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"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

Boy Scouts or Not?

The Boy Scout population in the Mill City area is taking a beating. These lads entered into the spirit of Scout work with the energy only our youth have. Now these same young people find they are stalled. The old gag "Let George do it!" is working a hardship on the Boy Scouts. Whether this kicking from pillar to post of the Scouts is by plan or neglect we do not know. We do know it is time for a change!

It is important that there be a Scoutmaster and Scout committee—both active. Boy Scout affairs have jogged along on a rocky road for an unreasonable length of time. Interest in the welfare of the Boy Scouts waxes hot and cold. If there exists clashes of personalities among those responsible for Scout work, it is time such things are forgot. Boy Scouts are being hurt by this present lack of decisive action.

Boy Scouts are placed in the ridiculous position of having earned merit badges, but cannot get them. There is no down-to-earth plan for Boy Scout activity. Even the routine of meeting regularly has fallen by the wayside. Unless a live Boy Scout troop gets going Cub Scouts will come to a standstill also. The Cubs deserve something better than this. At present Boy Scouts cannot advance further in their worthwhile program. Shall this state of affairs continue?

Sardine Creek Fire Ire

It's a favorite pastime—this business of cussing out the other fellow. The Sardine Creek fire has stirred the ire of plenty of citizens. State and federal forest services have been and even now are on the receiving end of the lion's share of such criticism. That's a fact!

Those in the state and federal forest services must "take it and like it!" These men represent Oregon and the U.S.A.—they are your governments agents on the scene. The U.S.A. Department of Interior hasn't the money for proper forestry roads and an effective force of trained foresters—a peevish Congress so far has snapped Uncle Sam's purse shut on such items. This same assinine stinginess is a disease of the Oregon legislature also.

So what if "college men" were confused about fighting the Sardine creek fire, who wasn't? The smoke and speed of the fire was terrific. So-called "college men" aren't super beings because of a few summers experience in the forest service. Foresters must be trained and training takes time and costs money. The co-operation shown the forest service by certain big timber interests is a disgrace. Fire fighting is tiresome and dirty work. The dousing of smoldering stump and snag fires in an area of some 9,000 acres of steep and almost inaccessible territory is no small task and cannot be done over-night. A dozen men cannot do it—nor can two hundred.

There is not the slightest doubt in anyone's mind but that the Sardine creek fire should have been mopped up entirely after the first rains and before it "blew-up" the second time and swept towards Gates and Mill City. The sixty-four dollar question is: why wasn't it? The answer is: there wasn't time, men and equipment enough for such a project. Put your legislatures under the magnifying glass for the answer regarding forest care in general.

If rain and winter weather finally does make the Sardine creek fire say "Uncle" then there's the problem of future Sardine creek fires. Who, we ask, will fell all those dying trees which will make beautiful torches for bigger and fancier Sardine creek fires? Those mute and denuded trees should be felled, this we know. It is true many of the dead trees will be lagged, but will all the snags in that vast burn be felled? The last canyon forest fire in 1919 gave a big boost in the way of old dry snags to the 1951 version, the Sardine creek fire.

Forestry roads should now honey-comb the Sardine creek burn. All snags should be felled and the work of re-seeding done. Shall we "Let George do it?"

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The wedding cake cutting ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. John B. McClintock, nee Anna Mae Nelson, who were married recently at the First Christian church in Mill City. Bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson of Mill City. (Photo courtesy The Statesman and Robert Veness)

Editorial Comment

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Recurring fires in the Santiam Canyon area have had their repercussions in complaints of mismanagement, as perhaps might be expected. In any catastrophe, criticism is to be expected. And we are not attempting to judge herewith its justification.

What concerns us is keeping on doing the best job possible, if such has been done up to date, or in doing better if slips there have been.

Two criticisms have been voiced—first, that the guard was let down too much when the August sprinkles gave firefighters a breather; second, that there has been insufficient supervision to make the best use of manpower available.

