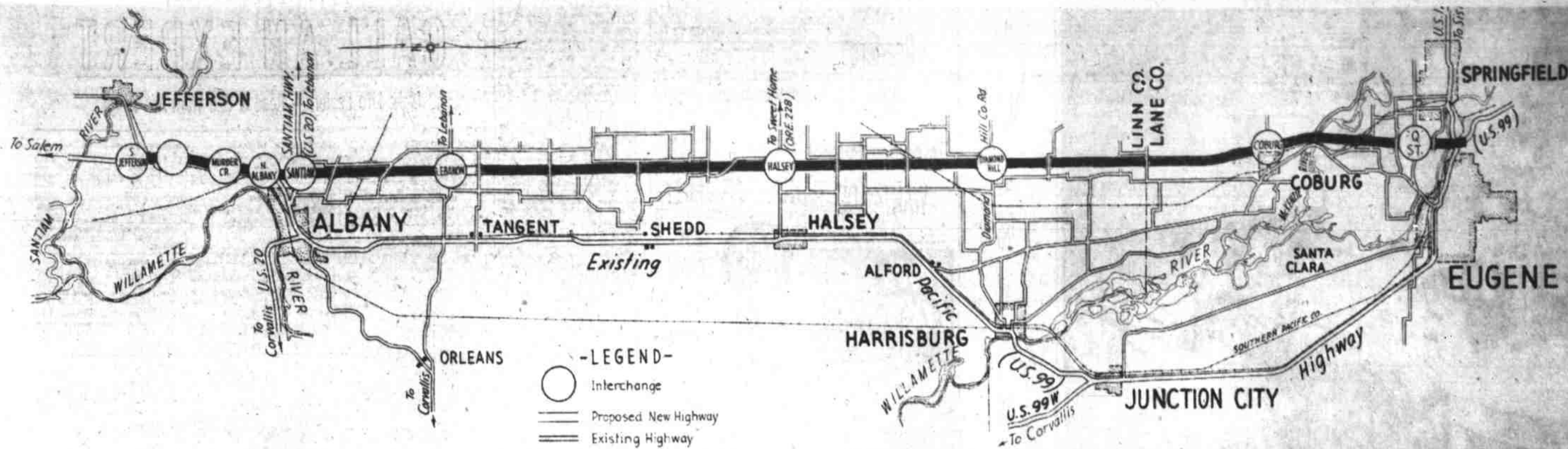


# New Freeway Will Shave Nine Miles From Albany-Eugene Route



ALBANY—Route of proposed Freeway 99 between Albany and Eugene is shown (heavy black line) on this State Highway map. The new route will shave nine miles from present 45-mile highway distance between Albany and Eugene, according to W. C. Williams, deputy state highway engineer, who said travel time will be reduced even more, proportionately, by elimination of traffic congestion, curves. Towns of Tangent, Shedd, Halsey, Harrisburg and Junction City will be bypassed. The new freeway, interchange at extreme left in South Jefferson Junction, interchange designated "499" would serve new Western Kraft paper mill area. Work on proposed route is expected to start within three years.

## Property Appraisal Top Item For Farms in Path of Air Base

Statesman News Service (Story also on page 1.) FAIRFIELD—The appraisal of property is a cinch to command top interest in this community when the government starts to acquire land for its "Greater Portland Air Base". The figure 6,000 acres has been mentioned in connection with size of the air base, but in this area the figure is not considered a firm one.

With no official word since newspaper headlines selection of this area for the air base on May 3, rumors are rife and there are a number of stories as to probable boundaries of the base. Worth A Lot Farmers say it would be worth a lot to them to know right now whether they will be permitted to spend another winter on their farms. The quality of soil varies greatly here and there's little doubt that it will be a thorny task to establish values that both sides consider fair. Observers have estimated that land values range from approximately \$100 for certain "white land" to as much as \$1,000 an acre for top river bottom silt.

"I just hope they'll let us trade dollars," said Don Coleman, third-generation Fairfield farmer who fills 202 diversified acres. "They ought to give us enough to buy a place as good as the one we leave." Looking Ahead Some Fairfield farmers have started to look around the valley a bit for new locations. And they wince when they are asked about prices.

"They'll drive us all clear out of Marion County if they ask too much for their farms," said Mrs. D. B. DuRette. Her husband already has looked at farms as far away as the Eugene area. "How much time are they going to give us to move?" farmer Frank Saffeld wanted to know. It was a question echoed by many. "We don't know whether to chop our hay into the barn or bale it," said DuRette. "If we are going to have to move by fall, we ought to be bailing most of it. It's almost impossible to move it after we chop it into the barn." Put Roof On Sile? "And I ought to be putting a new roof on my silo now, while it's empty. But will I need it next fall? I wish they'd come around and give us some idea when we might have to move."

