

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Houses and Labor Costs

The International Woodworker complains about the high cost of housing:

"Maybe some will realize now that a man earning from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per year cannot afford to pay \$100 for a home."

The Woodworker, which is the publication of IWA-CIO concludes:

"Let's get a house in the price range for the working stiff."

True enough, cost of new houses has gone beyond the reach of the worker with a \$1,500-\$2,500 income (though the numbers in that income bracket have been growing smaller and smaller). But the Woodworker will have to admit that the doubling of wages has boosted the cost of housebuilding. In some materials, lumber for example, the price increase has been at a higher rate than the wage increase; but the lumber price is leveling off or going down, but wages in building trades are going up and demands are coming for increases for wood workers.

In another respect lower prices for homes are defeated by exactions of labor organizations. Unions are hostile to prefabricated jobs; they help impose conditions in building codes which run up costs; their splitting of jurisdictions adds to cost. It's a bad circle, to be sure. The wage increases for carpenter and plumbers, which they feel they deserve, run up the cost of housing for the printer, the cannery worker and the millhand. The way many workers solve their housing problem is to build a house themselves. They may be "scabbing" on their fellow-unionists, but they use their days off in housebuilding—often getting a friend who is a union plumber or bricklayer to lend a hand on his day off.

Things ought to be in balance, of course, so that decent housing will be within reach of all families; and they will get into better balance: there is a better prospect for building costs to decline than wages. For those in the lowest wage group, some form of government subvention evidently must be worked out.

Language Oddities

Phrases get frozen into common speech, and remain long after their original meaning is lost. For example there is the relic in Mother Goose "with all his might and main." Remember the "wondrous wise" man (who wasn't wise at all) who "with all his might and main" jumped back into the bramble bush and scratched his eyes in again? Well, the word "main" used to mean "strength," and had that sense when the phrase was coined, a meaning now obsolete.

Then there's the phrase "spit and image." Sometimes it appears "spittin' image" which is wrong. The word "spit" used to mean "likeness," a meaning it lost long ago, but the phrase employing it lives on.

An Over-all Highway Problem

There may be many an explanation as to why Oregon's traffic has increased so much more than California's and Washington's, but the figures still add up to the necessity for a lot of repair and maintenance for this state.

State Engineer Baldock says Oregon travel increase in the last year is 11 per cent, California's 2.2 per cent, Washington 2.9 per cent. The figures may be used as propaganda in the forthcoming legislative battle for more highway

Plea for UMT Aimed at Foreign Ears

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst
WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (AP)—President Truman, in renewing pressure for universal military training, probably is thinking as much of the nation's diplomatic position as of its military.
The U. S. during 1948, undoubtedly will renew its efforts to ease tension with Russia, even if only for the record. We are moving already for a new approach to the problem of a peace

treaty for Austria. The president's recent assertion that there are some amenable Soviet officials could very well have been made to prepare the ground for moves in other directions. Something like the pre-election proposal to send a presidential envoy to Moscow may crop up again. Ambassador Bedell Smith's successor may be chosen specifically with such a project in mind.

This would not be a softening

revenues, but disregarding that aspect they are well worthy of note.

Oregon's has proportionately outgained all states in estimated population; it has attracted innumerable new industries—and it also is in the middle so far as coast-wide traffic is concerned. These and other factors probably are intertwined in any accurate explanation of the travel gain.

But regardless of cause, it should be kept in mind that city streets and county roads bear a proportionate travel load and that their needs are keeping pace with those of inter-city highway. The travel figures show an over-all problem.

When a policeman really wants to wax literary, he can out-Shakespeare Shakespeare. We'll bet nothing the bank can say will bring a more brilliant hue to that San Francisco teller's face than a police inspector's comment: "I await a rash of bank holdups as soon as word gets out that a defenseless, middle-aged, dumpy woman held up a bank (for \$2668) with no other weapon than a (threatening) piece of paper."

Bishop Dagwell of Portland scolds the papers for not warning the people about the dangers in some of the measures to be voted on or the frailties of some of the candidates. Others condemn the papers when they do speak out, and claim they have lost influence with the voters. And when an editor does write a piece about a candidate he may get sued for libel. It's a dog's life, this editor business.

To Bend go the congratulations of her sister cities everywhere. The central Oregon town, for the third consecutive year, went without a traffic fatality. We don't know whether to credit Bend laws, traffic direction, enforcement or public cooperation, but there may be something there that other cities could well emulate. May the record continue!

A Detroit woman went to bed with what she thought was a cold and lo and behold a baby arrived. We do not believe, however, that all cold viruses end as happily. Sometimes just the doctor arrives.

