

Talent Seen at State Employees Union Picnic

The industrial accident commission's chapter of the Oregon State Employees association brought back top "laurels" from the district-wide picnic of state employees Sunday at Champoeg.

Robert Ashby, president of the EAC chapter 20, was judged by applause as "Queen O'Sea I" for his impersonation of "Miss Accident" in competition with female impersonators representing six OSEA chapters.

And several members of that chapter staged a five-minute skit on the theme of Jacksonville's Gold Rush to take first honors in the contest for skits portraying various Oregon festivals. Nearly 1,500 state employees and their families were at the state park shrine for an all-afternoon program of entertainment Sunday. Officials of the OSEA said the outing appeared successful enough to make it an annual event. Those present were mostly from Salem, Woodburn and Monmouth.

Vaudeville entertainment featured talented state employees, including Peggy Arnaz, singer; Annabelle and David Kropp, song and dance; Gordon Winchcomb, guitarist; Virginia McClellan, singer, and others. Former governor Charles A. Sprague talked on the historic background of Champoeg.

Winners of special prizes included Teresa Hanks, Mrs. S. E. Tonetti, Marge Heigeson and Louise Purvis. Runner-up in the skit contest was the tax commission chapter which staged a take-off on Brookings' Lily festival.

Government To Buy Pears

PORTLAND, Aug. 29—(AP)—Oregon pear growers got the welcome news today that the government would begin a large buying program for fresh Bartlett this week. Fifty cars of pears at Medford and Hood River will be bought at \$2.25 a box for No. 1 grade, \$2.15 for combination grade. Market sources said these prices were about 25 cents above the current market.

Canners have been paying \$30 a ton for Bartletts, compared with \$120 last year. The department of agriculture said it also would buy pears in Washington, sixty-five cars are scheduled for purchase there this week.

Citrus Fruit Lost Due to Florida Hurricane



VERO BEACH, Fla., Aug. 29—Mrs. James Graner is surrounded by Indian River grapefruit blown from trees by the Florida hurricane. Estimates of total citrus losses throughout the great grovelands of Florida range from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

Salem Lions to Hear Teamster Union Leader

Walter H. Briem, one of Oregon's top Teamster's union representatives, will discuss "Labor's Side of Wage Increase Demands" at the Thursday noon meeting of the Salem Lions club in the Marlon hotel.

Briem is director of statistical department of the joint council of Teamsters number 37, with headquarters in Portland. He represents 26 affiliated unions in southwest Washington and all of Oregon.

He has served as a teamster representative in cases before the national labor relations board the past four years. Previously he was executive assistant to labor members of the 12th regional war labor board in Seattle and from 1936 to 1942 was Washington state labor commissioner.

Rites Wednesday For Mrs. Page

Funeral services for Mrs. Gertrude J. M. Page, former Salem resident who died in Portland Sunday, will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. Lawrence church in Portland. Interment will be in City View cemetery here.

Mrs. Page, who was 80 years old, is survived by two children, Mabel and Addison Page, both of Salem; and a sister, Mrs. Charles Volv of Mt. Vernon, Wash.

OLD FORT FOR SALE

FORT STEVENS, Ore. —(INS)—Century-old Fort Stevens, whose armaments could have blown the Confederate fleet out of the mouth of the Columbia river, is being offered for sale by the government as obsolete. It is estimated that \$60,000 would buy the old installation.

Ralph Miller, Former State Employee, Dies

Ralph Miller, former state employee and longtime resident of this area, died Monday at his farm home near Salem in Polk county. He was 58.

Miller was born at New Hartford, Ia., July 25, 1891. His parents brought him to Salem when he was two. He attended Capital business college here and worked in the law office of Oscar Hayter in Dallas when a young man. He joined the office staff of the state industrial accident commission when that body was created and worked there for 20 years.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. David O'Hara of Salem and Mrs. Sylvia Towne of Dietrich, Ida.; and a brother, Paul W. Miller of Salem. Services will be announced later by the Howell-Edwards chapel.

