

Unprecedented Construction Activity Looms Here for 1936

Large School Projects Due

Over Million PWA Work For District Slated and Ready to Go

Gym, Auditorium, Shop Program at Leslie to Be Ready by Fall

The new year will bring busy construction scenes on Salem public school property as the directors' \$1,180,000 building PWA program gets under way. The \$675,000 issue of bonds for this program probably will be delivered yet this week and the funds deposited in the bank to the district's credit.

If favorable building weather prevails through the winter and spring, the new gymnasium, auditorium, classrooms, and shops should be ready at Leslie junior high school for occupancy by students in September. Likewise, the new grade school, if the board finds it can afford to build it, should be finished early in August, the architect estimates. At least a year will be required for construction of the new senior high school north of Olinger field.

If the building program is carried out in its entirety, the district will have an increased school room of around 500 pupils without using the old senior high structure. No disposition of that building has been decided upon by the directors and none is yet in sight. The new high building is designed to accommodate 1800 students under ideal conditions, possibly 2000 under crowded conditions. Present senior high enrollment is approximately 1550.

Bonded Debt of District To Go Up to \$817,500

Sale of the building bonds will increase the district's bonded debt from \$425,500 to \$817,500. The bonded obligations amounted to \$8,000 at the start of 1935. The operating debt dropped during the past year from \$163,700 to \$145,019.36 as of today. The present operating debt consists of \$100,000 in notes bearing 1 1/2 per cent interest and maturing May 1 and \$45,019.36 in warrants drawing 4 per cent interest. The school board availed itself promptly last year of an act by the legislature enabling it to issue warrants at less than 6 per cent interest.

If the growing housing shortage in Salem continues as expected this year, a heavy increase in school population will be noted. The 1935 census report showed 7526 children between 4 and 19 years of age living in the district. Other years' census reports have shown the school population as follows: 1934, 7223; 1933, 6813; 1932, 6758; 1931, 6626, and 1930, 6619.

Steady progress was noted during the year just ended in the educational program. In a move toward greater efficiency, the board put an end to matriculation at midyear, effective this month when the spring semester begins. Superintendent S. Gaiser and his staff sought week by week to improve teaching methods; numerous conferences were held and studies made with this purpose in view.

Full-Time Program Set up for Director Student frictions were notably absent during most of 1935; the vexing secret society problem was the least evident on the surface in several years.

A new era in school music was aimed at when it provided for a full-time music director for all the schools in its 1935-1936 budget. This director, Gordon Finlay, is forming bands and orchestras in the junior and senior high schools, planning to announce an all-school symphony orchestra, and is preparing to develop a grade school orchestra program.

