The Oregon Statesman

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

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It's 1956 All Over

Five-sixths of the earth already had observed the coming of the New Year by the time 1956 arrived in Salem last midnight, although such belated observance made no difference to the various forms of greeting given the baby year in this area.

It was New Year in the mid-Pacific at 4 a.m. Salem time Saturday morning. That's when it became Sunday at the International Dateline—the 180th meridian which is half way around the earth from the "prime" meridian (Greenwich, England) from which the International Meridian Conference in Washington, D. C., in 1884 determined that time should be reckoned.

The International Dateline, for the sake of convenience, actually doesn't follow the 180th meridian from pole to pole. It weaves around populated places somewhat, so as to avoid too much confusion. It became New Year's at Wake Island—one time zone west of the Infernational Dateline—at 5 a.m. Salem time Saturday.

At 6 a.m. Salem time it became New Year's in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia; at 7 a.m. in Tokyo; at 8 a.m. in Manila; at 9 a.m. in Singapore; at 10 a.m. in Calcutta; at 11 a.m. in New Amsterdam Island; at noon in Stalingrad; at 1 p.m. in Moscow; at 2 p.m. in Cairo; at 3 p.m. in Berlin; at 4 p.m. in London; at 5 p.m. in Iceland; at 6 p.m. in the Azores; at 7 p.m. in Rio de Janeiro; at 8 p.m. in Bermuda; at 9 p.m. in New York; at 10 p.m. in Chicago and at 11 p.m. in Denver.

Oregon wasn't last, however. It was 1 o'clock here this morning before it was New Year's in Juneau; 2:30 a.m. before the New Year's came to Hawaii and 3 a.m. before it reached Nome.

All of which boils down to the fact that as you read this morning's Statesman it's 1956 everywhere on earth.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We've found something in common between the United States Marines and the Russians—they've an aplomb that survives embarrassment. Marine Gen. Pate, taking over as corps commander, got himself soundly buzzed by another marine, of all people. But the other marine was a lady colonel, Julia Hamblett, and Gen. Pate took it well. The Russian was violinist Oistrakh who, when his "E" string broke during a concert at Carnegie Hall, grabbed another violin and finished with hardly a pause. Beats all what we mortals can stand up under.

The contest to choose Miss France of 1956 was declared void when the audience jeered louder than it cheered at the judges' final choice. Now what we want to know, how is any one girl going to have enough supporters in any audience to outcheer the jeers from supporters of the other nine. Maybe there won't be any Miss France this year.

Our best resolution is a grim determination to keep on resisting the urge to toss a chair through the TV screen whenever there's a singing commercial. Unless they get better, we're not at all sure we can last another 12 months, however.

The stock market ended the year in a brisk rally and that's a lot brisker than a lot of folks are going to start the new one.

A Healthy Growth

The report of the state board of health that the five-county Mid-Willamette Valley area has added nearly 12,000 persons since 1950 is confirmation of belief that the unprecedented population boom of 1940-50 is leveling off but that a steady growth is proceeding.

Three of the five counties showed marked gains—Marion up 6.7 per cent, Benton up 8.3 per cent and Linn up 10.7 per cent. Two lost—Yamhill down 3.6 per cent and Polk down 9.6 per cent. Total gain for the three counties was 15,452, the loss in the other two was 3,841—for a net increase of 11,611.

Such an increase in most parts of the country would be regarded as quite considerable, and the fact that other parts of Oregon now seem to be sharing more fully in the growth doesn't detract from the healthy picture here.

Polk and Yamhill gained approximately 7,000 each during the last decade. With all the advantages these two counties have, it would not be at all surprising to see them resume their growth during the latter half of the present decade and finish it on the plus side with the others. Six other counties also lost ground slightly — Baker, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Union and Wallowa. All the rest gained.

Major increases largely were in Southwestern Oregon, ranging up to 76.7 per cent in Curry County and helping to bring Oregon's over-all gain to 11.1 per cent even though Portland's was slightly less than 8. The major fact emerging is that Oregon and the Willamette Valley are still growing.

Keep It Up (or Down)

Congratulations go to Portland and Klamath Falls for tieing for first place, in their respective divisions, in traffic safety records for the first 11 months this year.

Portland was tied with Indianapolis in having a low mark of 2 fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles, in the 350,000-500,000 population class. Klamath Falls, Kingsport, Tenn., and Monroe, Mich., in the 10,000-25,000 class, had no traffic fatalities at all.

