

Hundreds at Youth Conference



Hundreds of youth organization leaders and workers are in Salem attending the governor's conference on youth at the state capitol. Part of the opening day crowds of delegates are shown above in the state house of representatives as they listened to Dr. Martha Branscombe, (lower right), director of the Elizabeth McCormick foundation, Chicago, give the opening address. Mrs. Saldie Orr Dunbar, (top left), chairman of the conference, presided. (Photo by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

Local Committee Takes Aim at Traffic Hazards

By Robert E. Gangware
City Editor, The Statesman

Thirty Salem citizens took dead aim Thursday night on local traffic hazards, fingering the trigger of their brand new 30-30 safety council as if they meant business.

Springfield Council Fires City Manager

SPRINGFIELD, April 13 (AP)—The city council fired City Manager Fred Cheatham tonight in a surprise move on the eve of a recall election for Mayor B. P. Larson.

City Considers Operation of Rock Crusher

Salem city council today will consider the possibility of a city-operated rock crushing plant.

The move is opposed by Salem trades and labor council, announced Herbert E. Barker, executive secretary.

Animal Crackers



"See what I mean, daughter—always wait till AFTER shearing time to pick a mate."

Mayor R. L. Elfstrom said last night the city faces a season of heavy construction and is having difficulty buying the right grade of crushed rock. In some cases it was necessary to substitute a finer grade than needed for recent works, he added.

A resolution was on the city council agenda Monday night to authorize the city manager to buy \$7,750 worth of rock crushing equipment provided suitable land could be leased for the project.

Labor Secretary Barker said the labor council had resolved its opposition to any such move at a regular meeting Tuesday night. Barker said the opinion was expressed that in such an operation the city might circumvent union wage scales by using city-employed common labor at scales as low as \$1.12 1/2. Barker declared common labor on comparable union projects is paid about \$1.65 per hour.

VALSETZ STRIKE CONTINUES
DALLAS, April 13 (AP)—The week-old strike of Western Logging company at Valsetz was still in effect today, with no hint of a settlement. The 200 employees, members of the CIO International Woodworkers of America, struck for time and a half pay on Saturdays.

U.S. Puts 2,500 Items on Tariff Cut List

Truman Orders Crackdown on Crime

Chief Waxes Optimistic as 6th Year Starts

WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP)—President Truman said today he has ordered the justice department to get to the bottom of nationwide crime rackets.



Oregon Youth Conference Opens in Salem

(Pictures and stories also on pages 5 and 6.)

Leaders in education, child welfare and health reported on those fields to delegates who filled the state capitol's house chamber Thursday night for a general session of the governor's youth conference which brought hundreds of delegates to Salem for the two-day meeting which continues today.

"There is growing recognition that high school is the terminal of education for most students," said Dr. Thomas C. Holy of Ohio State university who is conducting a survey of Oregon schools.

Holy said the "three r's" were getting more attention and noted that more funds were available to teach physically handicapped and slow-learning children.

Predicts Expansion
Holy saw increasing public interest in what schools are doing and predicted a continued expansion of adult education programs.

In Rural Areas
Douglass said the survey showed deaths among pre-school children are most frequent in rural areas. He attributed this to fewer health facilities in country areas, but said that more counties are hiring fulltime health officers and nurses.

Public and private child welfare groups met together to face increasing problems, said Spencer Crooks, New York, director of the Child Welfare League of America. "There is a need for both," he added.

"In a country that seems overflowing with potatoes and powdered eggs, there are current serious deficiencies," Crooks said.

Many child welfare cases spring from the nation's 6,000,000 disrupted families and the 100,000 children born out of wedlock each year, according to Crooks, who stressed the need for more funds and facilities for welfare programs.

Woodburn Garden Club Completes Spring Show Plans

WOODBURN, April 13 — Plans for the Woodburn Garden Club's annual spring flower show April 29 were completed this week when General Chairman Harold Colgan named committees and listed classifications.

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WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP)—President Truman said today he has ordered the justice department to get to the bottom of nationwide crime rackets.

The president told reporters he himself called for setting up a federal grand jury which for several months has been at work on the crime situation in Kansas City, Mr. Truman's home bailiwick.

Some senate republicans are insisting that a forthcoming senate investigation of organized gambling and interstate rackets in general take in Kansas City, where Charles Binaggio, a democratic party figure, was mysteriously slain this month.

The senate will fight it out shortly over which committee shall run its inquiry with republicans opposing the democratic idea of a special panel of five senators. The political battle developing could carry over into the congressional campaign.

Killings Brought Up
The Kansas City killing was brought up in the president's news conference when a reporter stated that Binaggio, and an ex-convict slain with him, had been witnesses before the Kansas City grand jury investigating rackets.

He said that McGrath had called the grand jury at the chief executive's suggestion.

He also observed that his request for grand jury investigation had included both Kansas City and St. Louis, but that the crime problem is a national one.

He said he did not include other cities in his request at the time because grand juries already were meeting elsewhere.

Mr. Truman said he intended that the investigation be nationwide in scope, to get at the bottom of the widespread rackets if possible.

