



FOUNDED 1851

| Weather | | | |
|---------------|------|------|---------|
| | Max. | Min. | Previp. |
| Salem | 52 | 41 | 11 |
| Portland | 52 | 41 | 11 |
| San Francisco | 41 | 34 | 00 |
| Chicago | 41 | 34 | 00 |
| New York | 39 | 28 | 00 |

Willamette river, 75 feet
FORECAST from U.S. weather bureau, McHenry field, Salem:
Fair today, tonight and Saturday with warmer temperatures Saturday. Highest temperature today, 48 degrees; lowest tonight, 35.

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CREST OF FLOOD CLOSES BRIDGE AT SALEM

With Gallows Near, Commutation Saves Youth in Washington

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 8.—(AP)—An hour and a half before Joseph Maish, 17-year-old youth, was to die on the gallows of the Washington state prison tonight, Gov. Mon C. Wallgren commuted his sentence to 99 years imprisonment. Maish stabbed a high school girl to death at Vancouver, Wash., a year ago.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

This valley has been inundated again by one of its periodic floods. Loss of life is reported from over the state and the high waters will cause serious damage again both from the overflow and the cutting action of streams. This was not so serious a flood as those of 1945 and 1943, but still it was bad enough. Had the heavy rains continued, and had the mountains been full of snow, the flood crest would have been higher and the damage greater. The army engineers have repeatedly warned us that we may have a recurrence of floods like those of 1890 and 1861, the latter being the highest within record.

Valley residents are looking forward to relief when the dams are in place which are contemplated under the Willamette valley project. But their completion is years ahead, and in the interval we must carry the risks of recurrent floods.

But we make a mistake just to lean on the government for attending to the major flood problem of the Willamette. Below the dams streams flood their banks in seasons of heavy rain and cause both damage and inconvenience. Shelton ditch for instance was constructed in WPA days to relieve the flooded condition which prevailed in the southeast parts of the city and adjacent lands. It has drained those districts but the surging waters now are filling the ditch inside the city and doing heavy erosion of banks.

Shelton ditch should be concrete lined, and there ought to be annual removal of the rocks and gravel which the stream washes down. The fill below Church street bridge was considerable last summer, and serves as a dam behind which water backs up and floods Pringle park. Keeping the channel clear will permit flow to the river until the river gets so high water backs up from it. Lining the ditch with concrete will prevent the eating away of banks which is serious in some places.

In brief our flood problem will not be solved when the big dams are in place upstream. We still will have the high water on the floor of the valley, and engineering and construction are needed to get it disposed of at a minimum of trouble. Maybe the planning commission could bite its teeth into this problem.

State Sen. Parkinson Files for Reelection

State Sen. Thomas Parkinson, Roseburg, Thursday filed to succeed himself at the republican primary election next May. He represents the fifth senatorial district, including Douglas county.

Victor Oliver, Albany, non-partisan, filed for reelection as circuit judge of the 21st judicial district, Benton and Linn counties.

Marshall Says 'All Or None'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Secretary of State Marshall challenged congressional economists today to vote an "adequate" European recovery program or none at all.

And he served notice, in launching the Truman administration's drive for adoption of the program by April 1, that he is dead against a republican proposal to divorce operation of the program from the state department.

"There cannot be two secretaries of state," the originator of the "Marshall plan" told the senate foreign relations committee.

Soberly, Marshall said Russia and the communist parties of Europe would "oppose and sabotage" American aid at every turn, but he declared there is "no doubt" that this country can undertake the program successfully—if it acts in time.

Must Finish Job
America must finish the job she started in the war because "the way of life we have known is literally in the balance," Marshall said, and he added:

"If we decide that the United States is unable or unwilling effectively to assist in the reconstruction of western Europe, we must accept the consequences of its collapse into the dictatorship of police states."

Opposes Taft Demands
He spoke out crisply against demands such as Senator Taft (R-Ohio) and others made for a cut in the \$6,800,000,000 U.S. expenditures proposed for the first 15 months of the program.

Marshall's chief advisor on European aid, Lewis W. Douglas, testified later that the \$6,800,000,000 initial cost of the program may be increased if Canada and the Latin-American countries fail to make \$700,000,000 in aid available.

Legion Post Plans \$60,000 Club Building
Tentative plans for a new \$60,000 club building for Capital post 9, American Legion, emerged last night from a meeting of the post's building committee under leadership of post commander Lawrence Osterman.

Plans are already drawn and are being revised by the committee in preparation for submitting to the post for action within a month.

The one-story building would be built adjacent to present Legion hall at 693 Chemeketa st., on property owned by the post. Willard Begin, post secretary, said finances are already on hand for the project.

