

The Herald and News

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Wet Country

Had occasion to drop down to Alturas last Wednesday for a meeting of the Modoc Council of Natural Resources held at the Pioneer Inn.
Drove across the state line road on the way down, taking advantage of the brief spell of sunshine, and spotted literally thousands of big white swans. Well, not all white, for most of them had acquired a faintly sooty look from the muddy fields and the gruesome looking water. Mixed in with the swans were quite a number of honkers and a scattering of ducks of assorted sizes and shapes.
Ran into rain at about Dry Lake and drove the rest of the way in a damp fashion. Quite a few deer along the way in the Hackamore area.

Interesting program by Dr. Walter Howard of the University of California, accompanied by hundreds of color slides he had taken while on a recent extended tour of New Zealand. Many pictures of that country's vast recreational districts and wild game and fish. If we think we have had trouble with the mice up here we can forget it. They are practically a blessing compared to the rabbit problem in New Zealand. There, as Howard showed us, the animals have taken over thousands of square miles of country, denuding it entirely and leaving nothing but the stumps of a few trees and the rocks.

It was interesting to see the scenes of both North and South Island that I had visited some fifteen years ago. Things haven't changed much.

On the way back we found that the weather had cleared and the mercury had dropped about a foot. The highway was icy and literally loaded with deer. They seemed determined to stick to the road and would hardly move as you moved in on them. What with the icy conditions it made a real game of driving. Saw between seventy five and a hundred animals on the way back, all of them apparently in fine shape due to the mild winter and good browse conditions.

All along the way we ran into water. The flats were covered with it, transformed into miniature lakes. The borrow pits were full, all the gullies and small ravines were running bank full and in Alturas they were all keeping a wary eye on the river. But I would imagine the cold weather helped and any flooding was averted.

Death Penalty

By FLOYD L. WYNNE
Should the death sentence of Billy Junior Nunn be changed to life imprisonment?

Nunn was convicted for the strangulation slaying of 14-year-old Alvin Eacret of Klamath Falls near Tub Springs in April of 1956.
The Oregon Supreme Court affirmed the conviction yesterday, and Justice Randall B. Kester said the evidence amply supported the state's theory of the murder.

However, attorneys for Nunn are expected to ask Gov. Robert D. Holmes to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

The governor has in the past put himself definitely on record as opposing capital punishment and has commuted some death sentences to life imprisonment already.

Admittedly, the taking of a life as punishment seems barbaric, and yet, let's face the other alternative.

If his sentence is commuted to life imprisonment he stands an excellent chance of being out of jail within seven to eight years. This, despite a record that reportedly includes at least one previous moral offense.

Conceivably, then, within seven years or less, he could be back in our community, and again in a position to commit another crime such as the one for which he is sentenced to die.

Neither passion nor pity could move me to agree that this man's sentence should be other than the death penalty.

Elimination of the death penalty has virtually erased the last big deterrent to murder. Now, all it requires is good conduct for a seven to eight year period and one may be released on parole, regardless of the enormity of the crime.

The public needs protection. It feels it gets protection when crimes such as this are punished by death. When life imprisonment is substituted and the man released in a comparatively short time, the wishes of the public for protection are completely thwarted.

Governor, let's be realistic. This is one of those cases where the death penalty is for not only the good, but the protection of the community.

School Survey I

Editor's Note — This is the first in a series of three articles covering studies and statistics assembled by Dave DeVoe, community planner for Klamath Falls and Klamath County, and Lloyd Anderson of the Bureau of Municipal Research. Also contributing information were County Superintendent of Schools Carrol Howe, City Superintendent Arnold Gralapp and KUHS Principal Charles Carlson.

By JOHN GUERNSEY

A brief perusal of the figures and statistics now being assembled by workers with the Joint City-County Planning Commission of Klamath County clearly establishes what the local school boards and directors do with their spare time. They figure out where new schools are going to be located to accommodate expanding enrollment and they peer into the long range binoculars in an attempt to determine if the projected school buildings will be adequate to house the potential enrollment in Klamath Falls at some date in the future.

