

# Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

Statesman Publishing Company  
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Published every morning, business office 200  
North Church St., Salem, Ore., Telephone 4-6811

Entered at the postoffice at Salem, Ore., as second  
class matter under act of Congress March 3, 1978.

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## "Conflict of Interest" With Congressmen

Senator Neuberger is having thrown up in his face the old proverb: "Chickens come home to roost," and "People who live in glass houses." It all comes out over his intervention in behalf of applicants from the Roseburg area for a timber sale of summit timber at Windigo Pass. The sale of forest service timber is strongly opposed by Bend interests who fear that the contemplated new mill at Crescent then would be a competitor for government-owned Panderosa pine timber which Bend folk think is needed to maintain operations of the Bend mills. Alva Goodrich, Bend attorney, accused Neuberger of "intellectual dishonesty" and asserted that two of the Roseburg applicants had been his campaign supporters. Neuberger's wrath was stirred and he rejoined that another of the applicants had opposed his candidacy and that sales if made would be on competitive bids. In aftermath the Oregonian and other papers chided him because he had been sharply critical of Rep. Ellsworth for intervening with the Interior Department in behalf of the claimants for Al Serena mining patents.

The subject has been fully hashed and rehashed and we do not intend to pour fuel on the fire of controversy. What we want to observe is that citizens are too prone to put pressures on senators and congressmen to make them their business agents on deals with the government. The public officials, eager to show their diligence in serving constituents, are prone to go out of their way to serve the private interests of these constituents. There is nothing wrong in advising constituents of their rights and pointing out the procedures which they should follow, or even in requesting administrative officials to give a hearing to constituents. To attempt to apply pressure themselves or to seek private advantage against the public interest is reprehensible.

Members of the Congress have been quick to denounce conflict of interest on the part of those holding administrative office. They have been less diligent in exposing similar conflicts among their own members. It is quite as possible to trade political influence for campaign contributions or for group support as it is to solicit or accept favors for a consideration. It is quite in order for members of Congress to adopt some code of ethics covering their service to constituents, which would fix limits of propriety in such service. Politics being what it is, and members of the Congress being what they are, and private citizens being what THEY are we do not anticipate much change in the old custom of equating public service with private service to constituents (including business, farm, labor groups, communities).

It is safe to anticipate, however, that members of the Oregon delegation will be rather cautious in taking up for personal promotion appeals from Oregon residents seeking favors in Washington. Oregon citizens should not put our senators and representatives to any embarrassment over their conflicts with Washington bureaus.

Doctors' orders of a slowdown for Eisenhower and an after-Christmas vacation in the sunny South do not add up to candidacy for a second term. Republicans ought to start from that patent observation in planning for 1956.

## Al Serena Mining Claim Investigation by Congress Scheduled to Commence Jan. 11

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Statesman Correspondent  
WASHINGTON — The Al Serena mining claim investigation by Congress has tentatively been scheduled to open here Jan. 11, with officials from the Eisenhower administration being called to explain the decision under which 15 disputed claims in Rogue River National Forest were patented to an Alabama firm last year.

The investigation, which was touched upon briefly during hearings held in Oregon last month by a joint Senate-House committee, has scheduled to run through four days of hearings — Jan. 11, 12, 17 and 18.

The case involves an application for patent to 23 mining claims in Jackson County located in Rogue River forest by Al Serena Mines, Inc., of Mobile, Ala. The Forest Service contested 15 of the claims, but had no objection to the other eight.

The Bureau of Land Management, which decides on patent cases on public lands, held hearings and determined that the 15 disputed claims did not qualify for patent due to insufficient showing of mineralization. This 1951 ruling by BLM was later appealed by the company to Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman, who failed to act on the appeal before leaving office in January, 1953.

The appeal was acted upon by his successor, Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, who granted patents to the company on the 15 claims on the advice of Clarence Davis, who is now under secretary but was then solicitor of the department.

The case has since been the subject of charge and counter-charge between critics and supporters of the Eisenhower administration. The Senate Interior Committee began looking into the case last spring at the request of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.). The forthcoming hearings are an outgrowth of that staff investigation.