Starts 6th Year
WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP)—President Truman, who has just embarked on his sixth year in the nation's highest office, said today the United States is prosperous and the world situation improved.

He made this oral report to a news conference after looking back over five years in the presidency—years that have spanned the closing months of a world conflict and the subsequent period of cold war.

The chief executive appeared in a challenging mood. In some of his replies he snapped at his questioners. He also hinted at the line of attack he will take in his cross country trip next month. For example he:

1—Said he expects to take credit for the nation's prosperous condition, despite what he called claims by some parts of the press that these conditions would exist even if a moron were in the White House.

2—Raised the question whether it is possible to label Senator McCarthy, Wisconsin republican who charges that Red influence is rampant in the state department. (Story on page 6.)

3—Upheled the Brannan plan as the answer to the farm surplus problem, and said Maine legislators had brought on the chief surplus-potatoes.

Judge Blames Government for \$200 Million Texas City Blasts

HOUSTON, Tex., April 13 (AP)—A federal judge today pinned responsibility for the Texas City disaster on the U.S. government—and accused the government of "blunders, mistakes and acts of negligence."

More than 500 persons were killed in April, 1947, by explosions and fires which turned the Texas harbor town into a holocaust. The disaster began with an explosion aboard the French-owned, S.S. Grandchamp, carrying ammonium nitrate.

Federal District Judge T. M. Kennerly ruled in a test damage suit. He then extended his ruling to cover \$200,000,000 in damage suits filed by 8,485 parties.

The 76-year-old jurist's ruling—three days short of three years after the great disaster—means each of the suits must be tried separately before a federal

judge, on its merits. The mass trial of the \$200,000,000 in damage suits was to determine liability.

Judge Kennerly, who heard months' of technical testimony last year, ruled:

"This record discloses blunders, mistakes and acts of negligence both of omission and commission on the part of defendant, its agents, servants and employees in deciding to begin the manufacture of this inherently dangerous fertilizer. (He referred to the ammonium nitrate which was manufactured in government-owned ordnance plants and destined for shipment overseas.)

"And from the beginning of its manufacture on down to and after the day of the Texas City disaster, the record discloses such disregard of any lack of

care for the safety of the public and of persons manufacturing, handling and transporting and using such fertilizer as to shock one."

The explosions—in the French-owned S. S. Grandchamp on April 16, 1947, and in the S.S. High Flyer early the next morning—turned the shipping town into a beilam of destruction.

It is the largest damage action ever brought against the government. Should the full \$200,000,000 be allowed it would cost each man, woman and child in the U.S. about \$1.30.

In Washington, Assistant Attorney General H. Graham Morrison said the government will immediately appeal to the circuit court of appeals at New Orleans. It was indicated the case will be taken to the supreme court if necessary.

Salem Man Released From China by Reds
HONG KONG, Friday, April 14 (AP)—Five Americans were among the 88 foreigners who have just arrived from communist Shanghai by way of Tientsin.

All five said they were happy to be outside red China. They left Shanghai on a special train for Hong Kong, in north China, where they boarded the steamer Jensen for Hong Kong.

Among the five Americans is Frank Vernon Miles, Salem, Ore., a relief worker.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Miles, 49 Lansing ave., were overjoyed late Thursday night when they learned that their son, Frank Vernon Miles, was among the 88 foreigners to be evacuated from communist Shanghai.

Miles, a relief worker with the American Friends Service committee, has been in China since 1946. He was with a medical team in Honan province at the time of the red conquest there and spent a year in north China. Recently he has been chairman of the Friends unit at Shanghai.

U.S. to Discuss Rate Reduction at Conference

By John A. Seal
WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP)—The United States gave notice today it would try to lower American tariffs on about 2,500 items as part of its campaign to help other countries earn more dollars.

The state department announced a United States delegation will be empowered to negotiate with 17 foreign countries for reduced rates at a 40-nation trade conference to be held at Torquay, England, September 23.

In return, the United States will ask these 17 foreign governments to slash their tariff duties on American goods.

Help Solve 'Dollar Gap'
"It is the belief of the United States that general acceptance of these principles will help solve the problems involved in United States foreign assistance programs and the 'dollar gap,'" the department said.

Along with its formal announcement, the state department made public a 73-page list of foreign products which may be affected by the negotiations.

The items ranged from reindeer meat to steam engines and included such "controversial" products as these: Wool, fish, clothing, wines, whiskey, paper, textiles, toys, china, rayon, and dairy products.

In the past, American producers have objected vehemently any time that existing tariff barriers on these items have been changed. Their argument has been that with reduced duties the foreign producers threaten to undersell American companies and thus cause unemployment in this country.

Third and Biggest
The Torquay conference will be the third and biggest international tariff-cutting meeting held in the past three years. The 40 nations attending account for more than four-fifths of the world's trade, Russia and its satellites are not expected to attend.

For the first time since the war ended, western Germany, Austria, and south Korea will be represented. Japan, however, will be barred even though the United States sought to get it invited.

