

Herald and News

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ALONG NATURE'S TRAIL By KEN McLEOD

There is much more to this conservation business than just "research and education," which is the cry of the extension specialists in their present ambition to do away with the Soil Conservation Service by reorganizing the United States Department of Agriculture to suit their ideas.

The moment Congress gave the secretary of agriculture a "blank check" to reorganize his department the hierarchy of extension specialists who have control of the destiny of the department immediately saw their opportunity and started their all-out campaign to discredit and belittle the soil conservation "is just another part of education."

Typical of the administration's program to belittle the soil conservation movement is the statement by Under Secretary True D. Morse in a speech in Memphis on Sept. 10 in which he stated, "Soil conservation is out of date on our best managed farms, ranches and plantations."

It is quite apparent that these ambitious souls who desire to see everything else going to prove to be an embarrassment to the Republican party since they are directly abrogating the campaign promises made by President Eisenhower in his Omaha campaign speech of last year.

President Eisenhower observed that the only trouble with the program of the Soil Conservation Service was that it was moving too slowly. It is difficult therefore to square this statement with the statements of Agriculture Department officials who have plans to reorganize the department in such a way that the Soil Conservation Service would be reduced in the majority of its functions and de-emphasizing its work by placing it on a state rather than a regional basis.

Under the reorganization the seven present regional soil conservation service offices would be abolished, and the employees either assigned to Washington or state offices or dismissed. The difficulty here is that the SCS program is particularly one of expert assistance, working through locally-controlled conservation districts, in getting direct action of placing conservation practices into effect. Ninety-one per cent of the staff of the SCS are in the field working directly with the farmers and landowners. Supervision on a state basis was tried a number of years ago. It did not succeed because there were not enough qualified technicians available. If the trouble with a regional approach is that it is moving

too slowly, how can it be speeded up by spreading the experts even thinner even though Secretary Benson states that this plan would provide better service to the farmers.

Likewise one wonders how the "better service" can be rendered by an organization that would not have a single position in agronomy, biology, forestry or range management on its staff, for none of these key agricultural sciences would be represented either in Washington or in the state offices. The Soil Conservation Service would be reduced to merely being an engineering and soil-mapping agency. Complete farm planning, which considers all aspects of proper land use for each farm would become a thing of the past. In the future, there would be no integration of soil conservation, water control, crop, pasture, range, woodland and wildlife management.

The thinking of the Department of Agriculture skips as expressed by Morse on conservation is just as he stated, "Out of date on our best managed farms."

It is difficult to see how the Benson Plan can provide a "better service" to farmers by merely expecting the extension service to carry on the functions stripped from the Soil Conservation Service since there is no provision being made for increasing the size of the staff of the extension service. The extension service neither has the staff, the facilities nor the inclination to carry on the kind of service that has been provided by the Soil Conservation Service.

Moreover, the 48 separate state offices would be virtually on their own; no provision has been made for technical supervision. The state offices would have no technical staffs and would do little more than provide business services to area and work unit personnel. Unless there is a change in thinking, the corps of highly qualified technicians now in regional offices of the SCS will be lost or dissipated, supervision of the new "Small Watershed Program" established by Congress will be crippled seriously, and regional cooperation with other agencies will become unknown.

In many ways the coordination of various technical fields attained by the Service and the simplification of its technical recommendations to farmers and ranchers have been a model of applying science to practical programs of land and water use. However, out of the mouth of an official spokesman we learn that Soil Conservation is "out of date"—it's only a matter of "research and education."

THE DOCTOR SAYS

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

Mothers and fathers are practically never without questions, some of which are easy to answer and some of which are not.

A mother asks my opinion about babies sleeping on their stomachs. She is under the impression this causes the babies to become crossed-eye. She has raised eight children, and the first six slept on their backs and their eyes were perfect, but the other two slept on their stomachs and have eyes which are crooked.

I cannot imagine any reason why a baby which slept on the abdomen would be any more likely to develop crossed eyes than any other infant. Actually, pediatricians advise mothers to turn their small babies from time to time for the comfort of the infant and the effect on the skull.

Another mother says her six-year-old son has myopia, or near-sightedness. People have given her to understand that children, near-sighted at this early age, eventually will go blind. I am glad to reassure her about this since while the child may have to wear glasses in order to attain good vision, it seems most unlikely that blindness could possibly develop.

Writing about her 16-month-old baby, another parent says that the infant has eaten well until she

started to teethe, and since then her gums have been swollen, and she will hardly eat at all.

The severe reaction to teething, such as the one described, does not last very long as a rule, and the child should start eating well when the discomfort is over.

A most difficult problem is presented by Mr. and Mrs. B. who say the yhave a four-year-old adopted child who will not respond in any way to their affection.

