

Ten Top News Stories of 1947

The following are the Emerald news staff's choices for the ten top news stories with campus significance published during 1947.

- 1—Governor Earl Snell's death.
- 2—University warehouse fire.
- 3—Student Union drive for funds.
- 4—Howard Hobson resignation as head basketball coach.
- 5—Athletic department reorganization.
- 6—Appointment of Jim Aiken as head football coach.
- 7—Campus political developments.
- 8—The death of Coach Bill Hayward.
- 9—The series of forced retirements under the new state law.
- 10—Randolph Churchill debacle.

Joining the other newspapers of the state, the Emerald nominated

Tragedy



GOVERNOR EARL SNELL
Tragedy claims No. 1 place in ten best stories.

as the outstanding news story of the year the plane crash which wiped out in one blow the chief political figures of Oregon.

Tuesday, October 28, Governor Earl Snell, Robert S. Farrell, Jr., secretary of state, and Marshall Cornett, president of the senate, took off from Klamath Falls in a small plane for a vacation trip near Lakeview. Wednesday morning came the first news that the governor's plane was missing.

While the state waited for word, forest rangers and volunteers fanned out over a wide area of the Dog lake country in search of the plane.

Wednesday night brought unofficial word, later confirmed, that the bodies of the three men, with that of their pilot, Cliff Hogue, had been found dead in the wreckage of their plane.

John H. He'll, formerly speaker of the house of representatives, took the oath as governor of Oregon on October 30. The 48-year-old Portland attorney was quoted as saying at that time that "I am carrying a job to my liking."

A state funeral for the political figures was held in the Oregon house of representatives on the following Monday.

On February 12 sirens of fire engines echoed across the campus, summoning students to the blazing warehouse on Onyx street. The building and contents, valued at \$135,000, were completely destroyed in the spectacular fire, making the second top story of the year.

Half an hour after its discovery, the fire had left only the heat-twisted skeleton of the structure, glowing coals, and smoking ashes.

While a crowd of 3,000 watched, firemen played streams of water on

the warehouse and surrounding buildings in an attempt to prevent a spread of the fire.

A series of explosions, presumably caused by acetylene tanks stored in the building, caused the spectators to scurry for cover. Students aided in bringing out an auto and a tractor while the structure burned about them. Others helped residents of neighboring homes move their belongings.

Heat was so intense that windows of another warehouse across the street were cracked and darkened.

