

# The Herald and News

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## Confused

By BILL JENKINS

Well, I've gone and done it at last. Joined the ranks of the Boone Club last week while on a deer hunting junket in the jackpine jungles of Bear Flat.

Not that I was lost, mind you just a mite confused, even as our first ranking hero of pioneer history, I knew exactly where I was—I just didn't know how to get away from there and arrive at the spot where I wanted to be.

It all happened when I started back for the trucks via a small ravine that was, I thought, going to lead me right out where I wanted to be. But it didn't. It wandered off in all directions. And so did I.

Then the snow came, nice thick, heavy, flaky stuff that cut vision down to about ten feet and blotted out every trace of a landmark.

Oddly enough the only thing I could think of at the time was how good a bowl of hot buttered popcorn would taste. Oh well, maybe next time I'll have the flashes that lost people are supposed to have and see visions of all my misdeeds flashing in front of my eyes.

As it turned out I owe a debt of gratitude to Albert Young, the straw boss of Bear Flat for KFPA, who saved me a long walk by knowing just exactly where I'd hit the road. I hadn't covered much ground after walking out to the road—I wasn't that lost that I didn't know where the road was anyway—before good old Albert was there with the pickup and a lift back to camp.

I also owe an equal debt of gratitude to his wife, Freda, who took most of the aches and pains out of a bunch of tired, wet hunters with her wonderful cooking. There is a gal who can really do wonders with the groceries.

Did we get any deer?  
No.

This being an official trip and not wanting to break any of the rules we changed over the second day of the hunt and left Bear Flat to go to Kings Cabin where we had been led to believe the bucks were of monstrous size and so numerous as to cause a menace to hunters in the woods.

Where this story got started I wouldn't know. The biggest thing I saw was a forked horn and after all the fatheaded boasts I've made prior to the season I didn't have courage enough to shoot him. Or at him, as would more than likely have been the case.

Oh well, such is life. There's nothing like wandering around in the woods with the wet snow dripping down the back of your neck and wondering how long it will be before your feet fall off.

We at least had the advantage of more wonderful cooking dished up by Flossie Trombley, who, with husband Ross, keeps the Kings Cabin station going. And, of course, the genial hospitality of John Vogel, majordomo.

Guess I'll go back and try once more before the season is over.

As soon as those blisters go down, that is.

I enjoyed it and the people up there haven't had so much fun since Elmer got confused down on Callahan Creek.

## History

By KEN McLEOD

This column has been rummaging around in the history of the fur trade of North America not only because it forms an interesting topic of human activity but likewise because no one can understand American history if he neglects the explorers and the fur traders—one and the same group in the earliest years. From the moment white men arrived on the Atlantic shore until a period within the memory of men still living, furs have lured them on and on.

The invasion of the continent up the St. Lawrence to the Great Lakes and beyond, over the mountains and the Gulf, up and down the Mississippi and its branches, up the Saskatchewan and down the Mackenzie, up the Peace and the Missouri and over the mountains to the Fraser and the Columbia. Rivers and lakes were the easy highways to the fur harvest, but land routes were by no means rejected, especially in western Canada and in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the continent.

In this manner the names of the famous explorers first appeared on the pages of history. Some of them might have explored even without the mercenary stimulus, but probably their discoveries would have come less rapidly. Consider the fact that is often disregarded, namely, that Frenchmen were, in all probability, at the upper end of Lake Superior before the Pilgrims landed on the Massachusetts coast. We even know the names of two of these supposititious traders: Etienne Brule and a man called Grenoble. By 1660 Radisson and Des Groseilliers were penetrating beyond the great lake, and in their wake followed many others. By 1700 explorers were reporting their travels on the Missouri and on the plains. Before 1760 the La Verendryes and the Martins were as much at home on the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the prairies of western North America as Daniel Boone was in Kentucky a decade later.

Then followed the penetration of the Far West, the Southwest, and

the Far North. Robert Rogers knew of the Columbia River through the reports of traders, when in 1766 he sent Jonathan Carver and others to try to find the Northwest Passage. Peter Pond was trading with the Indians in the Athabaska country at about the same time that Captain James Cook visited our Northwest Coast by sea. A few more years and Pond's erstwhile trading clerk, Alexander Mackenzie, was having his name attached to one of the great rivers of the continent, which he explored. Another short space of time and Mackenzie was carving his name and date in 1793 on a cliff on the Pacific Coast.

