The Herald and News

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Poor Idea

By BILL JENKINS

Earlier in the week I was doing a little public breast-beating on the subject of the proposed loaded gun bill in Oregon.

Since that time a hearing has been held in Salem on the issue and strong and unexpected support given the measure by the very powerful combination of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the Oregon Wool Growers Association.

The contention of the ranchers is that a law prohibiting loaded guns in automobiles would reduce the number of cattle killed by night roaming road hunters.

Spokesman for the two groups, Ed Coles, stated that his records showed a report of 78 cattle lost to hunters.

State police and game enforcement officers, also present at the hearing, gave strong support to the bill on the grounds that it would make enforcement easier. It would give them an excuse, it was maintained, to pick up night hunters and those hunting illegally along the roads.

As a hunter and a gun nut myself I cannot condone carrying loaded guns in cars. But as an American citizen I cannot stand idly by and see my constitutional rights stripped from me without a protest.

As far as the business of making enforcement easier is concerned I cannot see this bill as anything but a compounding of present laws. It is illegal in the state of Oregon to hunt game at night or to discharge firearms from a public highway. Do we need to go further? Do we need a law that is the first step toward a police state?

Certainly no one would be so foolish as to say that the police should not be given proper powers of enforcement. But in view of the inherent dangers of this proposal I doubt if any slight added authority would prove of real value.

Cattle, like swans, are seldom killed through a hunter's "mistake." Sure, there are a few trigger-happy neurotics out in the woods every season who are a menace to themselves, other hunters, livestock—everything but the deer. But there are also hosts of careful, sportsmanlike hunters who are careful, considerate and gentlemanly.

Must we punish the many because of the sins of the few? Are we going to legislate away the rights of the majority because of the faults of the minority?

I seriously doubt that such a law, if written on the state books, would save cattle or prevent accidents. Only the wise and careful and legitimate use of firearms will do that.

Even if the bill were written into law the poachers will remain poachers, the night hunters will still use their jacklights and the road hunters will still road hunt. It is the nature of the beast.

And, as we have proven so often, man cannot legislate wisdom.

I strongly suspect that this bill is another in the long list of attempts to take the gun away from the American sportsman.

Are we going to go the way of Britain and all of Europe? Are American sportsmen going to have to turn over their prized sporting firearms to a jittery government?

I strongly urge that every sportsman contact his representatives in Salem and oppose this bill.

Send a wire, a letter or a card to Senator Harry Boivin, Rep. Carl Yancey or Rep. John Kerbow, State House, Salem, Oregon, and register your opposition now.

When it comes to restrictive firearms legislation it is later than you think.

Odds 'n' Ends

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

Occasionally we get requests from abroad from persons looking for pen pals in this country.

One such request came across my desk yesterday from an 18-year-old Japanese boy from Niigata City, Japan.

Writing in excellent hand, Kazuo Morohashi said, "The reason of writing is that because I like to have a friend in your country, but I do not know how to get one. So if I can have a cooperation of your paper which has so many readers it will be a great help to me.

"In the event of receiving so many answers as a result of that publication it will be no problem for me, because our organization has so many members and I can divide those answers among the members."

Kazuo is a high school boy in Japan. He states that he learned of the Herald and News through the Youth Council for International Contact.

He also reported that the group has tens of thousands of members throughout Japan. Its purpose is to create a friendship and understanding, internationally.

Here is an intriguing opportunity for high school youths to exchange letters with another high school student in Japan. It might be highly interesting to exchange letters with him on things important to a teen-ager here.

Let me pass along the address for those who may wish to write to him.

"Kazuo Morohashi, 535 Nakaohata-Cho, Niigata City, Japan."

Biff Gellatly, in charge of Klamath theaters, recently sent me a note on the influence of movies on youngsters.

A Eugene Gilbert syndicated newspaper survey on "What Teen-Agers Think" asked the question, "What was the worst single influence on the lives of America's youths?"

76 per cen. of the teen-age boys and 64 per cent of the teen-age girls said "bad companions."

"Adults example" was second with 22 per cent of the boys and 20 per cent of the girls.

"TV and movies" (lumped together) rated way down the list with a low two per cent for boys and eight per cent for girls.

Defense rests.

In case you're interested, and if you're married you should be, figures released by the Oregon State Hospital seem to suggest that marriage agrees with men, but not with women, so far as mental illness is concerned.

The hospital's population includes 932 single men and only 375 married men.

But for the women, 436 are single and 712 are married.

If you're a single girl, hope this won't influence your answer the next time an eligible man says . . . "Will you?"

Learned from today's mail they have new uses for castor oil and bubble gum . . . two fine American standbys.

