting out. The truth is that the road north of Bybee bridge was closed to traffic about 36 hours, telephone service was out a little longer, the mail carrier missed one trip, and power service off a few hours. The Mail Tribune came a little earlier than usual, being carried by airplane to the Table Rock store. The real headache will come to those whose lands border on the river, when they begin to untangle and dig out miles of fence buried in sand, twisted and torn and covered with tons of debris. It will be hard to estimate the damage, as there are some things that cannot be repaired, such as crop land torn up and washed away, and sand piled on land in some places two feet or more deep.

Although this was considered by many as being a big flood, we have seen some that would make this one look small, and should the same conditions prevail, such as a heavy fall of snow on the valley floor, and in the mountains, later going off with a warm rain, the flood waters would come down much faster, owing to so much timber being taken from the water sheds during the last few years. As time goes on, and more timber is cut from the water sheds, and more people build their cozy little homes near the beautiful Rogue, we predict that some day, those who opposed flood control via "Plan A" on the river, will see that they missed the boat.

Flood waters swished through the two Allen homes near the river bank Wednesday night, 22 inches deep in the Jimmy Allen home, and 30 inches in the home of the senior Allens, which is a little nearer the river. The Jimmy Allens had left their home earlier and had gone to the home of their son in Sams valley, and the seniors to Medford. The water was deeper this time around the Allen home than any time since they have lived there, according to Mrs. Jimmy Allen.

The annual Christmas tree entertainment held last Friday night at the school house was well attended. The program, consisting of instrumental music, songs, including solos, quartets,

duets, group singing and readings, was appropriate and enjoyed. The little tots took an important part in the program, and did the parts assigned to them in a credible manner. Santa Claus managed to get through in spite of the weather, bringing presents to the boys and girls, who said they had been good, and giving a scare to the tiny tots who had not met him before.

Bill Bray, local farmer and auctioneer, recently purchased three acres of land with a business building and dwelling just across the road from his auction yard, where he will operate a service station, with possibilities of future development. Bill, who is busy with installing one of the best sets of scales in southern Oregon, says that at a recent auction sale he put some 950 cattle through the ring, some of them being trucked as far as Los Angeles.

The heavy downfall of rain which caused much anxiety in some parts of the valley, was most welcome in Sams Valley, where irrigation reservoirs are being filled that were only partially filled last winter, causing the irrigation season to be shortened somewhat the past summer.

The warning given by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce in a recent issue of the M. T. about the many so-called charitable agencies attempting to raise funds by mailing neckties, gadgets, etc., to persons and asking money in return, is well worth reading. The Portland Better Business Bureau, after an investigation found that most of these are run for profit, for the instigators, and very little, if any, of the money gets to the supposed recipients. So if you're wearing a necktie sent to you by mail and haven't sent in the dollar and twenty-five cents, don't let your conscience bother you. If you do this a few times they will take your name off their sucker list.

The Robert Sage family, residents of this community since shortly after the close of World War II, have purchased a new home in Medford at Oregon Terrace near the new Junior High school, and are moving this week to the new location.

A neighbors feed lot, filled with fat white-faced steers that cost 18 cents a pound when put on feed, are worth 15 cents according to buyers. Some 30 to 40 years ago, when hay was worth \$10 to \$12 a ton, we used to buy feeders on what was called a 3 cent margin, which if obtained at selling time, would give us a market for the hay at a little better than the going price. In the above case the margin is in the reverse.

The annual Christmas dinner gathering of the Bigham clan was held last Sunday at the Everett Brown home, with 43 members present.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Brood of Corvallis are visiting this week with Mrs. Brood's parents at the John Morris home.

The J. S. Richardsons and the R. E. Nealons were Christmas dinner guests at the Ernest Leavitt home on the Old Stage rd.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Kiefer and daughters, Lael, Karen, and Janet of Vancouver, Wash., were weekend visitors here at the home of Mrs. Kiefer's sister, Mrs. C. L. Goodwin. Other recent visitors at the Goodwin home were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Puro of Crescent City, Calif.

