

State Foresters Fight off Fire Danger

Vet Colony Residents Come to Defense of Zone, Ask Public to Inspect Alleged 'Slum' Conditions

By Winston H. Taylor Staff Writer, The Statesman

A majority of the veterans' housing colony residents "take an interest in the appearance" of their dwellings to keep them from becoming "slums," one of the residents protested Saturday in an open letter. Another asked "but who gave their returning veterans the slums?" Both asked the public to come and inspect conditions.

The "closest we have to slums in Salem" appellation came out of a public housing meeting of Salem businessmen Thursday.

Both W. H. Merrill, 1110 S.

18th st., and Mary L. Creighton, 1125 S. 19th st., stressed that the colony's residents are not there by choice but are there temporarily until real estate prices are lowered. Both protested the "low-cost" label placed on houses at \$6,000 and up and rental apartments at \$65 and up.

Merrill declared that the project in southeast Salem is "the best thing that has happened for the benefit of veterans in Salem," who are "content to make this our temporary home."

He calls attention to a low-cost housing plan carried out in

Painesville, Ohio, where cooperatives, construction firms banded and provided new, uncompleted houses to veterans at nothing down and \$39 a month. Besides the \$5,800 price, the buyers invested considerable time and sweat to do the finishing touches. That is the type of thing that will solve Salem's housing problem, rather than more apartments or proposed \$6,000-\$8,500 houses, Merrill claims. Merrill said he has seen many houses and apartments here that are much worse than the colony.

Mrs. Creighton stressed that

residents of the colony, if they want to better conditions, must buy their own water hose and wiring for electric ranges. She protested the furnishings of the apartments as "wood stoves that don't work, stinking ice boxes, inadequate work boxes."

She stated that the structures haven't been painted since they were erected and are "depressing." She noted that many residents are trying to cover up with flowers but that the coming winter season will undo all their efforts.

(Letters on editorial page.)

Threats Grow; 93 In Salem

By The Associated Press

Foresters fought off the fire danger in Oregon Saturday, but another day of serious fire threat loomed for Sunday.

The weather bureau warned that temperatures would remain high and humidities low in most of the already dry forests.

Salem's high reading Saturday was 93—a degree hotter than Friday—with 95 predicted for Sunday, and no relief in store through Tuesday.

Along the coastal fringe clouds are expected. They will be broken up before noon by a hot sun, the weather bureau forecast.

Foresters controlled all fire outbreaks Saturday. A 500-acre blaze in the Blue mountains east of Pendleton was quelled before it got into the state forest or Umatilla national forest lands.

West of Gold Hill on the coast, logging crews were being recruited to help state patrolmen fight a timber and brush fire. The flames were still out of control Saturday evening after scorching about 100 acres along the left fork of Foothills creek.

One of ten small lightning set fires had burned about 85 acres of brush and timber in the Clover creek area west of Klamath Falls. Crews expected to corral the flames by tomorrow morning. None of the other blazes was as serious.

Five Small Fires

Five small fires in Lane county were controlled.

Humidity percentages were low around the state, except on the coast, Saturday. Medford reported 17 per cent, Roseburg 28, Eugene 26, Salem 23 and east of the Cascades Redmond reported 19 per cent. Klamath Falls reported 17 per cent.

The Dalles and Ontario shared 100 degree temperatures — highest in Oregon — while Medford and Pendleton each reported 99. Others: Baker 95, Portland 87, Eugene 93, Roseburg 98.

A storm-studded cool airfront broke the east's two week heat siege late Saturday.

At Philadelphia, the Mercury dropped from an afternoon high of 96 to 79 at 10 p.m. in some places in Maryland the drop was as much as 18 degrees in 15 minutes.

\$75,000 in Prizes Await Fair Exhibitors

Oregon State fair exhibitors will vie for more than \$75,000 worth of prizes and premiums this year, the biggest total in history, Fair Manager Leo Spitzbart announced here Saturday.

