

## Salem's Firefighting Among Best in State, Report Shows

Salem firefighting and fire protection efforts rate among the very best in Oregon, it appears from statistics just published in the state fire marshal's annual report for the calendar year 1954.

Considered a reliable index to firefighting effectiveness is the statistical column showing the relationship of actual dollar loss in fires to the total valuation of

property which figured in the year's fires.

In this, Salem's record of 1.44 per cent was lowest among the state's 10 largest cities. It was lower than most small cities, too, although Albany and Hood River showed fractions under 1 per cent and Lebanon had only 1.34.

**Insurance Claims**  
In computing the percentages, the state fire marshal considered final reports on insurance claims, reflecting all fires, even if the fire department wasn't called. The statewide average fire loss percentage was 3.78 in the cities and fire districts, or 4.87 when considering also the rural areas outside any fire district.

In Salem's record is shown 504 fire loss claims involving actual loss of \$131,156, against a total property valuation involved of \$9,049,746.

About one-third of the Salem fire loss came from fires to which the city fire department was not called, according to Fire Chief E. L. Smith. The department answered about 430 alarms last year in Salem.

**Portland Higher**

Portland's percentage of loss to value was 2.11, Eugene's 3.0; other largest cities ranged 2.02 to 7.78.

In the same statistical column, several of the smaller cities of the Salem area showed unusually good percentages—with those under 1 per cent including Woodburn (1.18), Willamina, Aurora, Sublimity, Mt. Angel and Aumsville rural district.

Independence showed 2.19, Mt. Angel rural 1.55, Seio 2.9.

Close to Salem, Liberty-Salem Heights district had 5.57, Keizer 6.44 and Four Corners 6.71.

Among other percentages shown: Dallas 17.5, McMinnville 3.3, Silverton 7.2, Silverton rural 32.08, Stayton 3.85, Stayton rural 72.8, Sweet Home 6.9, Sweet Home rural 41.09, Monmouth 5.01, Woodburn rural 8.85, Idanha 9.54, Mill City 13.95, Sheridan 32.2, Sheridan rural 65.5, Turner 14.04, Turner rural 6.06, Willamina rural 6.9, Aurora rural 28.5, St. Paul 24.4, Aumsville 26.2.

**COLLECTIONS UP**  
Oregon's inheritance and gift tax collections totalled \$6,076,142 in the two years ended July 1, State Treasurer Sig Unander said Thursday. The amount was \$1,576,142 more than was estimated in the Legislature's budget.

## Checks for 250 County Workers To Show Jump

July paychecks of about 250 Marion County employees will reflect salary increases approved in the 1955-56 budget late in May.

Most employees will receive an eight per cent pay hike, although some, whose jobs were considered underpaid, will receive more than the eight per cent across the board increase.

Paychecks will be issued for most workers Aug. 1. Road crews, however, will not be paid until Aug. 6.

## Post Office in Dorena Burns

DORENA, Ore. (U) — The general store and post office of this eastern Lane County town was destroyed by fire Wednesday night. Exploding ammunition and gasoline made fire-fighting difficult as flames swept through the building.

Irell Humphrey, who recently sold the store, estimated loss at \$35,000.

Crews from Booth-Kelly Lumber Co. and the Willamette National Forest joined the Eastern Lane Fire Patrol in helping to keep the fire from spreading. Dorena is eight miles east of Cottage Grove.

## Farm Group Leaving for Bend Meeting

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Members of the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation House of Delegates are leaving today for a special two-day meeting at Pilot Butte Inn, Bend. The purpose is to determine the policy of the farm organization regarding the application of the emergency clause to tax measures.

The Federation does not have a clear-cut policy of this constitutional amendment and the meeting was called to work out such a policy. Ben Robinson, president of the Federation, said Friday. The member county Farm Bureaus have been discussing this issue for the past two months.

**Committee in Session**  
In addition to the House of Delegates meeting, the state resolution committee will also be in session at Bend. This committee includes the county Farm Bureau presidents, county voting delegates and the Federation's Women's Advisory Council.

Further support to amendments exempting non-highway gasoline from federal taxation will be worked out. The Farm Bureau officials will point out at the meeting that federal gasoline tax is even discriminatory as between farms, Robinson said. Many larger farmers have changed to tractors that use diesel, butane, or other special fuels, but the equipment required to use these fuels efficiently is relatively expensive. Too small or medium sized farms cannot afford the purchase of this equipment, the farm executive said.

