

Conservationists Concerned Over Federal Grazing Land 'Giveaway'

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — Conservationists are alarmed over the expressed attitude of the Interior Department in favor of some sort of plan for turning over federal forests and grazing lands to local private interests or the states.

In the current issue of Outdoor America, the conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America, J. W. Penfold, declares:

"The newest attack on our public land domain is of greatest concern to all of us and we had better watch it very closely."

Penfold was referring to a bill now before Congress which would establish machinery for a state-by-state disposal of federal forests and grazing land. Interior's Assistant Secretary for public land management, Wesley D'Ewart, has informed Congress that the department is in "sympathy with the objectives" of this legislation.

Neuberger Asks Explanation
While no action has been taken on the bill in Congress, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) this past week called on Interior to "explain whether it stands for a continuation of the conservation policies inherent in the national forests, or whether, as its recent statement indicates, it lends support to the perennial efforts to decimate the forest preservation program."

D'Ewart had explained Interior's view by saying: "The basic principle apparently underlying this legislation, namely, the belief that land should not be retained by the federal government when it would be more useful when put in other hands."

Neuberger told the Senate, in referring to D'Ewart's statement, that "my home state of Oregon has had considerable experience with the handling of forest resources by 'other hands' than the federal government."

"When it was admitted to the union," said the senator, "Oregon was granted 4,203,000 acres of public lands for school purposes. Of these acres, only 765,000 are still held in trust for the schools. The rest has gone. It is a matter of record that much of this valuable timber was sold by the state for as little as \$3.16 per acre. Later, this same timber would have brought \$1,000 an acre."

"This past record of timber resource management gives little sustenance to the hope that public or private agencies, other than the federal government, would more effectively manage the resource which is contained in the national forest system."

Report Dated May 28
"It is incumbent on the Department of Interior to clarify its policies on the future use of federally-held timber land. We should know in unequivocal

terms whether or not the Interior Department is to become a party to the parceling out of federal forests to the states, where there might be few safeguards against special interests who covet this valuable resource."

D'Ewart's expression of department policy was made at a time when his superior in the Interior Department was Undersecretary Clarence A. Davis. His report was dated May 28, which

happened to be the day the President announced his selection of Fred A. Seaton as the new secretary. Douglas McKay left Interior April 15.

Within the past week or two, Seaton has received some protests over the D'Ewart report. Whether he will take the occasion to clarify or change the expression position of Interior on this major question, remains to be seen.

Is That So?

Assuredly, camping is for children — but why they don't hate it, with what happens to them so often, I'll never know.

Mostly, well-meaning adults take them camping, sure enough but with no plans for activities beforehand; when they expect the young 'uns to do things far beyond their measure; they often keep them at things which



might be pleasurable, long after their interest is lost; and then, how quick comes the scolding word when a mistake is made, but how slow the word of encouragement when an act is done well.

Bearing this in mind, let's see how your children can be helped along to love the outdoors; and how to make the grownup's job easier.

The big thing is to plan ahead. Let's take the little tykes first. One thing which is sure to make a big hit, and fill many an hour, is to take along popcorn which can be popped in any hot covered skillet. Or scorch marshmallows over a campfire on sticks — but be sure to taste the stick beforehand. It might be bitter cascara with laxative effects. And for the first night, don't forget a weenie roast. Any kid takes to these naturally.

You may doubt it, but even the youngest and most reluctant home helper enjoys doing the chores in camp. Providing regular schedules are set up — that is, proper instructions given, results checked, and when properly done, awards made. But more of this camp-chore business in a later piece.

For the young fry, there are stories to be told or books to be read with accompanying sound effects; games to be played — hopscotch, jump rope, hide and seek, softball; nature study — with everything along the trail or stream, telling a story. Point is, have plenty of variety with rewards.

Use Common Sense
Now as for the older children. If you are interested in giving them special instructions — say like fly fishing, remember to use some common sense teaching rules. First, a child's interest span seldom exceeds a half hour. Bearing this in mind, limit your hours of training and plan other activities. Have a softball handy. Or take exploratory nature hikes. Track identifications. Swimming. Many enjoy camp cooking, although the eating thereof by the adult may be a labor of love.

