

The North Santiam's Mill City Enterprise

VOLUME V, NUMBER 4

MILL CITY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1949

\$2.00 A YEAR, 5 CENTS A COPY

Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

Modern social theories have it that youth must be given a carefully guided recreation program, and there is an entire profession devoted to the cause of organized play activities. The idea behind all this is that the youth becomes socially adjusted—whatever that means—and a better addition to society.

Pardon me for being an old fuddy-duddy, but the whole notion strikes me as frilly nonsense. Why must a youngster be entertained, taught to play, except as he might learn in school athletics or the Scouts, 4-H, etc.? Even an infant of three or four can keep himself occupied with play day in and out without boredom. And why the emphasis on "group" activity?

The English-speaking part of the world has a great culture; perhaps as great a literature as any peoples. There's more recreation in an evening with Dickens, for an alert young man or woman, or child, even than can be derived going through one paces for a professionally glad recreation director. A young person of 16 who hasn't read three or four of the plays of Shakespeare is not only immature—he's missing a lot of fun.

Above all, the degree of self-reliance one develops in occupying one's spare hours is the mark of a man or woman. It need not be literature, although books are the best of all the arts of man. An interest in science, which can be deeply developed by the young, is a great challenge. And every hour spent in the spirit of insatiable curiosity, which is normal to the young, in scientific inquiry is work on a real foundation for living in a modern world.

All knowledge that the young acquire on their own initiative means more to them even than their school work, which, being a duty, is less thrilling. The inner development of one's mind, in individual pursuit of ideas and facts, rounds out the vast goal of learning.

The recreation advocates offer a time-consuming program of activities to lead the youth toward being "socially adjusted." This means, in their viewpoint, that he's equipped to get along with his fellowmen, that he's popular. The fallacy of that kind of thinking lies in the fact that the world, in the long run, judges a man by other standards than his personal adjustment to society. Washington, for instance, was a taciturn man, almost a misfit according to the standards of the recreation polyanthas. The great John Calvin or Martin Luther, leaders of the Reformation, and rude fellows both, hardly were the product of sweet forms of recreation. Lincoln, who not only was deprived of their planned play but also all but a little formal education, found himself as a leader because he had the capacity for individual self-teaching. His recreation was literature in his boyhood—and his wise use of his spare time as a lad fitted him for the great achievements of his later years—and his addresses have taken their place as literature.

The world, and particularly America, is suffering from the results of too much recreation—there is an infantile preoccupation with trivial time wasting recreation that poorly suits a people with such grave responsibilities in the world.

The other evening I got a telephone call. A syrupy voice purred: "This is station WOW. Your name has been selected from the telephone directories of the nation for a chance to win a big prize. If you answer the question we are about to direct to you correctly, you will win a Pontiac sedan, a household of furniture, a trip to Hawaii for you and your family. Now listen closely to the question."

"What is the name of Roy Roger's horse?"

I've been somewhat unenthusiastic about horse operas since my 11th year, so I did not know. I put my hand over the receiver and asked the family. I got the right answer, hoping I wouldn't be disqualified because I got help.

"Trigger," I replied.

CVA Proposal Meets Mixed NW Reaction

Pacific Northwest citizens greeted with mixed reactions this week the news that President Truman has called for the immediate enactment of a Columbia Valley Authority.

In Salem Gov. Douglas McKay immediately voiced opposition, with the remark: "What's wrong with the way we're doing it now?"

But labor and farm organizations responded quickly with an unqualified indorsement of Mr. Truman's proposal.

The question is of urgent concern to the North Santiam area, for if CVA were to be approved, the Detroit and Big Cliff dams would come under the system.

(Chief difference between a CVA and the present Bonneville Power Administration setup is the matter of organization. The Tennessee Valley Authority, after which CVA would be modeled, is a government corporation with three directors appointed by the President with the approval of Congress. TVA administers a regional program, and turns its profits into the treasury to amortize loans advanced to it.

Bonneville operates under direct government control. Its revenues are turned in directly to the treasury, and it must operate each year on a direct appropriation from Congress.)

President Truman wrote to the heads of the Interior, Army, Agriculture and Commerce departments and others asking them to draft legislation for a CVA. The news was released after the President had conferred with Rep. Hugh B. Mitchell, Democrat, Washington.

In Salem Morton Tompkins, master of the State Grange, said his organization had supported the CVA idea for many years and "we are happy that the President has personally got behind the movement."

