

## REPUBLICANS AFTER RHODE ISLAND SEAT

Ex-Governor Winthrop Being Groomed as Candidate.

### SENATOR GERRY STRONG

Incumbent, However, Now Lacks Aid of Old Tammany Chief Who Organized First Campaign.

BY EDMUND HART.  
(Copyright, 1932, by The Oregonian.)

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 16.—(Special.)—Beekman Winthrop, ex-governor, is being groomed as a candidate against Senator G. Gerry in the fight the republicans are to make this fall to "redeem" Rhode Island.

Senator Gerry was the first democrat to be sent to the United States senate from this state in something like 50 years. An old Tammany chief came from New York six years ago to help the rich young man organize his campaign and by Tammany thoroughness they put it over.

The Tammany leader now is dead, but young Gerry has learned something of politics himself and the campaign promises to be one of the most interesting of the congressional year. In order to have the way for Winthrop's nomination against Senator Gerry the republican leaders must first placate Representative Ambrose Kennedy, who is a republican ambition and is very popular with the French-speaking voters in the Blackstone valley. Representative Kennedy was educated in Canada and speaks French fluently. The French are a very important element in the politics of this state. The present governor, H. L. Soud, is a French-Canadian and was lieutenant-governor under Winthrop.

**Factory Voters Feared.**  
Because of the recent labor troubles in the big mills in this industrial section of the state the republicans fear that the factory workers may flock to the democratic ticket this year. They did six years ago when Gerry defeated Senator Lippitt in a short but exciting campaign. Both Winthrop and Gerry are millionaires. They are also good mixers and handshakers and popular with common people.

At the end of his term as governor, Winthrop had lost none of his popularity and the feeling among republican politicians is that he is the only man in sight who can beat Senator Gerry. The latter will be renominated without opposition at the democratic primaries.

Senator Gerry has had a meteoric career in politics. It was the famous old blind boss of the G. O. P. in Rhode Island, General Braxton, who discovered him and pointed out his possibilities to the democrats. One day when the newspapermen were chatting with General Braxton, he remarked to a reporter on a democratic paper here that there was a new millionaire in Newport.

"Better look him up," said the blind boss, goodnaturedly. "He may prove an angel for you democrats."

**Suggestion Is Followed.**  
The reporter took the general Braxton's suggestion and wrote a story about the new rich young New Yorker, son of old Commodore Gerry of the New York Yacht club and confidante of Grover Cleveland, William C. Whitney, Daniel Manning and other leading democrats in and out of Tammany Hall.

The democrats nominated young Gerry for the Newport city council that year and he was elected. After there was a vacancy in the congressional delegation from Rhode Island, one of the members having died, the democrats nominated Gerry. He was elected to the district which included the city of Providence. In the eleventh hour, Gerry consented to run and was elected. His party asked him as one of the delegates at large to the democratic conventions of 1912 and 1916. He was a Wilson man in both gatherings.

In 1918 there was a lot of pulling and hauling among Rhode Island democrats over the senatorial nomination. Gerry did not go after the plum, but it was known that he would make the run against Senator Lippitt if his party desired. Five weeks before election day Gerry was named. He made a whirlwind fight.

**Trusted Friend Is Called.**  
Soon after the campaign began Commodore Gerry called into his office at New York a rich and trusted friend, General De Witt Hamilton, a seasoned Tammany politician, telling him that his son, Peter, was running for the senate in Rhode Island and asking him if he would run up and look over the situation and see if there was anything he could do for the younger General. Hamilton never hunted quail with a brass band. He slipped up to Newport on the night boat, got in and saw the young candidate for senatorial honors and went over the situation with him.

The general visited other sections of the state inco, and then started an intensive campaign in behalf of young Gerry. In a short time he had organized the state in Tammany fashion, seeing to it that a representative of every racial group was placed in charge of the work out for that particular group. Everywhere young Gerry appeared in the campaign he was received with great enthusiasm. The old campaigner offered him that detail and other matters of a practical nature. When he had organized his Rhode Island Tammany machine, offered it with practical politicians and workers he slipped back to Manhattan as quietly as he arrived in little Rhode Island. He had done his work before the republicans even knew that he was in the state.

This time Senator Gerry will not have the benefit of the aid and counsel of General Hamilton or the assistance of his rich father. Both have died since his election six years ago.

## ENGINE HITS AUTO; 4 DEAD

Two Also Injured In Accident at San Fernando, Cal.

SAN FERNANDO, Cal., April 15.—Four persons were killed and two injured when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a light engine at Sylmar crossing on the Southern Pacific tracks near here and turned turtle in a ditch last night. The occupants were held pinned beneath the machine 20 minutes before help arrived.

Three of the dead were nurses employed at the Olive View sanitarium, about four miles from here. They were brought here with the fourth crushed victim for identification. The two injured were taken to the county hospital in Los Angeles. All six were employees of the sanitarium.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

## BOY WITH BROKEN BACK IS RECOGNIZED RADIO EXPERT

Lester Picker, Crippled by Fall While Building Aerial Mast for Experimental Station, Continues Study.

