

## When Winter Comes

RONA MORRIS WORKMAN  
ROCKING W RANCH

A person's reaction to winter depends greatly upon where he lives, what he does, and his own mental equipment. There are times when I like winter and other times when I consider winter as being just exactly what Sherman said war was. The ancient Mayan idea of hell, which they called Metnal, was a place, grey, clouded and chill, like a cold damp swamp where the souls of the lost were forever seeking to keep their heads above the heavy black mud. That description closely resembles our cattle lots and almost any other place on a ranch in Oregon about February or March. I notice in the literature about Oregon, which is sent to westward-yearning eastern folks by our chambers of commerce, that Oregon mud is never mentioned. The brochures

merely state that Oregon has abundant rainfall. How right they are. I imagine that most of those seductive booklets are written by men who sit in an office and never set foot on anything but a city pavement, save in summer. I'll wager if those writers ever tried to chivy a determined cow away from the place she wanted to be to the place she didn't want to be, and got their boots stuck fast in the mud while she was trying to decide whether she was going to "take" them or the other fellow, they might say something about rain and mud, though I'll bet it wouldn't be printed.

I know there isn't much you can do about mud in the wide-open spaces except swear at it. (And I have often been amazed, when listening to ranchers talk of it, that the mud didn't instantly turn to dust under the heat of their language.) Every spare moment in dry weather you haul gravel and pile it in feeding sheds and lots and cry your heart out for cement to hold it,

(but no cement to be had, of course) and the rains come and your lovely gravel slowly sinks and sinks and is as if it had never been. I watched my men-folks branding a bunch of calves before we got the branding chute built. The corral was muddy, it was raining, as usual, and before they got through they were stamping the Rocking W brand on anything they grabbed. If it yelled, the one with the branding iron knew it was a man; if it merely bawled, he counted another calf branded, and they almost got the Big Boss ear-notched before he could get the mud out of his mouth enough to let them know what they had hold of.

I have never been able to decide whether it's harder on men-folks in wet weather or on us poor women who have to fight valiantly to keep the mud from all moving into the house. I wipe up my kitchen floor, scrub my back porch and hose off the terrace, and look at them with complacent satisfaction. Ten minutes later here comes somebody in a hurry. He gives his feet a swipe, bangs across my clean floor with a scared look and muttered apology, followed, quite likely by a dog who makes no apology, and I look at the trail they have left and begin muttering to myself. If a woman has never worked out in those feed-lots, she probably doesn't keep her feelings to herself, but speaks concisely and to the point. However, I have wallowed through that muck, so I merely think longingly of dry desert places where there never could be any mud, take my mop and clean up the mess once more. Sometimes I have thought it would be a good idea for ranch women to put a foot-deep layer of sawdust over all their floors when the first rain starts and then dig it

## 4528 Loans to Vets Approved

G.I. loan applications of Oregon veterans of World War II, representing a capital investment of \$20,915,063.47, have been approved by the veterans administration, Thomas M. Craig VA representative in this area, said last week.

On these loans, the VA is committed to guarantee \$9,919,848.05, or about 42 per cent. The G.I. bill permits the VA to guarantee not more than 50 per cent of any loan, and up to \$4000 for purchase of a home and \$2000 to buy or start a business.

Besides the 4528 approved loans another 152 were still being processed at the end of September when the latest totals were compiled.

Home purchasing accounts for the majority, or 3655 loans totaling \$17,708,301.23, of which the guaranteed or insured share amounts to \$8,691,422.64. The average G.I. loan for homes in Oregon is for \$5165, including a VA guarantee of \$2347.30

Ex-servicemen farmers have received 273 farm loans for \$1,008,797.35, with guarantees on 440-

out in the spring. It would make fine fertilizer and compost for the garden.

However, there are times when winter gives real pleasure. In the long evenings, after the chores are done, when we relax about a warm fire with the lights softly glowing, the sound of rain on the roof is something to listen to with lazy delight. I know our horses and cattle are warm and dry for the night, contentedly munching their hay; the dogs lie dreaming on the hearthrug, and I pick out some well-loved book which fits my mood and browse through it, sensing the warmth and quiet and comfort of home. Sometimes, as I turn a page, and pause to listen to the dark world outside, I say comfortably, "The wind is rising," but it doesn't worry me. Tomorrow, with its work in the rain and mud is far away; now I am at ease, and the outside is safely shut away for a little time. The red dog whines and makes little running movements with his feet; perhaps he is dreaming of a golden fall day and the sweet trail of a pheasant through the brown stubble. The cat climbs lazily into my lap, yawns, and settles down for another nap. The Big Boss turns the sport page of his newspaper, and outside the rising wind "wuthers" around the corner of the house and sways the shrubbery against the window. No, winter isn't all bad. It does have its moments.