After the Christmas-week slaughter, and the apparently high number of fatalities being recorded this weekend, it is nice to know there's a bright side to the picture.

Warnings and admonition do not seem to be as effective as they should be in reducing the number of traffic accidents. There is one thing, though, which ought to induce safe driving, that is the news of damage suits filed after such accidents and the big amounts claimed as recompense, also the heavy damages often awarded in such cases. Former limits of insurance protection are no longer adequate. The best security remains in driving with caution. The need is especially urgent these dark and rainy evenings.

Editorial Comment

SPORTS AND POLITICS

In politics, as in sports, the fans have kept so many records, that it is no trick at all to break one. Did it ever occur to you, for example, that no man whose last name began with "K" has ever been elected to the highest office in the land? Therefore, Senator Kefauver's chances are slim. Or have you reflected that in the 14 presidential elections in the 20th century, voters picked men from the last half of the alphabet 11 times? That bodes well for Mr. Stevenson.

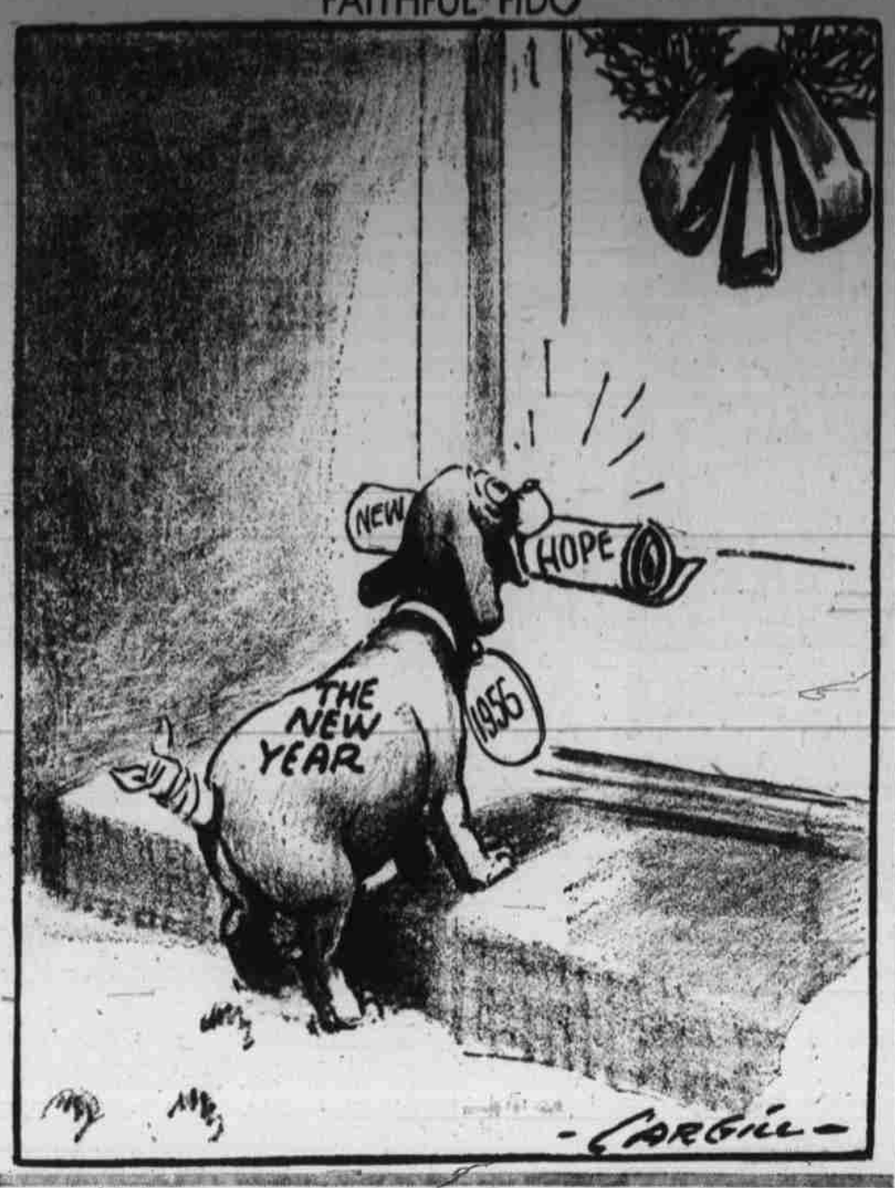
There is folklore mixed in, too. An example is the belief that a man once defeated hasn't got a chance. And just to straighten out this folklore and set up a more reliable batch of records to break, we point out the examples of these men who were defeated and then elected:

Thomas Jefferson, defeated in 1796, elected in 1800 and 1804; John Quincy Adams, defeated in 1820 and elected in 1824; Andrew Jackson, defeated in 1824 and elected in 1828 and 1832; William Henry Harrison, defeated in 1836 and elected in 1840; and Grover Cleveland, the exception among exceptions, elected in 1884, defeated in 1888 and elected again in 1892.

