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4007 S. E. 8th  
COMB

LEGION JUNIORS ON PARADE yesterday afternoon, as caught by a Statesman photographer. From left, Drum Majorette Delores Caldwell, who led the hip-swinging negro junior band; Horace Beldin, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Smart, Salem route one, holding the nanny goat that won him the "largest pet" award; "Cave Man" Lynn Blumenstein, of 567 Knapp street, who took the award for the most unusual costume; Erma Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James S. Davis, 1690 North 5th street, with her Mexican Chihuahua that won her first place in the smallest pet division; and Drum Majorette Jean Crittendon of Portland, who led the Bandon band. Story of the Junior parade with complete list of prize-winners appears on Page Two, along with additional pictures. (Photos by Statesman staff photographer.)

# The Oregon Statesman



EIGHTY-NINTH YEAR Salem, Oregon, Saturday Morning, August 12, 1939 Price 3c; Newsstands 5c No. 119

## Local Fires Possibly Incendiary

### Leech Quizzed In Effort to Learn Errors

Defense Puts Witness Through Long Probing on Stand

Discrepancies Revealed in Testimony of House Painter

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 11.—(AP)—The defense hammered away today at John L. Leech in efforts to bring out discrepancies in testimony of the Portland, Ore., house painter at the deportation hearing of Harry Bridges, west Coast CIO labor leader.

Leech twiddled his thumbs, ran his fingers over his face and hair and testered in his chair as he snapped answers at Attorney Aubrey Grossman.

When Grossman brought the questioning around to Leech working on painting and decorating jobs while not a union member, Thomas E. Shoemaker, chief of the government's counsel, protested against the interrogation on "so-called scabbing."

Examiner James M. Landis ruled that if it could be shown the witness was hostile to organized labor the questioning was relevant.

"As I understand it," Landis remarked, "this questioning is not from the point of anti-labor bias. This is an attempt to impeach the credibility of the witness."

"I think we all realize that the testimony of this witness if be-

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### Grand Parade Climaxes big Legion Event

Two-Hour Long Event Is Viewed by Thousands on Streets

Eugene Radiators Given First Prize as Best Marching Unit

By WALLACE A. SPRAGUE

"Marche militaire" was the dominant motif of downtown Salem last night, with a dash of "1812 Overture" and "Egmont" thrown in as seasoning, as an estimated 2000 marchers wound out to Sweetland field along crowd-lined streets in the climactic parade event of the current American Legion convention.

From Petty-clad drum majorettes to real McCoy top sergeants of the Seventh US Infantry, every marcher and every member of the crowd was stirred by military music played with enthusiasm by some 25 bands and drum corps from Legion posts all over the state which participated in the parade. The theme continued to be carried out during a two-hour military and drum corps demonstration on Sweetland field.

The military note was set at the start of the line of march by the appearance of Brigadier General Thomas E. Rilea, grand marshal of the parade, and his staff, who passed mounted in front of Governor Charles A. Sprague, Senators Charles L. McNary and Rufus Holman, former Governor James Mott, National Commander Stephen F. Chadwick, Oregon Department Commander John A. Smith, and other dignitaries seated on the reviewing stand on Sweetland field.

Reserve Officers Form Unit

Immediately following was the band and contingent of the Seventh Infantry from Vancouver Barracks, succeeded in turn by a company of 35 officers of the reserve corps from Portland, Salem, Corvallis and other valley cities.

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### Incendiarism Is Held Likely in Boise Blaze As Gasoline Can Found

Wenatchee's Fire Shows no Evidence It Could Be Linked With Northwest's String of Mysterious Conflagrations

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 11.—(AP)—Ashes of a conflagration that caused nearly \$1,000,000 damage and threatened the lives last night of 500 boxing fans smoldered today while police and fire officials probed possibilities of incendiarism.

Police Chief Austin Utley reported tonight that a two-gallon can containing some gasoline and covered with fingerprints was found in the street in front of the buildings—including the Fairview sports arena—destroyed in the blaze.

"The police department is assisting Fire Chief Frank Pulaski in investigating the cause of the fire," Utley announced.

Fire Chief Pulaski said: "We are making a thorough investigation, but have not learned the cause of the fire. It broke out so suddenly and progressed so rapidly and intensely it is difficult to find out what started it. We may never know."

WENATCHEE, Aug. 11.—(AP)—Still fighting a "water resistant" \$40,000 Biles-Colman fruit box warehouse fire that has been burning 18 hours, Fire Chief H. W. Bryson and State Fire Marshal William A. Sullivan tonight agreed that "we have no evidence involving incendiarism in any of these fires last night."