Interest among contestants is exceeding anything he has seen in 14 years as fair manager, said Spitzbart. Particularly noteworthy is the number of out-of-state livestock entries. Show strings already have been entered from Idaho, Washington and California.

Livestock classification entries close at midnight, August 5. Deadline for floral, cooking and textile entries is September 4.

Richard Munson, San Mateo, Calif., was named Saturday as racing secretary of the fair. He will arrive in Salem September 1 to complete arrangements for the local meet. Two \$1,000 handicaps will be included during the six days of racing.

Monmouth Bank Merges

MONMOUTH, July 30—(AP)—The First National Bank of Monmouth formally merged with the U. S. National Bank of Portland today, becoming the National Bank's 40th branch.

The bank here was established in 1889.

British Ship Escapes from China Reds; Navy Fighter Cuts Airliner in Two, 16 Die

New Jersey Crash Laid to Stunting Pilot

By Melvin J. Grayson

FORT DIX, N. J., July 30—(AP)—Sixteen persons were killed today as a Memphis-bound airliner was chopped apart in the New Jersey skies by what witnesses described as a stunting navy fighter plane.

The airliner's left wing and tail were torn off and the crippled Eastern Airlines DC-3 whirled into a farm pasture and burst into a wall of flame. The navy plane burrowed into the ground two miles away.

The charred bodies of 12 passengers and three crew members were strewn throughout the wreckage of the airliner. The pilot of the navy plane was found dead in a field beside an unopened parachute.

State police said they had reports from two witnesses who saw the two planes tangle high in the sky over the Fort Dix military reservation.

One was a pilot of a Piper Cub who said the navy fighter had buzzed his little craft and "stood me on my right wing for an instant" just before zooming into the airliner.

"The small plane appeared to strike the airliner on the left side just aft of the left wing, the Piper Cub pilot, George Humphries of Fair Haven, told investigators.

"Parts of the airplane were all over the sky, and I veered to my right. I saw the aircraft strike the ground amid a cloud of dust and flames."

Pilots of two other commercial planes complained later at Miami that their airliners also had been "buzzed" by navy aircraft while flying over the New Jersey area today.

Elephant Caught Near Scappoose After 18-Hour Hunt

ST. HELENS, Ore., July 30—(AP)—A posse cornered Big Babe in a gravel quarry near Scappoose tonight, prodded her into a truck and carted all eight tons of the old girl back to captivity.

State police reported Big Babe—an elephant with a penchant for taking off into the Oregon wilderness—had been loose for 18 hours. She broke away from a carnival here late last night.

Occasional telephone calls from an irate farmer kept police posted on Big Babe's trek.

Babe finally slowed down under today's heat and was coaxed aboard the truck by Trainer Ernest Hupp. He said the elephant was the same beast that made a similar trip in the Albany, Ore., vicinity two years ago.

Amethyst Slips Past Commies To Rejoin Fleet

LONDON, July 30—(AP)—The British sloop Amethyst escaped down the Yangtze river today under fire of Chinese communist shore batteries and rejoined the British fleet, the admiralty proudly announced tonight.

Prime Minister Attlee relayed his personal congratulations to the commanding officer and crew of the Amethyst for their "gallant exploit." The British naval commander in chief in the Far East told the sloop's crew their daring passage will go down as "an epic in the history of the navy." A signal from the ship said: "Rejoined the fleet. No damage or casualties. God save the king."

Long Time at Anchor

The Amethyst has been at anchor in the Yangtze river since April 20, when she was shelled by Chinese communist shore batteries and ran aground on Rose island, 60 miles downstream from Nanking.

This was before the fall of Nanking to the communists. At that time British casualties aboard the 1,490-ton Amethyst included 17 dead and 20 wounded.

Normally the Amethyst carries 192 men but only 86 were aboard when the sloop made its dash to freedom.

