

# City Council Ponders Bills to Raise Price Of Building Permits

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE  
City Editor, The Statesman

It will cost more to get the city permits needed in building a house, if Salem City Council adopts five administration bills now in the legislative mill.

The bills would double, more or less, most of the fees now charged for sewer, sidewalk, electrical, sign and driveway permits. They are scheduled for a Council vote at the July 28 meeting.

## Salem Fourth In Northwest Building Totals

Salem building permits for June were the fourth highest in the Northwest, the trade journal Construction News Bulletin reported today.

Boosting the city's total into the high bracket, above such areas as Spokane and Tacoma, was the \$1,672,156 permit filed in June for the Marion County courthouse. This amounted to more than half of Salem's total of \$2,116,841.

Ranking first in the area was Seattle, \$8,090,570. Portland was next with \$5,727,090 and just above Salem was King County, Wash. (suburban Seattle) with \$4,906,385.

Building throughout the Northwest was up 57 per cent over last year, the magazine reported, despite material shortages. Oregon led the whole area, recording a 75 per cent increase over last year, and a 51 per cent increase over May. The June total was \$10,129,116 and May's, \$6,707,985. Oregon building in June, 1951, amounted to \$5,773,925.

Total building throughout the six Northwest states was \$39,319,087, an increase over the \$25,062,071 reported during the same period last year. States included in the survey besides Oregon and Washington were Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Utah.

Others in the top ten construction areas were Spokane, Pasco, Wash.; Tacoma, Salt Lake City, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Pierce County, Wash., (suburban Tacoma.)

## Accountant Succumbs to Gas Fumes

Over an hour of artificial respiration failed to revive a 32-year-old traveling accountant who was found unconscious Sunday afternoon in a gas-filled house at 1175 Nebraska St.

The man was identified by Marion County Coroner Lester W. Howell as Alan E. Edwards. He was pronounced dead at 4:14 p.m. Howell said cause of death was asphyxiation and that Edwards had apparently taken his own life. When police arrived, all the burners on the stove were open and gas was escaping.

Edwards left a note to the occupant of the house, Miss Billie Scott, who discovered his body shortly before 3 p.m. Howell said Miss Scott and Edwards had gone out together Saturday evening, but after a disagreement, Miss Scott had left with friends. Howell said Miss Scott related coming home early Sunday morning, saw Edwards lying on the couch in the living room and had gone downtown to spend the night in a hotel. When she returned Sunday afternoon, she smelled gas, Howell said, and called police. No autopsy was planned, Howell said.

The dead man is believed to have no relatives. He maintained an office in the Oregon Building and was a certified public accountant.

## TV Cameras Set to Cover Convention

CHICAGO (AP)—Television cameras—lots of them—again will be pointed this week at the big show in the big top—the Democratic National Convention in the International Amphitheatre.

And the sideshows—the hoopla in front of convention headquarters in the Conrad Hilton, the snake dances through the hotel lobbies, the clatterings in the corridors—also will have TV eyes upon them.

At the convention itself, TV again plans a gravel-to-gravel pool, with three big networks supplying the cameras, technicians and commentators for the big event.

The American Broadcasting Co., National Broadcasting and Columbia Broadcasting System are teaming to provide more of the type of coverage they supplied during the Republican National Convention week before last.

If the pool arrangements suggests that all is peaceful in the battle of the networks, that impression is very wrong.

"It's a rat race," one network official said.

"Everyone is trying to outdo the other guy," another commented.

**WOO BUSY TO CAUCUS**  
CHICAGO (AP)—A 15-state Democratic caucus which hoped to line up 264 Midwestern delegates behind one presidential candidate was postponed Sunday night. Reason given: The delegates were "much too busy."

Radio's Newest Treat!  
**John Sebastian Show**  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
KSLM 1:30 P.M.

No change is proposed in the basic building fee, now figured at \$2 per \$1,000 of valuation of the new building. Nor is any bill up on plumbing permit fees, but this may follow in connection with a planned wholesale revision of Salem's plumbing code.

The fee increases are in line with a noticeable movement to boost the city's revenues from those who benefit by particular city services. In this case the administration aims at construction inspection service paying for itself; in figuring the fee increases the engineering department took into account the work of inspectors, permit-issuing clerks, plan checkers and other costs like paper and mileage.

**New Fees**  
Brand new in the fee line would be the proposed charges for city water connections, based on a \$35 charge for a 3/4-inch connection. This comes under the separate water department and probably will not require legislative action, although the aldermen have asked City Manager J. L. Franzen for a full report July 28.

In the fee increases, those under the engineering department, City Engineer J. H. Davis estimates the additional revenue per year at about \$2,500. The number of permits issued in the five affected categories last year was 2,153.

