



George Henry, service station operator at 3455 N. River Rd., is shown above checking water level behind his station this week as continued rainfall has submerged the area for several weeks. The fill dirt sign has been there for nearly a year now, and about the only good to come of the rain, according to Henry, is that people have stopped asking why he needs fill dirt. (Statesman Photo).

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

When the Department of the Interior announced in December new regulations covering granting of leases for oil and gas development on wild life refuges Secretary McKay was put under new attack for "giving away" the nation's resources and exposing the birds and animals on these refuges to destruction. Dr. Ira Gabrielson, noted conservationist, was one who protested. The report which appears in the Congressional Record of this session, issue of Jan. 9th, starting at page 206 is a very complete refutation of these charges. In summary the story is as follows:

1. Congress passed a law in 1920 authorizing the grant of leases for oil and gas development on these refuges, and this policy was reaffirmed in legislation of 1946. 2. The Department under this law has granted licenses for this purpose. In August, 1953 Secretary McKay issued an order suspending application on applications for oil and gas leases on refuges when he found that the 1947 regulations failed to give adequate protection to the wildlife values of the refuges and the publicly owned oil reserves underground. 3. The Department staff went to work to prepare new regulations. The revision was carefully reviewed by the department's advisory committee on conservation which, while preferring no leasing, approved the regulations as providing "reasonable protection" "if vigorously enforced." The regulations had the full endorsement and support of the career (Continued on editorial page, 4.)

U.S. Ready Cash 'Low'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States government has less ready cash on hand than ever before in modern times.

This was shown Friday in a Treasury report that it had available to it in liquid, spendable funds on Jan. 17, only \$1,939,900,000. Since the government spends about six billion dollars a month in some 21 working days a month, this was about six or seven days spending.

However, the pinch is probably at its worst, and things are looking up. Within the next few days some considerable tax payments that were due on Jan. 15 will become available as spending money.

Killer Search Spreads

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — An all-out police search spread over a five-state area Friday for Leslie Irvin, described as a "mad dog killer," who escaped from jail while under a death sentence for one of six killings in which he has been indicted.



Always complaining! First it was anti!

Public Utilities to Face Corporation Excise Tax

Corporation excise taxes soon will be levied against public utilities, State Tax Commissioner Ray Smith said Friday in a surprise statement to the state's legislative interim tax study committee.

Several officials of publicly owned utilities were startled by the announcement which came during the committee's meeting Friday in the Capitol, in the form of a letter from Smith.

The tax commissioner declared he interpreted the 1955 Legislature's action in lifting an exemption of utilities from excise taxes to bring the public as well as private utilities under the tax. The corporation tax rate is 8 per cent, but the law change said utilities could offset half of it through property tax payments.

The public power leaders were at the interim committee meeting to protest any change of law that might remove the public utilities' present relief from property taxes. State Rep. Allan Tom of Rufus is chairman of the legislative group which conducted the meeting. He said the legislature was concerned over equalization of tax load between areas, especially because of relation of the big basic school support fund to an area's property assessment. He said a city served by public utility would likely have a much lower assessment roll and thus leave the areas served by private utilities at a tax disadvantage.

McMinnville City Attorney Eugene Marsh, former state senator, gave the opinion that any move to tax public utilities would alter the balance established over the years.

In an interview following his talk, Schrank indicated he was leaning toward the mayor's race. He did not say whether the announcement by Monroe Sweetland to enter the secretary of state race had anything to do with his decision. Both men are Democrats.

Schrank urged Marion-Polk County Democrats to seek out good candidates for races at the local level, asserting that "I hope you won't underestimate that importance." It's hard to get a lot of horse sense in politics, he said, especially when you get the wrong end of the horse. (Story also in sec. 1, page 2)

Naval Veteran, 62, Recalled for Active Service

DENVER (AP) — Aaron E. (Pop) Pickering, a 62-year-old Wyoming timber cutter, was recalled to active duty in the United States navy Friday.

"I'm the happiest U.S. navy man there is," Pickering declared after passing his physical examination. Pickering, a navy reservist and father of five grown children, was recalled as a utilities man first class.

County Polio Vaccine Surpluses Eliminated

Polio vaccine coming into Marion County is once again being used as fast as it is shipped in, it was reported this week. Even though the vaccine is still on a strict allocation basis, an unused surplus had piled up here by late December. Since then a public information program, sponsored by the Salem Citizens Advisory Committee on Polio has eliminated the surplus.

