

# Should Detroit and Idanha Wed or Go Their Separate Ways; Incorporation Controversy Is Heating Up Canyons of the North Santiam

By Wendell Webb  
Managing Editor, The Statesman

IDANHA, Ore., Nov. 26 — The tree-clad canyons of the North Santiam are echoing to more than one kind of dynamite these days. One kind is blasting out roads for the great Detroit dam 10 miles downstream from here.

The other is figuring in the controversy as to whether two communities and in intervening four-mile wilderness should be wedded into an incorporated city. The communities are Detroit and Idanha. (Combined population estimated all the way from 1,000 to 1,500).

**Question Not Simple**

But the question isn't that simple, either. In fact, Idanha now seeks to incorporate all by itself.

The noise from the arguments is thundering far beyond the green walls of the canyon country. It will find echo in circuit court Monday in Salem where Judge Rex Kimmell must decide whether Idanha can so act. If it can, Idanhans will vote December 9. If it can't, they'll vote anyway on December 13, along with Detroiters, as to whether there should be joint incorporation.

To untangle the complex situation means untangling a genial, graying, middle-aged chap named Edison E. Vickers, extensive property owner in both communities and in between, justice of the peace for the entire canyon, and espouser of plans to make the North Santiam the common man's Coney Island.

Untangling Vickers is no small job.

**Incorporation Opposed**

Vickers, according to Vickers and a lot of other people, two years ago wanted to incorporate Idanha where he maintains his home. But he ran into opposition. Then, from some source of inspiration now lost in time, was born the thought to incorporate both places into one. After all, lots of Detroit will be many feet underground when the lake forms behind the huge dam in a year or two, and the remainder of the picturesque town might not be large enough to become a city by itself.

It was a polished idea. But voters of the two towns polished it off with a 206 to 99 "no" vote a few weeks ago and incorporation went poof. Vickers didn't go poof, however. He found out where most of his opponents lived and merely counted them out. Then he asked and received sanction for a new vote in which about half of Idanha can take no part. It is set for December 13 — two weeks from Tuesday.

**Idanhans Revolt**

That was too much for some of the Idanhans. They might have fought off Vickers a couple of years ago when he wanted to get them all mixed up with mayors, councilmen and city laws. But they weren't going to have him scramble them with problems of another community four miles and a nice stretch of forest away. Besides,

they didn't want Idanha chopped up.

So-o-o, Idanhans in favor of keeping on as Idanhans got the county court to set an incorporation election solely for that community, for December 9 — four days prior to the one Vickers fosters.

Vickers, no man to dodge a scrap, didn't like that, so Monday Judge Kimmell will get himself in the mess about which election should be held if any.

That's all there is to the story unless a body wants to listen a bit in the canyon and hear what's beneath it.

**Some Contradictions**

Who stirred it all up? Vickers, and he's proud of it. But he also contradicts himself a bit, as do some of the more fervent members of both factions.

For instance, here's an exact quotation from a conversation with Vickers as we sat in a booth at his new night club here:

"Mr. Vickers, what do you think about Idanha incorporating alone?"

"Why, that's the most practical, of course. I wanted that two years ago."

"Then why not join in that move instead of pressing for the Detroit-Idanha incorporation. If you feel that way?"

"Well, I don't want to let Detroit down and besides it's a question of having two little towns that don't amount to much or one bigger one that could get state funds."

**Cites Utility Problems**

After assuring Mr. Vickers we were not suggesting anything at all — in fact, that we weren't even sure about anything ourselves — we asked what prompted his interest in incorporation in the first place.

"We could get state funds, and besides I believe this area is going places as a resort area for the common man. And we are faced with a water and power problem that — say, now!"

Things were starting to echo all right. Before we could say Thomas A. Edison, we were shown charts indicating power, provided by a private firm in both Detroit and Idanha, was about as unstable as the French cabinet, bills showing electric charges of \$80 a month for a restaurant which used gas for cooking; comparative figures indicating power rates were three times those for West Salem.

And, finally, we were offered a chance to see a biochemist's report purporting to prove that Idanha water provided by a lumber mill was as full of life as an untreated fish bowl. Having just had a drink of it (it tasted all right), we declined, however.

**Denies Loans Sought**

Vickers didn't seem to mind being questioned so we put a few \$64 ones.

"What's there to this story about you wanting to get some property into a city so you could get an FHA loan on houses to sell?"

"Someone dreamed that up before the election. It hasn't been blankety-blank thing to do with things at all. I'm building 10

houses and I don't need any more loans. If that land were incorporated, my taxes would go up like anyone else's, wouldn't they?"

"Well, what about you wanting to be mayor?"

"Hell, I've been going to resign as justice of the peace, let alone take on anything else like that. I haven't wanted to be mayor but I might be at that, after all this fussing. But not now, of course."

