

The Herald and News

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March Threat

By BILL JENKINS

Something has got to be done about it!

The cool situation, that is. There is every indication, at least to the average duck hunter, that if we don't take steps in the pretty immediate future we are going to be not only in trouble but up to our hips in mudhens.

I don't have immediately available the figures for Oregon, but a recent survey in California shows an alarming increase in the numbers of the dumpy little mud duck. It goes about like this: 4300 pairs of breeding Canada geese were noted, 10 percent above last year. Total Canada geese tallied amounted to 25,190, which is 30 percent above last year.

Duck production is estimated at around 265,000 birds, an increase of some 10 percent over 1957.

But the lowly coot was numbered in the count at 127,700, a staggering 70 percent increase over last year.

Magnify this by several years and you can see a future where there is little but mudhen shooting available.

As with a great many other things in this modern world we live in, I think the coot is being allowed to take over the ponds, marshes and feed of good ducks simply through negligence and a natural reluctance to change the somewhat shaky status quo of the game setup.

No effort has been made, at least in this part of the country, to encourage the taking (or elimination) of coots or mudhens. Sure, we have a bigger bag limit. You can go out and shoot 25 of the grubby little Fulica americana and still have the blessing of the game warden.

But why do it? No one has yet come up with a satisfactory recipe. At least not one in wide circulation. And they do not make a sporting target in the same sense as a Mallard or a high-flying Pintail.

Still and all, I think the time is here when as sportsmen wanting to maintain our hunting we are going to have to take steps to keep things in better balance. It stands to reason that mudhens are using up space and eating food that would be better utilized in maintaining stable numbers of sporting wildfowl.

The whole thing is sort of a situation where we are going to kill something with kindness. And, unfortunately, it looks like duck and goose hunting might be the unhappy victim.

I think we can go too far in this business of conservation sometimes. The idea of maintaining these ever-increasing herds of mudhens probably appeals to the birdwatchers and the dewey-eyed battalions of Arbor Day enthusiasts. But it leaves a pretty black feeling in the hearts of sportsmen.

Not that I advocate going out and killing them off in mass numbers with poison like we have the coyote. Take 'em in a sporting manner, but do whatever is necessary to control their numbers.

Right now the only thing I can think of is a year round season on them.

In certain quarters you will hear the cry that such a procedure would lead to an enforcement problem. But I have yet to talk to a working enforcement officer who is afraid of any such thing. I think such talk comes from the egg-heads at the top level who spend their lives in their offices and who consider outdoor research to be those days on which the windows are opened.

Taken with a light gun, say a .410, and on the jump, I think they would be sporting enough to keep a gunner's interest.

And if we could arrange for some off-season shooting on them I'll guarantee to come up with a solution as to what to do with 'em. I'll find a workable recipe for cooking them or some useful purpose to which they can be put. You can't waste even anything as lowly as the mudhen.

In Memory

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

There are those who build and those who tear down.

There are those who complain about a situation, and there are those who do something about it.

There are men who give everything to their job, their community, demanding little in return, and there are men who give little but demand much both of their job and their community.

E. A. (Taxi) Thomas was that type of man, a builder, a man who did something about a situation he didn't like—a man who gave to his job and his community demanding little for himself. Regrettably, my close association with him was short indeed.

confined to the brief period when I was sworn in as a councilman to begin 1957 and to the time when Taxi was forced to limit his activities in the city engineering department.

However, his 33 years work in the city engineering department were monumental years indeed, not only for him but for the city of Klamath Falls.

He watched the town of Klamath Falls grow into a city, he helped lay plans for the future, and further, helped implement them, giving of himself for the city and its future.

Almost every city street, every city map bears the results of his thoughtful planning and careful, conservative workmanship.

His 33 years have been well-invested years in our city.

While Taxi was not the limelight-seeking public servant, he was the quiet behind-the-scenes builder so essential to the orderly growth and development of any community.

The city of Klamath Falls owes him a great deal.

Use More

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Editor Roseburg News-Review
The readers of this column, I am sure, will recall that we predicted a sharp rise in lumber prices once demand started upward.

