

Whole Controversy of Seashore Park Hinges on Area Economy

Editor's note: The following article was written by T. Jeff Williams, a June graduate of the school of journalism at the University of Oregon, as an "editorial summary" of the conclusions developed in the senior thesis required of each student. Williams, of Santa Fe, N.M., formerly lived in Medford, where his father, Thomas F. Williams, was superintendent of Crater Lake National Park.

By T. JEFF WILLIAMS

A National Park Service survey of the Pacific Coast in 1958 selected the Oregon sand dunes and inland lakes in the vicinity of Florence as an area of national recreational significance. Shortly following this survey, the late Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) proposed in a bill (S-1526) to make this area a national seashore under the auspices of the Park Service. The 40,000 acres requested for inclusion in the national seashore by Neuberger encompass four inland freshwater lakes — Tatkenitch, Siltcoos, Washink, and Cleawox. Some 25 miles of ocean beach form the western boundary and behind the beach towering dunes form an intricate landscape pattern of outstanding scenic and geologic interest.

A storm of controversy broke in Oregon over this proposal and began seeking on all levels — local, state, and federal.

But why, some might ask, should this proposal create such widespread opposition? Economy involved.

The whole controversy revolves around the economy of Florence and its vicinity. Basically, the problem is whether, in long-range economic terms, Florence will benefit or lose by the establishment of a national seashore.

When Neuberger's proposal was first made public, the leading opponents of the bill were the Western Lane Taxpayer's association, the Governor's committee on natural resources, and behind the scenes, the U.S. Forest Service.

The most outspoken of the three is the Western Lane Taxpayer's association, an organization formed by Florence residents for the express purpose of combating the proposed national seashore. Jack Hayes, a wiry, quick-minded and persuasive speaker, was elected chairman.

The Association's principal argument charged that if the dunes park were established it would have unfavorable effects upon the private citizens and land holders in the area.

The Park Service, whose main purpose is to preserve scenic lands for public recreational use, cites the population trend in Oregon in its argument for the national seashore: by 1990 the U. S. Bureau of Census estimates Oregon's population will be some 3,000,000 compared to 1,750,000 in 1960. Increased travel is expected in conjunction with the population expansion. In 1990 it is predicted some 7,000,000 tourists will visit the coast compared to the 1,500,000 visitors in 1957.

Would Attract Tourists
The Park Service predicts that the establishment of a national seashore would attract more tourists and would greatly benefit the local economy through tourist trade.

The Western Lane Taxpayer's association spokesmen say the economy would suffer because of the loss of income from the land and resources that would be taken in by the proposed park.

On the state level, Governor Hatfield asked his committee on natural resources, headed by Dan Allen, to investigate the problem and give him its recommendations. From all evidence it appears that in his investigation Allen talked primarily to those who opposed the park. Many community leaders in the Florence area who favor the park proposal say Allen never approached them. The Resource committee recommended to Hatfield that a national seashore should not be established in the Florence vicinity.

Hearings Held
Meanwhile, Neuberger and Congressman Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.), who were working together on the proposed park, held hearings in Florence, Reedsport, and Eugene in an attempt to determine what problems would face the residents if a park were established in the Florence area.

Initially, it appeared that Neuberger had made little, if any, headway in establishing the dunes park from his encounter with the opposition in these hearings. But the effects were to be far-reaching. From March through November Dan Allen and his resource committee had flatly opposed a national seashore in the Florence area, and Hatfield accordingly agreed with Allen. The final decision in Oregon on the proposed national seashore rested with Hatfield; it could not be estab-

lished without his authorization.

But, after three committee hearings and state-wide notice, the developing situation was putting Hatfield in an untenable position. Figures from a questionnaire on the park circulated by Porter showed a majority of people in seven counties predominately favored the park.

Could Alienate Voters
Thus, it began to appear that if Hatfield remained opposed to the park he could alienate a large number of voters. But if he switched his position it might be interpreted as an admission of hasty and ill-considered earlier actions.

Neuberger, intentionally or not, had forced Hatfield into an awkward position. This was the turning point to which side would Hatfield move?

He began a slow swing in favor of the park proposal — with amendments, of course.

From this time forward the resource committee approached the park proposal with a positive philosophy. There was now room for further negotiations between the Park Service and the resource committee where there had been a near stalemate prior to the change. Hatfield presented Neuberger with a bill of minimum standards which would need to be satisfied before he would allow the establishment of the national seashore. Changes in acquisition of land, tax payments, provisions of ownership, and administration of game were major suggestions.

