

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

Ninety-nine years ago this March 28th the first issue of The Oregon Statesman appeared.

With this issue therefore the Statesman begins the last year of its First Century of publication.

It would be easy to indulge in recounting the history of The Statesman, but I think that may be left to March 28, 1951, when a Centennial Edition will be published.

Suffice it now to say that though history and traditions mean much to a newspaper, it cannot live on them alone.

It is that attitude of mind which governs the entire working staff of The Statesman. And it is with determination to make The Statesman a steady better product as a purveyor of news, of opinion, of entertainment features and as a medium of advertising that we enter this Centennial Year.

Sec. Johnson Disputes Ike's Arms Appraisal

By Ernest B. Vaccaro

Secretary of Defense Johnson declared today the nation's defenses are adequate despite Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's warning they are below the safety point.

Johnson made the statement after a two and a half hour conference with President Truman in his vacation White House at the naval base here.

The president himself, in a brief statement, announced that Philip C. Jessup has been persuaded to remain as ambassador-at-large.

Anti-Sub Work Progressing

WASHINGTON, March 27 (AP)—A top navy expert said today he has reason to believe that a development is just ahead which will enable the U. S. to drive submarines off the seas.

Animal Crackers

By Warren Goodrich



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Backwoods Area Scoured for Clue to Kidnap-Killers

Death Due to Fumes

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 27 (AP)—The killer of Jo Ann Dewey, the 18-year-old girl snatched from the streets here eight days ago, probably came from the backwoods country east of Vancouver.

That was the conclusion of Dewitt Jones, Clark county prosecuting attorney today, and he ordered police to begin intensive questioning of the scattered residents in the area.

The short, heavy, but not unattractive girl, was seized by two men as she walked along a Vancouver street a week ago Sunday night.

Her body, battered and unclad, was found yesterday in the chill Wind river in an isolated mountainous section 44 miles east of here.

Her death, however, stemmed not from the beating she obviously had taken. An autopsy disclosed she died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Chief of Police Harry Diamond said late tonight that the autopsy examinations had revealed the girl was not raped.

Dr. Howard Richardson, director of the Oregon state crime laboratory, said her abductors probably threw her onto the floor or put her into the trunk of the car. Exhaust fumes killed her.

The two men stopped, found her dead, and got rid of the body by tossing it into the river, Richardson said.

The key clue came there, said Jones, who is a native of Skamania county where the body was found. The foot-bridge they tossed her from was little-known.

A passerby could not see it. Even veteran sports fishermen of the area were unaware of the span, he said.

That probably limits suspects to residents and a few others known to be familiar with the region, Jones said.

Thought of Revenge

At first there was a belief the girl had been seized by someone seeking revenge. Police questioned her boy friends and acquaintances, however, and apparently found no support for the theory.

Now they apparently believe it was a chance seizure -- that any girl walking along that street that night would have been seized by the two men. Bystanders gave police partial descriptions of the men.

A week-long hunt followed with up to 600 volunteers tramping the brushlands around Vancouver for the girl. The discovery of the body, though, came by chance.

FIREWORKS BAN VOTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Willamette Seniors Shiver in Chilly Millrace



Willamette university seniors, losers in this year's Freshman glee singing contest, are shown shivering and hooting in the chilly mill race on the campus Monday.

Truman to Keep Loyalty Files Secret; Lattimore Threatens to Sue Senator

WASHINGTON, March 27 (AP)—President Truman will deny loyalty files of state department employees to a senate committee hunting communists and spies, a White House source in Key West, Fla., said tonight.

The president's decision was reported after FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover told congress that disclosure of the FBI's secret files would cripple the agency and "smear" innocent persons.

It might also jeopardize the lives of confidential FBI informants, besides tipping valuable information to foreign spies, he said.

Hoover was joined by U.S. Attorney General J. Howard McGrath in an ardent plea against opening up the FBI loyalty records to senate communist hunters.

Hoover and McGrath testified at a jam-packed hearing before a senate foreign relations subcommittee which has been investigating charges by Republican Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin that the state department has become infested with communists and fellow travelers.

The testimony of Hoover and McGrath capped a day of rapid-fire developments: Their refusal to open the records capped a day of rapid-fire developments:

1. Lawyers for Owen Lattimore hung the threat of a libel suit over McCarthy for calling the noted far east affairs expert a top Russian spy in the state department.

The attorneys argued that McCarthy's action in naming Lattimore in an off-the-record discussion with newsmen left him open to legal action.

2. Lattimore, now in Afghanistan on a United Nations mission, cabled the Associated Press declaring that McCarthy's "rantings" are "pure moonshine."

