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Hugh Daniel Burns wearing the mail pouch he used to carry mail overland from Oregon in 1846.

Portland Postmaster and District Manager, B. W. Luscher, Jr. hands up bag of mail for delivery to Oregon towns. (Photo courtesy of Oregon City **Enterprise-Courier**)

Postal service honors mail anniversary

The Oregon City Post Office, headed by Postmaster Jarrett Dorsey, celebrated the 130th anniversary of the first mail carried across the Rockies and the Great Plains with special ceremonies Friday.

Pouches of mail were given to riders who carried them by horseback to Donald, Aurora and Salem. Participating in the event were Benjamin Luscher, Jr., District Manager and Postmaster of Portland; Glenn Parrott, Mayor of Oregon City; and Harvey McKay, Postmaster of St. Paul, Oregon and great nephew of the man who first carried the overland mail, Hugh Daniel Burns.

Burns was an emmigrant from Ireland who joined the Elijah White caravan to Oregon in 1842. After arriving in Oregon, he established a ferry across the Willamette River. He laid out Multnomah City, now called West Linn, and established his home adjacent to the river.

Burns had a blacksmith shop and was considered by some to be the best blacksmith west of the Rockies. He was an influential man, served as a magistrate and was one of the signers for provisional government in Oregon in 1843.

Burns' mail carrying career began fourteen years before the celebrated pony express riders made their famous runs from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento. The pony express rides used a hundred men, numerous horses, and took ten days for a one way trip. Burns travelled the entire route alone, taking from four to six months for the round trip.

His first trip was from Oregon City to Weston, Missouri on March 5, 1846, three years before Oregon became a territory. He advertised in the **Oregon Spectator** in Oregon City that his charge would be 50c a single sheet, half of the money going to him and half to the Oregon City Post Office. He returned in July of 1846, with return mail from the East.

As part of Friday's observance, a letter was mailed from Oregon City to Weston with a return envelope bearing a picture of Burns.

Jarrett Dorsey, who officiated at the anniversary, became Oregon's first Black Post Master in September of 1975, following a brilliant career at the Portland Post Office. He served most recently as Mailing Requirements Officer, enforcing postal regulations in a four state area.

Indian defendant found dead

Anna Mae Aquash, an Indian woman who was arrested near Vale, Oregon on November 14, 1975, and charged with illegal firearms, was found dead last week on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The Loudhawk -- Redner -- KaMook Offense/Defense Committee has charged the U.S. Government for Ms. Aquash's death, calling her a victim of the government's war against Indian people who are standing up for their human dignity and constitutionally guaranteed political sovereignty.

They charge that since the seige at Wounded Knee "the Federal Government has stepped up its campaign to destroy the American Indian Movement (AIM). Since Wounded Knee there have been over 250 unsolved killings on the Pine Ridge Reservation, three fourths of which are related to the FBI repression of the Indian Movement."

Ms. Aquash's decomposing body was found in the snow near Wambles. According to the Defense Committee, the FBI had removed her hands and sent them to Washington, D.C. for fingerprint identification.

Ms. Aquash had been arrested on November 14th, in a raid by state police officers. Three of her co-defendents, Russ Redner, Ken Loudhawk and Ka-Mook Banks, are in Portland awaiting trail set for May 22nd.

Two other co-defendents in the Portland trial are fighting extradition to South Dakota in other charges. Leonard Pettier, in jail without bond in Vancouver, B.C., is wanted on a murder change. Dennis Banks, free on bond in San Francisco, faces a fifteen year sentence in the South Dakota Penitentiary.

The Defense Committee charges that Dennis Banks will be murdered if he is returned to South Dakota.

Advisers such as Carl Talton, left, employment assistant in PP&L's industrial relations department, give teenagers in the Junior Achievement program the benefit of their experience in management, marketing, production and accounting.

U.S. fights serious flu epidemic

The United States of America is battling its worst onslaught of influenza since the Hong Kong epidemic eight years ago, the national Center for Disease Control said Monday. There have been 1,207 deaths from the epidemic and the toll is still rising.

Center information officers, said, however, that while "There has been a lot of flu activity this year, it still does not compare with the Hong Kong outbreak in 1968-69, neither in the number of cases nor the number of deaths."

A survey showed 24 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico with epidemic levels of the disease this year, fifteen states with regional outbreaks and ten recording isolated cases, the center said.

Graphs used by the Center to depict the number of pneumonia-influenza deaths in 121 major U.S. cities registered a sharp upsurge during February, and officials said the current epidemic appeared to be gaining momentum.

Influenza epidemics usually occur in cycles of eight to ten years. The current epidemic of A-Victoria, strain of flu first isolated in Australia, started later than usual, during the first week of February and has been building steadily since then.

