

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Szymanski

The SEC hearing on the application for sale of stock of Pacific Power and Light Co., opened a door on high finance. I am referring to the shoeing sale to a group of financiers with Guy Myers in the middle for a sweet profit for resale of the property or stock. Rather to the internal conflicts within the utility hierarchy.

Owner of the common stock of PP&L is American Power and Light. As such it has elected the board of directors of the subsidiary, who in turn elected officers of the operating company. Yet we have the officers, Paul B. McKee, president, and the general counsel, John Laing, vigorously opposing the deal worked up by Myers with AP&L. Their interest and reason is clear: they want to continue the company as a private utility both to hold their own jobs and to provide the service the company has undertaken to supply to thousands of consumers of electric energy. They definitely do not want to see Pacific broken up and "sold down the river" or up the river either, piecemeal to PUDs.

Thus the officers of Pacific "defied" the officers of the parent corporation. According to press reports they were threatened with being fired, but stood their ground. Thursday Counsel Laing urged SEC to reject the tender of the crowd organized by Myers and to accept another tender made by interests which contemplated the continued operation of Pacific as a system under private ownership.

Another singular occurrence was the attitude of another layer of the corporate structure. President Calder of Electric Bond and Share, originally the top deck of the EB&S system and at present holder of (Continued on Editorial Page, 4)

West Protests Berlin Tie-Up By Russians

BERLIN, Jan. 26 (AP)—The western allies protested sharply to the Russians tonight over Soviet interference with truck traffic between Berlin and West Germany and demanded immediate removal of "these abnormal restrictions."

The United States, British and French commanders in Berlin declared in a note to the Soviet commandant, Maj. Gen. Alexander Kotikov, that "it is no longer possible to avoid the conclusion that these incidents are a calculated attempt to restrict the normal movement of persons and goods between Berlin and the western zones."

Soviet hindrance of the truck traffic at the Helmstedt checkpoint, 100 miles west of Berlin, could not be interpreted in any other way, they said.

The protest came as the Russian guards at Helmstedt appeared to be tightening a "baby blockade" to the passage of only one truck every 15 minutes. The Russians have used all sorts of excuses in their inspection of the trucks to cut the flow of supplies to West Berlin.

Blast Reported On Planet Mars

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Jan. 26 (AP)—Scientists have ordered a worldwide watch of the planet Mars. A "terrific explosion" there January 10 has been reported.

Walter Haas, world director of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, said the watch is concentrated in western Germany. He explained the planet could be seen better from there.

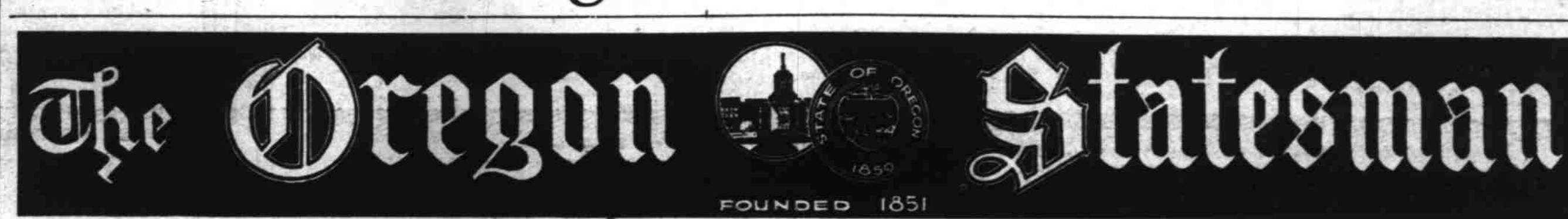
He said his report of the explosion came from a Japanese member of the association.

A greyish cloud was pushed into the air 60 miles, he said, and the diameter of the cloud was about 900 miles. Haas said the explosion cloud was described as "remarkable" in height and color.

Animal Crackers By WARREN GOODRICH

"My Gosh, Mildred, is ice cream all you know how to make?"

John L. Lewis Agrees to Renew Mine Contract Talks



99th YEAR 20-PAGES The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Friday, January 27, 1950 PRICE 5c No. 323

Owners Give No Ground

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 26 (AP) John L. Lewis agreed to renew contract negotiations today at invitation of the strike-plagued soft coal industry.

It is the first concrete development of the year toward ending the frequent coal walkouts which have pestered the nation for months and cut fuel stockpiles to the danger point.

