

THE OREGON STATESMAN

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December 21, 1927 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. Luke 2:4-5.

SHOWING SALEM'S GROWTH

There are a good many people in Salem who remember the fight made by The Statesman for a government post-office building. That was only a little while ago. Thomas H. Tongue was in congress. The idea of a government post-office building in Salem was hooted at by many. They said it was not needed; the town was too small. Congressman Tongue secured the appropriation. There was a bitter fight against the removal of the postoffice. It was then on the east side of North Commercial street, between Court and Chemeketa. It had been moved to that location, after a hot fight, from the corner of Commercial and Trade, where the W. C. T. U. is now.

Well, the postoffice building was secured, and the location agreed upon. There has been one addition. There will have to be others. There are now 75 employees; 63 regular and 12 substitutes, for the holiday rush. There is not room enough for them to work comfortably and accommodate the great crowds.

Another clerk is soon to be added. Others will have to be. West Salem is to come into the free city delivery system Jan. 1st, making another employee.

The above is a fair indication of Salem's growth. There are two or three employees in the eighties, at the Trade Commercial street location, and four or five in the other location, on North Commercial.

Look forward another quarter of a century, and visualize the postoffice business of Salem. The growth of Salem is going to be cumulative. This city and section are just getting started in rapid growth.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

(An Associated Press dispatch of yesterday from Kansas City, Mo., reads as follows:)

This is the record at Central high school here of William Edward Hickman, identified as the kidnaper and slayer of Marian Parker in Los Angeles:

- Vice president senior class, 1926. President, Central Webster club. President, Central chapter, National Honor society. Member negative debate team, 1925. Member student council, 1924, 1925, 1926. Business manager Central Luminary (weekly newspaper). Literary editor Centralian (school annual). President Central Classics club, 1925. Junior aide Central Thucydides club, 1923. Senior ballot: "Best boy orator."

What a fall! This is likely to become what the French call a case celebre. An apparently normal and promising boy turns out to be an arch fiend. Lower than the lower animals, to the extent that he has a higher intelligence than they have. Is it insanity? Perhaps not, unless the claim be conceded, made in some quarters, that all men are more or less insane; or carry the seeds of insanity.

The great saving thing in regard to such cases is the sense of disgust that such a case sweeps over the rest of humanity.

It is partly bound up in the fact that an individual does not occur in more than one or two of a hundred millions, or out of the whole human race.

ROAD BUILDING PROGRAMS

The American Road Builders' association has declared from its headquarters in Washington, D. C., that the United States government should bear a reasonable portion of construction costs on necessarily expensive highways in the federal aid system.

At the present time the government is required to limit its aid to 50 per cent of the total cost, not in excess of \$15,000 per mile. "This allowance is entirely inadequate where topographical or drainage conditions are unfavorable to cheap construction," it was stated. "The federal aid law should be revised to permit the bureau of roads to share equally with the states the expense of construction under these conditions."

"There are certain sections of the United States where the construction of vitally needed highways may not be carried out under the \$15,000 limitation. One of the most important stretches of highway in the United States, the Durango-Silverton, a forest road in Colorado, cost more than \$17,000 per mile for grading alone. The completion of this road took nine years, but it now serves as an entrance to the fertile San Juan basin and the famous Mesa Verde National Park."

"The legal clause forbidding the bureau of public roads to bear more than \$15,000 of the cost of road construction is unfair. The federal government should bear 50 per cent of the costs where traffic or topographical conditions make the \$15,000 limitation inapplicable."

The American Road Builders' association is to hold a convention and road show at Cleveland, Ohio, starting January 9th, in which more than 25,000 people will participate. An indication of the growing interest in good roads in this country.

At that meeting there will be a special session of highway officials of Pan-American countries for the purpose of discussing road building methods of North and South America. Twenty-two nations have been invited to the Pan-American sessions of the road congress. Mexico and Cuba have already accepted, with five delegates named. Plans for the future construction of an international highway

way between North and South America were actively taken up three years ago by the American Road Builders' organization while in convention at Chicago. Since that time a highway has been put under way from Laredo, Texas, to Mexico City, and is partially completed. At the meeting one year later, Senor F. H. Arosemena, delegate from Panama, announced that only the lack of a bridge across the Panama canal was delaying completion of the road across Panama.

The great highway, when completed, will connect northern Canada with nations of South America. The Cleveland meeting will outline feasible routes and essential preliminary work in connection with the construction of the road.

It is perhaps all right for the city council to provide a hearing for the people who want to protest against a location for the incinerator—any location. But it can not be more than a gesture; an idle gesture. We must have an incinerator. Later we must have a sewage disposal system. They must be located some where. And the place to locate them is where they obviously ought to be located, at some point north of the city. There is no better place than the one in mind, at the old Oregon Electric gravel pit.

The postoffice employees must reflect that they are glad Christmas comes only once year. Some of them, even that that is one too many.

HICKMAN HOME TOWN AMAZED AT CRIMES

(Continued from page 1)

had displayed no evidence of morbidity.

Police Chief Suspicious

A change in the young man's mental attitude, however, was noted about a year ago by Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Edwards, former chief of police, to whom Hickman was paroled after being involved in forgery while employed at the Los Angeles bank of which Marian Parker's father was an officer.

The boy, Colonel Edwards said today, had been lively and enthusiastic, but became morose and seemed to avoid companionship. After the change, added Colonel Edwards, he was restless and wanted to be on the go.

Mrs. Hickman expressed the belief her son was in Chicago, where he went last October and obtained a job as usher in a theater. She said she had heard from him but once since then.