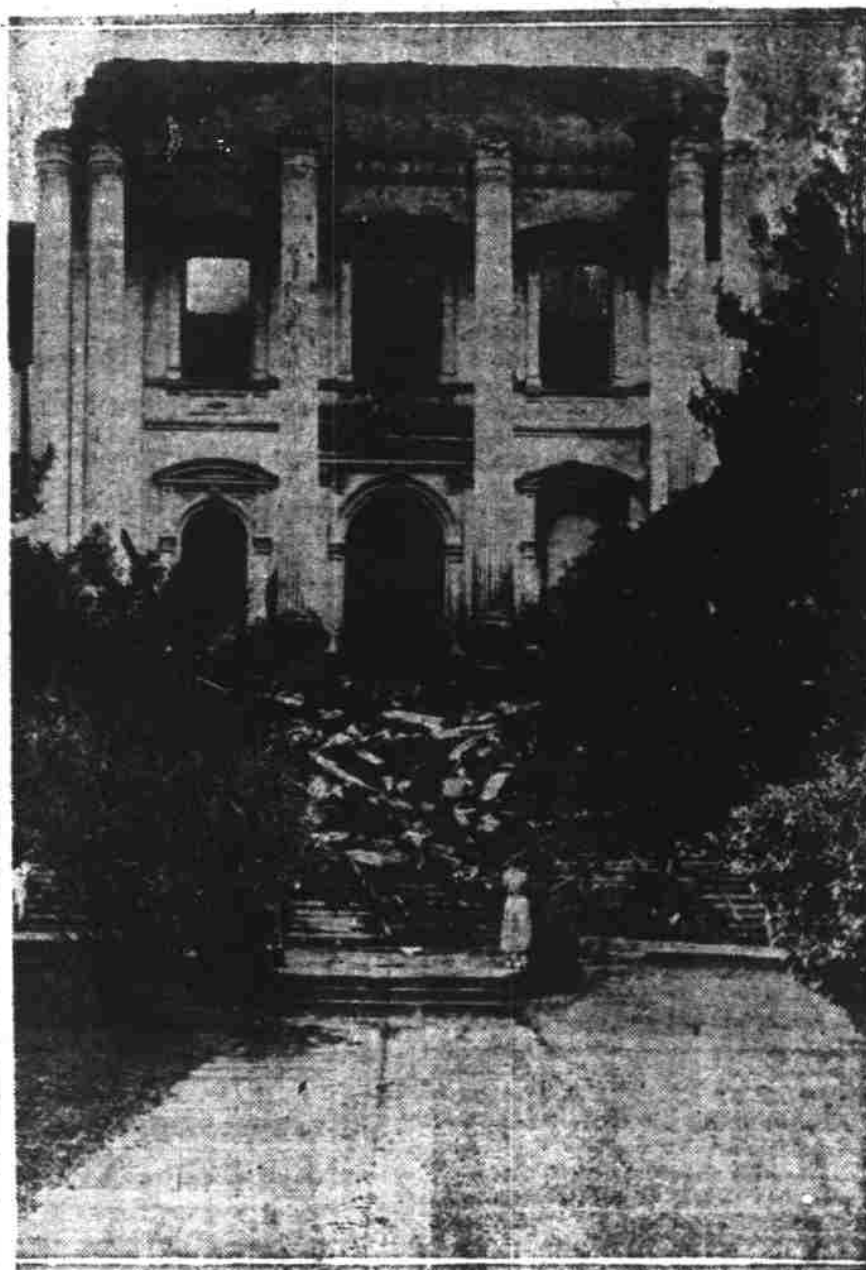
Remarkable results are claimed for the clinic room opened for grade school pupils in the Washington building last fall. Taking around 15 boys and girls at a time, the instructor has worked personally with each one to solve his or her difficulties, such as poor sight, poor hearing and emotional problems. Many of the pupils who started in this room already have become able to return to the regular classrooms.

Plans for the new postoffice building here are being prepared in Washington, D. C. in charge of the preparations for the building is Harry Bennett, senior architect, directly under the supervising architect of the treasury department. Mr. Bennett made a trip west last fall to look over the Salem site, preparatory to designing the plans.

While the exact location of the new building on the postoffice square has not been determined, it is probable that the new building will be much nearer Church street than the existing postoffice. It may be within 50 feet of the sidewalk in order to give users of the postoffice greater convenience in entering the building. Such an arrangement will also permit a wider entrance for autos in the rear of the building.

Until the architect's plans are completed, the size of the new structure cannot be determined. It will be larger, of course, than the present building which is only 80 feet wide, including an addition built a few years ago. The new postoffice will replace all the present structure but it is thought the old office, or a portion of it, will be in use while the new structure is being erected. If a portion of the present building is to be razed, federal officials have suggested the present "annex" serve as temporary headquarters during the construction period.

Ashes of Yesterday



Where once a beautiful capitol graced the heart of Salem, remained only ruined walls and scattered debris after the disastrous fire of April 23.

Bank Debits Back to 1930

July Turnover Shown by Babson Chart Close to 1929 Record

Low Mark Reached in '33; Gain Steady Since February That Year

Business health of a city is registered by the number and total amount of checks issued on a bank of a city, according to the Babson Statistical agency of Babson Park, Mass.

If business conditions are low, only a few checks are issued by those having accounts in the banks of a city. As business improves and there are more transfers of merchandise and people are buying more and are improving their real estate holdings, then the total amount of checks begin to mount. More business going on and more checks issued.

Salem touched the high spot of checks issued on the three Salem banks in November of 1929, when the total amounted to \$17,494,697. That was at the rate of \$737,000 a day for the 24 days in November when banks were open.

Business for the year 1930 fell off in Salem only about 10 per cent, compared to 1929. And then the decline was gradual, until the bottom was reached in February of 1933, when the total for that month was only \$5,704,769, which was \$237,500 each business day of the month.

Low Tide Found In February, 1933 Compared to the high tide of business, November, 1929, there was hardly one-third as much business at the low tide in February, 1933.