BY STUART N. LAKE.

(Copyright, 1932, by The Oregonian.)

SAN DIEGO, Cal., April 15.—(Special.)—Nation-wide interest in wireless has brought to San Diego within the last month inquiries from all over the country concerning the identity of operator Six-AJH.

"The gentleman of the air," inquirers call him, and they indicate that under the anonymity of his radio designation he is building a national reputation.

Radio 9 asks of St. Paul, Minn., the name of San Diego Six-AJH. 2-PP of Brooklyn, N. Y., asks who he is. Radio operators in Roswell, N. M.; Amarillo, Austin and Dublin, Texas; Hutchinson and Wichita, Kan., and in Denver, Col. have written for detailed information about the operator and his apparatus. One professional who picked up Six-AJH on a steamship 500 miles north of Seattle, bound for Nome, Alaska, has written to ask personal particulars about the man "with the best sending fist" that he ever listened to.

All commend the local operator's brevity, his elimination of unessential signals and his apparent use of minimum of power in carrying on communication. "He is getting sending close to the point of perfection," says a radio operator from a Canadian border station.

Six-AJH of San Diego is a 15-year-old boy with a broken back, bed-ridden and paralyzed below the waist—Lester Picker, who operates his radio from his bedroom in his father's house at San Ysidro, a village 15 miles south of here, close to the Mexican line.

This youth with the remarkable "sending fist" is a victim of his ambition to excel in radio work. Last November he was in the senior class at San Diego high school preparing for an engineering course in the Colorado School of Mines. Not once in the three and one-quarter months he traveled 10 miles a day to attend school was Picker absent or tardy. He was active in a boy scout troop and outside of school hours attained operator of the first class.

Five months ago he planned to erect

a new experimental station, and while setting up his aerial mast the boy fell 25 feet to the ground. The fall broke his back.

While Lester was spending two months in a hospital two boy scouts, Edward Kinney and Dudley Chambers, fulfilled their obligation of a good deed every day by setting up the 25-foot mast in the Picker yard and rigging a set of wireless instruments on a table designed to send the air forth across a bad. When Lester was carried home he found his bedroom completely equipped with his cherished ideal of radio apparatus.

As rapidly as strength permitted Six-AJH resumed his experiments. Sleeplessness led him to make use of early morning hours when the air is relatively quiet, and this in turn led to nightly communication with the radio operators in the United States and watch during this period. Apparently phenomenal progress brought the recognition of stations far removed.

**Naval Station Close.**

San Diego is the home of government experts in radio. The navy maintains a world renowned shore station on the outskirts of the city, and over on Point Loma the army has set up its finest type of apparatus. In addition there are operators on each of the hundred or more vessels passing the city. The highly trained professionals who man the stations maintain that the boy with the broken back is doing work of record-making nature, and in support of their contention cite the low power which he uses. Picker's transmitter is of the rotary, quenched spark type, operating on a 60-cycle current. His transmitter is rated at one-half kilowatt.

Recognition of his successful experiments that is national has in a measure reconciled Lester Picker to the loss of university training. He is seeking refuge from his physical condition in the personality of radio station Six-AJH, and certain original theories which pertain to the low power operation of radio apparatus. Despite his handicap he has brave hopes of some day sending out his wireless a practical revelation of hitherto unsuspected possibilities in wireless.

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to apprehend the thieves. It was said.

The markers consist of metal posts and a small metal tablet with the inscription "G. A. R." on them, and were put on the graves for the purpose, particularly of identifying the bodies of those who died in the war, quickly on Memorial day. The graves also bear appropriate memorial stones.

The only theory advanced is that

youngful vandals stole the metal to sell to junk men.

**BIG WAREHOUSE TO RISE**

Yakima Buyers to Erect \$90,000 Cold Storage Structure.

YAKIMA, Wash., April 16.—(Special.)—Ritchey & Gilbert, fruit buyers and shippers, who now own and operate one of the largest fruit packing and storage plants in Yakima, are making a "mission row" yesterday let the contract for construction of a \$90,000 cold storage warehouse.

The building is to be a 210x110 feet ground dimensions and will consist of two stories and a basement. The offices are to be rented to fruit buyers, commission firms and fruit shippers, making of it a "fruit exchange."

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## NON-UNION MINERS SIGN UP CONTRACTS

West Virginia Operators Are Fighting Organizations.

### COURT DECISION CITED

U. S. Ruling Declared to Have Been in Favor of Owners in Regard to Labor War.

BY HARDEN COLFAX.  
(Copyright, 1932, by The Oregonian.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16.—(Special.)—The United Mineworkers of America have definitely failed to swing the non-union miners of West Virginia into the coal strike. Down in that fringe of the union fields where the real fight between miner and operator is being waged, the operators, by grace of a decision of the supreme court of the