

Cities Find Civic Auditorium Distinct Asset, Col. Hillary Told

(Editor's note: Lt. Col. Mark Hillary, executive director of the Salem Memorial Auditorium association, recently completed an extensive tour of cities with municipal auditoriums, stories of which appeared in The Oregon Statesman. Today he returns with some pertinent answers to a series of pertinent questions.)

All but one of 25 cities with municipal auditoriums regard such facility as a distinct asset, and cities in Salem population class find them particularly advantageous. Lt. Col. Mark Hillary said Saturday.

Colonel Hillary, executive director of the Salem Memorial Auditorium association, gave these answers to questions posed as a result of a recent survey:

Q. Did the cities covered by your survey consider an auditorium an asset, a liability or merely a convenience?

A. Of the 25 auditoriums in 25 cities covered by the survey, only one city looked upon its auditorium as a liability and that city was taking steps to modernize the building for maximum utilization. In four cities the intentions of the voting public was to create an asset but the issue was sidetracked by political issues until the project was orphaned and had to be adopted by a municipal agency in order to operate. In most of these instances the planning board used poor judgment in location and the building had to be assumed by such municipal agencies as schools, municipal offices or boards of control. In 20 cities the auditorium was a distinct asset which maintained itself from its gross earnings and in six instances showed a worthwhile surplus each year.

Q. Was there any populational pattern to the auditoriums which were operated successfully?

A. Auditoriums in cities of 100,000 or less showed a greater per capita earning than those in higher population brackets. This indicated that in the 100,000 range made greater use of the facilities than those in higher population groups.

Q. Was there any outstanding example of maximum utilization of auditorium?

A. Probably the most outstanding example of utilization was the auditorium in Hershey, Pa. Here the auditorium and arena were separate but operated under the same central management. Both showed profitable operation. The success of the project financially stemmed from a wise choice of managers. The city is only 4500 population, but operates the greatest mail-order ticket business in U.S. The manager selects for showing only top-flight productions and as a result of a reputation built through many years of successful operation these productions draw from entire Eastern Pennsylvania. Oklahoma played there for ten days; SRO; South Pacific 10 days; Philadelphia Symphony, one week; Ice Follies, 10 days, etc. All these were standing-room-only. It must be recognized that the Hershey Corp. stands ready to underwrite any shortage, but we were advised that such steps have never been necessary since the project opened and the initial cost has been consistently amortized.

Q. Was there any geographical section in which auditoriums were more successful?

A. Climatic conditions which are generally mild throughout the southern tier of states seemed to contribute to a longer continued use of the auditorium than did the climate in the north. Consequently more auditoriums have been built in southern states. However, the advantages of such buildings and projects are fast becoming evident to northern cities and the newer auditoriums are appearing in this area and most of these have promise of success.

Q. How many of the auditoriums seen were memorials to war service personnel?

A. Only two of the completed buildings were war memorials. However, six of the proposed auditoriums contemplated veterans' utilization.

Q. Why should Salem have an auditorium?

A. The survey showed that there is a certain point in the population rise when consideration MUST be given to the cultural needs of the community. Salem has reached that point. There are certain cultural organizations in Salem such as the Community Concert association, art groups, youth organizations, etc., which must have an outlet for their interests. This can best be done through an auditorium which will serve not only such cultural organizations but also recreational and social groups, athletic interests, and above all a living memorial which would serve future as well as present generations.

Valley Obituaries

Statesman News Service

Margaret Hintzen
SHERIDAN — Funeral services were held this week at the Church of the Good Shepherd for Margaret Hintzen, 81, who passed away Thursday after a long illness. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Schulgen and was born Nov. 5, 1869, in Roxburg, Wis. She was married to William Hintzen Sept. 5, 1893, and they moved from Madison, Wis., to Sheridan in 1913.

Services were conducted by Father John Babyak and Father J. Hurley, with interment in St. James cemetery in McMinnville. Pallbearers were Albert Kurt, Albert Krauthofer, Matthew Krauthofer, Richard Kirby, Eugene Hintzen and Herb Tainer.

