

Comic, Historical Characters Surround Salem Grandmother in Unusual Business

By PAUL W. LOVINGER Staff Writer, The Statesman

Every day in Halloween for Mrs. Ruth Baye of Salem. Mrs. Baye, mother of six and grandmother of 18, owns and single-handedly operates Ruth's Costume Rental at 677 S. Commercial St., the only store of this type in the Salem area.

For 12 weeks a year she is surrounded by witches and warlocks, ghosts and ghouls, clowns and comic strip characters. She rents them out for parties, plays, festivals and advertising schemes.

Apparent at first glance around her shop is a Daisy Mae dummy in one corner. Mrs. Baye assures that the other familiar "Dogsch" characters are around "to speak"—including L.T. Abner. Hairless Joe the wolf gal and Moonbeam McSwine.

Mingling with them were the Hootin Holler residents Snuffy Smith, Louie and Jughead Mrs. Baye keeps a comic strip file to maintain accuracy.

Most Popular

She said the old-time costumes are the most popular throughout the year. Her collection of authentic period clothing includes flowing women's hats and floor-sweeping dresses from the late 1870's and 1880's men's and women's gay 90's outfits; "flapper" dresses of the 1920's; and archaic ladies' swim suits that make one wonder how anyone could float in them, much less swim.

Except for such authentic articles of clothing, she makes most of the costumes herself. When she entered the store, she was at her sewing machine, turning out a pair of red and white striped trousers to go with Uncle Sam's starry vest.

Several Sistas

For any one season, "there's nothing that goes out like the Santa Claus at Christmas. We have 12 of them, and they're often all out at one time." A single Santa may go out several times during October, because organizations often do their Christmas celebrating early.

Hanging on one of the crowded walls was her most prized costume—a lady's riding habit, for riding side-saddle, more than 100 years old. The habit was in the dresses and bathing suits of the era, and must have come close to dragging in the dust while rudely struggled to maintain her balance atop the horse.

In the back room was a comical horse, to be worn by two men, one in front manipulating the eyes and mouth, and one holding up the rear. Other costumes included river boat gamblers, Greek warriors, Davey Crockett, Indians, and costumes of a myriad of nationalities.

Her current project is the assembling of a complete menagerie. She has just ordered a gorilla costume, and a penguin will follow. She says the most common animal request is for lions, followed by gorillas, cats, and rabbits.

Lots of Laughs

Mrs. Baye (it rhymes with Casey) who lives at 1400 N. 21st St. and is the wife of architect T. T. Baye, says the work gives her a never-ending laugh.

Though in general the job makes her laugh, there's one aspect of it she doesn't like. That involves her stock of mustaches and whiskers, which range from Gay 90's handbeards to Hairless Joe's big red beard. They make her sneeze.

Mrs. Baye originally ran a rummage store at 973 Market St. When a dressmaker next door decided to move away, in November, 1955, she offered to sell Mrs. Baye 15 costumes she had lying around. Suddenly Mrs. Baye was in the costume-rental business.

Her stock of 15 costumes grew to 200, and early this month Mrs. Baye moved to larger quarters in a frame house on South Commercial Street. She added to her supply of costumes a variety of period shoes, beards, mustaches, wigs, noses, ears, tiaras, even liquor jugs.



"Balls o' fire", Daisy Mae, if I don't have a right dandy weddin' present for ya, says Snuffy Smith. . . "Snuffy" in real life is Mrs. Ruth Baye of Salem, proprietress of Ruth's Costume Rental—only store of its kind for miles around. Mrs. Baye has been running the business alone since Nov. 1954.

21 Salem Area Airmen to Train With Reserve Wing

Twenty-one men from the Salem area are among members of the Northwest's 403rd Troop Carrier Wing who will leave next Sunday for two weeks of summer encampment at Chico, Calif. Manned by reservists from throughout Oregon and Washington, the wing will take part in troop carrier operations and troop parachute drops during the active duty stint.

