

School Roll Near Normal At Stayton

Statesman News Service
STAYTON—Attendance at both of Stayton's public schools during the severe winter weather has been about average, Superintendent A. N. Arnold said Friday. Mid-semester examinations were given Wednesday and Thursday, with only the freshman class having a poor attendance.

Two buses of school district 4-J and one of district 77 made their usual morning and evening runs. However, Joe Spaniol, driver of the bus for Cole district, experienced some difficulty Monday after he had picked up about two-thirds of his passengers. He was unable to get the bus up the Darby hill and was forced to come in without the rest of them. He did not go out all the rest of the week.

The Kingston school bus, driven by John Fery, was disabled when a loose connecting rod went through the motor putting the bus out of operation until it can be given a new motor. Children of both districts were brought to school each day in private cars. Buses were dismissed early Tuesday afternoon when a blizzard was threatening. Mr. Arnold said. The next morning he got in touch with Robert Smith, one of the drivers, at 6 o'clock to check road conditions before sending the buses over the routes.

St. Mary's parochial school operated as usual this week. St. Boniface high school at Sublimity did not convene Monday with the Sisters notifying students not to come to school. However, classes resumed Tuesday.

Civic Group Plans Meet At Willamina

Statesman News Service
WILLAMINA—Dr. James Millar of Portland will be guest speaker at the Civic club meeting Thursday night, January 26. The International Relations study group is in charge of the meeting. His subject will be "Our World Today." Millar will also speak to high school assemblies at Willamina and Sheridan on personal, moral and vocational guidance. A silver tea will be held following the club meeting.

The meeting of the executive board of the Willamina Civic club which was to have been here Thursday has been postponed until Tuesday, January 24, at the home of Mrs. George King. Choosing a new secretary to replace Doty Finich, who has resigned, will be the main issue on the agenda.

Santiam Soil District Will Expand Soon

Statesman News Service
STAYTON—Now nearly ready to be submitted to the district supervisors are petitions to extend the boundaries of the Santiam Soil Conservation district on the north line of the river.

Out of the 250 or more landowners in the area, 225 signatures have been obtained. If passed by the district's supervisors, the petitions will be submitted to the state soil conservation committee which will then hold a hearing to determine boundaries and set a date for an election.

Area included in the proposed addition runs from the present district boundaries west of Stayton to the mountains, between the Fern Ridge road and the river.

731 Visit Dallas Mill During 1949

Statesman News Service
DALLAS—During the past year 731 visitors were shown through Willamette Valley Lumber company by F. J. Holman, guide of many years experience.

Of this number, 262 were Oregonians, but 29 other states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Alaska were also represented. The number of 1949 sightseers fell short of the 1948 figure when 756 persons were conducted through the mill.

Dallas High Graduate Wins Honors at OCE

Statesman News Service
DALLAS—George Slawson, son of Mrs. Vera Slawson, Dallas, was honored last week as the outstanding first-term freshman in chemistry at Oregon College of Education in Monmouth.

In addition to the honor, he was presented with a handbook on chemistry and physics. Slawson was graduated from Dallas high school in 1949.

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Barrels of Salem Toys Off to Europe



Barrels of toys will be on their way from Salem donors to needy European children as a result of the local American Legion drive for toys. Above, members of Post 136 finish crating and stenciling two huge barrels and one large crate of toys collected here. In photo, left to right, are Earl Ahlers, 1231 Sage st.; Joseph B. Felton, Salem route 3; Bert Walker, Salem route 5; Ken Taylor, 1146 S. 24th st., and Wayne Perdue, 1945 N. 29th st. The drive was conducted nationally by American Legion posts. (Statesman photo.)

THE VALLEY NEWS COLUMNS

From The Oregon Statesman's Valley Correspondents

Stranded Miners Recall Old Days to Mehama Woman

By Jean Roberts
 Statesman News Service
ELKHORN—Mine Superintendent J. P. Hewitt and other families living at the old Amalgamated mine above Elkhorn, who have been snow bound since New Years day, are well prepared each winter prior to bad weather for a period of inactivity when they fully expect to be marooned.

Not so were a group of miners who were isolated several years ago on Ogle mountain. Bulldozers, jeeps and power wagons were unheard of at this time when a miner snowshoed out for assistance with the story that he was one of a group marooned five miles up a mountain trail from the Silver King, and approximately seven miles from the present site of the Elkhorn Guest Ranch.

Supplies Needed
 Supplies were needed immediately and horses which had been used previously to freight supplies in to the mines could not be expected to plow through five feet of snow with help. There was no alternative but to establish a human freight line composed of men who would volunteer to carry a 40 - pound pack on their backs and struggle up the trail on snow shoes.

