

SNELL DEAD IN CRASH

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Speaker to Take Office

New Law Designates Successor

PORTLAND, Ore., (UP)—John H. Hall, Portland attorney and speaker of the Oregon house becomes Governor of Oregon as a result of Gov. Earl Snell's death in a plane wreckage 36 miles south of Lakeview, Ore. Hall succeeds, since the governor's immediate follower-in-line, State Senate President Marshall Cornett, also was killed.

The 1947 legislature passed a new governor-succession law because the procedure theretofore had been vague.

Under the new law the senate president would have been first in succession, speaker of the house second, followed by the secretary of state and the state treasurer.

Hall was confined to bed in his Portland home Wednesday night with a bad cold. He expressed grief upon learning that the three high officials, including Secretary of State Robert Farrell—all his personal friends—had been killed. Hall withheld any comment concerning the possibility of calling a special session of the legislature.

Political observers here said that a special session undoubtedly would be called, if for no other purpose than quickly to elect a new president of the senate and a new speaker of the house. They pointed out that with Farrell also killed in the crash, only one successor remains at present for Hall as governor, State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott.

Victim Onetime Special UO Student

Although not a graduate of Oregon, Governor Earl Snell is listed on alumni files as a "special student, spring term, 1943." The next line of the card shows that Snell withdrew the same term.

Governor Snell registered at the University for the purpose of becoming a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. His son, Bill Snell, is also a member of the fraternity.

Phone Changes Hold Up Directory

Publication of Piggers Guide is being delayed pending proposed changes in the campus telephone system. In the event that changes are made, phone numbers of nearly 2000 students will be affected. However, the directory staff has reached final steps in preparing the directory and it will go to press soon after definite arrangements concerning the telephone system are made.

Two of Yesterday's Victims



Killed yesterday in one of the major tragedies in Oregon's political history were Governor Earl Snell, left, and Robert S. Farrell Jr., secretary of state.

Governor Snell Was Serving Second Term

PORTLAND, Ore., (UP)—Governor Earl Snell was born at Olex, in eastern Oregon, July 11, 1895. He attended the Oregon Institute of Technology in Portland for three years and saw service in World War I.

He was elected to the state house of representatives in 1926, was re-elected in 1928, 1930, and 1932 and was named speaker in 1933. In 1935 he was elected secretary of state and served until 1942.

Snell was nominated as Republican candidate for governor in 1942 and was elected the following year. He was re-elected in 1946. He was married to Edith Welshons of Condon, Oregon, in 1920, and has one son, Dr. William Earl Snell.

Son of Pioneer

Snell was the son of a pioneer Oregon family. He received his

public school education in Arlington and Condon.

He was first a country newspaperman, then automobile dealer. Later he served Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler and Morrow counties as a member of the house of representatives in regular and special sessions of the Oregon legislature.

Snell was re-elected secretary of state in 1938 by the largest majority ever given an opposed candidate in the state's history.

ROBERT S. FARRELL

Robert S. Farrell, Jr., was born at Portland, Oregon, in 1906. He attended the University of Washington and the Northwestern College of Law. Farrell was sent to the state legislature in 1935, served again in 1939 and 1941, and was elected secretary of state in 1941. He was re-elected in 1946. He was married to Nancy Jane Carpenter, Portland, in 1929 and has two daughters, Joan and Sally.

MARSHALL CORNETT

Marshall Cornett was born at Burning Springs, Kentucky, in 1898 and graduated from Berea, Kentucky college. He moved to Oregon and became active in politics as a member of the port commission at Astoria in 1921.

In 1926 Cornett moved to Klamath Falls and entered the oil distribution business. He was elected to the state senate in 1940 and again in 1944. Cornett was married to Olive Van Decar Byram in 1922.

Fogdall to Speak

Senior boys of University high school in Eugene will hear assistant dean of men, Vergil S. Fogdall, talk today on the general topic, "The High School Senior Looks Ahead To College."

Governor; Next in Line, Cornett; Farrell Killed Enroute to Hunting Area

Accident Leaves Three State Offices Vacant; Rescue Crews Discover Plane Wreckage

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., (UP)—Oregon's Governor Earl Snell, his immediate successor, and the Oregon secretary of state were killed in the wreck of a private plane whose veteran pilot, flying them to hunting grounds, lost his way in bad weather and hit a tree, state police reported last night.

A rescue party of police, sheriff's deputies and forest rangers came across the shattered remains of the red and silver Beechcraft scattered in the snow beyond a sheared-off pine tree in Lake county, 36 miles south of the intended destination, Lakeview, Oregon.

Killed in addition to Snell were his second in line of succession, Senate President Marshall Cornett, Robert S. Farrell, Jr., secretary of state, and pilot Cliff Hogue.

Southern Oregon Hunting Trip

The state executives had been on a half-hour flight last night from Klamath Falls, heading for a goose-hunting junket into the most rugged part of Oregon to relax from their official duties.

"All aboard the plane are dead," was the brief word received from the search party that pushed into the relatively isolated area after pilot Robert A. Adams, participating in Oregon's greatest air search for a missing plane, spotted the smashed remnants south of Dog Lake.

State Adjutant General Raymond F. Olson confirmed that all aboard were definitely identified and dead.

It was right down in the southern portion of the state, only six miles north of the California border and not far from where the Nevada line makes a three-state border. It was an area where the flying could get the toughest, with mountain ranges, and desolate valleys usually filled with rainstorms at this time of approaching winter.

Plane Sheares Pine Tree

Apparently pilot Hogue seeking the Lakview airport only 70 miles east of Klamath Falls, groped lower and lower in the darkness until he was too low and the tree loomed up. It was eight inches thick where the plane cut it off like a bolt of lightning.

Darkness stilled all attempts to bring the bodies out tonight. Capt Paul Parsons, of the state police at Medford, Ore., said there was no hope of "doing anything more tonight." The bodies will be brought out tomorrow, he said. All bodies were identified by state police.

Lee Brown assistant superintendent of state police at Salem, said Parsons told him CAA officials had reached the wreckage and seen and identified the bodies.

CAA Confirms Identification

The CAA at Klamath Falls confirmed that a party of their officials had reached the scene and identified the dead. News of the identification was relayed from the scene by mobile radio transmitter.

The fatal accident stunned the state. Governor Snell, 52, was a popular figure and a leader in Republican political circles. He was serving his second term as chief executive.

This week, as soon as possible after absolute identification is made, a special session undoubtedly will be called. Even before that John H. Hall, Portland attorney and speaker of the Oregon house will be sworn in as governor to replace Snell.

New Succession Law

Under a new governor succession law, passed by the 1947 legislature to take care of heretofore vague succession steps, the senate president would have been the first in succession. The speaker of the house is second followed by the secretary of state and the state treasurer.

Political observers speculated that the special session would be called to quickly elect a new president of the senate and a new house speaker, since the deaths of Cornett and Farrell shattered the chain of succession, leaving one successor, State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott.

The governor's plane took off from Klamath Falls at 10 p.m. Tuesday and was due at the Kittredge ranch about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. Shortly before it was scheduled to arrive, a resident of Bly, on the Klamath Falls-Lakeview route, reported seeing a plane with running lights fly overhead and then turn back westward.