London city buses are using castor oil for lubricating their rear axles. The idea will save British capital $336,000 annually, they say.

As far as the small fry are concerned, I think they hope the idea will catch on elsewhere, and absorb the complete supply.

Penny bubble gum is being used by engineers on Nike missiles. They don't chew it to relax their nerves, the bubble gum is used to find leaky joints in the pneumatic lines of the missiles.

Soap bubbles and other methods cannot be used because the evidence of leaks does not remain after line pressure falls.

The gum bubbles keep the leak pinpointed.

Wonder who chews all the gum needed.

This move could be dangerous to the small fry's supply if carried too far.

Security

By FLORENCE JENKINS

Investing a little money with the hope of a larger return at a future date when money is needed is the dream of most of us.

Everyone plans for something in the future. Young parents look ahead to the college education of their children. Others want a trip around the world or money for retirement.

This is not to be construed as a sales talk for the purchase of any particular stock as an investment. It is simply a statement of fact outlining the actual earnings and increase in value which has occurred in one stock's history.

The 36th annual report of the president of General America Corporation was released last week. The corporation includes General Insurance Company of America, First National Insurance Company of America, SAFECO Insurance Company of America and General Life Company of America.

It shows the volume of premiums written by the group at $140,142,000 for 1958. This was an increase of 13 per cent over the previous year. This compares with an estimated six per cent increase in the national volume of all fire and casualty companies.

General America's profit for the year amounted to $8,730,319 or $18.44 per common share in 1958, compared with $8.41 per common share in 1957.

The total liquidating value is figured at $194.57 per share.

About a dozen years ago, General America Corporation common stock was selling at just about $100 per share. One hundred dollars looked bigger then than it does now.

Suppose you had bought three shares of General America back in the early 1940's.

Midway between then and now, the stock split and every holder of common stock was given three additional shares. That increased the original holding from three to 12 shares.

The stock has paid a total of more than $1,000 during the period.

At this year's annual meeting, the board of directors voted to increase the cash dividend from 50 cents to 60 cents a quarter. At the same time a 10 per cent stock dividend was voted. Details on issuance of the stock dividend have not been released, but at least the original holding of three will be increased to 13 shares and there will probably be provision to exercise rites to buy the other fraction of a share, bringing the holding to 14 shares.

But even at 13 shares, 60 cents a quarter figures $7.80 per share or a total of $31.20 a year in dividends. That is more than 10 per cent on the original investment. In addition, you've had your $1,000-plus in dividends and your original $300 has grown in value to $2,529.41.

And that's not hay.

Travel Notes

By NELSON REED

ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands — When the United States paid Denmark $25,000,000 for the Virgin Islands to keep them from falling into German hands in 1917, that was just the beginning of their cost, for since the end of slavery the islands have never been self-supporting.

Uncle Sam operates a sizeable sugar factory to give employment to about 500 laborers, most of whom come from Puerto Rico because the native blacks won't work in the cane fields. The factory loses about half a million a year.

Uncle pays most of the cost of the local government and is spending more and more each year in developing small dams and reservoirs to catch the run-off from the sudden rains, and in the other usual soil conservation schemes. Most well informed local people do not expect that the Islands will ever be self supporting.

While the tourist business has been growing rapidly and will continue to increase, so far it is very seasonal—about four months.

Why do we tourists come? To enjoy one of the finest climates to be found anywhere in winter, and for the grandest swimming in really warm water that is as clear as crystal and so buoyant that you can float vertically without even paddling; water that has the most magnificent coloring imaginable, changing from the darkest purple to the palest blues and greens as the light changes with the clouds or the bottom changes from white sand to gray coral to dark seawood.

The trade winds blow day and night to keep it from getting too hot, for the sun out of the wind is very hot.

Over the old ruins of the Great Houses and along the stone walls, bougainvillea in a dozen brilliant colors and lovely hibiscus grow in profusion. Along some of the old roads ancient mahogany trees form an arch overhead, the gnarled trunks eight feet through at times.

From other trees hundreds of rope-like vines hang so thick it would be difficult to walk through. On the dryer hills every tree and bush has great thorns on it and the seed pods on the larger trees are as thick as the leaves. Here and there are clumps of prickly pear or organ cactus. The vegetation is a queer combination of jungle and desert.

As you drive along the roads from time to time you will see tiny little wild doves no larger than a sparrow, and great big doves as large as a domestic pigeon. Every so often a mongoose darts across the road, his short legs moving so fast you can scarcely see them. They were brought to all these islands to kill off the snakes, and the common rats that came in the ships from Europe.

