

# Statesman Photographs Pictorially Record 1947's Outstanding News Events in Salem and Vicinity



The Salem area had its full share of "big" news stories in 1947, and probably more than its share of outstanding photographs of the year's outstanding events. On every occasion, The Statesman's own photographer, Don Hill, with the cooperation of City Editor Robert E. Gangware and his city news staff, was the stand-out in recording pictorially the year's history-in-the-making, as his pictures herewith show. The representative news pictures show: (1) John H. Hall as he became governor of Oregon in November; (2) the state funeral for Gov. Earl Snell, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell and Senate President Marshall Cornett who were killed in a Lake county plane crash late in October; (3) the Guardian building fire in downtown Salem November 3; (4) Mrs. Betty Dunlavy of Brooks who sought her 15th divorce in Marion county circuit court, from John S. Dunlavy, in October; (5) parking meter of the hand-operated type installed in Salem for the first time last April but since replaced by automatic meters; (6) house moving became a common sight as a two-block area was cleared near Capitol and Center streets for a \$2,000,000 Sears, Roebuck and other retail store development; the moving here pictured on State street at the site of telephone building expansion work representing other business building development; (7) unusually hot May weather produced such summery scenes; (8) the Bressler housing development in north Salem was one of many Salem residential building projects; (9) Salem school district took over a bus system as it expanded by adding seven suburban districts; (10) Salem municipal government changed form with J. L. Franzen (left) as city manager and R. L. Elstrom as mayor; (11) a Southern Pacific passenger train derailed near Fairview home in September, injuring two; (12) Salem inaugurated a Cherry festival in July; (13) Floyd (Bill) Bevens returned to admiring local fans in October after pitching a world series "heartbreaker" for the New York Yankees; shows here with Statesman Sports Editor Al Lightner.

## Construction Boom Tops List of 1947's Best Salem News Stories

### Inflation, Parking Meters Take Second, Third Places

By Robert E. Gangware, City Editor, The Statesman

With Salem just through one of its biggest "news years" ever, a review of The Statesman's headlines of 1947 shows at least a score of local news topics which set the whole town talking. Three of the year's biggest news stories fall in a special statewide category although centered in Salem — the plane crash death of Gov. Earl Snell, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell and Senate President Marshall Cornett; the long state legislative session with its tax program, and the perennial big Salem week of the state fair.

Otherwise, most of The Statesman's 10 best news stories of 1947 chronicle the inflation, the construction boom, the municipal and school changes which accompany Salem's post-war spurt in population.

The Statesman's news staff placed these 10 stories as the biggest of the year:

- 1. CONSTRUCTION**, including almost daily announcement of new buildings for industries, businesses and residences in Salem, added up to the top Salem story. Standout developments were clearance of a two-block residential area near Capitol and Center streets for a \$2,000,000 shopping center which will include a new Sears, Roebuck store, the new \$750,000 Paulus Bros. cannery, the \$500,000 First National bank building, the new Willamette university men's dormitory, the new state bank and other business development in the Hollywood district, the state building program of institutional expansion and plans for a new Court street state office building, residential development in nearly every part of Salem, including large projects at Manbrin Gardens and Tryon addition in north Salem and in several areas of east and south Salem.
- 2. HIGH PRICES**, also an almost daily running story, claimed much news space in the press and remained a topic of major concern in nearly every local household and office. Related to the news accounts of higher prices for bread, milk and other dairy products, meat, other foods and goods and services was news of such decontrols as sugar, modified controls of rent, a few con-

tinuing scarcities and labor-management negotiations for wage increases.

- 3. PARKING METERS**, a topic more localized than prices and construction, also affected nearly everyone in Salem. After the litigation of the year before, Salem motorists first coped with hand-operated meters in April when 1,150 were installed on six months trial only to be replaced, after public and city council complaints, with automatically-operated parking meters. By year's end some 1,500 automatic meters blanketed the downtown area.
- 4. SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPANSION** in 1947 was a big story because seven suburban districts consolidated in March with the Salem school district, adding their pupils to the local senior and junior high schools and making way for the influx of grade school pupils in the suburban schoolhouses at Liberty, Swegle, Middle Grove, Auburn, Pringle, Rickey and West Salem. By the fall school term this consolidation had meant combined enrollment in the district of some 6,300 pupils and the total had swelled to 6,639 by year's end.
- 5. SALEM'S CHERRY FESTIVAL**, re-inaugurated last summer after the cherry fairs of years past, surprised many townspeople by its overwhelming success and promised to become an annual community promotion. It gave Salem entertainment, pagantry and the best parade in many years.
- 6. CITY MANAGER** government began in Salem Jan. 1, 1947, with J. L. Franzen taking the newly-created position after serving as Oregon City manager for 20 years. The year saw the gradual separation of administrative and legislative functions of city government. The new eight-man city council headed by Mayor R. L. Elstrom included an alderman from each of the seven wards.
- 7. THE GUARDIAN BUILDING FIRE** in downtown Salem November 3 attracted large crowds, burned out some 30 business and professional offices and a drug store, affected the many patients of two large medical clinics which were destroyed, and cost an estimated \$500,000. Cause was set at a short circuit in the main electrical cable, and plans for rebuilding were uncertain by year's end.
- 8. ANNEXATION** of five suburban areas to the north and south boundaries of Salem, by special election October 7, added 415 acres to the city for a gain of 9 per cent in area. This addition of area, similar to annexations in 1946, typified growth of the city.
- 9. HOT, DRY MONTH** OF MAY brought unseasonable temperatures in the 90s to Salem and all but baked the berry crops on the vines. Until the last day of the month only .04 inch of rain fell, and 14 fell on May 31, followed by heavy rain early in June which destroyed much of the early-ripened cherry crop.
- 10. LAWSUIT FOR HER 15TH DIVORCE**, filed in Marion county circuit court here, made Mrs. Betty M. Dunlavy, 40, of Brooks, the most talked-about local personality. She charged cruelty in suing for divorce from John S. Dunlavy October 8 but withdrew the complaint December 2 and the case was dismissed. She reappeared in the news a week later when she and husband, a operator of Brookbrook restaurant, faced grand jury charges of illegal pinball operations. The case was still pending at year's end.

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