Here's how the proposals add up:  
**Sewer permits**—Fee would go up to \$4 from present \$2.50. Engineers estimate the average actual cost of the sewer inspection in connection with permits is \$5. There were 760 such permits last year.

**Sidewalk permits**—Fee doubled. No fee charged for first 150 square feet; \$1 up to 625 square feet and 10 cents a square foot over that. The \$1 fee would cover an ordinary sidewalk for a residential frontage up to 125 feet.

Separate fee for establishing sidewalk line or grade would cost \$2.50 instead of \$1 under the proposal. The estimated average cost of determining grade is \$11.32, Engineer Davis points out.

**Electrical permits**—A wide variety of installations covered. Increase is about 30 per cent, with minimums of \$1 in most cases. Higher fee for electric heater installations. Electrical permits totaled 983 last year and carried an average fee of \$3.50.

**Driveway permits**—Fees doubled, with new rate at \$1 for private and \$2 for commercial driveway.

**Sign permits**—Not related to residential construction, but covers everything from billboards to barber poles. Some permits have been issued free, some as low as 50 cents per sign; under the bill a \$1 minimum is set. Billboard permits would be \$5 instead of \$2 at present.

"We feel that even with these increases the Salem people who need these permits will be getting their money's worth in the inspection service," declared the city engineer.

As it is now, he indicated, most of the inspection cost considerably more than the revenue from the permits issued. An exception is in the general building permits. Here it was figured the average permit brought in a \$7.72 fee; cost of administration averaged \$6.44.

## Skunk Turns Movie Critic

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—There wasn't any doubt about a movie here Sunday night. It stunk. Leathernecks attending the show at the Marine Corps camp emptied the theater double quick.

They said a skunk got in and reacted unfavorably.

## Costume Day at Playgrounds Friday

Costumes will be the center of interest at the third special day in the Salem playgrounds summer program, scheduled for next Friday.

Youngsters will be judged in five classifications: Pretty costume, best characterization, best foreign costume, funniest costume and most unusual costume.

## Portland Driver Killed Near Cannon Beach

SEASIDE (AP)—An automobile ran off the road near Cannon Beach Junction Sunday, fatally injuring its driver, Arthur E. Grebe, 56, Portland.

His wife, a passenger in the car, suffered shock and possible rib fractures.

The word "carat" used to measure jewels is derived from a small oriental bean, a "carob."

AIR-CONDITIONED  
**HOLLYWOOD**  
Now Showing — Open 6:45  
— TWO BIG FEATURES —

**THE SINGING BROTHERS**  
— Co-Feature —  
**"WHEN IN ROME"**  
Van Johnson, Paul Douglas

## Blows Struck At California Demo Caucus

CHICAGO (AP)—Flits flew Sunday night as supporters of the caucus room demanding a chance to qualify a delegation for the California primary tried to crash the first caucus of the California Democratic delegation. It is pledged to Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee.

Holdridge, a retired Army Brigadier general, has charged repeatedly the Kefauver slate was elected illegally. The California courts, however, have rejected his contention.

A group of Holdridge supporters started to enter the crowded caucus room demanding a chance to be heard. They were thrown back by California delegates.

Members of the delegation called for police after the Holdridge group—about a half dozen youths whose names were not learned—tried again to enter the Crystal Room at the Palmer House, California delegation headquarters.

Rex Whittemore, Bakersfield, a delegate and a former state department commander of the American Legion, was knocked down.

## Mrs. Bogart President of Salem Picnic

Mrs. Patsy Carolyn Willis Bogart of Portland, member of an early Salem family, was elected Sunday as president of the committee for the annual Salem Picnic.

Some 100 persons, mostly from Salem and Portland, attended this year's event at the State Fairgrounds. They will go next to Portland, alternating thereafter between the two cities. Until last year it had been held in Portland.

Attended largely by early or long-time Salem residents, the picnic had seven persons over 80 years of age. It was found that three had been at the first such gathering, in 1911 at Portland's Oaks Park. They are Murray Wade and Mrs. Edna Knight Taylor of Salem and Raymond W. Waters of Portland.

Herbert Salisbury, assistant state archivist, read a story of early Salem happenings by former governor Oswald West of Portland and one of early autos in the city by Ben Maxwell.

Impromptu remarks from the group included a report by Merrill Moore of Portland on his visit to Herbert Hoover, also formerly of Salem, in New York City.

Entertainment included a magic show by Jack Spong.

Diamond cutting was first developed in ancient India.