For example, the approximate enrollment at KUHS is now 1,950 and the capacity of the school is between 1,900 and 2,000. The planning commission figures indicate that if available land in the city and fringe areas became occupied by housing, the number of high school age students resulting from the growth would be 2,761.

By the same token, the number of elementary and junior high students now in metropolitan Klamath Falls is about 5,503. If the available home sites in and around the city were fully utilized the number of elementary and junior high students would be 10,313.

Collectively, there are now approximately 5,503 students of all ages in and around Klamath Falls. If the town boomed suddenly there would be as many as 13,074. That would be an increase of approximately 45 per cent in the Basin student number, and it would mean a lot of classrooms when realizing that the State Department of Education recommends between 25 and 30 students per class.

More significance is added to the picture when realizing that the above figures are exclusive of the students now attending the Sacred Heart Academy and Oregon Technical Institute.

In way of explanation, Planners Dave DeVoe and Lloyd Anderson have concluded the potential student enrollment of the city and its fringe areas by surveying the town as it now is, determining the number of students per home, evaluating the available home building land, and then applying the existing ratio to approximate the potential number of students.

For example, the researchers (by conducting house to house surveys) learned that there are now approximately 9,766 homes in Klamath Falls and its fringe areas, including the south suburban addition as far south as the Lake-view Junction. Of that number of homes, 6,088 are in the city area and 3,678 are in the fringe regions.

When considering the remaining available land for home building within the same boundaries, the planners conclude that the same area will accommodate 18,107 homes, or the addition of more than 8,000 homes. The number of homes in the area is actually greater, and would be proportionately larger with town expansion, inasmuch as the Algona and Lakeshore areas have not as yet been plotted into the survey.

The survey further establishes that the number of school age

children in the fringe areas is considerably larger than the number per area within the city limits. It is indicated that the number of students per 10 homes in the fringe area is 7.8, while the number per 10 city homes is 5.25.

The most marked difference is with relation to the elementary students. In the fringe areas there are about 4.5 elementary students per 10 homes. In the city area the number is slightly in excess of three.

The difference is much less marked with relation to the junior high and the high school students. In the city area there are 1.3 junior high students per 10 homes. In the fringe regions, including the South Suburban and the Stewart Lenox additions, the number is 1.5. In the city area there is an average of one high school student for each 10 homes. In the fringe areas the number is 1.2.

When the city area and the fringe areas are considered collectively, it is found that there are about 6.0 students (elementary through high school) for each 10 homes.

Tomorrow: Potential danger areas.

Winter Willies

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK — Have you come down with the "winter willies"?

This is a seasonal complaint that right now numbers millions more victims than Asian flu, the rheumatism, and middle-aged athlete's foot.

It is an ailment caused by too much indoor living, too many cloudy days and too few sunny ones, too many frigid winds and too few warm ones, too many icicles on the trees and two few buds.

Man is homesick for summer, and aches for the sight of a rainbow. He is weary of snow. His spirit is as desolate as his garden. Everything is dull... duller... duller... one's job, one's mate, one's duty and, most of all, one's self.

Do you, too, suffer from cold weather boredom? Why? it is so needless. Anybody with a little gumption can make winter into one of the more rewarding periods of the year. All it takes is a little ingenuity, and bit of old hip-hip-hurrah!

Here are a few tips on how to whip your "winter willies":

Learn to hibernate. If a bear and a woodchuck can chuckle away a winter in happy sleep, you can too. Practice at the office as well as at home—the envy of your fellow workers. Don't worry about the boss. No boss has the heart to fire a man who's asleep. And when you wake up, come spring, you'll have plenty of strength to look for a new job.

Since you can't grow anything in your garden, why not grow something else? A beard, for example. No man who has both a beard and a mirror is ever bored.

Figure out new ways to save money. Instead of bawling out your wife for her inability to stay within a budget, ask her, "Frankly, honey, don't you think I'd have gone further in life if I'd remained single?" Then you can turn off the furnace and cut down the heating bill. Her answer will warm up the house until the next October.