Price Supports End on Turkey, Chicken Crops
PORTLAND, April 13 (AP)—The end of price supports of chickens and turkeys was greeted gleefully today by poultrymen, who foresaw further gains in an already declining market.

The price of hens promptly fell one cent a pound. C. W. Norton, manager of Northwest Poultry and Dairy Products company, said the breeder turkey market might be flooded.

Another industry member, E. L. Martindale of Columbia Produce company, predicted a squeeze between the unsupported poultry and supported feed. The price of feed has climbed in the last 10 days.

"It does not make sense," he complained, "to support grain at present high level and remove price supports on the by-products of the revenue from Oregon chickens, turkeys, and eggs fell sharply last year, despite the fact that more of them were sold. Lower prices cut income from \$35,652,000 in 1948 to \$31,281,000 in 1949.

Last Call Today For Guesses . . .
It's going to be a bit of work ascertaining who wins the \$40 in prizes offered by The Statesman for the three closest guesses as to Salem's 1950 population.

Nearly 2,000 guesses have been entered. None can be accepted after midnight tonight (no matter when they are post-marked).

In event of a tie (or ties), it'll be veritably a toss-up. The winners will be announced the day after the official census figures are made known by District Census Supervisor Cornelius Bateson—probably within a week or two.

Your COMPLETE Newspaper

Russ Convinced Fight Involved Lost U.S. Plane

By Eddie Gilmore
MOSCOW, April 13 (AP)—Pravda left no doubt today that Russians regard the U. S. navy patrol plane hunted in the Baltic areas as the same aircraft the Soviet government said exchanged shots with a Soviet fighter over Latvia Saturday and then disappeared toward the sea.

A few hours later the government announced the award of the Red Banner to four Soviet air force lieutenants "for excellent fulfillment of their duty."

The award, issued here and broadcast by the Moscow radio, did not go into detail about what they did to win the citations.

"Now the American authorities are trying to hide their faces," said a front-page editorial in Pravda, the communist party newspaper.

The representative of the American air force in Wiesbaden on April 11 declared, for example, that an American plane was missing, allegedly during a normal training flight over northern Germany and Denmark. He was silent, however, about the fact that this plane violated the Soviet frontier and engaged in the so-called "knowledge" over Soviet territory."

April 11, Tuesday, was the day Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky protested to the U. S. embassy, that a bomber of the B-29 super fortress type had violated the Soviet frontier by a flight over Latvia Saturday, fired on a fighter group that directed it to land, drew fire in return and then turned toward the sea.

(The widely publicized hunt for the navy plane, a four-engined PB-4Y privateer smaller than the B-29, but looking somewhat like it—was three days old Tuesday. The search Thursday proved fruitless.)

The hotel owner, the civil aeronautics administration, has abandoned its station on Palmyra and will accept bids for the hotel at its office here until May 24.

Hotel for Sale On Lonely Atoll

HONOLULU, April 13 (AP)—For Sale, probably very cheap: One 66-room hotel.

The catch is that it's on Palmyra, lonely atoll 1,100 miles southwest of Honolulu.

The hotel owner, the civil aeronautics administration, has abandoned its station on Palmyra and will accept bids for the hotel at its office here until May 24.

Fighting Starts in Indonesia

JAKARTA, U. S. I., Friday, April 14 (AP)—Scattered fighting broke out in Makassar last night after President Soekarno of the U. S. I. said he had ordered his army to break the rebellion in East Indonesia's capital.

Neutral military sources reported that the outbreak of violence had been quieted without serious casualties.

Maj. Harjono, a spokesman for the United States of Indonesia army, said today that the federal army "will invade the island of South Celebes at any moment."

Rebel armored patrols have been crisscrossing Makassar in defiance of Soekarno, after Aziz had spurned a summons: to come to the federal capital in Jakarta and account for his activities.

WORLD CITIZEN WEDS
ELLSWORTH, Me., April 13 (AP)—World Citizen Garry Davis and Audrey Peters, Hollywood dancer, publicly exchanged vows today in a Quaker-like wedding in city hall plaza.

THE WEATHER

City	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	53	41	0.0
Portland	52	41	1.3
San Francisco	57	48	0.2
Chicago	53	41	0.0
New York	45	35	0.0

Willamette river 3.5 feet
FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Generally fair and warmer today with increasing cloudiness this afternoon and tonight. Rain Saturday. High today 53-58. Low tonight 44-46.

Year	Normal
This Year	37.50
Last Year	37.00

Politics on Parade . . .

Who's Running for What in the May Primaries!

(Editor's note: Comments in this series are made by or for the candidates without restriction, and may or may not reflect the opinion of this newspaper.)

Today's subject:
Roy Houck (r)
Candidate for
State representative (Marion)

Republicans in Marion county can elect four candidates to the house of representatives. Voters have a right to know who the candidates are, what they stand for, and on what background of education and reputation they are qualified to serve.

The information presented here covers my qualifications, which I trust fortifies me with sufficient background to promote and pass on helpful legislation.

Roy Houck
(Tomorrow—H. R. Jones.)