It was contended that few people buy while the market is going downhill. But as soon as everyone is convinced that the bottom has been reached, then everyone rushes in to buy cheap and sell high.

Our lumber economists now are telling us that the market is exploding. Every new bulletin tells of a price increase. Demand is extremely heavy. Nearly all of our mills are far behind in orders. Lumber is going out as rapidly as it can be produced.

So far, the weather has been friendly. We've been logging at a terrific pace, trying to keep up with production and, at the same time, rebuild cold decks. We can use a lot more logs, because it appears our mills will be busy all winter long.

Some of our mills, however, haven't made a profit, have no excess money, can't get loans, so are unable to buy more than their immediate needs. If these mills could accumulate logs in cold decks, they could furnish employment all winter. And we need it!

The market for lumber and lumber products continues to grow. Plywood is edging back toward the peak. Lumber prices get higher by the week. It appears our recession is a thing of the past.

Our economists tell us that the lumber demand is to continue. The market will remain firm and strong.

During the recession most of our retail yards, we are told, lowered their inventories. They bought only the lumber they had to have. The price was going down, so they waited. Now that the price is edging upward, they are buying as rapidly as possible to bring their inventories back to normal.

One of our economists, I note, spoke of the fact that although the lumber market is picking up, the demand remains dull for logging equipment and sawmill machinery.

The answer, I think, lies in the fact that so few of our operators have had a profit for two years or more. A few of our big mills, have had the capital to stay in operation. Many of our small mills closed. Some of our medium mills, I am told by operators, barely kept going through the sale of chips. Sales from the chipper were the only income that kept many men employed.

Some Southern Pacific officials expressed fears that the present market might affect hearings now in progress, where the proposals of the railroad company to lower its rate on wood products into California and Arizona are being fought by Northern California mills.

Our mills currently are behind in their demands from the East and Midwest. California and Arizona offer the nation's largest market. We suffer during poor times because of a high rate into those markets. Fortunately, we're getting a good representation at the hearings. If justice is to be done, we'll get a more equitable rate.

But what I started out to call attention to is the fact that while our market is building up and the demand is heavy, we should be looking to ways to utilize more wood throughout the nation. Prosperity, I am confident, is on the way back. Our national economy is on an upward grade.

Many of our mills are crying for logs, more logs. Yet our recent recession in the wood industry was caused by overproduction. With more logs we will again soon be overproducing and will be back in recession again. We will, I predict, unless the industry takes steps to advertise and otherwise bring about a greater usage to absorb our overproduction. I'm afraid that now, with prosperity on the upgrade, we will forget the need to increase usage and markets. We'll simply be content that business, for the present, is good. Our big need, in my opinion, is to work now to retain prosperity by enlarging the uses for wood and wood products.

Supreme Court

By ROBERT J. SERLING

United Press International
Whatever the Supreme Court decides on Little Rock will be a small skirmish compared to the long-range battle facing the high tribunal.

There's a definite move to cut the Supreme Court's power. It was a move barely defeated—by one vote in the Senate—during the closing days of the 85th Congress, a bill which would have curbed the court's jurisdiction over cases involving subversion, contempt of Congress and Communist conspiracy.

Another attempt will be made in the next Congress to prune the high court's authority one way or another. There's a feeling among many congressmen that instead of being part of the traditional check and balance system of government, that circle of responsibility and authority running through the executive, legislative and judicial branches, the feeling is that the Supreme Court has put itself above that system, outside that circle, acquiring a veto power over law that was never intended.

Actually, the Supreme Court's legal authority is one of precedence, not constitutionality. Its power to interpret the constitution and to declare laws unconstitutional isn't specified in the constitution itself. That document merely vests the judicial power of the United States in one Supreme Court, it doesn't detail just where the authority begins or ends.

The right of the court to void any law as unconstitutional was first established in 1803. The case involved a William Marbury who had been appointed justice of the peace by President John Adams, just before Adams left office.

