

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 northeastern 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 Hotel in Portland

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.

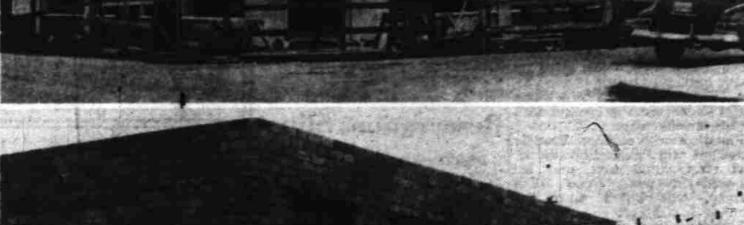
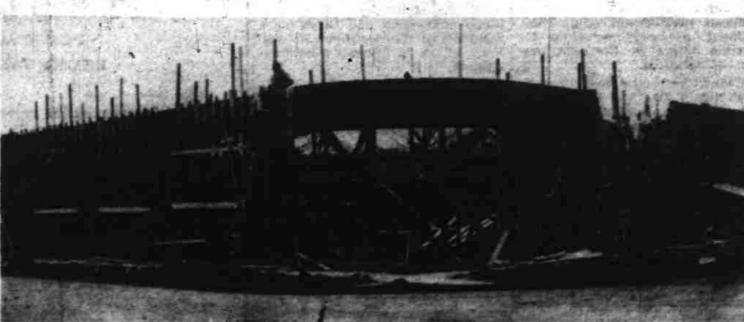
Animal Crackers

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, triangle-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.

Long Beach's 87 degrees likewise was the hottest for any December 27 in 21 years of record-keeping there.

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.

Bowers said Ward and his son, James L. Ward, 34, attacked him as he made his rounds in a warehouse area, and that he fired in self-defense.

Ward once killed a Linn county, Ore., policeman and served two years for manslaughter and later served a short period for hitting a Portland policeman in resisting arrest.

Bowers said he had been shoved off the sidewalk by a rowdy group and that in trying to quiet the group, he showed his police badge. Ward attacked at once, he said.

The younger Ward was held under \$3,000 bond and William Brown, detective captain, said a charge of assault would be filed.

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.

The formation of a communist state in northern Greece was the preliminary move for more serious action coordinated by the Cominform (Communist International Information Bureau), said this informant who is closely linked with the French government.

The form the communist drive will take was still a matter of conjecture, he added, but it may be a new widespread effort to tie up France and Italy especially with a new strike wave in an effort to hinder European recovery and neutralize the effects of American economic aid.

The significance of March as the period of action, he continued, is that is the month when many Europeans expect congress may complete action on the Marshall plan. It is the month in which many Europeans will be cold, hungry and in a bitter frame of mind after a hard winter. It also is the month when Gen. Charles De Gaulle is expected to intensify his campaign for dissolution of the national assembly as a step in his projected rise to power.

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.

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.

This was the first Saturday the state motor vehicle department has operated with a full staff since the 40-hour work week for public employees became effective following the 1947 legislature.

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.

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.

The report said construction has not been restricted to any particular area although the metropolitan district made the best showing in the matter of dollar value.

Alterations alone for this year in Portland aggregated expenditures of \$7,193,766, with a total for this year and last of \$12,430,000, the commission said. For the first week of December alteration permits exceeded a value of \$1,089,885.

Although there were 600 fewer permits for new dwellings this year there were 25 more apartment houses than in 1946 which almost evened the two years.

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.

The plant to be built by E. E. Batterman, will be 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.

Moore said the plant, with all new and modern equipment, would have a capacity of 1,000,000 cases a year (2,000,000 bottles a month), and would serve all of Marion, Linn, Benton and Polk counties and parts of Yamhill and Clackamas counties. A distribution depot recently opened at Albany will be retained.

The Coca Cola company acquired the territorial franchise from the Gideon Stolz firm two years ago, but has done its bottling for this area in Portland. The new bottling plant here is scheduled to be finished within four months.