And then the financial health of the capital city gradually improved and the year 1934 brought debit checks almost to the level of 1931 when many people thought the depression surely wouldn't reach the Willamette valley.

February month of 1934 showed improvement over 1933 and when 1935 came along, there was a decided business uplift, compared to 1933.

Debit checks of the three Salem banks for the past three years, as reported to the Babson Statistical agency by the Salem Chamber of Commerce, were as follows:

Month	1933	1934	1935
January	6,852,658	9,222,297	11,292,508
February	5,704,769	7,766,138	9,567,321
March	5,772,878	10,727,357	11,601,041
April	7,695,266	10,002,164	12,262,072
May	9,484,305	10,864,470	12,431,770
June	9,296,280	11,577,570	12,312,794
July	10,819,301	12,131,742	15,021,754
August	9,798,400	13,886,852	14,067,593
September	9,710,296	12,583,065	13,330,235
October	10,952,477	13,349,169	15,263,324
November	10,709,823	11,035,475	11,308,232
December	10,257,398	12,360,922	13,400,000
Total	\$107,103,651	\$135,506,211	\$152,849,044

quarters during the construction period.

Two hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars have been appropriated outright by the federal government for the job. The work will not be a PWA project. Senator Charles H. McNary has indicated that he is willing to ask for an additional appropriation should one be necessary to complete the work.

The federal government is expected to landscape all the land vacated by the old building, making the general park conform to Willson park to the east.

Importance of Hay Crop

In County Not Realized

If there is a short crop of oats or loganberries, there is a general feeling of crop depression in Marion county. Yet the value of the prune and loganberry crop together do not amount to much financially compared to the crop of hay in Marion county. In 1934 there

Water Source Kept Mystery

Council and Commission Undecided Where Supply Should Be

Initial Earnings of City Plant Good; Van Patten New Manager

Sudden agreement by the city council to buy the Oregon-Washington Water Service company's properties here gave Salem citizens new hope early last summer that the twice-voted, long-delayed improvements in the water supply of Oregon's capital city was in sight. But once the purchase was effected, new bickerings arose at the turn of the old year had supply problems as high in the air as was the purchase question just a year ago.

The water commission and the council enter the new year facing one of possibly four courses, as follows:

1. Doing nothing about bettering the supply — the prevailing course.

2. Designating the Willamette river as source and constructing a new, more satisfactory intake and a suitable filtration plant, leaving funds available for pressing distribution system improvements such as building a new reservoir.

3. Selecting the Little North Fork of the Santiam river as a source, knowing that its cost, estimated by Mayor V. E. Kuhn at \$1,215,000, would necessitate either a refinancing of the water bond issue at some future date or increasing water rates or taxes to meet principal and interest payments on a heavy bond issue.

4. Choosing an intake from the North Santiam river above Stayton, which if found feasible by surveys now starting would probably require an expenditure of \$1,072,000, the mayor estimates—of such size that little money would be left for laying new mains and building the reservoir.

"Pass the Buck" Evading the politically unpleasant question of what the source of supply shall be, the council has sought to force the water commission back to the council, contending that the city charter places the responsibility for this choice with that body. The result of the "You do it, John" attitude on the part of both groups has been a resort to more engineering investigations. Nearly \$24,000 was paid to engineers for various types of services, including investigation of supply sources, before the city council finally agreed to purchase the water system for \$1,000,000, a figure in excess of two previous sale offers made by the water company.

The water commissioners maintain they have improved on city council water deal practices by employing engineers on a flat fee basis. Since taking over the water system August 1, they have had a comprehensive plan prepared for revamping the distribution system to give better water, fire protection and consumer service pressure, held to be adequate until the city has reached a population of 50,000 persons.

The engineers hired by the commission also have drawn complete excavation plans and preliminary plans for a 10,000,000 gallon reservoir on Fairmount hill. Excavation work is under way this month if water funds the council has idle in the city treasury were promptly allocated to this project, Water Manager Cuyler Van Patten believes.

Mayor Kuhn last month halted the council and water commission abruptly when, under instructions from the special water committee, he computed the annual outlay which the issuance of the entire \$2,500,000 in water bonds voted in 1931 would necessitate for principal and interest payments. His bond schedule set the average annual payments over a 40-year period at approximately \$125,000. Debt service on the \$1,100,000 in water bonds already sold—less than half the total issue—consumes more than one-half the net profits of the system as shown by the operating statements for the first four months of municipal ownership. This service has amounted to \$6165 a month; the profit remaining has averaged \$1500 per month.

