

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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"Mob" Scene at Salem

Lately the Portland Oregonian has worked over the story of Harry Tracy, whose break from the Oregon prison in the summer of 1902 was attended with a succession of killings. An editorial on July 10th recounted the sadism of the mobs who fought for souvenirs of the body after he killed himself when surrounded in an eastern Washington wheat field. A feature story in last Sunday's magazine section related the full story of how Tracy graduated from a small-time crook to a notorious outlaw and repeated the macabre account of the populace.

The editorial reported: When his body was taken to Davenport, near the lethal wheatfield, a vast crowd assaulted the undertaker's establishment yelling like a band of Modocs. Fifteen minutes later the body of the eminent thug, with rigor mortis little more than complete, was fair naked, stripped of its clothing. Hair was cut from the corpse's head until it was bald in spots.

In the capital of Oregon another crowd greeted the arrival of the cadaver. Local police attempted to keep order and were pushed around and trampled upon for their pains. Moronia must have its souvenirs. The howling mob stove in the coffin lid to get a look at the great man in death. Then they hacked away at its pine sides until scarcely enough was left to kindle a fire. Extra cops had to be summoned before the body with long strips of its skin missing, could be removed to the prison cemetery.

What happened in Davenport in this respect the files of The Statesman do not show. There was a controversy there over possession of the body, the posse of Creston men who had trailed down Tracy and wounded him and secured the body claimed it, and the sheriff did also and for a time there were fears of violence. The possemen prevailed however and three of them brought the body to Salem.

But there is nothing in The Statesman that would verify the Oregonian account of what happened here. The issue of Aug. 9, 1902 has this:

The body of Harry Tracy rests tonight on the baggage truck at the Union Station here, guarded by three of the men who caused him to kill himself. The body will be taken to Salem in the morning.

The report in the issue of Aug. 10 says in part: At 11 a.m. yesterday Harry Tracy's remains arrived in this city escorted by three of his captors, Constable C. A. Straub, Dr. E. C. Lanter and Attorney Maurice Smith. The party was met at the station by Supt. J. D. Less and the box containing the body of Tracy was placed in a wagon and hauled to the penitentiary by trusty prisoners, the escort and Mr. Lee following in a cab.

Nothing there of any mob scene here, and we hardly believe Statesman reporters of 1902 were so blind as not to see or so timid as not to report such evidences of morbidity as the Oregonian recounts, if they were there.

The news story relates that the box was taken to the turnkey's office at the prison, opened, the body identified; then the box was filled with quicklime and muriatic acid and buried in the prison cemetery.

The only verification of "moronia" found in the contemporary report as published in this newspaper were reports that at Seattle: "There was an immense crowd of curious people at the depot but they were doomed to disappointment as the box containing the body was not opened." Also some one made a cash offer to Governor Geer for "loan" of the body for two weeks for exhibition purposes which was rejected by his secretary.

The accounts say that the body was enclosed in a zinc box and that encased in a shipping box. If the zinc had been securely fastened it would not have been easy for the mob to get access to the remains.

Inquiry among men living in Salem at the time thus far has met only with denial that there was mob action as reported. No one on the penitentiary staff now was on duty 45 years ago, but there are many who recall the Tracy break and the excitement it caused. So far we haven't located anyone who was at the station the morning of August 9th when the train arrived bearing Tracy's body. We'd be glad to hear from any who were there and can give an eye-witness account.

L. A. "Tam" McArthur of Portland as a young reporter for the Oregonian "covered" the story in Portland for his paper. He visited the station, and interviewed the escort. He writes in a personal letter: There certainly was no evidence of a disturbance at the station when the party passed through Portland. I spent several hours there and everything was quiet and everybody was well-behaved, including Tracy." He also says: "I do not recall any of the moronic activities which the writer says occurred in Salem."

But we wonder if there is not a large measure of editorial moronia which periodically digs up and reshapes and reprints the stories of crimes and criminals. The Oregonian is quite an addict of such material, which it furberishes with photographs and lurid illustrations. It serves no souvenirs, no hair from the corpse or splinters from the casket or piece of cloth from the shirt. It indulges in the macabre armchair fashion. It probably justifies this allotment of space to reader interest in crime and criminals. But if it nourishes such interest by working such material over and over again how honestly can it pontificate against mob sadism?

Master Salesman

Henry Kaiser is nothing if not a good salesman and showman. The senate committee found that out when it had him appear to testify in its inquiry into the contract for a big cargo plane which was given to Kaiser and Howard Hughes during the war. Denied the privilege of reading a prepared statement and then answering questions, Kaiser was subjected to interrogation, but that didn't get him down. He entered into the spirit of the occasion, shouted as loud and waved his hands as widely as his inquisitors.