The new President, James Madison, held up Marbury's commission. Marbury claimed this was illegal. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that one section of the law under which Marbury was demanding his commission was unconstitutional.

tutional. And in his opinion, Marshall defended the right of the Supreme Court to hold congressional acts in violation of the Constitution.

That ruling established a precedent that has never been changed, although it's been challenged. There have been constitutional amendments introduced in Congress to curb the high tribunal, one would have abolished its basic right to find a law unconstitutional, another would have allowed Congress to override a Supreme Court decision by a two-thirds majority, a third would have required a two-thirds majority of the court itself to find any law unconstitutional.

All these moves failed. Most of them founded for one simple reason: They would have destroyed the check and balance system we mentioned before. Now the question is whether the Supreme Court's power itself is interfering with that system.

The odds are against the legislative winning any fight to curb the judicial. But the fight will be made nevertheless, and it will be bitter. No branch of government is more jealous of its own authority than Congress. It reacts violently to any indication that its status is not on equal footing with the executive and judicial, and it is not unfair to say that Congress really considers itself above the other two branches, because it is an elected body, close to the people it represents.

Vets Mail Bag

A helpless widower of a woman veteran may now be eligible for Veterans Administration benefits based on the death of his wife, VA announced.

Until the recent enactment of Public Law 85-655, the widower of a woman veteran was not eligible to receive VA benefits as a result of his wife's service, the agency said.

Under the new law, VA pointed out, the unmarried widower of a veteran may receive VA death benefits if:

1. He is incapable of self-maintenance; and,
2. He was, at the time of her death, permanently incapable of self-support due to physical or mental disability.

Also authorized by the new law are dependency payments to an eligible living veteran whose husband is not capable of self-maintenance and cannot support himself because of permanent physical or mental disability, VA added.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Q—I'm about to start on-the-job training under the Korean GI Bill. How many hours a week are considered to be full-time training.

A—Full-time training is considered to be the standard work-week of the firm where you are taking your training. However, it generally may not be less than 36 hours a week.

Quotes

United Press International

CRAIGHEAD, England — Village Vicar William Brown, warning girls in his parish to stop chasing men:

"These days the boy has just to whistle and the girl is there. Indeed, it is not unknown for the girl to do his whistling for him."

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. James E. Folsom, on Alabama's prisons:

"I admit that we have got the worst penal system in the world including Dark Africa. I hope the next Legislature will do something about improving the situation."

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Undersecretary of State Christian A. Herter, explaining U. S. policy in the Far East:

"It is to deter, and where necessary to repel, Communist military expansion and infiltration by maintaining an adequately strong free world military posture... to assist the Far Eastern free nations to achieve internal security and political stability."

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.), on sending U. S. troops in case of a Chinese Communist attack on Quemoy:

"The Nationalists have fortifications on the island and have enough manpower. But the U. S. should assist with supplies and equipment... The free world can't afford and must not let aggressor nations nibble away at free world holdings."

CHICAGO — Preston J. Moore, in accepting election as the new American Legion president:

"Let's stop being afraid. Above all, let's stop waiting until the Kremlin calls the shot before we react."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

MONGOOSE KNOWS THE BIOGRAPHY OF EVERY TREE IN THE FOREST... HIS KNOWLEDGE IS TREE-MENDOUS!

THE FAT ONE IS AN ULMUS AMERICANA, COMMONLY KNOWN AS AN ELM... THE SKINNY ONE IS THE SUMAC SUPLENNA WHICH GROWS WILD AND VERY FAST...



BUT IN THE LUMBERYARD, PICKING OUT SOME DO-IT-YOURSELF WOOD, HE'S FROM THE FOOT OF THE CLASS...

UH... THIS ONE HERE—WHAT IS IT—MAHOGANY OR MAPLE? DON'T YOU HAVE IT WITHOUT KNOTS?



Novice Would Wince At Evaluating Corporations

By ELMER C. WALZER

UPI Financial Editor

NEW YORK (UPI)—Those who think it's a cinch to place a value on a stock ought to read a brochure on the "Valuation of Going Concerns for Purchase or Merger," by the engineering firm of Ford, Bacon & Davis.

