

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

Due to late publicity of the sad plight of Navajo Indians the American Red Cross rushed emergency aid, residents of cities and towns collected contributions of foodstuffs for shipment to the reservation, and congress has passed a bill making relief appropriations available. Now a doctor, head of a hospital serving the Indians, blames the Indian bureau with inflating the story of Navajo destitution in order to obtain larger appropriations. The prime need, says the doctor, is to abolish the Indian bureau and apply education, health, law enforcement and social security "to all citizens, including Indians."

Despite this counterproposal the evidence seems overwhelming as to the sheer physical needs of the Navajos for food and clothing. The source of their trouble is reduction some years ago in number of sheep that may be fed on reservation lands because overgrazing was causing erosion and reducing the annual grass crop. Unfortunately nothing was provided to take the place of sheep-raising for support of the Indians. During the war the younger Indians went into service and their allotment checks helped maintain the folk at home. When the war ended they found little employment since only 10 per cent can speak English, and soon starvation stared many Indians in the face.

A correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor writing from New Mexico gives this report:

"Witnesses have returned from the vast Navajo reservation that spreads its gray but arid 16,000,000 acres over northwestern New Mexico and northern Arizona. They tell of a bleak, snow-covered land, of children barefooted in the snow, clad only in..."

(Continued on editorial page)

Blast Rocks South Section Of Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27 (AP)—An explosion at the Gulf Oil corporation refinery rocked a large section of South Philadelphia tonight but police reported there were apparently no casualties. Company officials refused to admit newsmen or photographers to the blast scene. City police firemen were advised everything was under control. The explosion wrecked an oil pumper and tank in the refinery's boiler room near gate 19 of the sprawling plant at 30th street and the Penrose Ferry bridge. The blast was followed by a fire which lit up the area for 10 minutes until the company's own fire fighting crews brought it under control. A dense smoke hung over the refinery more than an hour after the blast at 9:15 p.m. (EST).

Stubborn Blaze in Portland Hotel

PORTLAND, Dec. 27 (AP)—The fourth-story Fourth avenue hotel in downtown Portland caught fire tonight and the Portland fire department ordered equipment to turn out for a three-alarm blaze. The fire, origin undetermined at once, ate between walls of the building, giving time for everyone to leave the structure. All hose equipment in the downtown section was pouring streams of water into the hotel, but smoke from the stubborn blaze continued to issue from the building at 8:55 p.m.

