

Sampans Crowd Soochow Creek



SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27—With Chinese communist forces nearing the north bank of the Yangtze River, many Chinese who make their homes on small boats and sampans in China's rivers, have moved to Shanghai. This picture of Soochow Creek, Shanghai, was made Dec. 21. At right is North Soochow Road, in foreground is Chapee Road Bridge. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

William Hill to Retire as Head Of Seabee Unit; Fisher Named

Lt. Donald M. Fisher, state tax commission appraisal engineer, will soon replace Lt. William C. Hill as commander of Salem's organized Seabee unit, it was disclosed Monday.

Hill announced that he would be retired shortly after January 1 because of the navy age limit for officers of his rank. Both Hill and Fisher have been with the unit since its inception and were leaders in establishing the organization.

At the same time Hill announced that Salem Seabee reservists will join fellow veterans and navy men today in observing the seventh birthday of the Seabees. The navy arm was organized in the early part of World War II and became a sea-going construction unit that broke building records in all parts of the globe.

Permission to establish the Seabees came from the navy department seven days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Volunteers from ranks of contractors, engineers, loggers, machinists and laborers were trained at Camp Allen in Norfolk, Va., and sent to build bases in the Pacific.

Lt. Hill pointed out that more than 150 men from the Salem area were members of the Seabees. "Host of these men are now members of Salem's Seabee reserve unit," Hill said, "and today are celebrating the seventh birthday of the Seabees."

The Salem Seabee reserve had its beginning in the fall of 1946 when the Salem corps of engineers met at the Chamber of Commerce. The corps furnished officers for an organization set up principally to furnish an emergency engineering group for Red Cross flood relief work.

Lt. Cmdr. Hollis Libby headed the first volunteer group consisting of 10 officers and 12 enlisted men—organized in the spring of 1947. By late fall of 1948, the 13th naval district recommended that the Seabee unit be converted to an organized group. The change was made a short time later, with Lt. Hill appointed as commander.

Today the Salem Seabee reserve of 14 enlisted men and five officers is rated one of the best units in the northwest.

The new members were welcomed by Commander Smith and sworn in by Goode. Jack Schopert was program chairman for the special night.

Scout Group To Leave on Skiing Jaunt

A group of about 30 Boy Scouts and adult leaders are to leave early this morning from various points in the Cascade area council for a week of winter sports at Camp Pioneer.

A few of the scouts and scuders including Harry Scott, council field executive, went to camp Monday to prepare it for occupancy. The rest of the group will ski into the camp on about five feet of snow from the North Santiam highway. They are to return Friday. Mem-

bers of Silverton Explorer post will ski from Camp Pioneer to Marion lake a distance of about seven miles while on the ski tour.

Legion Slates Quint

Capitol Post No. 9, American Legion, plans to organize a bas-

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--- and ---
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Louis Hayward
in
"Walk a Crooked Mile"

PGE Declines Salem Electric's Overture on Joint Use of Poles

Portland General Electric Monday turned thumbs down on a Salem Electric overture for joint use of poles which would provide for the latter utility an auxiliary transmission line linking downtown Salem users with the north Salem Bonneville substation.

Possibility of further court action contesting the Salem franchise won in last month's election for the Bonneville-distributing Salem Electric cooperative also was hinted in a PGE letter to the other utility. A copy of the letter was presented to the Salem city council at its meeting Monday night in city hall.

George E. Sullivan, PGE vice president, listed as reasons for refusal to allow Salem Electric use of its poles the allegations that Salem Electric follows "unsafe and improper methods of construction," has shown "instances of impaired clearance," has "failed to pay" PGE for work done in joint usership in West Salem and, finally, that "judicial determination" may be necessary to validate the cooperative's franchise.

No further action on Salem Electric's request for emergency permission to install the transmission line was taken. The council also deferred final action on the enabling ordinance to put into effect the new Salem Electric franchise. City officials and Dr. O. A. Olson, of the cooperative, said the bill needs redrafting.