"O.K., we'll pass that. But why is there so much opposition to the incorporation?"

"I'll tell you. They didn't want to incorporate Idanha because they were afraid somebody would do something. And that's the reason they don't want to incorporate Detroit and Idanha — just because they are afraid somebody would do something."

"They," it appeared, included most of the lumber interests in Idanha, and what "they" were "afraid" of appeared to mean city taxes, the loss of control over public utilities, and Vickers.

The one-time Willamina business man is a storm center in the canyon right now. He has friends who say he is a badly-needed spur to badly-needed development. Many others say he's a thorn in the side of orderly progress. Whichever he is, the odds today seemed against him linking two ends of a town with four miles of trees. But the vote isn't in yet.

**Victor Point Residents Host To Californians**

Statesman News Service

VICTOR POINT — Mr. and Mrs. John Walker (Dorothy Lang) of Crescent City, Calif., were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lang over the Thanksgiving week end. Additional dinner guests on Thursday were Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Jones.

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests at the J. C. Krenz home were Mrs. Myra Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Doerfler, of Salem, Guy Scott, of Union Hill, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Humphreys and son Robert, and E. J. Krenz, of Silverton.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric L. Fisher and family and Mrs. Fisher's mother, Mrs. Nettie Downing of Stayton, spent the holiday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Phillips (Alice Downing) at Estacada. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Doerfler and Mrs. Rosa Amstutz spent the day in Salem at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Guyer. Mrs. Guyer is the former Dellora Doerfler.

Ava Jane Darby, of Oakland, was here for the holiday weekend at the J. J. Doerfler and J. O. Darby homes. Mr. and Mrs. Marlon Fischer and children Morris and Evelyn were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lambrecht at Sublimity Thanksgiving Day.

## Willamina Group Compiles Report On VFW Building

Statesman News Service

The VFW building fund committee of the Civic club met Monday to begin composing its report on the Memorial building fund. The report will be sent to the General Federation of Women's clubs contest. The contest is to determine the clubs which have accomplished the most toward civic improvement in the past year. Attending were Mrs. Roy Durham, Mrs. George King, Mrs. J. L. Newton and Mrs. Rurik Hendrickson.

## Polk County Judge Returns from Meeting

Statesman News Service

DALLAS — County Judge C. F. (Jack) Hayes has returned from a session of the Highway 99 association in southern Oregon and northern California early this week.

First meeting of the three-day convocation was scheduled Monday at a point just beyond the California border and subsequent meetings were due at Yreka, Calif.

## Hot Lunch Program Set At Roberts

Statesman News Service

ROBERTS — Mothers club of Roberts school will start their hot lunch program Monday. Hot lunches will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the remaining days hot soup will be prepared by the teachers as a supplement to the students own lunch.

At the last meeting of the Mothers club, members planned to make all costumes of the children for the Christmas play. Additional equipment for the needs of the school will be purchased including sheets and pillow cases for the First Aid cot which was donated recently by the club.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Carl Heyden, December 16, at 1:30.

**GERVAIS PLAY SET**

GERVAIS — The junior class of the Gervais high school will present a three-act comedy play entitled "Grandad Steps Out," at the high school auditorium on Friday night, December 2 at 8 p. m. Ad-dyse Lane, dramatic teacher, is directing the cast.

## Valley Obituaries

**Silvey Oscar Goodman**

ALBANY — Funeral services for Silvey Oscar Goodman, 84, killed in front of his home Wednesday by a car, will be held from the Fisher Funeral Home at 11 a. m. Monday, November 28. Burial will be in the Alford cemetery. Goodman was born at Harrisburg June 17, 1885, and had lived in Harrisburg, Brownsville, Eastern Oregon, as well as in Lane county. The past

## Rosedale Family Visiting In Eastern Oregon

Statesman News Service

ROSEDALE — Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Cammack and family and his mother, Mrs. Mary Cammack, spent Thanksgiving with the Albert Cammacks near Vale. They plan to go on to Greenleaf, Idaho, to visit Mrs. Cammacks relations before returning.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cole and sons spent Thanksgiving day in Portland with Mr. and Mrs. Orville Gleason and family.

The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, Nov. 27, 1949 — 17

10 years he had lived near Albany where he was engaged in dairying. He was a member of the Christian church.

In Albany on Aug. 3, 1922, Goodman married Katie Cocheil. She survives as do three children, Mrs. Neil Shepard of Tangent, and June Rosetta Goodman and Lenora Goodman both of Albany. Surviving also is a sister Mrs. Rena Carroll of Harrisburg, and a grandson, Tommie Shepard of Tangent. Goodman, who was totally blind and hard of hearing, started across the highway to his barn located across the road to do the evening milking, when the accident occurred. His father, the late Charles W. Goodman, was killed at almost the same spot on Jan. 28, 1938. He also was starting across the highway, and stepped from behind a parked car and trailer, directly in front of an oncoming car.