The new building would be used in addition to the present hall and would probably have restaurant and bar facilities, he added.

Lumber Price Cut Program Nears
WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(AP)—A possible industry-wide move to reduce lumber prices was indicated tonight in the calling of a chief meeting tomorrow (10 a.m., E.S.T.) of the special congressional committee on the high cost of housing.

Lumber industry leaders will attend. One result, it was learned, may be a request that congress approve, for a specific and temporary period, concerted and voluntary industry action to cut prices.

Pease story to The Statesman is this:

Pneumonia-Stricken Girl Rescued by 'Tightwire' Crossing of Santiam River

Rescuers Edge Over Torrent On Two Cables

DETROIT, Jan. 8.—(Special)—A pneumonia-stricken girl today was dramatically removed from the isolated three-family colony across the North Santiam river from here and rushed to a Bend hospital where she was in serious condition late tonight.

A rescue party of men from this community crossed the treacherous but receding river here on the two cables which remain of the washed-out swinging bridge, carried seven-year-old Betty Coles on a stretcher along a two-mile trail and recrossed the river by cable car in the Horse bridge section upstream from here. A taxi sped the girl and her mother, Mrs. I. H. Coles, to Bend.

'Good Chance to Live'
From Bend tonight, Dr. Max W. Hemingway said the girl had double lobar pneumonia but gave her "a very good chance to live." He praised the care she had received from the rescue crew and first aid man William H. Ward, who accompanied Mrs. Coles and daughter to Bend.

The girl's father, "Bill" Coles, is working at the Hanford project in Richland, Wash., and presumably was unaware of her illness which started Sunday and became serious today.

Assisting in the rescue were U.S. engineers and forest service men stationed near Detroit and Detroit citizens led by Forest Ranger S. T. Moore and Bill Murray. William Crowell of Detroit was the first to cross the cables, when Mrs. Coles attracted his attention from the opposite shore. The lower cable was barely a foot over the water, extending 150 feet across the canyon.

Helped in Rescue
Others who helped arrange and effect the rescue were Forester John Weisberger, U. S. Engineers Harry Rutherford, R. W. Brown and Jesse Glasgow, Luther McDaniels and Charles Cook. The taxi which left for Bend about 5 p. m. was driven by Melvin McClain.

The girl whose seventh birthday was January 1, is in St. Charles hospital where her temperature was recorded at 105 upon arrival.

General Kuter Named CAB Head
WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter was selected today to head the civil aeronautics board, an assignment permitting the use of his extensive wartime experiences toward developing civil air transport as a potential arm of national defense.

President Truman chose Kuter to succeed James M. Landis, one-time Harvard law dean.

Kuter, now 42, was one of the top air combat strategists during the war, later commanded the important Atlantic division of the air transport command, and since has had assignments dealing with civil aviation.

Police Demotion Leads to Resignation, Attack on Department; Chief Minto Backs Handling of Case

By Wendell Webb
Managing Editor, The Statesman
The resignation of a policeman, and his statement declaring that Chief of Police Frank Minto did not control his department, brought to light Thursday a dissonance of several weeks' standing.

The officer who resigned, effective January 1, was E. L. Pease, 44, formerly with the Pennsylvania State constabulary and naval intelligence, who joined the Salem police department nine months ago and last September took top honors in a civil service examination.

His resignation followed his transfer from the plain-clothes unit to a uniform—regarded as a demotion—which was ordered by Chief Minto after a controversy over disposition of a potential morals case early last month.

Pease said he had heard a "good rumor" he was to be discharged (he had not been under civil service the probationary six months) as well as demoted, and that since he "never had been fired anywhere" he handed in his resignation rather than going to the expense of buying a uniform.

Chief Minto's department had no intention of firing Pease, but that he was "a pretty good officer," but that "ever since he joined the plain-clothes unit there had been an undercurrent." He also said Pease had told him he hated anyone "poke fun" at him for being put in uniform.

In his statement to Chief Minto, Pease is understood to have named Chief Detective Hobart Kiggins, under whom he worked, and Detective Wayne E. Parker among those who he declared control the Salem police department.

Pease story to The Statesman is this:

He first became a figure of controversy last November when he was one of two or three men who refused to accept a \$48 share of proceeds from the annual policemen's ball, for uniforms;

Railroad Shuttle Runs Set

Salem-Dallas highway traffic was at a standstill as the Willamette river crested in Salem at a 28-foot level early today, but main force of the two-day flood throughout western Oregon and sections of Washington and Idaho was spent.