Gross earnings of the city water department have declined rapidly as the season of light water consumption has set on. For August gross earnings were \$19,223.57; for September, \$18,976.88; for October, \$15,834.46, and for November, \$14,082.52, making a four months total income of \$68,115.43.

City Makes Fair Net Profit on System Operating expenses for the same period have amounted to \$22,850.56, leaving a net profit before debt service of \$45,264.87. Deduction of \$24,616.55 used for bond interest and sinking fund leaves a final profit of \$20,608.32 for the four months.

Water consumers' best hopes for action toward improving the supply quality appear to lie in another planned-at-length, sudden-announced decision, such as was engineered by Mayor Kuhn when the purchase question was settled last May.

Considerable property has changed hands and many new families have located in Dallas. Several business houses have changed hands, some new businesses have been opened up, others have erected their own buildings or moved to different locations.

As a city improvement, the approval of bonds for a new hall was outstanding and the construction of a new 12-room, one-story primary school building also an achievement.

General Business Shows Improvement Agriculture had its ups and downs during the year, some crops bringing good price, others not so good. But as a whole general business conditions were probably better than for the previous year.

Arrivals and departures, life and death have all played a part in the year's cycle, and with a new one just here, what it will bring forth is the question.

Lack of River Sports Here Is Unexplained

Here is a problem that many citizens with a love of the outdoors have been trying to solve. Why has Salem no river sports, not even a canoe club with one of the most beautiful rivers in the whole U. S. right at its doorstep?

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High Spots in Marion County Balance Sheet

POPULATION—1930 census, 26,266.

Population 1935—Mail delivered to 30,000.

Population—Metropolitan area, 37,000.

Elevation above sea level at state capitol building—171 feet.

Width of streets in business district and civic center—59 feet.

Transportation—Southern Pacific Railway, Oregon Electric Railway and Pacific Greyhound stages.

On Pacific highway No. 99 and 50 miles south of Portland.

Home of Willamette university.

Number of churches, 32. Number of public school buildings, 11.

Banks, three, with deposits of \$12,500,000. Daily newspapers, two.

Fruit, berry and vegetable canning plants, seven.

Average annual rainfall past 14 years—37 1/4 inches.

Sixty-five per cent of people own their homes.

All American city. Native born, 91 per cent.

State center of the United States.

Loganberry center of the United States.

Center of the Italian prune industry of the northwest.

Center of the long fiber flax industry of the United States.

Center of the greatest peppermint industry in the west.

Jersey cattle center of the United States.

Center of the flibbert industry of the United States.

Capital city of Oregon. County seat of Marion county.

Buildings and state institutions in and near Salem:

State capitol building

Supreme court building

State office building

Oregon state hospital

Oregon state penitentiary

State tuberculosis hospital

Oregon state fair buildings

State training school for boys

State institution for the blind

State agricultural building

State institution for the deaf

State institution for the feeble minded

State industrial school for girls

Federal building and postoffice

The new year brings the completion of the terms of three members of the water commission, Edward Rostein, chairman, I. M. Doughton and William Gahlsdorf. All three have indicated they probably will seek reelection in May. No charge seems likely to be made in the management, held by former Alderman Cuyler Van Patten since the city took over the water works.

The Salem Business and Professional Women's club is focusing its attention on the theme, "Women, United for Effective Democracy" which is the current year's pursuit of the Ten Year Objective, an epochal pronouncement of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women at Richmond, Va., in 1931. This objective pledged members to fit themselves to assume real leadership in thinking on economic problems and their social implications.

The Salem club is honored by having Mrs. Winifred R. Herrick, president of the state federation, Mrs. Faith Kimball Black, state corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Mona R. Yoder, state record clerk, Miss Helen Louise Crosby is president of the Salem club.

The club chorus of Salem has won the annual state chorus contest for the past two years and will again enter competition at the state convention in Roseburg in May.

Large Population in 30 Mile Radius Here Within a radius of 30 miles of Salem, the population in 1930 was given at 81,656. This would extend the trading territory to include McMinnville and Albany. Also north as far as Canby and south to include the rich Selma farming district.

