

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The public schools are opening in a flurry of discussion over their accomplishments. A recent book by Rudolph Flesch on "Why Johnny Can't Read" has provoked Sloan Wilson, who is assistant director of the upcoming White House Conference on Education to reply in a Harper's article, "Public Schools Are Better than You Think." To top these off Frances Rummel, referred to as an educational expert, has attempted a rating for the schools of all the states in the current issue of LOOK magazine, and to add behold! Oregon leads all the rest! Now there is need for triangulation in this literature.

Flesch is something of an expert in his own line, that of testing the readability of various types of composition. The Associated Press had him do a study on their news reports with a view to making them more readable. In his book he really takes off after the system of teaching reading by sight of words. He condemns this out of hand and blames prevailing poor reading ability of those who have gone through our schools on this system. He wants to go back to the phonic system in which pupils learn to sound out the vowels and syllables of a word. In this way they can cope with new words which they would not recognize by the sight method.

That of course can start arguments among instructors in (Continued on Editorial Page, 4)

Salem Urged To Hike Parks By 500 Acres

Acquisition of over 500 acres of land for parks in Salem has been recommended by the Salem Public Parks Advisory Commission to bring the city above the national average.

The commission which is working on a detailed report of areas for parks asserts Salem is far below other Oregon's larger cities in park facilities. Portland has 1.43 acres per 100 population, Eugene 1.33 acres and Klamath Falls 2.48 acres while Salem has only .32 of an acre, the survey shows.

Detailed information of the commission will be released after members have had an opportunity to review the survey and submit their recommendations to the city manager and city council.

Salem now has 140 park acres for its 44,734 people according to the survey and would need approximately 518 more to bring it up to the percentage of Portland.

Nationally accepted minimum standards for park facilities are one acre per 100 population, according to the commission.

State Hospital Ball Player 'Flies Out'

Inmates of the Oregon State Hospital were playing ball on the institution field Saturday when a long drive was hit to the outfield. The ball didn't go over the fence—but inmate Allen Parker did.

City police said Parker, 23, Roseburg, made his escape by climbing the centerfield fence after chasing the ball.

An ensuing search failed to locate the man, who officers said had been court-committed to the hospital.

Winter Invades Canadian Areas

EDMONTON, Alta. (AP)—Winter moved into Canada's prairie provinces Saturday.

Temperatures dropped to as low as 14 degrees at Whitecourt, 115 miles northwest of here, and it was 19 at Medicine Hat, Calgary got an inch of snow Friday, but it melted as it hit the streets.

PROVES ECONOMY PLEDGE

CHICAGO (UP)—City treasurer Morris Sachs has asked for a \$27,000 cut in his department's 1956 budget because "I was elected to save the people's money, and I'm going to do it."

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE PLAYOFFS At Salem 4, Eugene 2

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE At Portland 0, Oakland 3 At Seattle 3, Los Angeles 1 At Hollywood 1, San Diego 8 At San Francisco 12, Sacramento 10

AMERICAN LEAGUE At Washington 6, Kansas City 8 At Baltimore 5, Detroit 3 At New York 6, Chicago 9 At Boston 7, Cleveland 10

NATIONAL LEAGUE At Cincinnati 4, New York 3 At Chicago 3, Brooklyn 3 (tie, rain) At St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 3 At Milwaukee 13, Pittsburgh 8

Colorado Girl Miss America; Miss Oregon in Second Place

18-Year-Old Girl Winner Of \$50,000

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (AP)—Red-haired Sharon Kay Ritchie, 18-year-old Miss Colorado, won the Miss America contest Saturday night.

Placing second in the beauty pageant was Miss Oregon, Dorothy Mae Johnson of Portland.

Miss Ritchie is the second beauty with red hair to win the Miss America crown in the 30-year history of the pageant. The first was 1944 winner Venus Ramey of Washington, D. C.

Miss Ritchie has blue eyes, is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 116 pounds.

48 Contestants She was flown here in a private plane to take part in the contest against 48 other beauties.

The new titleholder was picked after the field had been narrowed to five.

Aside from the new Miss America, Miss Oregon was the top money winner. She will take home a \$3,000 scholarship.