Survivors are her children, Martha and Matthew Hintzen of Sheridan; Henry Hintzen of Portland, and Mrs. Margaret Kirby of McMinnville; nine grandchildren and one great grandchild; and four nieces, Mrs. Matthew Krauthofer, Mrs. L. Vincent, Helen Kreutzer and Mrs. Ed Spring, all of Sheridan.

Charles H. Houser
SHERIDAN — Funeral services were held Thursday for Charles Howard Houser, 62, at the chapel of the Sheridan Funeral home.

Houser passed away in McMinnville after suffering a heart attack. Rev. Dan Shenk of the Menonite church officiated at the services and burial was in Green Crest Memorial park.

Houser was born Aug. 21, 1888, in Milan, Kan., the son of Samuel and Charlotte Patterson Houser. He had lived in Oregon for the past 53 years and had lived for 40 years in Sheridan. He established the first creamery in Sheridan, and had a fleet of trucks, when he built the Houser Chevrolet company. He was issued the first public utilities permit. In 1909 he was married to Clara M. Houser who survives.

Other survivors are a son, Samuel Howard Houser, a daughter, Doris, McKinley; a grandson, C. H. Houser, II; a granddaughter, Linda McKinley, all of Sheridan; three sisters, Mrs. Charles Morgan of Willamina, Mrs. Effie Barber of Portland and Mrs. Ida Ellis of McMinnville; two brothers, Althus of Portland, Lee of Beverly Hills, Calif.; four nieces, Mrs. Walter Smith, Mrs. Glenn Willis, Mrs. Phil Willis and Mrs. Frank Kauble, Willamina.

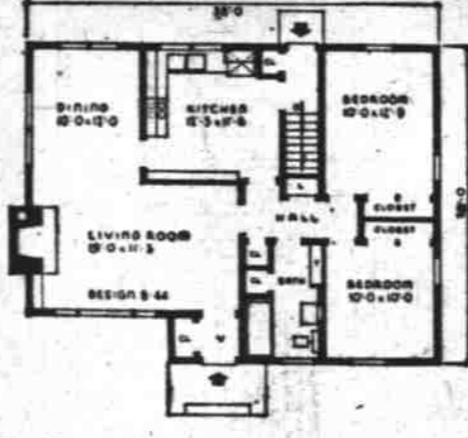
Pallbearers were Ben Robison, Glen Jones, Tom Hope, Carl Baxter, Francis Bradley and Jack Woodall. Honorary pallbearers were Otto Heider, sr., T. J. Scroggin, Guy Bradley, Loren McKinley, Andrew McKinley and Louis Early.

Charles R. Hofrichter
WILLAMINA — Funeral services were held this week for Charles R. Hofrichter, 51, of Willamina, who passed away Monday morning, following a heart attack at the Associated Plywood mills, where he was foreman of the day shift. The services were held at the Sheridan Funeral home, with interment in Evergreen park in McMinnville. He had been a resident of this community for many years. Survivors include his wife, Christina; three children, Charles R. jr., and Richard L. of Willamina, and Mrs. Betty Deitrick of Bend; three grandchildren and two step-children, Laverne Misner and Jeannie Holmes, both of Willamina.

Floyd R. Schmidt
ALBANY — Funeral services for Floyd R. Schmidt, 56, who died in the Albany General hospital early Thursday, Aug. 30, following a brief illness, were held from the Fisher Funeral Home at 3 o'clock, Friday, Aug. 31. The Rev. George Huber officiated, and the Masonic lodge held a short service. Concluding services were held at Centralia, Wash., at 1:30 o'clock, Saturday, Sept. 2.

In Seattle, Wash., on Feb. 22, 1912, Mr. Schmidt married Dora Barnhart, who survives. Surviving also are four daughters, Mrs. Ralph Fisher and Mrs. Edward W. Fisher, both of Nelton, Wash., Mrs. William L. Rembold of Centralia, Wash., and Mrs. John Petrovich of Seattle, Wash.; a son, Floyd Carl Schmidt of Eugene, and five grandchildren.