All this before Lewis and Clark visited the mouth of the Columbia, before 1800, even before the Massachusetts mariners made the Northeast Coast a suburb of Salem and Boston.

Exploitation followed exploration. Great companies followed cut-throat competition of individual traders. In connection with the fur trade one thinks of the century between 1760 and 1860 as the era of the great companies—the North West Company, the Missouri Fur Company, the American Fur Company, the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, their subsidiaries and affiliated companies, and, of course, always the first great company of all, the Hudson Bay Company, which has outlived all the others.

Also one thinks of the transcontinental trails, particularly the ones to Santa Fe and our Oregon country, which carried furs as at least part of their traffic.

From the point of view of the business historian, therefore the fur trade has a dual distinction. Not only did it vie with fisheries for primacy among businesses first to operate on a large scale in North America, but also it was unquestionably the first to introduce concentrations of capital and manpower. Lessons of importance for future businessmen were learned from the operations of the huge companies, which had to seek hundreds of employees, train them, send them into far corners of the world, and depend on their integrity, courage, and resourcefulness to bring wealth to investors.

No one who has not followed the routes and operations of employees of the great fur companies for a few years, at least, can comprehend the daring and trustfulness of business men at headquarters in London, Montreal, New York, and London it was necessary for scores of years after 1670, for example, for Hudson Bay Company governors, councils, and officials to plan for sailing vessels that could stand the arctic weather and get men through hazardous seas to their destinations on the inhospitable shores of Hudson Bay. The records of this activity are every whit as exciting as the annals of the mountain men generations later. And competition had to be met on arctic seas and tundras no less than in holes and rendezvous in the Rockies, for the Englishmen had to meet in northern regions the competition of individual French traders. Individual, because the French government never learned the lesson that Englishmen comprehended so early—that concentrations of men and capital would turn the trick for the success in trade.

Oddly enough, too, the French government never learned another basic principle—the government interference in the fur trade of individuals, and government decision of policy for those individuals, was fatal to success.

The question then arises naturally, are we today slipping over to the French philosophy of 200 years ago in our attitude to modern day business and trade?

## Sure Way

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

That the surest way to get an ulcer is to waste your time mountain climbing up molehills.

That in 18th Century England

a proper gentleman always washed his hands after handling money.

That the world's largest infant, according to the Fisherman Magazine, is the baby blue whale... it measures upward of 25 feet at birth.

That in some South Pacific islands natives literally "tie the knot" when they get married... friends of the newlyweds join them together with a grass rope.

That whatever our neighbors across the seas think of Uncle Sam, he's no tightwad... federal spending from 1789 through June 30, 1957 totaled \$1,151,000,000,000.

That each hospital bed in the United States serves an average of 13 patients a year.

That someone has suggested this as the best epitaph for the Iron Curtain: "Rust in Peace."

That the male lion, one of the most handsome of all animals, is also one of the least fickle... he often spends his entire life with the same mate.

That inflation has hit Africa... the price of a wife in one tribe has gone up to nine goats and six jars of beer.

That Grace Downs, who trains airline hostesses, gives this difference between the sexes: "A man worries about what the future will have in store, but a woman worries about what the store will have in the future."

That in a five-mile race a buffalo could probably outrun the fastest thoroughbred that ever lived.

That the guacharo, a South American bird, is so fat the natives melt it for use as butter.

That bees are the oldest air-conditioned dwellings... bees inside the hive keep the temperature 10 degrees cooler than outside by fanning their wings.

That it was Mark Twain who made this immortal distinction: "Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do... play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do."

## Mormon Methods

By RICHARD LANEY  
United Press

Juvenile delinquency was a problem even for the frontier settlers of nearly a century ago.

And the Mormon pioneers of Utah came up with a unique method for handling youngsters with time on their hands that has persisted to this day.

That method: Keeping teenagers so busy they don't have any time to get into trouble.

