

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"

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## Sea Level Canal

The growth of traffic to be handled through the locks of the Panama canal and the dangers of blocking the canal through military action have prompted Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Meahaffey, governor of the canal, to recommend the conversion of the present canal with its system of locks to one at sea level. The estimated cost is nearly 2 1/2 billions or about seven times the first cost of the present canal. Gen. Meahaffey advises that a sea level lock could not be put out of business more than temporarily by even an atomic bomb, and if waters were made radio-active the contamination would quickly be reduced.

When the canal was being planned a great controversy raged over whether it should be a lock canal or a sea level canal. Experts lined up on both sides of the issue. Finally it was decided to construct locks rather than to cut through the isthmus and build a canal without locks. Since then the government has expended tens of millions of dollars in military defenses of the canal; and now the largest ships are barely able to squeeze through the locks.

Also receiving consideration is the idea of building a canal through Nicaragua. This was the route favored by Senator Morgan of Alabama when congress was considering the selection of a route. It would be a lock canal, and its construction would give two crossings of the isthmus of Panama.

The cost alone will probably deter any action to go ahead with a sea level canal for a good many years. However it is quite within range of possibility within this century. Increase in volume of traffic to be handled and possible increase in beam of vessels may force action together with desire for the added security which this type of canal would provide.

## New Atomic Weapons

The fifth anniversary of the test which demonstrated that the atomic bomb was practical was marked with an address by David Lillenthal in which he said that our plants are producing new atomic weapons from uranium and plutonium. He did not disclose what type the new weapons are; but the atomic energy commission has just announced that Eniwetok atoll in the Pacific ocean is to be converted into a proving ground for special research. It seems evident that science has pushed far beyond the development which yielded the bombs dropped on Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bikini.

It also seems evident that utilization of nuclear fission for military purposes is absorbing much of the commission's effort. From the brief announcements that have been made the Hanford project is one for production of military weapons; and it is known that great expansion is under way there. Research in conversion of atomic energy to peaceful use is done at Oak Ridge, Tenn. and at a plant under construction in New York state; but we hear little talk of atomic power plants for civilians at an early date.

Lacking any international agreement for control of this newly harnessed force our country has to press its research for defense purposes lest it find itself outdistanced by potential enemies. Fears of what might happen drive us to contrive new those who visualize atomic energy as providing fresh release of man from painful toil, there seems little escape from this experimentation. Perhaps the knowledge that we have mysterious weapons in our arsenal may restrain other nations that might be tempted to pounce upon us. But we must not lose sight of the better objective of adapting this new power for beneficial use of all mankind.

## An Uncheerful Giver

While the senate passed the emergency aid authorization measure Monday, the house may scale down the amount or add amendments which would prove humiliating to this country as a donor. The house foreign affairs committee has already voted to reduce the amount for Europe by \$70,000,000 and added \$60,000,000 as aid to China. In the end the senate version will probably prevail, but not until house members show such a mean and nasty spirit as to rob the gift of any merit of generosity.

The prospect for the long range ERP program is not too bright in view of the recrudescence of republican isolationism in the congress. It is this attitude which chisels on the short range program and promises to be released in full fury when the proposal for the larger appropriations is offered. The opposition hangs on the argument that the country cannot afford the larger commitment, in seeming disregard of the counter-argument that we cannot afford not to facilitate European recovery.

The country should give heed to expert counsel both as to Europe's need and our capacity to contribute. It should repudiate the doctrine that we alone may stay wealthy while the world goes into decay.

## Train of Yesterday

The General Motors "train of tomorrow" visited Salem Tuesday and is on display at the union station, Portland, the last three days of this week. Naturally it attracts a great deal of attention. Largely through the publicizing efforts of Lucius Beebe, the "glass of fashion and the mold of form," public interest is also being drawn to the roads and the trains of yesterday, to the narrow gauge lines that once had considerable mileage in this country.

The old passenger cars, with their red plush seats, their wood or coal stoves at the end of the coaches which the brakie diligently fired, their kerosene or gas lights, with the swaying signal cord strung along beneath—how times have changed, though the railroads had to drag out all of this equipment that would stay on tracks to handle traffic in the war emergency. Now each coach is a parlor in comparison; and they are even putting roller bearings on livestock cars.