Perhaps the best known volunteer was Paul Smith (Mill City's walking man) and a figure not as legendary as Paul Bunyan, but almost as incredible. Others who volunteered for the daily trek were Lou and Tant Myers, Charlie Graves and Ray Sischo. It was a grueling journey up the steep trail battling snow shoes and a heavy pack and the men made it a two day journey, staying overnight at the mine.

Smith Good Packer
 Paul Smith, who was already widely known for his strength and vitality, putting a 100-pound pack on his back, he would then seize a 10-pound lard pail in each hand and start up the trail. Not content

reaching the Sischo home before his strength deserted him. He left the next day for Portland never divulging his name or that of the partner who had abandoned him.

PLAY SLATED
KEIZER—"The Salt of the Earth," an adventurous, modern religious film, will be shown at Keizer Community church at 7:45 p.m., Sunday, January 22.

Audrey Spicer Of Willamina Wins Honors

Statesman News Service
WILLAMINA—Audrey Spicer, valedictorian of last years graduating class at the Union high school has made the honor roll at Oregon State college in the school of education with biology as a major and chemistry as her minor. She is also taking an art course.

A total of 43 coin collectors for the 1950 March of Dimes have been put into local business houses, according to Robert Shipley, Willamina chairman. Mrs. J. M. Olson and Mrs. Shipley were in charge of placing the containers. In the local drive, plans are under way for a musical program under the direction of Mrs. Laurice Fox. The program will be held Friday night, January 27 at the grade school. A box social will follow the program, with proceeds to go to the March of Dimes fund.

A 500-gallon tank on a trailer has been loaned to the fire department as an emergency tank for use during the current extreme weather. The tank is used during the summer months by the Murphy Timber company.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carey, of Willamina are the parents of a daughter, born January 12 at the Newberg hospital.

Meetings of the Sheridan-Willamina community chorus have been cancelled until further notice, it was announced this week.

Civic Group Stages Dance At Stayton

Statesman News Service
STAYTON—Featured at the all request dance at the civic building Saturday were square dances, circle, two-steps and Schottisches. Sam Bridges and his Santiam Playboys, a seven-piece orchestra, furnished western swing and old time music.

Square dance clubs of Mill City, Scio and Stayton have participated. The Santiam Bean Festival association and Sam Bridges are combining to sponsor a series of dances of which this was the first.

Polk County Taxes Near Million Mark

Statesman News Service
DALLAS—The office of Sheriff T. B. Hooker announced this week that over \$1,000,000 of the Polk county property tax roll has been collected since October 25, 1949. Of this amount \$31,390.93 are payments of delinquent taxes. The sum of \$686,576.74 of the 1949-50 tax has been turned over and about \$316,000 remains on hand to be turned over.

Polk County Engineer Elected to Board

Statesman News Service
DALLAS—Edward J. Himes, Polk county engineer and resident of Dallas, was elected recently in Portland to the board of trustees of the Professional Engineers of Oregon for 1950. His position becomes official when officers are installed at the annual meeting in Portland, January 28.

Stayton Polio Benefit Set For Thursday

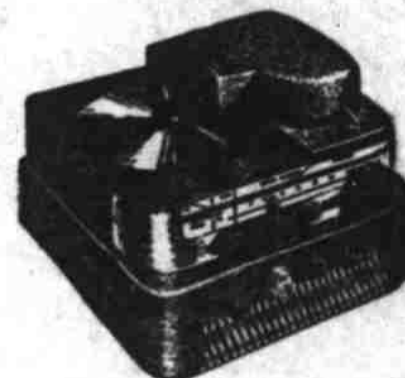
Statesman News Service
STAYTON—Made necessary by unfavorable weather the date of the big March of Dimes vaudeville show which was scheduled for Friday, January 20, was postponed until Thursday, January 26, and will be held in the civic building.

Anyone wishing to enter the talent show which will be held at Salem January 22 and 24, are urged to contact either Gil Schachtsick, local chairman of the Dimes drive, or Gene Malecki at the Salem headquarters of the drive. Schachtsick also announced that the drive has been extended from January 31, original closing date, to February 10.

Golden Gloves exhibition and tumbler, will be given at the civic building Tuesday, January 24, at 8 p. m. Mickey Pease, director of the Pal club of Portland, will bring a number of his boys here for the show, according to announcements made by the committee.

Thomas Jefferson recorded planting spinach in his garden in 1811.

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