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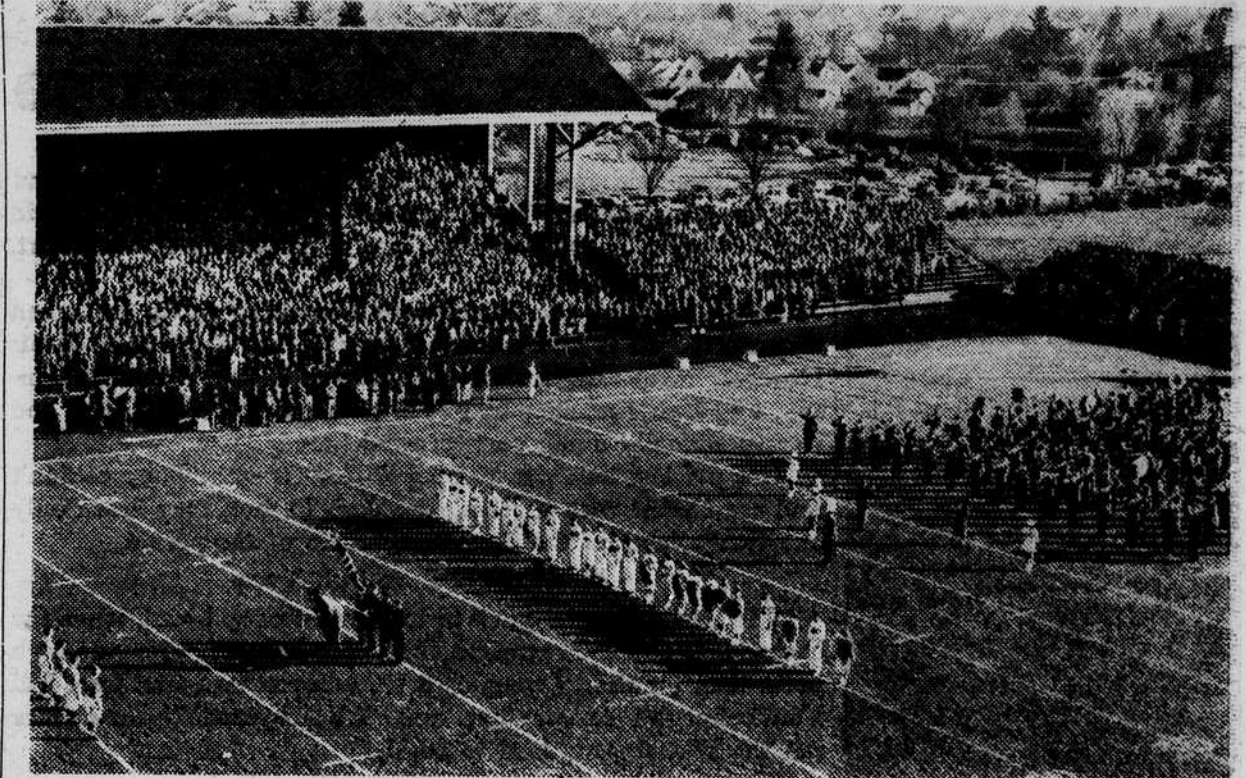
In a series of drives, the Erb Memorial Student Union building became more than a dream. Students, who had been contributing breakage fees and loose coin, approved a \$5-a-term building fee for ten terms to finance it. This was named the third story of the year.

On September 23 the executive council went on record approving the increase as a last resort to assure its construction "in our time." A poll of sentiment in campus living organizations followed. Favoring the plan were 68 per cent of the students.

The state board of higher education approved the increase October 28, giving the okay to proceed with final specifications. Oregon's "dream building," which was to have 150,000 square feet of floor space according to original plans, was scaled down to 93,000 as building costs went up. Hotel facilities for alumni were among the deleted sections.

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The Emerald was scooped on the story due to a disadvantageous re-



Bands, teams, and rally squads lined up before the 147 Homecoming game to dedicate the weekend to Coach Hayward. The slogan, "Win for Bill" was successful when Oregon beat Oregon State, 14 to 6. The story of the weekend and Bill Hayward's death was story No. 8 for 1947.

lease date, but the staff nevertheless chose Howard Hobson's resignation as head basketball coach as the number four story of 1947.

Rumors had been rampant but on September 29 came the official word from the University athletic news bureau that Hobson had resigned to become head basketball mentor at Yale university.

The following day President Harry K. Newburn announced that "Honest John" Warren, freshman

basketball coach since 1935, had been named to succeed Hobson.

On January 9 came the long-expected shake-up in the University athletic department and rates a No. 5 on the ten best news stories.

The board tendered its resignation with the statement that its "objective had been accomplished, but in the meantime the University had increased in size, and the problems had increased accordingly."

They had come to the conclusion

that a more direct administrative procedure should be established which would provide an official to have complete jurisdiction over the department.

On February 18 it was announced that Leo A. Harris, former Stanford athletic great and then district superintendent of the Carmel unified school district, would step in as director of athletics for the University. Anse Cornell relin-

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Staff Chooses Top Action Shot For 1947



The outstanding action photograph taken by an Emerald photographer during 1947 was snapped as the University warehouse, on Onyx between Twelfth and Thirteenth, went up in flames last winter term. The man with the camera was staff photographer Don Jones, who was graduated from the journalism school last June. The \$135,000 fire, which demolished the building was rated as the No. 2 story of 1947 by the Emerald news staff.