Police Chief Carl Hansen denied widespread rumors here that a pyromaniac suspect had been jailed.

Mrs. Ella Jones, her four children, and Miss Vernal Smith—all sleeping, were routed from beds as flames licked at their rooms at dawn this morning when two newspaper photographers saw the blaze while developing pictures taken of the box warehouse fire.

### Departmental Elections End Session Today

National Committeeman's Job Hotly Sought by 3 Candidates

Assistant War Secretary to Address Veterans This Afternoon

CLOSING DAY'S PROGRAM OF LEGION CONVENTION

All day—Registration; carnival; entertainment on downtown streets; Streets of Paris.

8 a. m.—Reveille, Seventh Infantry, courthouse square; auxiliary session, state senate chamber.

9 a. m.—Legion business session in hall of representatives; address by Louis A. Johnson, assistant secretary of war; election of officers following recess at 10 a. m.

9 p. m.—Dance, Crystal Gardens, Dance and Streets of Paris close at midnight.

By RALPH C. CURTIS

They may have taken time out to see part of the big parade, but otherwise the American Legion convention politicians worked overtime Friday night—with good reason. Most of them were totally in the dark as to the trend in the outstanding political battle of the session; and if any of them knew all the answers, they couldn't prove it, for nobody was conceding anything.

The big convention battle involved the national committee selection, and on the face of things the contest lay between Ray H. Bassett of Salem, Joe Chamberlain of Corvallis and E. L. "Buck" Knight of LaGrande. Predictions as to who was in the lead, or even as to who were the top pair, depended entirely upon the numbers on the cap of the veteran who ventured the forecast.

There were hush-hush reports that one candidate would withdraw, but these reports from various sources mentioned all three.

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### Flames Break Out as Salem Views Parade

Youth Says He Saw Fire Downtown Started by Three Men

One House Is Destroyed, Others Damaged in Series of Fires

Incendiarism was scented by the Salem police and fire departments as the cause of at least one of five fires that broke out between 7:30 and 8:30 o'clock last night while the American Legion convention parade was moving through the business district and past the central fire station.

One house was destroyed, the roof and attic of another ruined, the kitchen of a third damaged and the rear of a downtown beer parlor gutted by the almost simultaneous fires. Losses were believed to have exceeded \$7000.

Flames flared brightly against adjoining buildings and attracted throngs of parade spectators when fire broke out at the rear of the Foreman & LaBranch beer parlor, 130 North Commercial street shortly after 8 p. m.

Three Men Tosses Matches in Rubbish

Three young men threw lighted matches into the pile of waste paper and other rubbish piled against the frame wall where the beer parlor fire started. Harry Phillips, 16, of box 225, route four, Salem, reported at The Statesman office a few minutes later. They dashed down the alley and disappeared into the parade crowd on State street, he said.

"I think there's something to it," commented Patrolman Claude Littlefield after a Statesman staff member had notified the police department concerning Phillips' report.

Instructions were left at the Phillips residence for the youth to report to Chief Mintio this morning.

He described the three men as between 18 and 21 years old, dark-haired, wearing dark trousers, one wearing a red sweater and the other two in shirt sleeves.

Littlefield said possibility of incendiarism also was being investigated in connection with the second fire of the series, one that

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### Pittenger Named Sheriff's Deputy

89-Year-Old Legionnaire to Be in Charge of Crime Division

Lawrence L. Pittenger, 89-year-old Legionnaire and former Oregon state policeman and Kansas City officer, was appointed deputy sheriff in charge of criminal matters by Sheriff A. C. Burk here yesterday. He will assume his duties at once as successor to B. G. Honeycutt, whose badge was turned in Wednesday.

"Mr. Pittenger comes to this office with the highest recommendations of the officers he worked with and under and I feel he will be a big help in this line of work in Marion county," Burk said in County to page 3, col. 3)

### Silverton Red Sox Win 1st Game in Wichita Semi-Pro

WICHITA, Kas., Aug. 11.—(AP)—Two west coast nines—Silverton, Ore., and the Los Angeles Shells—fought late to change apparent defeats to slugfest victories over midwestern teams in opening games of the national semi-pro baseball tournament tonight before 10,000 fans.

The Silverton Lumbermen trailed 1 to 3 until a 4-run eighth inning, then held off a closing threat, to win 5 to 3 over Golden, Colo. Husky Roy Helser let the Colorado champions down with 9 hits and struck out 14 batters while his mates pounded Bud Rose and Warren Freshour, who relieved Rose in the fatal eighth, for 10 safe blows.