The clue to the difficulty is probably given in another paragraph in which Mr. and Mrs. B. say that they also have a three-year-old daughter who is not adopted, but who gives and asks for their love freely. There is almost certainly some feeling of insecurity on the part of the adopted child which probably the parents are not aware of. Perhaps the help of their physician or pediatrician would be sufficient to pinpoint the difficulty.

RED HATS BESTOWED
CASTLE, GONDOLFO, Italy (AP)—Pope Pius XII Thursday bestowed the red hat, special emblem of their high office, upon five of the 24 cardinals elevated to the Sacred College last winter. They had missed the great January Papal consistory in which most of the new princes of the church received their insignia.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

LIST TO THE TALE OF THE BROTHERS KERPLUNKT—ONE PASSED WITH HONORS—THE OTHER ONE FLUNKED....



NOW BRAINY, THE TEACHER, WHO'S ALWAYS IN HOCK—IS HELPED OUT BY DUMBULB, WHO WORKS ON THE DOCK!



SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—The boom—ending or not—has brought untold profits to many industries. Earnings statements now pouring in show that nearly three out of every four companies did better in the first nine months this year than in the same period a year ago.

Their combined earnings, so far, are running 18 per cent ahead of last year.

Giant General Motors, sparked by big auto production and by defense orders, turned in 17 per cent higher profits after taxes—and taxes topped one billion dollars. Its net income for the nine months at 453 million dollars makes it the most profitable industrial firm in the world. The motors group as a whole is running 16 per cent ahead.

The first 350 corporations to report show that combined after-tax profits total \$4,081,110,209, compared with \$3,464,993,177 in the first nine months of 1952.

But 100 of them didn't do as well this year, reflecting in many cases a turn-down in their particular industries which started some time

ago. And seven of the firms ran in the red—the same number as did last year.

Hundreds more statements are yet to come, and the earnings final picture may be different. Many of the companies also showed they were slowing down in the last few months. Their booming business early in the year colored the nine months report.

Steel companies show the greatest increase over last year, as was expected due to the big strike pulling them down in 1952. They are running 73 per cent ahead this year. Increased prices and near capacity output pushed some to near record highs.

Rails are 20 per cent better off in the profits column than a year ago, helped by good traffic and higher rates. Many, however, show that September gross revenues declined.

Others showing good gains this year include metalworking companies, aircraft, auto supplies, electrical appliances and chemicals—all hitched in, to greater or lesser extent, with the defense program.

GUEST EDITORIAL

DEMO VICTORY

(NOTE: This column is prepared by Walter Chambliss Jr., Vice President of the National Association of Manufacturers, 1016 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. The column "NO COMMENT" should not be regarded as necessarily reflective of NAM position or policy for it is a reporting of incidents and conversations which its author thinks might be of general interest.)

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY: Practically every conceivable interpretation has been placed upon the Democratic victory in the special Wisconsin congressional election, but two factors, which have not been stressed, are important.

First, both the victorious Democrat and the defeated Republican were former La Follette Progressives. The significance here is that no life-long Republican, either young or old, was nominated to carry forward the Eisenhower banner which stands for a return to free competitive enterprise. Unless the Republicans in every section of the country give all-out political support to the Republican revival stimulated by Mr. Eisenhower, there'll be a return to Fair Dealism in the general congressional elections next November.

Second, "General Apathy," which had much to do with Mr. Truman's 1948 presidential victory, was in command of the political battlefield in Wisconsin. Post-election reports indicate that big-name names were overconfident. Did not work in the campaign. Many did not vote. Out of some 150,000 eligible voters, less than one-third took the trouble to go to the polls.

Also, the farm program of the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Benson, looking to freeing farm prices from government controls is cited in most post-mortems as a major reason for Republican defeat.

There are many Republicans and Southern Democrats, who have served long on Capitol Hill, who say that the Eisenhower administration offers perhaps the last chance for a return to what here-

tofore has been regarded as sound national fiscal policy. It is the opinion of this group:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1. That too little is being said. And too little credit is being given to what Mr. Eisenhower already has done to put the nation's fiscal, economic, social and foreign affairs in order, such as—Price, wage and (Federal) rent controls are gone. All metals controls are off (except on aluminum and tantalum and these are going shortly). Socialized medicine and socialized electric power are no longer discussed. Both individual and corporate taxes will be reduced Dec. 31. The federal payroll is being cut. Commissions are studying how to reduce the size of federal bureaucracy, eliminate government competition with business, return many functions now performed by the federal government to the states and municipalities, establish foreign trade policy that will open more foreign markets to American farm and industrial products.