All this bears faintly on the possibility that either Mr. Dewey or Mr. Stevenson might be elected. If one were, he would break a record that has stood since 1900 when William Jennings Bryan didn't make it.

(Eugene Register-Guard)

FAITHFUL FIDO



Elephant Wins $3,000 for War Service, Wounds

IPOH, Perak State, Malaya (AP)—A 40-year-old cow elephant named Mek Yah has been awarded $3,000 by the Perak government for wounds received from Communist guerrillas while carrying supplies into the jungle for Security Forces. After being wounded, Mek Yah fled into the bush and had to be recaptured. She was sent to the national park to recuperate.

The Oregon Statesman

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Comes the Dawn

by Conrad Prange

You've probably been reading and hearing a lot these days about the Big News Stories of 1955. Well, as any red-eyed reader of newspapers knows, there were a lot of other stories which also had great significance. So we ran hastily through the inside pages of 1955 and came up with OUR list of the top stories of the past year . . .

* * *

MOST IMPORTANT STORY OF 1955—On April 11 the U. S. Civil Service Commission ruled that postmen could kick back at dogs who attacked them.

TOP POLITICAL STORY — The one about the member of British parliament who, after 30 some years of complete silence through wars, famine and royal romances, finally arose and blasted the government for letting wild rabbits run loose around the countryside.

MOST EMBARRASSING — When the secretary of the Oregon Highway Lifesavers was fined for violating a highway traffic rule.

* * *

TOP LITERARY SCOOP—When Democrats announced they were coming out with a book, "Raising Squirrels for Profit," and the Republicans countered with a book of their own, "Keeping Bird Dogs Out of the Pea Patch."

MOST POIGNANT EDUCATION STORY — When the White House Education Conference uncovered the fact that men teachers are leaving the profession because they can't afford to raise a family on their salaries, and women, on the other hand, are leaving to raise families.

* * *

BEST GIVEAWAY YARN—When Margaret gave up Pete.

BEST MUSICAL NEWS—"This Old House."

BEST NEW WESTERN PLAY—"Dirty Work at Hell's Canyon."

TOP SALEM CITY HALL STORY—A group of residents on Reservoir Street asked the city to change the name to Rio Vista Way, because, they say, Reservoor is too tough to spell.

MOST SCANDALOUS STORY OF THE YEAR—The one about the mother cat who abandoned her kittens on the State Capitol steps.

* * *

MOST TOUCHING STORY—The one about the TB hospital patient who trained a swallow to peck at his window each night at suppertime. "Only friend I got," said the man.

MOST SIGNIFICANT WEATHER STORY — Miss Universe wore long undies in the Tournament of Roses parade.

BIGGEST TEAPOT TEMPEST—Did Mrs. George Malone really boo Sen. Neuberger at a talk?

MOST NOSTALGIC STORY—Theda Barra, 65, dies.

MOST EXPECTED STORIES—Rain on Easter; and Salem Senators open season in freezing weather.

BEST RECEIVED STORY—Doctor's discovery that man should relax after heavy meals. Helping with the dishes, etc., is definitely harmful to husbands' health.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one.)

probably be greater by not more than five per cent.

Steel Production: The 1956 total will probably be within three per cent, either way, of the 1955 figure.

New Construction: A gain of around four or five per cent is likely for 1956 as against 1955.

New Business Outlays: The 1956 total will be up about two billion dollars to around $30-$31 billion.

New Housing: A decline of at least five per cent from the 1955 total is probable for 1956.

Automobiles: Output and sales likely to decline. (This is predicted by heads of motor car companies).

Retail Sales: Sales of durable goods may show little change from 1955 levels, but those of nondurables will be larger.