**Dr. W. O. Powell**

McMINNVILLE, Nov. 26 — (Special) — Funeral services were held at the McMinnville Funeral home Saturday for Dr. W. O. Powell, pioneer Oregon chiropractic physician and former Yamhill county judge, who died here Thursday at the age of 80. Committal was at Mt. Crest Abbey, Salem.

Dr. Powell took his degree in chiropractic in 1904 and practiced

in McMinnville from 1904 to 1909 at which time he assumed the presidency of the Pacific College of Chiropractic in Portland, holding the post for seven years.

He continued the practice of his profession in Worland and Laramie, Wyo., until 1925, at which time he returned to McMinnville, living here until his death.

He served as Yamhill county judge from 1935 to 1941.

Born Jan. 9, 1869 in Mason, Effingham county, Ill., he was the son of Cornelia Wintringer Powell. He married Anna Peterson of Butte, Mont., on February 24, 1900.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; two sons, Curtis of San Diego, and William of McMinnville; two daughters, Mrs. Edwin Knapp of Lakes Charles, La., and Mrs. Paul G. Warren of Salem; a brother, Arthur, of Dover Plains, N. Y., and two sisters, Angie A. Belk of Boise, Idaho and Mrs. Mattie Hadley, Seattle.

**Cabinets & Built Ins**

Store Fixtures

FREE ESTIMATES

Reuben C. Paschke

Phone 2-4287

# FOR A THRIFTY Merry Christmas

SAVE AT SEARS

Shop 'til  
9:00 P.M. Friday

A royal gift for any man . . . rayon satin

## PILGRIM GIFT ROBES

Nothing quite so luxurious as a smooth rayon satin gift robe from Sears! Distinguished looking woven-in jacquard design, rayon satin shawl collar. Three pockets, non-slip sash. Assorted patterns. Gift boxed.

Maroon or navy all wool flannel robes . . . . . 8.90

**Pilgrim Beacon Robe for Comfort**  
6.90

When its long wearing good looks at a low economy price see these snug Pilgrim beacon blanket cloth robes at Sears today! They come in soft maroon & blue in small, medium and large sizes.

**Men's Pilgrim Striped Shirts**  
1.98

Crisp printed stripe patterns at a down-to-earth Sears price! Durable mercerized & sanforized broadcloth. Non-wilt fused collar. 14-17 neck, 32-35 sleeves.

**Pilgrim Shirts with Formeasse Collar**  
2.98

White cotton broadcloth — sanforized, maximum shrinkage 1%. Special Sears Formeasse collar. Full cut. Sizes 14-17.

**Warm Wool Muffler**  
1.49

Beautiful wool wadded Pilgrim muffler in bright maroon, navy and brown bold plaids to give you warm comfort on cold days.

**Top Cowhide Wallet**  
1.98 & tax

Smooth finish top grain cowhide. Zipper closing on 3 sides and coin pocket. Three card pockets, four spring windows, secret compartment.

**Dress Handkerchiefs**  
25c

Swamy white cotton with attractive white colored borders . . . select size small. They're ideal pocket handkerchiefs. Hemmed 17x17-in. size.

**Cool Sport Shirts**  
3.98

Casual "rayon" fabric with attractive cow-ribbed collar, shirred back. Nine new light and dusky colors. 4 sizes. ("Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.")

**Fur Lined Gloves**  
3.98

Fur lined for warmth! Rich smooth domestic capelin gloves in smart slip-on style. Black or brown. Small, medium or large.

**Pigskin Dress Gloves**  
4.98 Imported Leather

Pilgrim genuine pigskin gloves with comfortable sidewall construction. Warm 100% full wool lining. Whip sewn. Cuff color. 3 sizes.

Plenty of Free Parking — Shop in Air Conditioned Comfort

**SEARS** 550 N. Capitol St. Phone 3-9191

*"Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back"*

# Make it RIGHT

WITH YOURSELF

when you are ready to remodel, repair and improve any of these:

- Apartment Houses
- Churches
- Homes
- Schools

- Orphanages
- Hotels
- Manufacturing Plants
- Multiple Family Dwellings

KEITH BROWN will supply as much as \$2500 worth of BUILDING MATERIALS. You have 36 months to pay with no down payment.

**When You Need:**

- PAINT
- HARDWARE
- MILLWORK
- CEMENT
- PLYWOOD
- ROOFING
- LUMBER
- WIRING
- PLASTER
- DOORS
- INSULATION
- BUILDING BLOCKS

FRONT COURT

## KEITH BROWN

LUMBER YARD

see Dick Cox, your Building Buddy — he'll arrange everything for you