

### Old Stern Wheeler Pictured On Trial Voyage To Tap The Wood River Country

It was the spring of 1905 when the Winema pulled out of her berth on the Upper Lake and headed north on an exploratory trip to sound the feasibility of establishing a freight and passenger line via water to Fort Klamath and the lush Wood River Valley.

By the time the boat and its crew finally got back to her home dock the possibilities had gone up in a cloud of smoke.

With a crew made up of Ray Telford, Captain Hansbury, John Totton, owner, and an engineer whose name no one can recall at the moment, the big old stern wheeler shoved off for the mouth of Wood River.

On reaching the river the crew quickly found that the boat couldn't get over the mud. Every time they tried the craft ran up on a mud bar and left the big paddle wheels nearly a hundred feet from point of contact.

They turned the boat around, backed up to the bar and used the power of the paddles to wash away enough of the mud to allow the boat, which drew about twenty two inches empty, to get across the obstruction.

Still traveling in reverse they made it some two or three miles up the river before giving up the attempt as hopeless. Just not enough river to navigate the one hundred and twenty five foot boat. She was a ship lost in a sea of grass. (1)

On the return trip when they reached the mouth of the river they found that the mud had oozed back into the channel they had bored with the paddles wheels and it became necessary to turn the boat again. Only hitch was that the river wasn't quite a hundred and twenty five feet wide and the boat wedged across the stream. (2)

Several people from Fort Klamath and the surrounding country turned out to give the crew a hand. Cross cut saws were broken out, along with axes, and the sod was cut away from both banks of the stream to make more room. The big rudder booms were removed and finally enough room gained to allow a turn around. (3)

### Noted Portland Author To Speak To Voters League

Richard L. Neuberger, Portland, distinguished author and outstanding authority on state government, will be guest speaker at the May 26 meeting of the League of Women Voters. Phil Hitchcock, state senator of Klamath Falls, will also speak on the same program.

The speakers have been secured in connection with the present league project, the study of the state constitution, which will be concluded through the year. At a recent meeting of the league, Miss Evelyn Cooper and Mrs. Clifford P. Wood led a discussion on whether the present constitution, written in 1859, needs to be re-written or revised.

The discussion leaders quoted Governor Paul Patterson, who said in his message to the 1953 Legislative Assembly, "For some time Oregonians have had a growing conviction that the time has arrived to modernize the state constitution. This instrument comprising basic law has been in existence for nearly a century. It has grown in size and in detail until in some respects it is more a compilation of by-laws than a constitution."

Since the local league was asked by the state league to study the initiative and referendum in particular many points concerning this "Oregon System" were brought out at the March meeting of the league by Miss Cooper and Mrs. Wood, including the following:

The initiative and referendum were introduced to the Western hemisphere in 1902, apparently to instigate reforms. These so-called "reforms" comprise the only important governmental reforms ever to start in Oregon, and the "Oregon System" gave voters direct and sweeping control over the laws and constitution of the state for some 50 years.

So far, the initiative and referendum have been used mostly for trivial objectives, including increasing the bounty on sage rats and jack rabbits, requiring the size of cattle herds in Umatilla County, moving the state university 41 miles farther north. One early argument concerned the size of hotel sheets. Voters decided they should be 81 inches wide and 103 inches long.

In 1922, the Klu Klux Klan hysteria seized Oregon, initiative petitions to close all religious and private schools were circulated and the measure was passed by the polls.

"What no legislature would ever think of doing, the people had done

with their "Oregon System", Miss Cooper said. Religious freedom had been curtailed and it was necessary for the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the law unconstitutional. "Although it was simple to get enough signers to violate the Bill of Rights in 1922, they wouldn't protect it in 1928 when an attempt was made to initiate a bill to repeal the Oregon criminal syndicalism law, a law left over from World War I days. Lack of voters prevented it from coming to a vote," the leaders declared, and they reminded league members that the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed this statute in a case described by Chief Justice Hughes as one of the most drastic curtailments of free speech to take place in the U.S.

The discussion leaders also stated that initiative and referendum have been used mostly to benefit small groups: there are 20 petitions to legalize gambling or exempt a group from taxation to one petition to improve the educational system. Often, too, the electorate is so confused by the involved wording of initiative propositions that many people appearing at the polls do not vote on them at all.

Miss Cooper and Mrs. Wood reminded the group that at least one major accomplishment has resulted from direct legislations: In 1908 U.S. Senators were chosen by the state legislatures, as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Oregonians decided through an initiative proposition that they should be elected by the vote of the people. Five years later the nation followed Oregon's example, which became the 17th amendment to the constitution.

"The Oregon experiment in direct legislation has made clear that voters who elect unsatisfactory legislatures are not likely to do any better themselves. When people are able to master the technique of direct government, they certainly will make these other controls needless," the leaders stated.

In conclusion, the leaders pointed out that the initiative and referendum will probably always be maintained in some form to protect conservatives, left-wingers or radicals in time of stress. Ruthless pressure groups or tyrannical public officials won't think of doing things they might do if the initiative and referendum weren't there.

The public is invited to attend the May 26 meeting and hear the views of Neuberger and Hitchcock on the subject of the state constitution.

out a passage and the big boat, built by Hansbury and Totton, was free in the waters of the Upper Lake.

A boat passage to Fort Klamath had been tried, now it was up to the overland route to carry the goods.

The Winema was a familiar sight for many years on the lake, carrying freight and passengers to up-lake points and making many, many

pleasure cruises to Rocky Point, Pelican Bay and other popular spots of the day.

She finally came to her end in Shippington when flames consumed the old boat after she had

been laid up for many years. Totton and Telford are still in Klamath Falls and can tell many a glowing tale of the Wood River trip as well as many others. Photos from Telford



### New Type Brakes Added To Auto

DETROIT—Plymouth Motor Corporation today added vacuum booster power brakes to its list of optional features on 1954 model Plymouth cars.

Plymouth's power braking system is similar to those used in other Chrysler Corporation cars. A booster unit, deriving vacuum from the engine manifold, assists the driver in applying the brakes, reducing required pedal pressure up to two-thirds. Plymouth's dual cylinder front wheel brakes and bonded brake linings are retained in the power braking system. Plymouth's new power features, including power brakes, are now in volume production. They include Plymouth's full-time power steering and a new power package made up of Power-Flite fully-automatic transmission used with a new 110-horsepower PowerFlow engine.

Four others who took part in the attack in which several persons were wounded had been sentenced to death but their sentences were changed at the last moment to life imprisonment.

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### EXECUTION

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Three Tunisians were shot to death by a firing squad Saturday for the Jan. 23 slaying of three French police agents in this French North African protectorate.

Four others who took part in the attack in which several persons were wounded had been sentenced to death but their sentences were changed at the last moment to life imprisonment.

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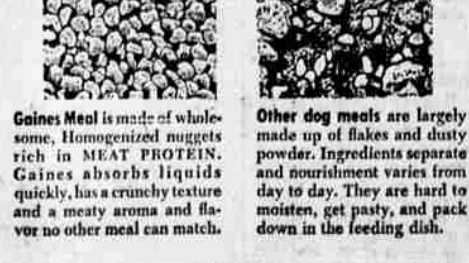
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