

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851
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Safety Installations Ordered

The order of Charles Heltzel, public utilities commissioner, directing the Southern Pacific railroad to install improved safety devices at various grade crossings in Salem gives hope for action that will reduce the toll of accidents at such crossings. The order is selective, fitting the recommendation to the particular crossing. Thus drop-arm bars are ordered installed at certain crossings, and at others flashing lights with gongs, and at others more conspicuous signs. The city also is admonished to remove brush and trees which obscure vision at crossings and to provide improved illumination.
What the expense of the new installations will be is not stated but according to the law it falls on the railroad. Whether the SP will resist the order by resort to court action is not known. In any event the cost is far less than would be involved in grade separation which is recognized as the only certain way of avoiding crossing accidents.
While the city council initiated the proceeding before the commissioner it was the Salem League of Women Voters who sparked the effort and backed up their demand for action with a thorough survey of the local crossing situation. This study was done by a committee of which Mrs. John Goldsmith was chairman and set a good example for building a case on the basis of facts.
We hope that the order of the commission is soon complied with, for it gives promise of reducing the chance of death or injury at rail crossings. The changes will not remove risk, and motorists and pedestrians are still under the obligation to look and listen and if necessary to stop for their own protection as they approach railroad crossings.

'Release Date' Fiasco

A few weeks ago The Statesman said it would use its own judgment with respect to release dates on news material sent in for publication. It takes the position that news is news and unless there is valid reason for withholding it to a certain date it will be used as received.
The old custom of employing an advance release date was blown sky high with the fiasco over news about "Operation Ivy," the explosion of the H-bomb of 1952. The handling of the publicity was given to the civil defense agency. It tailored the production for various media, and attached a release date about a week ahead. The story just wouldn't stay bottled up. As Roscoe Drummond, Washington bureau chief for the New York Herald-Tribune, says: "this paternal procedure for delayed release was artificial, arbitrary and discriminatory."
For that matter, why was the intelligence on the November, 1952 bomb blast delayed until after the H-bomb explosions in March made the report ancient history? Will we in about 18 months get the play-by-play description of the tests of March 1 and March

World War Seen in Dulles' Gamble For Indochina Settlement at Geneva Meeting

WASHINGTON (AP)—"Sometimes it is necessary," Secretary of State Dulles remarked in his recent New York speech, "to take risks to win peace."
Hardly anyone yet seems to realize how very serious are the risks which Secretary Dulles, with President Eisenhower's consent, is now prepared to take. The most serious is nothing less than the risk of general war.
Dulles has said, in effect that a failure to negotiate an acceptable Indo-Chinese settlement at the forthcoming Geneva conference will invite "united action."
He has underscored this warning by initiating well publicized diplomatic talks with France, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Siam.
Dulles has shrewdly refused to spell out in detail and in advance just what "united action" means. But one key diplomat in Washington interprets his obvious meaning as follows: "Action doesn't mean talk, and it doesn't mean money—it means troops." In short, "united action" means the dispatch of military forces by the United States and other free nations to Indo-China, to bolster the French and Viet Nam forces there.
Since this action which Dulles proposes is to be "united," the final decision does not rest only with the United States. But preliminary soundings indicate that most at least of the other nations with vital interests in the area agree in principle to

26 which reveal a destructive force that Secretary Wilson calls "unbelievable?" The reaction from "Operation Ivy" intelligence shows that the American people can take it. They have become mentally conditioned to marvels of science both through the magic of invention and the soaring invention of writers of science fiction.
As for release dates, wash them out except where there is legitimate reason for observing a publication date, as when a speech is circulated in news media in advance of the delivery date.

