



It's a high climb to put lights on the courthouse tree for Christmas. Atop the Salem fire department's mobile ladder is Les Geer of the Walton-Brown Co., hauling up a string of multi-colored lights to decorate the tree again this year. Formal lighting will be Friday night at 7:30 o'clock. (Photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Spayne

It is highly gratifying to all who are concerned about the conduct of the state's financial affairs that...

Paulus has been of great value to the state as secretary of the board commission, which handles the investment of millions of dollars of state funds...

In addition, Paulus has aided cities and school districts in their financial problems. During the depression a number of cities got into financial trouble...

For years justices of the peace were delinquent in remitting fines. While it was not primarily the duty of the treasurer's office...

Theft Attempted at Marion Postoffice

MARION, Dec. 15—An attempt to break into the safe in the Marion postoffice Tuesday night failed apparently because of insufficient supply of acetylene gas...

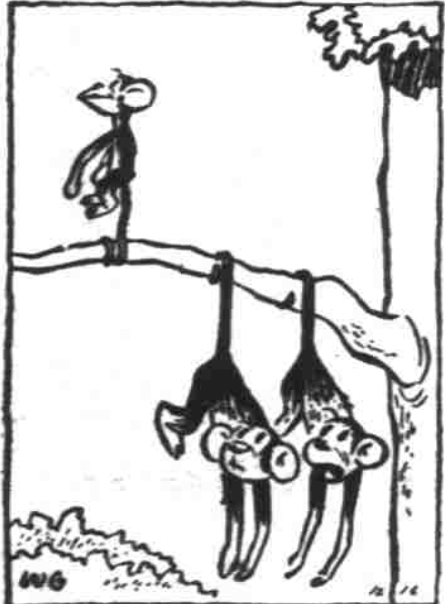
Entrance to the building was made by forcing the lock on the front door. Mrs. Lee Smith is postmaster and she and her husband formerly operated a grocery store.

19 RAIL CARS TOPPLE

KLAMATH FALLS, Dec. 15—(AP)—M. J. O'Donnell, Great Northern train conductor, was injured today in a freight train derailment that tore up 1,000 feet of track and upset 19 cars of the 65-car train.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"I tell ya, he's been getting \$oo much starch in his diet."

FOUNDED 1851

Trial to Start in January

2 Policemen Cleared of Politics Charge

Peiping in Range of Reds' Guns

30 Die in Colombia Plane Crash

Fireworks on Plane Cited as Possible Cause

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, Dec. 15—(AP)—Lansa airlines said tonight one of its passenger planes crashed this morning about 25 miles west of Bogota and all 30 persons aboard were killed.

Lansa officials said packages of fireworks apparently taken aboard the plane without knowledge of the airline were found near the wreckage and may have caused the crash. Fireworks are in demand during the Christmas season in Colombia, but are banned from transport in planes.

The right wing of the plane appears to have come off by an explosion and was burned together with the fuselage, a Lansa statement said.

The plane, a DC-3 was en route from Bogota to Barranquilla. The two-engine plane carried a crew of four and 26 passengers. The dead included two British engineers connected with the Shell Petroleum company in Bogota. Their names were given as A. C. Buchanan and E. Howey.

10 Prineville Girls Spend Night in Cold

PRINEVILLE, Ore., Dec. 15—(AP)—The entire city of Prineville turned out today to hunt for 10 girls, missing overnight in near-zero weather, and finally found them stalled in a car on a lonely road.

The Prineville high school girls had run out of gas, and decided to wait out the night in the car rather than risk possible freezing in the 10-mile walk to town.

"It was not comfortable," said Enola Hornstein, 17. But neither she or her nine girl friends, who had huddled together for warmth throughout the night, suffered any harm.

A-PILE WORKING IN FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 15—(AP)—Frederick Joliot-Curie, communist high commissioner of the French Atomic Energy committee, told Premier Henri Queuille the nation's first atomic energy pile began working today.

Snyder Sees More Prosperity Ahead

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—(AP)—Secretary of the Treasury Snyder said today he foresees no business recession, but instead attractive opportunities for further prosperity in the years ahead.

Bombsight Secret Said Stolen in '38

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—(AP)—House investigators said today they are digging into a story that a man now working for the army stole secrets of the famous Norden bomb sight for the Russians in 1938.

Weather

Salem	41	33	trace
Portland	47	36	.05
San Francisco	46	34	trace
Chicago	46	37	.53
New York	25	30	.40

Willamette river 18.5 feet. FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Mostly cloudy with few scattered showers of rain or snow becoming partly cloudy and cooler tonight. High today near 38. Low tonight near 28.

