

Decision to Close Vets Housing Colony Upheld

After talks with the City Council Wednesday, the Salem Housing Authority stood pat on its recent action directing that the Veterans Housing Colony be shut down by Sept. 1.

Most of the councilmen present said they didn't want to see any part of the project turned over to the city; they hoped residents would be given ample time to find housing; they would like some further thought given to selling some of the housing units to private landlords.

Also in the conference were owners of the property in Southeast Salem leased by the Housing Authority—Duane Gibson and Leo Childs, who said they would rent out apartments in the six

two-story buildings considered in better condition than the numerous one-story structures, provided they could buy the buildings from the Housing Authority.

Low Cost Units

The landlords said their plans otherwise would be confined to plating remainder of the 20-acre tract for sale to builders who would put up low cost houses for workmen.

The six larger buildings on east side of the housing project would house 24 families. Present population is 61 families and a survey recently indicated only about half of them could find rental homes they could afford elsewhere in Salem.

Housing Authority members said upstairs apartments in the big units hadn't been rented for two or three years because of difficulty of putting in fuel and because of noise difficulties.

Decision Problem

They and the aldermen agreed it would be quite a problem to decide which tenants could stay in the low-rental places and which would have to move. The residents of the housing colony have signed petitions in protest to the recent housing authority decision.

Chairman W. J. Braun of the Housing Authority said a provision of the original housing contract was that the wartime buildings would be cleared from the property when the housing authority went out of existence.

City Attorney Chris Kowitz said the City Council has no legal authority over the housing issue other than appointment of housing commissioners and receiving any surplus funds or physical assets at time the housing authority votes itself out of existence.

Set Up in 1946

The housing colony was set up in 1946 with war housing area units from the Portland area, under federal auspices. Later the federal government withdrew and local housing authorities were permitted by state law.

The Salem authority based its recent action on the fact that losses are piling up; rents are hard to collect; the buildings are deteriorating. One member said at the conference yesterday that a purpose of the Housing Authority was to avoid having slum areas, but further continuing the project here might result in just such a slum area.

Morrow to Build Safeway Store

Safeway Stores, Inc. reported Wednesday it is completing contract arrangements with Robert D. Morrow, Salem, for construction of the new South Salem Safeway store.

The supermarket will be located at S. Commercial and Boice Sts. It will probably be completed in about four months, said O. R. Blair, Safeway real estate manager in Portland.

Non-Suit Ruling Upheld by Court in Fall of Laundress

A judgment of involuntary non-suit given by Circuit Judge Franklin C. Howell, Multnomah County, against a laundress who had sued a householder for injuries sustained when she fell down a stairway, was affirmed by the State Supreme Court here Wednesday.

The suit was brought by Selma Larson against Julie Papst. Judge Howell was affirmed in an opinion by Justice Earl Latourette.

The plaintiff, while gathering up soiled clothes at the top of the stairway tripped and fell. She claimed the defendant was negligent in failing to provide a laundry bag and in failing to have a handrail along the steps.

The court said a laundress carrying laundry down a stairway is not engaged in a hazardous employment, that there is not a common law duty to install a handrail along a stairway in a home, and that failure to provide a laundry bag was not a proximate cause of the accident.

The court further held that if there was any negligence it was that of the plaintiff in failing to tie securely the laundry which she had picked up.

The opinion was written by Justice Hall S. Lusk.

Also affirmed by the Supreme Court was a decree of Circuit Judge Howell, Multnomah, in the case of Robert H. Snow Jr., against Morton Tompkins et al involving recovery from Tompkins and the City Realty Company of \$2,000 earnest money paid by Snow in connection with the proposed purchase of a ranch in Yamhill county.

Although the defendants claimed Snow had refused to consummate the deal and that the earnest money had been forfeited, Snow's evidence was that he was induced to sign the earnest money agreement by fraudulent representations. Defendants objected to this evidence on technicalities, but it was admitted by the trial court and the jury decreed the return of the money to Snow.

The Supreme Court affirmed the proposition that, when one has received money from another which he should not in equity and good conscience retain, a promise to pay is implied. Opinion in this case was written by Justice James T. Brand.

