The Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS, Editor
BILL JENKINS, Managing Editor
FLOYD WYNNE, City Editor
MAURICE MILLER, Circulation Mgr
Ph. TU 4-4752

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Beaver Dam

By BILL JENKINS

The last issue of the game commission's bulletin carries a story on Oregon's beaver, the animal that was largely responsible for the early exploration of much of the American West.

There seems to be at least a growing belief that perhaps the beaver hasn't outlived his usefulness yet, despite the several thousand complaints that come in annually as a result of his dam building.

The beaver may have his bad points but he certainly has his good ones as well. Not the least of which is his good sense in building small dams up on tributary waters and holding water for future use.

This is an elemental procedure that seems completely beyond the scope of today's planners and engineers. Even if we admit that some of our bigger dam projects have been strictly make-work undertakings for the glorification of some politician it still seems as if the thing in general has settled down to a man vs. beaver battle.

Okay, say the engineers to the beaver, you can build a dam but I can build a bigger one. And so it goes. Bigger, wider, higher, more expensive.

Well, anyway, according to the story beavers that get in trouble down in the valleys are being live trapped and transported to the mountains where they can build all the dams they want to. Until they interfere with some two-bit enterprise of mankind, that is.

What with water being the most valuable and sought after natural resource in the West today that sounds like good thinking. The beaver are happy. They work without pay, there are no days off—well, maybe an occasional Sunday for water polo—and in their labor they help everything. Ponds are created that hold runoff in the spring. Fish can find homes there. Passing waterfowl find resting grounds, nest, too, in the stable ponds. Wildlife finds water as do ranging cattle.

I think it a splendid plan. I wish that more people could think like beavers do. Then maybe we could have more small dams and fewer big ones. The expensive ones that are built under the guise of "free" public (power) gifts to the people.

After all, if we are to believe all that we are told by the people who should know atomic power is only just around the corner. Once the atomic plant comes into general use we will have no further use for our massive hydroelectric projects and the billions of dollars that have been poured into them will be as gone as granny's goose.

But the small dams at the heads of the streams will still be there to furnish ponds for fishing and pleasure, the rivers will still flow and I suppose that even in the atomic age people are going to go on drinking water. Nasty thought though it may be to many.

I hope the beaver are allowed to go on with their high country building. And allowed to gain in numbers.

We gotta remember that now that we have perfected the hydrogen bomb these same beavers may be the only engineers left pretty quick.

Town Hall

By FLORENCE JENKINS

The one place in a community of this size where gossip is exchanged, political confabs are held under the guise of casual time-passing and momentous decisions are reached is the post office.

Women are inclined to rely on brief visits with other women at their favorite grocery store, but the post office is the one spot that is coeducational in nature.

There one hears the greeting, "Hi, Governor," and looks around to see a man (who is not a candidate in this election year) smile and return the salute. After Postmaster Chet Langslet's crew gets the morning mail distributed among the boxes, one can count almost a chamber of commerce quorum around the post office lobby.

Politics is of prime importance as a subject of post office conversation this year, of course.

"I'm going to support so-and-so," one hears on the one hand. "Did you hear that so-and-so was talked into running because the committee thought he would change his registration?" is a juicy bit of scuttlebutt relayed into another group.

Crop prospects and the weather come in for their share and here and there a stamp collector is seen reaping a bonanza when a friend opens a letter from someone visiting outside the country.

Being a participant by nature, we were pleased last week to contribute our own little brightener one day.

A select cross section of friends received the news with mixed emotions that a would-be political candidate had come in to the classified counter of the Herald and News and asked if that was the place to file as a candidate for the May 20 primary elections.

Honest, though, we don't know the would-be candidate's name.

Dixie Fish Fry

Sacramento (To the Editor) — Every day nowadays there is something doing somewhere in the national parks. On this desk an invitation from Everglades Natural History Association. It is modeled after the first society in Yosemite in the early 1920s.