Miss Ritchie, who measures 35-24-35, says she is interested in a career in dramatics.

\$50,000 Jackpot She inherits the Miss America crown from Lee Ann Meriwether, last year's winner and a jackpot of \$50,000 in prizes and personal appearances.

Miss Ritchie from Denver, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Ritchie of Grand Island, Nebraska. "Tears welled in her eyes as she stammered 'I cannot tell you how I feel, it is just indescribable.'"

"I thank God for giving me the talent," she said as the announcement of her victory was made.

She received a giant bouquet of red roses and the red velvet and ermine robe of the nation's new beauty queen.

Glittering Crown The glittering crown was placed on her head by her predecessor, Miss Meriwether. She carried a jeweled scepter as she walked down the 110-foot ramp in huge Convention Hall before an applauding crowd of about 18,000.

As she returned to the stage she was greeted by her parents. Mrs. Ritchie, asked if this was the most thrilling moment of her life answered "That's right."

The new Miss America is interested in dramatics and plans to enter the Pasadena playhouse.

Salem Evens League Play, Beats Eugene

The Salem Senators evens the Northwest League baseball playoffs with the Eugene Emeralds Saturday night at Waters Field as they took a 4-2 victory. The series is now tied at two games for each team.

Mel Krause, the Senators' regular second baseman who has done some important mound work late in the season, hurled the victory.

Fifth game of the playoffs for the 1955 championship will be held today at Eugene, at 2 p. m. The sixth game is scheduled for Waters Field Monday night. The seventh game, if necessary, will be played Tuesday night. A toss of a coin will decide the site of it.

(Full details of Saturday night's game in today's sports pages.)

Blast Again Hits Indiana Oil Refinery

WHITING, Ind. (AP)—An explosion touched off a relatively small fire Saturday night at the Standard Oil Co.'s Whiting refinery, where flames inflicted more than 10 million dollars damage just two weeks ago.

Seven employees suffered injuries described as minor, and a company spokesman said the fire, in a 3-story filtering plant, was "not regarded as a serious thing."

He said the refinery's regular fire-fighting crew was handling the flames and that it was not necessary to call in outside units.

The explosion, cause of which was not known immediately, blew the slate roof off the filter plant at 7:24 p. m.

All of the injured were released after receiving first aid. They suffered burns, cuts and shock.

Badge Flashed To Wrong Men

CHICAGO (UP)—Truck driver Norbert Niedziela, 24, walked up to two men on the street, flashed a badge and said he was a private detective investigating gambling and vice.

The two men flashed badges too, identifying themselves as police plainclothesmen. They hauled Niedziela off to the nearest stationhouse where he admitted getting his badge from a mail order house for \$5.

Curtain Drawn At Fair

Late Attendance Surge Fails to Equal Last Year

By LILLIE L. MADSEN Farm Editor, The Statesman

Quite a crowd stood by Saturday night to watch elephants and prize cattle loaded, decorations ripped off displays, as Oregon's annual State Fair was tucked away in moth balls for another year.

This week's tramping of 315,223 people brought the fresh, colorful fairgrounds of opening day a week ago, to a no less colorful, but much less fresh, busy place as midnight passed. Some

Attendance at Fair

	1954	1955
Saturday	40,330	41,070
Sunday	85,675	69,275
Monday	73,230	57,530
Tuesday	26,850	24,485
Wednesday	33,155	31,063
Thursday	29,660	30,705
Friday	23,540	29,345
Saturday	22,900	31,760
Totals	335,340	315,233

concessionaires said they would work all night to get their exhibits and equipment boxed and on the road, headed for their next event, before dawn Sunday.

Attendance Gains While attendance lighted the final two days of the 90th annual fair, it did not gain enough to offset the lag over the holiday weekend. The drop from last year's total of 335,340 was 20,107.

Although gate figures did not reach last year's, money spent at the races far outstripped that of a year ago. The 1955 pari mutual handle climbed to \$774,063 compared to \$699,940.

The Helene Hughes Revue, which was down in attendance early in the week, began to climb again Thursday night, ending with less than 150 short of last year.