The court, in an opinion by Justice Latourette, denied a petition of the Heppner Lumber Company for a rehearing in the case of Hughes against the Heppner Lumber Company which the court previously decided in favor of the plaintiff.

Petitions for rehearing in Lemou vs. Madden and Oxley vs. Linnon Plywood Association also were denied without opinion.

Bus Service Curtailment Plea Granted

Public utilities commissioner Charles H. Heltzel granted intercity buses permission Wednesday to reduce its schedules between Portland and Oregon City on the east side of the Willamette River.

There will be no change in schedules on the west side of the river.

Heltzel said that in the four months ended May 31, the company's total income was \$31,831, while its expenses were \$38,693.

The schedules will cut the daily mileage on the Outfield Road operation from 371 to 22, and the Super Highway from 350 to 184.

However, Heltzel said, the schedules still will offer more service than was given before last February, when the company took over the operations of Oregon Motor Stages on the run.

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'Few Party Fights' Noted In Legislature

Partisanship was not conspicuous at the recent session of the Legislature, reported Rep. Alfred W. Loucks to the Salem Rotary Club Wednesday.

Only five or six measures stirred up party fights, said the Marion County legislator. Most of the members went to work, he said, laboring to pass good laws for the benefit of the state.

Loucks also praised the leadership of Gov. Patterson, Speaker Ed Geary and President of the Senate Elmo Smith. He hinted that Smith might be a candidate for some state office, rather than to succeed himself.

Loucks predicted the state will have a sales tax within six years. He based his prophecy on the reactions from the people he had received to the sales tax when it was under consideration this last session.

Loucks endorsed the amendment referred to the people which will permit the Assembly to attach the emergency clause to tax legislation. This, he said, would enable the Legislature to work out a tax program and have it go into effect. Then if the people did not like it they could initiate a repeal or could retire from office those who favored it.

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Mrs. DePew Succumbs to Long Illness

Mrs. Martha E. DePew, 85, widow of a deceased Lebanon contractor, died early Wednesday at the 535 N. 14th St. home of her daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Armstrong, with whom she had been living.

Mrs. DePew had been in poor health since a 1945 auto accident and bedfast for the past five months.

Born July 26, 1869 at Fredricksburg, Ohio, Mrs. DePew came to Olympia, Wash., in 1895 with her parents and in 1900 married the late Charles L. DePew who died in 1925 in Lebanon where the couple moved from Washington in 1915. She moved here in 1926.

Besides the daughter Mrs. DePew leaves a son William DePew, Klamath Falls, and a grandson.

Services will be 1:30 p.m. Friday at the W. T. Rigdon chapel. Burial will be at the Masonic section of Lebanon Cemetery.

Liquor Tax Apportioned

Marion County's share of liquor privilege tax money for the quarter ending June 30 is \$11,747.

Distribution of the money, which is handled by the secretary of state's office, calls for 75 per cent going to counties and 25 per cent to the state general fund. Money must be used for old age pensions, mothers' aid, and direct relief of indigent persons.

Other county shares include: Linn, \$8,292; Polk, \$3,048; and Yamhill, \$3,878.

State Teacher Shortage to Remain in '56

Oregon's teacher shortage, serious during the past few years, will continue unsatisfactory during the 1955-56 fall and winter terms, Rex Putnam, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said Wednesday.

Putnam said figures prepared by his department show that 1,200 teacher replacements will be required, against a total of 752 new teachers provided by the Oregon colleges and universities. This leaves a deficit of approximately 500 teachers.

Teachers estimated for employment under the teachers emergency certificate act of the Legislature will continue at approximately 2,000. These emergency teachers are not required to comply with the top standards of the Oregon education laws.

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Vets to Meet at Taft July 11-14

The state convention of Veterans of World War I will be held at Taft July 11-14, following the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention which is in progress there this week. The Auxiliary of the VFW will meet there at the same time.

A mixed program of reports, addresses and entertainment is planned, with a deep sea excursion set for Wednesday afternoon. Election of officers will take place Thursday afternoon.

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