Sea Lion Travels Oregon Highway In Winter Rain

COOS BAY, Ore., Dec. 15—(AP)—Oregon takes the brunt of many gags about its heavy winter rainfall, but a new yarn is in the making here—sea lions on the highways.

Traffic was snarled for an hour today at nearby North Lakeside junction where one of the animals floundered on Highway 101 pavement, barking and lunging at all who approached.

The sea lion apparently made its way from the ocean along one of the nearby streams. State police were dispatched to try to get the young animal back to its native habitat.

Prince Charles Given Ration Book, Baptized

LONDON, Dec. 15—(AP)—The Buckingham palace baby was baptized Charles Philip Arthur George today.

Already dubbed "Bonnie Prince Charlie" by the London press, Princess Elizabeth's first born "behaved beautifully" throughout his official christening, said an announcement. He didn't cry. "He just gurgled," said a spectator.

Before the ceremony the child who some day may be king of England received a ration book. His name was enrolled in the tattered red registration book of Westminster borough. And a national savings certificate for 10 shillings (\$2) was bought in his name to give him a good start in life.

The ration book entitles him to extra milk, concentrated orange juice and cod liver oil, the same as any other baby of the realm.

Then came the glittering half hour ceremony in the music room presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the presence of about 50 persons.

King George was in good spirits and showed no signs of the leg affliction which keeps him in bed much of the time.

The little prince, a bit drowsy after meeting the archbishop, slept through part of the picture taking which followed the ceremony.

Chiang Urged To Quit; Wife's Mission Futile

PEIPING, Thursday, Dec. 16—(AP)—Chinese communists drove within artillery range of isolated Peiping today. They made no attempt to shell the city.

Altogether, there were some strange developments amid the rumble of guns outside Peiping—and talk of negotiations with the communists.

The Reds seized several points in the northwestern suburbs outside the city walls. Peiping is full of troops, most of them in a holiday mood, enjoying the sights and sounds and the mild weather for this time of year.

Peiping is more concerned with mounting prices of food than with the presence of communists. The Reds are not expected to shell Peiping.

What happens next—whether the communists try to occupy the city immediately—may depend on political factors.

If there is a political stalemate, the communists can afford to do here what they did at Mukden—encircle the city and wait for it to wither and die.

NANKING, Dec. 15—(AP)—President Chiang Kai-Shek's closest friends asked him today to quit and let others try to negotiate peace with China's communists, it was learned reliably.

The suggestion that China's veteran leader step down—at least temporarily—came as separate peace talks were reported in north China, where Peiping is in peril of falling to the Reds.

Chiang was said to be studying the suggestion. WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—(AP)—Madame Chiang Kai-Shek has failed thus far in her quest for all-out U. S. backing for her husband's regime in China, Undersecretary of State Lovett indicated today.

The United States, he said at a news conference, is sticking to the policy laid down by congress last session, under which limited aid has been given to the Generalissimo Chiang's nationalist regime.

BROWN OUT PLANNED

PORTLAND, Dec. 15—(AP)—The city council voted today to support a request of power companies that electric signs be turned off from 4:30 to 6:30 each afternoon to conserve power. City ordinances now require such signs to be lighted at dusk.

Hat Trick Enlivens Cardinals' Party



NEW YORK, Dec. 15—As Francis Cardinal Spellman presents Christmas packages to youngsters from the New York Foundling Home during the prelate's annual Christmas party here, one youngster tries on the Cardinal's biretta. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

Board Orders Men Reinstated with Pay

Hobart Kiggins and Leland Weaver Wednesday were reinstated as Salem city police officers after a 2½-hour hearing of their discharge appeal before the city civil service commission.

They were awarded retroactive pay from November 12, the date they were discharged from the force by Police Chief Frank A. Minto on charges of political activity in favor of a city commission form of government as proposed on a city initiative measure which was defeated at the November 2 election.



Shown as they solemnly listened to witness in civil service hearing which restored their police status are Hobart Kiggins (left) and Leland Weaver. (Other photos, page 16.)

After hearing testimony from 13 sworn witnesses the three-man commission overruled the discharge in a unanimous decision reached about 20 seconds after a huddled conference and announced immediately by Chairman William J. Entress. The other commissioners are Lyle J. Page and Richard G. Severin.

New Bridge At Salem Tops Chamber Aims

Salem Chamber of Commerce gave top priority to a highway improvement program including a new Willamette river bridge here when it adopted a list of 10 aims and objectives for 1949.

Four phases of highway development, in order of priority, were included in the first "aim," as follows: (1) New bridge; (2) adequate highway through Salem; (3) improved highway to Mill City to connect with new North Santiam highway; (4) connecting link from Salem to the coast highway at a point two miles north of Dallas.