To the first criticism, the only answer can be maybe. As it turned out, the fire did get away again and much more valuable timber destroyed. In the meantime, whatever money was saved by reducing the fire-fighting payroll has gone up in smoke many times over. While it is not true that all men were withdrawn in August, it appears probable that had more been retained the loss would not have been so heavy.

To the second criticism, it would be difficult to find any specific answer. The responsibility rests with the forest services, but on so widespread an operation there must of necessity be delegated a great deal of individual responsibility to a great many persons. And many of them have carried out such responsibilities nobly.

The only real protection is in stopping fires before they get out of hand. To that end, a co-ordinated effort is needed and when the present conflagration is history some serious thought needs be given in more detailed planning along that line. Let the criticism be constructive. In the meantime, firefighters in the main appear to be doing a creditable job. —From The Statesman

SHOWDOWN IN KOREA

A decision is due. Russia must accept a severe setback in Korea or make a much bigger investment in that struggle.

Sharp fighting which could be the prelude of a new offensive, use of tanks for the first time in months, and the appearance of Caucasian troops—all these have caused uneasiness on the American home front.

But the jitters are definitely not in order. There is still little evidence that Moscow's new support of the Reds in Korea is very extensive or very effective. There is even less

indication that Russia is ready to come openly into the Korean struggle and start a world war. Meanwhile, evidence accumulates to show that short of such open participation there will be only defeat there for the Communists.

Allied authorities exude confidence—based on specific military factors:

Terrain: United Nations forces are firmly planted—if not dug in—on the strongest natural defense line they have yet held in Korea.

Tanks: There are more American tanks in Korea than are likely to be furnished by Russia or manned by trained crews of Koreans or Chinese—who have developed a distinct sense of claustrophobia through experience with napalmed tanks. Tanks are not a decisive weapon under present conditions, being useful only in valleys.

Artillery: The UN's massed firepower is something new in warfare. The greatest force of American artillery in the last war was gathered for the terrific fight on Okinawa. Twice as much is available in Korea and improvements have made it many times more effective, gun-for-gun, than anything the Reds have used.

Airpower: UN planes dominate the air, with freedom to strike enemy troops and supply lines hundreds of miles behind the front. The Communists have some fighter planes that are reported superior to American jets but they have few skilled pilots and have been defeated time after time even when they had larger numbers. This is due to better shooting by American pilots and to superior training in group combat.

So far there is little indication that they have been able to establish air bases in Korea. UN air forces, including close-support carrier planes, cannot be outmatched by the 1,000 planes the Reds are reported to have gathered in Manchuria. Of course if Russia should come in openly the picture would change. But an answer by strategic airpower, with the A-bomb always a potentiality, would then be immediately available.

A grim struggle may lie ahead. We shy from rosy predictions. But short of open Russian intervention, the best information on Korea is that the military situation is good. Far less good is the economic and political situation. Not only have millions of Koreans been rendered destitute and homeless; the productive capacity of the country is dangerously impaired. Moreover, the South Koreans sharply oppose any proposals for leaving the nation divided. To prevent the Communists taking advantage of these factors may prove a tougher long-range problem than the immediate military one. It deserves equal attention. — From Christian Science Monitor.



From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Skip Makes a Slip

Miss Gilbert, the teacher, was telling me how Skip Lawson almost went to sleep in her physics class.

She noticed him nodding and—since they were discussing electricity—said in a loud voice: "Now maybe MR. LAWSON will explain what electricity is." Skip started up, looked around wildly, and blurted out, "Gee! I used to know, but I forgot."

"What a loss to science!" sighs Miss Gilbert. "No one to this day knows what electricity really is, and here we have a genius who could explain it—but forgot!"

From where I sit, I hope this taught Skip that you're better off if you admit you *don't* know all answers. Some grownups haven't learned that yet—like the ones who are always telling other people what's best and what's right and what's wrong. I like a temperate glass of beer, myself, but if you prefer buttermilk I won't argue. I've seen too many "know-it-alls" turn out to be wrong!

Joe Marsh

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