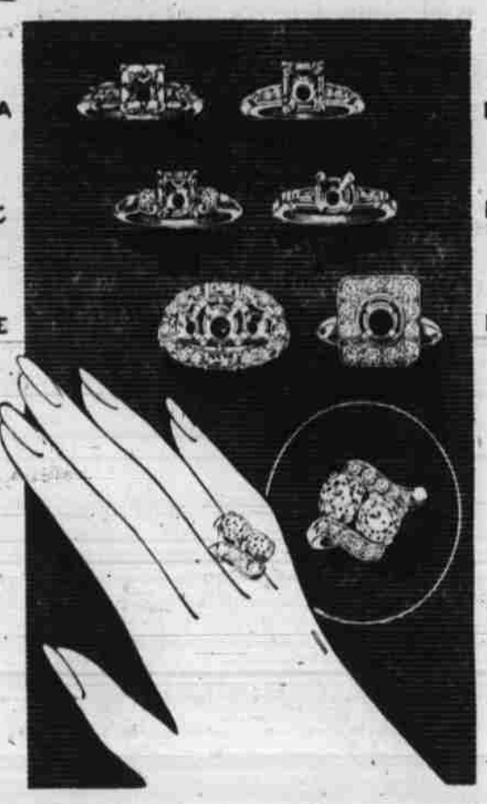
Hourly Earnings: The 1956 wage level will be higher.

Wholesale Prices: The monthly average in price index for 1956 will probably exceed 112 — 1955 average for ten months 110.6. Cost of living index will edge upward.

Money Rates: Monetary authorities are likely to maintain credit restraint and interest rates will remain firm. A downturn would ease credit and bring lower rates.

These, of course, are averages. Just how the individual concern will fare in 1956 will depend on many other factors than national averages or general conditions. There is no substitute for good management at any time.

My own crystal ball is too hazy for me to venture any political forecasts. I must admit the prospect is a bit cloudy for the Grand Old Party, but November is still ten months away, and a lot can happen in that period.



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Alsops Review First 10 Years of Column, Note 1945 Optimism Over Russian Policy

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON — Exactly ten years ago today, the first column by these reporters appeared in a handful of American newspapers. It is an odd experience, entertaining in a way and sad in another, to flip over the pages of that first year's scrapbook of columns and to note how times have changed—and how they have not.

Joseph Alsop

There is a nostalgia, which the reporters may be pardoned for indulging at this season, in the yellowed clippings and the dated words. The first column begins with the remark that "The most conspicuous single fact in Washington today is Harry S. Truman," and concludes that "It is still an open question whether Truman can master his job." The question is still open, and no doubt will remain so for many more decades.

Stewart Alsop

The columns that follow are filled with names which are already dim in the memory, and political rows which it is an effort to recall at all. There is much about the President's cronies"—Ed Pauley, Vardaman, Vaughan, Steelman, Snyder, and the redoubtable George Allen, who has managed to retain his role as Presidential crony until the present day. The rows about the President's appointment of Pauley to be Under-Secretary of the Navy, and Allen to be head of Reconstruction Finance, are analyzed in detail, and one wonders a little why these dusty bottles seemed so important at the time.

Then there are the other engrossing struggles of the era, like Chester Bowles' fight with John Snyder over the OPA (remember OPA?), Henry Wallace's break with Truman, and John L. Lewis's Homeric battle with the Administration. There is the contest between John Snyder and Lewis Schwellenbach (remember Schwellenbach?) for control of Labor Relations, and there is the great steel strike of that year, and the battle between the pro-Communists and anti-Communists for the soul of the CIO and the Liberal movement.

There is much, indeed, about the Communist threat (at a time when the internal Communist danger was hardly recognized by those who now proclaim themselves its first discoverers). "It is not easy to shake Communists loose," one column remarks, "but if this country is to have the independent and vigorous liberal movement is so badly needs, it must be done."

There are surprising hints of things to come and many echoes of a forgotten past. But what stands out from the old clippings is not how much, but how little, the really important things have changed. The cold war started ten years ago, although, again, it was not at all fashionable to admit it at the time. The third column these reporters wrote noted flatly that the nation was "without a basic policy for dealing with the basic problem of current international relations — the new Soviet imperialism." Omit the adjective "new" and the sentence would be almost as accurate today as it was ten years ago.

A few weeks later another column remarks that the weakness of American foreign policy arises from "the unwillingness of to use our vast economic power to the full and with all energy, in order to cure the terrible ills which weaken all nations in Europe and Asia and thus encourage Soviet expansionism." Shades of the "Four H Club."

