

The valley's cherry trees have had a bit of trouble this season bursting into full flame, what with not too much sunshine to help things along, but above is tantamount evidence that this year's Cherry Blossom route will be a real treat. Sunday is Blossom day. The picture, taken a day or so ago, shows Charles Claggett (center foreground), King Bing of the Salem Cherrians, with a portion of his royal court—(left to right) Cedric Reaney, Hunt Clark, Hal Randall and Wes Stewart, who played escorts on this particular trip to Martha DuRette of Gervais, the Cherry festival queen of 1947.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

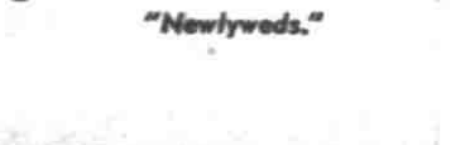
Clearly the people haven't got what they ordered in the way of unification of defense. As we feared we now have not two rival services, the army and the navy, but four not-too-closely coordinated departments: national defense, war, navy and air force. Their difference came to light in recent testimony before the national and senate committees. Secretary Forrestal (national defense) outlined what he called a balanced program, which provided for UMT, selective service, a 55-group air force, and a strengthened navy. Secretary Symington (air) urged a 70-group air force, preferring it to UMT. General Bradley (army chief of staff) argued for UMT and said the alternative was not an expanded air force but a standing army of 1,500,000 men which would cost billions. Thursday President Truman endorsed Forrestal's program and said he didn't understand why Symington had not gone along with it.

Other contentions have cropped out. The air force thinks orange bombing should be its exclusive province. The navy insists on keeping the navy air arm and wants to build an 80,000 ton carrier as a floating airbase from which atom bombs could be dropped most anywhere in the world. The ground force wants all amphibious landings and would hold the marines to local raids. The latter assert such landings should be a marine duty as well. Secretary Forrestal held a conference with his subordinates in Florida recently and sought to iron out their differences. He did settle some issues, though in such matters issues have a way of not staying settled. The 70-group air force however was an unexpected flint from harmony.

The lower house voted appropriations for the 70-airgroup size. Suspicion grows that what the congress and the people want is a push-button war, one that may be won by gadgets, without personal inconvenience. So the house ignores the plea of Forrestal and proposes to spend money on the air arm.

In view of the happenings one wonders if our national defense is even less coordinated than it was when he had just the army and the navy wrangling over their respective roles.

WALLACE DUE IN MIDWEST
NEW YORK, April 16 (AP)—Henry A. Wallace will make his first campaign swing into the farm belt states of the midwest from April 17 to May 4. Wallace is scheduled to speak 10 times on a tour through Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.



Rural Districts to Vote On Tax Levy Monday

Marion county school district voters outside Salem, Silverton and Woodburn districts will vote Monday night on a consolidated tax levy amounting to \$837,890 in excess of the 6 per cent increase limitation.

It is the first such consolidated levy vote under the new county rural school district law of the 1947 state legislature, designed to combine all of the county's elementary and high school budgets outside first class districts in order to spread an equalized tax levy against all the districts involved.

Mrs. Agnes Booth, Marion county school superintendent, estimated Friday that the entire budget levy of \$1,017,724 (which includes \$179,834 as total tax base not subject to a vote), on the basis of present property valuation, would mean a 27-mill tax for elementary districts and 13-mill tax for high school districts. She predicted, however, the millage would be less next year as county property valuation is expected to increase.

Affects 94 Districts
The school tax vote affects 94 Marion county school districts. Voting is set for 8 p.m. at each district schoolhouse Monday. The combined school budget for county rural schools was prepared by the new Marion county rural school district board headed by Sylvester S. Smith of St. Paul and including a representative from each of five areas of the county.

Mrs. Booth explained the wide discrepancy between the \$179,834 within the 6 per cent legal limitation and the \$837,890 which remains to be voted on as excess, by citing the fact that 51 per cent of the 94 Marion county school districts affected have been operating on a year-to-year levy vote basis after having lost their law-recognized "tax base" by not voting a levy in any one year after the 6 per cent limitation law became effective in 1916.

Would Split Up Vote
If the consolidated tax levy is not passed by the entire rural school electorate, the financing of schools will revert to the separate school districts.

The proposed \$1,017,724 combined levy provides for the operating costs and transportation of the 94 school districts, Mrs. Booth said. She stated that none of the proposed levy will be used for new buildings, new building sites, bonded indebtedness or interest.

Politics on Parade...
Who's Running for What in the May Primaries?
Peery T. Buren, practicing attorney and candidate for Salem municipal judge, recognizes that the city is confronted with an ever-increasing juvenile problem.

SCHOOL BOND, BUDGET PASS

16 Europe Nations Sign Aid Pact

Organization to Form Basis for Western Union

PARIS, April 16 (AP)—Sixteen sovereign nations and western Germany pooled their recovery efforts today in a new organization for European economic cooperation (OEEC).