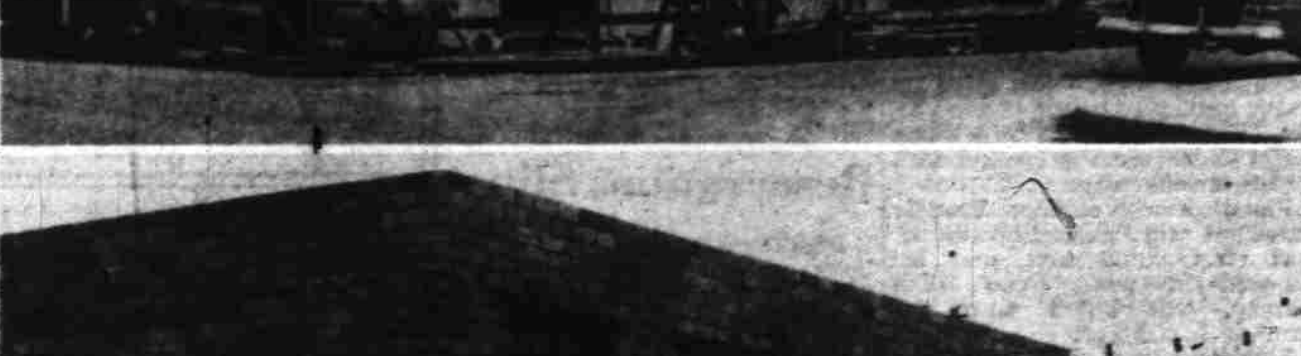
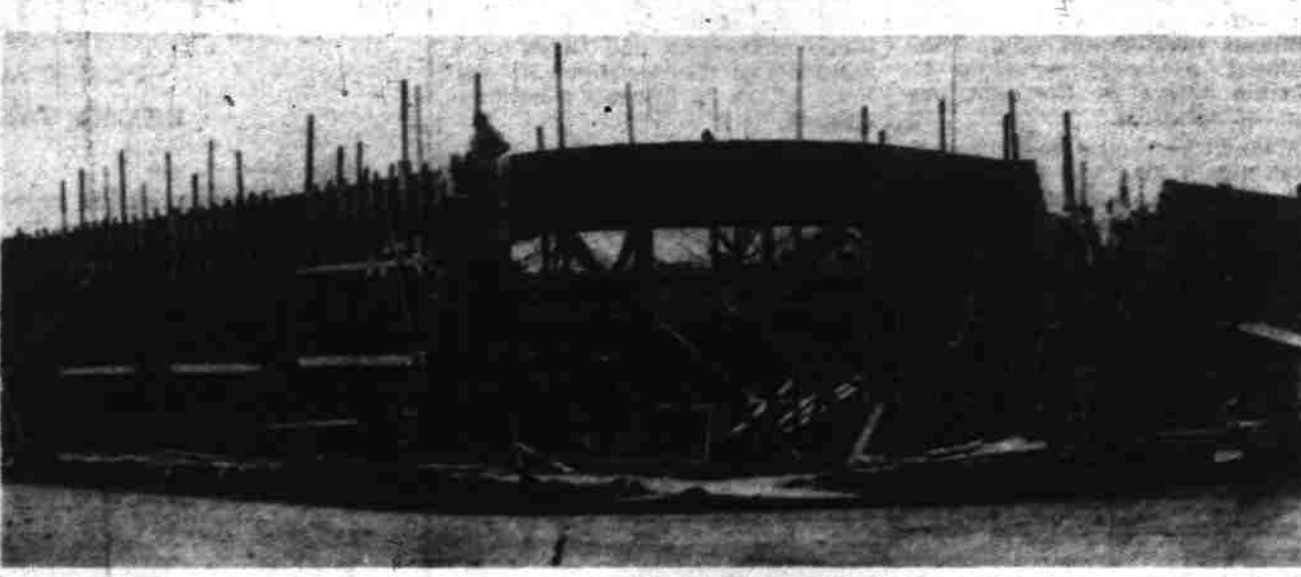
Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Are you the left-over Turkey everybody's complaining about?"

New Buildings Help Hollywood District Grow



Indicative of the recent trend to decentralize downtown shopping districts is the rapid growth of the Hollywood area at the intersection of Fairgrounds road and North Capitol street. Pictured are three new business buildings being built in that area. Shows with the cement forms still in place (top) is one being built by Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Marx at 1695 Fairgrounds rd., which will house a garage or auto agency. Located at the intersection of Fairgrounds road and Hunt street is a single story, triangular-shaped store building of Frank Chatter (center), while just across the street is the two storied Hans Hansen building (lower photo) which will have two business or shop spaces, and the upstairs will be either office or apartment space. (Photos by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

Heat Wave Sets All-Time Highs in Los Angeles Area

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 27 (AP)—This city and its surfside neighbor, Long Beach, shared honors as the hottest spots in the nation today, the weather bureau reported. Each community had an early afternoon temperature of 87 degrees. Beaches in the area had a summery aspect, with thousands of bathers seeking relief in the breakers. Redondo Beach lifeguards reported nine rescues. This was the fourth consecutive day in which Los Angeles temperatures have exceeded 80 degrees, today's 87 made this the hottest December 27 on record here and the hottest day since the 87 degrees of last October 19.

Police Officer Slays Attacker

PORTLAND, Dec. 27 (AP)—James F. Ward, 54, attacked a policeman once too often tonight. He was shot to death by special officer Holland G. Bowers, 69.

TOLL HIGH IN CHINA FIRE

NANKING, Sunday, Dec. 28 (AP)—The newspaper Hsin Min Pao said today 500 Chinese were killed or injured in a fire which destroyed four steamships and numerous junks at Hankow. More than 70 bodies have been recovered so far.

Reds Plan New Attacks on U.S. Marshall Plan

PARIS, Dec. 27 (AP)—Well-informed political sources said tonight the communists are preparing a new coordinated move against the Marshall plan in France, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Austria and the French government is expecting the action to begin in March.

State Car License Tax Office Work Through Saturday

TWO state departments—the state tax commission and state motor vehicle division—were operating at high gear Saturday. A long line of applicants for 1948 automobile licenses was in front of the motor vehicle department when its doors opened at 8 a.m., while at the tax commission a large staff of stenographers were addressing state income tax returns subject to filing before April 15.

