

**ALONG NATURE'S TRAIL**

By **KEN McLEOD**

To continue our discussion on the search for a suitable water policy for the nation, a subject that has occupied the attention of a great many people, and which has led to a number of studies, commissions, committees and the like for the expressed purpose of developing such a water policy.

Since there has been a great many conflicting ideas expressed in the various water policy statements that have already been published, the Outdoor Writers Association of America has felt the need for a clear cut statement of policy that would be unfettered from the pressures of special interest lobbies, bureau influences and political considerations. To accomplish this, the OWAA set up a committee on water policy. This committee will present its formal report to the annual meeting of the Association this coming Saturday at Missoula, Mont.

I have written how the committee has studied the various reports and its opinion as regards the reports of the Hoover Commission, the President's Water Resources Policy Commission and the report of the Engineers Joint Council. A

still more recent report is that issued by the Missouri Basin Survey Commission, another government-formed body, released Feb. 20, 1953. This report is still another approach to basin wide water problems and management. It is a report in which there is a high degree of back-looking approach centering attention on the big dam development programs of federal bureaus, and the adoption in some considerable extent of the "valley authority" concept of water management.

There are other studies, committees of Congress, and the like. A swarm of all of these and out of the great mass of written material the reports of the Hoover Task Force and the Engineers' Joint Council stand as being less bound by pressures and politics and thinking of the past than the others. The OWAA water policy commit-

tee after careful study of all these proposals, came to the opinion that none of these studies, except perhaps that of the Task Force, have gotten right down to the totally fundamental phases and factors that are elementary in forming a policy with regard to our water wealth management. In a very considerable degree the approach of these groups has been to accept water as it occurs in a stream or reservoir as the point at which management and policy must start. The line of reasoning is that water gathers somewhere, somehow, and when it reaches a level of volume, then is the time to start management. The stress of

study and conclusions lies on what shall be done with water at some down-stream point. Again the Task Force report is a reasonable exception. While other studies mention the up-stream factors in water management, the emphasis is on water part way along its travel line from arrival on the land mass to rejoining the oceans.

The Outdoor Writers' Committee is positive that to approach water management from such an angle, disregarding certain factors of natural law and action, is a fatal

error. The Committee does not hold that the conventional installations in the engineering realm are to be disregarded nor condemned "per se." The Committee does hold that any approach which "begins" consideration of water management at this point, by such facilities, disregards some fundamentals, inso-

The Committee therefore, in full humbleness but without any influences of groups or agencies holding limited or special interest outlooks, has tried to dig toward the most fundamental, universal approach to handling water resources that it can present. It hopes that what it may offer is so basic that all segments of water

management may find in it something on which all may find a foundation for working out all segments of the gigantic pattern of water resource management.

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**Vet's Mailbag**

The Veterans Administration's direct loan program to aid veterans in the purchase or construction of homes and farmhouses in areas where private financing is not available, has been extended for one year under Public Law 101 signed by the President on July 1.

The VA's direct loan authority ended July 30. The new law extends that authority to June 30, 1954, and adds 25 million dollars per quarter to the direct loan fund.

Direct loans are not made in metropolitan areas, according to the VA. Areas eligible for direct loans are confined in most cases to small towns and rural areas where G. I. loans from private lenders are not available.

Public Law 101 also increases the interest rate on direct loans from 4 to 4 1/2 per cent and places them on the same level as VA guaranteed loans made by private lenders on which a maximum rate of 4 1/2 per cent is permissible.

The Administrator of Veterans Affairs, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, is authorized by the new law to lower interest rates on both guaranteed and direct loans below 4 1/2 per cent if the loan market demands it.

During the three years the direct loan program has been in operation, the VA has closed 35,300 loans and reserved funds for another 18,000, for a total of nearly \$285,000,000.

Through May, 1953, only 22 direct loans have resulted in foreclosure or voluntary conveyance to the government in lieu of foreclosure. This is approximately one-tenth of one per cent of the loans closed, proving that veterans are excellent credit risks.

Although the VA direct loans are limited to \$10,000, the average loan amount is about \$4,900, the VA said.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

Q. I have a permanent National Service Life Insurance policy, and I want to borrow money on it. How much will I be able to get?

A. If your permanent policy has been in force under premium paying conditions for at least a year, you have the right to borrow an amount not exceeding 54 per cent of the reserve of the policy.

**Step-Father Shot By Girl He Beat**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)**—A 14-year-old high school girl shot her step-father to death Friday night, police said, and her mother told authorities he had beaten the girl brutally for eight years.

Sebilete (Bella) A. Hols fired a .22 calibre rifle bullet into Charles D. Evans' head as he sipped coffee in the family kitchen. Jean H. Scholtz, acting detective chief, said.

The girl's mother, Mrs. Mary Holz Evans, 33, told police her husband thrashed Bella with a heavy stick just before the shooting. Mrs. Evans said she was beaten off when she tried to intervene.

Bella was charged with juvenile delinquency. For an adult the charge would equal first-degree manslaughter.

**Veterans!**

**ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?**

**QUESTION:** What do I get paid for being active in the Army Reserve?

**ANSWER:** The pay of your grade or rank for each training assembly or day in camp while in a unit.

**QUESTION:** How much spare time a year must I spend to earn a lifetime income?

**ANSWER:** Only 15 days at summer camp plus 40 hours of additional Reserve activities each year.

**QUESTION:** How much retirement income will I get?

**ANSWER:** It can be \$60.00 or more per month for enlisted men.

**YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!**  
Women are still in our military service. E. Anne Brown, first sergeant, The Army Reserve Post Hospital is paid only by training at  
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Ford was the first in its field to bring you V-8 power. Today, Ford alone of all the low-priced cars offers you the smooth, unsurpassed performance of a V-8 engine. And Ford's Six—the most modern in the industry—with Overdrive, won the Grand Sweepstakes in this year's Mobilgas Economy Run.

Ford first brought to the low-price field a completely automatic transmission that combines the smoothness of a torque converter and the gas-saving "go" of automatic gears. Fordomatic remains the most versatile automatic you can buy.

Ford's new "ride" brings you curve-hugging and bump-leveling qualities never before known in low-priced cars. Front end road shock alone has been reduced up to 80%.

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