

*Oregonian - Dec. 5, 1940*  
**Somebody Killed a Swan**

A news story, reporting the illegal killing of a whistling swan, calls the bird rare in this region. Though the swan are by no means as common as they used to be, it perhaps would be more exact to say that nowadays they are only occasional. Scarcely a season passes without an individual or so of this early migrant species choosing to remain on Sauvies island, or elsewhere in the lowlands, instead of continuing the cloud voyage to the arctic barrens, which are the immemorial breeding grounds of their kind. It is probable, too, that the whistling swan are increasing, for they seem of more frequent report in the region these last few years.

The whistling swan of the news item had been wounded by an unknown hunter, and was found near the mouth of the Clackamas. Taken to the home of the naturalist, William Finley, the bird seemed in prospect of recovery, but died soon afterward. In these instances prediction is apt to be faulty, for the eye of the wounded waterfowl is bright, its bearing alert, almost to the instant of death. The story tells that the state police are searching for the hunter, and one wishes them luck, but there is faint hope that he ever will be found. His punishment, if he is sensitive, as many hunters are, will be to reflect that he killed the bird needlessly, so destroying something of living beauty, and that the death he gave it was lingering and sad.

It isn't because the natives of the far north harry the whistling swan on its nesting grounds—as they do of old custom—that these great birds have been near to extermination. The nesting area of the species comprises a wide expanse of barren and uninhabited country, far too extensive for thorough plundering by the nest-raiding native. Then, too, since the whistling swan is one of the earliest of migrants, most of its nesting season is passed in a period of deep snow that is too soft for traveling. It is apparent that we cannot blame the simple aborigines for any threat to the survival of the species, nor may we attribute its comparative scarcity to the appropriation of its breeding range for plowland. In the instance these threadbare excuses no longer will serve.

Here is a bird, of no value at all when killed—since it is too tough for table—whose beauty, dignity and size made it the target, until it became closely protected, of every eager hunter with a gun. Wild swan! Because the bird was beautiful the countryside passed sentence of death upon it. In eastern states, when the great white cloud-farers were forced down by sleet which iced their wings, the villagers fell upon them with clubs and all manner of weapons. It couldn't happen today—not for reason of law alone, but because of an improved public education in these matters. Still, as the instance at tests, there are those who lust to kill a wild swan.

**Roadside 884**  
**Council To**  
*Dec. 3, 1940*  
**Be Formed**  
*Astorian Budget*

Not only will Mrs. Jessie M. Honeyman, president of the Oregon Roadside council, be down tomorrow for the organization meeting of a Clatsop county branch but accompanying her will be Mrs. A. E. Rockey, honorary president, and Mrs. Frank E. Smith, executive secretary. The meeting will be held in the evening in the circuit court rooms of the court house, and the public is invited.

G. Clifford Barlow of Warrenton is taking the initiative in organizing the meeting and wishes particularly to interest service clubs, the League of Women Voters, parent-teacher organizations.

**To Show Colored Films**

At the meeting colored motion pictures of wild life in Yellowstone national park by William L. Finley, famed naturalist, and W. J. Smith, president of the Wild Life federation, will be shown as will also pictures showing the pollution of the Willamette river. Mrs. Honeyman is extending a special invitation to school teachers and pupils.

The Oregon Roadside council, a creation of Mrs. Honeyman, has been functioning for years to preserve the scenic beauties along the highways of the state. It now has branches in numbers of counties and tomorrow evening will set up an active branch in this county.

The Portland officers will be at the Astoria hotel early in the afternoon to meet interested local people.

**884** **Opposing the Valley Project**  
*Salem, Ore. Statement, Dec. 3, 1940*

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 river 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.