The Amethyst was one of four British warships that were fired on in the Yangtze last April. The gunfire killed 44 British sailors in all. Slipped Around Obstacle

The admiralty announcement of the escape said the Amethyst managed to slip around an obstacle at Kiangyin and continued downstream. Kiangyin is about 55 miles from Nanking on the way to the east China sea.

The negotiations bogged down about June 1. The communists were demanding reparations on behalf of 254 Red casualties in the battle with the British vessels.

The sloop had been reported able to move under her own steam, but had been pinned to the shore by the communist batteries.

Bean Barbecue Draws 2,000 To Stayton Fete

STAYTON, July 30—(Special)—About 2,000 people ate barbecued navy beans at the Stayton Bean festival "bean-hole" feed here Saturday night. And at least another thousand watched the horse show and parade during the afternoon.

The Stayton Saddle club won first prize as the best riding group in the parade. They also won two events at the horse show, the flag relay and the musical chairs contest.

Mrs. Mike Southard of Albany won individual parade honors as the best rider on the best horse. Mrs. Vada Carson of Silverton was second, and Mrs. Margaret Keigel of Lyons, third.

Riders of the Santiam won the stake bending dash and the potato race at the horse show. The Silverton Saddle club won second prize among riding groups in the parade. They also presented a quadrille.

Other events during the day were sport contests for children, a concert by the Stayton band and the concluding Bean ball at the new community building.

Officials reported the festival a financial success with record crowds attending all sessions.

Pilots Berate State Board of Aeronautics

PORTLAND, July 30—(AP)—A campaign of opposition to the state board of aeronautics took flight here today.

Several flying groups disclosed they had joined in demanding new appointments to the board. They challenged qualifications of W. M. (Jack) Bartlett as state director of aeronautics.

Letters to Governor McKay accused the board of "mismanagement and flagrant waste of our money."

The letters were signed by officers of the Oregon flying farmers, the sportsmen-pilots and the aerial spray and dust operators.

Directors of the flying farmers are to meet tomorrow at Lebanon to discuss further action.

Claude Williams, Primeville, president of the flying farmers, said there was particular dissatisfaction with two of the board members. He asked that vacancies be created to make room for Ralph Scroggins, Lebanon, and Jack Loennig, Haynes.

The letters accused the board of spending money without accomplishing good for the majority of private fliers in the state.

Eugene Firm Wins Contracts At Detroit Dam

PORTLAND, July 30—(AP)—Minnis and Shilling, Eugene, won a \$138,734 contract today to build a number of facilities at Detroit dam.

The army engineers award the contract for construction of a motor repair shop, warehouse, pump station, water storage tank, water and sewer system, electrical distribution system, access roads and parking areas in a permanent housing section.

Other bids awarded by the engineers were for a bank protection works on the McKenzie river 1 1/2 miles east of Springfield, \$27,442. R. A. Heinz Construction Co., Portland, retentment repair on the Willamette river four miles southeast of Corvallis, \$14,853.

McKinnon construction company, Sandy, bank protection works on the Willamette river five miles southeast of Independence, \$11,131.

Mt. Angel Flax Plant Float Wins Parade's Sweepstakes Trophy

By Loretta E. Dehler

Statesman Valley Correspondent

MT. ANGEL, July 30—The Mt. Angel Flax festival parade Saturday was one of the finest and largest ever held despite a blazing sun that shone unrelentingly on the marchers and on the dignitaries gathered on the reviewing stand at the western entrance of the city all day.

The Mt. Angel Flax plant won the sweepstakes trophy donated by Stevens Jewelers of Salem. The entry, called "A Basket of Flax," was a huge basket formed of flax from the raw fiber to the finished product.