Navy Opens Investigation Of B-36 Issue

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29—(AP)—The navy today opened its own investigation into the source of now discredited charges that fraud and political skulduggery were involved in the multi-million dollar B-36 bomber expansion program.

The purpose of the naval inquiry, as set forth by Navy Secretary Matthews, is to find out whether an \$8,500-a-year civilian employe of the navy acted alone or whether others helped instigate the exploded charges.

A three-man naval court, meeting behind closed doors, launched the probe as an aftermath of disclosures by the house armed services committee.

The court promptly decided that Cedric Worth, author of a once anonymous memo which touched off the congressional B-36 investigation, is an "interested party" and should be notified that he will be "welcome" to attend the court's sessions.

The designation as an "interested party" means that Worth, who was suspended last week from his post as a special assistant to Under-Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball, will be permitted to ask questions and cross-examine witnesses.

The court also decided that future sessions will be open to the press and public, unless secret material is introduced as evidence.

After its short session, the court recessed subject to the call of its president, Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, commander of the eastern sea frontier. The next session is not expected before Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Navy sources said the decision to hold open sessions was most unusual. However, it seemed clear that top naval officials decided to thrust out the matter in the open to avoid any possible implication of a "whitewash" in a matter which has already caused the navy deep embarrassment.

Boundary Line Hearing Slated

Hearings for proposed boundary line changes will be conducted in Salem Friday by the district boundary board.

O. A. Lowery has requested that part of his farm be transferred from Lake Labish to Brooks district. A rehearing on changes involving Evans Valley and Silver Crest districts also is slated, and a transfer from Rosedale to Salem school district will be discussed.

Circus Has Advance Man's Advance Man

The latest thing in circuses paid Salem a whirlwind visit Monday. He was smiling Fred Bowers, the advance man's advance man for Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey circus which is booked to play Salem Thursday, September 15.

An oldtimer in slow business but new this year to the circus, Bowers recalled playing Salem in minstrel shows and musicals at the old opera house (now the Grand theatre).

Bowers said he usually looks in at a couple of service clubs or other luncheon organizations but managed to pick the wrong day for Salem, as no clubs were meeting. "I just sit down at a piano, give 'em a song and reminisce a little."

"It gets the word around a little," he came out with, "until the advance man (proper) comes around."

Willamette to Play Host to Scout Leaders

The annual northwest regional conference of Boy Scout executives will open on the Willamette university campus Sunday and continue through September 10, Director Gordon Gilmore announced Monday.

More than 150 delegates and their families from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska are expected to attend daily meetings in Waller hall.

In addition, at least four national executives will be present to conduct courses and give lectures at the sessions. Married delegates and their families will be housed in Lausanne hall and single men will be quartered in Baxter hall. Daily programs are being planned for women visitors in addition to business meetings of the conference.

Some Japanese say that their practice of counting a baby as one year old at birth is based on the idea that life begins at conception.

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Playground Attendance Sets Record

Participation in Salem's summer playground activities increased more than 20,000 this year over the same period in 1948.

A total of 183,071 persons registered during the 1949 summer program which ended with picnics at all playgrounds Friday, compared to 160,951 last year.

Playground Director Vernon Gilmore attributed the increase to warmer weather and the fact that children have been educated to use the playgrounds more than in the past.

Gilmore commended all playground directors for excellent work during the summer and said public cooperation was the best in recent history.

Figures do not include junior baseball and senior softball activities and the final total may climb past 200,000.

Biggest single week was July 9-15 when 31,347 persons joined in playground activities and splashed in city pools during extremely hot weather.

At Olinger playfield 17,685 registered for the program while swimming at Olinger pool drew a record 41,778. Leslie playground drew 16,738 and the swimming

pool attracted 37,272. Attendance figures at other playgrounds included Bush, 5,634; Richmond, 5,027; Highland, 4,491; Englewood, 5,724; Grant, 12,122; McKinley, 9,998; West Salem, 5,334; and West Salem park, 8,109. Activity totals were 3,522 for music and 3,639 for tennis which was introduced for the first time this year.