Fake Sale Is Put Under Ban

Business Men's League to Stop Promotions of Little Merit

Out-of-Town Solicitor Is Watched by Merchants' Organization

The outstanding work of the league for the year 1935 was in endorsing and having passed by the city council, what is known as the fake sale ordinance. The object of this ordinance is to correct as far as possible fake sale of goods and to prevent merchants of Salem in advertising such sales.

The ordinance is also to prevent as far as possible fake sales, in which goods are brought to the city after advertising a going out of business or closing out sale. The Business Men's league, inc., thought it necessary to secure such an ordinance, to be prepared for fake advertising.

Working on this idea, the league was officially incorporated. This permits the league to bring suit against any firm that is putting out a fake sale of a fake closing out sale and bringing in outside goods to continue the sale.

A suit can be brought without personal liability to directors or officers, as such suit will be brought in the future in the name of the Salem Business Men's League, incorporated.

Other outstanding work of the league for the year was in preventing solicitations of advertising that would perhaps carry thousands of dollars out of the city.

Endorsement was refused to an apartment house folder advertising its rules. To a cook book concern that would have used a local organization as a background. To a receipt book which had the endorsement of a local association. Also refused endorsement to advertising of desk blotters.

The league went on record and advertised the fact that it was opposed to any local organizations sponsoring dances and entertainments, and soliciting business and professional men to buy tickets. Also on record as opposed to selling tickets by telephone.

The league appointed a committee to investigate and determine whether all stores were receiving their share of business from county relief orders. An investigation showed there had been no partiality.

League Favors Remodeling of County Courthouse The league went on record as endorsing remodeling of the Marion county courthouse. It also supported Senate Bill 292, for protection of retailers and naming of minimum prices for which an article may be sold, profiting merchants approve.

The board approved advertising for the high school Clarion and for the Willamette university year book, The Wallulah.

A meeting was held with the manager and editor of The Wallulah, and endorsement was given only on condition that The Wallulah would be published in Salem. This condition was accepted.

The board did not endorse the letter, stating that it had no objection to the sale of tickets for the Disabled American Veterans entertainment. Also no objection to a folder on traffic regulations. Also no objection to the Odd Fellows soliciting in connection with the annual meeting held in Salem.

Endorsement was refused to a solicitor who wished to put on educational talks to employees, but in reality was advertising for a soap concern. Also refused endorsement to a lady who wanted to establish a hostess service in Salem but in reality was an advertising scheme by which the advance agent would secure the profits of extensive advertising.

The league urged business men to refuse to contribute to all outside solicitations for advertising and sale of tickets, unless a letter of endorsement issued by the league.

Lawrence N. Simon, is president of the league and C. E. Wilson, manager of the chamber of commerce, serves as ex-officio secretary.

Relief Continues County's Problem "Relief," the Marion county court's chief worry for the past four years, remains as much of a problem for 1936 as it did a year ago for 1935. While the works progress administration has put approximately 1525 of the 2175 eligible men and women to work, there remain several hundred relief cases in the county—the destitute unemployable.

Whereas, when 1935 loomed, the county relief committee still had a bountiful federal government to depend upon for funds, this year faces the necessity of getting by with but a fraction of the amount of funds the federal relief administration provided.

For 1936 the county has \$60,000 budgeted for indigent relief; this is to be matched dollar for dollar by the state relief committee.

The relief load, due to addition of new cases and return of old ones dropped temporarily during the summer, stands about as high at the turn of the 1936 New Year as it did a year ago, relief officials estimate. No accurate check is yet available for comparative purposes. Approximately 2500 men, women and children are on the relief rolls in the county, of whom 2175, roughly, are eligible for WPA project jobs.

Closing of Hotel de Minto by the federal transient relief administration last August, 1 left city police with the "panhandling" problem once more on their hands. The problem grew so bothersome to the public that Chief of Police Frank A. Minto reopened the place under police supervision, as it was established originally. Whether or not police will be able to keep the "hotel" open until the summer months depends on whether or not food and funds are contributed by the general public, the chief says.

Willamette Is Peaceful In Wheatland District If you want to see a peaceful river, just stop for a good long look at the Willamette at Wheatland. Jason Lee came up the river in the fall of 1834 and decided to locate at Mission Bottom.

Nelson Bros. and Staff Take Pleasure in Wishing You A HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



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