Reported deaths attributed to the epidemic jumped from 97 in the first week of February to 178 the second week, 339 the third week and 656 the last week, the center said.

At the peak of the 1968-69 outbreak, 1,100 persons died from the epidemic in a single week. The final death toll was put at 12,700.

Data from 532 reporting institutions in the United States indicated increased absenteeism in thirty percent of the schools and 29 percent of the industries, and increased emergency room visits in 43 percent of the hospitals, the national center said.

Outbreak of influenza, most of it similar to the A-Victoria strain, also occurred in Canada, Denmark, France, French Guiana, Hungary, Jamaica, Korea, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, according to a report to the center from the World Health Organization.

Moore chosen

Lee Moore was appointed administrator of the purchasing division of the State Department of General Services in Salem.

Moore leaves his position as director of the Civil Rights Division of the Bureau of Labor.

Groener charges medical profession cheats

State Representative Ralph Groener, speaking to a meeting of the Oregon Coalition for National Health Security, Incorporated, explained the difference between the various health care bills now in Congress and the Kennedy-Corman Bill.

The Kennedy-Corman Bill is the only plan that would include all Americans. The bill has no deductibles or coinsurance or co-payments.

The most controversial part of the bill is that it eliminates the third party, the private insurance company. Medicare uses a private insurance company, in Oregon it is ETNA, to process the claims.

The Kennedy-Corman Bill has cost controls. The other bills and the current Medicare system allows doctors to set their fees. The Kennedy-Corman Bill would establish a National Health Security Council of five persons, the majority of whom would be consumers. National Health Insurance bodies around the country would emphasize consumer participation.

The Kennedy-Corman Bill emphasizes prevention, with treatment clinics, outpatient clinics, screening, homemaker services, etc., which would catch disease at the early stages and provide out-of-hospital care when possible. General practitioners and para-professionals are emphasized.

One of the most frequent statements of the opposition to the Kennedy-Corman Bill is that it would cost too much. Groener reminded that the cost of Medicare and private and group medical plans would be saved. The program would be funded fifty percent from taxes and fifty percent from employer-employee contributions.

Kennedy-Corman provides free medical care as a right.

Groener accused the medical profession of setting high costs to profit themselves. "In the pharmaceuticals industry, the four largest companies control the drug market exclusively...doctors are one of the largest monopolies. The doctors do control how many people can enter the universities here in the Oregon Medical Service Center.

"The Health Insurance Industry, the largest of which are controlled by Chase Manhattan, say, 'Well our profits only went up six percent this year.' Of course they don't bother to tell you where their investments went. Their investments were into other corporate structures that weren't shown in the profit and loss statement at the end of the year."

Groener said the current situation, with the burden of Medicare and Medicade put on the Social Security program sets the working class against the elderly. With increases in Social Security taxes, the burden is placed on the working class people. Social Security taxes are progressive until wages hit $14,567 a year, then level off, so the tax is not based on ability to pay.

In the last year, with the Consumer Price Index rising thirteen percent, hospital cost went up 200 percent and medical care went up fifty percent. In the last decade there has been a 140 percent increase in both. Although wages have gone up, there has been a loss in income because Social Security taxes have increased.

A significant cost in Social Security benefits is medical care for the elderly and the working class resents carrying the burden. Groener estimated a savings of millions in the cost of "red tape" and paper work if the Kennedy-Corman Bill is passed. "This nation probably has the highest inefficiency and waste rate."

Medicare has been "one giant ripoff system because there is no cost or quality control. It is the case of the Foxes guarding the chicken coop." The doctors setting rates.

Recalling the fight to get public education and social security, Groener projected that the battle of the decade will be that for National Health Security.

The Oregon Coalition for National Health Security was organized in October to advocate and support national health insurance. It has offices in the Dekum Building in Portland.

"Why Can't We Have A Healthy Care System" is the topic of a 7:30 p.m., March 12th, "Friday Nite Special" at St. Andrew Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th.

Laine Friedman, executive secretary of the Oregon Coalition For National Health Security, Gail Washington, administrator of the Health Help Center in Northeast Portland, and Al Green, chairman of the Northeast Health Security Action Council, will be the featured speakers who will discuss health care costs, delivery of services, and needs.

Observer updates Calendar

Because of conflicting dates existing between activities in the Portland community (Albina in particular) and surrounding areas, it has become crystal clear that a Calendar of Events be formulated and published weekly so that no two events of public concern are scheduled on the same date.

To help in setting up this calendar, all organizations with programs geared to participants of the general public, are invited to submit a monthly listing of events, which will be published weekly in the **Portland Observer.**

This is a needful solution so that a better coordinated community can thrive on togetherness and concern for one another, supporting in a personal and financial way.

