



In One Ear..

—Paul Hauser's Column

We were rummaging around in our desk the other day and we found what nobody can prove isn't the 90-year diary of old Sam L. Statesman, the ghost of all former editors that haunts the newsroom and runs off with our chair, our paste, our pencils and our temper. We hereby reprint it and start anxiously awaiting an offer from the Reader's Digest.



Paul H. Hauser, Jr.

March 28, 1851—Went to press today and made Gutenberg look silly. Subscriptions coming in fast. Took in two peck of apples, two skunk pelts, and five pinches of gold dust. Bang! Bang! Bang! Just shot three Indians. Darn fools were trying to put the bite on my dust.

March 28, 1859—Darn republicans are ruining the country.

March 28, 1860—Darn democrats are ruining the country.

March 28, 1861—Darn fool Express riders say it looks like war. Don't they know this is a civilized world and it can't happen here? Horsewhipped three times today. Somebody said "Giddyap" and I galloped clear to Eola.

March 28, 1871—Got up at 6 and wrote editorials until 8. Sold six ax and collected two bushels of potatoes for a year's subscription. Set up patent medicine ads (Turn to Page 2, Col. 7)

Valley Project Will Continue

The Willamette valley project will go on, despite reports construction of several of its dams may be sidetracked in favor of national defense enterprises, R. H. Kipp, executive secretary of the Willamette Basin commission, declared here Saturday.

The Fern Ridge dam, which will impound 95,000 acre feet of water on the Long Tom river in Lane county, will be completed within 60 to 90 days and the first irrigation project, eventually to serve 25,000 acres of land, may be started yet this year, Kipp said.

Twenty per cent completed now, the Cottage Grove reservoir is expected to be finished before the end of 1941. The water will be backed up by a 95-foot earth fill dam.

As to the other five project dams, Kipp said they might be delayed but added that funds from the seven billion dollar lease-bill might be made available for valley work.

The next unit of the project scheduled for attention, the big Dorena reservoir, six miles east of Cottage Grove, for which funds have been allocated but not yet released, will probably be started before 1942, Kipp predicted.

A substantial portion of the \$4,257,000 required for this unit, must be spent on relocating the Southern Pacific railway tracks and the highway.

Marjorie Waters Wins Oratorical

Marjorie Waters won first place in women's oratory at College of the Pacific college invitational forensics tournament Saturday at Stockton, Calif. Dr. Herbert E. Rahe, Willamette University coach, wired The Statesman, Eugene, Russell reached the semifinals of the same contest. Both students are from Salem.

Duce Regime Rumored Tottering

US Places Guard On Italo Ships

Five Vessels at Newark Said Sabotaged

PORTLAND, March 29.—(AP)—Twelve coast guardsmen were ordered to guard the Italian motorship Leme here Saturday night in compliance with an order from Washington, DC. The Leme, a 500-foot vessel built at Trieste in 1925, was in port here when Italy entered the war and has remained since.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—(AP)—The coast guard placed armed guards aboard 27 Italian ships in United States ports including Portland, Ore., Saturday night to prevent crews from destroying the machinery.

Coast guard officials emphasized that the vessels had not been seized but said the guards merely would prevent sabotage.

The action was taken under a 1917 espionage act following word simultaneously from Baltimore and Wilmington, NC, that Italian crews in those ports were breaking up the machinery in their vessels and that similar action was contemplated in other ports.

Five of the ships were docked at New York, four at Philadelphia, three at Norfolk, two each at New Orleans, Baltimore, Newport News, Va., and Jacksonville, Fla., and one each at Boston, Wilmington, NC, Houston, Tex., Mobile, Ala., Savannah, Ga., San Juan, P.R. and Portland, Ore.

An additional Italian ship was reported in the Panama Canal zone. It was outside coast guard jurisdiction but it was assumed that the army would station a guard over it. The names of the vessels were not available here immediately.

