First Methodist Church of Salem to Celebrate 100th Anniversary /

Pastor Plans Observance With Four-Day Program Honoring Past Congregations

First Pastor in Summer of 1841 Suggested Naming Capital City Salem: Church now Standing for 71 Years

(Editor's note: The First Methodist church of Salem will celebrate its 100th anniversary on March 20, 21, 22 and 23. The following story of this early day congregation and of its plans today to honor its members of the past was written by the pastor, largely from a study of the old records of the church.)

By DR. JABEZ C. HARRISON Pastor, First Methodist Church

On the 50th anniversary of the First Methodist church at Salem, Dr. H. K. Hines said: "Pre-eminently this is the historic church of Oregon. Oregon City had the first edifice but Salem had the first church organization."

On October 5, 1834, Rev. Jason Lee, who had been appointed by the missionary board of the Methodist church, as a missionary to the Indians, landed a few miles.

below where the city of Salem now stands. On Sunday the 19th of October, 1834, he preached the first sermon ever preached in the Willamette valley. From that time until now, services have been held in this mission and church by ministers of the Methodist church. For six years the work was carried on at this point and then moved to | for 25 years. the present site of Salem. First Services in 1840

In 1840 the first building was erected in what is now Salem and the families of Rev. Gustavus Hines and Rev. Hamilton Campbell moved into it. Shortly afterwards the "Indian Manual Labor School" was arected, which afterwards bore the name of the "Oregon Institute" and later "Willamette university." Religious services were held regularly in this school building so that in reality it was a church as truly as a school though no formal church organization had been worked out.

The formal organization of a church occurred in June or July, 1841. David Leslie was its first pastor. It is he who is accredited with suggesting the name of Oregon's capital city in honor of his old home in Massachusetts.

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary now because Willamette university will not be in session this summer and because Dr. Bruce R. Baxter is the only Willamette university president and preacher of Salem to have been elected a bishop of the Methodist

year and the university next. The chapel of the university was occupied for church purposes until 1850. In 1851 the first church building was erected at a cost of \$8000, with Rev. A. F. Waller as pastor, and served the people Begun in 1870

The present fine Gothic church was begun in 1870 and finished some years later at a cost of around \$45,000. Today it could not be built for twice this amount. The auditorium seats 850 and on special occasions, with the addition of chairs 1000 people are cared for comfortably. Five years ago the fine modern educational temple was erected at a cost of \$50,000. The parsonage is one of third of it young people under the very best in all Oregon. The thirty. location of this property is at the

very heart of Salem and the white spire can be seen for miles, reminding the capital city and all who pass by that the foundation of Oregon and of true democracy is the church of the living God. First church has had 42 pastors in the hundred years, and has entertained the Oregon confer-

ence 16 times. Large numbers of governors, high state officials and judges of the court have worshipped here. First church has been a cen-

ter of great music for a century. The late J. K. Gill was strong today as ever. once in its choir and scores o

stood through the last 71 years; the unit at the right is the educa-tional temple, completed in 1935. The city will join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of this pioneer church on March 20, 21, 23 and 23.

The staff consists of the pas-

tor, Dr. Jabes C. Harrison; director of religious education, Miss Ruth Cremer; secretary, Miss Hilma Breuser, Dean Melvin H. Geist, director of the choir; Prof. T. S. Roberts, organist and a full time caretaker. The ambition of the founders-

religious devotion, evangelistic fervor, Christian education, missionary conquest and a commonwealth of free, intelligent, godly men has actuated the life of this old church for 100 years and is as

tennial commission and appropriating \$15,000. The commission would be com-The anniversary is to be on posed of five members to be ap-March 20-23rd. On the 20th the pointed by Gov. Charles A. church will celebrate with an old Sprague. They would represent fashioned no-host dinner for its different sections of the state and members and those who have been operate in an advisory capacity to members. During the dinner Miss the state highway commission. Beryl Holt, secretary of the offi- Members of the centennial comcial board and state president of mission would not receive any the AAUW will model the wed- compensation but would be reimding dresses worn by brides in bursed for their actual expenses. First church weddings over a pe-The centennial observance will riod of 75 years. She will be as- be publicized through the toursisted on the committee by Mrs. ist and travel bureau of the state Winifred Herrick, Mrs. Thomas highway department. Holman and Mrs. Brown Sisson

Gravel Fees **Are Opposed**

Eliminate Royalties, Aid Reclamation and Get Industries, Plea

Reelaiming lands along the Willamette river and other Oregon streams is essential to bringing of national defense and other industries to the state, representatives of the Port of Portland, the Portland dock commission and other organizations testified at a pub-lic hearing before the house of representatives committee on commerce and navigation Wednesday night.