In announcing here the scheduled hearings, Sen. W. Kerr Scott (D-N.C.), acting chairman of a Senate interior subcommittee, noted that thus far the owners of the mining company have not begun any commercial mining venture on the Al Serena tract.

"On the other hand, however, about \$100,000 worth of timber has already been cut from the disputed claims," said Scott. "And

### Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I'll now listen to whom-ever is ready to present one with their data."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "judiciary"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Maelstrom, malleable, malediction, malignant.
4. What does the word "literarily" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with one that means "oily"?

ANSWERS  
1. Say, "I'll now listen to whoever is ready to present me with his data." 2. Pronounce joo-dish-er-i, accent second syllable. 3. Malediction. 4. With close adherence to words; word by word. "So complicated are his phrases, that it is difficult to translate them literally." 5. Unctuous.

## "Forced" Listening

The McMinnville News-Register draws from the congressional inquiry into General Motors that "bigness" in business remains a prime target, and goes on to say:

General Motors President Harlow Curtice was forced to sit for a couple of hours while angry dealers blasted his firm's manufacturing policies at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

It is true that Senator O'Mahoney did not permit President Curtice to testify until dealer testimony was admitted. But instead of being resentful of the fact, Curtice should have been grateful. It is healthy for a business to have the top level hear the gripes of those down in the chain of command. In fact to obtain "grass roots" sentiment big organizations often finance independent surveys. Already GMC has moved to modify terms of its dealer contracts, so the forced listening may have done some good.

The church affiliation of Adlai Stevenson is hard to figure out. Long a member of the Unitarian Church at Bloomington he has been admitted as a Presbyterian Church member at Lake Forest, with the understanding he can retain his Unitarian membership at Bloomington. We assume this is a case of the exercise of tolerance both by Stevenson and by the churches concerned. Even so, it takes quite a stretching of creed for one to be a Unitarian in one city and a Trinitarian in another. A man's religion is a matter of his personal belief and conscience. A critic may cite this as an example of Stevenson's inability to make up his mind. A more accurate explanation though is that this is a sample of his "moderation," and of the churches'.

Even United Nations had to compromise and split tenure of an office. Caught in a deadlock over election of a member of the Security Council the U.N. Assembly finally accepted the proposal of its President, Jose Maza, and split the two-year term between the rival candidates, Yugoslavia and the Philippines. The former won in the drawing but it will resign its seat after the first year and the Philippine delegate will serve the second year. Germany, Korea, Berlin and now United Nations yield to division under grim necessity.

Those who remember the days of the sawdust trail revivals will recall Homer Rodeheaver, song leader and trombonist, who long teamed with Evangelist Billy Sunday. Billy Sunday claimed converts by the thousands, but it was Rodeheaver and his leadership with music who put the tabernacle crowds in the right emotional mood to respond to Sunday's message. His death at age 75 revives memories of an era in the country's religious life.

Charles O. Porter of Eugene has announced his candidacy for Congress on the Democratic ticket. Al Ullman of Baker has done the same for the second district. Both ran in 1954 against incumbents Reps. Ellsworth and Coon. They could make this a cheap campaign merely by replaying the platters of their 1954 speeches. The topics are apt to be the same: Al Serena mining claims in Western Oregon, Hells Canyon Dam in Eastern Oregon.

An outsider who had not attended a meeting of the Oregon Wheat Growers League in recent years would have been impressed, we believe, by the overwhelming number of young men in attendance at last week's meeting. We saw very little gray hair, weather beaten faces or gnarled hands. — Pendleton East Oregonian

Does the E. O. imply that endorsing those big wheat checks raises no blisters?

The herald angels surely will not try to sing over Judea's plains this Christmas time. They might get shot.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



... Angels, stop tearing off each other's wings! ... Elves, stop pulling your beards off! ... Father Christmas, stop sucking your thumb! ...



