



Mrs. William Watson Jr. smiles on the fourth of four children that have traveled long distances to be born in Salem. A Salem native herself, Mrs. Watson came home from Virginia 12 years ago for the birth of her first child; from Beaumont, Texas, eight years ago. This trip and the last one, six years ago, were from Richland, Wash. (Statesman photo by John Erickson).

Woodburn Air Base Plan Clears Hurdle

Engineers Make Preliminary Tests
The U.S. Air Force was over a major hurdle today in its move to establish a \$13,000,000 air base west of Woodburn, and preliminary engineering work already is underway. Earl Snyder, director of the state board of aeronautics, said he had received word that the federal Air Space Coordinating Committee in Los Angeles had approved the site for Air Force development. Drilling equipment has been at work on the site for several days and property stakes, indicating possible acquisitions, already have been driven. The area being surveyed apparently covers nearly 15,000 acres (24 square miles) but indications have been that only a fraction of that expense is intended for actual development. Engineering data now being compiled is to be presented to Congress for final approval and appropriation. Officials have said around 2,000 persons would be stationed at the base in event of construction, with a payroll exceeding \$5,000,000 annually. Snyder said a delegation of four persons from the Fairfield area 15 miles north of Salem, where major surveys are underway, had asked him for additional information regarding the proposed base. He told them his only part in the matter was certifying to the Air Space Coordinating committee that its establishment would not unduly interfere with present air activities.

Out-of-State Children Call Salem 'Home'

By RUSS BIERAUGEL Staff Writer, The Statesman
The children of Mr. and Mrs. William Watson Jr. spent their earliest years in various sections of the country, but they can all claim Salem as their "home town." Although the Watsons and their three older children now reside in Richland, Wash., their fourth child, a seven pound two ounce boy, was born in Salem General Hospital Sunday night. Mrs. Watson came from Virginia, 12 years ago for the birth of her first child, Kim. Eight years ago she came from Beaumont, Texas, for Billy's birth. And six years ago, with the family already settled in Richland, Merry Jill was born in Salem. The first three were born at Salem Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Watson, the former Gertrude Steinke, is a Salem native herself. Her husband, although a Texan, is all in favor of the arrangement that gives Salem first claim on the children. Mrs. Watson said. He is from San Antonio. "We both like Salem and we hope to live here sometime," she said. Watson, now employed by General Electric Co. at Hanford Engineer Works, near Richland, was in the Army in 1943 when his wife made the trek back to Salem for their first daughter.

Fluoridation Put on City Ballot

Alderman Asks Building Code Review; Drainage Issue Voids Permit for House

Fear Septic Tank Trouble on Hill School Building Plan Questioned
A city building permit was denied Monday for a \$19,000 home because of septic tank difficulty, and Mayor Robert E. Alderman E. C. Charlton Monday night at a City Council meeting, in the wake of a Salem architect's published statement that Salem School District would save \$200,000 by building two new junior high schools outside city limits.

Gas Repairs Move Ahead of Schedule

Special crews recruited for emergency service of valley gas lines in preparation for the resumption of service late this week by Portland Gas and Coke Co. were working in Salem Monday, Richard Sinclair, residential gas sales supervisor from Portland who is here for the emergency, is shown above shutting off a meter at 1808 Highland Ave. (Statesman Photo)
The speed with which gas service is being restored in Portland indicates a return to normal throughout the valley before Saturday. No announcement from the company to that effect was forthcoming Monday. However, Joseph A. H. Dodd, Salem District Portland Gas & Coke Co. manager, said. Seven hundred skilled gas workers from as far distant as Chicago, Ill., were restoring services at Portland at the rate of 2,000 an hour. Associated Press reported. The pace is ahead of the gas company's estimate of completion Saturday for the entire system, AP added. Service was interrupted from Vancouver, Wash., to Corvallis by a fire Friday night at the company's Portland plant. Restoring the oil lines was comparatively simple but the time-consuming task is shutting off every meter, forcing all air out of mains, then reopening each meter and relighting the pilot light. (Also see story on page 7, sec. 1.)

Forest Grove Fire Rages Out of Control

FOREST GROVE — Fire roared through the old high school building here Monday night and still was out of control shortly before midnight. W. F. Vandervelden, fire chief, said the block-long, brick-faced building probably would be a total loss. He said it was purchased last year by St. Anthony's Catholic Church from the school board for a reported \$72,000 for conversion into a church. Remodeling had been in progress. The new high school is located in another part of the town. Strong winds were hampering efforts of firemen. Companies were called in from nearby Hillsboro and Cornelius to help the Forest Grove department. Roy Thompson, a Forest Grove fireman, was hospitalized with undetermined injuries after he fell from a ladder.