SHORTCOMINGS: 2. Too much emphasis is being placed upon what some regard as the shortcomings or mistakes of the Eisenhower administration. The Capitol Hill group points out to the critical that it is much simpler to correct the defects of the present administration than to let it go out of power and then, in 1960, try to elect a perfect administration. And adds that after all there is no such thing as a perfect administration. And the final observation by this group is this: if the Republicans lose out in 1956 they will have a return of the Fair Deal with more free spending, more inflation, more debt, more devaluation of the dollar with a resultant decrease in the value of life insurance and pensions, and that all this eventually will set a course from which no administration could turn back.

This thought is added: don't be impatient with Mr. Eisenhower just because he has not repealed the twentieth century.

James Marlow

WASHINGTON (AP)—After two news conferences in which reporters tried to pin him down, President Eisenhower's role in the 1954 congressional elections is still vague. He has made it vague.

He has indicated he doesn't want to be very active in the campaign. But he has left the door open in case he decides he must take a bigger part in the elections than he now seems to think necessary.

Before election day in November 1954—because of necessity and Republican pressure—he may have to jump in, hip-deep. There's a lot at stake for him, his administration and the Republican party. Control of Congress depends on the outcome. If the Democrats win, Eisenhower will have to deal with them, and depend on them for support of his program in the two remaining years of his term.

He has a record of showing distaste for the rough and tumble of politics—until he's pushed. Then he can dig in with energy. He demonstrated that in the presidential race.

His early speeches in the 1952 campaign were less than blood-thirsting. This so alarmed his supporters that some told him bluntly he was running like a creek. After that, he made a slam-bang campaign. Judging from what he has said at his news conferences, he seems to think he can sit out most of next year's campaign quietly in the White House.

But if the Republican leaders push or persuade him into more activity, he may not find the going as mild as he did in 1952. Then he was a war hero, and the Democrats treated him gently. They have mostly continued to treat him gently. If he gets too antagonistic toward them in 1954, he may find himself pelted like any other politician.

It would be nice—especially for Eisenhower—who he could go through four White House years without getting the slugging which is the lot of any president.

It's possible that Eisenhower, so far as an untarnished and heroic figure in American history, is conscious of what may be in store for him if he gets too aggressive politically from now on.

Former President Truman rolled up his sleeves and barged into congressional elections. That isn't what Eisenhower says he has in mind. On the contrary, he says he doesn't think a president should do it.

In his Oct. 21 news conference he said:

He has no intention of going out and getting into partisan struggles in any district or state because he thinks people might resent such intrusions.

This vision of the President sitting mum while they were out battling for control of Congress didn't sit well with some Republicans. And in his Oct. 28 news conference Eisenhower indicated he might do a little more than sit quietly at home.

Now it seems, from what he said, he may make some nationwide broadcasts in behalf of Republicans in general.

The President said the best thing he can do for his party in 1954 is engineer a program that will attract the voters to the Republicans.

Frank Tripp

If you should see him sailing up Seneca Lake, with a huge old-fashioned delivery wagon umbrella for a sail, lolling in a rocking chair at the stern of a homemade pram, you'd never guess that he's a scientist of note. Yet, maybe you know some scientists, and might guess it.

Anyway he's a nationally known one, and dabbles in eccentricity for diversion; eccentricity with a capital X.

This year may first tell even some of his summer neighbors who "the sandman" really is. Our kids named him that, from his frequent appearance on the lake at their nap times.

He's Albert G. Ingalls, 30 years with The Scientific American, its erstwhile Associate Editor and Science Editor; at 65 continuing editor and conductor of its Amateur Scientist Department, with emphasis on geology and astronomy.

Around Seneca he's just plain "Bert," and mischievously wallops in the knowledge that there are head-shaking natives who think him a "nut." He gets a kick out of nursing their delusion, and chuckling "maybe they're right."

His heavy 16-foot pram, the "Roose O'Grady," he built in his cellar at Cranford, N. J., and shipped to Glenora-on-Seneca. It is the sturdy barge with which he's all alone, worked 15 years raising 80 tons of rock off the bottom of the lake to build his "castle."

There, also alone, he spends his summers, sheltered in his moated, 7 by 10 foot "cell"; built off shore on solid ledge rock, with a 12 by 18 foot foundation, like the base of a huge chimney.

Up one inside wall he left protruding rocks which serve as stepping stones by which to climb to his bed which rests on a larger protruding rock slabs, eight feet above the floor. There, as on a shelf, he sleeps the six night hours that his active brain doesn't scientifically employ him. The gray castle is a monument to an ingenious man's hobby and perseverance. Passing craft change their course to see it. Every stone of the thousands of rocks one lone man searched out for size and shape, moved and placed, even to the twelve foot height of the strange structure. Some of the stones measure two by eight feet and are four to six inches thick.