Greek Relief Said Diverted To Luckman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—A house group cast a critical eye today at the state department to see how much money—if any—it is spending to sell America on the Marshall plan for European aid.

The committee also is interested in finding out how the citizens food conservation committee got its spending money.

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.

Chenoweth, a 14 investigator has discovered that \$500,000 for the food committee was taken from the \$350,000,000 Greek and Turkish foreign relief fund voted by congress last spring.

The transfer went through the general accounting office, he added, and was passed on by Comptroller General Lindsay Warren.

"I don't know just how Warren justified it," Chenoweth said, "but we have been told that he decided the relief fund was sort of giveaway money anyway and could just as well be spent by the food committee."

If that sort of thing is to go on, we might as well just legislate up here in congress. We can just give them the money, and they can spend it wherever they want."

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."

(The Moscow radio broadcast that a "national committee for aid to the Greek people" had been set up in Bulgaria.)

(A Sofia dispatch said the committee had telegraphed congratulations to the communist Greek state proclaimed by guerrilla chieftain Markos. Vliades had promised "every moral supplies.")

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

Building permits for 24 factories were issued with a value of \$3,103,165 which, added to the 1946 permits, represents \$5,066,935 for buildings alone, without equipment. Last year permits were issued for 55 factories.

The report said there had been a rush to build warehouses (402 in the past two years) for the accommodation of truck transportation and storage facilities. These represent \$9,178,540. One industry which has been active the past year, with little publicity, is the production of pre-fabricated houses, the report continued.

Three new manufacturing plants for finished motor vehicle batteries have been established in Oregon during the past 12 months. The commission emphasized that Oregon is now leading the nation in the production of these items for the motor trade.

Two nationally known mail order houses receive their batteries from Oregon sources. It also pointed out that sev-

eral new food processing plants were constructed and started operations this year. One of these was erected by Paulus Brothers in Salem and cost \$800,000. Other heavy investments were made by the Del Mar Cannery company at Warrenton and the Columbia River Packers.

The report estimated that construction state-wide in 1947 (with only partial returns reported) will exceed \$100,000,000.

This is free enterprise, the commission said, and does not include public works nor construction outside municipalities where no building permits are required.

In Portland the total value of building permits issued was \$38,171,853. This covers through three weeks of December. For the entire year 1946 the value of permits was \$34,546,685.

"Based on 1947 construction operations there is little doubt but that next year will establish a new high record," the commission's report concluded.

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.

The bare message gave no details of any kind. Hope had waned during four days of search of the Arctic area by military planes from three bases, flying over an estimated 145,000 square miles of territory. The plane was piloted by First Lt. Vern A. Arnett, with seven other men aboard and left here Tuesday on a long range mission.

The plane was the sixth B-29 reported lost in the Alaska Aleutian and Arctic operations since Lieutenant Arnett's B-29 burned after a takeoff crash in December, 1946, with all the crew escaping.

The B-29 was sighted this afternoon by the pilot of a P-51 flying out of Nome, one of the three bases from which search

operations have been carried on.

The weather bureau here said visibility had probably been limited to approximately 350 feet by blustery snow in the area where the B-29 was sighted. Ladd field officials said this might have accounted for the pilot's failure to give any details.

Clearing weather was forecast tonight, however, and all preparations were made to drop doctors and emergency supplies by parachute there if needed, or to fly a light plane or helicopter to the scene. Temperatures have ranged down to 20 below in the area.

The big plane was found near the position from which it was last heard, at noon Tuesday. Search operations began Tuesday evening.

The Seward peninsula is the sector of Alaska stretching farthest westward toward Siberia, cutting the Bering sea from the Arctic ocean.

Ladd field was awaiting further information from the isolated area.

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.

City Commissioner William A. Bowes estimated that this region needs 30,000 new housing units.

"The gray market must be squeezed out," Bowes said. "Labor must be made more efficient. Land values must be kept normal. Speculation must be eliminated."

Hillman Luettemann, president of the Portland chamber of commerce, declared that Oregon was not receiving enough materials, since many eastern manufacturers allocate their output on the basis of the 1940 census. Oregon has grown greatly since then, he said.

