

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

by Rep. Harris Ellsworth
4th District

As this is written I am back at my desk again for the first time since the doctor sent me home a week ago to play host to a particularly unpleasant flu or virus bug. I had not been actually down sick in bed for such a long time that I had forgotten just how it is. Now I know—and I don't like it!

But a special curse of this 1956 model virus is the way it leaves the patient after the actual sickness and temperature is ended. The phrase commonly used "weak as a cat" would be a gross understatement in my case. Any healthy kitty could push me all around the room right now.

As a flu bug can keep such accurate track of Congressional activity is a mystery to me. Anyhow, the little villain bit me the afternoon the House recessed for a week. I was released by the doctor for active duty the afternoon the recess ended.

Someone has sent me a copy of the Senator Morse weekly letter for January 27. In it he has his biting criticism of Honorable Wesley D'Ewart, assistant secretary of interior. The following sentence: "D'Ewart was the floor manager of the Ellsworth Timber Exchange bill which would have permitted timber cutting in the national parks."

There is no such term or title used in the U. S. House of Representatives as "floor manager." That is strictly a "Morseism." D'Ewart happened to be chairman of the subcommittee which reported the bill and therefore sat at the committee table on the floor when the bill was under consideration.

What about "timber cutting in the National Parks?" The bill as I introduced it contained the following: "Provided, that such exchange shall not include lands within the boundaries of national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas or wildlife refuges." The final report by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs contained even more restrictive language.

The next of the regular annual appropriations bills to be considered on the floor will be the one which appropriates money for the Forest Service and the operation of the Department of the Interior. The item for forest access roads and trails will be in this bill. Several weeks ago I appeared before the appropriations subcommittee and urged that money for the construction of forest access roads be increased to \$25 million. I based my request on statements previously made to me by the Forest Service that an appropriation of that amount annually for a period of five years would bring the access road system in the national forests up to where it should be. The President's budget called for only \$17,100,000 for access road construction.

There will be additional money appropriated for access road construction on O & C lands. Activity toward the completion and report of the big highway construction bill is going forward in both the House Ways and Means Committee and the Public Works Committee. One committee is writing the tax provisions, the other the authorization language of the bill. Ways and Means will conclude hearings soon and will go into executive session. Public Works will hold a few more days of limited executive hearings and may decide to have additional public hearings.

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Morty Meekle



GARDEN GATE

MALIN
By Virginia Böhm

The Malin Garden Club will reconvene after a two-month recess in the Malin Community Hall, Wednesday, February 23, at 2 p.m. with the president, Mrs. Ben Johnson, presiding. Mrs. Karl Kulac and Mrs. Kenneth Huffman, hostesses for the day, will welcome members and guests.

"Why Our Conservation Pledge"

will be the roll-call topic.

James O'Donoghue of Klamath Falls, well-known ornithologist and photographer, will discuss "Conservation in Its Various Phases," and show slides "Birds of the Klamath County."

Should Be Faithfully Observed."

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Armed Forces Day Planned

Major General Robert B. Landry, Commander of the Fourth Air Force, headquartered at Hamilton Air Force Base, has been appointed Armed Forces Day Area III Commander for 1956 by Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson. "Power for Peace" will be the theme for Armed Forces Day which will be held on May 19 this year and will be generally observed during the preceding week.

Appointed with General Landry are six cooperating commanders representing each of the other military services in Area III which covers the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Nevada and Montana. Armed Forces Day will climax a week of special events designed to acquaint the public with the operations, progress, and capabilities of the Armed Forces. Events planned for the week include open house programs at most all military installations and aboard Navy and Coast Guard vessels, parades, exhibits, aircraft fly-overs, public appearances at luncheons and banquets and special events by military leaders, and participation by the Armed Services in a variety of community activities. Appointment of state project officers and liaison officers will be made shortly.

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