Southern Pacific shuttle trains were to begin shuttling passengers between Salem and West Salem at 6:30 a.m. today and are to continue operating all day if necessary. The state highway department which closed the Salem-West Salem bridge at 8 o'clock last night, however, expected the bridge to reopen this noon.

Six Oregon persons were dead as a result of the flood, but no new drownings were reported.

Southern Pacific announced these Salem-West Salem commuter trains while the highway bridge is closed: Leaving Salem and Union streets, Salem, at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 10:15 a.m. and 2, 4, 5, 6, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Leaving Second and Kingwood streets, West Salem, at 7, 8, 9, and 10:45 a.m. and 2:30, 3:30, 5:30, 6:15, 7 and 8 p.m. Fare: adults 10 cents, children 5 cents. SP also provided a special car to carry The Statesman's morning delivery to Folk and Yamhill counties today. A waiting Statesman truck on the West Salem side will speed the papers to normal delivery schedules.

Thursday, Portland district army engineers estimated last night the flood damage in the Willamette valley would approximate \$10,000,000, with the Eugene area heaviest hit.

Highway Still Out
The Pacific Highway today was still cut south of Roseburg where a South Umpqua river bridge damaged by the flood will require at least three weeks to repair, according to the highway department. A temporary 370-foot steel Bailey bridge will be installed there meanwhile, with four 10-foot sections from the emergency bridge just put over the Little North Fork of the Santiam east of Salem among emergency equipment being assembled for the purpose by the highway department.

Merion county road crews which had Wednesday completed the temporary bridge (borrowed from the state) yesterday removing the four sections planned to replace them with temporary wooden approaches. A 10-mile detour over Roberts mountain is available to light traffic around the Umpqua bridge closure.

Little New Damage
The flood picture in Salem Thursday showed no extensive new damage, although 18 Keizer families near Spong's landing were without electricity—and some line failure which Portland General Electric line crews found beyond their reach because of high water. Red Cross and army engineers here reported no group evacuation since the West Salem families in flooded trailer parks near the bridge moved out Wednesday. Pringle park and a few other sections were still under several feet of water and pumping of water from basements was noted in some sections.

Water at Feet
A Salem fire truck was stationed temporarily in West Salem before the bridge closed. The St. Paul-Newberg highway was closed near St. Paul. Several schools of the area remained closed although Detroit schools reopened. The Roberts school was the only one closing of the day. The Willamette ferry near Aurora was down Thursday. The Woodburn-Estacada highway was closed at Butte creek.

The river at Salem rose from 26.4 feet at 8 a.m. Thursday to the crest early today, a total rise of 1.6 feet as compared with the 5-foot rise Wednesday. Fair weather was forecast officially for today, along with a slow fall of the river level of about 1½ feet during the day. Weather bureau officials said the fall will be at a faster rate of 2½ to 3 feet a day beginning Saturday. River crests passed Jefferson and Albany Thursday and water immediately began receding.

Crests Downstream
Crests are expected at Oregon City tonight and Portland at tomorrow. The Molalla river at Canby was near a record high, as was the Clackamas Thursday night. The current of the Willamette river at Portland was clocked at 3.1 miles per hour.

Several highway sections throughout western Oregon remained closed but the Harrisburg and Canby sections of the 99E reopened. Expected to reopen early today are the coast highway below Coquille, Albany-Corvallis, Corvallis east side, Woodburn-Sandy and Bellevue-Hopewell roads.

Butter Price Drops Cent
Price of butter took its first drop in about six weeks Thursday, when the product began selling to Salem housewives at 94 cents per pound for the grade A. It was a decrease of one cent.

Swiss Newspapers Ask if Stalin Dead
BERN, Switzerland, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Two Swiss newspapers, without giving a source for the speculation, asked in headlines today whether Premier Joseph Stalin of Russia was dead. One said reports of his death were believed to have been discussed by the Swiss federal council.

Merger of New High School Zones Backed
TURNER, Jan. 8.—(Special)—Possibility of merging the recently former Stayton and Turner-Aumsville union high school districts was envisioned tonight when boards of the two districts voted unanimously at a joint meeting to favor the circulation of petitions toward that end.

All five members and the clerk of each board took part in the meeting and the vote. Petitions would request the county school district board to call an election in the two districts on the consolidation proposal.

Announcement of the boards' agreement was made by the two chairmen, Ward Inglis of Stayton union high district 4 and Fred E. Bates of union high district 5. The Stayton union high district was formed in November from 11 Marion and Linn county school districts and the Turner-Aumsville union high district from five Marion county districts a month later, both following elections in the various districts.

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