

### College Piano Award Fought

#### Erwin Claims State Funds Wasted Due to Grudge; Denied by Petrie

New complications over the purchase of 11 pianos for Oregon State college, which stirred up comment when the contract was awarded to the Sherman-Clay company of Portland recently, developed Monday when Warren Erwin of the Collins-Erwin company, low bidder, protested the award. He demanded the board's action be reconsidered and his concern's offer accepted.

The bid of the Collins-Erwin company was \$3160 as against \$3700 by the Sherman-Clay company. Erwin alleged that Paul Petrie, music director at Oregon State college, had recommended purchase of the pianos from a rival company because of a long standing grudge. "I ask you not to throw away the taxpayer's money," Erwin continued.

Erwin submitted records to show that pianos sold by his concern were used in many of the leading schools and music institutions in the United States.

Petrie denied emphatically that the funds for these pianos were furnished by the state. "The students pay for these pianos on a fee basis," Petrie continued. Petrie said he recommended acceptance of the high bid because he thought the Sherman-Clay company deal was in the best interests of the college. "My selection was my professional judgment," Petrie said.

### Martin Criticizes Club's Labor View

Governor Charles H. Martin mildly criticized yesterday the action of the Marion County Democratic society here Friday night, in refusing to endorse his plan for ending the jurisdictional labor dispute, which has been raging in Portland for 115 days. A resolution endorsing the governor's action was introduced by John Bayne, prominent Salem democrat, but was tabled.

### Mrs. Nelson Hostess For Mothers Circle

GRAND ISLAND—The Mothers' Circle club was entertained Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles E. Nelson with a good attendance present. During the business session final plans were made for the Mothers' Circle carnival which will be held at the schoolhouse Saturday night, December 18.

### Arkansas Child-Wife Is Mother at Age 12



Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hockersmith with son. Although only 12 years old, Mrs. Willis Hocker, a seven-pound son. Here she is with her 19-year-old husband and baby.

### Examinations for UCIC Jobs Slated

#### Second Competition Is Set for Early in 1938, Thousand Qualify

More competitive examinations for positions with the state unemployment compensation commission are in sight, announces Carl H. Cover, personnel director. At recent examinations for higher positions 2000 participated, and about 1000 qualified, according to Cover. The new examinations will be held the first week in January and the latter part of February. There are positions to fill in nine classifications, from junior clerk typist with salary from \$900 to \$1,020 to senior rules and regulation officer where the salaries range from \$2,200 to \$2,700.

"All appointments for classified positions are on a merit basis," said Cover. "The written examinations are just part of the basis of rating of the applicant. There are oral examinations, the education and experience factors by which the boards make the gradings. Political affiliation has nothing to do with the rating. When the eligible lists are made appointments must be made from them, so that persons who may not be immediately chosen are in line for appointment later on, if they qualify.

"The staff will be a large one, so there will be opportunity for promotions open to those who take the lower positions." Information about the examinations may be obtained from the offices here in the old high school building or at 308 Pittock block, Portland.

### Farmers' Union News

TALBOT — Sidney Talbot Farmers' union met in regular session in the schoolhouse here Friday with a large attendance. Vice-President George Potts, jr., was in charge. Dr. D. B. Hill of Salem was the speaker and showed his health and scenic films. Delmer Davidson gave a dairy report and D. E. Turnidge reported on the flood control project.

A special meeting will be held in the Talbot schoolhouse, Monday night, December 20 at 8 o'clock to discuss the flood control project and to organize a flood control district.

Bill Wiederkehr, Nelson Gilmore, C. F. Johnston, Ben Simpson and Oscar Hoven were appointed to consult the Marion county court in regards to oiling roads in this vicinity.

The next regular meeting will be January 14 with Mr. and Mrs. Dave Burnett, John Calavan, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Colgan, O. A. Coomes and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cole the supper committee.

Warren Gray of Marion, the county Farmers' union secretary, extended Sidney-Talbot members an invitation to visit their meeting Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Brown were voted members. Officers elected and installed for the coming year were: President, George Potts, jr.; vice-president, E. B. Hennissen; Secretary, Delmer Davidson; treasurer, Ethel Blinston; conductor, D. E. Turnidge; door-keeper, O. A. Coomes; chaplain, N. S. Naue; executive committee, N. C. White, John Calavan, and Ralph Dent.

ZENA—Dan McClellan of the state engineers' office, gave a

resume of the Willamette valley flood control project at the open meeting of Spring Valley Farmers' union at the Zena schoolhouse.

McClellan gave an estimate of the damage done by the floods of 1931, 1934 and 1937, which covered thousands of acres of rich farming land. "The army engineers' survey showed that seven reservoirs placed at strategic points on various turbulent streams would eliminate a great deal of flood damage and had floods that occur yearly would be practically eliminated," he said.

If the Willamette river can be made navigable to year round travel it would benefit the people in the neighborhood of a half a million dollars a year. Reservoirs besides assisting navigation will also be used for irrigation purposes in the dry season. Each reservoir would be in a position to furnish power, assist in flood control, irrigation and navigation, he explained.

Ralph Shepard of Salem gave a short talk and report at the meeting in Portland when J. D. Ross gave a talk on the Bonneville dam project. Charles McCarter, president of the local, appointed Chris Yungen and Frank Windsor as the committee for arrangements for January.

### American-English Relations Subject

Inasmuch as America and England are being drawn more and more closely together to form what is known as the "democratic front" as against the "fascist" or "nazi" axis, the talk tonight in the fireplace room at the Salem public library by Dr. R. I. Lovell, faculty member of Willamette university who came here last fall to teach history, on the "subject, 'America and England,'" is felt to be particularly opportune. It is said this subject may have a vast and serious import for citizens of this country within the next few weeks or months, as the tension in the orient lessens or intensifies. Consequently, this talk is believed to offer opportunity to straighten out misconceptions or reduce prejudices.