Work Week for State Employees

The federal law fixing 40 hours as the standard work week has been in effect for over 15 years. It does not apply to public bodies, but steadily over the years public agencies have been reducing the work week of their employees to come within that standard. Recently the Oregon State Employees Association appealed to the state highway commission to scale down the work-week of highway maintenance employees which have remained at 44 hours, or in some cases 48 hours. The commission agreed to look into the matter, and it is expected that a four-hour reduction will be instituted before very long.
Private industry engaged in interstate commerce has been subject to the wages and hours act for a long time and has made the adjustment required by that law. Public employment should not be at standards less favorable to workers than for private employment. In some situations longer work weeks than 40 hours may be required, as for short periods, and the overtime should return added compensation; but the base work week should be 40 hours.
The worst situation used to be in state institutions where attendants had to work a ten-hour day or even longer. That has all been changed and employees now work an eight-hour shift five days a week. This has added greatly to cost of operation; but it does bring the state into conformity with federal standards for private employment, and gives better service to inmates. The highway department can make the change too—just as the steel industry found it could cut its work-day down from twelve hours to eight after President Harding appealed to Judge Gary to do so.

No Double Duty

A trial run of having policemen and firemen in Oregon City combine duties came to a dead end and the city manager called off the experiment. Neither group wanted to learn or do the chores of the other. Policemen didn't want to become smoke-chasers and firemen didn't want to boss traffic or dodge bullets of yeggs. According to the Enterprise-Courier 15 cities have made the scheme work, having a single department of public safety; but after only three or four days of training Oregon City abandoned the project. It is true that each is a vocation in itself, the chief similarity being that both policemen and firemen wear blue uniforms, work for the city and draw salary checks from the city. And the larger the city the greater the need for the specialized services.

After 20 years of able and faithful service, Miss Lillian McDonald has resigned as superintendent of Salem General Hospital. She can leave with a high sense of satisfaction both in the performance of taxing duties during the critical war and postwar years and in the completion of the new unit of Salem General in which she was deeply interested. The community remains greatly in her debt.

Local veterans in charge of the annual Memorial Day observance are up to their bivouacs in a problem. May 30 this year falls on a Sunday. And Jim Callaway, president of the Federation of Patriotic Societies, is wondering whether to hold the traditional Memorial program on Saturday, Sunday or Monday of that May 30 weekend. So far in this century May 30 has happened on a Sunday on six years—1909, 1915, 1926, 1937, 1943 and 1954.

In 1909 the GAR memorial services were held on Sunday, May 30 with a Memorial Day program of speaking, parading, a basket dinner at Marion Square, etc. following on Monday. . . Ditto for 1915 when all schools, banks, state, city and county offices were closed on Monday. . . In 1926 the entire program was observed on Monday, May 31. . . But in those years Memorial Day was a community-wide affair and even the schools had their day (usually the Friday preceding Memorial Day).

Marion Hotel is installing a laundry for its own use in the basement on the Ferry street side near the alley. . . Workmen installing the equipment uncovered a network of pipes, drains and connections beneath the concrete floor. . . Everybody was mystified until oldtimers recalled that early in the century, when the Marion was still the Willamette Hotel the hotel laundry was housed in that very same spot—and later removed. . . History repeats, etc. . .

After checking around the state not long ago on its air marker program the State Board of Aeronautics found there were some 26 air markers (on rooftops, buildings etc.) which had arrows pointing toward airports which are no longer there or are unusable. . . Now, those markers are being changed and corrected. . .

At Salem Hi's career day program more students turned out for the radio-TV lecture than for any other occupation group. . . Is this a trend of the time or do all these kids want to get on the I Live Loosely show? . . . And if students pick up adult problems do adults vice-versa with student troubles? . . . Well, Mrs. Ted Jenny of Keizer, publicity chairman of the Marion County PTA council, took on a childhood ailment—she's got the mumps. . . State police were advised the other night to be on the lookout for Horace Greeley Righthouse, wanted on a charge of desertion of family. . . Oh yes, the police log lists the West patrol to be on the lookout for this Horace Greeley. . .

GREASE IS VERSATILE
RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—Wheel points on automobiles may now be lubricated with one product. The new multi-purpose grease bearings, water pumps, spring shackles and other greasing was developed here.

LOW BLOOD PRESSURE



Comes the Dawn

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago
April 10, 1944
The Salem School Board approved a proposed boundary change affecting borders between the Swegle and Salem school districts.