More than 88,000 diggers now are idle in a no contract no work strike in six important bituminous producing states. Unemployment in allied industries like steel mills and railroads has reached 18,000.

Four hours after the coal industry put out its invite for contract talks, Lewis said he will meet northern and western operators in Washington on Wednesday, February 1.

That's the hour and date the United Mine Workers chief must reply in Washington federal district court to a national labor relations board petition for injunction against Lewis' three-day work week.

Lewis advised the operators he is willing to resume negotiations "in good faith without stipulation, qualification or commitment."

But the operators made no concessions. They stand firm on the same proposals made to the UMW in fruitless sessions dating back to May 25, 1949.

They had asked Lewis for a prompt reply to their contract talk offer so miners can go back to work and ease coal shortages.

Lewis didn't receive the offer immediately but shot back this wire:

"Newspapers chronicle that you now wish to negotiate. If this be true, I advise that representatives of the United Mine Worker of America will meet with representatives of your industry group at the Statler hotel, Washington, D. C., at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, to negotiate in good faith, without stipulation, qualification or commitment."

Resumption of bargaining could have an effect on the NLRB suit for a court injunction against Lewis on charges of unfair labor practices.

Robert N. Denham NLRB general counsel who filed the action, heard of the Lewis move and commented:

"If Lewis and the operators can sit down and work out a legal agreement, nobody will support 'em faster than I will."

Five Children Die as Locked House Burns

LAWTON, Okla., Jan. 26 (AP)—Five screaming children died today behind the locked door to their blazing two-room home as their mother struggled frantically to free them.

Seven persons living in an adjoining house rushed out uninjured.

The victims were the children of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Young. Their ages ranged from two months to six years.

Mrs. Young told Highway Patrolman Clyde Awtry a wooden latch on the kitchen door apparently fell and locked itself. She said one of her children slammed the door as she left the house.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hensley, their four children, and an unidentified man ran from their house when flames seeped through the adjoining wall.

Mrs. Young said she lighted the kitchen gas range and then walked into the yard for water. Minutes later, while visiting with another neighbor—she heard her children's frantic cries for help.

Mrs. Young said she and the neighbors, who were unidentified, ran the short distance to her home but were unable to force the locked door open.

The heat from the fire drove them back when they tried to enter through one of four broken windows.

Cause of the fire is unknown.

Defense Chiefs Say Formosa 'Not Vital'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (AP)—The nation's defense chiefs reported today to have taken the position that Formosa is of strategic significance but not vital enough for American troops to occupy it to keep it out of Chinese communist hands.

That word was relayed to reporters by Chairman Connally (D-Tex.) of the senate foreign relations committee after the committee met in closed session with Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and General Omar Bradley.

T. R. Burton, school superintendent at Gates, refused to get perturbed when Glenn Hearing, Gates barber, was unable to cut Burton's hair this week because the power was off. Burton just went home and returned with a gas lantern and two pairs of ancient hand clippers. He got his semi-monthly trim pronto.

Weather Scene Confused

The weatherman thinks it will rain today. That is, if it doesn't snow.

Slightly conflicting reports call for snow for the northwest and rain for Salem.

To confuse the issue, snow-rain was falling here at midnight with the temperature straddling the freezing mark.

The picture was clearer in the Columbia River gorge country and around Seattle, Tacoma and Bellingham, Wash., which have been taking a beating from the weather and apparently are in for more.

Cold in Washington It was still cold yesterday in northern and eastern sections of Washington and most of British Columbia, too, but readings generally were 10 to 15 degrees warmer than the previous night.

Snow, however, swept in from the Pacific ocean and dropped a three- to 15-inch mantle on the region as far south as southern Oregon.

Salem somehow escaped most of the snow predicted for yesterday although a near-blizzard raged for an hour while most people slept, hitting it's peak about 2:30 a.m.

Many Schools Closed To the north many schools were closed. Portland kept its schools open but reported numerous power failures.

A hard rain rapped Eugene last night, dropping nearly an inch in six hours.

Salem's precipitation yesterday totaled .72 inch and the prediction is for rain most of today and tonight and showers tomorrow. A high near 40 degrees is forecast here for today and a low of about 35 for night.

Founder's Day Activities Set By Willamette

Founder's and Benefactor's day will be observed next Thursday at a mid-year academic convocation of Willamette university students and faculty at the First Methodist church, President G. Herbert Smith announced Thursday.