The mongoose looks and acts like an overgrown brown weasel with all the mean characteristics of that bloodthirsty little killer.

Scott River Plan

By BERNITA TICKNER

SCOTT VALLEY—In the spring of 1958, two groups of district cooperators made application to Soil Conservation District for engineering and technical assistance in stabilizing the banks of the Scott River from Horne Lane, south to the dredger tailings. Due to lack of engineering personnel they were told that a plan for that size project could not be made up in less than two years.

The directors of our Soil Conservation District decided that the job should have priority. They made some phone calls. Between the U.S. Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service a low level flight of aerial photographs were made. Those gave the engineers information it would have taken a year to get. A plan was made and work was ready to start by September.

Siskiyou Soil Conservation District and private contractors equipment went to work on the project. Load after load of large rock for rip rap and jetties were hauled and dumped in place to protect the raw banks and productive farm land.

Other groups and individuals followed in the steps of their river neighbors and asked for engineering service. It was given. Rock was hauled until winter weather shut down operations.

As we look back to 1958, we have made great strides toward stabilizing Scott River. More work will be done in years to come, and go on until the river has been repaired.

This rock that has been used for protecting the river banks is almost immovable. It is termed as permanent installation. Vegetation must be planned to supplement every foot of rock placed in the river. If this is not done a completely new channel could form from behind the newly stabilized banks.

When the job of hauling rock has been completed and the vegetation has become established to the extent that only slight maintenance is required, we can sit back and say, "A Good Job, Well Done."

Quotes

United Press International

LEIPZIG, East Germany—Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev, on Russia's determination to sign a peace treaty with East Germany if negotiations with the West fail:

"With the signature of a peace treaty with the GDR (East Germany), the occupation regime in Berlin will be liquidated and . . . peace and quiet will be established in all Berlin."

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—A policeman, describing Ida Belle Ingram of Roanoke, Va., charged with a $2,000 bank robbery:

"She's really a beautiful girl, but hard as nails."

ROME—Veteran pilot Max Conrad, on plans to have his wife join him on his next transatlantic flight:

"She will be good company."

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.), on the U.S. attitude toward the Berlin crisis:

"The upshot is that we are united—we don't have any parties in this thing."

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

Gluefingered Shopper Huge Problem As Legislators Ponder New Curbs

By NORM CARDOZA

The gluefingered shopper has become a first class police problem in many areas of the nation — particularly in Oregon where legislation is pending to curb their activities.

But state legislators, apparently shaken up by a climbing incidence of the shoplifting "art" have revised laws governing store employes who want to "shakedown" customers suspected of shoplifting.

A store employe or owner under terms of the new law, can arrest a person, and escape danger of suit for false arrest, if he has good and sufficient reason to believe the suspect has stolen something from his store.

Previously, merchants had to be certain the suspect stole the merchandise and he had to wait until the thief walked outside the store before making the arrest.

Some false arrest suits have gotten plaintiffs huge judgments. The manager of one local chain store said his company refuses to prosecute anyone it catches stealing merchandise.

The company, he said, became wary of the two-edged blade of law when it was sued twice recently for false arrest. Judgments awarded amounted to over $200,000.

Only one merchant of several interviewed said he attempts to prosecute known shoplifters. Most fearing suit, prefer preventive measures or they simply "write off" a percentage of their merchandise annually as stolen.

The manager of one large local store said he figures goods worth $5,000 are stolen annually from the store.

He does his best to curb the thefts by training his staff to alertness in spotting offenders.

Others take other steps.

The owner of a medium sized shop in town said he could not account in past years for a substantial amount of merchandise during yearly inventories.

He put his "high risk" items—jewelry, cosmetics, wallets among them—under glass. Inventory now in progress indicates a satisfying decrease in unaccountable losses.

Another manager of a chain store said he seldom prosecutes shoplifters. Instead, he orders them out of the store and tells them to stay out.

"It's better than prosecution. It makes them ashamed of themselves and possibly less inclined to steal again."

Another preventive measure is displaying only one unit of each high risk item.

If wallets, for instance, are racked with only one of each style showing, missing ones are easier to spot.

If an item, such as costume jewelry proves too enticing to shoplifters, some merchants simply discontinue the line.

Some ware—jewelry in particular—is less attractive when under glass. People like to handle it, play with it, try it on.

And employes learn to spot "undesirables" just like crooks can sense a policeman's presence, no matter how plain his clothes.

But the best defense against shoplifters in Klamath Falls is the basic honesty of people. Businessmen's estimates of shoplifters among customers here run from one per cent down, not up.

Most common items stolen locally are cosmetics, jewelry and leather goods. These are small, usually, and easily concealed. They are also the items which appeal to money-short, thrill hungry youngsters.

