

# THE YANCEY RECORD Established July, 1936

TRENA P. FOX, Editor & Publisher

THURMAN L. BROWN, Shop Manager

ARCHIE BALLEW, Photographer & Pressman

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Fat Hereford cattle pick rich, grassy pasture. Yancey County has many rich pasture slopes where both beef and dairy cattle graze.

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## Schools Unimportant?

## Just Ask An Industry

You wouldn't think it, maybe, but—

The quality of local school systems is coming more and more to be a key factor in the selection of plant sites by U. S. corporations. Local schools.

These companies have found out that they cannot attract high-grade scientific and engineering personnel to communities that lack good educational facilities. Neither can they train the kind of employes they want in poor schools.

The General Electric Company has a school check-list for prospective plant towns. It includes such things as whether the community has a good long-range plan for providing the necessary facilities, how well it pays its teachers, the ratio of pupils to teachers, relations between teachers and the community, the educational qualifications of teachers, school curricula, and the percentage of high school graduates who enter college each year.

Celanese Corporation judges schools in part by the College Entrance Examination Board test scores made by local students. It also looks for the presence of an institution of higher education (at least a junior college) in the community.

When schools lose their accreditation, industry begins to shy away. The

Duval County, Fla., schools lost Southern Association accreditation a year ago. Since that time the county has gained almost no new industry, and as a result community leaders are working hard to regain accreditation.

Small point? Big point.

Once a major industry locates in a community, it often works to improve the schools. This has been the case the General Electric Company at Louisville, Ky. GE employes helped last fall to obtain a tax referendum that would have provided new financing for the city's schools. When this failed and the schools were threatened with loss of accreditation, GE and other big Louisville employes lobbied hard and successfully to get the Kentucky legislature to provide emergency financing for the Louisville schools.

Other concerns regularly provide funds to local school systems to make possible advanced training of teachers and to buy equipment not provided in the school budgets.

As education in America becomes increasingly competitive, good schools will be of even more importance in plant location. It costs money to provide top quality education, but the community that does this will usually get much more back in increased tax revenues and payrolls from new plants. Good schools pay off.

Near Astoria is a monument marking the end of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Near this monument is a museum where many relics of the past are displayed, especially those necessities used by early pioneers. Much historical data is displayed in this building which is built of huge fir logs, some of which reminds us that it was a Scot by the name of Douglas who, being a botanist, classified the large trees we now call Douglas Fir.

Another interesting character who merits more than honorable mention is Sacajawea, the Indian woman who guided Lewis and Clark across the Northwest Wilderness at which time they mapped the Northwest Passage.

When we — my daughter, her mother and I — started out from Portland, Seaside was our ultimate destination, but we meandered considerably before coming at last to

the sea. This being the dry season, I was able to view the coastal country in a different perspective, because it was during the rainy season when I first visited along the Oregon coast, and much of the scenery was obscured by fog.

I had previously heard that the Myrtlewood growing along the coast grows no other place on earth except in the Holy Land. So it was interesting to see these trees growing in their natural climate.

At Seaside, we did some hiking along the trails made by the Coast Guard during World War II. For here were many lookout stations from which guards kept lookouts for enemy vessels.

On a high promontory overlooking the sea we watched

incoming breakers splash against the cliffs and burst into mist, saw outgoing ships until they disappeared beyond the earth's curvature.

## Up Go The Hemlines

One thing right now the world needs is some women who will tell the fashion designers to go take a running leap into the lake and stay there:

The world needs some women to assert their independence and wear dresses with hemlines to suit themselves and not the designers. We're getting a bit fed up with these fashion dictators.

Word from fashion centers is that the designers are indeed trying to put the hemlines up so high they might be worn for belts. One has gone so far as to put the length a daring 10 inches above the knee: others are at eight inches, while others are anywhere from one to three.

If it is true, as some say, women dress to please men, it's about time they get back to it. Men see nothing attractive in the skin-tight skirts that seem no longer than a foot rule, top to bottom. It's getting to where a man stops and stares only when he sees a woman with a full skirt go swishing down the street. The women may call her old-fashion, but not the males. They find her interesting.

## Is The Hot Water Boiling In Russia?

Word from Moscow is that the Soviet spring wheat harvest will be 7.9 million metric tons smaller than last year, another sign that all is not going well in the agricultural world over there.

The spring wheat harvest is expected to be only 40 million metric tons.

So no wonder indeed that the Russians are looking to foreign lands for wheat. In a few weeks we'll probably be

Strolling along the strand we were amused to see chustaceans seized upon by gulls. Once we saw a crab that had, somehow, got turned upside down and was unable to get on its feet. A short time later, after we had walked away, gulls swooped down and tore it to bits.

Along the Atlantic Ocean I have noticed that the trees keep at a distance from the beach. But such is not the case on the Oregon Coast. Gnarled trees grow to within a few yards of the surf.

I regret that lack of space does not permit a more detailed picture of this fantastic area. But I will be back next week with an account of my train ride eastward aboard Union Pacific's City of Portland.

## RANGER'S RAMBLINGS

By: Helton Carmichael

This week I'm going to depart from the usual forest theme of the column because last week my ramblings took me to a different kind of forest — the man made forest of New York City and the World's Fair. I was so much impressed by the 1965 Worlds Fair that I wanted to share a little of it with my readers.

The most impressive thing to my mind at the Fair was that the best exhibits were free, that's right, free. After paying a \$2.50 adult admission fee you could spend days just visiting the free exhibits shown by business and industry, not to mention the exhibits shown by states and foreign countries. The big exhibits by industry such as General Motors, Ford, General Electric and others, seemed to have spared no expense to give the fair goer a wonderful time.

For example: At the Ford exhibit you rode through air conditioned darkened tunnels in new Ford convertibles on a moving line which carried you back into time. Marvellous animated exhibits by Walt Disney made it seem you were actually in the time of the dinosaur. The giants of another age were right there around you as you moved along. They moved in life like actions and roared as if in real life as you passed them by.

The many other shows and exhibits were all carried out in taste and accomplishment. The many buildings, most to be torn down after the fair closes October 18th, were constructed as if to be permanently installed, and sure cost thousands of dollars. Anyone seeing this magnificent achievement of mankind could not possibly fail to be impressed.

I sure was glad to get back to Yancey County though. Tall as the buildings are they can't hold a candle to our mountains. And you just don't know how sweet our water is until you have tasted the water New Yorkers have to drink. Now I know why so many people from up north stop along our highways to look — they can't see anything where they came from for the smog. Yep, I'm right glad to be back but I did enjoy the trip.

selling it to them and shipping it in vessels other than American because the Russians refuse to pay the extra charges on cargo shipped on our boats.

## WESTWARD HO!

By: William L. Rathburn

A trip along the Oregon Coast is a refresher course in history, for here we are reminded of the Astor family for whom Astoria, Oregon is named. You will also recall that the Astors somehow managed to monopolize the fur industry in the early days when beaver were as plentiful as the buffalo.

Astoria is situated at the mouth of the Columbia River, and all ships coming into Portland must pass the town. Some, however, take on cargo here. But those bound for Portland sail up the Columbia to the confluence of the Willamette River and thence to Portland. (The Columbia does not flow through Portland.)