Throw a different kind of party. Why not invite all the neighbors in for an old-fashioned popcorn ball and kitchen fudge fest? The neighbors may think you're crazy. But after they eat your popcorn

Pogo



They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

LUSHWELL MAKES LIKE DIAMOND JIM IN THE TIP DEP'T WHEN HE'S ON THE LOOSE AROUND TOWN...



BUT WHEN HE COMES TO, HE DOESN'T CALL IT TIPPING... HE CALLS IT GETTING ROLLED!



Kellys Take Over At Army Camp

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — The Kelly clan is taking over the top jobs with the 27th Infantry Regiment, the Wolfhounds.

Col. John Kelly steps in to command the regiment Feb. 8. Standing beside him will be the adjutant Maj. James Kelly, and Woodrow Wilson Kelly is the outfit's sergeant major.

The Army said none of the Kellys is related.

Americans spend a billion dollars a year for flowers, says the Society of American Florists.

LET'S SKI This Weekend! 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tomahawk Ski Bowl 15 Miles on Lake O' Woods Road

GOOD RECOVERY

EDMONTON, Alta. — Car thieves should ponder these figures before trying their luck in

Edmonton: of 645 vehicles stolen in the Edmonton area last year, police recovered all but five, and there were 203 convictions.

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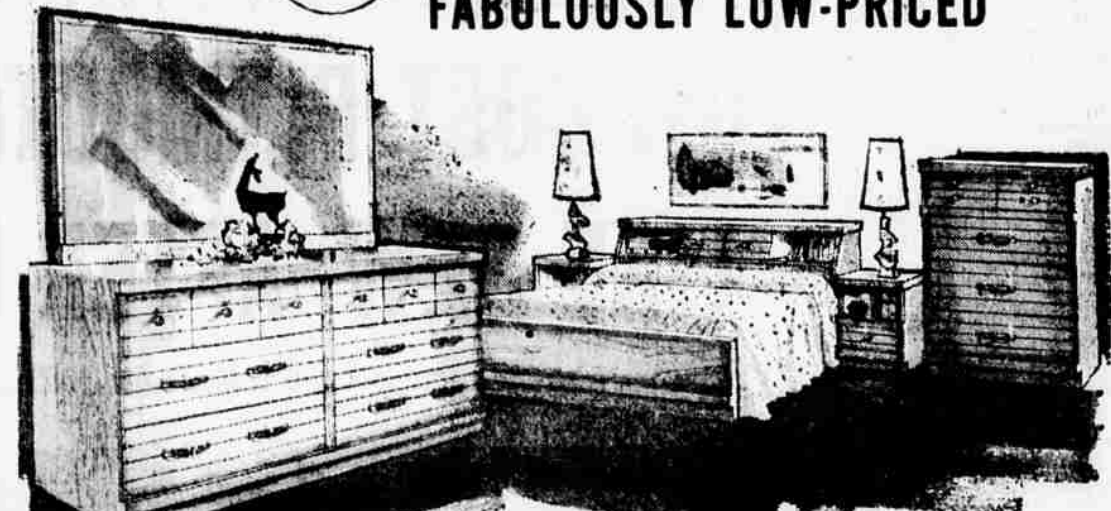
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QUOTES
By UNITED PRESS
LINCOLN, Neb. — Guy Starkweather, father of mass murderer Charles Starkweather, on whether he would disown his son:
"I guess I've got every reason to, but I just can't."
DOUGLAS, Wyo. — William Dixon, Converse County, Neb., attorney, after Wyoming Gov. Milward Simpson said he would never permit execution of the death sentence on Charles Starkweather, on his decision to release the mass murderer to Nebraska officials:
"In view of all the circumstances we are going to waive jurisdiction and allow Nebraska authorities to take over."
GRETNA, La. — William Lee MacIntosh, 14, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., on why he told Louisiana officials he was 17 when he was sentenced to 18 months for attempted robbery:
"I didn't want my mother to know I was in trouble."
WICHITA FALLS, Tex. — Treasury Secretary Robert B. Anderson, in a speech at the annual banquet of the Northwest Texas Field and Stream Assn., on how the national economy will fare in 1958:
"There is every reason to be confident that our economic activity will resume its upward growth during the year."