Toward the end of that year, these reporters succumbed to a fit of over-optimism, which has not frequently been repeated since. "The Soviet foreign policy which has plagued the whole world," a December column stated, "seems to be in process of basic revision. It is too early to cheer, but not too early to hope." Within a matter of weeks, it proved to be a great deal too early to hope. It still is.

Yet there may be ground for hope of a sort in something else that stands out from the yellow pages of the decade-old scrapbook. There was much, even then, about the new weapons, which (as the six or seven persons who are believed to read this column fairly regularly may have noted) have been something of an obsession with these reporters.

"Even now," one of the first columns remarked, "no one has grasped the fullness of the change in world power relationships wrought by the scientists of World War II." The end result of the new weapons, another column reported, was to "make possible that war between the continents which must haunt the imagination of every informed and imaginative man."

And yet, even now, ten years later, despite small wars and great crises, missiles and jets and hydrogen bombs, the worst has not happened. Is it to succumb to another fit of over-optimism to hope that, if only we keep our guard up, it never will.

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Time Flies:

From The Statesman Files

10 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1946

Seven deaths and millions of dollars in property damage were reported in western Oregon's flooded valleys. The Willamette rixer crested at 28.35 feet at city. Damage was estimated at $6,000,000 for the Willamette valley.

The year 1945 proved to be busiest and biggest year yet for the Marion county recorder's office, according to Herman W. Lanke, county recorder. Total number of recordings of all types during the past year were 19,420 as compared with 1944 total of 15,983.

Purchase of block 14, Yew Park annex, between 12th and 13th and Cross and Wilbur streets as site for eventual construction of a $250,000 bottling plant, announced manager of the Coca Cola bottling company of Oregon.

25 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1931

A new year's prediction that 1931 will see a gradually improving enforcement of the dry laws was made by Prohibition Director Woodcock.

Amos and Andy, the black-faced pair familiar to American dial twisters, were heard in Great Britain for the first time. The British Broadcasting corporation estimated that a potential audience of 12,000,000 were available to hear the pair dissect the king's English.

The State Land Board turned over to the State Treasurer during the month of December a total of $87,487.12, according to a report prepared by George G. Brown, clerk of the Board.

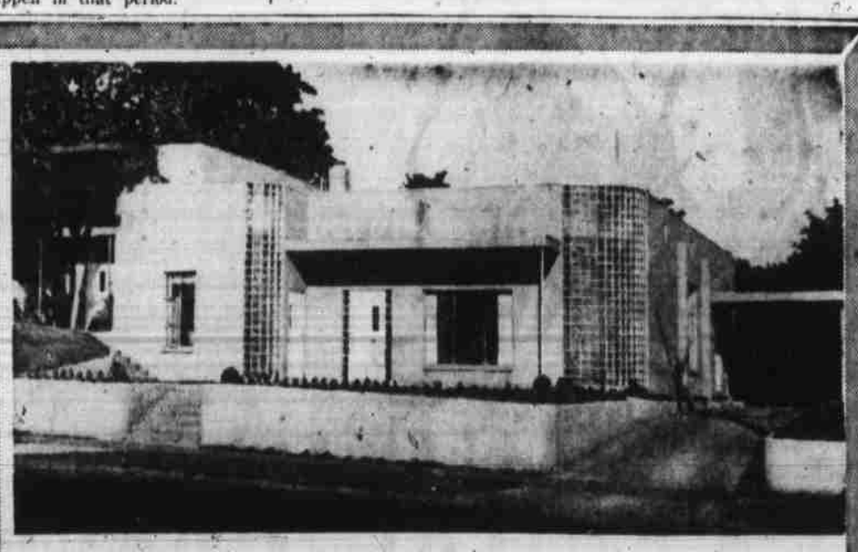
40 Years Ago

Jan. 1, 1916

Oregon went dry at midnight to the blowing of whistles, the fanfare of trumpets in the city grills and general hilarity. Saloon men and family liquor dealers were generally highly gratified at the immense business done within the past two days.

The Commercial club received a letter from the Alaska bureau of th Seattle Chamber of Commerce, asking the co-operation of the Salem club in urging congress to make the $2,000,000 appropriation for the completion of the government railroad in Alaska.

President Woodrow Wilson held his first official New Year's reception in the lobby of the hotel where he and Mrs. Wilson are spending their honeymoon, at Hot Sorings, Va.



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