

Fire in Iowa Hospital Mental Ward Traps 38 Women

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	37	33	.56
Portland	37	34	.54
San Francisco	33	32	Trace
Chicago	37	37	.00
New York	37	37	.00

Willamette river 43 feet
 FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Fog lifting early this morning, becoming partly cloudy today and clearing considerably tonight. Warmer today with high near 48. Cooler tonight with low near 37.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

99th YEAR 2 SECTIONS—36 PAGES The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, January 8, 1950 PRICE 10c No. 304

RAGING CREEK UNDERMINES RAILROAD BRIDGE

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The future that has been raised over the contemplated erection of an apartment house within the area designated for state capitol expansion by the capitol planning commission proves the necessity for early decision on state capitol plans and of city zoning in relation thereto. So long as these matters are left "up in the air" there will be confusion and uncertainty and perhaps unwise investment.

Salem is pleased to have outside capital come in seeking investment and there seems to be a need for additional apartment houses. But certainly we do not want a large apartment house set down right in the path of probable progress of the state house group. I should think that the investor would prefer a site less likely to face possible condemnation within a comparatively short span of years. The city authorities are moving properly and promptly to see if this "roadblock" cannot be removed by agreement with the owners of the land.

It was to avoid such conflicts and difficulties that the last legislature created the state capitol planning commission. This commission has worked hard to lay out a plan for the capitol group which would make it one of the most impressive and beautiful groupings of state buildings to be found anywhere. As the new office building has taken form and the ground has been cleared for the new highway building people are beginning to get a glimpse in reality of what the planners envision. This double line of stately marble building flanking Summer street which leads to the capitol itself, with a green mall between will become, if the plan is followed out, a most impressive architectural grouping, that will become the envy of all other American capitals, excluding Washington.

Salem must cooperate to the fullest extent possible in this planning. This city is the "chosen instrument" of the state.

(Continued on editorial page, 4.)

Freight Runs Cancelled as Piling Slips

Rushing water from two days of heavy rain undermined the Oregon Electric railway trestle just south of the Oregon Pulp and Paper company mill Saturday and forced cancellation of two freight runs.

Piling under the trestle gave way Saturday afternoon, dropping one section of a spur at the paper plant about a foot. The mainline supports were also undermined forcing a halt to train traffic through the city on the line.

John Henshaw, Salem agent for the railroad, said he hoped to have the trestle reinforced sufficiently to permit trains to run by 8 or 9 o'clock this morning. Scheduled freight runs northbound at 1 a. m. and southbound at 4 a. m. were cancelled because of the weakened bridge.

A work train and pile driver, dispatched from Portland, began reinforcing the trestle shortly after 7 p. m. Saturday and a second crew picked up the project at 10:30 p. m. and was to continue until it was completed.

Breach Feared

For a time it was feared the trestle might give way entirely, carrying with it the main water line from the filter plant to the plant.

The rain-making weatherman gave Salem householders a break Saturday and the surface flooding of a large area in the northeast section of the city was at least temporarily over by early Sunday.

Magazine Editor Claims Atom Blast Occurred in Siberia 'On Schedule'

Albany Parents Vote New School Boycott Demand Inside Toilets for Children

By Anne Lake
 Statesman News Service

ALBANY, Ore., Jan. 7.—This city's newest school building will remain unoccupied until adequate sewer facilities are provided by the city council.

Parents of Lincoln grade school, recently completed in southwestern Albany, have voted 53 to 27 against sending their children to the school unless indoor toilets are provided.

The ultra-modern plant, last of three new schools built in 1949, is intended to house an overflow of pupils at Maple school. But until the sewer problem is solved, Maple school will continue to operate on an overcrowded basis.

At this week's meeting, preceding the election, Dr. John W. Geupe, Linn county health officer, told parents construction of outdoor toilets would be condoned by the state board of health under certain conditions and on a temporary basis.