SILVERTON, Aug. 11.—Total darkness didn't dim the joy of the crowd that jammed McGinnis park here Friday night to receive the Silverton Red Sox's 5 to 3 victory over the Golden, Colorado, Coors, as the national semi-professional baseball tournament opened in Wichita, Kas.

They revelled as Roy Helser struck out 14 to give Silverton the victory that advances the Sox into second-round play, with the clamor growing loudest in an eighth inning that saw the Sox

score four times on the strength of singles by Kirsch, Pesky and Schwab, a triple by Andy Hurney and Bonney's sacrifice fly.

Up to the fifth it was 0-0, and as the Coors crowded a tally home in that inning on two singles and an error the Silverton faithful held their breaths. The Sox, with Pesky, Schwab and Hurney all singling, drove one across in the first of the sixth, but the Coors went out in front with a run in their half, accomplished on two bingles.

The seventh was uneventful.

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### No Air Raid Fear, Declares Johnson

PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(AP)—America's defenses are "adequate for this hemisphere," Louis A. Johnson, acting secretary of war, said tonight on his arrival in a giant army air transport plane.

He said there would be "plenty of bombers and pursuit planes to protect the north Pacific coast in event of an invasion" and asserted America's air defenses were far ahead of the rest of the world.

"Why England and France are waiting for our engines before they can make routine crossings of the Atlantic ocean," he said.

He said all air bases of the nation—including the newly appointed base at Tongue Point at the mouth of the Columbia river in Oregon—were to be improved under the expansion program authorized by congress and the president.

### Ab Jenkins' Records Quest Ends as Gas Overcomes Him

BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS, Aug. 11.—(AP)—Ab Jenkins' quest for new world automobile endurance records ended at 10:08 p. m. (MST) tonight, halted by officials of the American Automobile association who declared Jenkins and Rex Mays, relief driver, unable to continue after both had been overcome by monoxide gas.

The order came after Jenkins had been overcome in the 14th hour of his projected 24-hour run when the cockpit cover of his "Mormon Meteor 3rd" loosened and fumes swirled up from a split elbow on left exhaust manifold.

The veteran Utah speed driver,

### Ab Jenkins' Records Quest Ends as Gas Overcomes Him

grogy from the fumes, palled into the pit and was lifted from the machine. Mays jumped into the Meteor and roared around one lap of the 12 1/2-mile course before he, too, was overcome.

Mays recovered partially and tried the high speed again, but failed to shake off the gas effects and Jenkins appeared unable to continue.

The fix that has halted two previous runs had struck again.

But this time Jenkins had achieved at least part of his goal—to capture the endurance records held by Captain George E. T. Bryston of England.

### County to Paint Bridge Over Breitenbush River

Built more than 15 years ago by the federal government, the 150-foot steel bridge spans across the Breitenbush river three miles from Detroit will be painted by the Marion county bridge crew next week. This will be the first time it has been painted since the county took it over some years ago.

### Non-Hi District Audit Is Oked

The Marion county non-high school board wound up its business for the 1938-39 school year yesterday afternoon by accepting the completed audit of the non-high district's books and ordering tuition and other bills paid to the regular school districts.

The board also tentatively approved district contracts for the 1939-40 year. They will carry slight revisions from those of the past, it was indicated.

### RFD Lads Gather in National Meet

PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(AP)—The 43rd anniversary of the United States' rural free delivery service will be observed here when delegates from all sections of the nation gather Sunday for the national convention of the National Rural Letter Carriers' association.

The convales, opening Monday, will run through Friday.

The Weather

Fair today and Sunday with morning cloudiness in valley, fog on coast, Max. temp. Friday 79, min. 59, river -3.9 ft., northwest wind.

### 2 Youths Confess McIntire Robbery

Robert Carter and Friend Held at Redding for Local Officers

Two young men under arrest at Redding, Calif., have confessed that they were the pair who last Saturday afternoon bound and robbed Mr. and Mrs. Roy McIntire at their residence nine miles south of Salem on the Pacific highway, District Attorney Lyle J. Page announced yesterday afternoon.

One, Robert Carter, 23, was released from the county jail the day before the holdup after serving 75 days for reckless driving. He is still on parole from a six months jail sentence for larceny.

The other was identified only as Dewagne E. Lee, who visited Carter frequently while the latter was in jail here. Kenneth

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