"If they don't buy our property until September—we can't go out and buy a farm in five minutes," said Saalfeld. "And by October we should start to put in a new crop. That's our total source of income for a year. Are they going to consider that?" To most Fairfield folks, the questions of how much they will get for their farms and when and where they will move are, of necessity, the most pressing. Poignant Thoughts But there are other, more poignant ones. For some, like "old-timers" Freeman Marthaler and Bradford J. Miller, it will mean leaving the only home they have ever known.

Marthaler lives on the spot where his grandfather "proved up" a donation land claim, and where his mother was born in a log cabin in 1857. For Fairfield as a community, it will be just about the end of the line. The school is already gone and the Air Base threatens to wipe out the time-honored Grange that keeps the community name alive. Cemetery in Path Longtime residents are concerned, too, about Fairfield Cemetery. Centrally located to the proposed Air Base, the deep concrete runways may pass right over it. Some 100 who lie buried there are expected to be disinterred and removed to a new "final" resting place. "I'd always planned on awaiting resurrection day in that little cemetery," said DuRette, smiling wryly. "And now they're even going to take that away from me."

## Boehme Gets Eagle Badge

Statesman News Service AUMSVILLE — Martin Boehme, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Boehme, has received his Eagle Scout badge. Doug Parks, who started the Boy Scout movement in Aumsville community five years ago, presented the award. He represented the Cherry City District of Boy Scouts. Young Boehme became a Tenderfoot scout five years ago and recently became leader of Explorer Post 48 here.

## Heads Order



WOODBURN — Truman Baird, son of Mr. and Mrs. Layman Baird, was installed Friday as master councillor of Woodburn DeMolay Chapter.

## SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

Statesman News Service SALT CREEK—The Salt Creek School closed for the school year Thursday. A school picnic was held the day before at Buell Park. This has been the final year for the school to operate under the Salt Creek School district as it was recently voted into the Perrydale School district.

## The Oregon Statesman

Statesman, Salem, Ore., Sun., May 27, '56 (Sec. II)-11

## Canary-Grass New Silverton Area Crop

Statesman News Service SILVERTON — Strictly for the birds is the 100-acre planting of Canary-grass (phalaris canariensis) which is being grown by Marion County farmers this year to help supply a "terrific demand" from the nation's growing population of "cultivated" song birds. The seed here is being planted under contract with Sanford Seed Company, Silverton, which has orders for 2,000 bags from Ferry Morris Seed Company in California. If quality proves satisfactory the order can be doubled next year, according to Austin B. Sanford and Roy R. Wilcox of the Silverton firm.

The plant is an annual one, somewhat similar to barley in growth habit and soil requirements. It is not, says Sanford, to be confused with Reed's Canary grass which is a leaty perennial wet-land cow-pasture grass. The seed of the bird grass is light yellow in color and about the size of Sudan grass seed. Parakeets are said to have particularly healthy appetites for the seed, but it has long been a substantial part of all cage bird mixes. The plant is native to countries near the western end of the Mediterranean and much of this country's domestic supply has been imported from there in recent years. "Getting the seed into the sack is the big problem for farmers, as all the birds in Marion County are apt to congregate and help in the harvest," says Harry Schoth, Oregon State College crops specialist. The seed firm managers say they plan to hold part of the crop here so "local" songsters will have something to go on.

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## Our Valley

... By CHARLES IRELAND

A couple of chaps on our beat who haven't been in the news for some time bobbed up again Friday. They were Les Johnson, the valley's indefatigable uranium prospector, and Johnnie Ray, the cry singer who calls Dallas his home town.

Johnson, pictured in yesterday's Statesman, remains confident that his uranium claims in the Wilhoit Springs area are going to be worthwhile. He says radiometric (Geiger counter) readings indicate the sample shipment he is sending to the Atomic Energy Commission Station at Salt Lake City will assay out at \$140 a ton, about five times the minimum figure that makes uranium ore worth mining.

Johnson hasn't been confining his activity to the Wilhoit Springs sector. About a month ago he staked a claim on Bald Top Mountain in Polk County. And now he says he's working on a claim within three miles of Salem that he thinks is as promising as his Wilhoit claims.

Johnnie Ray didn't come to Salem but he did have a choice 15-minute spot on Ed Murrow's Person-to-Person TV show Friday night. Murrow introduced him as a person "probably known as well in England, South Africa, Japan, Australia, etc., as he is in the United States. And that's going a long way for a boy who was singing for free with a Salem radio station less than 10 years ago."

