

Housewives Welcome Gas Break as Chance For Restaurant Meal

(Story also on Page 1)

A restaurant meal, often a rare treat for the family, became a necessity Wednesday for many persons whose homes are normally served by gas. Salem restaurants, on the whole, reported "one of the biggest days for some time."

Problems of cooking weren't bypassing restaurant owners and chefs, however. A goodly number of them also have supplementary electric stoves. Those businesses which rely solely on gas had to utilize hot plates and limit their menus to soups, sandwiches, salads and salads.

The number of restaurants that do have electric stoves still faced a requirement of serving a greater number of patrons with a limited stove capacity. One restaurant which does all its own baking didn't let the absence of an oven on the premises stop that service. The baking was simply transferred to a stove in the home of the restaurant owner.

Electric Stoves

An eating problem at Leslie Junior High School which uses gas stoves in the cafeteria, was abated Wednesday when the home economics department prepared the regular Wednesday noon meal. The girls of the department prepared it on electric stoves used in the classrooms. Connell C. Ward, district clerk for the Salem public school system, said Wednesday that Leslie has the only cafeteria in the Salem system served by gas.

Several thousand mid-Valley students outside the Salem system got a full day's head start on Thanksgiving vacations due to the interruption in gas service.

Schools Close

The school closures affected 600 students at two Dallas grade schools, 675 at all three public schools in Woodburn and more than 1,000 students at Lebanon. St. Mary's Elementary School at Mt. Angel also was closed.

Most of the schools have oil heat, but gas is used as a booster in starting the heating systems. Monmouth Elementary School's cafeteria substituted cold lunches for hot.

Cafes were hard hit, too. Sil-

Gas Cut Slowed Publication of The Statesman

That gas main break did more than leave cold homes and cookless restaurants... it dogged the publication of the Statesman.

The Statesman uses gas to heat the lead in the huge metal pot from which casts of pages are made to fit on the press. Unless that lead is at a temperature of 450 degrees or more, it won't pour into the forms and no casts can be made. Hence, no paper.

Everything was fine until after midnight (early Wednesday). There was hope that stored gas in Salem would be sufficient to keep the downtown area supplied. But no—around 12:30 a.m. the 150,000 BTU burner under the metal pot sputtered out. There still were six pages to cast for the Wednesday edition.

Cools Rapidly

Lead cools rapidly. The thermometer slid to an even 350 degrees. Stereotypers hurried one page through just in time. Five to go. They were still being made up in the composing room. But they would be of no use unless the lead could be kept hot.

There was a quick call to Joseph Dodd, district manager of the Portland Gas Company—who was getting only a thousand or so other calls that night. Dodd dispatched A. O. Leach of Portland, gas sales manager for the entire area who had answered a hurry call to Salem, to The Statesman plant.

Leach took one look at the strange array of machinery trotted out, came back in a few minutes with G. L. Donkin of the Propane Gas and Appliance Company on Portland Road. Donkin took a quick look and away both went again. But they weren't loafing.

To 400 Degrees

In the meantime, the lead was getting cooler and cooler. It got down to 400 degrees—60 degrees below usefulness. The five pages were all waiting to be cast, but there would be nothing to print if the lead didn't get heat. If it had solidified, it would have been hours before it could be used.

So another good Knight-to-the-Rescue—Robert Klempel of Valley Welding Company—sped to the scene with a truck and two acetylene torches. The truck was eased past rolls of paper into the Statesman pressroom. The torches were lighted and blazed away at the surface of the cooling lead. They kept it liquid while Donkin, who had returned with a pressure gas tank, wrestled to get propane gas into the pot's burner. The burner wouldn't work. It blew and popped. The lead got cooler, although the roasting torches were delaying the process and keeping up hope that there still might be a chance.

Donkin, aided by The Statesman's own crew, ripped out the old burner, hurriedly installed a new one which by happenstance he had with him. It worked. Nearly 180,000 BTUs flamed around the metal pot. The torches kept on blazing. For 15 minutes there was no result but the lead wasn't getting any cooler.

Suddenly the thermometer needle jumped 10 degrees. The battle was won. Within 20 minutes temperature was over the 550-degree minimum and stereotypers ploughed into their work of casting the last five plates for the press. Leach, Donkin and Klempel stayed on the job until the worry was over.

Most Statesmans were delivered on time Wednesday morning. For those few subscriber-friends who were inconvenienced because their newspaper was a few minutes late, this might provide an interesting answer. The metal pot was re-connected to its normal gas line last night.

Secretary of State

'Snowed In' in Iowa

Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry, driving home from Chicago, telegraphed his office Wednesday he is "snowed in" in Iowa.

Newbry had expected to arrive in Salem next week but because of unfavorable weather conditions will be several days late. He attended a meeting of motor vehicle law administrators in Chicago.

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CHOP SUEY

TEA GARDEN

YEE SING

(that's my name)

Picture not of me, it is my cousin Frank.

SEARS

Will Be Open at 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Santa Arrives at 10:30

In the Capitol Shopping Center

N.W. 20th Ave. and Marshall St.