It is hard to get excited over reports that Maj. Gen. Benny Meyers speculated in government bonds. While officially the government frowned on such speculation, actually many times directors of bond campaigns had to press wealthy men to buy big gobs of bonds, even with borrowed money, to meet quotas. Banks themselves have done a vast amount of trading in governments and cleaned up big profits in the business. We fail to see any sin in the business.

President Truman showed the visiting firemen, delegates to a haberdasher convention that he still knew the knack of the salesman in showing a necktie. At this season of the year his fingers almost would go through the motions of making the familiar false knot without any prompting.

Australia is harvesting a bumper wheat crop of 300,000,000 bushels. It will be able to increase its grain exports and thus augment the supplies that may be shipped to hungry peoples from North America, the chief supplier.

The familiar theme of mystery stories—the theft of the eye of a goddess or dragon—has its counterpart in real life. From Bangkok, Siam, comes word of the stealing of a three carat diamond from the forehead of a Buddha. Call for Ellery Queen.

## Budget Meets Set in Rural School Zones

Final plans for completing examinations of Marion county school district budgets by the new county rural school district board have been made, Mrs. Agnes Booth, county school superintendent, said Tuesday.

Zones 3 and 4 are the last zones scheduled for budget meetings. Budgets of districts in zone 4 will be considered Monday night in Mt. Angel by Mrs. Booth, and Fred Schwab, Mt. Angel, chairman of that zone. Meetings on zone 3 budgets have been slated for two sections of the district next Tuesday by Mrs. Booth and Eugene Finlay, Jefferson, zone chairman. Tuesday morning a meeting will be held at Jefferson high school for budgets of districts in that area of the zone and Tuesday afternoon a similar budget meeting will be held at Salem Heights school.

Annual budgets for 1948-49 of districts in zone were approved Monday at a meeting in Stayton. Mrs. Booth said that the budgets will be revised according to the rural district board's recommendation, posted in the districts on December 19, and voted on in each individual district on January 12.

Budgets of zone 2 will be examined today at Keizer school with Herman Rehlfuss, board member, assisting Mrs. Booth.

## McGilchrist Estate Totalled

William McGilchrist, jr., late prominent real estate dealer who died here November 14, left an estate totaling in excess of \$250,000, according to a filing in Marion county circuit court Tuesday. In the will filed, which he made in 1942, McGilchrist left the entire estate of real and personal property to his wife, Eva S. McGilchrist, and in the event of her death the estate was to go to their daughter, Josephine Booth of Portland. The two women are the sole heirs. A court order Tuesday appointed Mrs. McGilchrist as executrix as was requested in the will. Leo N. Childs, Lester Barr and E. J. Scellars were named as appraisers. Exact description of the estate was not filed.

## YM to Retain Camp Program

The local YMCA will continue to administer the Silver Creek recreational area, control of which was transferred from the federal to the state government recently. M. E. "Gus" Moore, Salem Y official, told the junior chamber of commerce at its Tuesday meeting in the Marion hotel.

Moore said the Y, which administers the summer camps held in the recreation area, had been asked to continue the work by Sam Boardman, state superintendent of parks. Moore also discussed various phases of the YMCA program in Salem and declared that added quarters were needed to adequately care for the recreational needs of Salem's growing population.

## 2 Road Sections Offered County In Illahee Area

An offer by the state highway commission to return two sections of the Pacific highway south of Salem between Illahee school and Steiner hill was received Monday by Marion county court.

Commissioner Roy Rice said that when County Judge Grant Murphy returns next week from his vacation, the court would vote on whether to accept the offer.

The portions of road in question were abandoned by the state when it rerouted the Pacific highway several years ago. The offer from the commission states that the county may claim the portions of the old road if it agrees to keep them up and complies with other requirements.

The sections of road swing out into farming country to the west of the highway and are about 1 1/4 miles in length. They are situated just north of the recently completed stretch of new highway near Albany.

## Oregon Bank Theft Suspects Jailed In Bakersfield, Cal.

PORTLAND, Dec. 2—(AP)—The U. S. district attorney's office here reported today that Kern county, Calif., courts have sentenced two of the men involved in two Oregon bank holdups to California jail terms on robbery and assault charges in that state. Henry Clay Tollett was sentenced to from five years to life for the armed robbery of a Bakersfield, Calif., market. Sam Scribner received a similar sentence on the same charge and was also given a concurrent sentence of one to seven years for assault with a dangerous weapon. The two men have been named in indictments growing out of the E. G. Young bank of Oakland, Ore., and complicity in the Sweet Home robbery. Look in the two bank holdups totaled \$89,000.