"Several thousand polio shots have been administered by local physicians since Christmas," said Dr. Willard Stone, Marion County health officer and chairman of the Advisory Committee.

"This represents a tremendous increase in immunizations. So much so, in fact, that there is now no surplus backlog of vaccine in this area. But supplies are continuing to come in on an allocation basis."

Priority is being given to children up to 15 years of age and to pregnant women. Shots should be started now to insure protection by the peak of next summer's polio season. Although mass inoculations of school children with free vaccine are no longer planned, enough tax-paid vaccine for about 1,400 shots has been delivered to Marion County, Dr. Stone said. Following regulations set up by the Advisory Committee and recommendation of the State Board of Health this free vaccine is being turned over as requested to physicians for emergency use and for use in financial hardship cases. At a meeting this week the Advisory Committee voted to continue its program of informing the public on the advisability of contacting their physicians regarding polio immunizations.

Averell Attacks President

Demo Hopeful Labels Ike as Buck Passer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Eisenhower is a buck passer—"the biggest dodger of any president we've ever had in my memory," New York's Gov. Averell Harriman said Friday.

He also hit the Republicans as the "party of drift and reluctance" and said GOP policies have created an "alarming situation" at home and abroad.

"Generally speaking," he told a news conference, "Eisenhower is creating the impression he's over and above his administration. Not His Program

"It's not his farm program, it's Benson's; it's not his interior program, it's McKay's; it's not his financial program, it's Humphrey's; it's not his foreign policy, it's Dulles'—and so on."

Harriman, a Democrat with presidential aspirations, who is here for speaking engagements, made these observations when asked about the president's statement concerning differences with Gen. Matthew Ridgway.

"He made the statement in his state of the union message," Harriman said. "I know Harry Truman wouldn't have done it. I don't know whether it's true or not, but for him to dodge it is rather an alarming attitude for him to take."

"The president," said Harriman, "doesn't take responsibility for his actions."

Ginger Rogers Victim in Fur, Jewels Theft

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Burglars stole more than \$25,000 worth of furs and jewelry from Ginger Rogers' home Thursday night after apparently setting the stage for the job by telephoning the actress, she told police.

The intruders forced a side door of the star's hilltop home. When she and her husband, Jacques Bergerac, returned from a dinner party at a Sunset Strip restaurant, Miss Rogers said they discovered the thieves ransacked the master bedroom and a dressing room, overturning chairs and tables and opening drawers and scattering contents.

Miss Rogers told officers that Thursday afternoon she received several telephone calls from a woman who said she was a "phone company operator." The woman said trouble had been reported on the line and wanted to know if someone would be home later in the day or Friday morning.

The calls appear to have been made by someone trying to find out when nobody would be in the house.

Fuel Flows In New York

NEW YORK (AP) — A five day strike of fuel truck drivers ended Friday, Mayor Robert F. Wagner said the settlement saved the city by an eyelash from "a catastrophe."

Striking Teamsters Union members voted a return to work and the first trucks started rolling at 4 p. m. Reluctance was voiced by some strikers but dealers and police said all of them were either back at work or ready to resume Saturday.

Big Fir Seedling Grows 25 Inches In Two-Year Span

A giant Douglas fir seedling that grew 25 inches in two years was found Friday by Oregon forest nursery officials.

The unusual seedling was discovered in a bed of Noble firs, Verne McDaniel, nursery superintendent, reported. The seedling had escaped research foresters who had removed all of the tall seedlings for a study in genetics.

Two-year-old firs found in the nursery beds usually grow only four to eight inches above the ground.

Policeman Gets Very Short Beat

CHICAGO (AP) — Policeman Herman Unger Friday was assigned to a beat so short he doesn't have to move a muscle to cover it.

His job is to sit all day in a downtown cigar store and see if it that no bets on horses are made there.

Appointed



Urlin S. Page, new member of Salem Planning Commission.

Mayor Names Page to City Planning Unit

Urlin S. Page, Salem businessman, was appointed to the Salem Planning Commission Friday by Mayor Robert F. White.

Page is president of Union Title Insurance Co.

He will succeed Vern D. McMullen who asked the mayor to be replaced as his term ended.

Mayor White said of Page's appointment, "I am very happy that a man of his experience has consented to serve on the important planning commission."

With the Page appointment, Mayor White has completed his round of first-year appointments as required on various city boards and commissions.