The invitation is a typical Dixie "fish fry" served by the Girl Scouts Ranger Aid Group. There will be hush puppies and often that delicious Conch chowder. The big pink shells that were ornaments on grandmother's parlor mantel yield chowder material equal to the best Nantucket quahogs.

The invitation announces three more trails added to Anhinga, (Water Turkey), Gumbo Limbo and Flamingo. Here camera enthusiasts kodak alligators and occasionally the very rare American crocodile.

Everglades National Park offers winter nature study. There are, however, other national park service areas along the south border. Big Bend has certain native garden wildflowers like zinnias, also the two miscalled "African" also "French" marigolds. Carlsbad National Park can hardly handle the crowds that come to watch the bat swarm. Chiricahua National Monument has telescoped life zones from the tip of the tropical to the Arctic Alpine.

When planning this month next summer's outing, why not consider motoring across to Great Smokies National Park for water-wheel-ground corn bread with sorghum, then return via Yellowstone, Glacier, Rainier and the Olympics rainforest national parks?

C. M. Goethe

Taxes

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—If you are wondering why your pay check doesn't seem to stretch as far today as it did a little while back, Uncle Sam has one answer for you. More of it is being withheld at the source.

That is, the government is getting an increased amount of it in higher social security taxes. And some of you may be finding more withheld because of rising charges for hospital and medical insurance. Some may find more withheld under company pension plans.

Those lucky enough to have received a pay raise recently will also note that a sizable chunk of the increase is withheld at the source to take care of federal income taxes and, in some cases, state income taxes.

Even if your take-home pay hasn't dwindled because of all this, there has been a steady if slow rise in the last year in the prices of many things you buy except that big item, food.

In most cases there has been an even larger rise in the cost of the various services you need or demand, all the way from transportation fares to fees for personal care.

The Department of Commerce notes that in January the total of wages and salaries advanced to an annual rate of 276½ billion dollars. The gain over December was more than two billion dollars. And January was ahead of a year ago by some 28 billion dollars at an annual rate.

But here comes the joker. In January the social security tax rate rose to 3 per cent from 2½ per cent. The government took in some 90 million dollars more from employes and a similar amount from employers.

Contributions are now running at an annual rate of 9½ billion dollars, up more than a billion dollars from the December rate.

The social security tax rate will continue to rise to provide for increased payments. Part of these payments will be in larger benefits to those eligible. Not all over 65 are now eligible, by any means. Most of the increase in funds will be needed simply because there will be many more persons 65 or over in the years ahead, and an increasing percentage of them will be eligible for benefits.

There are now some 15½ million Americans in this age group. It is estimated that by 1970 there will be 19 million and by 1975 nearly 21 million.

World Today

By STERLING F. GREEN

WASHINGTON (AP) — If you are convinced that history repeats itself, put a bet down that a Democrat will be the next president of the United States.

The odds favor you, but they could be — and have been — upset.

You don't know, of course, which Democrat you're gambling on.

All you know is that he apparently will emerge from a rough-and-tumble convention scramble for the nomination. And that his presumed opponent, Vice President Richard M. Nixon, won't run into any contest for the Republican nomination. Going on those facts alone, history suggests, the GOP will be thrown out of the White House.

In the 11 elections since 1832 when the out-of-power party had conflict in choosing its nominee, that candidate has won the election eight times. The modern convention system began in 1832.

And the seven cases in which there was conflict among the "outs" and harmony among the "ins," the "outs" have been victorious five times.

This bit of statistical lore can be found deep in the close-packed pages of a new book, "The Politics of National Party Conventions," written for the Brookings Institution by three political scientists — Paul T. David, Ralph M. Goldman and Richard C. Bain.

The authors themselves draw no conclusions about 1960. In fact their book, a gold mine of research on how the nation has found its presidents and its alsorans, supplies ample evidence that not one but many factors determine the outcome of elections.