The reservoir recently constructed by Viggo Skou at Beagle to impound the run-off water from the north side of upper Table Rock, is now filled to capacity, which is 130 acre feet.

Found in Tou Velle park after flood waters had receded were several fish resembling gold and fish in color, but with the scales and mouth of a carp, and larger than the usual run of gold fish.

Coos County Highway Bids To Two Companies

Salem—(U.P.)—The State Highway commission has awarded a Coos county highway contract to Fred H. Slate Company, Ore., Ltd., and E. C. Hall Company, Portland, on low bid of \$306,278.50.

The job involves 1.36 miles of grading and paving on the Coquille-Rink creek section of the Coas Bay-Roseburg highway east from Coquille, and furnishing crushed material in stock pile.

Mrs. Timm, who rescued them from a small pool of water left by the flood, was puzzled as to what kind of fish they were. Bert Peck, an employee of the Oregon state game commission, explained that gold fish do somewhat resemble carp, and in some cases grow to be quite large.

County trucks and loading equipment being used at the gravel pit near the old military bridge site barely missed being trapped by the flood waters. They were taken out Wednesday about 10 p.m. just before the swift moving water reached there.

A break-down of man and lightning caused fires on federal and state lands in Oregon for 1955 gives 821 man caused, and 797 lightning. On the man caused 257 were charged to smokers. We notice that members of the Oregon State Horticultural society came out in favor of a general sales tax, but made no mention of the cigarette tax, to be voted on next election, which reminds us of a debate held at the Central Point Grange hall, before the election of 1947 when a state sales tax was on the ballot. Two Medford attorneys debated the issue. There was a sales tax on the same ballot that year, and the speaker for the affirmative in closing his argument for the cigarette sales tax on the ballot, but this he was opposed to because it would discriminate, as he might be the only person in a room full of people who smoked cigarettes, which he admitted he did, so would be the only one in the crowd paying the tax. We thought of a neighbor who had made several trips to Portland, and paid about \$200 for mechanical device to enable him to walk owing to arthritis, who would have been taxed under the bill this man was working for, although he probably could have been the only one among many, needing this service. As Bob Ruhl says, it makes a difference whose ox is being goled.

These are quotes from conversations we have heard lately that show the trend of the cattleman's thinking: "Charles Hill," Sams Valley farmer and stockman; "The farm business has got to where a person can sleep better if he don't figure too much." "Gerald Mitchell," Meadows cattleman, looking at a load of hay he had just bought: "When an old cow eats that load of hay, she has eat her head off." Meaning, the hay was worth more before she ate it than she is after she eats it. "Abe Halfhill," manager of Table Top Ranch, while cutting and wrapping big hunks of beef for the locker, "Can't sell these big steers, might as well try to eat them."

Mrs. Julia Myers celebrated her 95th birthday Saturday Dec. 31, at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Frank and Mary Myers, where she has resided for the past three years. We owe Mrs. Myers an apology, as we had given Mr. Davison the honor of being our oldest citizen on his 90th birthday last September. We offer this apology, with best wishes for a Happy Birthday and many more.

Sam Glass, the ex-marine, now taking a course in civil engineering at OSC is spending the holidays with home folks, and keeping his figure trim by helping with the farm work on the J. L. Nealon ranch here.



PROVING BANKERS have sense of humor, Karen McGuire, 12, admires horse given her by officials of New York's Handover Bank which sold Nashua for \$1,251,200. Karen, of Greenwich, Conn., bid \$24.03, all her savings, for Nashua, promising good care for horse if she got it. (International)

GOLD HILL Newlyweds Return to City

By MRS. AGNES HARRISON

Gold Hill—Dr. Stanley Brown and his bride, the former Miss Charlotte Moreland, Portland, returned to Gold Hill after being married in Portland Nov. 26. Mrs. Brown recently completed nurses training at St. Vincent's hospital in Portland. The couple honeymooned in Mexico and are living at Drake's Lazy Acres Motel.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Burnett and family had as guests Christmas day his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Burnett, Rogue River, and Mrs. Burnett's brother, Charles Smith and family, Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith had their son, Douglas Smith, and wife Gail, who both attend Oregon State college and their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Pettet and their twin daughters, Jan and Debbie, Coos Bay, with them for Christmas.