3. McCarthy late today issued a statement hinting he has turned up data on the Lattimore case obtained from outside the FBI files.

formation to foreign spies, he said.

The Wisconsin senator said he will present his evidence on the senate floor Wednesday or Thursday. And he sent a note asking

United Airlines, he said, could do the job for "much, much less." This would be true, he said, because of the procedures the government uses in figuring air mail pay to different types of carriers.

West Coast Airlines, Inc., is seeking a renewal of its certificate to operate a "feeder" air service.

The case also involves a cab order which contemplates giving west coast permission to substitute its service for that of United Airlines at several cities.

If the CAB approves West Coast's request and its own "show cause" order for a general shake-up in airline operations in the far northwest, United Airlines would cease serving Bellingham, Wash., and would cancel its Salem-Bend-Klamath Falls operation.

West Coast would substitute Salem for its McMinnville, Ore., stop, and would add Bend and Klamath Falls to its schedules.

Anderson on National Atlantic Union Board

Steve Anderson, Salem attorney and active in the Salem Atlantic Union group, was notified Monday he had been appointed to the national council of the Atlantic Union committee.

Anderson's appointment was made by Owen J. Roberts, former justice of the supreme court of the United States, national president for the organization.

FBI-Director Hoover to have an agent on hand "so that I may turn over to him documents in the Lattimore case which I consider of some importance."

4. Mrs. Esther Calkin Brunauer, a state department official named by McCarthy, told the senate committee of being terrified by death threats since McCarthy called for a loyalty investigation of her and her husband.

The witness vehemently denied McCarthy's accusations.

Postal Official Opposes UAL Route Change

WASHINGTON, March 27 (AP)—A post office department official said today that mail pay to West Coast Airlines, Inc., for carrying airmail from Medford to Portland, Ore., via Klamath Falls and Bend, would cost the government \$283,207 a year.

He told a civil aeronautics board (CAB) examiner that amount would be needed for two, daily round-trips along the 326-mile route.

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5 to 4 Vote Prohibits Sale, Use Of Fireworks as Safety Move

City Vote Asked On \$1 1/2 Million 2-Year Plan

By Robert E. Gangware

Salem's city council was asked Monday night to lay before the voters this May a \$1,279,000 public works program for the next two years, to be financed by special taxes.

This represents the initial installment of a 10-year master plan for Salem development prepared by the city administration under the direction of City Manager J. L. Franzen.

The overall plan includes drainage, sewage disposal, new bridges, wider streets, water and airport improvements, community centers and new fire fighting equipment.

Legislation to put five separate items of the master plan on a special city ballot at the May 19 primary election was introduced at the council meeting last night in city hall. These bills are now eligible for final council action April 10.

If the entire master plan were adopted by the council and public, the extra tax millage would average an approximate 6.1 mills the first five years, more for the next 15 years and less for another nine years.

Here are the proposals for the first two years as embodied in the new council bills:

Drainage — A 20-year \$200,000 bond issue proposed, to include a \$125,750 northeast Salem drainage system plus projects in south and west Salem. (Alderman Armstrong said he would propose an amendment to include also an \$82,700 Madison avenue drainage project earmarked in the master plan for 1952.)

Sewers — A \$800,000 bond issue proposed, to complete \$385,000 for interceptor sewer and disposal plant for larger population than original bond issue contemplated; new trunk sewers north and east; south Salem sewer extension; westside pumping station, high level main and interceptor.

Bridges — A \$125,000 bond issue for new bridges on North Church, South 23rd, Mission, Ford and South 25th (over Shelton ditch) streets. (The city manager said work of replacing the Church street bridge will begin as soon as Mill creek lowers, regardless of fate of bond issue proposal.)

Airport — A 2.6-mill special levy proposed for each of two years, to provide \$77,000 each year. This money to be matched by federal funds in a 500-foot north-south runway extension with connecting taxiways, first two units of administration building, high intensity lights, improvement of 25th street access and other airport improvements.

Water — The \$300,000 bond issue proposed would not require special taxes for retirement but would be retired by water department revenues. The bond issue represents the remainder of an earlier-authorized bond issue which was not sold, but since 15 years has elapsed, bonding attorneys said a revote never necessary. The entire self-financing water department program for 1950 and 1951 would total \$780,000, including a huge new reservoir at Turner.

Tighter controls over finances of the state government are included in the objectives of the 1949 legislature's so-called "Little Hoover Committee." Robert R. Johnson, committee secretary, said here Monday.

Fireworks were banned from Salem by action of the city council Monday night.