Salem fire department has found what it believes to be the most publicly spirited woman in town. Seems the department is up to its hook and ladder in a drive to keep fires down below last year. Part of this anti-conflagration activity includes maintaining a large bulletin board outside the downtown station. It informs the public how many calls the department has answered to date this year compared with last year. Anyway, this lady called the department the other day, congratulated the fire laddies on the fine job they are doing, said she appreciated the campaign, apologized for bothering them and THEN informed them she had a small fire at her house and could they help her! ...

"If all citizens were as conscientious as this woman," said Fire Chief Ellsworth Smith, "our troubles would be small ones. But we still want people to call us promptly in case of fire first and explain later. The purpose of our bulletin board is to make the public more anti-fire conscious. As of today (Tuesday) we stand exactly even with last year at this time—411 calls. We hope to do better over the Christmas weekend though. Last year we answered 10 calls on Dec. 24 to 26" ...

Those people running around town with blank stares and foam-flecked lips Tuesday were not frustrated Christmas shoppers. They were lip-readers who were driven nuts Monday night trying to decipher those Italian movies the TV stations threw in when the cable break cut off the network programs ... One thing about that break—it showed how helpless local stations are when thrown on their own. One of them—think it was KPTV—didn't even seem to have an announcer who could ad-lib. He said something like: "Sorry we can't bring you the usually originally scheduled programs ..." One thing about those Italian movies, though; nearly all the actors have British accents ...

The following letter is NOT a paid ad by Don (Goin) Harger ... "Dear Sir: I'm a type of person who loves to go hunting and fishing, but I'm too green to be very good at it. Lately I've been reading Don Harger's 'Goin' After 'Em.' I enjoy it so much, I had to write to tell you about it. I think all sportsmen could learn a lot from him. Yours for better sports; Jean Walker, Jr., Salem." ... This should take care of Don's Christmas sock ...

Salem post office is up to its annual yuletide tricks of assisting Santa Claus. Letters scrawled to Santa and sent to the post office are turned over to a local branch of Santa's Helper, Inc.—the Salem Elks Club for action where needed. And this Christmas will live long in the memories of mail carriers as a real soggy one. Watermarked postmen agree this has been one of the splashiest of Noels. As they delivered a record load of local mail Tuesday it was a tossup as to which was the dampest—their brows or their feet ...

## Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

### 10 Years Ago

Dec. 21, 1945  
Columbia Empire Industries, Inc., elected Lloyd Riches, Salem, president. The new head of the organization, which expects to resume its pre-war program of publicizing Columbia Empire products, is vice president and manager of Western Paper Converting Company.

Plans for the reactivation of the national legal fraternity, Delta Theta Phi, have been started with the election of Otto Skopli, former Willamette student recently discharged from the navy, as new dean of the organization.

The Court Street home of Mr. and Mrs. William Everett Anderson was the scene of an informal Christmas musicale. The affair was arranged in conjunction with the annual Christmas party of the Willamette University School of Music.

### 25 Years Ago

Dec. 21, 1930  
Fully 150 old grads were back at the high school to witness the homecoming assembly in their honor. Feature of the assembly was the one-act play, "The Gates," with Billy Dyer, Betty Parker, Frank Cross, Dolly Morgan taking part.

Grand prize in the annual outdoor Christmas decoration contest was this year awarded to the home of Elizabeth Scott. The judges were Miss Dorothy Pearce, Dean F. W. Erickson and E. C. Bushnell. Eighty-five residences entered the contest.

More Christmas mail was handled at the Salem post office this

### 40 Years Ago

Dec. 21, 1915  
C. P. Bishop of this city and his two sons, R. C. Bishop of Salem and C. M. Bishop of Pendleton are incorporators of the Washougal Woolen mills, for which articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the State Corporation commissioner.

A large cluster of large, ripe, red raspberries was brought to The Statesman office by F. H. White who lives in the Rickey neighborhood. He also had new potatoes large enough for use.

Four hundred thousand dollars in stock certificates were stolen from a registered mail pouch at Wilmington, Del., while in transit in a one-horse covered wagon to the Pennsylvania railroad station.