The group is designed to coordinate reconstruction moves and assure the efficient distribution of United States aid under the \$5,300,000,000 Marshall plan.

Many observers regard the body as a nucleus for a future economic and political federation of Europe. The charter is a 28-article, 3,000-word document.

Premier Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium was elected chairman of the organization's council. Robert Marjolin of France was appointed secretary-general.

Rep. Edmund Hall - Patch, financial expert of the British foreign office, was named chairman of the powerful executive committee of seven representatives of Britain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey were elected to the committee for one-year terms.

South Salem Progress Club Name Adopted
South Salem Progress club is the official name adopted by South Salem businessmen who met Thursday night to complete organization of a district commercial club.

Math Experts Back at Reno
LAS VEGAS, Nev., April 16 (AP)—Two University of Chicago graduates who last November "took" the roulette table at Reno for \$8,000 were back in business again today.

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Portland 64 49 .00
San Francisco 62 49 .00
Chicago 62 52 .00
New York 62 52 .00

Children Direct FBI To Kidnap Suspect

PORTLAND, April 16 (AP)—A limping kidnap suspect was captured by the FBI today, thanks to a boy and a girl who persisted in playing detective over the scoffing of their elders.

Arrested under a baby's crib in a Hillsboro, Ore., home this morning was a 29-year-old man who has been working in a Gearhart, Ore., riding academy as "Cowboy Jim" Williams.

But Special FBI Agent Howard I. Bobbitt said the man was really John Harvey Bugg, object of a 2 1/2-year nation-wide hunt as "Cowboy Jim" Bugg, whose left fingers are tattooed "L-O-V-E," is under indictment on a charge of kidnapping Dade County, Miss., Sheriff Hugh P. Wilkerson, in November, 1945.

James Roosevelt's Wife Stricken after Overdose of Pills
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., April 16 (AP)—A combination of headache tablets and a sleeping pill, the latter taken by mistake, her husband said, sent Mrs. James Roosevelt to the hospital in a coma today.

South Salem Progress Club Name Adopted
Temporary officers elected in the meeting are F. H. Weir, president; C. A. Vibbert, vice president; and H. A. Harrington, secretary.

Math Experts Back at Reno
Using a system of their own devising, the two men were \$500 ahead today, after playing since last night. They are Dr. Roy Walford, San Diego, and Albert Hibbs, Chillicothe, Ohio, each 23 At Reno they parlayed \$300 into \$13,000, then dropped \$5,000 when their system went sour.

PEKKALA ULTIMATUM
HELSINKI, Finland, April 16 (AP)—Premier Matti Puronen said today his cabinet would resign if parliament did not approve the Russo-Finnish treaty.

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U.N. Council Orders Truce in Palestine

LAKE SUCCESS, Saturday, April 17 (AP)—The United Nations security council early today ordered a truce in Palestine. The vote was 9 to 0 with Russia and the Ukraine abstaining.

The vote came at 2:19 a.m. (EST) after a final five and one-half hours of debate.

In a last-minute move, the council struck out provisions for an on-the-spot truce commission to watch over the cease-fire.

British to Defy Soviet Ban on Vienna Flights
VIENNA, Austria, April 16 (AP)—Russian officials demanded tonight that the British halt all commercial air flights into Vienna, but the British said they planned to continue flying.

Architect Sketches Proposed Phone Building
The architect's sketch (above) pictures the proposed \$150,000 administration building to be built by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company at site (shown in lower photo) on corner of Court and North Winter streets, west of the state library building and north of the city park adjoining the state capitol.

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The men play \$1.50 on the nine on each spin of the wheel.

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Light Vote In Salem District

By Robert E. Gangware
City Editor, The Statesman
A Salem district school bond issue of \$1,500,000 and a budget including \$420,000 over the 6 per cent limitation were both adopted by district voters in an election Friday.

The bond issue will finance additional schools and classrooms to alleviate overcrowding due to population increase of recent years.

Both ballot issues were passed in each of four voting precincts for the school election. The total vote was just short of 60 per cent in favor of the bond issue and 56 per cent in favor of the budget levy.

Includes Pay Raise
The \$1,500,000 budget for 1948-49 includes a 15 per cent pay increase for teachers and virtually all other school district employees.

Architect Sketches Proposed Phone Building
The board has already authorized architects S. P. Freeman and Sidney B. Hayslip of Portland to proceed with final plans and specifications for additions at Middle Grove, West Salem and Bush. It is hoped that some of the projects, of which these three are deemed most urgent, will be completed by September or shortly later in the fall.

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Joyce Patton Elected WU May Queen

Joyce Anne Patton was elected May queen to rule over May weekend festivities yesterday by general student election at Willamette university.

Mrs. Patton is the wife of Alan Ray Patton, 1135 S. 19th st., student in the law school at Willamette. She defeated two other finalists, Mrs. Vergie Wicks, Salem, and Dorothy Deal, Longview, Wash., who will be princesses in her court.

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