Other citizens members of the Planning Commission are John Carlin, chairman; Robert E. Powell, vice chairman; W. W. Rosebraugh, Robert T. Stanley, Stuart Compton and T. W. Lowry. Ex-officio members are the mayor, city manager, city attorney and city engineer.

\$100,000 Fire Claims 1,400 Chinchillas

DAVENPORT, Wash. (AP) — Chinchillas valued at \$100,000 suffocated Friday in a fire here at what is described as the Pacific Northwest's largest chinchilla ranch.

Some 1,400 of the furry animals died when a faulty furnace filled a barn at the Star Chinchilla Ranch with smoke. The blaze destroyed records and did some \$3,000 damage to the barn before being put out by the Davenport rural fire department.

About a third of the dead chinchillas were breeding stock, valued at \$200 to \$800 each, and the others had a fur pelt value of \$30 to \$50.

The owner of the ranch, Robert Gunning, was confined to his home with shock following the fire. His brother, Lewis Gunning, said part of the loss was covered by insurance.

Gunning's chinchillas had won many awards at national breeding shows and he was conducting experiments aimed at developing an all-white breed.

Budget Chief Resigns Post

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rowland Hughes resigned Friday as director of the budget, four days after President Eisenhower announced the federal budget would be balanced this year.

The White House announced that Hughes, a New York banker, will be succeeded by Percival F. Brundage, 63, of Montclair, N. J., who is now deputy budget director.

Hughes' letter of resignation, effective April 1, said he was leaving because of "compelling personal reasons." He did not disclose the reasons. A close associate said Hughes will take six months' rest before deciding upon his future course.

SCOUTS TO HEAR DEAN

EUGENE (AP) — The main speaker at an Eagle Scout Recognition Day banquet here Feb. 22 will be Maj. Gen. William F. Dean (ret.), former deputy commander of the Sixth Army and Korean War hero.

The Weather

Table with columns for location, Max, Min, Precip. Locations include Salem, Portland, Baker, Medford, North Bend, Roseburg, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and Willamette River.

Air Force Considers Mid-Valley Sites for New Air Installation

Salem Area Due for Inspection Next Week; Sheridan Chamber 'Beats Drums' for 5,000 Acres Near Ballston

By CHARLES IRELAND Valley Editor, The Statesman

Possibilities of a \$13,000,000 Air Force base being located in the mid-valley were gathering steam Friday.

An air base selection team looked at a proposed site near Albany and Col. W. H. Banks, who is in charge, said the Salem area will be inspected next week.

Earlier this week, the 15-man survey crew spent a full day surveying a proposed site between St. Paul and Newberg in North Marion County.

Meanwhile, the Sheridan and Yamhill County Chambers of Commerce are beating the drums for a 5,000-acre area near Ballston in the northern tip of Polk County. An Aurora location has been mentioned, too.

But Astoria, Hillsboro, Vancouver, Wash., and other places also are in the running.

Huge Air Base At stake is a huge air base that will have a complement of more than 2,000 men and an estimated annual payroll of \$5 million. Among other things, it will replace Portland International Airport as an air defense command base.

The Air Force Thursday asked Congress for \$13,508,000 for construction of the proposed new base.

A prime requisite of the base location is size. Col. Banks said 5,000 acres—enough for a three-mile runway—are required. Only a 9,000-foot runway is contemplated at first, he added.

Reasonably Close The site should be reasonably close to a center of population, too, Col. Banks said, for Naval Reserve training will be conducted at the base as well as regular Air Force activities.

Congress will decide where the base is located. The team is here only to survey locations and submit a report to Air Force headquarters at the Pentagon.

Col. Banks declined to compare merits of sites already inspected. He said his crew had "firm commitments" to inspect sites at Astoria and Vancouver, and also planned to come to the Salem area.

No Specific Location A Salem Chamber of Commerce official said he understood the survey team had no specific location in mind here but was coming to scan "the Salem area in general."

Col. Banks said he had been contacted by Art Herbert, president of Sheridan Chamber of Commerce, Thursday regarding the Polk County location.

Banks said his team would study the feasibility of surveying that location by inspecting terrain maps and other information it has. He said a survey would be made there if the area showed promise.

At Sheridan, the whole town was buzzing Friday in anticipation of the Ballston site being considered for the air base.

5 Miles From Site Sheridan is eight miles from that site, which is also about 12 miles from Dallas, seven miles from Amity and 20 miles from Salem.