Schmidt was a member of the Albany Kiwanis; and of two Masonic bodies, Crystal Lodge 122, AF&AM of Marysville, Wash., and of Centralia chapter 44, RAM, being a high priest of the latter. He was also a member of the Baptist church.



THE BRYANT has a compact plan which provides for two bedrooms and a dining room. In The Bryant's plan the living room and dining room are joined together to form one large L-shaped room.

The Bryant's kitchen is entered from the basement stair hall. This hall is equipped with a convenient coat closet. Kitchen cabinets, in the Bryant's work room, are efficiently arranged to save steps. They include a high cabinet on the inside wall of the kitchen, under which there is ample space for a breakfast set.

Closet space in The Bryant is also generous. Closet areas include a general closet and a linen cabinet in the hall. There is a towel cabinet and a linen closet in the bathroom. Each of the two bedrooms contains a roomy wardrobe.

Construction of The Bryant is of frame with wood joists and partitions. Siding is used for the exterior walls. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Overall dimensions of the Bryant are 28 feet by 38 feet with a full basement. The house contains 1,010 square feet and 20,200 cubic feet.

For further information about THE BRYANT, write the Small House Planning Bureau, St. Cloud, Minn.

Pact Nations May Select Commander

LONDON, Sept. 2 —(AP)— The North Atlantic pact nations soon may name an American peacetime commander in chief to speed the building of western defenses against militant communism.

The civilian directors of the 12-nation alliance, who have headquarters in London, want a counterpart of the World War II supreme allied command to bring order out of the threatened chaos of European attempts to rearm.

Chairman Charles Spottford of the United States will leave for Washington in a few days to lay the proposal before President Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

As envisaged in talks of the directors — called the council of deputies — an American would be entrusted with the overall command in recognition of United States leadership in the stand against communist aggression.

Frenchman on Land
A Frenchman would head all land forces.

Because of her acknowledged skill afloat, Britain presumably would be called on to furnish a naval commander.

The air forces would be under American control.

A handful of western European nations have taken first steps toward raising bulwarks against the east, but the over-all picture still appears clouded. Britain, France, Belgium and tiny Luxembourg have announced plans for putting more seasoning into their draftees. Individual rearmament programs, however, are largely dependent on a fresh flow of American dollars to Europe.

To Ask for Aid
Premier Rene Pleven of France said in a speech at Strasbourg today his nation could not bear the

Atomic Plant Disaster Said Inconceivable

RICHLAND, Wash., Sept. 2 —(AP)— The atomic energy commission says that its Hanford, Wash., plutonium plant is so designed that the chance of a disaster there is "virtually inconceivable except from severe earthquake or successful enemy action."

The AEC gives that assurance in its 8th semi-annual report to congress.

It also says: "If for any reason, chain reaction from a Hanford pile were to run away, the result would be a disaster in the plant area, but not an atomic explosion."

"The runaway energy and heat might breach the unit walls and produce an airborne cloud of deadly materials."

"This is one of the chief reasons the plutonium plant was located in the 640-square mile restricted area . . . (and why) . . . approximately 88,000 acres of the Wahuksa slope directly across the (Columbia) river from the piles must remain part of the restricted reservation."

"All points in this region are closer to the piles than the nearest inhabited area now existing."

NEBRASKAN VISITS FRUITLAND

FRUITLAND — A recent visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harmon was their granddaughter, Mrs. Samuel Roser, of Lincoln, Neb. David and Mary Sue Roser spent the summer here with the Harmons and their grandmother, Mrs. Addie Gardner and returned home with their mother, Mrs. Roser.

Plan to Restrict Tax in Portland Taken from Ballot

PORTLAND, Sept. 2 —(AP)— A proposal to restrict Portland's occupation tax was ruled off the November election ballot today. Judge James W. Crawford held that city auditor will Gibson acted properly when he would not accept some of the signatures of petitions to put the proposal on the ballot.

Gibson said the signatures were not properly submitted and as a result there were not enough left to put the question before the voters.

Wilber Henderson, attorney

for the petitioners, will be court in an effort to force Gibson to accept the questionable signatures.

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