James T. Marr, secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, declared that the Oregon labor movement "together with farm groups will give CVA their active and energetic support."

Similar support came from labor and farm organizations in Washington.

Roy T. Atkinson, regional director of the CIO, commented:

"Organized labor—particularly those workers in the light metals industries—will greet the President's action as bearing out their faith in him during the last election. CVA will help make the Pacific Northwest the center for a great light metals industry, making thousands of new jobs for our working men and women."

C. Girard Davidson, assistant secretary of the Interior, said:

"CVA is the only way we can get federal activities in the Northwest properly integrated. We believe we this can be done without interfering with states' rights."

A regionwide meeting called by the League for the CVA, will be held in February.

Affiliated with the League are the state Granges of Oregon and Washington, the Washington, Oregon and Idaho AFL, the CIO and the Farmers Union of four Northwest states.

Lined up solidly against a CVA are the various private power companies, some Chambers of Commerce and the Republican controlled state governments of Washington and Oregon. They denounce the CVA proposal as socialistic.

STREET LIGHT LINES STRUNG

The Mountain States Power Co. is at work on the Linn County side of town stringing line and cutting in way for street lights. Early this week the wires were installed in the business section on the south side of the river.

"Correct," replied the voice over the phone. "You have just won two pounds of fertilizer."

Only he didn't say fertilizer. I since learned that at least one other citizen won a prize, only he got five pounds. This is rank — no double meaning intended—discrimination. If the correct answer is worth five pounds in one case, it ought to be worth five pounds in another.

Support The March of Dimes



By JERRY SWAN
Hut, two, three four, hut two, three, four. Left left, right, left. Do you hear that right? I don't think you do. You think of soldiers, I think of children—children with infantile paralysis. The marching is pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars. I hear that marching all over the country. President Franklin D. Roosevelt started The March of Dimes. He wanted to help the ones who had infantile paralysis because he knew what it was like. He wanted the children and grown-ups both who had had

infantile paralysis to get well He wanted them to say, "I used to have infantile paralysis, but now I can walk, thanks to the many people in the United States who joined the March of Dimes. From 1943 to 1947 over 80,000 people were stricken with infantile paralysis. Think of the money it cost. That's where the hut, two, three, four comes in. So join the March of Dimes. The above prose-poem was a theme written by Jerry Swan and it won a competition unanimously, with the faculty as judges.

Council Names Veness to Fill Vacancy

Robert P. Veness, theater proprietor, was appointed last Wednesday to the city council, to fill the unexpired term of Lee Ross, who resigned when he moved out of the city limits.

Mr. Veness' appointment was made by Mayor Harold Kliever, with the unanimous consent of the other four council members.

Mr. Veness has been proprietor of the theater for the past nine years. He is an officer of the Mill City Chamber of Commerce and is active in the Lions Club. This is his first public office.

The bill presenting the first city charter to the legislature will be submitted by Rep. Max Landon of Sweet Home and possibly a representative from Marion county. It will not be offered as a joint bill, but will await action in the lower house before it reaches the state senate. The charter was modeled after one drawn up by the League of Oregon Cities, but adapted to local needs. It will contain about 5000 words.

Existing ordinances are not included in the charter. Copies of the charter were prepared by Earl Ragsdale, city recorder, in the form necessary for submission to the legislature.

The city will begin construction soon on a garage to house municipal vehicles.

The building of wood construction will be built on city property behind the jail and city hall. It will be 28 feet long, large enough for the grader, the truck and another car.

2 BUILDINGS UNDER WAY

Roy Beebe is building a carpenter shop and a new house on his property near the Beebe apartments. The carpenter shop is almost finished.

Ask \$2,000,000 More For Dam Before July

Northern Lights A Brilliant Show

A vivid display of the northern lights brought hundreds of residents here out of doors Monday night.

In the early evening the spectacle filled the northern sky with a dull yellow glow, with occasional short bursts of fire stabbing high into the heavens. Later in the night, about 10:30, the aurora borealis became more brilliant, and the yellows changed to a fiery red.

To men who have spent a good part of their lives logging, it appeared to resemble the glow in the sky radiating from a forest fire. Still later in the night the northern light shifted restlessly from one part of the horizon to the other. Looking from downtown Mill City, bold shafts of red glowed first in the northwest and then almost as far east as Mt. Horeb.

Here in the Canyon, one does not see as much of the horizon as in the plains country, so that the bright glow at the level was not visible.

Cold Spell Hits For 2d Week

The entire Canyon area suffered through its second week of unusually cold weather, which paralyzed mill operations and crippled business generally.