Ralph Banton, chairman of district 5 school board, said the state sanitary authority had approved installation of a septic tank which would drain into Takema street sewer. But it was pointed out that the sewer was too shallow to accommodate the school's outlet.

Banton said the council had promised to install a sewer line near the school in a meeting several months ago, but had failed to take action on the proposal. He asked parents to appeal to the council.

In the election, only second grade parents favored opening the school with a make-shift sewer facility.

Sweet Home Crippled by Snowstorm

Statesman News Service

SWEET HOME, Jan. 7.—A vicious snowstorm bore down on this mountain town last night and snapped telephone wires, halted power output and flooded streets today in one of the worst weather blows of its history.

The town was a "city of hip boots" today and telephone crews worked to re-establish broken communication lines. Power had been restored to Sweet Home, but outlying communities were still without telephone service, lights or power.

Snow began falling at 10 p. m. Friday and had piled to a depth of 8 inches by 5 a. m. today. The raging wind knocked down all telephone lines leading out of Sweet Home with the exception of a single toll line to Albany. Telephone service in town was not broken.

Tree Limbs Fall

Oren Hewett, manager of the Mountain States Power company here, said the power went out at 12:30 a. m. and was not restored until 2 a. m. today. Snow-covered tree limbs had fallen on lines, snapping them, he said.

Robert Bauman, assistant manager of Linn County Telephone company, said that, with the exception of the 1941 silver thaw here, last night's storm caused the most wreckage in the company's history.

'Very Dangerous'

Hewett said his men were working in "very dangerous conditions" today, wading in water and slush to bring the lines together.

City Patrolman Jess Cumber reported no serious accidents during the night or today. He said that the heavy snowfall halted traffic and a lot of cars had gone off the road in the Sweet Home area.

Autos were rolling along in axle-deep slush and water today through city streets. It had been raining all morning and began snowing again about 2:30 p. m. Crews from the Lebanon office of Mountain States Power company were assisting local firemen in axle-deep slush and water today through city streets.

Also hard hit by the storm were the communities of Holley, Cascadia, Quartzville and others in the Calapooya area.

Seeks Cabinet



ATHENS, Jan. 7.—John Theodorakis (above), speaker of the Greek parliament, was called on by King Paul to form a new cabinet with authority to dissolve parliament and proclaim a general election. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman)

'49 Jobless Pay Nearly Double Previous Year

Benefits paid to Marion-Polk county unemployed during 1949 showed an increase of 91 per cent over 1948 and doubled those of 1946.

A total of 67,000 checks (average 1,290 per week) went out last year from the Salem office of the state employment service amounting to \$1,193,404. This was 6.2 per cent of the entire state total, said the unemployment compensation commission. The 1948 figure was 8 per cent.

December of 1949 saw \$302,800 paid out, up 71 per cent from December of 1948. This area is third highest in the state in payments made, bested only by Portland and Eugene offices.

Unemployed veterans during 1949 in this area received \$572,521, an increase of 42 per cent over 1948 and just above the \$532,183 of 1946. The 1949 totals include only the first eight months for most veteran claimants while records for 1948 and 1946 are for the entire year. The local 1949 total was 8.2 per cent of payments to veterans in Oregon.

Claims at the Salem office in the last week of 1949 came to 4,177, an increase of 37 per cent over the last week of 1948.

Sen. Carson Refuses to Oppose Justice Page in Supreme Court Election

State Sen. Allan G. Carson, Salem attorney who has been mentioned as potential candidate for the state supreme court, said Saturday he would not oppose Justice E. M. Page for the office, but left open the question of what action he might take in event Page did not run.

Judge Page was appointed last year pending the next election.

Sen. Carson said Saturday: "Ever deeply grateful for the many tenders of campaign assistance and in full awareness of the high honor of the office of justice of the supreme court, which elevation I aspire some day to achieve, I have decided not to become a candidate therefor against my lifelong friend, Justice E. M. Page. Auld Lang Syne!"