Final action also was withheld on six bills seeking to establish new fees for city licenses of various businesses, most of them reflecting considerable increase over present fees. The delay until the January 10 meeting probably will have the effect that most licenses will get 1949 licenses under present fees.

Alderman Thomas Armstrong protested that the fees are not uniformly raised and in some instances "are inconsequential." He declared the new fee for licenses for coin operated music machines to be prohibitive. The bill prescribes \$60 for each machine and \$6 for each additional coin slot, per year. The only bills finally passed make parents responsible for the delinquency of their children, with penalties up to 100 days imprisonment and \$200 fine, and authorize Red Cross pharmacy to install a sign over the sidewalk.

Council adopted a resolution, however, to standardize city policy of charging persons or firms outside city limits for fire protection. With a minimum of \$100 per year, the annual fee was set at 4 mills on the assessed valuation of the property for which fire department service is contracted. The new system does not affect city arrangements now in effect with the state or other fire districts.

The city council last night also received an additional remonstrance from 22 citizens protesting the vacation of Alder street, as requested by the Salem school district. Part of the Leslie junior high school track is in Alder street which never has been opened. The remonstrance was ordered studied before final action is taken.

DEAD WOMAN IDENTIFIED
FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., Dec. 27—(P)—Coroner Vance G. White today identified a woman found dead with a man in an auto court here as Mrs. Sayra S. Kaadt, a former president of a Portland Parent-Teachers association, school teacher, and member of the advisory board of the Oregon school for delinquent children at Hillcrest in 1943.

Suit Against St. Paul Bond Issue For School Dismissed by Page

A suit attacking bond issue elections in St. Paul union high school district 3 was dismissed Monday on order of Marion County circuit Judge E. M. Page.

Robert H. Clark and Frank X. Bear, district residents who brought the complaint earlier this month, asked that the suit be dismissed. They said they did not care to further prosecute.

The complaint was directed against the union high district, its board of directors and the county treasurer, tax collector and assessor.

It sought a court adjoining the district from issuing any bonds or the county officials from collecting taxes which would result from the additional bond sales. The bonds referred to were the \$150,000 issue voted by the district at a May 6, 1947, election and the \$45,000 bond issue voted at an election held April 16, 1948.

The suit also sought an order nullifying a May 5, 1948, election at which time a new site for the proposed new union high school was voted. It was alleged in the complaint that the elections were void because the district erred in carrying out the balloting in regard to notices and voter qualifications.

Union high school district 3 is composed of the school districts of Arbor Grove, Champoeg, St. Paul, Four Corners, Mahoney and Raybill.

The union high district is still involved, however, in two other suits pending in circuit court. One is a petition by the district seeking a court order validating the organization of the district. The third is a complaint brought by Henry Zorn in which he seeks to unseat Frederick Hiller, as an elected director of the district.

Mat Clinic Set

CORVALLIS, Dec. 27 —(P)—A wrestling clinic—the first in the state for high school coaches—will be held at Oregon State college Jan. 7-8. Robert Antonacci, Oregon State wrestling coach, will conduct the sessions.

VANDALS WIN
MOSCOW, Idaho, Dec. 27—(P)—Preston Brimhall whipped in 16 points tonight to lead an improved Idaho basketball team to a 53 to 43, victory over the Eastern Washington college Savages.

TREMOR ROCKS RENO
RENO, Nev., Dec. 27—(P)—Two sharp tremors in an hour jolted Reno and vicinity tonight. The shocks swung chandeliers and rattled doors and windows, but there were no reports of damage.

MEYER HONORED
PITTSBURGH, Dec. 27 —(P)—Manager Billy Meyer of the Pittsburgh Pirates, was named tonight as Pittsburgh's outstanding sports figure of 1948. The award was made by the Dapper Dan club of Pittsburgh.

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