

Prices Attractive?

Trading in Gold Dust, Pigs, Wheat Feature of Salem's First Store

By Winston H. Taylor Staff Writer, The Statesman (Pictures on Page 1)

Butter at 20 cents a pound, shoes at \$2 a pair, even calico in the latest, brightest colors at 33 cents per yard—with pigs, fence rails, lumber, wheat or a day's labor accepted in part payment—those were merchandising conditions in Salem 100 years ago this winter, when Thomas Cox opened the city's first store, at Ferry and South Commercial streets.

Only a plaque on the modern building now on that corner, the northeast, reminds Salem of the original building, which burned in 1869 and has been successively replaced by many structures and types of establishments. A few sketches of the building as it was in 1858 are still extant in Salem (see picture).

But a journal and a day book keep from 1847 to 1852 are in the state library here, showing that the business opened its doors Oct. 17, 1847. The books are owned by Mrs. Chester Cox, whose husband was a great grandson of Thomas Cox.

Staples in Demand The books reveal that calico, shawls and (84) were considerable demand, along with silk and linen thread, "shugar" (1 1/2 cents per pound), "pluges tobak" and coffee (25 cents a pound). Tea was \$1.50 per pound. The store also sold several hundred starts for pear and apple trees, doubtless the beginning of many mid-valley orchards.

One purchase was of 11 yards of calico to be paid for with three bushels of wheat. Other means of settling debts were split fence rails, cattle, swine, leather, beaver skin, butter and lumber. But perhaps the most intriguing today is payment by gold dust, for California gold was discovered within a year after the store's founding, and many from Salem joined the southward trek, including William Cox, son of Thomas and associated with him in the store.

Customers' Names Historic Well-known pioneer names are included in early transactions recorded in the books—the Rev. David Leslie, who first claimed the area now known as Bush's pasture; J. L. Parrish; Dr. W. H. Willson, who platted the Salem townsite, the Judsons and McLeans.

Thomas Cox was born in 1791 in Kentucky, the son of English emigrant Joseph Cox and went later to Indiana and Illinois. In 1847 he joined the westward trek to Oregon, along with brothers Peter and Gideon and sister Millie Raines, all of whom settled near Silverton.

Cox brought from Wilmington, Ill., 11 ox-drawn wagonloads of merchandise, over the Oregon trail, past Fort Hall on the Columbia river and through Barlow Gate. He opened business, with his son William, in the Judson house, according to the historic plaque, "about 950 feet to the northeast" of Ferry and Commercial streets. The next spring, in 1848, they built a two-story house at the new site.

Postoffice Opened At this time Turner Crump joined the firm and was named Salem's first postmaster by President Polk. The elder Cox retired to a farm near the mouth of the Santiam river, and the store became William Cox and Co. A new partner, Stephen Coffin of Portland, was added in 1849, payment for his share being \$3,000 in gold dust at \$16 per ounce.

Brisk business continued until 1853, when William Cox closed the store and retired to the farm for his health. The day book shows sketchy entries following this time to as late as 1873. According to a book recollections by James W. Cox, grandson of Thomas, and himself formerly in the grocery business and a mail carrier in Salem, all the store's merchandise was shipped around Cape Horn except the opening stock.

Store Fire Victim James' sons were the late Chester Cox, for 33 years associated with Ladd & Bush bank here, and Ralph Cox, now of Boston and a high official in the Railway Express agency.

Next disposition of the building is uncertain but, evidently during the '50s, a building was joined to its north side which had been built as a house by Thomas Powell, a blacksmith. It was moved to the site from a block west today. The full unit served as the Union House (see picture), one of Salem's earlier hotels, until its destruction by fire in 1863, along with much of the remainder of that block.

After the fire, that area—both business and residential at that time—rebuilt rapidly, and comprised a considerable portion of

'Pudler Jim' Davis, Moose Leader, Dies

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—(AP)—Funeral services for James J. Davis, former Pennsylvania senator and secretary of labor, who died early today, will be held at Pittsburgh Tuesday.

Private services will be held on Tuesday morning with the body to lie in state Monday at a funeral home.

Davis, director general of the Loyal Order of the Moose for the past 40 years, died at the age of 74.

His death was attributed to a kidney ailment. He had been patient in Tacoma Park hospital since September.

A native of Tredegar, Wales, Davis came to this country with his parents when he was seven years old. While still a boy, he entered the steel mills and by the time he was 16 had become a qualified steel puddler.

