WESTERN NEWS
AND LIBBY TIMES

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Editor and Manager

OFFICIAL PAPER FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

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Yes, we expect to vote for the new Gymnasium and Auditorium. We do not have any children in the Libby schools, but we do believe all of the children who attend our schools are deserving of our support.

We have not lived in Libby long enough to feel free to tell folks how they should vote, but we do feel we have the right to tell them how we will vote and why. We feel that the town needs the improvement now, and as the years go by, will need it more and more.

The schools need the improved facilities for many purposes set forth in recent articles in this newspaper. The community needs the accommodations for public gatherings; and in order to grow and prosper as it should, every city needs to keep constantly improving as finances permit. Good public buildings, like attractive homes, add greatly to the appeal of any city.

The Genesis story of creation is told in 797 words. The Ten Commandments are given in 297 words. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was given in 266 words. The OPA changes the price of cabbage and takes 2,500 words!

Now is the time when Sweet William bears pistils, the Pussy Willow steals through the valleys, and Daisies won't tell; the dog tooth is found on the violet plant; 'tis dandelion time and occasionally the bulrush's out—but the tick in the hills, adds most to our ills!

The summer months will bring out many more motorists engaged in pleasure driving — and also many more pedestrians to take advantage of the good weather for hikes and strolls. The National Conservation Bureau warns that approximately two-thirds of the pedestrians killed by cars in 1944 were either violating a traffic law or committing some other unsafe act.

Eureka Drive Along River Delightful; Speed Work on No. 37

By Charles D. Rowe

Spring, so they say, is the time when the town dweller likes to get out on the highway and breathe plenty of gasoline fumes.

As yet we are not so bothered here in this corner of Montana. The person who joyfully succumbs to the irresistible urge to get out and enjoy the glorious beauties all around him can also enjoy a great abundance of pure air and sunshine.

We succumbed to such an urge last Sunday afternoon and chose to point the old car over one of our favorite drives, that along the Kootenai river between Libby and Eureka. Sunday we drove as far as Big creek and found the drive as marvelously beautiful as ever. Leaf trees and bushes were just putting on their new gowns of tender green leaves for the coming season; the tamaracks were stately and beautiful in their new, light green foliage; the darker green of pine and cedar added a delightful contrast in nature's color scheme; certain roadside bushes and trees were balls of white with a mass of blossoms; the majestic Kootenai flowed grandly along at one's side, and in the distance mountain peaks still carried their glistening mantle of the winter's snow. A few startled deer bounded away as our car sped along. Ordinary little creeks were raging torrents fed by the spring run-off from the mountains. Birds flitted through the forest or paused long enough on some nearby branch to pour forth delightful music for our enjoyment. The highway was in excellent condition, giving evidence of effective work by the men employed by the state to maintain it. All in all the drive provided a few hours of delight on an enjoyable Sunday afternoon.

There is no exaggeration in saying this drive over No. 37 between Libby, Warland, Rexford, Eureka and Whitefish is one of the most beautiful in the Northwest. When this highway is finally converted into a modern, standard highway, it will carry over it a tremendous tourist traffic. Its scenic beauty assures that. We understand No. 37 is the only highway left in this district on which money for new construction can be spent, under Montana highway law. That assures a reasonably early finishing of this popular road. Every effort should be exerted to get this section of No. 37 completed at an early date. It will prove an added attraction to call tourists to this delightful vacation land.

What is the world coming to anyway? Old Mother Earth is in a dreadful turmoil, turned topsy-turvy by quarrelsome mankind. And because of this turmoil, some of our cherished traditions are going overboard.

The last of such jolts was caused by an item in a recent daily newspaper. A certain lumberjack appeared in court and sued his wife for divorce because she got drunk and beat him up.

Ye gods and little fishes! Think of it! A lumberjack being beat up by a woman! For many long years a lumberjack has been to us an example of manly virility, with hard muscles and hard fists, ready to stand up to any man and fight it out to a finish at the slightest provocation.

It has been our good luck to count a number of these old-time timber workers as close friends. There comes to mind such a man down in central Oregon. Mike Morrison had followed the woods all his life. He was a typical lumberjack and had helped log off the magnificent timber crops in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Mike was "all wool and a yard wide." His word was better than any written bond. He was as honest as the sunshine and loyal to the last degree. I respected and honored him. Many's the time I have listened to his stories as he chuckled and told of the early days when the men would come off the spring drives and then play, carouse and fight in the towns. Then there were John Stanforth and Don McCoy, two other Wisconsin-Minnesota jacks who used occasionally to come into my office to visit and tell of the days in Minnesota and of the tragic forest firest they had seen.

Thus it was that we came to think of lumberjacks as a fearless breed of the Paul Runyan type, he-men with hair on their chests and full of pepper and vim. And now we read of one of them seeking a divorce because his wife beat him up. Oh, woe is me! What is the world coming to!