413.96 of that sum. Farm loans average \$4221.39, with guarantees of \$1963.95, Craig stated.

An even 600 business loans have financed ex-GIs to the extent of \$2,197,964.89, of which the VA is backing \$783,011.45.

To protect the veterans' interests, the VA has rejected only 78 G.I. loan applications in this state, Craig pointed out. Of this number 57 were turned down because another government agency declined to guarantee or insure a prior loan and only 21 were rejected by the VA because the purchase price exceeded a reasonable market value or because the veteran's income appeared insufficient.

"In almost every instance of a loan application by a veteran, the VA has accepted the decision of a lending agency to make the loan," Craig said. "Loans are rejected only after investigation by the VA shows that the veteran's interests are endangered."

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1. Bill does not prohibit commercial fishing in coastal streams. It regulates WHEN, WHERE and HOW fish may be taken.
2. Bill actually affects year round employment of very few—perhaps not 25.
3. Bill would save about 50% of our steelhead. (Note: A steelhead is a rainbow that has gone to sea and returns.)
4. Bill does not affect commercial fishing on Columbia river does it affect the taking of SHAD.
5. Bill No. 312 would assure a future supply of Oregon's No. 1 foodfish, the salmon—and protect Oregon's No. 1 tourist attraction—the steelhead.
6. Bill directs Fish and Game Commission to conduct studies in order that we may have FACTS with which to manage and safeguard Oregon fisheries.
7. Taxpayers are now paying \$165,000.00 each biennium to maintain fishing for commercial interests. More protection will help rebuild the fishing, thereby reducing taxpayers' load.
8. Legislature has tried on two occasions—1941 and 1945—to save these fish for YOU and the FUTURE. Now your help is needed to make this bill (312) a law.
9. NO TAXES. This is not a money measure. Rather it would help reduce taxes.

**SOS**  
**VOTE 312 YES FISH BILL**  
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PH Adv—W. J. Smith, Gen. Chm., 626 Corbett Bldg., Portland, Or.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

### Friendship—Three Thousand Miles Apart

Ever play chess? It's a great game! One of the strongest friendships I know of started with a game of chess—between Dad Hoskins, in our town, and a man named Dalton Barnes, in England.

They've never seen each other, never met. But for the past eight years they've been playing chess by mail together—Dad puzzling over Dalton's latest letter, while he sends a chart of his next move to England.

Dad always thinks best with a mellow glass of beer beside his

chessboard. And the Englishman writes him that he does the same. "You know, it's almost as if we shared a glass of beer together, too!" says Dad contentedly.

From where I sit, you can talk about diplomacy and foreign policy, but it's often those little things—like a game of chess or a glass of beer—that can make for tolerance and understanding... between people of all nations... between neighbors here at home!

Joe Marsh

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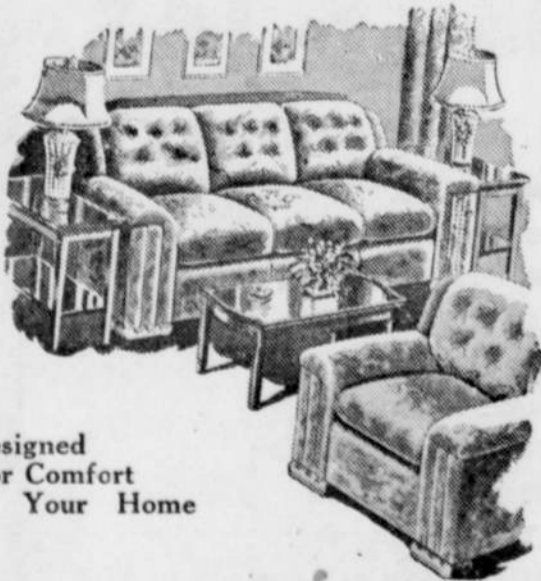
**KEEP QUALIFIED TEACHERS**



Nearly one-third of Oregon's 8,254 teachers possess only temporary emergency certificates. Teacher turnover in the last school year was 24.2 per cent throughout the state. Among the five State System of Higher Education institutions, the number of teacher graduates dropped from 1,177 in 1931 to an estimated 102 in 1946. Oregon schools must have a sound financial system. Keep qualified teachers.

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