

Water One of Most Necessary Resources

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles published in cooperation with Conservation week, which is being observed throughout the state this week.)

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Water is one of our most necessary natural resources. It is renewable.

People of the Rogue river basin should be especially interested in the management of the watershed, since that is where they get their water. A community grows or perishes according to its water supply. Water is life, and if one does nothing about it, competition becomes keener and keener. As a result it becomes necessary to regulate the use of the water which no one wants. Therefore, water conservation, that is wise use, is a problem that all people should be concerned about.

Informed Public
An informed public is necessary, one that will go to work in solving the problems of the watershed. The watershed management subcommittee of the Jackson county water resources committee recommended in 1957 that the county make provisions for watershed management.

A watershed is an area of land from which a stream gets its water. The land is a vast natural reservoir that collects and stores the water. The people of the land make the choice, whether the land produces good, clear water or poor muddy water. Lives, the growth and health of the community, the prosperity—all largely depend upon an adequate and regular supply of good, clean, usable water. They need a watershed functioning properly to supply water in ample amount.

It is up to all of the people to protect their watershed from fire, excessive timber cutting, careless logging practices, over grazing, and other damaging uses. Protection is especially needed on the higher and rougher portions of the watershed. Once damaged, recovery is very slow.

Future of Basin
The future of the Rogue river basin hinges on how its watershed is managed — for good or harm. There must be planned use of the soil and plant cover if the flow of water is to be sustained. On the croplands there must be good farming methods designed to prevent erosion and waste. On the nonfarm lands, various uses such as grazing, timber cutting, hunting and camping, must be so carried on they do not speed up the surface runoff, or encourage erosion, or impair underground water supplies, or cause water pollution.

A sick watershed can be healed by putting the plant cover back on the soil. This is not always simple and especially in our watershed where we have so much shallow soil and hot dry summers.

Much of our watershed is still in good condition. The easiest way to keep it that way is to lock it up and let nature take care of it. But we want to use it for grazing, recreation and a source of timber and minerals. With sound management this watershed can generally be used without sacrificing watershed protection.

Get as Much Possible

The objective is to get as much use as possible from a watershed without damage to it. For a large part of our mountain lands, the watershed values to the public are by far the greatest.

All the people should become familiar with conditions on the watershed. When hiking, camping, hunting, fishing or just driving see how the land is being treated.

1. Is the ground well covered with grass, shrubs, or trees?
2. Does the use of the land now allow the plants to reproduce?
3. Do the shrubs and trees look strong and healthy?
4. Is there a layer of dried grass, leaves and small twigs over the ground?
5. Does the ground feel soft and springy underfoot?
6. Where gullies are present, are they eroding?
7. Are the stream banks receding and washing away?
8. Do the streams run muddy during or after rains?
9. Is there evidence of stream pollution that could endanger the welfare of towns and cities below?

Answers to Questions

In the case of a healthy watershed the answers to questions 1 through 5 would be "yes" and to questions 6 through 9 would be "no." If the answers are the opposite trouble lies ahead and we as water users should do something about getting corrective action.

The Army engineer in his study of the Rogue river basin has found that the most serious problem in the case of the Rogue river is a shortage of water.

What happens on our watershed can well determine whether our community prospers and progresses, or goes down hill with wasted waters to poverty and oblivion.

Two Men Bound Over to Grand Jury

Amasa Morse Bowles, 23, and Charles Lyle Hill, 23, both of Eureka, Calif., were bound over to the grand jury yesterday on charges of grand larceny after appearing in district court.

They were arrested Sunday on Vilas rd. They admitted the theft of shotguns from Kennedy's Second Hand store in Medford, according to police.

Trial was set for May 26 for Irene Sutton, Gold Hill, on charges of assault and battery. She pleaded innocent to the charge in district court Monday. She has been released on \$40 bail.

John Fry, Lake hotel, Medford, pleaded innocent in district court yesterday to charges of petty larceny. Trial has been set for June 5. He is charged with taking miscellaneous items from the Grocceteria May 7.

A mechanical construction kit for adults is now being marketed. It has 5,000 parts and it is claimed that a working model of almost any machine can be made with it.

Newborn infants are being identified and recorded by photographs of their ears instead of finger prints. It is said that ears change in size, but not in shape.



ESCORTING MACE MISSILE powered by turbo-jet, F-100 Air Force fighter heads from Holloman Base, N. M., to Wendover, Utah. Missile, bottom of picture, can be dropped in empty areas of 600-mile corridor if mishap develops. (International Soundphoto)

Fifty Cases of Mumps Reported

Fifty cases of mumps were reported to the Jackson county health department last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health physician.

Medford reported 17, Tal-15, Butte Falls 11, Ashland 8, Central Point 3, Gold Hill 2, Shady Cove 2 and Trail 2 cases of mumps.

There were 30 cases of German measles last week with Shady Cove reporting 12, Ashland 11, Medford 4, Prospect 2 and Central Point 1.

There were 24 cases of measles during the week. Medford reported 20, with

other cases at Ashland, Phoenix and Eagle Point.

Other diseases included influenza, 17; strep throat, 6; chicken pox, 6; scarlet fever, 2; pink eye, 3; Hanson's disease, 1; and infectious hepatitis, 1.