As for training, be sure to keep in mind the age factor. Most parents begin sports for their children long before they are physically ready. Better wait until they are ten, both girls and boys, even though the latter may be a year or more advanced.

And finally, don't give your boy or girl poor cast-off equipment. A beginner, after all, needs good equipment much more than the finished expert; secondly, he should have equipment he is proud to own. And make each experience, as far as possible, have a successful ending.

Love of the outdoors grows with an understanding; so start them off learning about the curious camp birds and chipmunks. Feed them. Or make a pressed-flour collection. Or but-

By EUGENE BURNS Ranger-Naturalist

Square Cleared

If you wish to introduce them to tracking, do this — and it was one of the cleverest things I ever saw a father do in the outdoors. Some distance from camp, he with his wife, son and two daughters, cleared a 10-foot square around an old stump and covered the area with sand, raked and smoothed it off with a branch, and then dampened it down. In the middle, on the stump, he nailed a fragrant bacon rind. Then next morning, he headed up his four-man expedition to see what had come by during the night. There were tracks of mice, squirrels, and a family of skunks. For them, this 10-foot square not only introduced the art of tracking, but also made them familiar with the nearby creatures of the forest. And from a practical point of view, the bacon lured the skunks away from their sleeping quarters.

Another handy camp-site sport: take along some cheap cotton fishing line for tying knots. Believe me, kids will be wonderfully well entertained by the half-hour perfecting their skills.

Finally as you sit around at night with the light of the campfire pushing back the encroaching shadows, that's the time to spin yarns, or read Jack London's Call of the Wild, sing rounds and old favorite songs, and most important, plan big things for the morrow. Keeping back though some special surprise for the day.

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DON'T KICK—Ice Follies skater Marie Crimmins appears as if she might kick over a famous San Francisco landmark, the Ferry Building. Illusion was created when partner, Dick Norris, put her through paces aboard sightseeing boat Harbor Queen on San Francisco Bay.

Texas Engineer Hacked To Death in Jungle

Bogota, Columbia — (U.P.) — Jesse R. New, 24, an engineer from San Antonio, Tex., whose body was found hacked to pieces with jungle knives last week, was probably the victim of anti-government guerrillas who wanted to rob him, informed American sources said yesterday.

New was killed at his oil prospecting camp along with a Hungarian colleague whose identity has not been revealed. The Hungarian was buried on the spot, but New's remains were brought to Bogota for a formal funeral.

'Powder Puff' Plane Race Ends on Tuesday

Flint, Mich. — (U.P.) — More of the 49 planes entered in the 10th annual "Powder Puff Derby" were expected to land at Bishop Airport here early today and race officials prepared to compute the winner.

Only six of the entrants in the all-female air race from San Mateo, Calif., to Flint managed to cross the finish line yesterday before darkness temporarily halted the three-day cross-country race which ends tomorrow afternoon.

The winners will be determined when all the aircraft have

crossed the finish line and their average speeds for the entire 2,366 mile flight computed.

TAX MISTAKE

Kinnelon, N. J. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Kenneth Gorry of Morris Plains almost lost 55 acres of land on which she faithfully paid taxes to the wrong community for 19 years. The Kinnelon sheriff was set to sell the tract, on which taxes were paid to neighboring Montville, when a benevolent borough council canceled the sale pending discussion of the problem with Montville officials.



EFFICIENTLY PLUGGED—Norman Petrie looks at a fire hydrant that he found sprouting in the very center of his driveway blocking entrance to his garage. A Longmeadow, Mass., ordinance requires that hydrants be 300 feet apart and workmen followed directions to the letter. If Petrie moves the obstruction it will cost him \$92.

ECOSOC Opens Sessions On UN Side Issues

Geneva — (U.P.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) opened a five week session today to clean house of dozens of side issues arising in the U.N. and to have another look at world economy in general.

The economic phase of the meeting will be opened by U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld July 16. Its main goal will be to appraise the world economy as it stands 11 years after the end of World War II.