Men from this area slated to participate include:

- Capt. Herbert F. Mellor, 1115 N. 18th St., S. Sgt. Clair E. Priem, 440 O'Hamel St., T. Sgt. Robert T. Williams, 4044 Firdale Dr.; S. Sgt. Gerald D. Martin, Salem Rt. 3, Box 730; Airman J. A. Roy L. Simmons, 1210 N. 17th St.; S. Sgt. Jason M. Svensen, 1244 Park Ave.
- M. Sgt. George E. Day, 3006 Peak Ave.; S. Sgt. Richard H. Wallace, 565 S. 18th St.; 1st Lt. Roderick Slade, 115 N. 43rd St.; S. Sgt. Richard Grass, 2891 N. River Rd.; Airman 1 c J. L. Widmer, 4119 Toni Ave.; S. Sgt. Billie A. Dokkin, 1345 Karen Way.
- T. Sgt. William L. Vanderhoof, 685 S. 18th St.; Airman 1 c Charles R. Cornelius, 1364 Maryland; Airman 2 c Don K. Finch, 3835 June Ave.; M. Sgt. Robert E. Parmenter, 2329 N. 34th St.; Capt. Paul E. Lippold, 3378 Holiday Dr.
- Capt. Earl J. Bartel, 2828 S. Church St.; Lt. Col. Ernest F. Althoff, 4106 Hudson Ave.; 1st Lt. Walter T. Davey Jr., 3105 Lynn Ave. and Capt. James E. Sherrod, 3265 Knox Ave.

Vandals Raid Valley Home

Businessman News Service AUMSVILLE, July 20—Vandals early this morning attacked the home of Merle Beach, Aumsville Rt. 1, Box 215, Salem state police said.

Officers reported the plate glass on a television set was broken, a mirror on a kitchen wall was smashed and meat from a refrigerator was thrown on the floor. The vandals also drank a quart of milk, police said. Nothing was reported stolen, officers added.

Accidents Can Be Prevented, Says AAA Unit

DENVER (INS)—Here's some advice from the Rocky Mountain Automobile Association of America on how to ward off traffic accidents:

More traffic accidents take place during the four-hour period from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. than any other time. Keep your guard up all the time, but remember this period is especially hazardous.

When you walk in traffic never leave the curb without locking both ways first, even if the traffic light is green.

Defective spark plugs that may fire when your engine is idling may miss firing at high speeds and waste gasoline at the rate of one gallon in ten.

Be sure to use the "right" door when you get out of your car in traffic. The "right" door is the one on the curb side, the side away from traffic.

One difference between a good and a bad driver is that the good driver rarely gets himself into situations where he needs to react swiftly to avoid trouble. A bad driver has several close calls almost every time he drives.

Yes . . . we have moved our Watch Repair department from the Mezzanine Floor to the Street Floor Jewelry and watch Department. We hope that all of our customers will find this location more convenient if your watch is in need of repair bring it in to our Street Floor Watch Repair Department for fast, efficient repair.

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Selling Attempt Overheard by Wrong Person

A magazine salesman whose sales talk was overheard by a city policeman was arrested Saturday by city police on a charge of soliciting without a license.

The salesman, Larry E. Schade, 4636 S. Pacific Highway, was arrested when a passing policeman heard him give his talk to Mrs. Leonard Cain, 679 Kingswood Dr. Schade, representing the Herald Publishing firm of New York, was released on \$25 bail. He was cited to appear in Municipal Court Monday.

Mrs. Welborn Rites Monday

Services for Mrs. Ann Lydia Welborn, 63, of 1400 N. 28th St., who died Friday in a Salem hospital, will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the Cough-Barrick Chapel with the Rev. Frank Stannard officiating. Interment will be at Belcrest Memorial Park.

She was born Dec. 21, 1893 in Switzerland the daughter of John and Elizabeth Fuhrer and was married in 1917 to J. Warren Welborn who died five years ago.