"If he had left Chicago, he would have told me," she said. The mother also did not believe reports that her son was seen here the week of November 12, when the motor car used by the Los Angeles slayer was stolen from Dr. Herbert L. Mantz here.

Would Have Come Home

"If he came here in November, as they say," said the mother, "he would have come home."

Dr. Mantz was unable to identify a photograph of Hickman as that of the man who took his car at the point of a gun. Dr. Mantz said the man would not permit him to get a good view of his face.

Hickman was a popular member of a Sunday school class here and played on the class basketball team. W. Warren Humphrey, teacher of the class, said Hickman "was a very bright boy, a good student and very popular."

"It seems almost impossible, that a boy of his type could have a queer quirk in his make up," said Humphrey. "He appeared normal in every way."

Mrs. Hickman lives here with

her daughter, Mary Hickman, 17, in two rooms at a residence. They gave up the home they owned when the other children left home, Mrs. Hickman said. Mrs. Hickman said her husband deserted her and the children in Hartford, Ark., eleven years ago and that she later divorced him. The family moved to Kansas City seven years ago from the Arkansas town, where Edward was born February 1, 1908.

Mother Near Collapse Mrs. Hickman tonight was near the point of prostration.

"Oh, why haven't I heard from him? Why hasn't he let me know where he is? Why doesn't he say he didn't do it? I can't stand this awful suspense much longer," she sobbed.

But perhaps he doesn't know they are looking for him," she continued, with the confidence born of mother love. "If he's in Chicago maybe he doesn't know about it yet. It may be too, that he has heard about it and is hiding in Chicago until he can get word to me and learn what to do."

More than a score of lawyers called on Mrs. Hickman today to offer their services in case the boy was captured and several persons visited the mother to express their opinions of what should be done with the youth, in the event he is caught.

Most of the day Mrs. Hickman and Mary sat alone in their rooms and late tonight they were still sitting in almost the same positions, sobbing wearily and wondering about the 19 year old son and brother, charged with one of the most cruel murders on record, and sought in one of the nation's greatest manhunts.

Bits For Breakfast

"Seven Miles Out"

Ella McMunn's new book will be off the press this forenoon, and copies will be on sale at Patton's book store in the afternoon, at 50c each. This notice is given prominence because there is already a waiting list of buyers.

All right; let the protestants against the location of the incinerator—any location—have their

talkfest. Then locate it where it belongs.

Here is a pointer: The incinerator will likely be located at the Oregon Electric gravel pit, or left where the city dump is now, or very near that point. Which do you prefer?

The work of Dad Watson, the originator of the old time dance movement in this part of the country, is unique. And it is a good movement. The benefits it is bringing show the value of a good example. Dad Watson's old time dances in Portland fill the big hall in the building of the Odd Fellows there every Friday evening. This has been going on, there, for two years. Result, nearly all dances in Portland are old time dances now. The same thing is happening in Salem, where Dad Watson carries on an old time dance each Wednesday evening, and expects to continue, with perhaps a vacation after the holidays, for a few weeks. Here is another result: Dad Watson does not give return checks. There is no chance for the members of the rough-neck element to go out and dissipate and return in a maudlin condition.

There is no drinking at old time dances. And the Salem city council has passed an ordinance against return checks. It is a law of this city. And county commissioners are doing the same thing, all over this section. They are refusing permits to dance managers who give return checks. The road houses are going out of business—the ones which cater to the high-rolling element. There can be decency in dancing. The fact is, as Dad Watson has demonstrated, nearly every one who dances with a gentleman or a lady wants to be disturbed by roistering hoodlums. So Dad Watson has done a lot of good with his propaganda for decent dancing; for the old time dances.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(From columns of the Statesman, Dec. 20, 1902.)

Portland—Twelve saloons were refused a license for 1903 by the council yesterday afternoon.

The fourth annual meeting of the Oregon Historical society will

be held in the lobby of the city hall in Portland today.

Seattle and San Francisco are each to get a share of the transport business between our coast and the Philippines—and Portland is out in the cold.

San Francisco—The granite wall built at great expense by the Santa Fe railroad company serve as a buttress for the reclamation of China Basin settled into the bay last night.

TURN TO THE RIGHT FITZGERALD-SHERWIN Motor Co. Corner Liberty & Chemeketa Telephone 1132

MERRY CHRISTMAS! A CAR MAKES A FINE CHRISTMAS GIFT!

How happy she will be when you drive up in the car. What a fine looking car. Then you tell her how little you paid. Complete Joy!

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Fitzgerald-Sherwin Motor Co. Corner Liberty & Chemeketa Telephone 1132 "The House of Courteous Service"

The Burnett Jewelry Store is open every evening this week till quite late, and every reader of this newspaper is invited to open an account—take all the gifts needed to make sure of a merry Christmas—and "Pay Us as You Are Paid"—next year

Men's Diamond Set Rings \$50 to \$300. Payments \$1 to \$10 a week. Ladies' Diamond Set Rings \$48.50 to \$500. Payments \$1 to \$10 a week. Diamond Set Bar Pins \$45 to \$250. Payments \$1 to \$5 a week.

Never mind the money! the money!

Men's Dress Watches Elgins, Hamiltons, Howards, Illinois, Walthams. At the cash prices—\$14.95 to \$100—and on the Burnett Budget Plan—Take any watch for a dollar. Pay next year—a dollar or so a week.

Burnett Bros. 457 State St., Salem. "Never Mind the Money" is not a mere advertising slogan, for credit at the Burnett Jewelry Store is based not on what a man has but on what he is—not on "worldly possessions" but on character.