The west's oldest university, founded in 1842, will honor Jason Lee, pioneer missionary, and the late E. S. Collins, former member of the board of trustees and long a friend of the university.

"It is the plan of the university to repeat this convocation annually and each year to honor two additional people who have served with distinction in the up building of Willamette," Dr. Smith stated.

Participants in the chapel program, which will be open to the public, will include Student Body President Russell Tripp, Albany; Collins Scholar Jack Gunn, Monmouth; Jason Lee, administrative assistant to the state tax commission; the University's capella choir and President Smith.

The date chosen for the convocation annually will fall as close to February 1 as possible. On that date in 1842 a public meeting was held at the Old Mission house to consider the needs of the Willamette valley community for an educational institution. From this meeting grew the inspiration to establish Oregon Institute, forerunner of Willamette university.

Bulb Growers, Dairymen Said Money-Makers

GOLD BEACH, Jan. 26 (AP)—The biggest agricultural money-makers in this country are flower bulbs and dairymen, an Oregon State college survey showed today.

Curry county made \$400,000 on its flower bulbs in 1949, and about the same from dairying.

Old-Time Rally Honoring Lincoln Planned Feb. 10

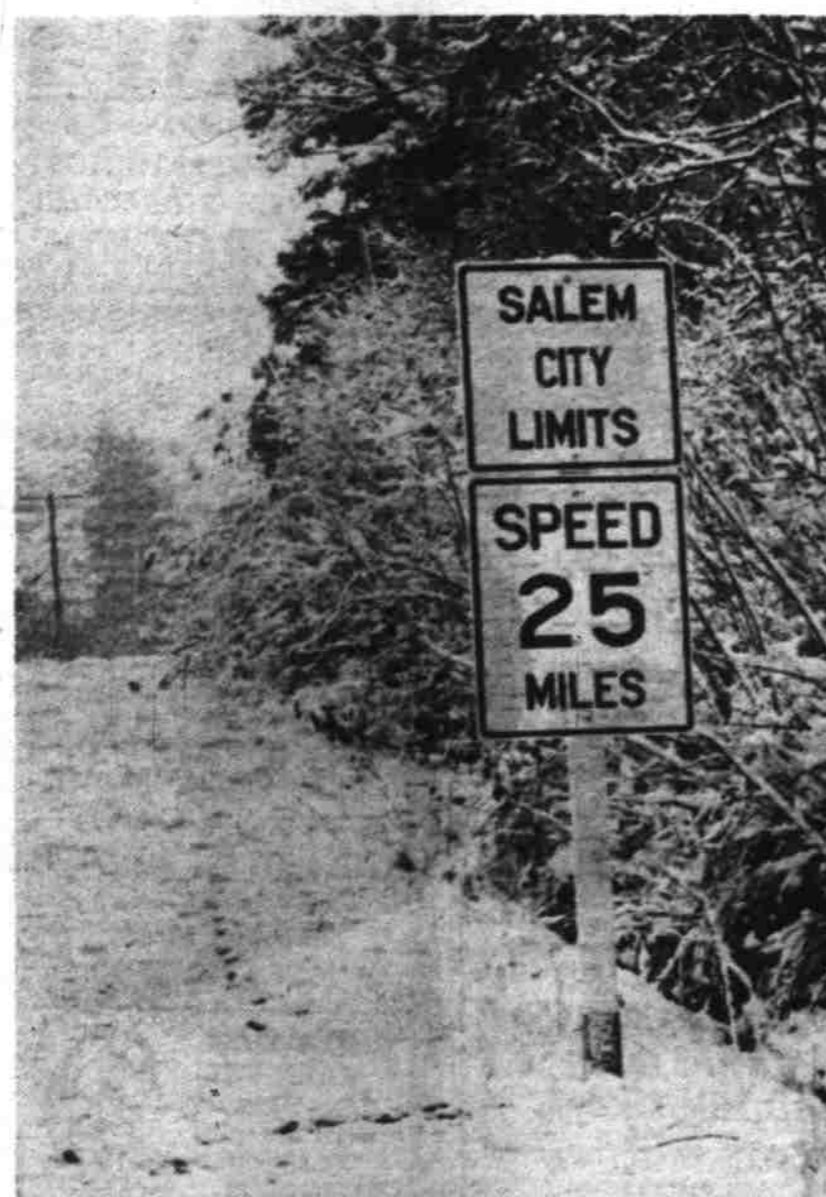
An old-fashioned rally, complete with fiddlers and sweet cider, will be held at the Salem armory, probably on Friday night, February 10, in honor of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

That was the announcement to come from the Marion County Lincoln anniversary committee, headed by Roy Harland, late Thursday.