It was 88 years ago that Brigham Young, president of the Latter Day Saints Church (Mormon), announced "The time has come when the women of Utah must agree to give up their follies of dress and to cultivate a modest apparel, a meek deportment, and to set an example before the world worthy of imitation."

Young called on the younger women to form "A Retrenchment Association."

"I want you," he said, "to retrench in your dress, in your tables, in your speech, wherein you have been guilty of silly, extravagant speeches and lightmindedness of thought."

A similar organization for the church's young men was soon formed. They eventually evolved into the Young Men's and Young Women's Mutual Improvement Associations, which now have a combined membership of 355,000 around the globe.

At first the two organizations met separately because of Brigham Young's fears that "if the associations are mixed, they will become mere courting meetings."

It wasn't until the beginning of the 20th Century that church authorities approved joint meetings.

MIA meetings always open with a prayer and a church song. Then, various age groups go to their separate classes where they receive religious instruction, rehearse a play, or prepare for a dance or a concert.

Membership in the MIA is not

restricted to Mormon youngsters. For instance, in Japan last year the average attendance at weekly MIA meetings was 769 church members and 1,500 non-members.

A recitation of the Mutual Improvement Association's activities shows why juvenile delinquency among its members is almost nonexistent.

For one thing, the MIA has the world's largest tournaments for basketball, softball and volleyball. Each year more than 2,600 basketball teams, 1,200 softball teams, and 700 volleyball ball teams compete in the tournaments.

MIA members also participate in more than 18,000 dances a year... sing in some 2,000 choruses... and act in some 3,000 play performances not to mention more than 7,000 skits.

More than 50,000 youngsters participated in various music festivals during the year.

But the MIA is by no means complacent about its accomplishments. A recent statement issued by the general boards of the Young Men's and Young Women's Mutual Improvement Associations says:

"Although our incidence of delinquency is less than that of the country as a whole, we still have a tremendous job of inspiring our youth to be good citizens.

"The fight against delinquency is never won. Each new generation must be taught all over again."

## Climbing

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank profits are still climbing at a good clip but two factors could slow this down to a walk in the months ahead.

Net operating earnings of leading banks in the three months just ended are from 10 to 15 per cent higher than in the summer of 1956.

This is due to the steady rise in interest rates on loans and to the sturdy demand of businessmen for funds for expansion and operation.

But some now sight signs of change in these two factors. Demand for business loans seems to be tapering off in various parts of the nation.

The volume of bank loans to business hasn't taken the usual fall spurt. Predictions that business won't need as much financing of expansion as in the past two years are popping up everywhere. The brake of tight money applied to the business boom seems to be working—some even fear it may work too well.

At the same time government reports show that the total of savings is rising, meaning more funds available for lending.

Together these strengthen the belief of a growing number of banks that interest rates may have reached a peak. They could level off now after their long climb. Or they could even slip back a bit. Bolstering this view is the recent firming up of bond prices after a long slide.

If these two factors—less demand and lower rates—develop as some expect, it would mean a decline in the total of loans and no greater return, perhaps even less of a return, upon them. The banks' gravy train ride could be ending, or at best coasting.

Bank statements being published these days mirror very clearly the state of the economy, as well as showing how the banks have prospered.

In most cases deposits are up and loans are up. Many show an increase in assets over a year ago. Some of the largest are asking their shareholders to subscribe to new issues of common stock, with the greatly increased net operating income as a talking point.

But many banks also report they have been taking a loss in the sale of securities. Past weakness in the government bond market explains much of this. Banks have been selling government securities at considerably less than they paid for them. They wanted the money to lend to clearing businessmen. The higher interest banks get from loans makes up for the loss taken on sales of bonds that pay very little in comparison.

While tight money may have cut down the volume of loans the banks could have made, it undoubtedly has increased their earnings. And the loan volume is almost universally higher than a year ago. Bankers say it isn't out of line with good banking practice and that collections, if a bit slower are still good.

Bankers defend tight money, moreover, on the ground that without it speculative borrowing could have got out of hand, made inflation more dangerous and led to a runaway boom, followed by a bust.

They also argue that tight money is an outgrowth of unprecedented demand for loans exceeding the supply of savings. They also contend that increased bank profits are a sideline of tight money and not the aim of it.

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## They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



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