This necessary community service is just another way the **Portland Observer** moves forward to inform the public. The schedule will be printed every week. Please print or type names of the activity, place, date and time with sponsoring organizations and send to the **Portland Observer,** P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Portland Observer launches subscription campaign

The **Portland Observer** will sponsor its first nationwide subscription campaign. From our knowledge, such a subscription drive has never been undertaken in this part of the country.

We try to keep our readers throughout the country informed about local and national news as to how it relates to the Black community. Ninety-five percent of the total Black population in the state of Oregon is located in Multnomah County.

Also, the **Portland Observer** would be a wonderful gift anytime of the year, anniversaries, birthdays, graduation presents for students leaving the area, a moving present...

We are happy to offer to the community an opportunity to earn money for their organizations.

Hopefully the days of trying to raise money through popcorn selling, candy selling and raffles will become a thing of the past.

The Yearly subscription rate is $7.50 per year. For each subscription sold, the seller receives $2.50. This is a wonderful opportunity for churches, schools, clubs, fraternities, sororities and other community organizations to raise extra money. Also this is an opportunity for individuals to earn money on the side.

An example of the money which can be raised is if a club with 25 members held each member responsible for three subscriptions, the club would earn $187.50. If a church with 200 members held each member responsible for three subscriptions, the church would earn $1,500. This holds true for schools, and other organizations.

A housewife selling 80 subscriptions per month could earn $200 per month.

A student selling 50 subscriptions a month of the **Portland Observer** would earn $125 per month.

Let's start the ball rolling. Now is the time to begin to put extra money in your pocket and strengthen the leading Black newspaper in the Northwest.

Representatives oppose South African loans

Forty-one Members of Congress sent a letter to President Ford urging him not to change the Export-Import Bank policy toward South Africa.

The letter, drafted by Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.) came in response to State Department indications that the President is planning to allow direct loans to South African corporations and governmental projects.

Since 1964, the Export-Import Bank, an independent federal government agency, has prohibited direct loans to South African interests because of that country's practice and policies of a **apartheid,** or separation of the races. The no-loan policy can be amended by an Executive Order, and President Ford has been under pressure from U.S. multinational corporations and the South African government to lift the ban.

"Although U.S. business interests indicate that our economy stands to gain from new investment in South Africa," the Members of Congress wrote, "we believe that the damage to our relationship to other African nations which have long resisted....apartheid would be substantial."

The letter also cited recent involvement of the U.S. in Angola on the side of South Africa as a reason to reject the policy change. "In view of our recent involvement in Angola where our resources were aligned on the side of South Africa in that nation's (South Africa's) intervention in a civil war, our government can not afford to demonstrate to the other African nations that our attitudes toward South Africa's separatist practices have been relaxed," the letter stated.

The Members also pointed out that "reversal of our public posture would be a symbolic victory for the South African government, as well as one which would invite more U.S. corporation entanglements in the economy of that country."

The South African government has been urging reversal of the no-loan stand because of recent economic difficulties which have beset that country. In addition to a severe devaluation of currency and spiraling inflation, South Africa is experiencing a particularly difficult credit problem.

If the policy is changed, a $225 million project, sponsored by the Fluor Corporation of California for use in a para-statal gasification development in South Africa, would probably be approved. According to the Washington Office on Africa, a Church-affiliate African study group, the South African government and Fluor have mobilized pressure on the Administration for the change.

The 41 Members signing the letter told the President...." Lifting the no-direct loan provisions will only serve to disregard the fact that South Africa is still a nation whose policies reflect a kind of racism which is immoral and abhorrent to the national principles which this country espouses."

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives signing this letter were: Berkley Bedell, Jonathan B. Bingham, Don Bonker, John Burton, William L. Clay, Shirley Chisholm, Cardiss Collins, John Conyers, James C. Corman, Ronald V. Dellums, Charles C. Diggs, Jr., Christopher J. Dodd, Robert F. Drinan, Robert W. Edgar, Don Edwards, Walter E. Fauntroy, Harold Ford, Donald M. Fraser, Augustus F. Hawkins, Elwood Hillis, Martha Keys, Edward I. Koch, Andrew Maguire, Ralph H. Metcalfe, Parrent J. Mitchell, Robert N.C. Nix, Richard Ottinger, Charles B. Rangel, Frederick W. Richmond, Peter W. Ridine, Benjamin S. Rosenthal, Edward R. Roybal, James H. Scheuer, Stephen J. Solarz, Louis Stokes, Morris Udall, Richard F. Vander Veen, Henry A. Waxman and Andrew Young.