Fire Destroys Logging Camp Buildings, Trucks

Dallas, Ore. — (U.P.) — A fire believed to have been started from spontaneous combustion destroyed three logging camp buildings and four log trucks at the Western Logging company camp about 30 miles west of here in the Coast range yesterday.

Extent of the loss was not immediately determined. Buildings destroyed included two shops and a small storage structure.

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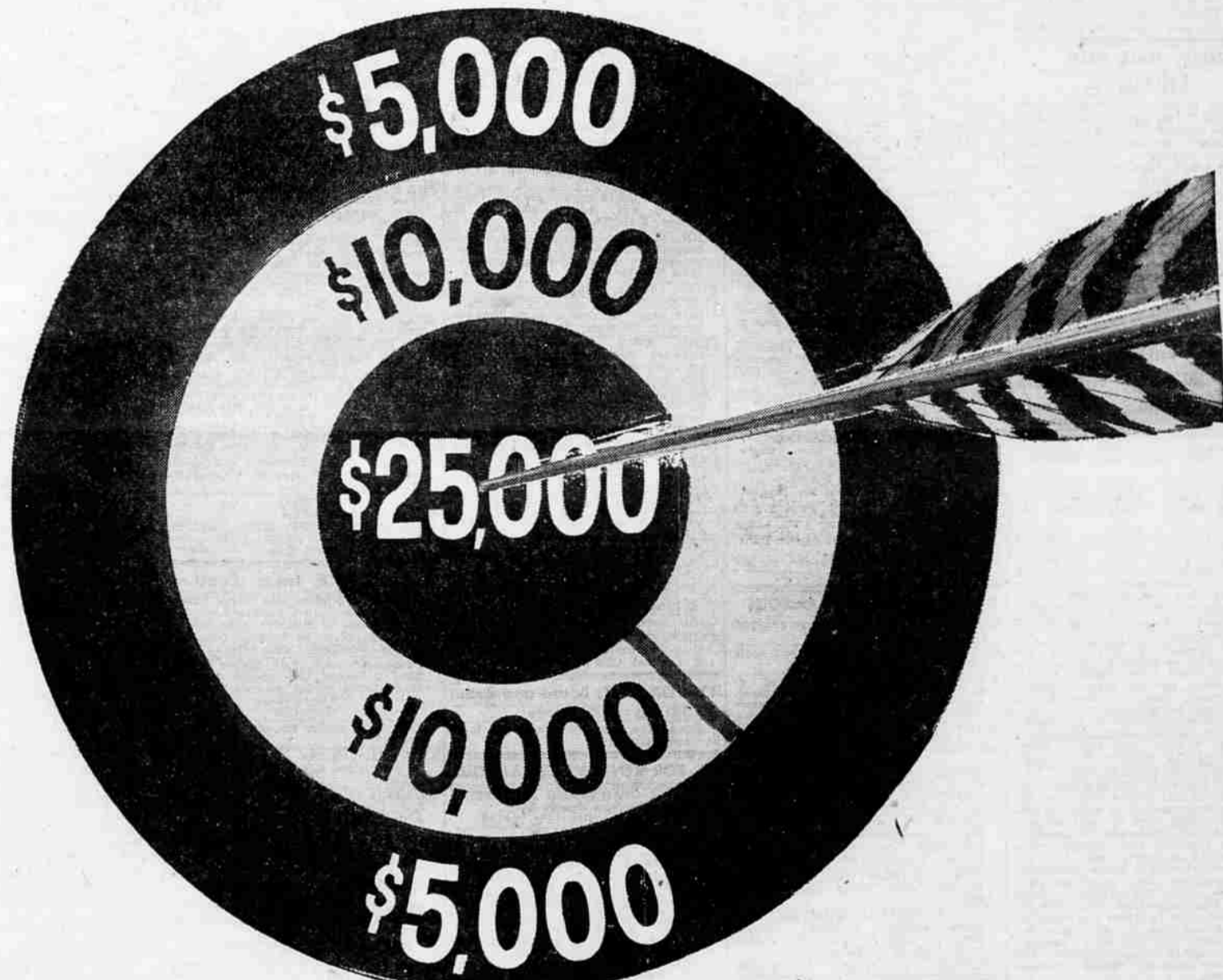
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