Chief Deputy District Attorney E. B. Twining said he has not yet decided whether to bring the two men to Portland to stand trial.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"We was all set to rob de bank messenger, chief, when who should wander along but de grocer boy wit de day's receipts!"

## Franchise Suit Continued to Allow Briefs

Following a hearing in Marion county circuit court Tuesday the case of City of Salem vs. Harry Reed, on appeal from Salem municipal court, was continued to allow both parties to file briefs. Circuit Judge E. M. Page, who presided at the hearing, said that the plaintiff was allowed 10 days in which to file a brief and the defendant an additional 10 days to answer. Reed, manager of Salem Electric, was convicted several months ago in municipal court on a charge of unlawfully installing a wire over Ferry street without a city permit, and appealed to the circuit court. Allan Carson and Robis Day, attorneys for Reed, contended that brief arguments Tuesday that the present city ordinance granting permission to extend electric lines but requiring a franchise for each separate line is unconstitutional. The city was represented by Chris Kowitz, city attorney, who declared the ordinance to be valid. Most of the facts of the case were stipulated and arguments considered legal points only.

## Willamette U. Orators Leave For Whitman

Six Willamette debaters will leave here today for Whitman college, Walla Walla, where they will vie with representatives from other northwest colleges in the northern division speech conference Thursday through Saturday. The conference is under the auspices of the Western Association of Teachers of Speech. Willamette participants going are Jack Gunn, Jerry Igo, Elliot Moteschenbacher, Tom Bartlett, Charles Mills and Robert Sayre. Dr. Herbert Rahe, professor of speech at Willamette, will accompany the group. Each student will participate in six rounds of debate. The debate subject will be "Resolved: That a Federal World Government Should Be Established," and trophies will be awarded for all first places. Betty Ferguson and Gunn won third place in the men's and women's extemporaneous speech contest held at the University of Oregon Monday night.

## November Rain Below Normal

Unlike the preceding month of October, November rainfall in the Salem area was less than half the normal total, the U. S. weather bureau at McNary field reports. Total precipitation in Salem in November was 3.42 inches as compared with the average 6.11 inches and less than one-fourth of the 11.17 deluge in October. It was the driest November since 1943 when 2.36 inches was measured. November also brought one of the warmest Thanksgiving holiday periods in recorded history when the temperature rose to 86 degrees on November 25 and was only three degrees cooler on Thanksgiving day. Coldest temperature recorded was on the evening of November 22 when the mercury dropped to 25 degrees.

## Health Office Slates Clinics

Marion county's health department today will conduct a clinic at Garfield school from 9 a. m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p. m. On Thursday a well-baby clinic will be held at the department's Salem office in the Masonic temple from 9:30 to 11:30 a. m. Immunizations will be conducted at Liberty school Friday morning and an adult clinic for milk and food handlers will be held at the office all day. From 8:30 a. m. to noon on Saturday immunizations will be given and an adult clinic will be held at the office.

## Returns Grow On Seal Sale To Aid Health

First week reports on the annual Marion county Christmas seal sale show that the Salem area contributions are ahead of the amount collected during the initial week last year; Mrs. Ruby Bunnell, executive secretary of the Marion county public health association, said Tuesday.

Of the approximately 15,000 letters mailed to Salem residents last week, a total of 1,581 have been returned to date containing \$2,696. The week's receipts were about \$278 more than those received during the sale's first week last year when 1,477 letters were returned, said Mrs. Bunnell.

Sponsored by the public health association, the seal sale funds are the sole support of the mobile X-ray units and the health education program, Mrs. Bunnell stated.

She also revealed Monday that three seal sale booths will be set up Saturday in the downtown area, manned by several local women's organizations. The booths are to be in the post office, conducted by Eastern Star order 37, Montgomery Ward & Co., directed by Rebekah lodge and Salem chapter of Eastern Star, and in the Salem - Ladd and Bush branch of the U. S. National Guard, staffed by the Salem Council of Churchwomen and the Order of Amaranth.