Chamber President Herbert declared the Polk County site should be "ideally suited" to the Air Force needs. He said the Air Force could build a three-mile runway there "as flat as the palm of your hand" and that acquisition of 5,000 acres there should pose no major problem.

Weathermen Say More Rain on Tap

The Salem area Friday recorded its 21st consecutive day of rain and the string should lengthen with more rain in prospect for today and Sunday, according to forecasters at McNary Field.

Weathermen said temperatures will remain on the mild side over the weekend. Friday's rainfall totalled .48 of an inch.

Waiter Charged With \$25,000 Tax Evasion

NEW YORK (AP) — Being headwaiter at a world-famous hotel has always been regarded as a lucrative job. The government Friday estimated just how lucrative.

Hans Paul, headwaiter at the Waldorf-Astoria, earned \$125,000 during the four years preceding his retirement in 1952, the government said, when his salary was \$30,000 a year.

Paul, currently vacationing in Miami, was indicted on a charge of failing to report more than \$87,000 he received in tips between 1949 and 1952.

Asst. U. S. Atty. David Jaffe estimated Paul cheated the government out of nearly \$25,000 in taxes.

Jaffe said the banquet department at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel collects a million dollars

Ship Loses Bout With Atlantic Radar Tower

(Picture on Wirephoto Page) BOSTON (AP) — The "Texas Tower," man-made radar outpost 100 miles off Cape Cod, escaped damage Friday in its first encounter with a ship, but the vessel that bumped one of the tower's three long, steel legs was sent slogging home Friday night at half-speed 5 knots with 15 feet of water in one hold.

The Military Sea Transport Service's Sagitta — 5,202 gross tons and 289 feet long — was transferring supplies when she crashed the tower.

A hole was torn in her starboard side and the sea rushed into No. 2 hold. A serious list of starboard developed, but after some uneasiness, the crew succeeded in restoring the Sagitta to even keel.

Reduced Speed Under her reduced speed, the Sagitta's estimated time of arrival at Boston was placed at 3 p. m. Saturday.

The ship was considered in no danger and there were no casualties. Weather and sea conditions were described as moderate.

Capt. John J. Abers, USN, who supervised construction of the tower which occupies a lonely sentry post on Georges Banks, famous fishing grounds, described damage as "a little paint scraped off" and "some groceries knocked off shelves."

Unruly Area Georges Banks, fished for centuries, is an extremely unruly area in time of storm, as instanced last November when 53 workmen and a group of armed forces officers—plus two Associated Press newsmen—were marooned on the lower a week. High winds and giant seas prevented a tug from approaching close enough to take them off.

Ex-Official of Harney Bank Took \$4,133

PORTLAND (AP) — Ralph H. Van Houten, 33, former assistant manager of the Harney County Bank of Burns, pleaded guilty Friday to embezzling \$4,133 of the bank's funds.

Federal Judge Gus Solomon ordered a pre-sentence investigation. James W. Morrell, chief assistant U.S. attorney, said Van Houten, married and the father of four children, had been taking the bank's money for his own use for more than a year before resigning last September.

Morrell said Van Houten finally went to the pastor of his church and told what he had done. He then helped the bank, a branch of the U.S. National of Portland, to determine the exact amount he had taken, Morrell said.

TV Preview Due Of Forest Grove Singing Contest

FOREST GROVE (AP) — A preview of the Forest Grove Barber Shop Ballad Contest and the Gay Nineties celebration will be carried by the NBC television show Wide World Feb. 12.

For the occasion four downtown blocks will be roped off and decorated. Residents, dressed in period costumes, will participate.

The actual quartet contest is not scheduled until Feb. 23-25. T. L. Four Wolves of Salem are among recent contest entries.

Cow Likes Twins

SAN MARCOS, Tex. (AP) — Jesse Dietz' cow came through with twins again Friday. Since 1949, his cow has produced three sets of twins, one set of triplets and three other calves — 12 calves in 5 years. Normal birth rate for a cow is one at a time.

Abbott Murder Case Verdict Still Awaited

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The foreman of the Burton Abbott murder trial jury sent out word at 5:30 p. m. that there is no possibility of a verdict Friday night.

The 27-year-old University of California student is accused of kidnapping and murdering 14-year-old Stephanie Bryan.

Table with columns for Section and Page. Includes Church News, Classified, Comics, Crossword, Editorials, Home Panorama, Markets, Obituaries, Sat., Sun., TV, Sports, Star Gazer, Valley, Wirephoto Page, World This Week.