Senator Harry P. Cain (R-Wash.), who conducted the hearing, said the committee wants to correct any unfair material allocations.

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.

The republican senator, who will run for reelection next year, reported that he had been asked by various groups to seek the 1949 senate presidency. Walsh was in the running for the presidency of the last senate session, but was overruled by the late Sen. Marshall Cornett.

Walsh said today that he has been offered much more support now than he had in the last session.

No southwestern Oregonian has ever been elected president of the state senate. Some political sources here were even speculating that the democrats might help Walsh's chances by not nominating a candidate for the senate from Coos-Curry counties. Such an action would virtually assure Walsh's election to the senate and his chance to run for the presidency.

'Christmas Ship' Selection Made

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.

The 10,651-ton ship, due here from Japan about January 26, will load here, at Tacoma and Portland with 60 carloads of food and clothing for Europe's distressed people.

Civil Defense Corps Asked To Lend Hand

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (AP)—New York, calling approximately half a million men into emergency service, tonight was feverishly engaged in the monumental task of digging out of a record snowfall plastered on the city by a storm which took 58 lives in northeastern states.

Throughout the city thousands of men already were at work clearing streets and restoring services of all kinds, and 100,000 city employees had been ordered to report to work.

At the same time an appeal went out to 450,000 members of wartime civilian defense workers to pitch in on the job also.

Mayor William O'Dwyer took over leadership in the gigantic effort in a matter of minutes after he returned by plane in the midst of a California vacation. His first action was to summon an emergency conference of top city officials.

Raged 15 1/2 hours The paralyzing snowstorm raged 15 1/2 hours yesterday and last night, dumping 25.8 inches of precipitation on the city and eclipsing the 20.9-inch record of the historic two-day blizzard of 1888.

Casualty figures were still growing tonight as reports of additional deaths attributable to the storm continued to come in from several states. The latest figures were:

New York — 14; New Jersey — 25; Connecticut — 6; Pennsylvania — 2; Massachusetts — 6; Rhode Island — 2; New Hampshire — 2; Maine — 1.

Due to Exertion A great many of the deaths were said to be heart attacks induced by undue exertion in fighting snowdrifts and strong winds.

Mayor O'Dwyer, rushing home to take charge, arrived by the first commercial plane to land at LaGuardia airport since early yesterday.

Shortly after summoning his key officials, he appealed for all vehicle owners except those engaged in movement of essential goods to stay off streets tomorrow so as not to impede snow removal operations.

Cars Snow-Locked Meanwhile, the board of education directed that school yards be thrown open for storage of stalled vehicles removed from the streets by city workers. Thousands of such vehicles were still snow-locked late today but many were being dug and towed out.

Wallander said the city had obtained use of service and Red Cross ambulances to augment city forces. Earlier, health officials had said only eight ambulances were available in Brooklyn, with a population of 2,700,000.

Food Situation 'Good' Markets Commissioner Eugene G. Schultz said the food situation was "good" with milk and grocery truck deliveries nearly normal.

Emergency crews plowed through mountainous snowdrifts on New Jersey's route 25 to bring coffee and food to hundreds marooned all night in cars and buses. Motor plows were unable to make their way to the stand because the cars blocked the streets.

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.

He said new flood control work cost \$6,815,995. Emergency and regular maintenance of dams took \$389,852.

Col. Walsh listed the major expenditures on big projects — at Snake river in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, \$133,918; McNary dam, \$2,823,765; Lookout Point reservoir, \$969,237; Dorena reservoir, \$2,100,539; and Detroit reservoir, \$2,236,727. All of the reservoirs are in the Willamette valley flood control project.

17 Deaths, Day's Toll in Palestine

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (AP)—Haganah, 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.

The day's killings brought to 386 the Associated Press death count in Palestine since the Nov. 29 United Nations decision to partition Palestine. The tally for the entire middle east was 507.

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.

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	52	34	.46
Portland	48	41	.46
San Francisco	42	33	.00
Chicago	42	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.