Opposition Continued
Jack Hayes and his association continued to oppose the seashore proposal primarily because Hatfield didn't specify in his bill that the Park Service's right of condemnation should not be allowed. But Hayes was fighting a losing battle now. He and his association stand alone against the Park Service, the resource committee and many of the Florence residents who favor the park.

The Forest Service continues to oppose the park but apparently it realizes there is little it can actually do, for Congress has the right to turn the Forest Service land over to the Park Service. The arguments for a final settlement will continue, but basically to be considered is this: is a national seashore desirable here?

The answer, in the judgment of this writer, is yes.

Expanding population and increasing tourist travel in Oregon are pressing present recreational facilities to the limit. And hand in hand with the population increase goes the continual buying of land for private homes and the erection of new industries. What appears to be a considerable amount of public land still available on the coast is rapidly being bought for private homesites.

Would Block Access
Even though the beaches are held free by Oregon law, the intervening land, if made private, will block access to the beach in large sections.

With the responsibility dispersed among local and state agencies and the Forest Service there is no guarantee that

the recreational potential in this area will be protected. There are too many loopholes through which private interests can encroach where the land is not protected by Congress.

With all the natural resources available in the Florence area there has been remarkably little development done by the existing agencies in the past 50 years. To fully protect this area from private interests that could control or spoil this scenic wonderland of dunes and lakes, it should be placed under a unified administration.

Only under the administration of the Park Service can the lakes and dunes be fully developed — and protected — for the recreational development that Oregon so badly needs.

Postal Policy Act Violated, Porter Declares

Washington — Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield has been charged with making "gross and intentional misrepresentations of the postal rate and deficit picture" by a member of the House Post Office and Civil Service committee.

Congressman Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.) in a speech on the House Floor said the postmaster general had violated the Postal Policy Act of 1958 because he refused to separate the public service costs of the Post Office department from the costs that should be charged to the other users. Porter denied Summerfield's assertion that his department has lost \$603 million this year.

Areas Cited
The Oregon lawmaker cited areas where the Cabinet member included in the deficit the cost of public services which should be paid for out of the treasury. He said this included the total cost of religious, fraternal and charitable second and third class mail concessions. Porter said the cost of these public services alone was \$100 million. The Postmaster General also refused, Porter said, to subtract the costs of the operation of the star route systems and the third and fourth class post offices "even though Section 104 of the Postal Policy Act required that he do so."

Under law the cost of operating 10,055 star routes, 13,142 third-class post offices and 11,912 fourth-class post offices "are public services and are to be paid for by the treasury, not by the users of the mail through increased rates," said Porter.

No Reason for Increase
"Congress cannot responsibly increase rates" Porter pointed out, "if the Postmaster General refuses to obey the law by supplying the public service costs which must first be subtracted before fair rates can be calculated."

Porter said he saw no reason to increase first class mail charges, which already pay 111 per cent of that category's allocated costs, "to bring in \$400 million additional revenue."

Fewer Medical Problems Noted in Jetliner Flying

By ROBERT J. SERLING
Washington (UPI) — Do jetliners:

- Cause miscarriages?
- Make people more airsick?
- Lead to deafness among ground crews?
- Give stewardesses varicose veins and more frequent menstrual periods?
- Create greater fatigue among pilots?

When the jet age began in October, 1958, there were frequent warnings that subsonic air travel would lead to various medical difficulties.

But Dr. Otis B. Schreuder, medical director of Pan American World Airways overseas division, says all these fears have proved groundless.

No Cases Reported
Does jet travel or flying in general cause miscarriages? A review of Pan Am's medical records shows that nearly seven million passengers flew the Atlantic between 1953 and 1959 without a single case of miscarriage reported, Schreuder, in a paper read recently to the Aerospace Medical association meeting in Miami, quoted statistical studies which concluded that flying has no ill effect on pregnancy — either in jets or conventional piston engine aircraft.

Do the jets make people more airsick? Schreuder says the airsickness rate on piston aircraft is slightly higher than on the jets.

Are the jets leading to deafness among ground crews? In 18 months of jet operations, not a single Pan Am employee developed any loss of hearing due to high-intensity noise, thanks mainly to the safety program Pan Am and other airlines developed for ground personnel.

