

# Herald and News

**FRANK JENKINS**  
Editor

**BILL JENKINS**  
Managing Editor

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**MAIL**

**BY CARRIER**

## ALONG NATURE'S TRAIL by KEN McLEOD

It was William E. Warne, assistant secretary of the interior, under the departed "Fair Deal" administration, who coined the catch phrase — "The Ladder to the North," in describing the Bureau of Reclamation's plans of future conquest of the water resources of the Nation. This phrase, being a direct admission, in regard to the program of the Bureau, threw a lot of Klamath Basin people into a dither and there was a great stir of action to do something about this threat to the economic security of the Klamath River Watershed. Meetings were held, out of which developed the idea of a Klamath River Watershed Association, an organization which would disregard state boundaries and work for the betterment of the watershed from the mountain to the sea.

The Klamath River Watershed Association had a brave start, agricultural leaders of the watershed were enthusiastic about the idea, until the first test came in working with other interests — the application of the California Oregon Power Corp. for a power development on the Klamath River. The Klamath Watershed Association being composed of all interests from the mountain to the sea could only take an objective view of the proposal, which did not suit the selfish interest of agriculture and so this segment removed itself from the Watershed Association to set up its own special organizations in which agriculture's full play of interest could dominate.

At the Weaverville hearing on the Bureau of Reclamation's plan for diversion of water from the Klamath River's chief tributary, the Trinity, the people of the Lower Klamath River Basin received no support from the people of the Upper Klamath River Basin, even though the retention of the waters of the Trinity was as vital to the Lower Basin economy as the waters of the Sprague River are to the economy of the Upper Basin. The Klamath River Watershed Association could not truly represent all the thinking of the Klamath Basin since agriculture withdrew its support from that organization.

The Klamath River Watershed Association discovered, however, that the catch phrase: "A ladder to the north" was only a bare statement of intent—actually the bureau's program was better stated by one of its ardent supporters when he said: "We're not building a ladder, we're building a fence and it makes no difference where we start." That probably was the most significant statement to be made in that whole hearing. "We're building a fence"—fencing in an Empire—and while it makes no difference where one starts in building that fence, it is sure to make a difference where that fence is to go. The "fencing" proclivities of the Bureau are widely scattered, the days of Empire building are far from over.

Down in Redding at the congressional Trinity River hearing a new thing was added to the situation. I would judge this new development left the clever engineers a

little bit startled and without a glint of reply. They'll have to take some time to think this problem over, and just how they will combat this threat to their Empire will be a most interesting development to watch. The Bureau's arch enemy, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, stepped forward and offered to share the cost of the Trinity River development on a partnership basis with the federal government.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been scaling down its estimates of the "initial phase" of the Trinity River development scheme, their latest statement was \$190 million and so they offered to spend \$50 million to build four powerhouses, switchyards and transmission lines. Robert H. Gerdes, vice president and general counsel for PG&E stated: "For the privilege of using the falling water made available by the project, the company would make annual payments to the government to be agreed upon."

"This partnership between the company and the government would save the federal treasury a capital outlay on project power facilities of about \$40 million. The company's annual payments would provide the project with an assured substantial income."

Gerdes added that in addition "the company ownership of the power works would increase federal tax revenues by nearly one million dollars a year and provide another \$900,000 a year in taxes for local governmental agencies."

Gerdes told the congressmen that construction of the Trinity power generation and transmission facilities by PG&E would result in "still greater tax payments to Shasta and Trinity counties." He said that in 1953, 44 per cent of the total taxes levied by Shasta county was paid by the PG&E. The only bright quip to come from the federal power boosters was from Rep. Clair Engle, who asked: "Wouldn't it be better to say that your company collected the money from the people and passed it on to the county?" "Well, we have to get it from somewhere," was Gerdes reply. He could have easily have added — and so does the federal government, for money doesn't grow on trees — or does it? I have not kept up with the latest bureaucratic wonders.

## Rail Yard Added To At Macdoel

**MACDOEL**—The Southern Pacific plans to construct an additional 300 feet to the north end of the Macdoel team track, according to word received by Elmer Kappen, Southern Pacific agent. Work will be started soon.

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## They'll Do It Every Time



## TOWER TALK



with the  
**Ground Observer Corps**

By **MARTHA HURD**

Have you ever thought you could render a real service to your country by given only two hours per week of your time? You can, you know—by volunteering in the Ground Observers Corps of America. You can earn the emblem of the Air Corps, a silver wings pin, after completing 30 hours of service as an observer, and an award medal after 150 hours of watching, or for some outstanding job done for the GOC.

While some of our citizens sleep away the hours of the night, and some spend countless hours at some rendezvous, others serve their community, state and nation by giving just two or more hours per week in the observation tower at the airport, helping to keep a constant vigil against an air attack by an enemy country. It could happen here, you know, unless every citizen remains constantly alert and does all he can to prevent a second "Pearl Harbor."