Thornton Seeks Reelection Despite Political Reshuffle

By THOMAS G. WRIGHT Jr. Staff Writer, The Statesman
Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton Monday took himself out of the consideration for either the Democratic governorship or First Congressional District nominations. "I have decided to go ahead with my original plan," said Thornton, referring to his January announcement that he would seek renomination of the party for the state's attorney general post. Thornton's pending decision had raised considerable speculation in political ranks since the death of Gov. Paul L. Patterson had set off a general reshuffling of party plans. Previously Thornton had been nominally considered the Democrats' best hope for the governorship election which normally would not have come up until 1958. Apparently, because of a fear Thornton might not be able to gain labor support, party leaders threw their support behind State Sen. Robert D. Holmes for the governorship. Holmes, with the blessings of State Chairman Howard Morgan and National Committeeman Monroe Sweetland, announced for the past five days after Patterson's death had established the legal requirement of an election this year to fill his unexpired term. Thornton has had no announced opposition for the Democratic nomination to attorney general. State Sen. Carl Francis, Dayton Republican, is seeking his party's nomination for the post. (Political story also in Sec. 1, Page 7.)

2 Boys Admit School Arson

PORTLAND — Two 15-year-old boys have admitted they shot matches that caused a \$25,000 fire Sunday in a new school in the northeast district, Det. Lt. Bard Purcell said Monday. According to Purcell they said they fired the matches into the building with homemade clothespin guns. The two, as well as another boy, 13, will go to juvenile court.

Willard, Leslie Girls Win First Semi-Finals Of 1956 Statesman-KSLM Spelling Contest

Janice Stadel of Willard School and Eileen Hadley of Leslie Junior High won first and second, respectively, in a semi-finals of The Statesman-KSLM Spelling Contest last night and thus qualified for the Grand Finals on March 22. It was the second straight year Willard School took top semi-final honors. Janice, 13, and in the 8th grade, won by spelling "terrific," after Eileen missed it, and then "daffodil," the required extra word. Eileen, at 12 the youngest and the only 7th-grader among the eight contestants, finished just ahead of Vicki Cooper, 14, of Bethel, who had slipped on "customary," which Eileen spelled. The contest, attended by nearly 200, was in the Little Theater of South Salem High School. Janice was awarded a Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary and all three top spellers were presented special certificates of merit, on behalf of the sponsors, by Glen Robertson, school supervisor with the Marion County school office. A total of 202 words was used. Placing a high fourth was Judy Roth, 13, Pratum, who put an "s" in "cynical," which Janice spelled to stay in the running. Under contest rules, when only four contestants remain, a word that is missed goes to the next contestant. When only two remain, a speller to win must get the word missed by the other contestant plus an extra word. The four boys among the eight contestants were the first to fall. Lynn Anderson, 14, Fruitland, lasted the longest. He went to the 136th word—"prohibit," in which he inadvertently put an "e." Douglas Howard, 13, Parrish Junior High, met an unfamiliar word—"homy," in which he placed an extra "o." Earlier in the contest, Stephen Bandy, 13, Livingston School, added a "d" in "oblige," and Stan Olson, 13, Sa-

Night Bus Verdict Delayed; 23 Urge Service Retained

Twenty-three citizens appealed to the City Council Monday to work out a plan for continuation of night bus service. They appeared at an afternoon public hearing on the pending legislation to grant City Transit Lines' request that it drop its night buses after 5:45 p.m. Sundays, 9:15 p.m. Mondays and Fridays and 6:45 p.m. other days.

Atomic Sub to Launch Guided Missiles of U.S.

WASHINGTON — The Navy disclosed Monday it is developing a new strategic weapon—a nuclear-powered submarine capable of launching guided missiles. If Congress approves the plan, the new departure in a-boats will probably be built in the Navy's Mare Island shipyard in California. Secretary of the Navy Thomas said in a statement the submarine will be equipped to fire the Regulus surface-to-surface missile, which has a range of 300 miles. The United States is in a race with Russia to develop missiles with 1,500- and 3,000-mile ranges, both carrying atomic warheads. The Navy has been firing shorter ranged missiles from submarines for several years in preparation for this new phase of warfare.

Sporadic Peeps Of Sun Forecast

Occasional showers and sporadic peeps of the sun are the outlook for the Salem sector today and Wednesday, according to the weatherman. Temperatures will remain about the same. The area measured only a trace of rain Monday and the mercury ranged from a high of 48 to a minimum of 35. The Willamette River, continuing to recede, was down to 54 feet at midnight Monday.

The Weather
Salem Max. Min. Precip.
Portland 48 35 trace
Baker 38 17 trace
Medford 49 34 .02
North Bend 51 29 .05
Roseburg 52 26 .05
San Francisco 53 39 .06
Los Angeles 63 44 .00
Chicago 33 20 trace
New York 54 28 .14
Willamette River 5.4 feet
FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem):
Mostly cloudy with occasional showers and partial clearing today, tonight and Wednesday. Heavy rain Wednesday 48, low tonight 24.
Temperature at 12:01 a.m. today was 46.
SALEM PRECIPITATION
Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1
This Year Last Year Normal
41.98 23.13 29.14

"Too many strings attached to suit me."