Coast guard officials said that (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

None Injured In Car Crash

No one was injured, but considerable damage was done to two automobiles in a three-car collision at Capitol and Center streets Saturday night.

Police said the accident occurred when a car driven by William K. Lemen, Hubbard, attempting to pass another car, struck a car driven in the opposite direction by Robert H. Smith, route six, and a car following driven by Jesse D. Taylor, 840 Union street.

Front ends of the Smith and Lemen cars were badly damaged.

Read Deal With PGE Is off; West Salem Gets Dam Power

Electric power coursed Saturday from Bonneville's Eola substation into the transmission lines to West Salem owned by Harry B. Read and leased by the Salem Electric cooperative.

Start of service to some of the cooperative's West Salem members indicated two things: 1. The negotiations between the Portland General Electric company and Read, manager of the cooperative, for purchase of the transmission equipment built for use of the cooperative have fallen through.

2. The cooperative will go ahead with plans to string its wires across the Willamette river and deliver power to its Salem members. Read, owner of radio station KSLM and long interested in electric utilities, Saturday directed workmen in making installations to West Salem members of the cooperative. Read Tells Reporter To Draw Own Conclusion. Read had nothing to say about status of the deal which the Portland General Electric company

Japan Envoy's Berlin Trip Marred by Coup



This IEN Radiophoto from Berlin shows Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka (left) as Adolf Hitler (center) presents him to a huge crowd gathered outside the reich chancellory Thursday. Matsuoka, after a hurried second conference with Von Ribbentrop, Nazi foreign minister Saturday, is scheduled to leave for Rome this (Sunday) afternoon. His plans may be changed should rumors of another coup d'etat in Italy prove true. The Yugoslavia uprising spoiled Yosuke's German visit.

Biggest Edition In History Of Statesman Issued Today!

Rain or Shine Cherrians to Be on Job

Rain or shine, Salem's Cherrians will be on the job today to show off to best advantage the spring floral attractions—fruit trees in bloom—of Marion and Polk county. King Bing Frank Doerfler announced Saturday night as he got out his raincoat.

From early morning until late afternoon Cherrians will be stationed at key points on the Blossom day tour routes, at the chamber of commerce and at the capitol to direct visitors to the orchards and to the other attractions of the day, the capitol, the state forestry administration building, the state hospital grounds and the Salem Hunters and Anglers club trout holding pond at Turner.

Boy Scouts will assist in handling traffic on the blossom routes and the Salem unit of the Women's Ambulance Service corps will act as guides at the capitol.

Both the Marion and the Polk county blossom routes will be plainly marked by signs to argument the directions from the scenic spots.

Blossom week will close here Saturday night with a hectic Cherrian dance at the Salem armory to music played by Paul Siebert's orchestra, a popular organization on the Oregon State college campus.

Air Bases Inspected

MARSHFIELD, March 29.—(AP)—Possible bases for small pursuit craft were inspected here by Commander D. R. Lee and Lieut. R. M. Harris of the 13th naval district headquarters.

reported it was negotiating with him ten days ago, but invited a reporter to draw his own conclusions.

Sydney L. Stevens, president of the cooperative, said that the cooperative is leasing Read's power lines for \$50 a month under a 20-year agreement. Monthly payments can be applied toward the purchase price, he said, whenever the cooperative is ready to buy Read's properties. Read will receive no salary as manager of the cooperative for at least three months, Stevens said, when the directors will decide what salary the cooperative can pay.

First connection with the Bonneville electricity, via the cooperative, was made in the home of Max Gehlar, former state director (Turn to Page 2, Col. 4)

The Oregon Statesman as the west's second oldest living newspaper celebrates its 90th anniversary today by publishing the largest edition in its history, 78 pages in six sections, devoted, first, to today's news, but also to the agricultural, industrial and civic outlook of the mid-Willamette valley.

