

The Herald and News

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Green Springs

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

Traveled the Green Springs twice over the weekend. Two trips to Medford, and enjoyed every moment of the drive.

Couldn't help thinking on the way over each time what a beautiful country we live in. For some reason the leaves seemed a deeper hue and the rich riot of fall colors wove a magic spell.

Maybe it was the fact that at the beginning of my Sunday trip over "the hump" I ran into some snow here and there. Maybe I just appreciated the swan song of fall more than usual.

Admittedly, when you're rolling along with only a few feet separating you from a mile drop into the canyon, you can't be day-dreaming, but the beauty of the trip wasn't lost on me, either.

Saw a flock of hunters at every turn, many of them camping out, some of them right alongside the highway. Also spotted three does and several fawns, and somehow they had my deep sympathy. I know it's heresy in deer country to say it, but somehow I'm too soft to go deer hunting, and must admit it.

Also noticed just above Keno a furry brown bear chained to a post at a service station. Quite a character with plenty of "bounce to the ounce."

I don't know whether you've taken the Green Springs route lately, but there's plenty to see. The road is now open and you can detour down to look at the new Copco Big Bend dam and on down into the canyon to the Big Bend powerhouse.

Visitors are welcome but there are some stretches that have to be negotiated carefully.

Notice, also, that after you leave Lincoln the old Green Springs is getting a face lifting. The Green Springs tunnel project is in full swing and they're grading up canyons, drilling a tunnel for the Talent project on the other side.

As you come down the other side, there is evidence of construction activity everywhere. New roads are being built, power lines, phone lines constructed and the beauty of the landscape has suffered some deep scars.

But it takes far more than that to efface the majesty and the beauty of the area. Old Mother Nature rests supreme in her unruffled majesty, looking with some humor on the puny efforts of man to undo the work she has done.

Noticed, also, that Ashland has taken another big step into the modern era. They have widened the street on both sides of the long lane entering Ashland from the south, and have installed a complete line of modern street lamps all along the route.

It's a wonderful improvement for Ashland. A Green Springs trip at this time of the year will certainly give you a new glimpse of the beauty and the promise that is Southern Oregon.

Fire Situation

By FLORENCE JENKINS

It is easy to accuse the mayor and the city council of extravagance when announcement is made of the purchase of new equipment, but it is well to remember that the business of the city is conducted with due deliberation.

Recently the city council approved the purchase of a new 1000-gallon pumper truck for the city fire department at a cost of a little less than \$13,000. This brings to four the total of pumpers available to fight fires reported to the city fire department and to assist, through the mutual aid program, when needed elsewhere in the area.

Fire protection is a basic need of any community. As Klamath Falls grows in population, expansion of its fire protection services becomes necessary. The Oregon Insurance Rating has delivered to City Fire Chief Roy Rowe a detailed report so it can be seen just where Klamath Falls stands today.

Klamath Falls is in the 3th class, according to the rating bureau standards. And it is pretty far down in the 3th class. The loss of 14 points would drop it into the 4th class and automatically increase insurance rates within the city from eight to 12 per cent, depending on the type of property.

The class into which a town falls is based on the points scratched off the arbitrary 3000 points deficiency set up by the rating bureau. Klamath Falls has a total of 2487 deficiency points according to the recent survey. The deficiency points (which are 2001, the city is rated in the 3th class. If, however, such points as 1000 or lower, it will be in the 2nd class which would mean a 10 per cent increase in rates from about eight

It is interesting to note here that when there was a general reduction in residential fire insurance rates a couple of years ago, most companies found individual householders increasing their fire coverage to the point they were paying a much premium as before the reduction.

There are numerous items which make up the total of 3000 deficiency points. They include structural condition of buildings in the city, police department, water supply, fire prevention, fire department, fire alarm, etc.

In the list of recommendations covering fire alarm division (in which Klamath Falls has too many points to make 4th class), one of the important items is fire box distribution. There are fewer than 30 fire alarm boxes in Klamath Falls and the rating bureau recommends the installation of 137 additional fire alarm boxes. These boxes are paid for by city money and cost about \$150 each. Where lines are in, installation is not excessive in cost and a serious study is being made of this subject.

So far as the fire department itself is concerned, the greatest deficit item lies in manning. There are 24 paid city firemen, including the chief and his assistant. The rating bureau recommends tripling this number, so that there can be a staff of seven men for each of three companies on duty at all times, in addition to stand-by crew.

The new pumper, due to be delivered in Klamath Falls about January 1, will scratch off 35 points or better and will permit running two pumpers to every building fire instead of one. A few more fire alarm boxes, additional space for fireman training program and a few more uniformed firemen and Klamath Falls can be rated in 4th class by the Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau.

The ordinary tourist to South America says: "Everybody down here seems to be either very rich or very poor. The middle class doesn't seem to be very strong. Look at all the slums!"

The slums are only too evident. The slums in the United States are now largely big blocks of tenements, in countries such as Brazil, the slums are still individual huts.

But in Sao Paulo, one of the world's fastest growing cities and often described as the Chicago of South America, a guide claimed proudly: "We are building a new home here every 12 minutes."

The office building skyline in the heart of the city seems to be growing as rapidly as resurgent Manhattan.

A strolling American in Brazil or Argentina runs into little obvious "Yankee-go-home" kind of antagonism. The people are courteous and polite to the stranger and helpful in small emergencies.