The Gold Hill health unit will meet Tuesday, Jan. 10, instead of the first Tuesday in the month. The meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Jack Cline on Highway 99N. Co-hostess will be Mrs. Clarence Parsley and Mrs. Melvin Burnett.

Johnnie McCoy, son of Mrs. Ruth McCoy, is visiting with his mother and brother and sisters during the holidays. He is at the children's farm home near Corvallis.

Mrs. Earl Taylor, former resident of Gold Hill and now of New Plymouth, Ida., is visiting friends in the valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Coy are visiting with his mother, Mrs. Susie Coy, and other relatives. They are from California.

Jim Hughes is spending his vacation from San Francisco State college with his friend, Marvin Throne, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Throne. Marvin and Jim are together in the Navy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jore and daughter Dianne are vacationing over the holidays in Los Angeles with their son Raymond and family, and their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith, and other relatives.

In the contest sponsored by the Gold Hill Lions club for outdoor home lighting decoration for Gold Hill, and which was judged by H. D. Force, Mrs. Paul Malloy and Dr. Stanley Brown, awards were presented to Gene Jones, first place for his portrayal of Christmas, a nativity scene; George Gilman, second place, and Delos Walker, third. Honorable mention went to Cecil Gable, Dale Collins, Al Fink and Milton Steinmetz. Judging was based on originality, time and effort and portrayal of Christmas theme. Cash prizes were donated by Gold Hill merchants.

Mr. and Mrs. Lin Murdock and two children, Tom and Jill, have

returned to their home in Anaheim, Calif., after spending two weeks visiting with Mrs. Murdock's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack White. They also visited with the girls' mother, Mrs. F. Mant, who has been living with the Whites since June.

Ward Blue recently visited with his brother in Centralia, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Arnold and family are vacationing with relatives in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Harrison and family spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harrison of Matheson, Calif. Gold Hill health unit met in December at the home of Mrs. Arthur Boye. Twenty-five members attended, with Geneva Martin and children as visitors. A rummage sale was planned for February. It was reported that Adrene Anderson was home from the hospital.

Steel Industry's 1955 Production Tops in History

New York—(U.P.)—America's dynamic steel industry produced more steel in 1955 than ever before in history, but consumers clamored for more.

Steel-spewing furnaces turned out a fantastic 116,000,000 tons in 1955 but was gobbled up immediately by companies making everything from hairpins to skyscrapers.

The booming automotive and construction industries were in the vanguard of this mad scramble for steel that sent order backlogs zooming.

Industry spokesmen expect no letup in the tight steel supply-demand picture at least through the first half of 1956.

Officially, steel men are reluctant to extend their glowing predictions beyond the half-year mark. Unofficially, however, many expect 1956 to be on a par or possibly greater than 1955.

Production during the past year easily exceeded 1953, the best previous year in history when 111,600,000 tons were produced.

Output in 1955 ran some 29,000,000 tons ahead of 1954—a recession year — one of the biggest year-to-year gains in history.

The almost insatiable demand for steel produced some nifty earnings reports and led to higher dividend disbursements. But it also gave the industry some man-sized operating headaches.

It did one other thing, too. It convinced even the most conservative in the steel ranks of the pressing need to expand capacity.

Industry To Expand Iron Age, the authoritative trade journal, predicted its rated capacity by 16,000,000 tons within the next four to five years. Annual capacity now stands at 126,000,000 tons.

Tom Campbell, editor-in-chief of the Metalworking weekly, told the United Press this expansion will cost something like \$3,200,000,000. Most of the money will come from retained earnings, depreciation and higher steel prices.

Veneer Firm Low In Federal Timber Sale

Portland—(U.P.)—Columbia Veneer company was low bidder at \$377,090 for 17,000,000 board feet of federal timber in the Clackamas watershed, the Forest service said Saturday. The bid was 52 per cent above appraisal. The timber is located about 29 miles from Estacada in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

The Great Lakes carry more than two-thirds of all the inland transport in the U. S., and the two principal cargoes are iron ore and coal.