Just the same, they consider that the pattern cited here has held true so consistently that "it would seem to have some predictive value" when the party system is working normally.

The record tells a totally different story when there is no contest among the "outs." When an out party has picked its candidate harmoniously — as by nominating a titular leader such as a previously defeated candidate, or by letting an inner group choose the nominee — the "outs" have lost, 13 times out of 15.

Which suggests it might be positively unhealthy for the Democrats in November, and a boon for Nixon, if by some miracle the half dozen Democratic factions of today should unite suddenly behind a single aspirant.

This is the more true because the "ins" usually do best when they nominate without conflict — by renominating an incumbent president, or selecting his understudy, or by letting a controlling group in the party designate the nominee.

In such cases the "in party" has won 16 of 23 elections, or 70 per cent of the time.

Smooches

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Kissing has become a lost art in America.

It began to decline the year we turned 40 and has plunged downhill rapidly ever since.

Every man's kissing history is roughly the same. It begins as an ordeal, gradually becomes a pleasure and a joy, and winds up as a form of feminine insult.

The ordeal time is when you are an infant. Then you are at the mercy of every loving, moist-mouthed aunt.

Kissing isn't much better when you first start school. Big girls in kindergarten develop a mania for chasing smaller boys, throwing them on the ground and kissing them. The whole business seems pretty silly to the boy.

But by the time a fellow gets into high school he develops a sudden interest in the matter. He discovers kissing is not only bearable, it can become a form of mutual fun.

Through college and up to his 40th birthday a fellow enjoys kissing as a manly art — particularly when strange girls at cocktail parties come up and buss him unexpectedly — because this makes his wife so jealous.

But by the time he is 45 the situation has changed dramatically.

He overhears his wife whispering to some sweet young thing at a party: "Why don't you go up and surprise my husband with a kiss? The poor thing. He doesn't have much fun anymore."

Even worse are the wives of friends who in the old days used to like to lure you into the pantry at neighborhood parties for a bit of innocent necking. After 45 they become lips that pass in the night.

As you step up to kiss them, fondly remembering the days of yore, they turn at the last moment and give you a quick absent-minded peck on the cheek.

That is the worst insult of all to a middle-aged man — to be kissed on the cheek by another man's middle-aged wife.

Here you are certainly entitled to revenge.

If she is smaller than you, stand on tiptoe so that she kisses you on your Adam's apple instead of your cheek.

But no matter what you do, you might as well face up to it: Kissing has become a lost art in America — at least as far as you can determine.

Ah, well, why mourn? After all, as every man over 45 knows only too well, the world is being taken over by the amateurs, in every field.

The Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Sunday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of the year, with 314 more days in 1960.

The moon is approaching its new quarter.

The morning stars are Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Venus.

The evening star is Mercury.

On this day in history:

In 1871, the District of Columbia was given territorial government.

In 1878, the New Haven Connecticut Telephone Co. issued a telephone directory, the first of its kind in the world.

In 1909, the Great White Fleet, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, steamed into Hampton Roads, ending the first worldwide journey ever undertaken by vessels of the U.S. Navy.

In 1925, the first issue of the New Yorker Magazine hit the newsstands.

A thought for today: Thomas Paine said: "Character is much easier kept than recovered."

Quotes

By United Press International

LONDON — Happy Britons outside Buckingham Palace after the official notice was posted that Queen Elizabeth had given birth to a son

"It's a boy! It's a prince."

PANAMA CITY — Adlai Stevenson on the possibility of his being drafted as the Democratic presidential candidate:

"I would always do my duty for my country. However, I must assure you that I do not expect to be drafted again."

DWIGHT, Ill. — Margaret "Queen Maggie" O'Connor on being paroled after serving four years for one of her alleged 100 holdups:

"I'm just a misunderstood person and...I won't be back."

