

New Gas Chamber Waits Wayne Long

By CHARLES IRELAND
Staff Writer, The Statesman

The morgue-like quiet that has shrouded Oregon's death house for nearly five years is scheduled to end at 7 a.m. today with the execution of Wayne LeRoy Long.

Prison officials said events this morning, barring a last-minute stay of execution, probably will proceed like this:

The condemned man will arise early. A chaplain, Father William McClary, will share his last hours.

He will eat his last meal in the prison administration building. The order for his execution will be read to him.

His "last mile" will be short and motorized. An auto will transport him to the death house, a short distance outside the prison walls.

At least 25 persons will see Long repay society for slaying a Portland carpenter. Most of them will be prison personnel and newsmen. They will crowd into the small building that houses the execution chamber, a six-sided cubicle with thick, glass windows.

Attendants will secure Long to the death chair with 11 straps. Meanwhile, sulphuric acid will be added to a crock of water under the chair to make it boil.

Then the attendants will step back, close the door and bolt it. The executioner will pull a lever. Pellets of cyanide gas will drop from a box under the chair into the crock.

Fumes will curl up from the crock. The condemned man will inhale them. Within three minutes, probably, he will be dead.

But the state will wait for 15 minutes. Then air will be blown into the gas chamber, forcing the gas out of the death house through a tall flue.

Guards will turn ammonia into the building when they are sure he is dead. The execution will be over.

But at the penitentiary Thursday, the condemned prisoner talked with three visitors, his attorneys, Dale Jacobs and Ashley Green, and Mrs. Clair Argow of the Oregon Prison Association.

His only relative, according to prison records, is a grandmother too old to make the trip to Salem from Eastern Oregon.

Long would be the 14th convicted murderer to die in Oregon's gas chamber. The last was Wardell H. Henderson, executed Jan. 23, 1948, for the 1945 Christmas Day murder.

Air Group Changing From B-29 to B-36

SPOKANE (P)—Conversion of the 111th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base from a medium group using B-29s to a heavy group for B-36 bombers were announced Thursday.

Brig. Gen. C. J. Bondley, base commander, said the group will be transferred to another base when the conversion is complete, probably next spring.

REVERSAL

FARMINGTON, N.M. (INS)—The San Juan Basin Sun reported several motorists in this northwestern New Mexico gas and oil boomtown were "apparently so enchanted" by the town's first traffic light they "sat patiently all the time the light was green, then drove calmly through the intersection the moment the signal turned red."

Jan. 16, 1951, for the murder of Walter Lane Rucker in Clackamas County. His execution will climax a stormy prison career marked by numerous escape attempts.

Death Takes Grace Klopp Of Woodburn

Statesman News Service
WOODBURN—Mrs. Grace Geneva Klopp, 52, Woodburn resident for 12 years, died Thursday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Aileen Shoptaugh, 888 Ogle St.

Born Oct. 23, 1899 in Kansas, she came to Oregon from Colorado in 1934 and to Woodburn from Salem.

Surviving besides the daughter, Mrs. Shoptaugh, are the widower, Charles W. Klopp; three sons, Eugene and Ralph, both of Eugene, and Kenneth at home; two brothers, Ernest Calendar, Bellingham, Wash., and Fred Calendar in Colorado; five sisters, Mrs. Allie Holmes and Mrs. Leona Klopp, both of Brooks, Mrs. Lila Meade, Mrs. Thelma Harding and Mrs. Cloy Smith, all in Colorado.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Ringo Mortuary with the Rev. George Springer officiating. Interment will be at Belle Passi Cemetery.