Harland declared "there is no admission and nothing to buy; this will be an old-fashioned rally in every sense of the word, with plenty of fast-moving entertainment, and we hope the armory will be jammed."

West Salem Water Projects Ready to Start

New Signs in West Salem



New signs proclaiming Salem's extended city limits are now in place on the edges of recently annexed territories in Polk county. Above is the marker on Glen Creek road, very much out in the country and looking a little lonely in an area where some snow remains. (Statesman photo.)

Con Caught, Claims 3 'Strolls' in Month

City police Thursday nabbed a state convict who claimed he had walked away from the prison three times this month.

Tony Gurra, a returned parolee, was apprehended following a tip that a man had committed indecent exposure near Jason Lee cemetery about 5 p.m.

A patrolman took Gurra at gunpoint near Salem General hospital after a chase through a muddy field. He was returned to prison by detectives after they questioned him at the police station.

The detectives said Gurra claimed he had been in the vicinity of Salem General hospital early the night before and had strolled from the prison grounds on another recent occasion.

Police had investigated reports of a prowler at General hospital Wednesday.

Warden George Alexander said Gurra wouldn't be given an opportunity to wander away again. A cement worker, Gurra had been working outside the walls in a trustee capacity. He apparently returned from his other alleged outings in time to go inside for the evening count without being missed.

Gurra was sent up from Multnomah county in 1947 to serve three years for grand larceny, was paroled in 1948 and was returned last summer for parole violation.

Statesman Man Saves Cattle In Barn Fire

BROOKS, Jan. 26 — An Oregon Statesman circulation employee, Life Sherwood, was credited with saving the livestock in a barn that burned today on the Elmer Hahn farm near Gervais.

The Hahns said Sherwood, who was on his rounds as distribution agent for the north section of Marion county, discovered the fire about 4:30 a.m.

Sherwood aroused the sleeping Hahn family and then entered the blazing barn and turned loose nine head of cattle.

The blaze, believed caused by defective wiring in a brooder, leveled the hay-filled barn and killed about 600 baby chicks in the brooder.

The Hahns summoned firemen from Brooks and Woodburn who saved two adjacent buildings by soaking them with water. Firemen also helped Hahn remove about 500 setting hens from the brooder before it was consumed. Hahn estimated damage at about \$2,500. He said there was little insurance on either the barn or the brooder.

100,000 Gallon Tank to Rise In Kingwood

By Winston H. Taylor Staff Writer, The Statesman

Relief for often-thirsty heights residents in the Polk county portion of Salem will be certain before summer returns, City Manager J. L. Franzen assured Thursday.

Although the weather and a materials shortage are stalling most major extension work in the water system, construction is imminent for a 100,000-gallon tank on the heights and for a new 12-inch pipeline crossing the river.

The pipeline under the Center street bridge, joining an eight-inch line installed about two years ago, will be slung as soon as couplings arrive. They reportedly were shipped a week ago. The city water department is doing the job itself.

Meanwhile, the water department is laying new pipe in several sections of Salem, including an East Nob Hill street line where blasting aroused the curiosity of south Salem residents Thursday. (See cut)

Eventually, a 24-inch pipe will add to the supply for West Salem and Kingwood Heights areas. It will be a part of the proposed Marion street bridge.

The Kingwood Heights reservoir will be on the same site as an upper-level, 50,000-gallon tank it will replace. The lot, near the southwest end of the heights, is ready for pouring of footings when the weather improves. Steel is being fabricated in Portland, and American Pipe and Construction company of Portland has the contract for construction, which is expected to begin by mid-February.

The tank will be high enough for all heights developments. It will be supplied from the 250,000-gallon West Salem reservoir 66 feet lower on the hill. It in turn is filled from four wells and an eight-inch line under the Center street bridge. The new tank's bottom will be 100 feet above ground level.

The 24-inch arterial from 23rd street along D street to Church and thence to Union, eventually to Front and Marion streets, is halted now for lack of couplings which were reported shipped last week.