Sen. Carson previously indicated he would not seek reelection to the state senate.

Grabenhorst Named Junior First Citizen

(Picture on page 6.)

Coburn L. Grabenhorst, real estate man, was announced Saturday as the Junior First Citizen of Salem for 1949.

Grabenhorst will be honored at a banquet at the Senator hotel on Tuesday, January 17, by Salem Junior Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the award.

The selection was made known by a committee consisting of John Adlon, Frank Bennett, Dr. M. K. Crothers, Roy Harland, Dorthea Stueffels and Mrs. James T. Brand.

Grabenhorst was cited particularly for his activities in behalf of the Red Cross, Community chest, the Hospital Development program fund and the war memorial auditorium campaign, the committee said. He is also vice president of Salem Rotary club, commanding officer of the organized naval reserve unit, treasurer of Salem Board of Realtors, advisers to the civic and industry committees of Salem Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the club service committee for Rotary.

The Junior chamber began its selection of Junior First Citizens in 1939 when Don Douris won the initial honors. In subsequent years, those chosen have included Donald Black, George M. McLeod, Roy Harland, Ralph M. Johnson, Douglas Yeater, Carlton B. Greider, Clay Pomeroy, Steve Anderson and Howard Higby.

10 Men Saw Way Out of Jail

CINCINNATI, Jan. 7.—Ten prisoners saved their way through a steel ceiling at the Hamilton county jail tonight and escaped, Sheriff Dan Tehan reported.

The jail is atop the seven-story downtown courthouse.

Tehan said that the escapees, after making their way through the hole in the ceiling, fashioned an 18-foot rope out of clothing and dropped down to a window of the county law library on the sixth floor.

The men punched out the law library window and then went freely through the courthouse to exits, the sheriff said.

Bus Schedule Changes Will Be Protested

A protest against recent changes in bus schedules, particularly as affect operations at night, will be filed with the city council Monday, it was declared yesterday by Claude A. Hall, 1190 Oak st.

Hall said he would present a petition to Councilman Howard Maple, asking a complete survey of the city's needs, and declared "Salem should be given the type of service warranted by a city of more than 50,000 or there should be municipal ownership."

Hall also complained there had been inadequate notification of schedule changes and said he would challenge the bus company's recent actions as possible violations of franchise.

Bus Schedule Changes Will Be Protested

A nursery for children of donors will enable giving of blood by many young mothers who have shown interest, when the Red Cross bloodmobile visits Salem Tuesday afternoon. Donors are still needed in order to reach the 100-pint goal.

Those who wish to give may make appointments at the Red Cross office or may report at First Methodist church between 2 and 6 p. m. Tuesday.

The nursery will be in charge of Mrs. A. E. Berger.

Businessmen's Group Suggests Tax Reduction

By Sterling F. Green

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The committee for economic development (CED) said today that tax cuts totaling \$2,250,000,000 are feasible this year.

The planning organization of businessmen, in a policy statement, took a stand squarely opposite that of President Truman.

Mr. Truman has asked a "moderate" tax boost. On Monday he will present a budget message for the fiscal year starting July 1, which, on the basis of forecasts, will show a deficit not importantly less than this year's \$5,500,000,000 gap.

Cut in Taxes

CED proposed a billion-dollar cut in excise taxes, a billion-dollar reduction in the double tax on corporation earnings, and possible other adjustments not itemized.

It offered a simultaneous program for federal cost cuts, including veterans' outlays, foreign aid, housing aid and national defense. It claimed this prospective result:

If business climbs back to its 1949 level, with unemployment down to about 2,500,000, the government's cash accounts (not the same as the presidential budget) would balance and there would be \$3,000,000,000 in cash left over for payment on the national debt.

Try for Balance

If business activity is slower and unemployment much higher, causing smaller revenues, CED's spokesman said the government should not try to strike a balance. To do so, it was argued, would merely add to deflation.