The committee was considering a bill eliminating royalties on sand and gravel taken from navigable streams in the state exclusively for mission; George L. LaRoche, at-diking and filling purposes. The torney for the dock commission, measure has been passed by the and ex-mayor Joe Carson. senate.

Port of Portland commission, de- Portland; J. W. Kennedy, Salem, clared that the bill would not and Ray Gill, master of the Oregon change the present act materially state grange, spoke against the for the reason that ports are not measure.

liable for royalties on sand and gravel taken from the streams in an effort to improve navigation at the present time. House Passes Appropriations

It was Corbett's contention that in establishing industries on these reclaimed lands more money (Continued from page 1)

wa) objected to the practice of school fund than is derived under the hospitals in crediting amounts the existing setup. Royalties col-lected for sand and gravel now received as board payments by go into the state irreducible relatives of patients to the hosschool fund. pital general funds instead of to

"If you persist in charging royal-ties for sand and gravel used for the individual patients. House Committee Okehs filling purposes along the streams House Committee Okehs you will drive industry out of the Senator From Klamath

state," Corbett continued. A bill by Rep. Henry Semon (D-Klamath) which would give Lewis Griffith, clerk of the state land board, said it was the duty Klamath county a state senator of its own was approved by the house reapportionment committee 7 to 4. The dissenting members

will not put in a minority report. The bill would eliminate the o i n t Morrow-Umatilla-Union senatorial district, putting Morrow in a district with Gilliam Sherman and Wheeler.

The Klamath-Crook-Deschutes-Jefferson-Lake district would be with one for the other four counties.

It also would put Columbia county in with Clatsop, taking it

from the Multnomah-Clackam Columbia district,

Columbia district. Protection for the bronze repli-ca of the state seal on the floor of the capitol rotunda was voted by the house in approving a measure by Rep. Warren Erwin (D-Multnomah) to appropriate \$250 for erecting a barrier around the solution the seal.

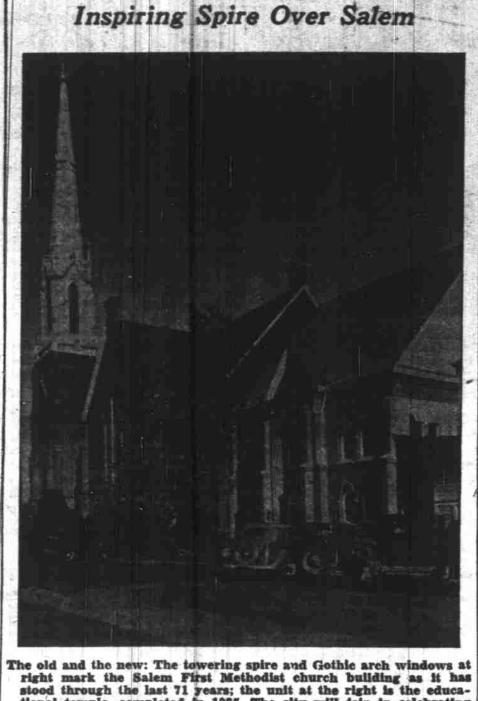
A resolution calling for an in-terim committee to study housing and care of patients at public institutions was introduced in the house by the house public institutions and the senate public

buildings committees.

To Elect Officers Election of officers will be held at the regular meeting of the Townsend Youth association Thursday night, March 6, at 6 o'clock in the Moose hall, 12th and Leslie streets. All members have been urged to attend.

and purpose of the state to collect as much royalty as possible without hindering industrial development. The land board administers the irreducible school fund. Among others who spoke for the bill were Edward F. Doyle, member of the Port of Portland comenate. Henry Corbett, chairman of the Affiliated Teachers Council of split to give Klamath a senator





church and his residence is still in Salem and the family members of this church.

Original Member

"The original members of the church were Jason Lee, L. H. Judson, H. Campbell, James Olley. G. Hines and their wives, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Holman and W. Hauxhurst, who was the first white man converted to Christ through the labors of the missionaries." (This is a direct quotation from our old records and shows their evangelistic zeal.)

Our old records go on to say-"In the beginning Mr. Lee and his assistants preached to a motley congregation of Indians with a few whites including his immediate assistants and various stragglers who from time to time gathered in from the Rocky mountains, from California and from vessels which at long intervals entered the Columbia."

The old records say too-"An addition had been built

to the house erected for the mission families which was used for both school and church purposes. It was the first Methodist meeting house on the Pacific coast and the first Christian organization in the Oregon territory and the first Protestant church west of the Rocky mountains." In the same connection our records say, "The building of the university was begun in 1841 and was first occupied in the summer of 1842." Last summer Salem had its centennial-First church this of the auditorium, with fully one



war department disclosed recently that it had ordered a "limited manify" of low cost gas masks for non-combatants in the United lates for use in the event of war. Officials said the masks were de-

other citizens who have gone out from this Methodist university center. The present organ was dedicated on October 1, 1905, and Professor T. S. Roberts, the great blind organist of Oregon, has played it consecutively for these 35 years and is better now than ever. In the early 80's the head of Willamette university's music department was employed to direct the choir and for nearly 60 years this plan has been held to. Dean Melvin Geist of the university is neers.

now directing one of the Pacific coast's greatest choirs.

