

Journal River Cleanup Good Investment

By William L. Finley

I hope your editorials of April 18 and 19 on the failure of our city officials to establish a sewer system have been read by thousands of voters. To run a business, a manager has to spend money to make money. The trouble today is that untold millions are lifted from the taxpayers' pockets and spent to benefit local individuals, instead of promoting those projects to aid the general public and conserve the health of our people.

If the biggest hotel in Portland had odorous toilets and uncleanly bathtubs it would be detrimental to business. An intelligent owner would know that by spending some cash he would make more cash. The greatest recreational center of Portland is a filthy, open sewer and health officers have advised residents, and especially the children, to keep away, for fear of disease and death. In using a great public water highway as an open sewer, certain industrial interests may have gained a little money, but residents and all owners of riverfront property have lost untold millions of dollars.

The state highway commission is spending \$100,000 to attract tourists to Oregon. It is a business that scatters over \$40,000,000 a year among Oregon residents. The full-page advertisement in the April 13 issue of the Saturday Evening Post says: "See the beautiful Rogue, Umpqua and McKenzie rivers." No mention of the Willamette. Apparently it is not a beautiful place nor one to attract money.

Even if it costs millions to cleanse our Oregon waters, this money and more would come back if Oregon could be advertised as the only unpolluted state in the Union. As a boating, swimming and fishing area, Portland's riverfront would be the most famous and widely visited summer playground in the country.

Yes, it costs to take proper care of city sewage. In two former elections, city commissioners were instructed to provide for a sewage disposal plant. Three of the present commissioners—Riley, Bennett and Bowes—have ignored the commands of the voters and are now seeking reelection.

To improve Portland, the new plan is to widen and beautify Front avenue. It would be an inspiring picture to have a waterfront highway, a park-like place to attract residents and tourists. However, this is along the border of a malodorous open sewer, where health authorities will have to advise men, women and children to avoid the deadly sewage bacteria.

Naturalist Hits Portlanders on Sewage Problem

Portland's present city commission was soundly flayed by William L. Finley of Jennings lodge, well known naturalist, in a talk before the Kiwanis club in the chamber of commerce rooms here yesterday.

"I hope every member of that commission who refused to follow the mandate of the people for a sewage disposal system is defeated when he runs for reelection," Finley declared. He was the commission's present proposal for a bond issue to improve Portland's Front street as a plan "to build a parkway along a stinking, open sewer."

Unpolluted streams could be Oregon's greatest attraction to tourists and new residents, Finley declared, after describing how pollution in the Willamette had destroyed property values, killed fish life and become a menace to health.

The Clackamas river was cited as a prime example of the failure of artificial propagation of salmon by the speaker. He praised the efforts of local sportsmen who aided in getting ladders over dams to restore natural salmon runs. The dams proposed in the Willamette Valley project would be fatal to the spring salmon runs, Finley predicted, adding that pollution had already destroyed the fall salmon run in the Willamette.

The speaker was introduced by Philip Hammond, club president. James Werschkul and William McVay were introduced as new members of the local club.

Dirty River Still Irking Mr. Finley

Journal - Apr. 26, 1940
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Finley Scores Portlanders

OREGON CITY, April 26 (Special)—William L. Finley, noted Oregon naturalist, scored the Portland city commission for its asserted failure to take action in construction of a sewage disposal plant, in an address Thursday before the Kiwanis club here.

Finley, without mentioning names, predicted those commissioners who had declined to take action on the project, which he said Portland voters had already approved, would "learn of it" at the polls.

Pollution of the Willamette river, he told the club, has destroyed the recreational value of property along its banks and has damaged the salmon runs.

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toilets

Willamette
river highways
leading to pollution