Circus Suffers The circus continued to suffer and at the final Saturday night event, had a gate of 22,900, an attendance of 22,808 compared to 54,948.

And while the fair financiers studied attendance figures, there was quite a last-day scurry of selection of final champions and presentation of trophies.

A new prize, given this year for the first time, was a \$50 cash award, which Kenneth B. Hall, Oswego, put up for the best-kept open beef exhibit during the entire week. Hall made the award to Royal Champion, hardman for the Dale West Angus Ranch, Merrill, Saturday afternoon in the new beef barn.

Jack Long of Scio was winner of the Robert E. McKinley grand champion FFA showmanship trophy. In the absence of her son, who is in the army, Mrs. Kyle McKinley of Gervais made the presentation to Long. Dan Johnston of Seapooze was runner-up, with Mike Harnes of Canby, third, and Norman Finnicum, Dayton, fourth.

The senior champion Dollar Dinner in 4-H club work, was cooked and served by Carolyn Eichworth, Coos Bay, for which she received a \$100 scholarship. Carolyn kept the cost of her salmon dinner for four people to \$1.09 because as her report showed, she caught the salmon herself.

Janet Babcock, Hillsboro, was runner-up, with Margaret Ann Phillips of Dallas as alternate. Shirley Seville, Lakeview, received the only other blue.

National Trip Four Oregon 4-H Club members were named late Saturday to attend National 4-H Club Camp at Washington, D. C. next June. Burton Hutton, state 4-H club leader announced. They are Patricia Ann Wright, Heppner; Janice Bishop, Salem; Dale Martin, Long Creek and Edward Warnock, Baker.

Personal interviews by judges at state fair and outstanding records of leadership and achievement in club work and the community, opened the gates for the young Oregonians to observe government in action at the nation's capital.

(Additional fair news on pages 5, 8, sec. 1.)

\$1 Million Blaze Out of Control in British Columbia

VANCOUVER, B. C. (AP)—A \$1,000,000 fire was burning out of control at midnight in Vancouver's industrial False Creek.

Two firms—including the city's largest fleet of lumber carriers and a quantity of dry, stacked lumber—were destroyed within the first hour of the blaze late Saturday.

Still burning was a warehouse of Arrow Transfer Co. Ltd. Firemen, aided by a moderate westerly wind, were fighting to keep the towering flames from spreading to Western Bridge and Steel Fabricators, Ltd.

Also in danger was a second Arrow Transfer warehouse. The first, termed a total loss by firemen, contained refrigerators, television sets and household furnishings.

Even Safe Crackers Must Maintain Skill

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UP)—Thieves who broke into an office here apparently just wanted something to practice on.

They entered a safe sales company and stole two safes on display but didn't bother with the firm's own office safe.

Weathermen Say 'Clouds'

Cloudiness will be general in the Salem area today and Monday other than for partial afternoon clearing, according to the Weather Bureau at McNary Field.

Overcast blotted out the sun most of Saturday, but no rain fell. The Saturday maximum temperature of 68 is expected to be topped by a high of near 75 today, weathermen said.

Forecast for beaches is cloudiness today save for some afternoon clearing. The expected temperature range will be 50-63.

Anti-McKay Handbill Sent To President

DENVER (AP)—An AFL

machinist failed Saturday to hand President Eisenhower a handbill asking his help in a strike against the automobile agency owned by Secretary of Interior McKay at Salem, Ore.

Secret service men intervened. "You're staying right here," one of the two secret service men told Walter Colson of Denver, a machinist who was passing out handbills just as the President started down a hotel corridor to a room where Republican state chairmen were to meet him.

Colson said later that one of the handbills already had been sent to the President.

The handbills, dated at Salem, were headed, "A Petition to President Eisenhower," they were signed by Lodge 1506, International Assn. of Machinists and bore the name of Milo O. Holt, business representative.

"Douglas McKay and his sons-in-law, who manage the agency in his absence, have done everything possible to break our union," the handbills charged.

They also said the agency has advertised "for scabs and strike breakers," that McKay has crossed the picket line, that Interior Department vehicles "crashed our picket lines," and that McKay "persuaded" Gov. Paul Patterson of Oregon to have state patrol cars serviced by strike breakers.

