

THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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TO THE SNOW

People who insist on staying indoors simply because of slippery driving conditions are missing some of the grandest scenery they'll ever have a chance to see.

The entire gorge and valley are transformed by the ministrations of winter. Take even a short stroll through the snow, with your eyes open to the beauty of it, and you'll see. You needn't so much as leave your house, if you really must stay inside, to appreciate the wondrousness of snow on fir boughs, and the cupped drifts on every post and twig. But the really grand views are obtained from conventional vantage points, with the entire landscape altered by the snow. Mount Hood and Mount Adams are spread in different colors on different canvases, and even the hills in their new winter clothes will bear looking at.

If you're really ambitious, and in pretty good trim, a long hike into the hills will more than pay for itself. There's a lot of fun in following animal tracks through the snow, watching the squirrels at their winter antics, and experiencing the thrill of coming across an occasional bear track.

All right, curse the snow if you must. It's a nuisance in most ways, we'll agree. But your blasphemies would die on your lips if you would view it as it should be viewed—and how the farmers love it!

CRIME STILL WITH US

Recurrence of dastardly crimes in America such as the kidnaping and brutal murder of the little Mattson boy in Tacoma causes many people to wonder if civilization is taking a backward turn. In view of the shrewdness and canniness of modern crimes, one is apt to stop and ponder. Certainly the philanthropic and good will agencies in modern civilization must do much to offset the dastardly acts of the fiends of the present day.

What is the cause of present-day wide spread crime? The Yakima Republic some time ago laid some blame on the ineffectiveness of the pulpit. The Bend Free Press last week charged the schools with failing in their mission. But if one thinks broadly on the problem, he will see that a people such as now lives in America, advancing in mentality, in business, in science, in government, in social welfare, in education, would naturally grow smarter and shrewder and perhaps more brutal in crime.

It may not be pleasant to think, that as we advance in civilization, we must cope with more vigorous crime, but we must face the problems as well as enjoy the luxuries of our growing civilization. Anyway it seems that federal and state law enforcing agencies have advanced in their lines also, and our hope is that their efficiency can be so developed that safety of all our people, from murderers, gangsters and kidnapers can some day be assured.

SLIPS COUNT!

Such are the totally unpredictable habits of the weather that by the time this editorial appears, its entire force may have been lost. But

we'll take that chance, and print our warning anyhow.

Icy sidewalks and stairs are just as dangerous to pedestrians as icy streets are to automobiles.

"Be careful!" is the incessant cry. Some folks won't be careful, some folks forget to be careful, some folks remember but aren't quite careful enough. Every winter takes its toll of sprains and broken bones.

Our suggestion: Take every step with the feeling that it may be the one before the fall. Walk mincingly, with short strides. Test innocent-looking snow—there may be ice beneath. Be prepared to catch yourself if you do fall. Pockets are no place for your hands when you slip. Better wear gloves.

Whoops! Just barely caught yourself that time, didn't you?

WESTWARD HO!

"Westward the star of Empire takes its way."

These oft-quoted words of Bancroft, historian, hold for us in the great Northwest a peculiar significance. For this star which has been in the vanguard of the march of centuries appears now to rest stationary on the summit of the Cascades. It has reached its destination. It can go no farther west. The shores of the Pacific mark the terminus of its leadership. There is no farther West. Shoving off from our shores, you go East!

And the Empire is here—make no doubt about it. And how rapidly it has come! Search the history of the nations through, and I doubt if you will find any empire developed in so short a time. But a hundred years ago, Whitman and his companions landed at Walla Walla. That date marks the beginning of the settlement of the Oregon country—the beginning of the great trek to the Northwest. Now we have an empire—splendid and populous cities, marvelous natural and cultivated resources, and a commerce that reaches round the world—all brought to pass within a hundred years!

Is it any wonder that the eyes of all our eastern cousins are focused upon us? There is our salubrious climate, temperate and benign. There is the wonder of our mountains—our scenery. The man who writes, "See America First" must come to the Northwest to feature his superlative scenes. The dam area has right at its front door a wonder of the world—the mighty gorge of the Columbia. World travelers will tell you there is no river trip to be found that is comparable.