Ingalls started in 1927 and save for one year abroad, he kept the countryside guessing his objective until 1943, when he put on the roof and called it finished; an average of less than 10 inches of vertical growth per summer.

Now well past his three-score, he's thinking that maybe next year he'll put in electricity and a pump. To date nature has provided his utilities. He drinks the pure water of Seneca, taken up current from where he bathes and does his weekly wash.

Thus, alone with the stars, has lived for 25 summers a modern man of profound scientific knowledge, as primitively as on the same spot lived the Indians centuries ago.

He has built a monument more enduring than any Indians left in this historic region. Only an earthquake or an A-bomb could quiver Bert Ingalls' castle. It will survive as have the Pharaoh's pyramids.

Meantime his learned outpourings have gone around the world. Bert thinks that he has been "easing up," calls his amateur science department a "snobby hobby," through which have screened new, ruthless, some of the country's foremost science specialists, particularly in telescope making.

In his little cubicle last summer Ingalls completed and sent to press Book Number Three of his series on "Amateur Telescope Making," 664 pages of outstanding achievements of the devotees of his "snobby hobby."

It isn't at all strange to me that a resourceful man, whose work takes him back 2,000 million years with the stars, the earth, the universe, would turn for his own hobby and diversion to building something as odd and everlasting as one lone man ever created.

HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—The oddity almanac—facts and figures with which a husband can impress his wife:

Little girls not only are nicer than little boys. . . . Of the gold who do bump up against the law, 20 per cent are now arrested for drunkenness. . . . The biggest increase in feminine criminals is teenagers.

Had your wife's head under a microscope lately? . . . Some beauty salons now are using microscopic analysis to see which one of the seven basic hair types a lady customer's tresses fall under. . . . The owner is supposed to help determine the right kind of permanent wave to give her. . . . Barber shops haven't gone in for it much. . . . Few men would let anybody look at their head through a microscope. . . . But they wouldn't object to a telescope. . . .

It is estimated there are 314,000 blind people in the U.S., of whom 78,000 are employable but can't find work. . . . Some 60,000 more people will lose their sight in the next 10 years, including some of the blind who could give a job to a blind man or woman now if they chose to. . . . Could you yourself see a seeing-eye conscience? . . .

Toy manufacturers say Santa Claus will tote 450 million dollars worth of playthings down the chimneys this Christmas eve. . . . And the pessimists figure the kids will have all but about 10 dollars worth of this loot, busted by New Year's Day. . . .

The late Wilson Mizner, Broadway's fabulous wisecracker, also was one of the most successful men in history with the ladies. . . . He married a widow reported to be worth \$7,500,000, but his biographer, Alva Johnston, says the penniless jester borrowed 10 thousand dollars from the lady 24 hours after first meeting her. . . . Even Casanova didn't work that fast. . . .

"You can't wear amusing hats in the daytime," says Helene Ordel, famous French millinery. . . . Maybe not, but 50 million American women are making a game try to prove she's wrong. . . . Nothing improves the average woman's hat like an eclipse.

Almanac science departments: Have you ever thought of cutting down your electricity bills by illuminating your home with lightning bugs? . . . Well, don't bother. It would take 1,000 to 2,000 fireflies to match the light from a candle, and 137,000 to equal a single 60-watt frosted bulb. . . . It is beginning to look more and more as if Thomas A. Edison was on

the right track. . . . Do you have a kid in high school you'd like to help get ahead in life later? . . . Then teach yourself how to spell. . . . As insurance company poll of employed today are more alert, self-confident and mature than those of years ago. . . . But their "spells" is awful. . . . Some can't even money until they go to college have to write home for it. . . . Fishing trips cause trouble some marriages. . . . If your objects to your going fishing, her what a swell sport. . . . She not only built a curious floating palace to take Anthony on angling journeys to Nile River—she even hired a hook to go down and put fish on hooks! . . . No wonder she became famous. . . . But where can a girl like that today?

Robbery Plan Worked Twice Out of Three

BUTTE, Mont. (AP)—Some called three hotels early yesterday and said money was being taken from top floor windows. Night clerks in two of the hotels investigated the reports and cleaned out the tills. They

The scheme backfired at third hotel, however. A policeman at the desk to give alarm in case of fire.

TANNED ALREADY

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—If you to eat potato chips, keep them to the sunlight. Arizona Assoc. Growers were told by factory representatives that staling to chips comes inside half an if subjected to the sun.

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FOOTBALL



TONIGHT—8:00 p.m.
KUHS at Grants Pass
SATURDAY—1:15 p.m.
USC vs. Oregon
at Portland
SATURDAY—8:00 p.m.
OTI at Boise



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