Most store owners and managers say the incidence of shoplifters is highest among teen-agers. Some get their kicks from stealing, they say. Others just steal because they can't afford to buy. A few may do it just to conform with others of their group.

But shoplifters are not all young, by any means, and they are not always the poor.

One manager says he attributes about 50 per cent of the crimes to minors and the other 50 per cent to adults.

Nor are the offenders always destitute or slack morally. A manager said he caught an out-of-town woman stealing a bottle of vitamin tablets worth only a dollar or two.

She was well dressed, was driving a late-model car and she was carrying more than $1,000. A police check of her circumstances showed she was a well-to-do grandmother who spotted the tablets as the type her grandchild needed. She could give no reason for the theft except to say "I wanted them, so I just took them."

The reasons for shoplifting are obscure and varied but three classifications are notable.

The needy. They steal because they can't afford to pay for items they want or need.

The thrill seekers and the conformists. These are usually juveniles who steal because it's fun or because others of their set are doing it.

The kleptomaniacs. They are those who satisfy a psychological deficiency by stealing. Merchants say this type is rare, but a problem because they are habitual offenders.

Often the needy are vagrants and transients who steal to pawn to buy food or liquor.

These, too, are irksome, merchants say, because they go for expensive items—small appliances, etc.—which are sought after by pawn shops.

But they are not a big threat in Klamath Falls, most agree, because efficient policing here keeps transients on the move and laws with teeth in them give vagrants more headaches than their diets.

Most of all, merchants are wary of the professionals who make a living through petty theft.

These are adroit, know the ropes, are difficult to catch.

One that a local manager remembers carried a neatly wrapped box — an innocent-enough-looking prop. But a clerk glimpsed a lightning theft of a man's suit that the pro stuffed into the hinged bottom of the box.

Shoplifting in Oregon has obviously proved profitable, and it's no wonder it was on the upswing. Merchants who run the high risk stores here figure ten per cent is a very conservative estimate of the number of shoplifters caught. These are the stores that hire detectives just to curb shoplifting.

The manager of one of these—the one who prosecutes—feels that he is doing the community and most offenders a favor by doing so.

"If we offer a number of particularly appealing small items, we hike the price a little to offset the loss of the one we know will be stolen."

They have to do it, particularly in stores that operate on a small margin of profit.

"I know that all stores do this," he said, "and if the new law is used and not abused, every consumer in Oregon will benefit by paying less for merchandise."

To our friends and customers—Highway Grocery & Service Station, North Entrance will RE-OPEN for business Mon., March 9.
The Management

Labor Probe: Both Sides Offer Bribes

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Robert Kennedy, chief counsel of the Senate Labor-Management Committee, says some elements of both management and labor offered him political support for his brother, Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), in exchange for laying off parties summoned by the committee.

Sen. Kennedy is regarded as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Robert Kennedy told a news conference Friday "the most serious attempt came from management" but added he also had a serious offer from labor. He declined to name names and said no money was offered.

Asked how many offers were made, Kennedy said "several—more than one."

Later in the interview Kennedy relerred to "both cases" in which he received rather specific talk about the support offered for his brother.

Asked whether this was political or financial aid, Kennedy replied: "political support."

In two cases, he said at another point, those making the proposals were in a position to execute the offer. Both offers "in which the people making the offer had some power," he said, came within the last year.

One union has been involved in a "similar" offer, Kennedy said. But he declined to discuss the case any further except to say that the union has been under investigation.

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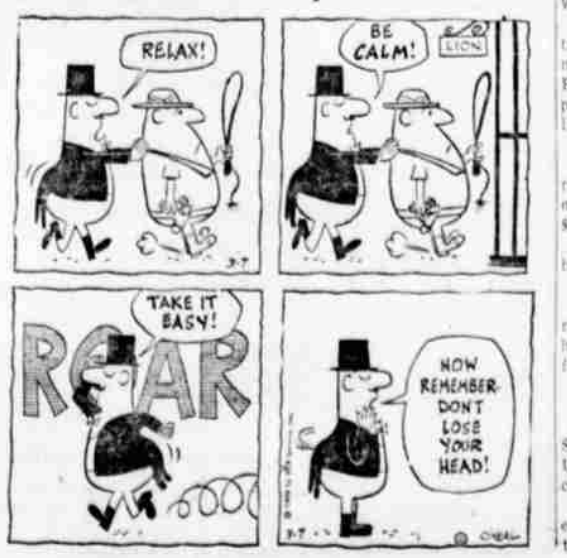
SHORT RIBS — By Frank O'Neal



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