He told the story of how he got the contract for a cargo plane by appeal to the White House, denied that he indulged in Billy Sunday, high pressure tactics, and then neatly diverted attention from the plane to escort carriers. That contract he got through the White House and over the adamant opposition of navy brass. But he boasted, the baby flattops won the war, almost at least, and before the war was over the navy was calling for more escort carriers.

Kaiser put in a full day and so did the committee. If they had had him on for two days, he surely would have sold them an order for—yes, for cargo planes!

Ohio republicans are having a big party for Senator Robert Taft in Columbus today. Western liberals may wonder at the doings but they do not know the temper of Ohio republicans who still cherish the tradition of Garfield and McKinley and Mark Hanna, though without much reference to Harding and Harry Daugherty.

The greybeards of 1987 will be telling, no doubt of the hardships of THEIR youth when they had to work from nine in the morning to five in the afternoon with only an hour for lunch.

Wages Higher In East Oregon, Report Shows

Eastern Oregon counties are averaging larger weekly payrolls per capita than western counties, according to employer unemployment compensation payroll reports to the Oregon state unemployment compensation commission for the first quarter of 1947. All the high wage counties are predominately lumber producers, accounting for the higher wage rates, the UCC reported Thursday.

Oregon employers subject to the unemployment compensation law reported payrolls totaling \$188,846,492 in the first quarter of this year, a gain of 31 per cent over the similar period of last year. The total was 174 per cent greater than the payroll for the first quarter of 1941, last pre-war year.

The average monthly pay check over the state was \$226, with Harney county leading with \$267. Next were Jefferson with \$267, Wheeler \$261, Douglas \$246, Coos \$245, and Polk \$241.

The average monthly pay for the 278,000 workers in the state is up 15 per cent over a year ago; and is even higher than the war time peak. The average monthly check has doubled since 1941.

Every county has bigger payrolls than in the past pre-war year, with Douglas county's 604 per cent increase being greatest.

Following are the payrolls for each county in the first three months of this year, with the percentage increase over the similar period of 1941:

Adair \$1,242,000 and 474; Benton \$1,234,195 and 507; Clackamas \$1,043,950 and 218; Clatsop \$1,122,540 and 127; Columbia \$1,460,046 and 712; Coos \$1,044,025 and 144; Crook \$1,002,000 and 101; Curry \$171,315 and 160; Deschutes \$1,211,616 and 200; Douglas \$1,000,277 and 608; Gilliam \$97,493 and 26; Grant \$443,273 and 181; Harney \$442,991 and 149; Hood River \$947,172 and 192; Jackson \$1,180,581 and 170; Jefferson \$1,182,910 and 275; Josephine \$1,777,000 and 333; Klamath \$1,723,030 and 473; Lake \$1,003,797 and 104; Lane \$12,300,812 and 200; Lincoln \$1,230,587 and 170; Linn \$1,037,205 and 329; Malheur \$97,728 and 263; Marion \$1,012,252 and 171; Morrow \$174,712 and 277; Multnomah \$98,304,210 and 183; Polk \$238,792 and 223; Sherman \$1,035,557 and 246; Tillamook \$1,049,320 and 329; Umatilla \$1,014,046 and 160; Wallowa \$1,113,254 and 274; Washington \$1,201,184 and 229; Wasco \$2,496,063 and 143; Wheeler \$402,367 and 123; Yamhill \$2,356,216 and 217.

WU Students Plan Picnic at Coast Over Week End

An all-day beach picnic at Neskowin is planned Saturday for summer session students at Willamette university, 25 of whom have signed up for the trip. All regularly enrolled students and those who plan to enter the university in the fall have been invited.

Transportation to and from Neskowin will be by private cars which leave Lausanne hall at 8 a.m. Saturday. Golfing, swimming, boating, fishing and hiking are planned recreation, and two meals prepared by Burton (Pop) Cray of the university staff will be served. The only charge made to students not registered for the summer session will be for food. They should contact Walt Erickson, director of the summer session, before Saturday.

Top Lion



SAN FRANCISCO, July 31—Fred W. Smith, Ventura, Calif., who is new president of the International Association of Lions Clubs, Smith was unanimously advanced from the first vice presidency at the international convention which closed today. He is active in education, securities and packing interests in California.

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By Licht

Public Records

DISTRICT COURT

Donald D. Smith, 350 Hickory st., charged with writing check with insufficient funds; continued for plea to August 4; held in lieu of \$250 bail.