Take for instance, the night of April 16 (Friday, last). The night was balmy, the sky clear and the moon a deep golden yellow. Suddenly, without a sound, the sky became streaked with fleecy white vapor trails, the mark of jet interceptor planes! Ground observer, Drexel Ivis, on duty in the tower at the airport at this midnight hour, flashed the report to the filter center in Portland, and all was well.

What took these interceptors coastward, only to return a few minutes later? Could it be ground observers towards the coast reported something that suggested danger, or the radar stations picked up the sound of aircraft above the 5000 foot level?

No one here knows, but our local ground observer was on the

**QUICKIES** By **Ken Reynolds**



## Game Outfit Okays Dam

The Oregon State Game Commission has no serious objections to the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Haystack equalizing reservoir of the north unit, Deschutes project, according to a statement issued today by P. W. Schneider, state game director.

Schneider stated, "It appears that there will be fish and wildlife benefits to be obtained through construction of the reservoir providing public access is assured and present minimum flow requirements below Bend for fishery and other public benefits are not disturbed."

He continued, "We know that impoundments can be beneficial to fish and wildlife in certain locations and under certain operating conditions. We are quite hopeful that Haystack reservoir will prove helpful to fish and game."

In making this statement, Schneider pointed out that the Haystack project is not to be confused with Wickup reservoir and minimum flows in the Deschutes River below it.

## Macdoel Ranger Attends Meeting

**MACDOEL**—District Ranger C. A. Abell returned last week from a work conference held about 20 miles out of Santa Barbara.

He reports there were 24 forest rangers there from all over the state. Purpose of the conference was to review and revise the training material used in the training of guides.

Abell said that training new men who have just passed their civil service exams is an invaluable aid to the start of their career.

## Northwest History Highlights

By **DAN E. CLARK**  
Professor Emeritus of History,  
University of Oregon

Today's Question: Where was the most productive placer gold mining in the Pacific Northwest?

Much the richest placer gold mines in the Pacific Northwest were in Idaho, Eastern Oregon, and Western Montana—the region often designated as the Inland Empire. For many years it was an empire of gold. Between 1854 and 1866 this region witnessed a continuous and closely related series of gold rushes, the volume of which did not decrease even during the years of the Civil War.

Farmers, mechanics, professional men, gamblers, and desperadoes, some of them draft swaders and deserters from both sides during the war, poured into the successive mining centers from the east, the south, and the west. Added to these novices at the game were thousands of experienced prospectors from the gold fields of California, Colorado, and Nevada. From time to time there were frenzied stampedes hither and thither in response to reports of rich strikes and new mining camps drew like magnets.

When placer mining declined the ancient land of the Indians and the recent haunts of the fur traders became a settlers' frontier, with roads and transportation facilities, numerous permanent towns, fields of grain, and herds of cattle.

When, or by whom, gold was first discovered in this rugged land of mountains and forests cannot be definitely determined. Father P.M. DeSmet, the great Jesuit missionary, may have been aware of the presence of gold in the Flathead Indian country as early as the 1840's, but he did nothing about it. A half-breed Indian, who had been to the California mines, was said to have panned a small quantity of gold in 1850 in the Deer Lodge Valley.

Finally, there is the story of the lost "Blue Bucket Mine" somewhere in Southern Oregon. According to one of the many versions of this story, members of the ill-fated emigrant party that followed Stephen Meek in 1845 saw some shiny pebbles in the bottom of a blue-painted bucket which had been used in washing dishes. Except that the pebbles were soft and could easily be hammered flat, nothing was thought of the discovery, until after the California gold rush, when it was realized

that the pebbles were probably small gold nuggets. Thereafter for many years, persistent search was made for the locality, but since nobody could definitely identify it

and since some gold was later found in that general area it is not known whether the "lost mine" was ever found.

Clip and paste in your history scrapbook. If you have a question you would like answered, about Oregon or Northwest history, mail it to Dan E. Clark, care of this newspaper.

## Block's

# BUY OF THE WEEK

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					X	X

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APRIL 15, 1954

**RESOURCES**

Cash on Hand and Due from Banks . . . . . \$143,692,681.19

United States Government Bonds . . . . . 242,438,289.19

Municipal and Other Bonds . . . . . 62,192,482.50

Loans and Discounts—Net . . . . . 241,307,748.34

Stock in Federal Reserve Bank . . . . . 960,000.00

Bank Premises (Including Branches) . . . . . 7,722,614.04

Customers' Liability on Acceptances . . . . . 592,607.40

Interest Earned . . . . . 2,095,209.71

Other Resources . . . . . 184,951.90

\$701,186,584.27

**LIABILITIES**

Capital . . . . . \$ 16,000,000.00

Surplus . . . . . 16,000,000.00

Undivided Profits . . . . . 14,579,234.49

46,579,234.49

Reserves for Interest, Taxes, etc. . . . . 3,913,402.51

Acceptances . . . . . 592,607.40

Dividends Declared . . . . . 480,000.00

Deposits . . . . . 645,936,494.68

Interest Collected Not Earned . . . . . 3,328,048.41

Other Liabilities . . . . . 356,796.78

\$701,186,584.27

This statement includes 44 branches in Oregon  
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