

National Defense, Election Topped News in 1940

(Continued next week)

top headline stories of a new year.

Utility Purchased

Brushing lightly through only the

most important of the year's big

stories, a review of Argus head-

lines would pick this as the top

story of January: "Water System

Purchase Nears—Transfer of Prop-

erty to City Expected by March

1." The council met in special ses-

sion on January 23 and set Febru-

ary 9 as the date on which \$180,000

in water revenue bonds would be

offered for sale. The bonds were

subsequently sold on that date and

the city launched forth on a career

of municipal ownership and man-

agement of the existing water utility

here.

In February the new Jones hospi-

tal opened, offering ultra-modern

equipment and facilities to the com-

munity. Other top headlines of the

month heralded a second cut in

electric power rates of the PGE,

announced that the proposed PUD

could operate at a profit in the

opinion of the Oregon Hydroelectric

commission, and published two

Hillsboro "firsts"—a novel traveling

auction sale with Hank Kuratli as

the Barker and the movie premiere

of a home-town movie.

Party Lines Formed

Early formation of party battle-

lines hit the headlines many times

in March as candidates for local

offices filed their names for the

coming primary election in May.

A county PUD vote in May was

assured by official okay of peti-

tions circulated, the annual Easter

egg hunt was held at Shute park,

J. W. Barney was appointed man-

ager for the city utilities commis-

sion and instruction of census tak-

ers was started.

By far the most prevalent topic

of conversation in April—even

overshadowing the forthcoming pri-

mary election in public interest—

was Hitler's invasion of Denmark

and the undeclared war between

Germany and Norway. In a local

opinion feature story, a Hillsboro

grocer was quoted: "The rest of

Europe's small democracies will

fall like a string of dominoes when

Hitler makes the time. There need

be no hesitation now about march-

ing into such helpless states as

Belgium and Holland. The fall

of Belgium, Holland and France

was yet to come.

Some Hillsboroans were of the

opinion that "we'll be in it before

the year is out." While this was not

the attitude of the majority, there

were very few at this time who

did not feel that America would

eventually be "dragged in by the

heels."

Investments

The war's effect on politics and

election interest was seen late in

April when the registration books

for the May primary were closed.

A county gain of 753 registrations

over the corresponding figure for

the general election of 1938 was on

the record, indicating a remarkable

increase in public interest. The

awakening of vote-consciousness

was to be even more evident before

the November balloting.

The primary election was tops

in news for May. The PUD was re-

jected both inside and outside the

cities. B. W. Barnes and O. B.

Kraus, incumbent, were selected

from five primary candidates for

the office of county school super-

intendent. J. W. Connell, republi-

can, was nominated for re-election

over his opponent, Clem Eslinger;

James Lewis was renominated for

county commissioner. Earl E. Fish-

er beat Loyal Graham as republi-

can candidate for state senator. H. T.

Hesse and Henry Kuratli won nom-

inations as state representative can-

didates.

Defense in News

War in Europe, America's chances

of getting in or keeping out of

the conflict and the forthcoming

presidential election were all

laid together in the public mind

following the May primary. A ma-

jor part of talks heard here were

directly or indirectly connected with

national defense and national uni-

ty. Meanwhile, June brought the

spring dairy show, Hillsboro entry

of a float in the Rose Festival pa-

rade at Portland, decision of PUD

proponents to the issue on the

November ballot, a knife slaying

in a Banks hobo jungle, a prelimi-

nary report giving Hillsboro's

population as 3,727, selection of the

Hillsboro Argus as the "nation's

best weekly newspaper by the

National Editorial association, and

destruction by fire of the old Gar-

thofner mill here.

Hillsboro's Happy Days celebra-

tion shared headline space with

Advanced Flying Graduates



Including 15 Oregon men, three of them from Washington county, the eighth class in 1940 of Flying Cadets to graduate from the air corps advanced flying school at Kelly Field, Texas, held exercises on December 30. The three county youths are, left to right: Keith N. Busch, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Busch of Hillsboro; Edward M. Janssen, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Janssen of Redville; and Bryson R. Bailey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Bailey of Forest Grove.

V. football got under way with its annual King's-X opener, and political gatherings were daily affairs. But the significant news came with local participation in national defense. Battery E boys were absorbed by the army and started their year's training at Camp Murray on September 28. President Roosevelt signed the conscription law and preparation for registration of 16,500,000 young Americans was started. Willie's campaign was started in Portland and the "man of the hour" speech here before a cheering crowd. A civilian air course for Pacific university students under the CAA was approved.