Proud of his nickname, "Pudler Jim," Davis once wrote:

"A land where a boy can enter the mills at 11, learn two trades, acquire a sound business education and make a competence in his 30's is not such a bad country as the hot-headed reds would have us believe."

Argentina Sets Grain Bonuses

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 22—(AP)—Argentina announced today a program of higher prices and bonuses to her grain producers to speed the movement of their harvests to the market.

The government is the sole exporter of Argentine wheat, and some sources said this move was aimed at getting the crop now being harvested to market as soon as possible—ahead of the next United States crop.

(There was no indication in this dispatch whether Argentina would raise her export price on wheat. She is known to have received, as much as \$4.02 a bushel delivered alongside ships, which is well above the prevailing Chicago price. Argentina has been accused in the United States of exploiting the European food situation by selling her grain for high prices abroad, and reaping a large government profit in the difference between sales price and the price paid to her growers.)

Portland House Fire Hurts Five

PORTLAND, Nov. 22—(AP)—Five persons suffered minor injuries today as fire swept through a frame apartment house, chasing occupants from four second-story apartments.

Firemen brought the blaze under control in 45 minutes with damage confined almost entirely to the upper floor.

Plane Crash Kills 8 In Czechoslovakia

JICIN, Czechoslovakia, Nov. 22—(AP)—A Romanian-Soviet airlines plane flying through rain and fog crashed and burned on Tabor peak last night killing eight of those aboard and injuring 18 others. Ten of the injured were in a serious condition.

HURT IN COLLISION Alvin R. Miller, 1965 N. 5th st., incurred leg cuts when his motorcycle and a car driven by Thomas E. Garrison, Gervais, route 1, collided at Cherry and Highland avenues about 9 p. m. Saturday, city police reported. Another police report last night indicated the parked car of James Carlin, 2372 State st., had been struck by a car operated by Jim Hackett, 2590 Brooks st.

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Freedom, Friendship Trains Meet



HARRISBURG, Pa., Nov. 22—For the first time on their tours of the nation, the Freedom and Friendship trains crossed paths at Harrisburg, capital of Pennsylvania. As several thousand spectators cheered, the Friendship train, with its decorated boxcars loaded with food for a hungry Europe, pulled in at right beside the Freedom train (extreme left). After brief ceremonies, during which more cars were hooked onto the Friendship train, the mercy train left for New York. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Police 'Aid' Shoplifter

KALAMAZOO, Mich., Nov. 22—(AP)—Police who were called to arrest an 80-year-old woman on a shoplifting charge took up a collection today so the poverty-stricken widow could buy the simple things she craved to brighten her Christmas.

The woman admitted to officers responding to a call from a local store that she had picked up some Christmas cards and a jar of face cream. She said she wanted the cards so she would have something to send relatives for Christmas. And the face cream she wanted, she said, "to make me beautiful again."

Officers escorted her to her home, which she maintains with old-age assistance, and gave her cash to buy the cards and the cream. They refused to divulge her name.

Roulette Winners Take No Chances, Keep Fund Intact

RENO, Nev., Nov. 22—(AP)—Two young fellows who ran a \$300 pot beyond \$7,000 at the roulette wheels by betting continuously on No. 9 took another look at the game today—then decided to stay out and go Christmas shopping instead.

"We found a few discrepancies in the system (the 'system' disclosed, hinged on the variety of the bets on No. 9) and we intend to work them out," said Albert Hibbs, 25, of Chillicothe, Ohio.

"When that's done, we may come back to Reno or maybe visit Las Vegas—along about next March."

Hibbs said he would go with his partner Roy Walford, 23, of San Diego, to San Francisco and then to Walford's home. After that, they contemplated a cruise to the Caribbean where Walford, a pre-medical student, hopes to study tropical diseases. "We've got enough to buy a boat that floats," Walford said. "When we came here, we didn't have enough to buy a plank out of it."

Breaking of Custom Brings Woman's Death

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Nov. 22—(AP)—For 60 years Francesca Mary Rose, 81, spent every November 20 in retirement because that day in 1887 her fiancé was killed in a train accident.

This year she wanted to see the royal wedding celebrations and went out. Five minutes later she was killed in a motor accident.