"The kind of foreigners they tend to dislike are those who come here, live entirely in their own groups, and after 20 years in the country still haven't taken the trouble to learn the language, one U.S. citizen stationed in South America said.

Henry Semon (To the Editor)—May I express my personal appreciation of the fine appraisal of the life and public career of Henry Semon which appeared under the byline of Floyd Wynne in your October 13 edition?

Having known Henry Semon intimately for 25 years and having followed his career as a citizen and public servant as closely, I believe, as any person, I can attest to the accuracy of Mr. Wynne's well-wooded observations.

In 30 years of following the political reporting trail in Oregon and California, I have known no one in public life whose motivations were more worthy than those

of Henry Semon. Into politics and lawmaking, he brought a philosophy based on his own experiences as one to whom thrift and hard work had brought success. In the Oregon Legislature, he wielded exceptional influence because of the integrity of his opinions and the quiet forces of his character.

It is to be hoped that such accolades as that by Mr. Wynne will demonstrate to others that there is lasting honor for those whose course is determined by what one knows in his heart to be right, not merely by what appears for the moment to be expedient.

Malcolm Epley

1812 Veteran

Klamath Falls (To the Editor)—Some 50 persons braved a cold wind to gather on a hill in Langell Valley Saturday afternoon. The event was the placing of a marker to honor Ichabod Hall, a man whose name, the Department of the Army says, is on the roll of the War of 1812.

Kin from the Rogue River Valley, as well as Klamath County, were led by great-granddaughter, Mary Wilson Foster and great-grandson Holly Swingle. Kenneth McLeod, president of the Klamath County Historical Society, placed the marker. Mrs. Fred Fletcher represented the Daughters of 1812. Mrs. Arch Proctor, president of the Daughters of the American Colonies, also represented the Daughters of the American Revolution in the absence of the regent, Mrs. Albert Roenicke. Nine members of the Junior Historical Society were there on historical pilgrimage, and friends in the valley came to share in the ceremony, led by William Campbell, whose help has been invaluable.

Strong hands lifted aside the high, old, well-built picket fence which surrounds the grave under a large juniper. This enabled those present to get a close look at the old gravestone, which before could be seen only by peering through the pickets. Then, chalking over the crude letters, it was found that what had appeared to be 1791 was instead 1794. This was followed by the 88 years, and the months and days which were clear before. Then we watched in interest as the part we had not been able to decipher on a previous visit revealed the death date as 1882.

Is the gravestone the final word? Probably, and the marker dates must be made to conform to it. But for both Mrs. Foster and me there is that nagging question of Ichabod Hall's age. For her, the recurring family tradition that he lived to more than 100 years; for me, the fact that a newspaper account, published while he was alive, said he was over 100 years old. Is the 100 years only one of those legends which travel faster than fact and super-seede it? Was he just stooped and feeble, so that someone said he looked 100, and thus started the tradition? We hope to learn more, but until we do, the Ichabod Hall story remains unfinished business.

Mrs. Buena Stone

Vets Mail Bag

Handicapped children of deceased war veterans have been given two "breaks" by an amendment to the War Orphans Education program, recently signed into law by the President.

Veterans Administration today explained them this way: First, the new law now allows young men and women with handicaps to begin special types of war orphans training when they reach age 14. Previously they generally had to wait until their 18th birthday to begin.

Types of training they can take at age 14 are special restorative training (such as Braille reading, lip reading or other courses designed to overcome handicaps) or special vocational training.

Second, the law now authorizes VA to approve the enrollment of handicapped young people in rehabilitation centers offering special training. Included are centers operated by state or local governments or by private agencies. These enrollments were not originally provided for under the program.

War Orphans Education is for the sons and daughters of World War I, World War II or Korea veterans who died in military service or from service-connected conditions after their discharge.

Usually, the schooling is for young men and women from 16 to 21 years of age. War orphans students receive VA allowances of up to \$10 a month.

Full details about War Orphans Education, as well as about the advantages now available to handicapped students, are available at any VA office.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Cop's Death Ends Tragedy

NEW YORK (UPI) — The mystery of why four men were killed in a Broadway bar early Sunday deepened today because of the death of the man who pulled the trigger — Patrolman James B. McDermott.

The 34-year-old officer, father of four children, was gunned down by fellow policemen after his unexplained shooting spree. With five bullets in his body, McDermott clung to life until late Tuesday.

He died in Roosevelt Hospital without revealing any motive, police said.

Deputies Probe Death Of Infant

SHERWOOD, Ore. (AP)—Sheriff's deputies are investigating the death of a prematurely born child whose body was found Monday in the Sherwood sewage disposal unit. An autopsy has been scheduled.

Educators Slate Demo Speakers

EUGENE (AP)—Sen. Richard Neuberger (D-Ore) will be one of the principal speakers at the annual fall conference of the Oregon Education Assn. Department of Class Room Teachers here Friday and Saturday.

Gov. Robert D. Holmes also will address the session.

Hunter Dies Of Seizure

JOHN DAY, Ore. (AP)—George Wetle, 65-year-old Portland hunter, suffered a fatal heart attack Tuesday a few minutes after he had shot a deer.

He was the seventh heart attack victim of the Oregon hunting season.

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Pogo

Picture Points

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Snapshot memories from a South American visit: In Argentina nobody seems to care so much what a tourist

The U.S. Coast Guard functions under the Navy in time of war and under the Treasury in time of peace.

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