### Woman Admits Book 'Slanting'

PORTLAND (AP) — A bookkeeper said Tuesday she helped falsify the books of the Standley Bros. Logging Co. at Powers. The firm's partners have been accused of 'falsifying' to pay more than \$100,000 in income taxes.

Mrs. Nell H. Hollenbeck, 55, now of San Diego, pleaded guilty to helping falsify the books. Federal Judge Gus J. Solomon ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

## Oregon Farm Chiefs Weigh Soil Project

CORVALLIS (AP) — Oregon farm leaders said Tuesday that the proposed soil bank program should be drawn up so that it does not become a burden on any one group of commodities.

They also said there should be effective controls or high enough payments to make the program work.

The 35 leaders met here, at the call of the Oregon Cattlemen's Assn. to discuss the proposal, expected to be advanced by the administration at the next session of Congress.

Harley Libby, Jefferson, president of the Oregon Farmers Union, said any new plan for solving the farm surplus problem must not "lose sight of conservation."

Elmer McClure, state Grange master, wondered whether the plan would not "just end up being a political football." He said as the plan tentatively is drawn up, it tends to give an advantage to Midwest farmers.

James Short, Salem, state director of agriculture, said he sensed that the administration would recommend that diverted acres be turned into grassland. He said Oregon should protect against that development, lest it unbalance farm income. He said one-third of farm income in the state now comes from livestock.

## Woodworkers, Firm Agree

PORTLAND (AP) — CIO Woodworkers Tuesday announced a new agreement with the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. for what the union said was a 22 1/2-cent hourly increase.

The union estimated 9 cents of the increase was in wages, the rest in fringe benefits, including a company-paid pension plan. The agreement covers 7,000 men in Oregon and Washington Weyerhaeuser mills.

The company put no cash value on the fringe benefits, but offered these things: a 4 1/2 per cent pay increase for all employees; a company-paid pension plan to become effective June 1, 1957; a reduction of 300 hours in the requirement for vacations; an improved holiday clause; an expiration date of June 1, 1958, with wage reopening June 1, 1957.

## New Bomb Threat Closes School

TIGARD (AP) — A bomb threat—apparently another hoax—closed the Tigard High School Tuesday. Police searched the building without finding a bomb.

The same thing happened at Roseburg Monday, the latest in what has been a long series of such hoaxes, which started after the Meier and Frank department store in Portland was bombed last April.

## New Trial Sought For Sherry Fong

PORTLAND (AP) — A new trial was asked Tuesday for Sherry Fong, 24, recently convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Diane Hank.

A defense motion said evidence was not sufficient for the conviction, and that she failed to get a fair and impartial trial.

## Wound Needs 58 Stitches

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Fifty-eight stitches were required to close the cuts on Roland Lalo, 59, Chiloquin, found unconscious Monday night at the Pat Jackson Ranch at Chiloquin Junction.

At that same ranch there have been two slayings in the past two years.

Alvie Youngblood, sheriff's deputy, found Lalo, and brought him to a hospital here.

Sheriff Murray Britton said Lalo apparently had been gashed by broken bottles. He said two young women are sought for questioning.

## Union Pacific Strike Looms

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) — The possibility of a strike of 400 conductors and brakemen on the northwest and central divisions of the Union Pacific Railroad loomed Tuesday.

H. W. Corbett, general chairman of the Order of Railway Conductors, reported his men had voted overwhelmingly to walk out over time claims and discipline grievances which he said had been accumulating over an 18-month period. Pocatello is the headquarters of the northwest and central divisions.

If last-ditch settlement attempts fail, Corbett said the union would throw up pickets at every important point where men go on and off duty between Portland, Ore., Green River, Wyo., Salt Lake City and Butte, Mont.

## Filbert Growers Fete \$25,000 Winner

PORTLAND (AP) — Mrs. Henry Jorgensen of Portland was feted at a dinner Tuesday night by appreciative filbert growers.

Her recipe for a filbert-filled roll won \$25,000 in the Pillsbury contest last week.

Nut Society of Oregon and Washington, said that besides the dinner she will be kept supplied with filberts the rest of her life.

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