There are our mountains—great white dominating sentinels that send their copious wealth of water cascading down their granite canyons, that bring the life-giving fluid to our fields, and make that liquid fire to give us light as well as power to drive our machinery.

These invaluable resources of ours—our livable climates, fertile soil, unrivaled forests, fishing industries, mining possibilities—are megaphoning an irresistible call to others. The trek to the Northwest will continue. They will come to us in large numbers in the years just ahead. The empire will double its population.

What of our future citizenry? Will we have "men and women to match our mountains?" After all, the greatness of an empire lies in the race of men and women it develops. We have great things to measure up to.

Skiing is back with us again, and once more a carmine face becomes a badge of honor rather than a badge of shame.

To be great is to be misunderstood, said Emerson, but there ain't room in the halls of fame for all the husbands in America.

We fail to find the Schmeling-Louis fight pictures listed with the 10 best movies of the year.

Federal Power Commission reports show Oregon and Washington to have the lowest average electric rates in the nation.

A FRIENDLY SUGGESTION FOR MR. DASH

Away from me
My spirit free
Doth follow with much sympathy,
The dupes that go
Through falling snow
In search of bleak absurdity.

Now who's so wise
That they'd surmise
The snow was placed for their surprise,
And then "swoof" down
With muffled sound
To choke their agonizing cries.

Now I'm quite sure
There is one cure—
No need this freezing spine endure—
If you're so pert
Why not exert
And button up your open shirt.

—H.E.C.

LAND TRANSACTIONS

Two weeks of December 23 to January 6. Compiled from data furnished by the Hood River Abstract & Investment company.

J. O. Jones and the State of Oregon, ground lease for parcel of land near Viento for consideration of \$16.66. Lease to expire June 21, 1937. Oregon Lumber Co. to R. C. Ramey, 10.15 acres in Woodworth Acres for consideration of \$366.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin A. Heft to R. Insinger, 26 acres of land near Summit station. Dated November 10, filed December 26.

First National bank to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nack, a 2-3 interest and to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Isbell a 1-3 interest in estate and 20 acres located about 2½ miles south of Hood River.

E. J. Cowlshaw to the state of Oregon, parcels of land south of Parkdale for a consideration of \$3000. Dated August 15, filed December 28.

P. B. Silkworth to Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Johnson, around 40 acres in the Mt. Hood district. Dated April 1, filed January 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Homan to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Alexander, joint tenancy deed. Dated December 16, filed January 2.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Ferguson to Duckwall Bros., Inc., parcel of land near East Barrett school for consideration of \$1800.

Mr. and Mrs. Harleigh Glass to Paul Silkworth, 20 acres of land in the Mt. Hood district. Dated January 11, 1936, filed January 2, 1937.

Bertha Huggins, as trustee for Lindsay Hill Spight and Prudence Spight, to Melissa E. Hill, a bargain and sale deed for lot in Hull's subdivision to Hood River.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fuger to J. B. Laber, conveys to Alta Laber part of an acre of land in Cascade Locks. Dated December 22, filed January 6.

FARM PURCHASING POWER NEARING PRE-WAR NORMAL

Market prices at mid-December indicated that the general level of farm prices in Oregon has advanced somewhat during the past month, according to a review of the agricultural situation just released by the OSC agricultural extension service. This trend is similar to that of farm prices in the country as a whole, and in line with recent trends in consumer purchasing power as indicated by industrial payrolls and business activity.

Compared with a year previous, the Oregon farm price index for November, at 84 per cent of the 1926-1930 average, was up 12 points, or approximately 16 per cent. This compares with a gain of 14 points, or 19 per cent in factory payrolls in the United States, and 15 points, or 17 per cent in general business activity, from October 1935 to October 1936. Drought-made scarcity of some farm products has been a factor giving

additional strength to markets and prices for farm products.

