

Many Salem Area Residents Bit by Uranium Bug; Seek Magic Metal in Valley

By CONRAD G. PRANGE
Staff Writer, The Statesman
The uranium-hunting bug is beginning to kick up its heels in the Salem area.

The several hundred "weekend prospectors" who, geiger counters in hand, are searching Willamette Valley hills and stream beds for the magic metal.

No real strikes have been reported, but there are rumors. In fact one claim is supposed to be pretty "hot."

"Politically-active ain't the same as radio-active," as one part-time snooper puts it.

John R. Langrell, Salem representative for Precision Radiation Instruments, Inc., has sold instruments to many local uranium hunters. He's talked and discussed the so-called uranium boom with many others.

Included in Langrell's recent customers were a 65-year-old eastern Polk County woman, a dentist, loggers, construction men and several women who know little about uranium, except that it is worth a lot of money.

The lure of possible easy riches is what does it. During the past two years over four million dollars have been paid out in government bonuses alone to uranium discoverers. And over half the strikes have been made by amateurs.

Uranium, a thousand times more plentiful than gold, has been found in every section of the United States. Whether it can be found in commercially-valuable amounts in western Oregon remains to be seen. Many claims have been filed in Eastern Oregon, but no big strikes reported.



Shown here testing uranium-bearing rock with a geiger-counter in his Salem office is John R. Langrell Sr. U.S. government estimates more time has been spent in the last five years searching for uranium than for all other metals in all of history. (Statesman photo.)

"A prospector used to be thought of," says Langrell, "as a stooped, whiskery faced old coot with squinty eyes, wearing shapeless, alkali-stained clothes. He always prospected in a Death Valley setting, complete with a sad-eyed burro, two circling vultures and a bleached cow skull."

Crash Victim Loses Appeal To High Court

Patricia A. Tuite, a Portland girl severely injured in a bus-automobile crash in Portland on Nov. 13, 1951, lost her damage suit Thursday when the state supreme court ruled against her.

The decision upheld Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding. Other decisions: E. S. Biddle, appellant, vs. Victor Maxxoco. Appeal from Clatsop County. Suit for damages for injuries received in auto accident. Opinion by Justice Toozie. Judge Howard K. Zimmerman, reversed, and new trial ordered.

Opal Banta, appellant, vs. Madeline Leffler. Appeal from Benton County. Suit by a daughter to contest will of her mother. Opinion by Justice William C. Perry. Judge Fred McHenry, affirmed, and will is upheld.

Mrs. Hardman to Get Nurse Degree
PORTLAND—Margaret Smith Hardman of Salem will be among 44 candidates for bachelor of science degrees to be graduated by the department of nursing of the University of Oregon Medical School.

86 Salem Area Students to Receive Degrees From OSC

CORVALLIS — Eighty-six students from the Salem area will be among 1,015 seniors and graduate students receiving degrees at Oregon State College's 86th annual commencement exercises June 6.

A record number of advanced degrees—52 doctors and 214 masters—will be conferred by President A. L. Strand along with 764 bachelor's degrees. Fifteen students will receive two degrees.

Student from the Salem area and their degrees include: Robert Wesley Mounter and Leona Esther Todd, master of science; William Jan Mills, Carl Vincent Nebel, John Richard Norman, and Frank Beely Walton, master of education.

Salmon students receiving bachelor of science degrees include: Gene Wayne Gregory, James William Crothers, George Benjamin Durhan, Ramon Leonard Peterson, Rodney Alan Jipp, and Max Lyle Morris. Sonia Lavonne Nohlgrun, Donna Jean Hothelber, Marjorie Madeline Davy, and Celia Ann Weaver will receive bachelor of education degrees.

Other Salem students receiving bachelor of science degrees include Betty June Anderson, Mary Lee Feil-Norma Mae Kolin, Jack W. Prall Grubb, and Beth Ann Wendt, home economics; John William Antunes, James William Crothers, John Fielke, Lloyd Raymond Hamilton, Jean Baines Proctor, and Wallace Wayne Nelson, business and technology.

Other Marion county bachelor of science degrees include: Janice Joan Riches, Turner, education; Joel Beach Wright, Silvertown, business and technology; Joyce Lou Heststad, Silvertown, education; Carl Louise Spicer, Willamina, science; John Weston Wells, Woodburn, education; and Lawrence Ernest Weinert, Aurora, engineering.

Polk county degree recipients include: Anton Postl, Monmouth, doctor of philosophy; Matthew Roy Thompson, Monmouth, doctor of education; and Conrad Byron Howard, Monmouth, master of science. Other Monmouth students receiving bachelor of science degrees include Donald Gene Edwards and Richard Walter Hook, science; David Bruce Barrows, business and technology; and Edsel Sydney Wolf, engineering.

DUSTY ANSWER
ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A dust storm threatened to smother her brand new lawn so an Albuquerque housewife went over it with her vacuum cleaner. Some of those who snickered were seen later trying the same thing. Their report: you're right, it doesn't work.

Other students receiving bachelor of science degrees include Kathryn Ann Kopp, home economics; Harry Lloyd Gilliam, agriculture; James Melvin Hodges, education; Eugene Roderick McRiland, engineering; and Franklin Leewood Smith, Valsetz, master of education.

In Agriculture
Roland David Rogers and Darrell Lin Ward of Independence will be awarded bachelor of science degrees in agriculture.

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