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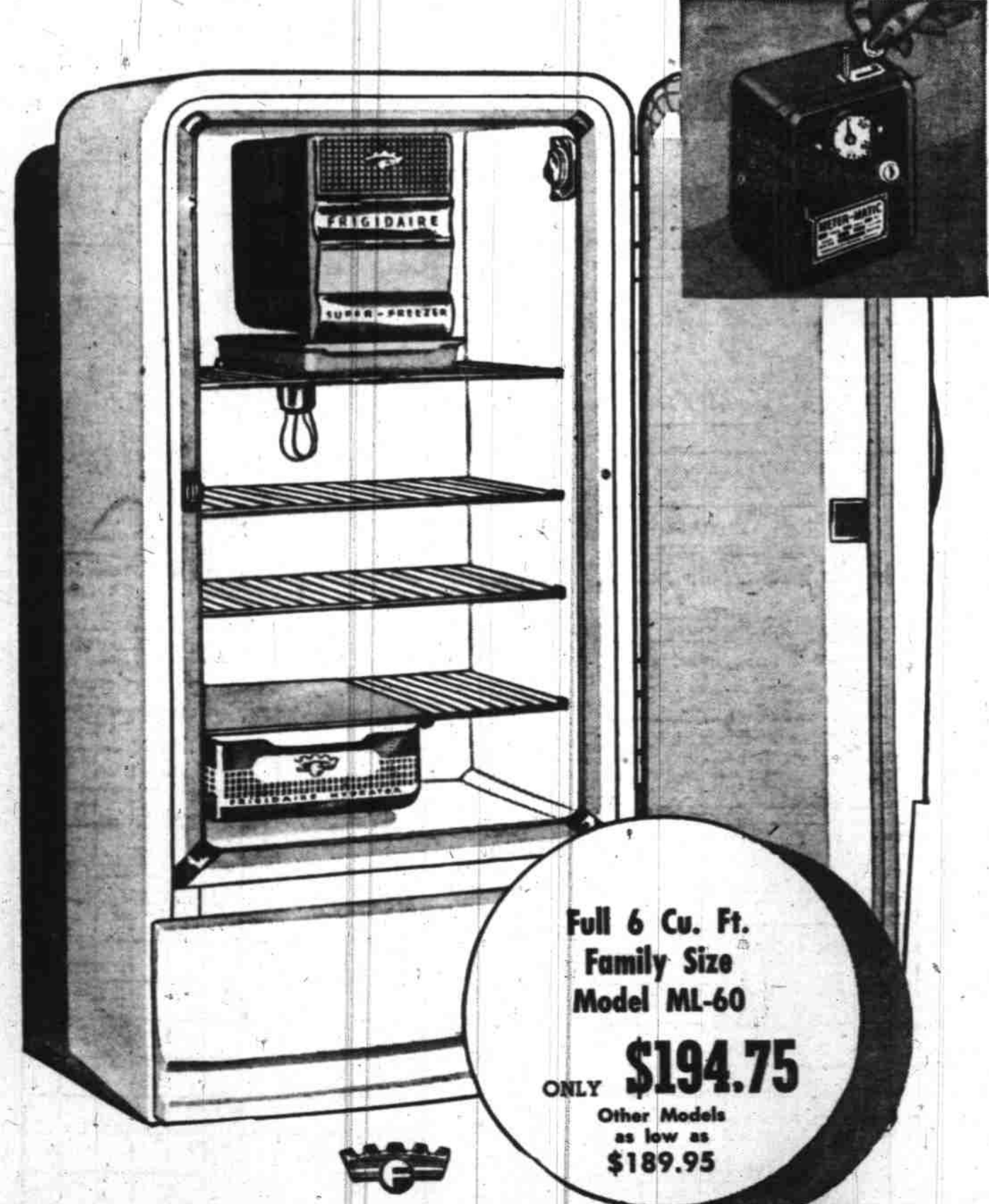
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