The novice would wince at the process of evaluating a corporation. Engineers carefully take all things into consideration—even good will which the brochure reminds the reader is perishable—"you might even say depletable." And values change swiftly, the engineers note. "Consider America at the time of the discovery of the Williston Basin; Lorillard with its success with the Kent cigarette, American Motors with the popularity of its small car, to mention a few."

In placing a value on a company, the experts start with a record of past earnings. They try to list all facts relevant to future earning capacity. Selling methods are checked and an attempt is made to show how the company would fare in slack times.

And then comes management. The fortunes of every company depend on whether the management, the organization setup and the controls are adequate in keeping with the nature of the business. And will continue that way.

As for price-earnings ratios, they vary according to the company's outlook and are arrived at by judgment. "The ratio is higher if the company's management is good, the prospects bright, earnings steadily growing, debt moderate. In other words, if the quality is high."

Ford, Bacon & Davis note that just about everything in the business world must be taken into consideration — we all know underground such as oil, gas, or minerals, wealth above ground, such as timber, reproduction costs, and market value of outstanding securities, to mention a few.

"If someone is willing to pay good dollars for a stock it would seem fairly persuasive evidence of value," says the firm. "It may be. Yet the conditions can be such, it may not be a good indication."

SAILING ON FOAM

BERWICK, England (UPI) — Crewmen from the German timber freighter, Erich Haslinger, staggered ashore Thursday and reported they ran out of drinking water but managed to last 24 hours on beer.

ARE THEY MY REAL PARENTS?

How could this eighteen year old girl know for sure? Fourteen years earlier, when war was raging in Europe, she had been separated from her parents who were thrown into a slave-labor camp. Since then, the parents had tried vainly to trace their daughter. At last, through one of the OVERSEAS AID Programs of America's religious faiths, the family was reunited. But only when the young girl heard her mother sing a hauntingly familiar lullaby did she know for sure—they were her parents.

Aiding displaced people is only one of the vital works done through religious overseas relief programs. Support your faith's program.

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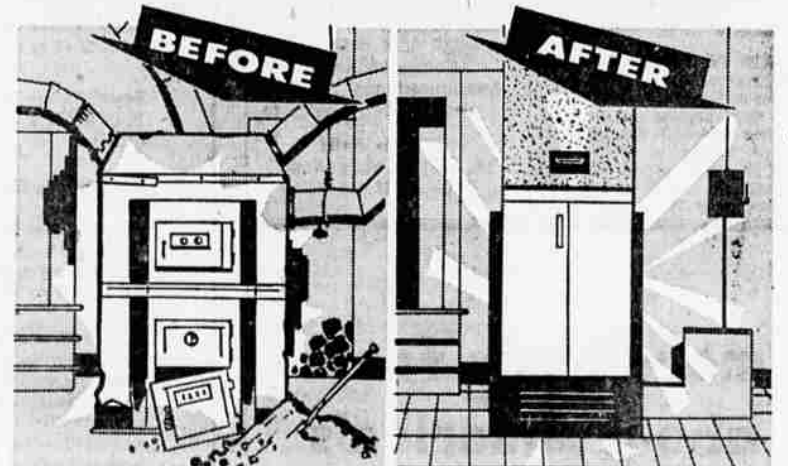
CADIZ, Ky. (AP) — A mother wren perches on a fence here and chirps loudly as her nest goes by every day. The wren built the nest under the dashboard of Sam Dawson's car. And every day Dawson drives his car to work. The wren is always waiting when the car returns. The nest has two baby wrens in it.

Dr. Harry R. Scribner
Optometrist



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*Actual figures from a Klamath Falls home-owner using a G.E. Oil Furnace and economical oil heat to heat his 1,000 sq. ft. home in 1957-58. Name on request.



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BIG STATUE
ROSEMERE, Que. (AP) — A bronze statue of Christ, weighing 22 tons, has been erected on the main tower of the provincial house of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart here. The 22-foot statue was cast by a foundry in St. Croix, Que.

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