Carl L. Sundland, 2073 N. Commercial st., no operator's license, fined \$5 and costs.

CIRCUIT COURT

Rita M. Walen vs. Norris S. Walen: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment; married June 3, 1939, at Salem.

James R. Smith vs. R. L. Clark and Salem Taxi Service: Suit for damages as result of alleged accident.

Lloyd Flickinger vs. Eva Flickinger: Suit for divorce charging desertion; married Feb. 18, 1943, at Longview, Wash.

Margie C. Kilborn vs. Oscar Kilborn: Decree of divorce granting plaintiff custody of two minor children, and \$80 per month support money.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

William G. Kraus, 25, clerk, Aurora, and Katherine Gemunder, 23, bookkeeper, Salem.

Robert M. Lee, 22, laborer, and Josephine Weiss, 18, waitress, both of Salem.

Waldo R. Amstutz, 19, laborer, and Mae J. Vondracek, 17, laborer, both of Silverton.

PROBATE COURT

Thomas A. Livesley estate: Order naming the Bank of California National Association, executor.

Oria S. Combs estate: Order naming Beverly Starr Beall executrix.

Harold B. Field estate: Order confirming sale of real property.

Martina O'Brien Hucklestein estate: Order determining tax.

Martin A. Derby estate: Order appointing T. A. Roberts, H. C. Shields and Bessie M. Elofson appraisers.

Wilford Beard guardianship estate: Final account of guardian.

Martin E. Pendleton estate: Final order.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Paul J. Wedel, 1840 Ferry st., loud and unnecessary noise, posted \$10 bail.

David Schafer, Silverton, charged with creating loud and unnecessary noise, pleaded innocent, trial set for Aug. 8, 1:30 p.m., released on \$25 bail.

Edward A. Hart, 687 Norman ave., violation of anti-noise ordinance, fined \$10.

Marvin Boyd Beeber, Portland, charged with creating excessive noise, pleaded innocent, posted \$15 bail.

Roderic Albert Boschke, Portland, charged with creating excessive noise, pleaded innocent, posted \$15 bail.

Clifford Paul Coon, Portland, charged with creating excessive noise, pleaded innocent, posted \$15 bail.

Cameron D. Campbell, 2020 N. Commercial st., violation of basic rule and illegal possession of liquor, fined \$40.

Kenneth W. Lathrop, 1062 Sixth st., West Salem, violation of basic rule and illegal possession of liquor, fined \$40.

Kenneth Lyle Erb, Albany, excessive noise, fined \$10.

G. D. Allernatt, Portland, excessive noise, fined \$10.

Jenkie C. Simpson, 549 N. Col-

Rev. Goodheart Co-Pastor of Local Church

Acceptance of a co-pastorate of Salem's First Christian church by the Rev. Jesse M. Goodheart was announced Thursday by the Rev. Dudley Strain, who said both would share in the expanded ministry of the institution, including plans for a construction program and the national postwar church program.

The Rev. Mr. Goodheart has been pastor of Englewood Evangelical United Brethren church here for the past four years. Originally a member of the Christian church in Illinois, his decision to enter that ministry was discussed at length by both congregations before being made final, said Strain.

Goodheart is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan university and has a bachelor of divinity degree from Bonbrake seminary in Dayton, Ohio. A past secretary of the Salem Ministerial association, he has also been for three years director of the daily vacation Bible school here.

The Goodhearts have two children, Darlene, 4 years, David, 4 months.

District Court Receipts High

Operation of the new Marion county district court during its first month, from July 7 to 31, brought in total fees of \$5,205.71, County Clerk Harlan A. Judd said Thursday.

Increased costs levied by the court, as well as expanded jurisdiction, resulted in a substantial increase over receipts of the former justice court, said Judd. The figure includes fines, court costs and bail.

The court, presided over by Judge Joseph B. Felton, includes in its jurisdiction not only the former Salem justice court area but has concurrent jurisdiction with other justice courts in Marion state legislature.

British Retrench, To Reduce Troops

LONDON, July 31—(AP)—Informal "socialist" sources said Prime Minister Attlee told labor legislators today Britain will slash her armed forces in Germany, completely withdraw troops from Italy and Greece, scale down her standard of living and call for longer working hours in key industries.

The disclosures, envisaging a "belt tightening" in a nation already plagued by shortages, came in a closed "crisis" meeting of labor members of parliament in which Attlee squelched his critics and won what amounted to a vote of confidence for his government.

county, according to Judd. The new court was created by the 1947

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