May has been set aside as a nation-wide Safety Month, aimed at curbing our appalling toll of deaths and injuries—a situation that is fast becoming a national scandal.

I should like to reprint here something good that I ran onto this week in my reading. It was in a circular put out by the Northwest Casualty Company. We quote:

"Does this Safety Month mean something positive to you? Or have you been content to think of safety and accident prevention as something intangible — something that concerns only the other fellow?

"You wouldn't—you couldn't if you have ever had to walk to a door, ring a bell and say 'Your husband has been in an accident. They're bringing him in now' . . . if you have ever stood watching the face of a friend who suddenly realizes that an eye or finger, or an arm may be lost forever—if it was ever your sad lot to pick up a child from under the wheels of an automobile—a child that but a few moments before was the picture of vibrant health and joy!

"We can do something! You and I and every citizen in our land, can contribute a portion of his time and energy to making our community and our city a safer and happier place in which to live!

"Remember, it isn't the magnitude of your effort, or the form that it takes, that counts. What counts is that you do something—that you make a contribution, however small! Your fellow citizens are counting on you!"

"Four-wheel brakes are useless without fore-sighted drivers."

Following appears further correspondence received by A. J. Agather, President of the Libby Chamber of Commerce, regarding the proposed Kootenai Dam project. The letter from Governor Ford was dated March 1, 1946 and the communication from State Engineer Buck was dated March 6. The letters follow:

Dear Mr. Agather:

This will acknowledge receipt of your favor of February 16, enclosing re-print of a newspaper article which appeared in the Great Falls Tribune, which came during my absence from the office and will account for the delay in answering.

Personally, I do not feel we have anything to worry about for many, many years to come in connection with the matters mentioned in the article. It occurs to me that this is merely an engineer's dream. However, I do think we should keep on the alert and be ready at all times to protect our interests.

Your letter is being referred to Mr. Fred E. Buck, State Engineer, with the request that he provide you with any information that he has on the subject.

You may feel sure that the Governor will work with you and your organization to fully protect the interests of the State and its citizens.

Cordially yours,
SAM C. FORD

Dear Mr. Agather:

Kootenai Project - Lincoln County

Your letter of February 16, addressed to Governor Ford, regarding the newspaper article proposing a large dam in the Kootenai River, has been referred to me for reply.

Last summer I received letters from the good citizens in your neighborhood, asking the purpose of making surveys, drilling dam sites, etc. along the Kootenai River. We had no official knowledge in our office of any kind concerning the work being done, and supposed that it was a part of the Army Engineers' investigations to bring their so-called "308" report up to date, as ordered by Congress some two years or so ago. While in Denver last winter, I was informed that the report on this particular project had been prepared, and was promised a copy. This arrived in my office just recently. In order to advise the people in your neighborhood of what was going on, I thought it was only proper to give a digest of this report to the press. We don't care to have another Flathead Lake experience in the Kootenai Valley, and for that reason I wanted your people to get what information was available.

The report is strictly on geology and does not cover engineering features. I don't think there is anything we should take too seriously. In the first place, it has not been authorized by Congress and, so far as I know, Congress has never even heard of the project. If a bill should be introduced, authorizing the same, we will learn about it immediately and I will certainly advise the people in your locality of such information.

Yours very truly,
STATE WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
FRED E. BUCK
Chief Engineer

Those who are interested in the subject, will find pamphlets at the Library sent through the courtesy of Sen. Wheeler, which give the Geological Survey's report on dam sites along the Montana and Idaho tributaries of the Columbia River.

We can help you find lost articles, or find the owners of things you may find with our classified section.

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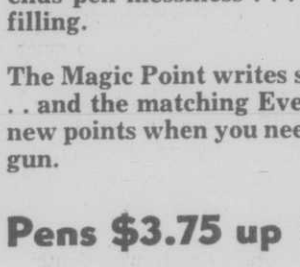

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8 oz. 29c

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Johnson's Glo-Coat
1 pt. ....59c 1 qt. 98c

Gambles
The Friendly Store

Political Announcements

For State Representative

I wish to announce my candidacy for the office of State Representative from Lincoln county, subject to the will of the Republican voters at the July Primaries. Your support is solicited, and if elected I will do my utmost to serve the interests of the people.

ALLEN GOODGAME

For County Commissioner

I hereby announce my candidacy for the office of County Commissioner from the Third Commissioner's district, subject to the will of the Democratic Primary. Your support is solicited and will be appreciated.

R. L. FAGAN

For State Representative

I wish to remind the people of Lincoln County that I am a candidate for nomination as State Representative on the Republican ticket, subject to their approval at the primary election on July 16, 1946. If you believe that I could serve you and the interests of Lincoln County well at the State Legislature, your support would be very much appreciated.

CHARLES D. ROWE

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