Council Maintains Neutrality

Salem Voters To Decide on Issue May 18

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE City Editor, The Statesman
Fluoridation of the Salem water supply will be voted on by the city voters May 18, it was agreed Monday night by Salem City Council. Aldermen put the proposition on the ballot after commenting that a barrage of telephone and letter opposition had reached them in recent days. Some of the aldermen voting to put fluoridation on the ballot said their action didn't mean endorsement of the idea; two of them, Clayton Jones and David O'Hara, opposed putting it on the ballot. Met Defeat O'Hara said the proposal had met decisive defeat two years ago at the polls, and it would have been better to ask the advocates of fluoridation to initiate the measure by circulating petitions. Earlier in the day, the aldermen had received an endorsement of fluoridation from City-Cov'y Health Officer W. J. Stone and his advice that the Council legislate fluoridation directly, rather than call an election which, he said, would renew the "emotional-type opposition" to fluoridation. Two Others Two other ballot measures were approved by the Council at the City Hall meeting last night—the last of a series of special financing proposals. The two measures both concern finance for a fire alarm box system and related improvements designed to better this city's rating for fire insurance. Fire Chief E. L. Smith said the proposals have been guaranteed by National Board of Fire Underwriters to win a Class III rating for Salem. This, he said, would mean an estimated reduction in fire insurance premiums of \$150,000 a year. Against this would be charged the proposed \$37,000 annual special tax for eight additional firemen, and the cost of a \$65,000 bond issue to finance the alarm box system and central fire station expansion. On the basis of a check made only last week with the National Board, the bond issue amount was lowered from \$71,000 to \$65,000. (Additional Council news, Sec. 1, Page 3.)

U.S. Balloons Chart Global 'Jet Streams'

ALLEGAN, Mich. — A security cloak was lifted Monday to reveal a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) monitoring station in Allegan is tracking the government's experimental weather balloons. The Allegan station is one of nine operated by the Navy with FCC aid. Patrick Scanlon, directing the Allegan operation, says tracking the balloons and charting high altitude "jet streams" has been the station's major project for the past five years of its 16 in operation. Scanlon said he recently was authorized to reveal the Allegan project. Much of Michigan, he explained, lies beneath a stratospheric "superhighway." The jet streams could bring destruction in the form of weapons-carrying balloons launched thousands of miles away, according to defense officials. The balloons tracked by the Allegan station travel from west to east across the Northern Hemisphere at altitudes of 15,000 to 40,000 feet.

Ike Decision Said Possible On Wednesday

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower "in all probability" will hold a news conference on Wednesday. That much information came from the White House Monday. There still remained the tantalizing question of whether Eisenhower will announce at this probable conference what he plans to do about running again. Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said he did not know what hour the conference might be held, if it is held. Customarily, Eisenhower meets the press for about half an hour, beginning at 10:30 a.m. There has been some speculation he might hold up any announcement until after 3:30 p.m., when the New York Stock Market closes.

French Leaders Seek Conscripts For Algeria Duty

PARIS — The French government early Tuesday adopted a sweeping "peace in Algeria" plan which would send every young conscript to duty against Algeria's Moslem Nationalist rebels. Premier Guy Mollet prepared to submit the plan to Parliament and the nation's military leaders on an emergency basis. It asks wide political, military and economic powers to cope with the rebellion that has bloodied Algeria for almost 18 months.

CRASH CLAIMS MAN

PORTLAND — Ora Elmer Boyles, 54, Portland, died in a hospital Monday from injuries suffered in a two-car collision Friday.

M&F Bomber Pleads Guilty

PORTLAND — Clarence Peddicord, 38, the blind Portlander who admitted bombing the Meier and Frank department store last April, Monday was allowed to change his plea to guilty. Earlier his attorney had entered, with Peddicord objecting, a plea of innocent because of insanity. But psychiatrists' reports submitted to the court Monday said that Peddicord was able to distinguish right from wrong and that he was legally sane despite being emotionally immature and a psychopathic personality.

lem Academy, was a little too hurried with "polite." Janice, first-place winner, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stadel of Route 3, Silverton. Her principal and teacher is Mrs. Emma Schreder, who also guided Joan Picha of Willard to the grand championship of the four-county contest a year ago. Eileen, the first runner-up and fellow grand-finalist with Janice, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hadley of 787 Cross St. Her teacher is Mrs. Margaret Ayres. Winner of the third-place certificate, Vicki Cooper of Bethel, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Cooper and her teacher is Mrs. Mattie Jane Osborn. Dave Hess of KSLM was master of ceremonies and Wendell Webb of The Statesman called the words. Second in the series of semi-finals will be at Keizer School at 7:45 tonight. (Stories also on page 4, sec. 1).