The pages of this edition are designed to show the possibilities for progress as well as the forward strides that have already been taken toward the development of the valley as a substantial, enterprising community. Realizing that Salem is the thriving city that it is because of its civic and economic relationships with the many communities surrounding it, The Statesman devotes many of its special pages today to reporting those communities' rise to their present position, and to their futures. . . . Continued on Page 2.

Four Oregonians Make 90th Anniversary Honor Roll

What relationship does the season of one's birth bear to the length of one's life? Is it pure coincidence that the four individuals listed on The Statesman's "honor roll" (90 years' residence in Oregon) today were all, like The Statesman, born during the first quarter of the year?

Perhaps the reason for their longevity may be found in another quality they share with one another and the morning newspaper that today celebrates its 90th anniversary—vivid interest in the world around them.

Oldest of the four in actual years and in period of residence in Oregon is Mrs. Sarah Hunsaker Tompkins, born at Molalla, January 25, 1847. Although 94 years of age, Mrs. Tompkins, who has always made her home in Oregon, is still able to travel and to enjoy her relatives and neighbors. She spent the past winter at Grand Island with her son, J. H. Tompkins, and his family and has now returned to her home at Cutter City.

Marion Taylor of Madley, well-known throughout Marion county, makes his home at Lyons. Born March 4, 1848, he was honored by family and neighbors on the occasion of his 93d birthday this year.

Probably most widely-known of the quartet because of his years of business in Salem and his reputation as poet and author is W. T. Rigdon, who observed his 92d birthday February 16 of this year. Born in Foweshick county, Iowa, he came west at the age of one year.

Famed for her quilt is Mrs. Celia Jane Harris Walling, who lives at Lincoln in Polk county. She was born in Chariton county, Missouri, January 16, 1850, she was brought to Oregon the following summer.

The afternoon session was held at the state forestry building. The meeting concluded with a banquet last night at the Marion. F. P. Keen, of Portland, presided.

New forestry legislation was reviewed by Nels Rogers, state forester, and was the subject of very general approval by the members.

The state board of control may announce this week the selection of a successor to Sam Laughlin as superintendent of the state training school for boys, a member said Saturday. More than 20 men have applied for the position, from which Laughlin has resigned as of April 1.

Repercussions Seen In Severe Defeat of Navy

Defense Board Settles First Strike Case

Allis-Chalmers Plant Slowed by Refusal of CIO Leaders

By The Associated Press
The defense mediation board succeeded Saturday night in settling the first strike on which it acted, a 20-day AFL walkout at the Cornell Dubilier corporation, South Plainfield, N. J., but CIO unionists voted to continue their work stoppage at the Allis-Chalmers plant near Milwaukee.

After negotiations in New Jersey Friday night and in Washington Saturday night, the board announced an agreement by which the Cornell Dubilier strikers would return to work Tuesday and negotiations would be resumed on the wage demands of the electrical workers union.

Green Urges Union To Avoid Defense Strikes
President William Green urged American Federation of Labor unions Sunday to do everything in their power to avoid strikes in national defense industries.

"While we must insist upon fundamental principles," he said in a message in the American Federationist, AFL magazine, "when collective bargaining breaks down we should submit issues to mediation and arbitration."

"The gravest dangers which menace defense production," he declared, "are these: Tolerance of communist party members in positions of influence and minority strikes as a method for (Turn to Page 2, Col. 2)

Hip Broken In Traffic

Frank Lennon, 74, 703 North High street, received a broken hip and possible internal injuries Saturday night about 8 o'clock when he was struck while crossing Union street at Liberty by a car driven by Glen J. Fix, 892 North Winter street.

Fix was charged by city police with failure to give right of way to a pedestrian.

The driver picked Lennon up, police said, and took him to his home two blocks away, where Lennon found he was unable to get out of the car. First aid men and a doctor were called.