Under the assumption of improved business, CED estimated the economies would leave cash income of more than \$45,000,000,000 and outlays of \$40,000,000,000—thus making room for the \$2,000,000,000 tax cuts and \$3,000,000,000 debt retirement.

Albany Wreck Injures Four

ALBANY, Jan. 7.—Four persons were injured, none apparently seriously, in a head-on collision at 7:27 p. m. today at the west end of Perrywinkle bridge in Albany.

Injured were Albert Huebsch, Jefferson, driver of one of the cars; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hoskins, and the Hoskins' daughter, all of Albany. Huebsch was kept at Albany General hospital. The other three were released after treatment of minor injuries.

Both autos were heavily damaged by the smash.

Search Party to Seek Trapper

BEND, Jan. 7.—A mechanized rescue party will leave here tomorrow morning to search for a trapper seven days overdue in the snow-buried foothills of the eastern Cascades, southwest of Bend.

Wayne Negus, Crescent trapper, entered the area December 26, expecting to return January 1. Snows are believed to have trapped him there, but a month's provisions are believed at hand.

The four-man rescue party will take a Sno-Cat from the Fall river fish hatchery, carrying along a portable radio. A state police, U. S. forest and game commission man will be in the party.

Crash Involves Snowplow, Car

A head-on collision between a snowplow and an auto near Santiam Junction Saturday night sent Robert B. Armppriest, 35, and his wife, Violet, 30, both of Salem to Salem General hospital.

Mrs. Armppriest suffered facial lacerations and possible chest injuries in an accident which occurred about 6:45 p. m. Armppriest incurred possible fractured ribs and leg bruises.

Armpriest, driver of the car, said he was driving east on the highway between Marion, Forks and the junction when the accident occurred.

This Smith Is a Fraction

PEARSON, Ga., Jan. 7.—% is just another guy named Smith. His family gave % that name 38 years ago to keep him from being confused with any other Smith. It has worked so far.

In any case, % is well known in his home town. He is city councilman, jeweler and manufacturer. %'s name got in the news today when a reporter wondered what his wife called him. She calls him "Willey."

Speeder Hangs Himself In Jail at Forest Grove

FOREST GROVE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The truck jumped a curb and crashed into the residence of Dr. Robert P. Nixon. Half the truck broke through the front wall. The force snapped windows in the rear of the house.

Jailed, Grummons hanged himself with a cut-up blanket before he could be questioned. He had no police record, and was to have moved today into a new home in Hillsboro.

6 Victims of Dog Poisoner

A wave of recent dog poisonings in the Keizer area now has six victims, and Ervin Ward, Marion county dog control officer, is investigating the matter, he said Saturday.

Ward said he has received numerous phone calls from Keizer residents who are "up in arms" about the poisonings. Dogs have been poisoned said Ward by someone who is putting out wieners containing strychnine for dogs to eat.

Allotments on Hop Growers' Crops Mailed

Final allotments of 76.9 per cent on each hop grower's 1949 hop production have been mailed out to all hop growers in Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho, according to Paul T. Rowell, secretary of the growers' allocation committee and managing agent of the state hop control board, with headquarters at Salem.

Rowell said Saturday the allotments were mailed following receipts Friday from Secretary of Agriculture Brannan of final approval of the committee's determination of the 1949 hop production in those states. It totaled 50,735,253 pounds.

This, said Rowell, indicates a 23.1 per cent "cut" or unsalable portion of each grower's 1949 crop. Many growers left their cut unharvested for field deterioration, thus saving harvest expense on surplus hops for which there was no market demand.

As a result of the withholding of surplus hops from market channels, he indicated, there is a good demand at fair prices for the salable quantity of all growers' production.