Portland 8, Oregon

Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1, Nightly 8:30

Mats. Dec. 27, 28 and Jan. 1 2:30

New Year's Eve 8:30 and Midnight 12:00

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Voice of America Speech Contest Set for Woodburn

WOODBURN — A girl and two boys will compete for regional honors in the Voice of America contest at Woodburn High School at 10:30 a.m. Friday.

The finalists are Maryanna Lick, North Marion High School; William Paulson, Gervais High; and Sam Van Arsdale, Woodburn High.

The winner's school will receive a rotating plaque from the sponsoring Woodburn Junior Chamber of Commerce. The winner will compete in the state finals.

Vets' Bureau Change to Save \$100 Million

WASHINGTON (AP)—A shake-up aimed at bringing about streamlining, a yearly saving of perhaps 100 million dollars, and better service in the sprawling Veterans Administration was announced Wednesday by Veterans Administrator Carl R. Gray.

At the same time, Gray turned loose a long-secret private survey of VA made by a private firm and said he was rejecting one of its principal proposals—that VA regional offices be reduced largely to information and advisory centers at a saving of another 15 million.

The report, made by the Chicago management consultant firm of Booz, Allen and Hamilton, blasted VA as trying to operate on an "outmoded" organization plan while praising it as "performing an excellent job with no 'basic dereliction of its duty and responsibility'."

The heart of the plan is to set up three major departments in VA. One will handle medical and surgical care for veterans. Another will be in charge of insurance. A third will manage such benefits as claims, loan guarantees and vocational training. Instead of a dozen operating agencies responsible directly to him, Gray said, there now will be three—headed by deputy administrators.

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41,730 Visited City in 1952 for Conventions

Launching of an industrial expansion project, emphasizing Salem's role in the State Fair, attracting of many conventions and doubling of an organization's size and activities were cited as outstanding for 1952 in a Salem Chamber of Commerce directors' review Wednesday night.

This was the final session for the board headed by President Robert Fenix. A new board elected this week will meet Friday at 1:15 p. m. to elect new officers.

Newest program of the chamber is the plan and fund drive launched this month by the Salem Industrial Development Council, headed by Carl W. Hogg. It has prepared a five-year plan to start a long-range expansion of payrolls and hopes to set up an office and staff within a few weeks.

Use of "fair bugs," street signs and other promotion to stress Salem participation in this State Fair as a matter of cooperation was recalled by Edward Majek.

Conventions here in 1952 had attendance of 41,730 person-days, according to a report by Joseph A. H. Dodd, chairman. On the national convention average, they are estimated to have spent \$1,043,250 while in Salem.

GOP Wins Another Seat in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican victory in a long-in-doubt California district Wednesday raised the GOP house membership in the new Congress to 221.

Democrats held 213 seats and an Independent one. One seat is vacant because of the death of Rep. Adolph Sabath, Illinois Democrat, since the election.

California's 13th district election was the one undecided for so long. The final official count Wednesday including absentee, showed incumbent Republican Ernest K. Prambert won re-election by 2,980 votes.

BLIMP CRASHES AT SEA

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP)—A Navy blimp crashed at sea and burned Tuesday but all 13 crew members were rescued, the Navy disclosed Wednesday.

NEW YORK DOCKS IDLE

NEW YORK (AP)—A thousand defiant dock workers struck a busy section of New York's racket-ridden waterfront Wednesday to protest a state crime probe of some of their union leaders. They were expected to resume work Thursday.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 9

TURKEY DINNER

With All the Trimmings

THANKSGIVING DAY

1 P. M. to 9 P. M.

Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Their Guests Invited

2850 SOUTH COMMERCIAL

The Smoke Shop

Thanksgiving Turkey Special

\$1

Tomato Juice Cocktail

Beef Broth with Barley

Roast Turkey with Celery Stuffing

Giblet Gravy

Candied Sweet Potatoes

Green Beans with Mushrooms

Mince or Pumpkin Pie

Hot Rolls

Enjoy Tony's Food Plus Television

Exchange Club Holds Party

Salem Exchange Club celebrated its fifth birthday party Tuesday evening in the Senator Hotel with about 100 members present to blow out candles.

Guest speakers at the dinner meeting were John R. Hay, the second president of the club five years ago, and Wayne Hadley, long-time member. Hay presented the group a trophy for its work in the recent Boy Scout Fair.

Gas to Decide Jail Holiday Meal

If the gas is on downtown today, prisoners in the city-county jail will get a turkey dinner. If not, they'll get ham.

At any rate, Police Chief Clyde A. Warren and Marion County Sheriff Denver Young plan for a Thanksgiving celebration in the jail. Food for the prisoners comes from one of the downtown restaurants. So if the gas supply is back to normal the prisoners will get a turkey dinner. If it is still off, they'll get a pre-cooked ham dinner, which can be warmed some other way.

CAR LOADINGS DROP

SEATTLE (AP)—Pacific Northwest freight carloadings the first 10 months of the year have been the lowest since 1948, the Pacific Northwest Advisory Board reported Wednesday.

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