When Murrow asked Johnnie what he thought of his own singing, Johnnie replied that he didn't think of himself as a "singer" but rather as a "performer." He told Murrow that he got interested in singing when he was 11 years old and "he used to put on shows in our back yard in my home town of Dallas, Oregon."

A lot of people thought Johnnie Ray was just a flash in the pan but time already has proved they were wrong. Thursday night he started an engagement at New York's plush Latin Quarter and apparently his press notices were very good. Television isn't his medium but he has an "in person" magnetism that appeals to many. Looks like Johnnie Ray will be around as long as there are folks who like to cry in their champagne.

State Archivist David Duniway pulled the surprise of the week out at Macleay School's eighth grade graduation exercises Wednesday night. Asked to deliver the graduation address, Dave bowled 'em over by calmly announcing that it was Macleay School's centennial year. Apparently no one else in command had realized it, at least, no advance centennial preparations had been made.

1856 must have been quite a year in the valley. Almost every week a new centennial observance pops up. Monmouth, Aurora, Pringle School, Macleay and Linn County's Providence Cemetery. It's easy for a group such as a school district to go right past the 100 year mark without realizing it. We wonder if some others are not being overlooked.

News story in the May 12 issue of the Bakersfield, Californian came to our attention yesterday. A family, enroute from Salem to Needles, Calif. to pick cotton, pulled off to the side of the road and slept in their car near Mojave. When they awoke next morning, their 11-day-old baby girl was dead of bronchopneumonia. Parents were listed as Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Nail. Statesman files show the infant was born May 1 at a Salem hospital. The family had been living on Salem route 1, but told investigating police that Calico Rock, Ark., was their home.

## Baccalaureate for Fifty Due Tonight

Statesman News Service WOODBURN — Baccalaureate services for the 50 graduating seniors of Woodburn High School will be held at the high school gymnasium Sunday at 8 p. m. The Rev. Robert E. V. of Woodburn Presbyterian Church will deliver the sermon with the Rev. Larkin of St. Luke's Catholic Church asking the invocation and the Rev. Ormal Trick of the Methodist Church pronouncing the benediction. Pastor George W. Springer, Christian Church, will read the scripture and special music will be provided by the high school chorus. Carol Ann Livesay accompanying and Joann Meyer directing. Barbara Phillips will play the piano.

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## Pilgrimages Continue at Little Chapel

By LORETTA E. DEHNER  
Valley Correspondent

MT. ANGEL—A Marian pilgrimage of one mile walking distance to Little Holy Rosary Chapel in Crooked Finger is being arranged for Friday. The walking pilgrimage will start at 7:30 p. m. at the Mat Bielenberg farm at the foot of the hill that leads to the chapel. The entire route lies along the paved highway. Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at 8 p. m. Afterwards there will be a procession to the shrine in the grove adjoining the church. People unable to walk the full mile may join the pilgrimage at any point.

Granted By Pope June 1 is the day on which the transferred feast of the Queenship of Mary is to be celebrated. This is one of the universal feasts for which the pope has granted a plenary indulgence to those making a pilgrimage to Holy Rosary Chapel.

Every Tuesday throughout the month of May, a small group of people from Mt. Angel and Crooked Finger have been walking the two-mile pilgrimage from the Bruno Schmidt farm near the highway to the church.

On April 18, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, two women made the 12-mile walk from Mt. Angel to the chapel, taking five hours. A small group will again make the 12-mile pilgrimage on Friday, starting their walk from Mt. Angel at 2:30 p. m. to coincide their arrival with that of the people making the one-mile pilgrimage.

Preparations are already underway for the major annual Marian Pilgrimage on August 15, which attracts thousands of people from the valley, state and even other states. This year arrangements are being made to have all the people take part in singing the high mass. Father David Nicholson, OSB, director of Mt. Angel Seminary choir, has been appointed to direct the singing.

## CHOSEN FOR BOYS' STATE

DAYTON — Merlyn Gubser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Gubser, has been selected to attend Boys' State at Oregon State College in June. He is a junior at Dayton High School and will be sponsored by the Dayton American Legion Post.

## Church Services For Falls City's Seniors Tonight

Statesman News Service FALLS CITY — Baccalaureate services for the class of 1956 of Falls City High School will be on Sunday at 8 p. m. at the First Christian Church. The sermon, "Remember," will be given by the Rev. James Royer, pastor of the Falls City Methodist Church. The Rev. Claude Wells, pastor of the Christian Church will give the invocation and the Rev. Paul Arnett, of the Free Methodist Church, the benediction. Dean Carver, president of the graduating class, will read the scripture; Darrel Palmer will sing a solo; Miss Judy Wells will play the processional; Verjean Rancore and Judy Ferguson will sing a duet, accompanied by Marjorie Palmer; the high school choir also will sing.

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