Several nights in Mill City the thermometer sunk close to zero, and in Detroit and Idanha the temperatures were lower than any of record.

Local residents were able to recall only two times in the past 35 or 40 years when the Santiam River froze completely across at the narrows in the center of town. Once, in about 1918, similar cold was experienced, and the river was bridged with ice at that point. Again, in 1937, it was frozen at that point.

In the upper part of the Canyon a freak freeze filled the North Santiam with ice from the bottom up, around Detroit and Idanha.

Deer and other wildlife were driven down from the mountains by the deep snow, and around Detroit the deer had become almost tame.

Muir's Bakery was completely shut down Monday and Tuesday because pipes were frozen.

Few homes and businesses escaped the annoyance of frozen plumbing. In Detroit, households were melting snow for their water supply. In the entire area, few houses, constructed as they are for a much milder climate, could withstand the unprecedented cold.

The county court will give its approval or disapproval of the proposed CVA.

School Budget Boost Approved

A school budget of \$107,811, over \$13,000 above the previous year's was approved Monday night at an official school meeting in the High School.

But actually, the expenses had been trimmed some in certain items. Accounting for the increase was a big item of \$10,000 in the 1949-50 budget for the building fund, in case more money was needed to complete the projected grade school building. To this program also was added \$4,000 for landscaping of the structure.

The budget continued the same annual figure of \$14,000 that had been used to amass a sinking fund for the building; the same amount this time will be needed to retirement of bonds for the building. It was pointed out that a slower rate of amortization was possible but the board felt it would be better to retire the debt as fast as possible.

The item for teachers' salaries was up about \$5000 above last year.

The budget will be submitted to county board approval, and will be presented to voters again before the beginning of the next fiscal year in July.

New Request Would Speed Up Work Timetable

President Truman Tuesday submitted to Congress, in his request for deficiency appropriations for the current year, a total of \$2 million for Detroit dam construction funds before July 1.

The sum, if granted, would bring the total appropriation for the year on the big North Santiam project to \$5.5 millions.

The president already has asked for \$11.3 millions for the fiscal year of 1949-50.

The new appropriation request would give the Army Engineers a chance to go ahead in full swing on the dam in the spring, as Col. O. E. Walsh has indicated he wants to do. Bidders to Compete With Walsh.

Prospective bidders on construction and supply for the Detroit dam have been invited to confer with the Army Engineers in Portland Feb. 7 and 8.

The engineer, Col. Walsh said, will outline the details of the project at the Masonic Temple in Portland the first day and prospective bidders will be taken to the site the next day.

The bidders will submit estimates on building the concrete structure, including all preparatory work such as clearing the damsite area and digging a conversion tunnel for the river, the power plant foundations, and other major phases. The current bid does not include clearing the reservoir area, installing of generators, or other power plant installations. Engineers' Plan Indented.

In Salem Wednesday the Marion County Court went on record approving the Army Engineers' general program of developing the Columbia basin, including the Willamette Valley project. The statement apparently was prompted by the forthcoming Basin conference in Portland Feb. 2, at which time the entire scope of the Northwest's power and reclamation blueprint will be reviewed.

"Marion County being located at the foot of the proposed Detroit dam which will have more influence upon the potential development of the lowlands of Marion County than any other factor known at the present time," the court said. "We are in favor of a high dam and power installation for the reason we need the power very badly."

The court pointed to an area of about 93,000 acres which needs irrigation, to 28,000 acres which the dam would help to spare from flood damage, and the need for Salem of more city water supply.

The county court will give its approval or disapproval of the proposed CVA.

Chamber Plans Year's Program

An important meeting of the Mill City Chamber of Commerce was held Thursday noon at Tom and Pop's Cafe to outline a program for the current year.

Topics for immediate attention of local businessmen were:

1. Discussion on sending a delegate to the Columbia Basin Conference in Portland Feb. 2. This will be a hearing to outline general policy of flood control and hydroelectric power in the Northwest.

2. Widening the membership of the local chamber.

3. Nomination of officers for the current year.

Cards were sent out to about 75 to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Albert Toman offered her home as a meeting place.

HEALTH BROADCAST PLANNED

The Oregon State Medical Society and the State Department of Education are co-operating on a series of health broadcasts starting Feb. 2 for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Broadcasts are scheduled weekly at 1:45 and are on KOAC, KRPS and KRVM for 15 weeks.

Don't borrow. Subscribe!