OREGON AIRMAN MISSING

GRESHAM (AP)—The Air Force has notified Mrs. Irene Willis that her son, Lt. Frank Charles Willis Jr., 23, is one of 13 crewmen of a B-29 Superfort missing southwest of Okinawa since Thursday night.

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Chinese Offer to Free Total of 22 Americans

Communists Add 10 Names to List of Those To Leave 'Soon'; Hint 19 More Will Follow

GENEVA (AP)—Red China promised Saturday to let 10 more of the 41 American civilians still detained behind the Bamboo Curtain leave "within a few days," bringing the total to be released to 22.

A communique said machinery has been set up so the other 19 can "expeditiously exercise their right" to go home.

There was no hint here as to how soon "expeditiously" might mean, but the State Department in Washington interpreted it to mean "promptly."

The new group of Americans to be freed are in addition to 12 civilians who, the Chinese Communists announced Tuesday, have no charges against them and are free to leave.

U.S. Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson and Chinese Ambassador Wang Pingnan, who have been negotiating since Aug. 1 on getting their nationals repatriated, issued a joint announcement Saturday after their 14th meeting.

The announcement said Britain will be asked to assist with the repatriation of Americans from China, while India will be asked to aid in repatriating Chinese from America.

Refers to Geneva In Denver, President Eisenhower said "All of us can thank God" that more Americans will be released by the Red Chinese. Referring to the Geneva announcement near the end of his talk to Republican state chairmen visiting the President's vacation spot, Eisenhower expressed hope that even more Americans will be freed soon.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the United States expects all 41 of the American civilians known to be detained in Red China will be released by the Red Chinese. Referring to the Geneva announcement near the end of his talk to Republican state chairmen visiting the President's vacation spot, Eisenhower expressed hope that even more Americans will be freed soon.

Public Commitment Henry Snydam, the department's press officer, told newsmen the Communists now have made a "public commitment" and "We have no reason to doubt" it will be carried out.

Ambassador Johnson said he had no definite information on the release of Americans other than the 10. Neither Johnson or any member of the American or Chinese delegation would say whether any period was stipulated for the further releases.

(Additional story and pictures on page 2, sec. 2.)

Arms Lacking In Search of Mystery Ship

COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP)—The Greek-owned mystery freighter Katerina S., suspected of carrying arms to Red China and outlawed by Panama, put into Colombo Sunday.

U.S. officials boarded the ship after she pulled into port just after midnight.

Her captain, G. Vassilikopoulos, told them the vessel's cargo consisted only of medicines, soap and canned meat. He refused to hand over the ship's papers to the U.S. officials.

Later he allowed officials to search the hold of the ship and they reported finding no arms. U.S. authorities will board the vessel again later Sunday for a more complete inspection.

U.S. Consul James Broughton told Vassilikopoulos he would apply later to the courts for an order to compel the captain to hand over the documents.

Part of Paved Road Stolen

DUNSTABLE, Mass. (UP)—Highway surveyor John De Barbian was looking Saturday for the thieves who stole part of a road.

He said someone lifted from a highway a strip of asphalt about two feet wide and 18 feet long.

Logging Mishap Kills Myrtle Creek Man

ROSEBURG (AP)—A log killed Harlan Isaac, 31, Myrtle Creek, at a logging operation 12 miles east of Days Creek Saturday.

The log was being towed by a tractor, when it suddenly swung out and struck Isaac. The accident was witnessed by Isaac's brother, George.

The Weather

Salem Max. Min. Precip. 67 49 .00

Portland 67 49 .00

Baker 68 38 .00

Medford 65 48 .00

North Bend 64 54 .00

Roseburg 64 50 trace

San Francisco 76 51 .00

Los Angeles 67 66 .00

Chicago 65 73 14

New York 71 62 .00

Willamette River 24 feet

FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Considerably cloudiness with partial afternoon clearing through Monday; a little warmer with high today near 75, low tonight near 45.

TEMPERATURES 12:01 a. m. today was 57.

SALM PRECIPITATION Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1 This Year Last Year Sept. 1 Normal trace