

Roadside Council Plan Pushed At Meet; Will Go Before Chamber Officials

Astorian Budget - Dec. 5, 1940

Mrs. Jessie M. Honeyman, president of the Oregon Roadside council, last night delivered the principal speech at a meeting of local interested persons in the circuit courthouse, as a prelude to formation of a Clatsop county unit of the state group.

Mrs. Honeyman, venerable leader of the roadside beautification movement, outlined the council's plans for "cleaning up" unsightly roadside relics and abandoned properties along the coast highway. She suggested that in Clatsop county, the unit of the council here select the No. 1 horrible example and clean that up this year. She pointed out Oregon's nationwide leadership in beautifying highways. She said that along the country's highways, the state owns about one per cent of the abutting property; that one-half of that one per cent of state ownership is in Oregon, much of it along the coast highway.

W. J. Smith, who was recently re-

lected president of the Oregon Wildlife federation, displayed moving pictures of nauseating pollution in the Willamette river—pictures which G. Clifford Barlow of Warrenton today insisted proved a complete indictment of the waste to fish life in the Willamette and Columbia rivers. Other pictures of a trip through beautiful Yellowstone national park were shown, with accompanying remarks, by William L. Finley, leading Oregon naturalist.

Introduced at the meeting were Mrs. A. E. Rockey, honorary president and Mrs. Frank E. Smith, executive secretary of the Oregon council.

Barlow proposed at the meeting that the Astoria inter-club council select a citizen to become chairman of the proposed Clatsop unit of the roadside council, when it is formed. He said he would put the proposal before Clarence E. Short, chairman of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

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OPPOSING THE VALLEY PROJECT

(Salem Statesman)

Some day we hope to attend incognito a sportsmen's convention, for the purpose of presenting a resolution. It would start "Whereas, the preservation of wildlife is vitally important . . ." and we have a hunch the assembled sportsmen would pass it, despite that the concluding sentence would read: "Therefore, Be It Resolved: That all sportsmen be summarily executed."

Not that we want them executed, you understand; they're fine fellows. But our suspicion that they would approve such a resolution has been heightened by the action of the state Wildlife federation in condemning, apparently after slight investigation, if any, the Willamette Valley Project, or at any rate the proposed high dams.

William L. Finley addressed the convention on Wednesday, repeating his well-worn arguments against these dams; at that time the convention withheld endorsement of his stand, at the urging of President William J. Smith of the federation, pending a study of the project's alleged benefits. On Thursday the resolution was finally passed; and knowing what we do about conventions, we hope to be pardoned for entertaining grave doubt that the issue was investigated thoroughly.

It has been announced and repeated times without number that the army engineers' plans for the Willamette Valley Project provide for safeguarding fish life in the Willamette and its tributaries. Until the sportsmen have proof to the contrary, it does their cause little good to pass resolutions inimical to the flood control, irrigation and navigation program which congress has approved for the benefit of an important section of Oregon.

Oregon Journal Wildlife Zealots Versus Realists

By Claude Buchanan

Corvallis Member of the Willamette River Basin Commission

The one-sided controversy at the Wildlife conference at Corvallis, and reported in many newspapers, needs some clarifying, lest the misunderstanding prevail that the action taken by the Wildlife conference is unchallenged.

Hits Finley Stand

The great naturalist, W. L. Finley, who leads the fight in opposition to the development of the Willamette valley, loves wildlife and nature in its primitive state, unspoiled by man. To him, wildlife, natural woods and streams mean more than improved farms and growing cities. To him, the preservation of a few spawning beds for the salmon means more than the saving of farm buildings, livestock and the rich soil that is washed away by flood waters. In his zeal to maintain the Willamette valley in its primitive, undeveloped state, he would block the work that has been in progress since Governor Martin started the Willamette Valley Project committee to work in 1935. To state, as did Mr. Finley, that no opportunity was given the public to oppose the project, is misleading. Mr. Finley should know of the committee work, and of the public hearings, and of the investigation, the survey and the approval by the army engineers.

Wildlife zealots oppose the Willamette River Basin project, of course, because, to them, fishing means more than the prosperity of the farmers. But these men, who dream of the few fishing pools affected in the headwaters of the Willamette river, in all its primitive setting, cannot keep the settlers from building homes and improving the rich lowlands near the Willamette river. Neither can they keep the cities on the river from growing. Neither can they keep the farmers from practicing intensive agriculture and irrigation.

Benefits of Project

The proposed dams will materially increase the stream flow during the summer, to aid irrigation and navigation, and to offset increasing stream pollution, so deadly to fish life. The million dollars allotted for improvement of fish hatcheries should offset the loss of the few spawning beds that will be rendered useless for natural spawning.

It has taken a lot of hard work on the part of men who have given of their time and talent unselfishly, without compensation, to promote this improvement for a greater Willamette valley. It will require team work of public-spirited people to complete the project, now only begun. Let us not allow the element that always comes forward to oppose improvement and block progress, to block also the development of the Willamette valley that means so much to ourselves and to future generations.

Portland - Dec. 6, 1940 Local News Items

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Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson of Washington, D. C., and Dr. and Mrs. William L. Finley were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Jewett on Friday last.