Color TV Sets To Remain Costly During Next Year

New York—(U.P.)—Color television sets are expected to remain costly in 1956, but they'll make some strides in their march toward the nation's average home.

RCA president Frank Folsom predicted next year will definitely see what the industry calls "the break-through."

Chances are, however, you'll have to pay more than \$500 for a color set next year compared with 1955's \$695-\$1,000 price tags, while the industry blasts at the roadblocks preventing the break-through.

That much-discussed term refers to the time when enough sets are sold to permit mass production economies and prices of \$300 or less. Many trade leaders balk at predicting a specific break-through time. One says it will come in 1958, with sales of nearly 3,000,000 receivers priced around \$300.

Mass market economies were impossible in 1955, when sales sputtered up to about 25,000 sets. But sales predictions for 1956 range from around 100,000 up to 500,000.

Expansion-minded networks say they'll broaden and improve color programming in 1956 to help spur interest and demand for sets.

Intensive research by set makers will aim at lower prices and better technical performance.

Tavern May Spur Color

Oddly, the local tavern may write itself into history for helping spur color TV's progress, just as it did in black-and-white's infant years. Affluent taverns and hotels were fairly good customers for color sets in 1955.

Dealers may step up promotional activity sharply next summer, when several set makers are expected to unveil new color models. They may come a vast promotional surge "involving almost everybody in the business, CBS-Columbia spokesman predicts.

Jackson County Ends Good Year From Health Outlook

The year 1955 has been a good one for Jackson county from a health standpoint, according to a year-end report by Dr. A. E. Merkel, county health officer.

Contagious diseases have been comparatively low, with fewer cases of polio than in several previous years. Five polio cases were reported. Oregon as a whole had almost 475 polio cases compared with 350 in 1954. In 1954 and 1953 Jackson county had 15 and 35, respectively.

Polio Not Licked

"Polio is not yet licked unless we get all our children protected by the use of Salk vaccine," Dr. Merkel said. "Family physicians have ample supplies to protect the priority group—from birth to 15 years."

Sixteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were reported in 1955, as compared to 15 in 1954, and Merkel said "many more cases are as yet unknown." He stressed the use of tuberculin skin testing and x-rays at Sacred Heart and Community hospital centers.

Typhoid, one of the most dreaded diseases not too many years ago, was reported only once during 1955, and no cases of diphtheria have been reported in the past five years.

"Constant vigilance must be kept through immunization and periodic 'booster' shots," the health officer stated, adding that large numbers of diphtheria cases have been reported in parts of the south.

Dr. Merkel stressed that families should keep protection against the serious and highly fatal disease through periodic boosters.

Sharp Decline

A sharp decline was noted in the streptococcal diseases—scarlet fever, septic sore throat and erysipelas—with 50 cases in 1955, compared to 152 the previous year.

"Progress made in communicable disease reduction in recent years is unbelievable," according to Dr. Merkel. "Credit goes to many—the taxpayer who supports the health department with

funds; the family physician; Jackson County Public Health association, its health education and tuberculosis control program; and dentists and other agencies who contribute to better community health."

Many unmet needs still prevail in the county, he declared, including accidents, both on the highway and homes; mental diseases of the aged.

Dr. Merkel said health education and rehabilitation can play major parts in improving community standards regarding the aged. Health programs for sanitation and increased housing also should be strengthened.

The 83-cent annual cost to the taxpayer for health department work should be worth much more, he said, through the knowledge that the "food we eat, and water and milk we drink are safe, to say nothing about the many other services received."

WEATHER By United Press Northern California: Showers and short periods of clearing; snow in mountains above 3,500 feet; little change in temperature.

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Good cheer, good health, HAPPINESS

... that's our New Year's wish for all of our friends and neighbors in Medford and the Rogue River Valley. The past year has been a banner one for us, and we are truly grateful to YOU for helping to make it possible. Our resolution for 1956 will be to serve you even better ... if that is possible. May the year ahead be good to you all!

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