The talk, which begins at 8:15 o'clock, is sponsored by the Salem Arts League as the December number on its usual program. There is no admission charge, and the public interested is cordially invited. Mrs. Blanche Jones, president, has called a business session for members only at 7:30 o'clock in the fireplace room.

### Christmas Trade Heavy, Postoffice

Real signs of the Christmas season developed at the Salem post-office yesterday, with both stamp and parcel post windows enjoying lines throughout most of the day. Business was so rushing that at some periods additional help was necessary on the windows for the first time this season.

A great deal of foreign mail, both letters and packages, went through the windows here yesterday, and domestic Christmas mail also took a great spurt, Postmaster H. R. Crawford said.

### Christmas Seals, Bring in \$1556

Returns from the Christmas seal sale in Marion county to December 13 total \$1556.57 from the entire county, reports Mrs. George Moorhead, executive secretary of the sponsoring body, the Marion county public health association.

Goal for the 1937 seal sale, funds from which will be utilized to carry on the campaign for prevention and eradication of tuberculosis, in this county is \$4000.

### Motorists Receive Plates for 1938

Actual issuance of automobile license plates for the 1938 license period, starting January 1, got underway in the state motor vehicle department Monday. These plates will be recognized by the police after December 15. Secretary of State Snell said approximately 40,000 applications had been received. The 1938 plates will be sent out as fast as applications are received and checked.

### Cost of Oiling Job Protested

#### Woodburn Delegation Has Hearing Before County; Estimate Exceeded

A \$4110.19 charge for road oiling done at Woodburn last summer by county crews was protested as excessive by a delegation of Woodburn city officials who called upon the county court yesterday afternoon.

Acting as spokesman, Blaine McCord, Woodburn city attorney, declared the county's charge was nearly 20 per cent higher than the estimate given. The meeting broke up after extended discussion with the understand that as far as the Woodburn officials were concerned the matter would be left in abeyance pending a further study of the county's billing. The oiling job, which consisted of oil-surfacing East Lincoln street in Woodburn from the end of the pavement to the Pacific highway, a distance of 2200 feet, was estimated at \$3542. The street was surfaced from curb to curb, or over a width of 26 feet, with a "heavy specification," County Commissioner Roy S. Melson said.

May Cut one Item The court undertook the job after a group of Woodburn citizens headed by Dr. Gerald B. Smith had petitioned their council to have the work done at the cost estimate given. The adjacent property owners were to bear the expense.

The only concession the court indicated it might make was a reduction in the \$184.35 part of the cost set up as administrative expense. The cost overran the estimate because of an unanticipated requirement of an extra 300 yards of surfacing rock, it was explained.

Other Woodburn officials attending the meeting were Mayor H. M. Austin and Councilmen E. J. Allen and W. D. Simmons.

One outcome of the Woodburn difficulty may be that the court hereafter may refuse to undertake special city paving jobs without a definite agreement with the officials involved, members of the court indicated.

### Salem Girl to Wed

DALLAS—A marriage license was issued this week by County Clerk Carl S. Graves to Harold Houtz, 24, timber worker, Dallas, and Wanda M. Shade, 21, artist, Salem.

### Chamber Will Elect Monday

#### Nominations Are Listed; Railroad Problem Is Outlined by Hart

Members of the Salem chamber of commerce will ballot upon the names of Barkley A. Newman, Lawrence N. Simon and Ray A. Yocom for 1938, president of the organization next Monday noon. It was announced at yesterday's luncheon. Other nominations announced by the nominating committee were:

For vice-president—Clifford Harold, A. A. Lee, Arthur J. Rahm.

For secretary—Frank J. Chapman, Silas Gaiser, Dr. David B. Hill.

For treasurer—Leif Bergsvik, Clifford E. Farmer, W. E. Holts.

Social department—Monroe S. Cheek, Otto A. Hartman, Harry Scott.

Civic department—Grant W. Day, James E. Cooke, Herbert L. Stiff.

Industrial department—E. H. Bingenheimer, B. M. Donaldson, L. C. McShane.

Legislative department—Raymond G. Allen, Robert L. Elfron, Allan A. Hall.

Agricultural department—Percy Blundell, H. I. Standley, Floyd M. White.

Members of the nominating committee were Floyd Miller, T. M. Hicks and Oscar D. "Frosty" Olson.

Charles A. Hart, general attorney for the SP & S railway, addressed the gathering, discussing the present predicament of the railroads. He spoke in place of A. A. Hampson who holds a similar position with the Southern Pacific, who was unable to be present due to the tieup of rail service by flood and storm conditions in California.

All Lines Suffer Rising costs of operation due to wage increases obtained by the well organized railway brotherhoods, coupled with loss of traffic due to the present "recession" and truck and bus competition, explain the present crisis in the affairs even of the soundly-financed railroads, Mr. Hart declared. The public should take cognizance of the situation and realize its own stake, the speaker said, mentioning among other things the heavy investments of insurance companies in railroad securities. The present effort is to obtain higher rates, but there must also be a readjustment of wages which are out of line with the

general wage level, the speaker said. He also mentioned railroads which have been built without justification, declaring that apparently they were destined to fail but the solution was complicated by the investments involved. The Oregon Electric, its passenger business vanished due to motor transportation development, is

being reorganized and will continue to function as a freight carrier, the speaker asserted.

Frank Hedges Dies CLOVERDALE—Frank L. Hedges, 82, father of Earl Hedges of this place, died Sunday at the family home in Salem. He resided here for several years.