Aided to the list submitted by James Walton, retiring president and now chairman of aims and objectives were endorsements for a Wilsonville bridge to permit a cutoff route to Portland and for South River road improvement to the site of the new Independence bridge.

Other aims and objectives, adopted as reported by the committee, include continued support for airport development, farm labor camp, long range planning commission's program, the Oregon mounted posse and governor's guard; increased tourist promotion and urging of members to raise their chamber qualifications where possible.

President Roy Harland was authorized by the board to name a committee to make a study of possible successor to Glenn W. Prather, assistant manager who resigned this month. Harland said applications for the position already have been received from C. A. Kells and Gene Malecki.

QUICKIES

Police Chief Minto testified he had fired the two officers on the basis of reports to him by Assistant Police Chief Carl Charlton, given when Minto returned to his post in early November after almost a month of illness and hospitalization.

Minto said he had no personal knowledge of political activity by either Kiggins or Weaver. (Additional details on page 2)

Bulk of the questioning was carried on by Paul Burris, attorney for Kiggins and Weaver, and by Chris Kowitz, the city attorney. Nearly 100 citizens attended the public hearing in the city council chambers at city hall.

Mayor R. L. Elfstrom and City Manager J. L. Franzen, whose names were interjected into several witnesses' testimony, were not called to the witness stand and were not present at the hearing.

Both Kiggins and Weaver denied in their sworn testimony that they had "injured the public service," as charged—by improper conduct, campaigning for abolition of the present form of city government or fomenting dissension and disunity within the police department.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15—(AP)—A spy-hunting grand jury tonight indicted Alger Hiss, former state department official, on two counts of perjury.

It accused Hiss, now on leave of absence from his \$20,000-a-year post as head of the Carnegie endowment for international peace, of lying when he denied he gave secret state department papers to Whittaker Chambers, confessed soviet courier.

The charges originally had been leveled against Hiss by Chambers, a former senior editor for Time magazine, at hearings of the house committee on un-American activities.

Hiss repeatedly denied the charges. U. S. Attorney John F. X. McGohy said he expected Hiss to give himself up to authorities. Hiss probably will be arraigned tomorrow or Friday, McGohy said.

Hiss later issued a statement through his attorney saying: "My testimony before the grand jury was entirely truthful."

In Washington Rep. Mundt (R-S.D.), Rep. Nixon (R-Calif) and Rep. Rankin (D-Miss) said the indictment was a vindication of the un-American activities committee, of which they are leading members.

Nixon said it vindicated "the many long months of work done by our committee despite criticism from all sources from the president down."

Clark "Not Surprised" Attorney General Tom Clark said in New York he was "not surprised" by the indictment. He said he thought Hiss would be brought to trial some time in January.

Reporters asked whether Clark thought the indictment would affect President Truman's "red-herring" condemnation of the committee probe. Clark replied: "I don't think it will affect it."

He is liable to a \$2,000 fine and five years imprisonment on each count of the indictment if convicted.

Specifically the indictments said Hiss "unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully" lied when:

1. He denied that either he or his wife, Priscilla, gave any documents of the state department or any other government agency to Chambers.

2. He testified he did not talk to Chambers during February and March, 1938.

A new grand jury, which is to be sworn in tomorrow, will finish the probe.

Hiss and Chambers had appeared daily before the grand jury since it began its espionage probe December 1.

Three days previously, Chambers had produced five rolls of microfilms from a hollowed-out pumpkin which purportedly bore approximately 200 pictures of classified documents, three of which allegedly were in Hiss' handwriting.

The jury said that Hiss furnished Chambers "copies of numerous secret confidential and restricted documents, writings, notes and other papers, the originals of which had theretofore been removed and abstracted from the possession of the department of state in violation of title 18, United States Code, section 1621."

On the second count, the indictment charged that Hiss "untrue in that, the defendant did see and converse with the said Mr. Chambers in or about the months of February and March, 1938, in violation of title 18, U. S. Code, section 1621."

Husband Slain; Bride Jailed

HEPPNER, Ore., Dec. 15—(AP)—Arthur Lee Hughes was shot to death in his living room today, and his bride of nine months was arrested and placed in the Umatilla county jail.

District Attorney P. W. Mahoney said Mr. Hughes—who had started divorce proceedings—admitted the shooting. The district attorney said the couple began arguing about some checks.

The shooting occurred about 3 a.m. after Hughes and two friends returned home. The friends—Tom Loyd and John Hoffnagle—were in another room of the Hughes home.

COSTA RICAN PROBE DUE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—(AP)—A five-man commission was named today to make an immediate on-the-spot investigation of Costa Rican charges that troops coming from Nicaragua have invaded her territory.

8 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

Buy CHRISTMAS SEALS