Non-Jack Benny fans will chortle over the bite the taxgatherer says he will take in Benny's sale of himself to CBS. Out of the \$2,260,000 that CBS pays, Uncle Sam will take \$1,740,000. The old penny-pincher will have something to cry about now.

"Money, Money Is Chief Worry of the Legislature" runs a headline in an Oregon daily. Lack of money is what worries Joe Doakes, as the Christmas bills roll in.

One of these child evangelists, a five-year-old this time, performed a wedding ceremony the other day. Yes, it was in southern California—Long Beach.

Soon ready for quiz programs: Who was the last republican candidate for president? And the last republican to be elected president?

Now, as we were saying before we made that silly New Year's resolution—it didn't last long, did it?

Literary Guidepost

THE SORCERERS, by Rudolph Kieve (Houghton Mifflin: \$4)
The Schucks—father, wife, Klodilde, son Louis Ferdinand, daughter Pauline; the Sulzbergers—father Emanuel, wife Karola, sons Albert, Jacob and Gustav; Dr. Sieven and son Willy; Siegfried and Charlotte Biedermann; Profs. Paul, Friese, Ruth; von Karnowski, D'Arrigo; Sophie, Nina, Marianne, Suzette—here are the main characters, Jews and Junkers, farmers, businessmen, teachers, soldiers, rich men, poor men, beggars, thieves, who crowd the pages of this long, sometimes tedious but always worthwhile novel.

Sulzberger and Schuck are protagonists in a story that begins in 1910 and continues until the first swastikas burn ominously in the darkening German night. Old Emanuel is agent for a South German estate, for which he hires as manager Junker Schuck, who at the death of his first wife drank himself into bankruptcy and needed to rehabilitate his fortunes.

There's a swap of children, Pauline moving to the Sulzbergers and Albert to the Schucks

home, the one carrying over some of his Jewishness and the other some of her Gentilism. Albert, who represents vainly his strange fundamental resemblance to his admirable father, is Kieve's puzzle, earnest, sympathetic hero. Longing to escape his troublesome inheritance yet unable and unwilling to deny its nobler parts, he symbolizes miserably the ineffectiveness of the merely honest, well-meaning man in the Europe of his time. Even good impulses lead him into difficulties, and the problem of his blood lies always in the background.

But he is not the only one to suffer; love sours, the ambitious fail, the best intentions lead to disasters. Out of this wretched turmoil, the Germans could evolve nothing but Hitler. It was a failure of the individual and the mass.

Kieve too has good intentions, and yields to them a little too much in the latter half of the book, where he tends to crowd characters off the stage. Yet they are good ideas and, while they lasted, they were good characters.

of American policy. The firm policy, however, always has had an open door through which the administration watches for even the faintest signs that Russia might be willing to enter into a comity of nations. If she ever puts her hand to the knocker she will be almost dragged into the house.

But the president seems to be well aware that, under present circumstances, every olive branch is likely to be interpreted by the Russians as a sign of weakness. Only the present policy of Western re-arming, economically, politically and militarily, will provide an atmosphere in which negotiations can be conducted safely.

Adoption of universal training simultaneously with new approaches for a settlement would be like saying to Russia that she can do business with us if she wants to do so honestly, but that there will be no forced sale.

The president also may consider universal training as a good answer to any Russian "peace offensive," which many observers expect her to renew this year.

Russia knows as well as anyone else that the most dangerous period for the democracies will come with any general acceptance that peace is here and preparedness is unnecessary. They may try to disarm the West by sly approaches, quiet the war fears which are the greatest spur to the present era of Western cooperation, and thereby weaken the anti-communist forces for the kill.

The big, strong man can ignore insults and threats, and can attempt to appease the greatest questioner of his courage questioned or his position endangered. Only the weak must fight.



Unions to Back Plan for Salem Labor-Management Committee

By Conrad G. Franze
Staff Writer, The Statesman

An attempt to establish a Salem labor-management committee and increased efforts to organize non-union workers here will be major projects of organized labor in the Salem area this coming year.

Special projects to organize retail store workers and state employees will be placed in motion this year, according to Herbert E. Barker, executive secretary of the Salem Central Trades and Labor council.

Barker urges a local labor-management committee. A city of Salem's growth needs one, he says.

It could be modeled after the Portland pattern and would be referred to in disputes which could not be settled in any other way. To Preserve Relations size.

"Main object of our efforts this year," Barker said, "will be to preserve the excellent labor-management relations in this area. On this score Salem ranks high on the west coast for having the fewest worker-employer disputes of any city of comparable size."

Barker attributed the good feeling to "better labor representation" and to the growing realization on the part of union leaders that good relations with management is essential to progress in the labor movement.

"Barring a brief one-day restaurant walkout and the current statewide strike against Pacific Fruit and Produce company, Salem did not have a single major strike in 1948. 'We would like very much to continue that record,' Barker declared.