UO President's Daughter To Wed Grid Coach Son

EUGENE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Jacquelyn Newburn, 29, daughter of the president of the University of Oregon, today announced her engagement to James W. Alken, jr., son of Oregon's football coach, Young Alken was a halfback on the 1948 Oregon team.

Bars on Windows Block Aid

Death List at 38 As Mental Ward Building Razed

By William Eberline
 DAVENPORT, Iowa, Jan. 7.—(AP) Fire which struck at 3 o'clock this morning in the psychiatric ward of one of Iowa's major hospitals snuffed out the lives of at least 38 women.

Coroner C. H. Wildman said that hospital records were inaccurate and that there was a possibility that other persons were in the building. He said the intense heat of the fire probably destroyed completely any other bodies that might have been in the building.

Screams of women patients in St. Elizabeth's mental ward building sounded the alarm as they awakened to find themselves trapped in "a flaming hell."

Within two hours only the charred shell of the building remained.

Fire Chief Lester Schick said "I doubt if we ever find out what caused the fire." He said it started in a room on the east side of the building and spread into the hall, up a dumb waiter shaft, and then spread-eagled over the top of the building.

Perish in Rooms

Barred windows prevented firemen from reaching many of the victims and they perished in their rooms.

Sister Superior Mary Annunziata, head of the hospital, said 30 other patients were treated for burns or injuries. With 38 presumed dead, she said this accounted for the 65 women and three men known to have been in the destroyed ward.

All of the dead were women. All except a nurse's aide, were patients.

2 Leap from Windows

The three men escaped, two by leaping from windows.

The alarm was sounded at 3 a. m. when flames broke out on the second floor of the three-story brick structure.

St. Elizabeth's ward is one of five hospital buildings operated by the Catholic order, Sisters of Mercy, on a two-block tract in the northwest sector of this Mississippi river city of 70,000.

Murray Francis, an orderly on duty in the nearby main hospital building, said he could hear screams of terror as he ran toward the burning ward shortly after 3 a. m.

Huddled at Windows

Terror-stricken women could be seen huddling at the barred and wire-meshed windows of the psychiatric division.

While other hospital attaches called firemen, Francis broke open the ward building's front door. Two nurse's aides joined him in leading the first group of patients to safety.

When firemen and police arrived the interior was a swelling mass of fire.

"It was a flaming hell," said Fire Lt. Al Koranda.

Out Litterwork

Firemen used axes and crowbars in their attempts to get through the steel latticework which held the patients imprisoned.

It was pitiful the way the patients waited for firemen to free them from the cell-like rooms," said Fire Chief Lester Schick.

Merchant Policeman Bill Stegen, who was among the first to reach the fire, said it was a scene of "pure horror."

"It was pitiful," Stegen said. "Women were darning at the iron blankets for help, and I saw several fall away and disappear in the smoke and flame."

Dumb with Terror

Firemen said some patients were stricken dumb with terror. Many of the victims were aged and infirm of body and mind.

Some were found huddling silently in a group, their faces lined with bewilderment and horror.

Policeman Richard Fee, who broke through a window, found a knot of aged women in a flame-surrounded room and led them to an escape ladder.

The rescued, clad only in their night clothes, were covered with blankets against the 19-degree cold as soon as they reached the ground.

As the fire raged out of control the smoke and flames grew so dense that firemen had to turn back to their rescue attempts.

Lt. Koranda said the interior "burned like paper."

Some patients made no apparent attempt to escape. Two hours after the blaze broke out an elderly woman was found seated on her third-floor bed. A section of the roof had caved in over her. She was soaking wet and partly leashed from the streams of water played from the building by fire hoses. But she was alive.

William Dalton New Dallas C. of C. President

DALLAS, Jan. 7.—William Dalton is the new president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. He replaces Neale Povey, who began work for a Salem building concern the first of the year.

Other 1950 officers are R. G. McFarland, vice president, and C. L. Marsters, secretary. The new directors are Andrew Irvin, Charles Thomas, Bill Blackley and McFarland.