But the water department said "the dirty work" on the line is completed — meaning the portion under railroad tracks on D and on Union street and under highway 99E at Capitol street.

It is hoped to continue work on this steel line by February 1. It will service the future line to Polk county.

Installation is also underway for four blocks of new eight-inch line between Market and Norway streets along 5th street. Currently, this section has a two-inch line in the center of the street, where the sewer interceptor line is to be placed. The new pipe will be in the parking strip.

THE WEATHER

Table with columns: Location, Max., Min., Precip. Rows include Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and Willamette river.

Table with columns: This Year, Last Year, Normal. Rows include Salem precipitation and forecasts for 25.75, 22.06, and 21.75.

Farmers Hear New Drainage Techniques, Cite Old Complaint

By Lillie L. Madsen Farm Editor, The Statesman

County and federal authorities explained the newest developments in proper farm drainage, Thursday at the Marion county farm drainage meeting, and three farmers brought up an old drainage gripe which they said was neither their fault through incorrect practices, nor nature's fault by putting a river in the wrong place.

The all-day meeting was held at Mayflower hall, with Floyd Fox, Silvertown, Marion county chairman for the Willamette basin project committee, in charge.

The three farmers were John Crabtree and B. Perzyk, both of Salem route 4, and Comyn Tracy of Turner. Their complaint was that water from the highways created a real soil erosion problem on their farms. It washed over acres of land, created pools of water and ruined farming conditions on certain fields, the three said.

Tough Digging in South Salem



City water department crews blasting their way through rock for a new pipeline along East Nob Hill street in south Salem brought anxious queries this week to police and newspapers. Above is J. R. Rowland, 1854 State st., standing on one of the huge boulders which is plaguing workmen as they dig the ditch for a two-inch east iron main. To serve a new residential area, it will be supplied from an eight-inch line on Waldo avenue and will tie in to a stub-line at Ohmart street, extended from McElhrist st. (Statesman photo.)

New 'Pumpkin Papers' Unveiled by Rep. Nixon

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (AP)—A new batch of "pumpkin papers" was produced today by Rep. Nixon (R-Calif.), who quoted Whittaker Chambers, admitted wartime courier for a Soviet spy ring, as saying he got them from a high U. S. treasury official.

The Californian named the late Harry Dexter White, former assistant secretary of the treasury, as the author of the notes telling about such things as pre-war operations of a U.S. navy captain assigned as a secret liaison man in England, and U.S. treasury plans to bolster China's currency.

Nixon made this disclosure in a house speech in which he charged that the Alger Hiss case was but part of a far-flung subversive conspiracy in government circles which he said high officials knew about but took no action.

He charged the administration with "inexcusable inaction" in not dealing with the so-called red spy ring.

Nixon claimed that President Truman had access to a secret memorandum dated Nov. 25, 1945, saying the Soviets had an agent in this country "who was an assistant" to the late Edward R. Stettinius, who was then assistant secretary of state. Nixon declared that Alger Hiss was Stettinius' assistant at the Yalta conference in February, 1945.

Nixon went on to say that this memorandum was prepared by a U.S. intelligence agent and was based on information given by Igor Guzenko. Guzenko was the Soviet code clerk in Canada; he supplied information to the Canadian government which led to the famous espionage trials there.

Nixon contended that administration officials disregarded such information and attempted instead to block further investigations of the Hiss case.

Nixon, a member of the house committee on un-American activities, told the house in a speech today that as early as December 5, 1948, his committee had learned from "unimpeachable sources" that justice department officials were considering prosecuting Whittaker Chambers in order to avoid bringing Hiss to trial.

Chambers, an admitted former communist underground worker, was the principal government witness against Hiss in two trials. The first resulted in a hung jury, the second in his conviction.

Nixon told the house that since last December, he has had in his possession photographic copies of eight pages of documents in the handwriting of Harry Dexter White, which Chambers turned over to the justice department and which Chambers said he got from White.

ACTRESS GRADUATES HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26 (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor, 17-year-old actress, was among members of the graduating class at University high school's winter commencement tonight.

(Additional details on page 5.)

Newsorthy

T. R. Burton, school superintendent at Gates, refused to get perturbed when Glenn Hearing, Gates barber, was unable to cut Burton's hair this week because the power was off. Burton just went home and returned with a gas lantern and two pairs of ancient hand clippers. He got his semi-monthly trim pronto.