**Tax Paid**

In recent years, Robinson said, farmers have paid a tax of about sixty million dollars a year on a production supply—a "tax that is borne by no other industry, a tax that has no relationship whatsoever to the use of highways."

Other matters will also be discussed at the week-end meeting in preparation for the annual State meeting which will be held at Salem, Nov. 13-16.

## Youth Charged With Aiding Con; Hearing Today

A 16-year-old boy charged with helping a state prisoner to escape from a work detail earlier this month will be given a hearing this morning before Circuit Judge Joseph B. Felton.

The youth was working in the same area as the convict detail and agreed to aid Harold Walter Poirier, 46, escape. Poirier was recaptured July 17, two days after he escaped.

The boy was arrested Monday by state police.

**TITO DEBT CANCELED**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (U) — The Soviet Union has cancelled a Yugoslav debt of 90 million dollars to make up for the trade losses Yugoslavia suffered through the 1948 break with the Cominform, President Tito announced.

**RECORD OF SAFETY**

WASHINGTON (U) — Planes, a publication of the Aircraft Industries Assn., says the 43 non-scheduled airlines flew 1,360,000,000 passenger miles last year without a passenger or crew fatality.

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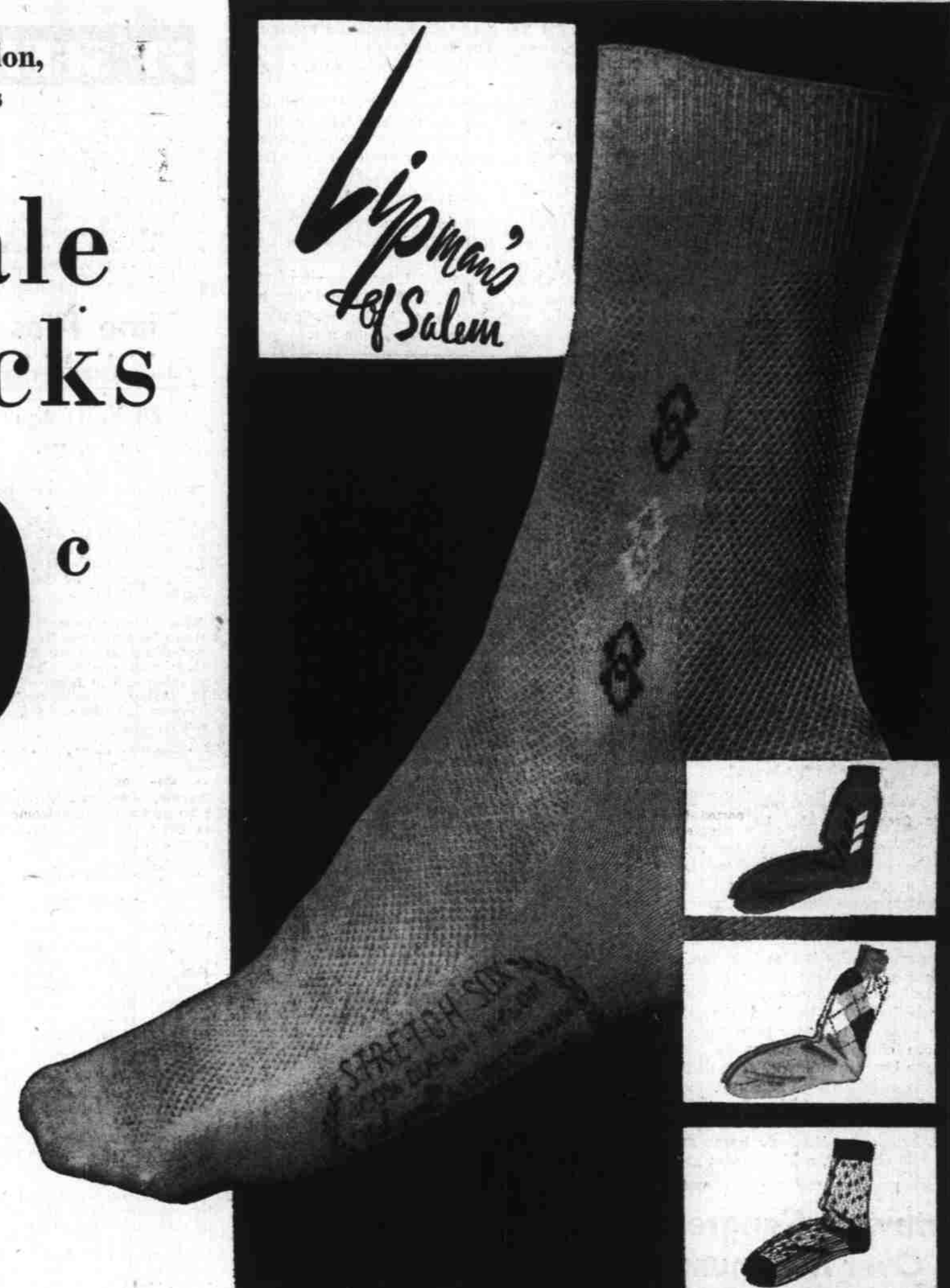
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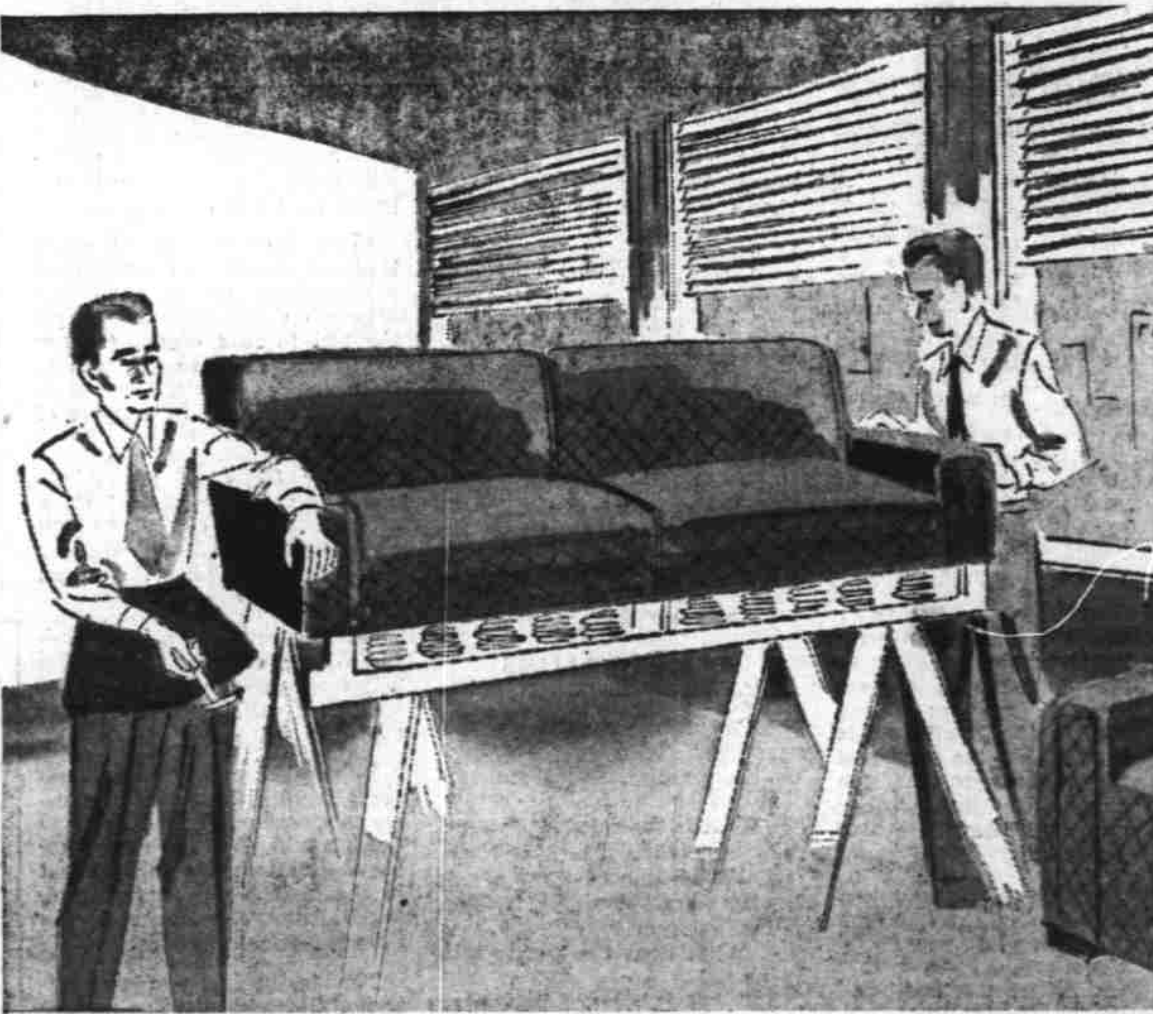
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