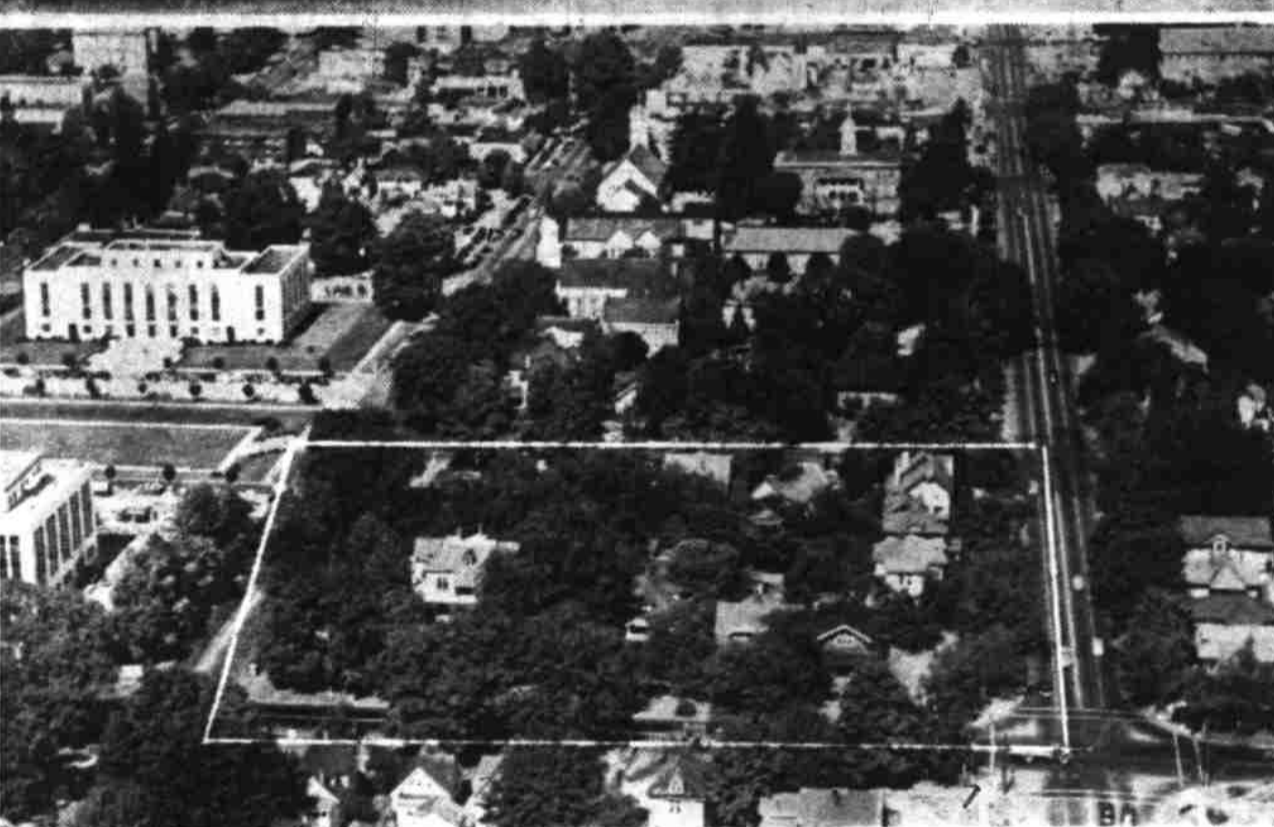
Vice Admiral Thomas L. Gatch

of Portland, speaker of the day, in his short speech stated that the Flax Festival was a monument to Mrs. Julia Lord, who had been a tireless promoter of the flax industry. He mentioned that they had known each other since childhood. He paid tribute to Marion county and told the people to hold on to their right to sow and reap when they pleased and quoted "if we ever have of ask Washington when to sow and reap, we'll want for bread."

Other speakers were Rev. Cyril Lebold, representing St. Benedict abbey, Joe Oberstinner, president of the Flax Growers association, George Christenson, vice chairman of Silverton council, Dean Wm. A. Schoenfeld of Oregon State college, Roy Rice, county commissioner, S. J. Butler, Marion county treasurer, Harry Riches, Marion county agricultural agent, Kay West and Mrs. Eldon Campbell, KEX radio station, Portland. The trend of opinions expressed was that although flax prices and prospects are not too good at present it is no time to quit since every industry must have its low as well as its high times.