**SALEM**  
2-7828

Gates Open 7  
Show At Dusk

NOW

In Technicolor  
"AT SWORDS  
POINT"  
Cornell Wilde  
Maureen O'Hara  
— Plus —  
"A GIRL IN  
EVERY PORT"  
Groucho Marx  
Marie Wilson

Don't Rain or Shine

**ELSINORE**

Open 6:45 P.M.

Spencer Tracy  
Katherine Hepburn  
"PAT & MIKE"

— — —  
Leslie Caron  
"GLORY ALLEY"

**CAPITOL**

HELD OVER!

James Stewart  
"CARBINE  
WILLIAMS"

— — —  
Johnny Sheffield  
"AFRICAN  
TREASURE"

**GRAND**

Continuous

Stewart Granger  
— in color —  
"WILD NORTH"

— — —  
Sterling Hayden  
"JOURNEY  
INTO LIGHT"

**STATE**

Open 6:45 P.M.

Tyrone Power  
Jean Fontaine  
"THIS ABOVE  
ALL"

— — —  
East Side Kids  
"THE SPOOK  
SPEAKS"

## Kefauver Meets Washington Delegates



CHICAGO—Delegates from the state of Washington, piling off the train at Union station, find Sen. Estes Kefauver (rear-far left, center) avowed candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, right there to greet them as they arrived in Chicago. The delegates and Kefauver were swept right along in a dash to the Democratic headquarters hotel. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

## Boy Missing in Woods 4 Hours

HOOD RIVER (AP)—A four-year-old boy wandered away from his parents' camp site in the Mount Hood National Forest Sunday. But he was found unharmed four hours later.

Little Tommy Prosser, son of

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Prosser, Hayward, Calif., was found 1 1/2 miles from the camp which was 30 miles southeast of here.

Search crews were led by Sheriff R. L. Gilmothe and District Ranger Bert Holby. Charles Oliver, Portland, a member of the search party, found the boy.

## Kefauver Would Leave Clean-Up to FBI Chief

CHICAGO (AP)—Sen. Estes Kefauver talked confidently Sunday night of winning the Democratic presidential nomination and said that if elected he would make FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover "my No. 1" government clean-up man.



"MY ADVICE TO YOU IS . . ."

Quit complaining... YOU NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD"



Don't cry, little brother, mom will be back in a minute. She's putting our laundry in the dryer, and by the time we finish our naps it'll be all ready for us, fluffy and white.

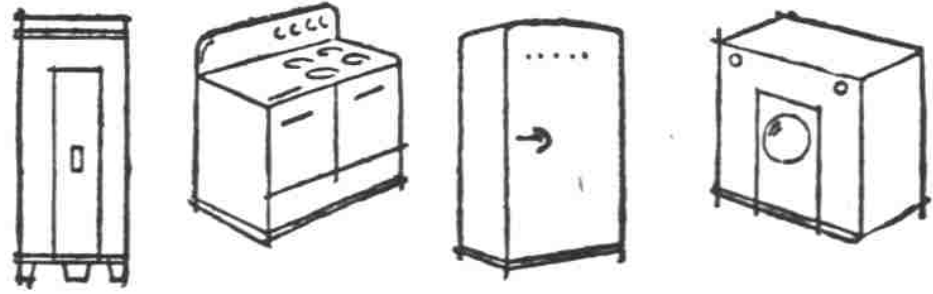
Suppose we'd been born before the days of electricity—then we'd have something to holler about. But now, jeppers, PGE ELECTRICITY is just like having a full time servant around the house.

He's right at mom's fingertips every minute of the day to help her take care of us little people.

He cooks our meals, heats water for our baths, keeps our formula fresh in the refrigerator, washes, dries and helps to iron our clothes (and we use plenty). Course that's not all he does, but you get the idea.

Confidentially, mom will have even more time for us after her birthday. Pop's going to add a dishwasher to our electric servant's chores.

So quit complaining, little brother . . . mom will be back in a minute, and she'll agree she never had it so good, either. And the best part is that it costs only a few pennies a day for all the electricity our family wants.



**PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY**

Owned in the West, managed and operated by Oregon people

## Logging Accident Victim Succumbs

OREGON CITY (AP)—William LeRoy Brownlee, 55, injured last week when struck in the head by a log cable, died in a hospital here Sunday.

He came here from Castle Rock, Wash., six weeks ago to work for the Carson Brothers Logging Company near Elwood, Ore.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Garnett Brownlee, Castle Rock.

**Tele-fun**  
by Warren Goodrich

"The party line is still busy! Old seventeen-year locust just returned home and is catching up on all the gossip!" . . . When you're a considerate telephone user, everybody gets better telephone service! . . . Pacific Telephone!