The ban, effective throughout the year, applies to both sale and use of fireworks. Heretofore the council has allowed sale of fireworks for 10 days and use of them for three days up to and including Independence day.

Prospects of a noiseless Fourth were bemoaned by several aldermen, and the new law passed by the bare margin of a 5 to 4 vote.

Mayor R. L. Elstrom, customarily the last to vote on the roll call, cast the deciding "aye" to make the bill a law. Joining him in supporting the fireworks ban

There was a touch of spring in the city council's Monday night deliberations — a harbinger of street carnivals to come.

Aldermen approved permits for a carnival in Marion square, June 13-17, during the Salem Cherryland festival and a carnival on North Cottage street between State and Court, June 28-July 1, during the state convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Davis Amusement Co., Portland, will stage both carnivals for the local sponsors.

recommendation of Fire Chief W. P. Roble were Aldermen Daniel Fry, Howard Maple, Walter Musgrave and James Nicholson.

The measure was opposed by Alderman Thomas Armstrong, Albert H. Gille, Claud Jorgensen and David O'Hara. All four said they would favor legislation more drastic than present law but not a total ban.

Fire Chief Roble advised councilmen to accept the bill as a means of reducing fire danger and the incidence of personal injuries. He said the official city aid records alone show 44 persons, mostly children, injured by fireworks in the past three years. Roble said present law led to "a multitude of fireworks stands all over town, some of them in tents."

Alderman Gille said the ban would mean "a sad day for Salem youngsters." He added that some businessmen have an investment of as high as \$5,000 already in fireworks this year.

Boys Rescued After Night on Island in River

SPRINGFIELD, March 27 (AP)—Three teen-age castaways were rescued from a Willamette river island today after an adventurous night.

The lads set out yesterday by boat for a river cruise. When they failed to return home last night, their parents sought state police help.

An air observer sighted an overturned boat halfway between Jasper and Springfield. An island was nearby.

The adventurers are Emery Lee Pyle, 15; Ray Meisenholder, 18, and Edgar Rose, 18.

Capitol Zone Verdict Stalled By McKay Plea

Controversial zoning proposals for a service station at the southeast corner of Capitol and Center streets remain in a tied controversial Monday night after the city council came face to face with the appropriate zone change legislation.

Called upon by Gov. Douglas McKay to defer action on the zone change, Salem aldermen laid the bill on the table pending a further report from the statehouse.

Oregon's governor said he would investigate further the possibility of state acquisition of the lot for parking purposes.

George A. Rhoten, appearing before the council to seek the change of zone, said the state had known of his intentions for many months, "but they've never given any indication of interest in the property."

Rhoten and S. F. Speerstra, as owners of the 62 by 107 foot vacant corner lot, petitioned for change from I-C capital zoning to III-X restricted business zoning limiting its use to a service station with architecture specified to be in harmony with capitol group buildings.

Won Endorsement

Their petition won the endorsement of Salem planning and zoning commission after public hearings. The council conducted another public hearing recently at which nearby property owners generally favor the change and state officials opposed it.

Mayor R. L. Elstrom said he had been called to conference with the governor earlier Monday and had been informed that the state highway department might want the property for a parking lot. Its new office building will be erected just across Capitol street.

Asks for Action Soon

Property owner Rhoten pointed out last night that the zone change proceedings already have been in progress several months. He asked that the matter not be held in abeyance indefinitely.

Alderman Daniel J. Fry suggested that no action should be taken until the legislature meets next January. He said the council should take action on its own judgement if no concrete legislative plan were evolved.

Other aldermen said they hoped to hear from the governor or the highway commission within a few weeks.

Other new overtures to the council last night on the zone matter, besides Gov. McKay's letter, included an endorsement for the change by Salem Chamber of Commerce executive committee and a protest against it by John A. Murray, 1025 N. Summer st.

A city and state planners have been mulling plans for several months on extension of the capitol zone north from Center street and policy for fringe area zoning.

U.S. Opposes Revalued Ruble

WASHINGTON, March 27 (AP)—The United States protested to Russia today that she has put a "purely fictitious" value on the ruble.

A note published by the state department declared that the new Soviet decree establishing an exchange rate of four rubles to the dollar means food prices in Moscow are several times those in Washington.

It said the Soviet currency continues to have low purchasing power in terms of commodities, regardless of Moscow's recently proclaimed domestic price reductions and its announcement that the ruble is now on the gold standard.

THE WEATHER

Table with weather data for Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and Willamette River.

SALEM PRECIPITATION

Table with precipitation data for Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and Willamette River.