Others introduced by Joe Berchtold, were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Chitold, master of ceremonies were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Everett, Oregon Flax Textile; Jesse E. Hammond, federal agricultural engineer at Oregon State college, and Drexel Watson, Production and Marketing, Portland. (Additional details on page 16)

Landmarks to Make Way for Office Building



Razing of 11 houses to make way for a new state highway department office building will start soon with first bids to buy the old E. T. Barnes house to be opened this week by the highway commission. The area to be razed by September 15 for construction is the block (outlined) just north of the new state office building now under construction (partly shown at left). Photos above show the Barnes house and Chemeketa and Center streets. (Statesman photos.)

Wrecking of Homes Due Soon To Speed Start of State Building

Action to provide more state office space will take place soon as bids for the wrecking of houses on the block just north of the new state office building now under construction will be called and let by the state highway department. Letting of wrecking contracts will start work which will clear the block of 11 houses, some of them almost 60 years old.

All houses are to be cleared off the block by September 15 so that preliminary work on the new state highway office building can be started. The block is bounded by Chemeketa and Center streets on the south and north; and by Capitol and Summer streets on the east and west, and is in an area which was settled early as a suburban district to Salem. Before there were graded streets and many buildings there was a noticeable hill in the area, taking the name Piety Hill from the homes of many missionaries and church officials who built there.

Prominent among the homes to be razed is the old E. T. Barnes place at Chemeketa and North Capitol streets. It was built about 1891 by W. W. Martin, later occupied by Dr. T. C. Smith, and in 1906 bought by Barnes, who resided there with his family and owned the house until the property was bought by the state in 1946. Another old-timer is the R. A. Turner house, also built about 1891.

Houses which were bought by the state and which will be razed were homes of F. B. Cunningham, F. C. Crabtree, C. B. Pomeroy, F. W. Eyre, George Waters, J. E. Heenan, A. A. Rogers, H. R. Worth

Oregon Building Totals Move Ahead Of 1948 Figures

SEATTLE, July 30—(AP)—Oregon started more buildings in the first half of 1949 than in 1948, the magazine Construction News Bulletin said today.

The July 30th edition of the trade journal devoted to construction projects reported \$38,010,700 of building permits issued in Oregon this year, compared to \$34,786,653 in the first half of 1948.

The largest increases were in Portland and in Albany. In Portland, \$25,728,280 to \$22,780,035; in Albany \$1,086,498 to \$625,910. The upswing was general over the Pacific northwest.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

Another thing the war did was to bury much of the pioneer spirit in the west. First, it broke the shell of provincial thinking, orienting our people to global affairs. They had to learn geography to know where their boys were fighting. They have since had to follow events in China, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Russia, South America. Second, the new immigration to the west coast was concerned with housing, employment, schools. It came by swift motorcar, or passenger train or airplane. Plooding oxen on the Oregon trail were remote in time and rarely rose above the horizon of their consciousness.

That may help explain why the expected crowds at the centennial celebration at Columbia, California, old mining town, failed to materialize. It also points up the need which the west coast faces to educate the newcomers in its history.

For there is a story to tell which is by means strictly local. Great nations contended for dominion on this coast. Russia and Spain and Great Britain sent ships and men and each gained substantial foothold here. The two former yielded their places, Russia selling Alaska to the United States, Spain's title passing to Great Britain in the north and to the republic of Mexico in the south which later ceded Upper California to the United States. How Great Britain and the United States carried on their rivalry and how it was peacefully settled giving the former British Columbia and the latter the Oregon country south of the 49th parallel is also a story of more than local interest.