Are jetliner stewardesses acquiring varicose veins, more frequent menstrual periods and assorted ailments? Dr. Schreuder says such complaints, widespread in the first months of jet operations, "have largely disappeared due to the fact that these employees now have become accustomed to the airplane."

Less Fatigue Caused
Do pilots become more fatigued flying jets? The Pan Am medical director says all studies show that jetliners cause less fatigue because of fewer instruments, lack of vibration, decreased noise and better pressurization. These factors are offset somewhat by the jets requiring greater physical and mental alertness ("the pilot must be ahead of the airplane," Schreuder explained) but in general the jets are less fatiguing.

Overall, Dr. Schreuder concluded, jet travel seems to be healthier. During a period when Pan Am carried 136,439 passengers, only one "medical emergency" was reported for every 2,677 passen-



JEEP SET AFIRE—A police jeep is set afire by angry demonstrators, reputedly Communists, during a melee in the streets of Genoa, Italy. The demonstrators were taking part in a general strike called to protest a scheduled neo-Fascist Party Congress meeting. Three police vehicles were burned and 30 persons injured in the rioting. (UPI Telephoto)

American Students Working on Projects In African Nations

New York — American students are working with their hands on construction projects in 10 African nations to gain understanding of the forces remaking the face of Africa.

About 180 students from 75 American colleges are participating in the work camps project, "Operation Crossroads Africa," directed by the Rev. James H. Robinson, of New York.

The broadly representative cross-section of students includes 35 Negroes, 25 southern whites, Protestants, Catholics and Jews, divided about equally between men and women. Canadians and the Republic of Uruguay are also represented.

Divided into 14 groups with matching numbers of African students, they are putting in work days on construction projects specified by the nations they are visiting in Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Dahomey, Togo, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

It is the second student study and work camp project to be sponsored by Operation Crossroads Africa. In 1958, a pilot project of 60 Americans was undertaken in five African countries which earned the enthusiastic approval of the state department and the White House.

President Eisenhower, in a letter to Robinson, Negro minister of the Church of the Master in Harlem and originator of the program, said:

"The contribution made by the participants in Operation Crossroads Africa, working through private 'people-to-people' channels is most welcome. I feel confident it will help establish strong bonds of understanding and friendship with the eager young

people of Africa."

Only one of the nations selected for the mutual awareness and understanding program — Liberia — has a long history of independence. The nine others are either in the process of severing colonial ties or have been recognized as sovereign nations within the last three years.

It is the intention of the sponsors that the American students have the opportunity to come "to grips" with the African personality during the seven weeks they will spend working alongside their African peers. And, at the same time, Africans will have an equal opportunity to see the face of America in the inter-

racial and inter religious groups of American students. Power of Persuasion
"Face-to-face contact breaks through stereotypes," said Robinson, "even in a highly literate and electronically saturated country like the United States. It has a unique power of persuasion."

"The stimulus of such personal influence tends to lead to action, for in face-to-face contacts, people are more likely to listen to their informant as a man rather than a stereotype."

"People who might be bitterly anti-American may be friendly to an individual American."
After completion of their individual missions in Africa the students will meet again here for evaluation sessions and an impact study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Harold Isaacs, who will make the study, will attempt to evaluate the results of Crossroads Africa both on its effect on Americans and the reaction of Africans.

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
New Brunswick, N.J. — Vegetarian Dr. Barbara Moore, starting the final 45 miles of her transcontinental hike from San Francisco to New York:

"This is my day. I'm sitting on top of the world . . . you Americans are a strong people, but your diet of meat and coffee will kill you. I hope my walk proves that there is a better way to eat."

Richmond, Va.—The Daughters of the American Revolution, which condemned 30 textbooks used in Virginia's public high schools, explaining what it looks for in the books:

" . . . To determine if our students are emphatically taught love of God and country or are being corrupted to accept socialism and materialism."

Los Angeles—Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington, on whether his state's delegation to the Democratic convention would be quicker this year due to the absence of Sen. Estes Kefauver, presidential hopeful in 1952 and 1958:

"Whenever Tennesseans get together it's going to be a little bit noisy."

Los Angeles—Sen. Sam Ervin Jr. (N.C.), disagreeing with Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler's view that the Southern convention Democrats will go along with the party civil rights plank:

"So far as I know Chairman Butler has not talked on this subject to any person in the South who has enough influence to have been elected to political office."

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