## Appeal Filed On Income Tax Verdict

A notice of appeal to the state supreme court from a recent Marion county circuit court decision involving the constitutionality of two 1947 legislative acts was filed here Monday by James L. Marr, executive secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

The decision was given last month by Circuit Judge George Duncan following arguments of attorneys in open court. It declared constitutional and valid the laws decreasing income tax exemptions and establishing a withholding tax.

The federation charged that the two acts were invalid because they depended on the defeat of

the sales tax November 7 for their enactment. Judge Duncan ruled, however, that the measures did not depend on the sales tax and that they were, in fact, passed with other laws by the last legislature. The suit was brought against the members of the state tax commission.

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## Public Records

### CIRCUIT COURT

Betty M. Dunlavy vs John S. Dunlavy: Order permits withdrawal of complaint and cross-complaint.  
Edna O. Brewer vs Charles Stanton and others: Decree quiet plaintiff's title to real property.  
Grant H. Spiers and Virginia E. Spiers vs Ruth E. Fuson Frantz and others: Decree quiet plaintiff's title to real property.  
M. E. Wolf and Nora E. Wolf vs Charles Stanton and others: Decree quiet plaintiff's title to real property.  
Jack A. Ellis vs Blanche A. Ellis: Entry of divorce granted.  
Allen Derr vs Eleanor Derr: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment and for custody of a minor child. Married Aug. 28, 1945 at Caldwell, Idaho.  
Janetis Stevens vs Robert L. Everett: Second amended and supplemental complaint for divorce filed.  
Elta Crumley vs William Henry Crumley: Suit for divorce seeks judgment against defendant for \$1,470. Married March 9, 1922, at Portland.  
Mina Sweeney vs Stanley K. Sweeney: Defendant moves for order requiring plaintiff to state grounds for action.  
Harry Arnold Roan vs Elizabeth Ann Roan: Decree of divorce confirms property settlement.  
Geraldine Fern Roth vs Wilford LeRoy Roth: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment and for \$75 per month support money plus \$200 hospital expenses. Married May 7, 1946, at Wichita, Kan.  
State vs Lawrence Delbert McHill, 1428 Cass st., charged with unlawful use of automobile belonging to Melvin A. Erickson, 1563 Court st. Sentenced to six months in county jail and parole.

### DISTRICT COURT

Harlan Bowles Pearson, 1488 State st., passing with insufficient clearance, fined \$3 and costs.  
Chester Arthur Pickering, Turner, passing with insufficient clearance, fined \$5 and costs.  
Frank Weisbeck, Salem route 8, charged with reckless driving, set for trial on December 19 following plea of innocent; released on \$250 bail.  
MUNICIPAL COURT  
Byron N. Lundberg, 487 N. Front st., running red light, posted \$250 bail.  
Robert Delmus Key, 685 Norman ave., failure to stop, fined \$1.  
Jack L. Harwood, 1142 Edgewater st., West Salem, driving while intoxicated, 90-day jail sentence suspended, fined \$185.

### PROBATE COURT

Edward H. Hagy estate: January 8 set for hearing on final account.  
William J. Malcom estate: Decree allows final account.  
Sarah Giles estate: Estate appraised at \$2,500.  
Jesse H. Shepard estate: Estate appraised at \$608.  
Ethel Mack estate: January 8 set for hearing on final account.  
Wernie Evans Lange estate: Order appoints Ronald C. Glover as administrator.  
Ruth Titze estate: Ruth Halley appointed as executrix and J. F. Richards, George H. Bell and Johnny Sadowsky appointed as appraisers.  
Ragnhild Loe estate: Order appoints Oscar H. Loe as administrator and C. B. Anderson, Conrad Johnson and Henry Amundson as appraisers.

### MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Alvin R. Kregar, 23 farmer, Albany route 2, and Myrna Pearl Hayes, 17 housewife, Jefferson route 1.  
William E. Crandall, 27 student, Medford, and Alta A. Jennings, 20, stenographer, Rogue river.  
Earl Kenneth Morgan, 24, ticket clerk, 245 1/2 E. Madrona ave., and Edna Mae Schofield, 21, office clerk, 1168 Cross st., both of Salem.