But I fancy the pioneer legends will have receding significance in Oregon. Not only are the descendants of pioneers overrun postwar settlers, but the thinking is in terms of the future and not of the past. Power dams with raging kilowatts, bulldozers razing out new speedways, glistering airplanes, speeding streamliners, tractor-drawn gangplows, automatic gadgets, these are the symbols of our new civilization. The more ample time for leisure is filled with entertainment—radio, movies, nightclubs, soon television. Oregon history will be like art, something for those with a special taste for it; or something to be exploited in a celebration or a scenario.

The links with the past are being cut. Even the social reign of first families is being broken up.

Truman Memorial Group Organizes

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., July 30—(AP)—The Harry S. Truman foundation became an official body today.

Circuit Judge John R. James granted an application for its incorporation. Over \$3,000 has been collected in \$1 contributions so far toward the erection of a memorial building here, which would house President Truman's mementoes and serve as a museum for Independence relics.

BASEBALL

- Western International
- At Vancouver 12-8, Salem 4-7.
- At Victoria 5-1, Yakima 1-4.
- At Bremerton 1, Wenatchee 4.
- At Tacoma 3-3, Spokane 1-4.
- Coast League
- At Portland 4, Hollywood 2.
- At Los Angeles 4, Sacramento 7.
- At San Diego 3, San Francisco 4.
- At Oakland 5, Seattle 3.
- American League
- At Philadelphia 0, Detroit 11.
- At New York 2, Chicago 9.
- At Washington 9, St. Louis 11.
- At Boston 6, Cleveland 10.
- National League
- At St. Louis Brooklyn
- At Cincinnati 7, New York 8 (10 inn.).
- At Chicago 3-1, Philadelphia 4-9.
- At Pittsburgh-Boston, rain.

Parades--Long and Colorful--on Legion's Schedule

By Conrad G. Frange

Staff Writer, The Statesman

Military flash, blare of bands, lines of marchers, stunts and color will feature the three parades which will wind through the American Legion convention here this week.

The grand parade, expected to carry about 2,000 participants through Salem streets will begin Friday night at 7 o'clock.

The children's parade is set for 1:30 p.m., that same day while the 40 at 8 parade is slated for Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Five sections are to make up the main parade Friday night Grand Marshall Brig. Gen. H. G. Malson of

Salem and staff will head the first section.

The second group is to be made up of military units including 250 marching troops of the 2nd division from Fort Lewis, Wash. The 50 piece 2nd Infantry band, rated as one of the finest in the nation, will feature this section and the entire parade.

Two battalions of the 162nd Infantry of the Oregon National Guard—700 strong—including Salem's two units, will follow. A reinforced rifle company will ride in jeeps and show mounted guns.

The 41st division artillery unit will display 20 vehicles containing the newest and largest of the

army's big guns. Completing the military second section will be marchers from local naval, army and marine reserve units.

Section three will consist of Legion post members and members of the state auxiliary units of the 40 at 8. In the fourth section patriotic groups including the Gold Star Mothers, War Mothers, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and others will participate.

Civic organizations will make up the final section.

Stunts and features will high-light the 40 at 8 parade Wednesday night during the organization's grand promenade here. The parade is to start at 5 p.m., and is to form in South Liberty street between Ferry and Trade streets.

Grand feature officers will head the parade. A number of bands and drum corps are expected to participate including the Kilby band from Ashland Legion post.

Members of county voitures from over the state will follow with each voiture displaying its own special stunt or brand of humor. A special feature will be the traditional Linm county voiture bus-car.

Judges of the parade will be Salem Mayor Robert L. Eifstrom, Fire Chief W. P. Robie and W. L. Phillips, sr., Bert Victor, of the

THE WEATHER

	Max.	Min.	Precep.
Salem	83	54	99
Portland	87	59	00
San Francisco	84	54	trace
Chicago	74	67	00
New York	97	77	00
Willamette River	81	57	00

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Fair today and tonight. Continued warm with highest temperature today near 95 and lowest tonight near 55. Conditions favorable for farm activities except for moderate winds.

SALEM PRECIPITATION (Sept. 1 to July 31)

This Year	Last Year	Normal
41.87	47.00	37.32