October brought a flurry of excitement in Hillsboro when it was announced in a press release from Washington, D. C., that a proposed allocation of \$209,017 had been earmarked for improvement of Hillsboro's airport in connection with the national defense program, but the money is still "ear-marked" and has not yet come out of hiding. When the 16th of October rolled around, however, the national defense program landed solidly in Hillsboro, and in every other city and hamlet the nation across. On that date, all American citizens between the ages of 21 and 35 registered for selective service. About 4,000 registrations were taken in Washington county.

Democratic gains were seen in complete registration figures as the books were closed in mid-October, selective service boards in Washington county were organized, CAA flight training for 10 Pacific university students started at the Hillsboro airport.

Lottery Big News

The big news of late October, however, and the talk that was on every tongue concerned the national lottery to establish the order of call for draftees. The drawing was held at Washington, D. C., on October 29.

Rumbling underneath the many-sided picture of conscription was the approaching presidential election, which came to the boiling point in the last few days of October and exploded on November 5. President Roosevelt was elected for a third term by a large electoral majority and by not so large a popular majority over Wendell Willkie. In the county the PUD district again lost. Barnes defeated Kraus for school superintendent, Lewis was retained as county commissioner and Connell as county sheriff. Fisher beat Al Kemmer in the state senatorship race and county seats in the house were given to Hesse and Kuratli. The heaviest vote by far in Washington county's history had been polled, according to word from the county clerk's office.

Labor Inventories

Oregon's inventory of labor under Director Leon Davis of Hillsboro was already under way in the county. C. T. Richardson was named chairman of the Hillsboro defense board. Volunteers for military service more than filled Hillsboro's quota under the selective service act, draft questionnaires were mailed out to the first group of potential county conscripts, the 11th annual 4-H corn show in Hillsboro attracted some attention, the election canvassing board announced the recent vote in the county was 80.1 per cent of registration. Thanksgiving day came and went, bicycle licenses under the new city code were drawn in a strictly local lottery of numbers and Washington county's draft quota was set to supply 88 men by June, 1941.

December opened with a convention of the Western Nut Growers association here, the annual kiddies Christmas party with Santa Claus doing his stuff again, organization of the food stamp plan setup in the county and AAA elections of community committees. Then, as if to close a troubled year with events in keeping with the turbulent state of civilization in other parts of the world, an epidemic of mild flu swept across the county in the latter part of December, closing schools and causing general discomfort to everyone, and just before Christmas day a hurricane like wind brought damage and confusion to the county by disrupting telephone and electric service, toppling trees and old buildings and stopping highway traffic.

And back at the table

"The old man's right," said the boys around the gaming table, "we must have headaches. We better send downstairs for some aspirin."

"Right here, boys," it was a vibrant, child-like voice. The boys stared at the old man's recently vacated chair. They had seen no one come in—yet there he was, a

chubby, cheery little cherub with the figures 1-9-4-1 plainly marked on his abbreviated suit of white clothes.

"You needn't any aspirin, now that I'm here," the cherub said, smiling.

The boys looked at one another and there was an exchange of winks. One of them turned his eyes upward in thoughtful attitude.

"Seems to me," he recalled, "the old man saying something like that in his younger days." Then they all went out to get some aspirin.

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Death Summons W. Masterson, Native of Oregon

William Masterson, 87, native Oregonian and resident of the Hillsboro vicinity for 19 years, died Wednesday, January 1, in a local hospital after a long illness.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p. m. Saturday in the Donelson and Sewell chapel here, Rev. Sullens officiating, with interment in the Crescent Grove cemetery at Tigard. American Legion members will be pallbearers.

Surviving are the widow, Annie, Hillsboro route 4; one son, H. R. Masterson, Richland; one daughter, Mrs. Maude Swearingen, Irwinton, Ore.; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

William Masterson was born March 23, 1853, at Springfield, Ore., the son of native Kentuckians who were pioneer settlers in that part of the state. He came to the Hillsboro vicinity in 1921 and had been actively engaged in farming until sickness overtook him about a year ago. Mr. and Mrs. Masterson were married at Lostine, Ore., February 17, 1880. He celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary last February.

Mr. Masterson was a gold star father, having lost a son, Ray, in the World War. One daughter, Mrs. Warfield of Klamath Falls, died about a year ago.

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