Made Missionaries This church has also been a laboratory for the making of preachers and missionaries because of its very close relationship with Willamette university. The church records show that sixteen young men and women have gone to other lands as mission-

aries and that seven have become deaconesses. A number have gone into YMCA, YWCA and Christian educational full time work. The records show that from 1866 to 1911 the official board and quarterly conference of this church granted licenses to preach to 51 young men. And nearly every year since one or more young men have been granted this sacred office. The church records show now a membership of 1300 with 200 non-residents. Its finances are in excellent condition. Its morning

congregation is one of the largest

in Oregon filling even the gallery

Each community along the hisdaughters of First church pio- toric highway will be asked to arrange its own celebration during the year 1943.

Rep. H. R. "Farmer" Jones (R-

The new bill would legalize sale

of cane and tree fruit wines not

exceeding 14 per cent alcohol by

volume for "on premise" con-

sumption. It will be reported out

by the house alcoholic committee

without recommendation, rather

than with an adverse report as

was the case with the original

also were offered a course in

Neither course carries acade-

DES MOINES, Ia .- (AP)-Amid a

"fly-casting and baiting."

\$15,000 Trail

Fund Okehed

Ways and Means Passes

Centennial Celebration

The joint ways and means com-

mittee of the legislature Wednes-

day reported out favorably a bill

by Senator W. H. Strayer, Baker,

and others, providing for the cre-

ation of an Old Oregon Trail cen-

Commission Measure

Another feature of the evening's

Antiques Exhibition

entertainment will be a large ex-hibit of antiques and hobbies in New Wine Bill the new Educational building open from 6 to 12 with Dr. Frank Expected out Voigt, Mrs. J. A. Mills, Mrs. E. T. B. Hill, Gordon Carl, Dean Daniel Schulze, Dr. Verne Bain, Miss Marion), who withdrew his wine Mildred Yetter and Mrs. George bill when Gov. Sprague expressed Kelley on the committee. The opposition to it last week, exprogram of the evening will be at pects the house legislation and o'clock in the church auditorium rules to pass out a new version. with Hon. Willis C. Hawley, a cut down to the provision he most member for over 50 years, prewanted, some time today, he said siding and former pastors as Wednesday afternoon. guests and speakers.

They are-Dr. R. N. Avison, Portland; Dr. Fred C. Taylor, Vancouver, Wash.; Dr. B. Earl Parker, Eugene; and Dr. J. E. Milligan, Bellingham, Wash, Dr. Blaine E. Kirkpatrick is the only other former paster still living. He will not be present. The anniversary worship service will be held on the morning

"I'm leaving the fortified wine of the 23rd with Gov. Charles A. question to be taken care of in Sprague expressing appreciation the Burke bill," Jones explained.

bill

on behalf of Oregon, Bishop Bruce R. Baxter preaching the sermon and with the pastor and the Oregon conference cabinet of

ddities district superintendents having a .. in the News part in the service. The closing program of the anniversary will

LEXINGTON, Ky.-(A)-Advanbe on the evening of the 23rd ced education notes: with the church's choir of 50 voices singing "Olivet to Calvary" Co-eds of the University of Kentucky were offered a fiveby Maunder directed by Dean

week course in billiards, starting Melvin Geist with Prof. T. S. Roberts at the organ. this month. Student fishermen of either sex

Salary Hike Voted For Labor Chief

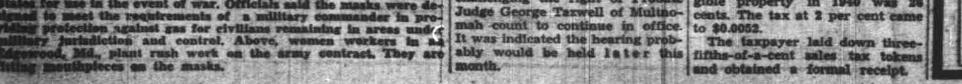
The senate Wednesday approvmic credit. ed a bill by Sen. Rex Ellis (R-

Umatilla) increasing the salary of the state labor commissioner from scattering of "no's," the predom-\$3600 to \$4000 a year. inantly republican Iowa senate The office is now held by C. H Gram. Sen. Ellis said Gram was one of the lowest paid elective officers in the state.

passed and sent to the house a resolution to order the purchase of an old arithmetic book used by Vice President Henry A. Wallace. Sponsors said the book was for sale at \$5 in a book store here.

The state supreme court Wed-DENVER-(A)-A taxpayer paid Colorado \$0.006 but he owed only nesday postponed its hearing of

hesday postponed its hearing of the quo warranto proceeding, or-iginally scheduled for next Tues-day, that was brought recently by Newton Smith, Portland attorney, challenging the right of Probate Judge George Taxwell of Multao-





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