25 Years Ago
April 10, 1929
Former Vice President Charles G. Dawes was selected by President Hoover as ambassador to Great Britain. Dawes took the place of Alanson B. Houghton.

40 Years Ago
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Mrs. T. Moncure Perkins, one of the famous Langhorne beauties, died at the home of her sister, Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson, wife of the artist.

Time Flies
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GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Reports Hint Dulles to Fail 'United Action'

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.
Associated Press News Analyst
Reports from Europe make it appear that John Foster Dulles is not going to get any action on a united front in Indochina until after the Geneva conference, but observers have now learned not to start selling the secretary short too soon.
The British still stop to wonder every now and then just how he got them to agree to a peace treaty with Japan which they are unhappy about. He staged quite a coup at the recent Caracas Inter-American Conference by getting through the U.S. anti-Communist program without a corresponding quid pro quo on economics.
In these matters Dulles operates from a position of considerable strength.
He is a firm advocate of the theory that the only worthwhile international relations are those based on free partnership, not coercion.
Nevertheless, he doesn't have to mention that he has behind him a great force in the sensitive attitude of Congress on foreign aid. He did mention it, forcefully but unsuccessfully, last year when he was trying to get France down to business on the European Defense Community.
But just as France has delayed action on that subject until after Geneva, so she and Britain propose to do nothing now about Indochina which might produce any new strain in relations with the Soviet bloc before Geneva.
Nobody really expects to get anything out of Geneva except perhaps a Communist proposal for a top level conference of national leaders which, like the Geneva meeting itself, would be set as far in the future as possible and so produce continued uncertainty in France about EDC and other matters. Nevertheless, nobody wants to risk the onus of scuttling Geneva before it starts. This is most important to the French government because of internal politics.
It is customary in the United States to accuse the Paris government of dragging its feet on EDC when its course may likely be due to prudence. It is quite likely that it would have been beaten once and for all if voted upon during a when parliament members who want to see what comes out of Geneva would be joined with the active opponents of the whole idea.
The same feeling applies to any move in connection with Indochina which might be interpreted by the Reds as an ultimatum. In this, Britain seems to be just as firm as France.
The American view, on the other hand, is that Indochina is not going to be yielded to the Communists as China was; that the war is progressing rapidly toward the point where American intervention might be required, and that one way of avoiding this may be to convince Red China that if she goes too far she will face a united allied front just as she did in Korea.
On the surface, it seems that presentation of such a front now

The Safety Valve

To the Editor:
Various musical works have been written to celebrate special occasions, but "The Palms," by Jean Faure, is one which is truly representative of the day that it commemorates— Palm Sunday. On this day we memorialize Christ's last entry into Jerusalem before His Passion when palm branches were strewn in His path by the multitude.
There is an exalted quality about this composition that inspires listeners—and the words, as evidenced by the following verse, tell a wondrous story:
"Gently He speaks, the people hear His voice,
Freedom returns though from the earth long banished,
All in a brotherhood again rejoice,
Light has returned, and dreary darkness vanished."
Those are meaningful lines, especially at a time when the world is seeking ways to curb all aggressors and to establish a way of life that shall prevent another war.
I will always remember how beautifully the beloved organist in our church at home played "The Palms." Her rendition was unforgettable for its poetry, for the tonal qualities which weave a magic spell and for the gradual building up of the resonant melody to a vibrant climax. Reflected in her playing was a consummate understanding of all composers—the great and the near great—composers whose music enralls, or just brings solace, to worshippers from tiny chapel to vaulted, age-crusted cathedrals.
The deep significance of the Lenten season comes to full reality in the final week before Easter. Beginning with Palm Sunday there is a re-affirmation of spiritual faith and a rededication to the principles of Christian living.
Howard Carl Ericson
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Portland 15, Oregon.

THIEF LIVES POPCORN

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP)—A Missoula popcorn factory operator, George Henke, told police someone stole a five pound bag of popped corn from his factory. The bag was about two feet in diameter and four feet high.

would also put the allies in a much stronger bargaining position at Geneva. But the French and British don't look at it that way, and if Dulles succeeds this time it will indeed be a rabbit out-of-the-hat stunt.

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