Membership Increases
"Organized labor in this area has increased to well over 10,000 members," Barker reported. This figure often touches nearly 15,000 in the spring and summer seasons when seasonal industries are going full blast.

Major problems facing Salem

Industrial Safety Lectures Planned At Oregon State
Members of the State Industrial Accident commission staff for the third consecutive year will present a series of lectures on industrial safety during the winter term to students enrolled in the industrial engineering course at Oregon State college.

Dates are January 11, "Economics of accident prevention," Charles F. Bollinger; January 13, "Accident cause analysis," Robert M. Evenden; January 18, "Accident investigation," George Hewitt; January 21, "Safety inspections," R. B. Jones; January 25, "Machine safeguarding," Paul E. Gurske; February 8, "Codes and code structure," James Grady; February 15, "Electrical safety," R. D. Smith; February 22, "Occupational disease," Paul Giever; March 1, "Safety statistics," J. B. Avison.

Plumbers Move To New Location

Moving eight blocks south, the Decatur and Maerz plumbing firm has occupied new quarters at 970 S. Commercial st., where new displays of modern plumbing equipment are featured.

The new 30 by 70-foot store has space greatly increased over its former site at 173 S. Commercial st. It had been there since February, 1945. The firm was formed in 1942, although both Vernon Decatur and Edwin Maerz, the owners, have worked in Salem for several years.

Modern lighting and store fixtures are especially designed for proper display of the merchandise, according to Decatur.

Rierson Appointed Educator in County Health Department

Francis Rierson has been appointed health educator in the Marion county department of health, Dr. Willard J. Stone, county health officer, reported Wednesday.

Rierson, formerly with the University of Washington department of health and physical education, succeeds Mrs. Eleanor Fletcher, who had been "loaned" to the department from the state board of health, Dr. Stone said.

Rierson is married and lives with his wife and two children at 970 N. Church st.

Army Board Plans Hearings on Columbia, Willamette Project

The board of engineers of the army will hold a series of public hearings in the northwest in the period January 31-February 4, on the report of the division engineer on the development of the Columbia river and its tributaries. One hearing will be held in Portland at the Multnomah hotel on February 2.

Interested parties and the public are invited to attend and to express their attitude toward the engineer's report. The notice of the hearings carries the recommendation that those appearing present their views in writing in triplicate and give a brief oral summary at the open hearing. Dates of other hearings are: January 31, Spokane; Feb. 1, Seattle; Feb. 4, Boise.

The engineer's report was published on November 8. Since then, by direction of the president army engineers and engineers of the reclamation bureau have been working to reconcile their reports so a single program may be presented to the congress. The Willamette valley project is included in the engineer's report.

The board, which reviews all plans and survey reports of the corps of engineers prior to their submission to congress, is composed of the following engineer officers:

Maj. Gen. R. C. Crawford, deputy chief of engineers and president of the board, Washington, D. C.; Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Maffey, former governor of the Panama Canal and now division engineer, Ohio river division, Cincinnati; Col. Mason J. Young, division engineer, South Atlantic division, Atlanta; Col. Clark Kittrell, division engineer, Upper Mississippi valley division, St. Louis; Col. Henry Huthings, Jr., division engineer, Southwestern division, Dallas; Col. Wayne S. Moore, resident member of the board, Washington, D. C., and Col.

Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent



January 6th. — Good news! While I was standing around, giving moral support to the fellows working on the new Stevens and Son Jewelry Store, I noticed they'd decided to carry out another one of my ideas. Last week, when I was talking to the painters, I suggested that the interior should be painted sort of a purple and green. Well, they didn't say much. But today I notice they've started putting point on the walls and ceiling and sure enough it's light blue and dark blue and pink or rose. Not QUITE the same as I'd planned but it sure looks elegant! Not that I designed Sid Stevens place, exactly . . . but I want a little credit for helping STEVENS and SON in their new venture.

Condensed Statement of Condition of

WILLAMETTE VALLEY BANK

Salem, Oregon

As of December 31, 1948

ASSETS

Loans and Discounts	\$ 534,318.86
U. S. Government Securities	454,097.03
Other Securities	159,372.13
Cash, Cash Items and Balances with Other Banks	220,420.59
Other Assets	29,043.42
Total Assets	\$1,397,252.03

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	\$ 918,488.89
Time Deposits	391,568.45
Other Liabilities	7,676.30
Total Liabilities	\$1,317,733.64
Capital Accounts	79,518.39
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$1,397,252.03

Comparative Figures on Total Deposits

December 31, 1947	\$ 297,942.76
December 31, 1948	\$1,310,057.34

WILLAMETTE VALLEY BANK

Salem's Independent Bank

1990 Fairgrounds Road

Phone 3-9281

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