Marshall Reaches London



LONDON, Nov. 22—Secretary of State George C. Marshall (center) walks from his plane at Northolt airport, London, after flight from Washington to attend the coming meeting of Big Four foreign ministers. Marshall was welcomed by Lewis Douglas (left), ambassador to London, and Prince Bernhard (right) of the Netherlands who was awaiting a plane for Holland after attending the royal wedding. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman via radio from London).

Factories Slate Rating of Trucks

DETROIT, Nov. 22—(AP)—The Automobile Manufacturers' association today announced that beginning Jan. 1, 1948, most truck manufacturers will be prepared to rate their vehicles in terms of gross vehicle weight and net horsepower.

The announcement said truck manufacturers would file G. V. W. and net HP ratings with state licensing officials on request. An identification plant, containing these ratings, will be attached to each vehicle to assist state licensing officers and enforcing officers.

OFFICE BUILDING SOLD

COOS BAY, Nov. 22—(AP)—The sale of the five-story Hall building, Coos Bay's biggest office structure, was announced today by Sheldon Sackett, publisher of the Coos Bay Times. Don B. and Aida R. Walster, Portland, were the buyers from Times, Inc.

SMALL RADIO STOLEN

Chester F. Royer of Albany route 2 reported to Salem city police Saturday night that a \$45 portable radio had been stolen from the glove compartment of his parked car in the 500 block of State street between 6:15 and 10:15 p. m. Entry apparently had been made by reaching through a car window.

APARTMENTS PLANNED

PORTLAND, Nov. 22—(AP)—A \$2,500,000 apartment development that will house about 1,000 persons will be started here next month, L. C. Binford said today. The project, on an east side site near Rose City golf course, is planned to contain 262 apartments.

Franzen Heads Area Engineers

J. L. Franzen, Salem's city manager, was elected president of the newly formed mid-Willamette valley section of the Professional Engineers of Oregon at a meeting Saturday night in city hall here.

The 19 assembled engineers from Salem, Eugene and other valley cities also elected F. O. McMillan, electrical engineering professor of Corvallis, vice president, and Robert T. Stanley, state highway department engineer of Salem, secretary-treasurer.

Elected trustees were R. B. Boals of the Eugene water board; J. C. Compton, McMinnville contractor; A. C. Mercer, practicing civil engineer of Dallas; Victor L. Goodnight, city engineer of Corvallis, and William C. Hill of the state aeronautics board in Salem.

The professional group will meet monthly to consider problems and standards of the engineering profession and pertinent legislation. Members planned to meet in various cities of the valley, scheduled the next session for January 9 in Salem and tentatively set the first Friday of each month for the meetings to follow.

Franzen, former Oregon City manager, had been president of the Portland section of the engineer society in 1934.

Mass Graves Long Known

HAMMELBURG, Germany, Nov. 22—(AP)—United States military authorities in this tiny woodland town of central Germany said tonight that the existence here of 68 mass graves of Nazi victims had been known to allied forces since March, 1945.

An announcement that the graves had been recently discovered by a search team of the international refugee organization was made earlier today by the I.R.O. information division.

U.S. military authorities in Hammelburg said the mass graves, in two groups of 34 each, contained the bodies of 23,200 Russian prisoners-of-war, according to markers which have been erected on the site by the Russians.

Stassen Sees More Ballots

ST. PAUL, Minn., Nov. 22—(AP)—Herold E. Stassen, candidate for the republican presidential nomination, said in an interview tonight he expects 54 first choice votes of the 114 to be cast at the GOP national convention by seven states he has just visited.

Nomination requires 547 votes of the convention's 1,093. The certifiers were made by the former Minnesota governor who returned today from an airplane speaking tour in Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida.

The 54 delegates, Stassen said, are in addition to 100 he previously estimated he would get from the midwest.

Papers Published After ITU Dispute

By the Associated Press Publication schedules of newspapers in Chicago and Detroit were nearly back to normal Saturday after editions in both cities were delayed because of a conflict.

Too Late to Classify

FOR RENT—Small store or office & trailer house, 944 N. Commercial St. FOR SALE—Used car, 1935 Dodge, 4-door sedan, low mileage, original owner, 425 N. Winter, Ph. 2133. PARTLY FURN. house for rent, inquire Sunday, 1985 Erixon St.

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tract dispute with the AFL Typographical union. Members of the Chicago Typographical union have called a meeting for Sunday to discuss the breakdown in negotiations with the publishers.

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