In respect to farm costs, the report shows a 5-point advance in prices paid by farmers for commodities used in production and living, compared with a year ago. The purchasing power of farm products in exchange for commodities usually bought by farmers is estimated to be 94 per cent of the pre-war average. This is 5 points higher than a year ago and the most favorable relationship for agriculture that has existed since the year 1929, except from August to October this year when the relationship was even more favorable to farmers than at present.

The report, which is available from county agricultural boards, contains farm price data and other information on a large number of farm products of importance in agriculture of Oregon, showing the relative position of each compared with the general average and conditions which have existed during other years and periods.

PLEA FOR HOSPITAL SUPPORT GOES OUT

An urgent plea for support for the Doernbecher Children's hospital was transmitted this week to the Sun by Miss Bessie Williams, county health nurse.

The hospital has provided frequent service for children of Hood River county, according to Miss Williams, and has also cared for children from every county in the state, 90 per cent of whom are unable to pay for treatment.

Supported by funds from the state higher educational system, the hospital faces money shortage due to shrinkage in property evaluation. The hospital guild is sponsoring a bill in the current legislature for an additional appropriation of \$34,464, and asks citizens and organizations to urge their legislators to support the measure.

Too Bad

Jake, the genial gentleman who runs a shoe repair shop near the Hood River hotel, has an excellent memory. In 25 years of cobbling, he says he has never returned the wrong pair of shoes to a customer.

Never, that is, until this week, when he not only gave the wrong pair of boots to a man but told the man, who returned with the boots, that no mistake had been made.

Later the real owner of the boots showed up, and Jake doesn't know what to do. He is distressed by having made an error, but more distressed to think that somebody has the wrong shoes.

"I've lost a pair of feet," Jake says. He'd like to see the man who has them.

Twelve persons were killed in Portland traffic accidents during December.

Odd Shots

By H. A. S.

Charley Huelat of the Leonora specialty shop must be credited with the year's snappiest comeback so far—even if he can only be credited with putting an old gag in new dress.

Charley was pretty warmly wrapped up Friday morning (those of you with long memories will remember why) when he walked past T. W. Fletcher, genial office worker at Duckwall's.

"You can always tell an old man!" called Fletcher.

"Yes, but you can't tell him much!" Huelat snapped back.

The Hood River hospital is nothing else if not loyal to the surrounding territory.

Dessert for our first luncheon there last week was half a baked apple.

Funny places, these hospitals. We were supposed to be all well, and had got almost downstairs on our way out, when a nurse caught us and made us walk back up and ride down on the elevator.

Sickness seems to be pretty prevalent at the moment. The exact percentage which might be described as New Year's Eve disease is difficult to determine.

No chances with tricky togas or slipping sashes were taken by a ladies' aid society we heard of, who spent an afternoon "sewing on the costumes for the Christmas play."

A municipal lottery is suggested in Portland by Commissioner Bennett. We think the taxpayers take enough gambling risks already at the biennial elections.

Social climber: One who cannot square herself with her own circle.

New name for janitresses: Sweeping beauties.

Economists no sooner quit worrying about the depression than they start worrying about a boom. This paper will give two glass inner tubes to anyone who can figure out a set-up under which the economists would have nothing to worry about.

The gorge enjoyed rather low temperatures during the past week. Several society dames were noticed hereabouts acquiring icy stares.

Then there was the guy who asked the waitress for a roast leg of lamb, and all he got was the cold shoulder.

Real estate men are wearing smiles these days. Heck, all through the depression they had lots to be thankful for.

Some people won't be satisfied with the milk of human kindness, but insist on having the cream too.

Persons who have slipped on icy sidewalks during the past few days may well wish for the good old times when there weren't any sidewalks.

Congress is in session again, and we may soon expect some major ascents of hot-air balloons.

We understand young Senator Rush Holt of West Virginia will not get a slice of patronage pie. Looks like he's going to be kept pure in spite of himself.

Well, folks, the joke factory is closing down for another week. See you all at the inauguration.

Approximately 81 per cent of the people of Oregon now use electricity or live within the limits of free service connections.