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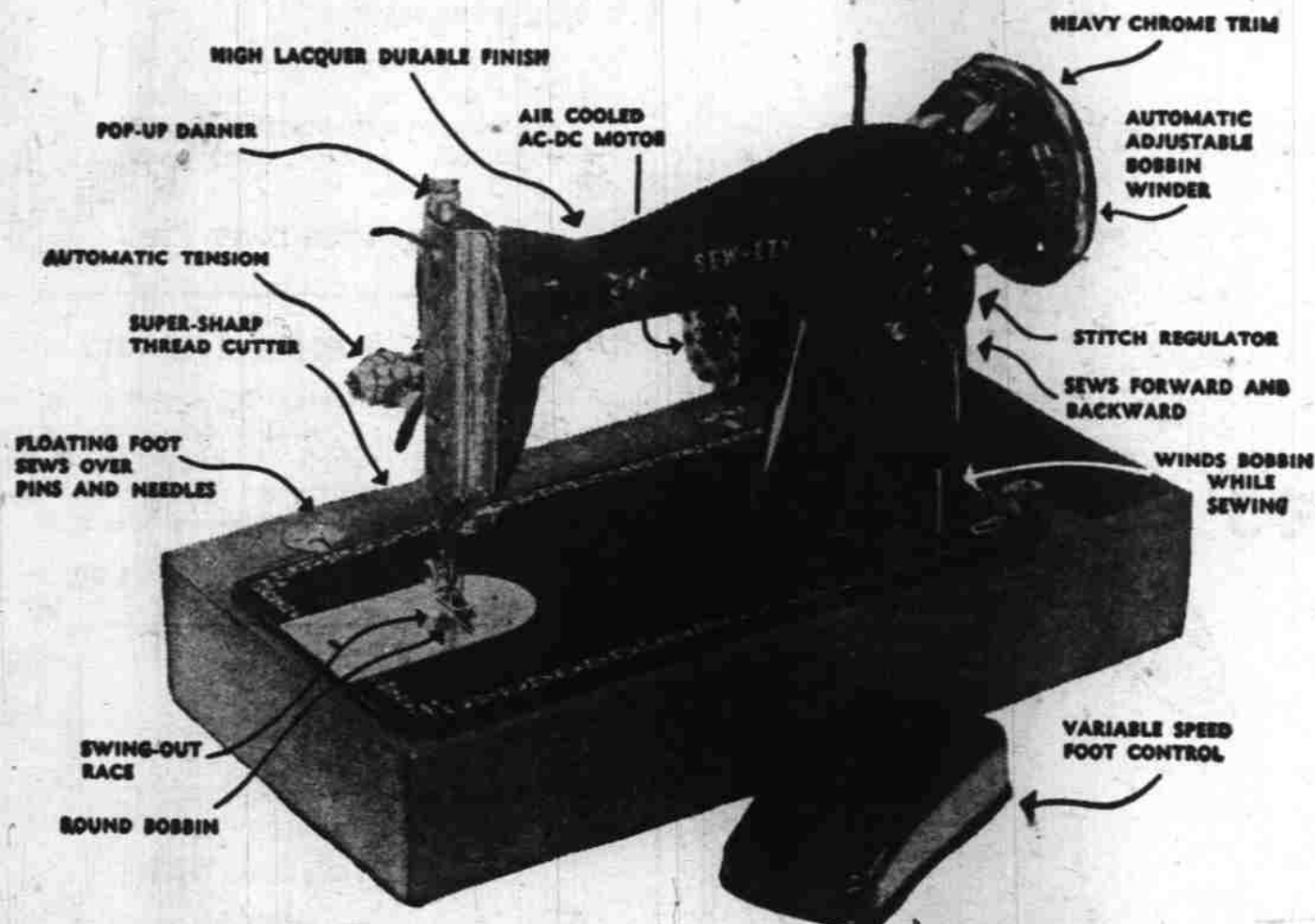
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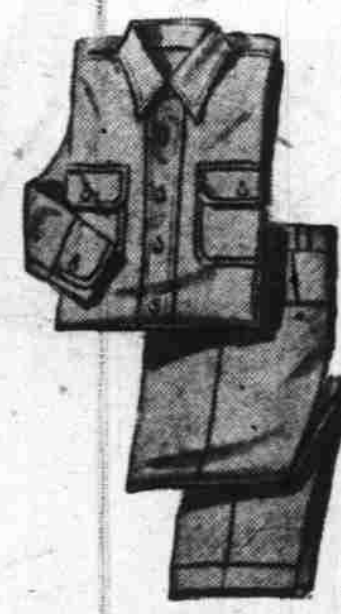
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