Fort Stevens Boys Welcome Salem Recreation Gifts

Fort Stevens national guardsmen's thank you notes are beginning to come through as a result of the efforts of Salem citizens aided by the junior chamber of commerce to supply the city's soldiers with recreation room equipment. Here is one, in part, from a letter written by Major Robert Lee Wood, medical detachment, 249th coast artillery, a Salem unit, to Rev. Robert Hutchinson:

"May I express to you and through you my thanks to the generous people who made it possible for the men of the medical detachment to enjoy the beautiful radio and phonograph you sent us. . . .

"The machine has hardly had an idle moment since it arrived; in fact, I heard it playing at reveille this morning, and I know of nothing that would give the men more pleasure. . . .

Greeks, RAF Help In Greatest Sea Conflict of War

British Claim Clash Disaster; Macek Keeps Yugos in Turmoil; Nazis Fail to Beat off Raids

The Associated Press late Saturday night reported rumors heard in London to the effect that a coup d'etat had occurred in Italy.

The Rome bureau of the press association advised "All is quiet in Rome," but early Sunday morning dispatches, detailing the severe defeat of the Italian navy in the Mediterranean and new reverses in Albania, plus the sudden placing of guards by the US on all Italo ships in American ports would indicate possible serious repercussions among the Italian people. Similar dispatches by the AP preceded Hitler's entry into Bulgaria and the Yugoslavia coup.

By The Associated Press
The British announced startling sea and air successes against the axis Saturday night while a serious internal obstacle placed in jeopardy the new Yugoslav government which London hailed as a firm friend.

The Mediterranean fleet of the royal navy was said to have engaged Premier Mussolini's navy in what the first information suggested probably was the biggest sea battle of the war.

The British admiralty indicated the clash likely would be as disastrous to Italian sea power as the defeats suffered on land by the fascists in Libya, East Africa and Albania.

The early British reports were that one Italian battleship of the 35,000-ton Littorio class, a destroyer and from two to four cruisers had been damaged and that at least one of these had gone to the bottom.

Germany Fail to Fight Off Attack of RAF Planes
A top this news came an air ministry report in London that speedy little RAF fighters skinned 20 feet over rooftops in German-occupied France and Belgium in (Turn to Page 2, Col. 5)

"Arising from an 'alliance of dictator nations,' the president warned, is a threat to America, its union, its democracy, and its cardinal principles of freedom—a threat which 'draws more tightly around us day by day.'"

But, speaking to fellow-Democrats attending party rallies throughout the country, Mr. Roosevelt declared that to meet the threat nearly all Americans had risen above considerations of party politics and had remained devoted to country and democratic ideals.

Speaks By Radio From Wardroom of Potomac
The chief executive spoke by (Turn to Page 2, Col. 8)

War News Briefs

BERLIN, March 30.—(AP)—(Sunday)—Bristol was the target of German combat squadrons during the night, informed sources asserted today. They said fliers observed several fires in industrial facilities near the southwest English coast city.

LONDON, March 30.—(Sunday)—(AP)—German raiders started "a number" of fires at places in the Bristol channel area Saturday night and caused a "small" number of casualties including some persons killed, the British announced today.

NEW YORK, March 29.—(AP)—The Athens radio in a broadcast heard by CBS said Saturday night Greek planes, artillery and trench mortars caused "serious damage and considerable casualties to Italian positions but that no Italians appeared before the Greek lines. The radio also said repeated Italian attacks Friday night were repulsed.

ROME, March 29.—(AP)—Tiny, obstacle-hurdling craft so fast they can lay explosives alongside a victim and escape in a burst of speed were described in the press Saturday as Italy's new weapon against British shipping.

BERLIN, March 29.—(AP)—German pilots reported Saturday night they had attacked a British sea force consisting of "destroyers and larger ships" near the Greek island of Crete. Three bombs hit one large warship, they said.

Weather

Mostly cloudy with rain, snow in mountains today and Monday; cooler. Fresh to strong southerly wind off coast. Max. temp. Saturday 69, Min. 46. Southwest wind. Rain .08 inch. River -1.7 feet. Cloudy with light rainfall.