Rain to Continue in Salem Area

Continued rain and higher daytime temperatures were forecast for the Salem area throughout today and Monday by the U.S. weather bureau at McNary field late Saturday night, but night temperatures are expected to remain near the freezing mark. Slightly less than a half inch of rain— .46 of an inch—fell Saturday in one of the wettest days during December, the bureau reported. The downpour, however, had its good feature when it dispersed a heavy fog which had blanketed this area continuously from Christmas eve until Saturday morning.

Coca Cola To Start Building

Construction of a Coca Cola bottling plant, to cost around \$125,000 exclusive of machinery and other equipment, will start tomorrow, it was announced Saturday by William R. Moore, manager of the Salem branch of the Coca Cola Bottling Company of Oregon.

BENTON OFFICIAL DIES

CORVALLIS, Dec. 27 (AP)—E. H. Castle, 65, who had planned to retire next year from the Benton county school superintendent post he had held for a quarter century, died suddenly last night of a heart attack.

1947 Construction Sets All-Time High In State; 1948 Promises New Record

Oregon's construction program soared during 1947, despite high cost of materials and increased wage scales, according to the postwar development and readjustment commission's latest report to Gov. John H. Hall. Prospects are that conditions will show further improvement next year, the report predicted.

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The plan is to be built by E. E. Batterman, who is on the company's property on 12th and Wilbur streets. It is to be one story, of steel-reinforced concrete, with 22,000 square feet of floor space.

Greek Relief Said Diverted To Luckman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—A house subcommittee on executive expenditures, it is headed by Rep. Chenoweth (R-Colo.), He told a reporter today his committee's investigators are at work on two probes; to find out where Charles J. Luckman's food conservation committee got \$500,000 to spend, and what expenses there have been in connection with publicizing the Marshall plan.

Walsh Ponders Presidency of Senate Race

COOS BAY, Dec. 27 (AP)—State Sen. William E. Walsh of Coos Bay said today he might seek the presidency of the state senate in the next legislative session.

Soviet Terms New Greek State 'Noble'

MOSCOW, Dec. 27 (AP)—The trade union newspaper Trud, in the first published comment in Russia on the proclamation of an independent communist state in Greece, said today the undertaking was "noble" and represents the desires "of all Greek patriots."

Woman Hurt In Car Crash Near Salem

SEATTLE, Dec. 27 (AP)—The steamship Gretna Victory was named today as the Pacific northwest's "Christmas ship" to Europe and a carload of food arrived from Montana to add to the many other contributions to fill its hold.

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500,000 Men Called into Service to Aid in Clearing Snow in New York Area

Missing B-29 Sighted Through Alaskan Gale

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Dec. 27 (AP)—The missing B-29 Superfortress, the "Clobbered Turkey," was sighted today on the northern Seward peninsula, a message received at Ladd field headquarters here said, but the Arctic night hid any details tonight on what had happened.

House Shortage Laid to Allocation of Materials

PORTLAND, Dec. 27 (AP)—A joint house-senate subcommittee hearing was told today that "gray markets" and unequal allocations of materials have contributed to a housing shortage here.

Mac Offers Aid To Philippine Typhoon Zone

MANILA, Sunday, Dec. 28 (AP)—General MacArthur today offered "any aid needed" by the Philippines in recovering from a disastrous typhoon which left 51 persons dead or missing.

Army Engineers Spend \$30 Million On State Projects

PORTLAND, Dec. 27 (AP)—The Portland district army engineers spent \$30,437,916 this year, Col. O. E. Walsh reported today.

17 Deaths, Day's Toll in Palestine

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (AP)—Hagan, the Jewish defense army, lashed back at the Arabs today and Palestine's sputtering communal warfare claimed 17 more lives—10 Arabs and seven Jews.

POWER SALE INCREASES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—The Bonneville administration in a year-end report today said power sales increased \$2,006,644 in the 12-month period ended last June 30.

FUNERALS POSTPONED

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (AP)—Edward J. Devlin, president of a large New York funeral concern, estimated today that some 300 funerals had to be postponed because of the city's record snowfall.

Civil Defense Corps Asked To Lend Hand

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Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	52	34	.46
Portland	48	41	.46
San Francisco	52	34	.46
Chicago	45	23	.00
New York	35	25	.00

Willamette river 2.1 feet.
FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Mostly cloudy today and tonight with occasional light rain showers throughout the day and light rain beginning late tonight and continuing throughout Monday.