SHORT RIBS By Frank O'Neal

They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo

Despite Friendly Overtures All Not OK Between Reds

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Associated Press News Analyst

Behind clouds of words about undying friendship and solidarity, indication can be detected of a spirited debate between the leaders of the Soviet and Chinese Communist parties.

The Kremlin chose no less a personage than Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko to sign a long article in Pravda, the Soviet Communist newspaper, presenting Moscow's case. Despite the usual wordage about great friendship, the article at times appeared to have a petulant tone.

One gets the impression the Chinese Communists have been fouling up Nikita Khrushchev's plans for finding a way of living with the Western Democracies while communism waits confidently, though a bit impatiently, for capitalism to collapse under the pressure of Moscow's sustained political and economic offensives.

The Red Chinese leaders, much more in need of external tensions now than their Soviet brethren, appear far less than enthusiastic about Khrushchev's new ventures into India and Southeast Asia.

Gromyko's Pravda article ostensibly was a salute to the 10th anniversary of the Chinese-Soviet mutual assistance pact of 1950. But he reminded the Chinese at the outset about all the Soviets had done for them in the establishment of new industries in China, in the work of Soviet specialists there, in a steady stream of Soviet equipment to China and "all forms of friendly collaboration."

Gromyko then reminded the Chinese that in the 1950 agreement, both big Communist states expressed readiness to cooperate sincerely in all international activities aimed "at establishment of peace and security in the whole world."

Gromyko also reminded Peiping that the Soviet Union is guided by the "five principles" first proclaimed by the Chinese themselves: mutual respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonaggression, noninterference in internal affairs of other states, equality and mutual advantage, and peaceful coexistence.

The Red Chinese are the ones who have kicked the five principles overboard. They invaded territory occupied for years by India and blatantly interfered in the Indonesian government's campaign against Chinese traders in rural areas of the Indonesian island of Java. Both nations are stops on Khrushchev's latest tour, which heightens Soviet unhappiness with their big Asian ally.

Gromyko reminded the Chinese Communists that Moscow is playing the "outstanding" role in elabrating Lenin's policy of peaceful coexistence of states with different systems. He also tartly told the Chinese that Khrushchev's trip to the United States was "a mighty investment in the cause of lessening international tensions and defense of peace in the whole world, and it will show positive, far-reaching influence in the further development of the international situation."

The article sounded like a long, not-too-patient lecture to a wayward child. The implication seemed to be: patience, you Chinese, father knows best. You'll see the great advantage of Soviet policy in the long run.

Commies Rig Rocket Bases

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP) — Nationalist China's defense ministry reported today that the Chinese Communists have constructed a string of rocket bases along the China mainland coast.

Rear Adm. Liu Hoh-tu, the ministry's spokesman, made the report to a news conference. He gave no details.

Liu also said Red China's air force still has a total of about 3,000 operational planes, 80 per cent of them jets.

He estimated the Chinese Communists have 20 to 30 submarines but discounted a suggestion that one of Peiping's subs might be the mystery submarine which the Argentine navy claims it is chasing in a gulf on the south Argentine coast. Liu said as far as he knows, the Chinese Communists have no long-range submarines.

First Robin 'Flies' North

TUXEDO, N.Y. (UPI) — The first robin traditionally means spring is here — and Garden Director Fred Johnson has decided to speed things up.

Johnson, noting that his crocuses will be ready to bloom next week in the 125-acre Sterling Forest Gardens here, decided that a few orange-breasted robins were needed to complete the picture.

Robins generally have more sense than to fly to cold New York in February. So Johnson made arrangements to airlift 300 of them here in a warm plane.

He says the robins — and if tradition holds, spring — will be here next week.

Oregon Girl Wins $100 Bond

CHICAGO (AP) — A Banks, Ore., lass proved she can bake a cherry pie.

Janet Schlegel, 17, won a reserve regional championship Thursday in the 28th annual national cherry pie baking contest.

The National Red Cherry Institute sponsored the contest held here.

Miss Schlegel was awarded a $100 government savings bond.

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