A special railroad car has been designed to ship giant electric transformers. The transformer itself forms the middle of the car and the two end pieces, which include the wheels, are bolted to it. After delivery the ends are bolted to each other for the return trip.

Portland Has Coldest May 13 on Record

Portland — (AP) — Portland had its coldest May 13 temperature in recorded Weather Bureau history today.

The temperature dropped to 35.8 degrees shortly before 5 a.m., passing the old mark of 36 degrees set in 1875, the weatherman said.

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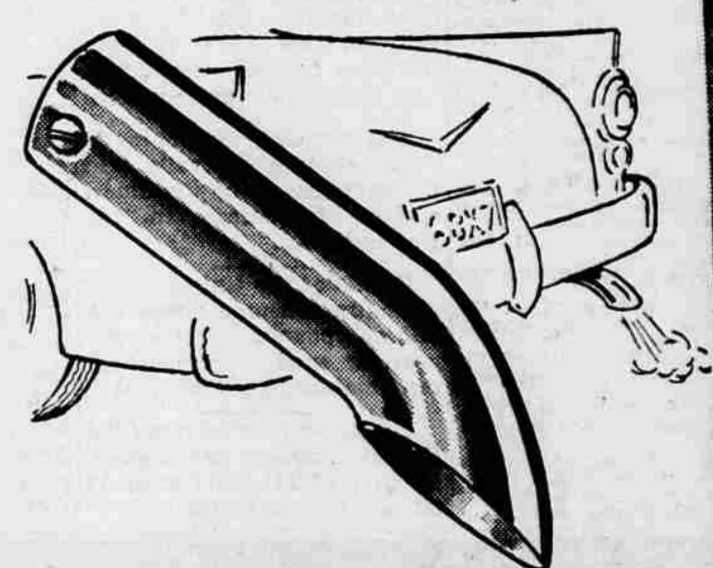
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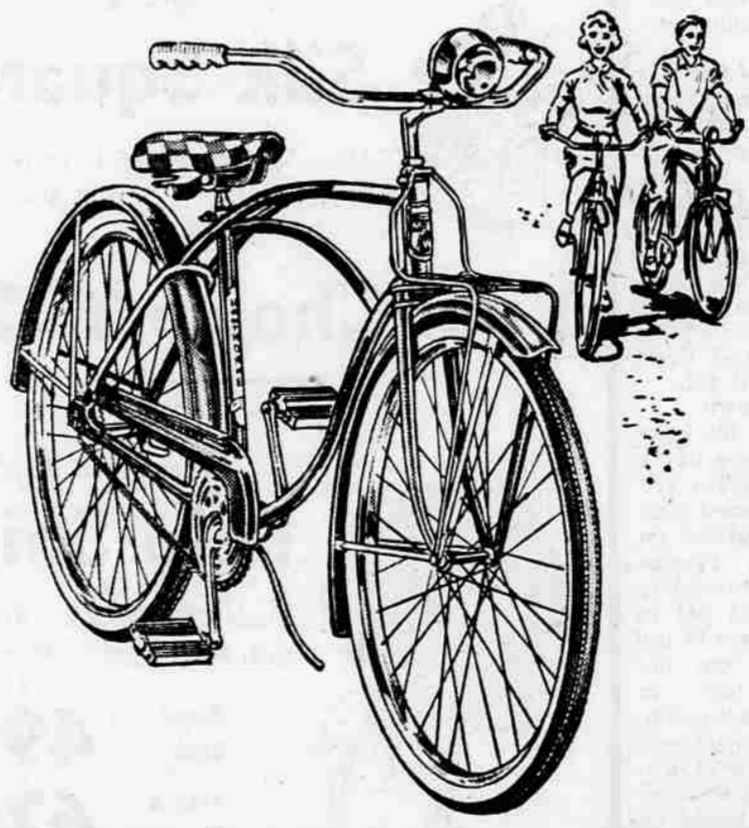
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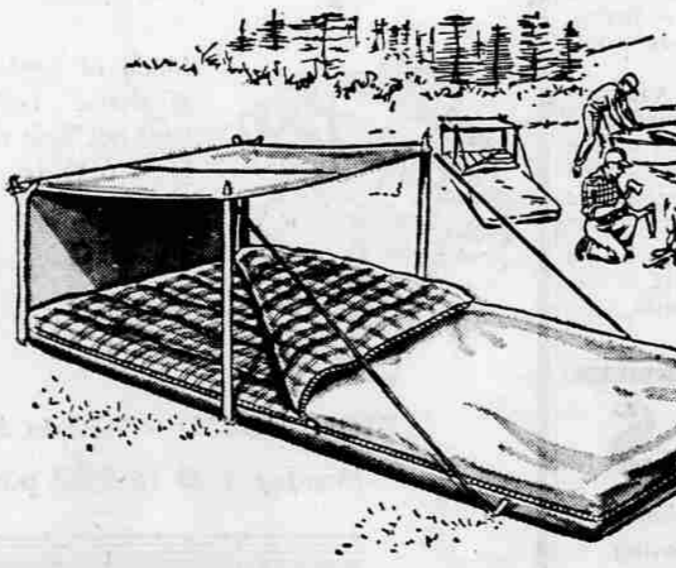
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