Mrs. Welborn was a member of Calvary Baptist Church. Surviving are a son, Dr. Warren S. Welborn, Portland; daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Robertson, Salem; sisters, Miss Martha Fuhrer and Mrs. Marie Lambert, both of Salem; brothers, Jacob Fuhrer and Paul Fuhrer, both of Salem; Walter Fuhrer, Philadelphia, Pa., and five grandchildren.

Man Arrested on Check Charge

Claude Shields, 63, of Salem Box 718, was arrested Saturday by city police and Marion County Deputy Sheriff Amos Shaw on a Marion County district court warrant charging obtaining money and property by false pretenses. Bail was set at \$250.

The charge involves a check passed last week at Orcutt's Market, 600 N. River Rd., a deputy said.

Delegation Home From Institute

Seven Marion County persons returned Saturday from the week-long Rehabilitation Institute held on the University of Oregon campus.

Marion County was one of three Oregon counties selected to send representatives to the institute, whose aim was to help solve problems of rehabilitation by providing a better knowledge of community resources.

Those attending from this county included Bernice Yeary, nursing supervisor for the Marion County Health Department; Ruby Bunell, executive secretary of the County TB and Health Assn.; Ruth O'Day, supervisor with the County Welfare Commission; Robert Miller, occupational therapist at Oregon State Hospital; George Gilen, assistant superintendent with Marion County schools; Mary Louise Lee, counselor with the Oregon Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Harold Roessler, manager of the Marion-Polk Employment Service.

In addition to groups from Oregon, the institute also was attended by teams from Washington, Nevada, Arizona and Alaska.

The affair was sponsored by the Federal Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in cooperation with the offices Oregon division and the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Assn.

4-H Saddle Show Planned

Some 35 participants in 4-H saddle horse projects will have a part in the first annual Marion County 4-H Saddle Horse Show at the State Fairgrounds next Saturday and Sunday.

The show, free to the public, will include a well-rounded program. There will be competition in 30 classes.

Programs on both days will start at 9 a.m., with Paul Adams, Grants Pass, obtained as judge. Four Corners Saddle Club members plan to operate a refreshment stand.

103 Mid-Valley Drivers Set For Soapbox Derby Today

Promised sunny skies and warm weather will add a gleam today as 103 boys from throughout the mid-Willamette Valley gather at Bush Park Derby Downs for the sixth annual running of the Salem Soapbox Derby.

The program is slated to begin at 1 p.m. with the boys first claiming their sleek race cars from beneath McCulloch Stadium where they were impounded Saturday following the mile-long Soapbox Derby Parade and a critical inspection by Derby officials.

To begin today's race card the boys and derby investors will march up the Bush Park race track accompanied by the Salem Summer Recreation Band playing the Star Spangled Banner. Once at the top formal flag raising and dedication ceremonies will take place.

'Screwdriver Race' Immediately following this, at 1:45 p.m. a featured "screwdriver" race will be staged by derby director Alfred Pfister and past derby director opponents William Page and W. L. Barnett.

At 2 p.m. the starter will wave into action the first heat of the

Class B racers, boys 11 and 12. About 35 heats later, at 3:30 p.m., the Class A winner will zoom down the 900 foot asphalt track.

A short intermission will intervene and the Class A entries, boys 13 to 15, will be released. Following eliminations Class A and B finalists will whiz over the track at 5:45 p.m. in the derby's championship race.

Trip to Ohio The 1957 champion will receive a free trip to Akron, Ohio to compete in the 30th running of the national soapbox derby, a permanent trophy and a rotating trophy, plus several merchandise prizes. At Akron he will be given a 21-jewel wristwatch. During the big race at Akron the young drivers will be matching skills for \$15,000 in college scholarships and a trip to Europe.

After the Salem races the Derby Mothers Club and Rebekah Lodge will serve a 6 p.m. barbecue award dinner for the contestants at the northeast corner of Bush Park. The dinner is open to the public at a small charge.

In Saturday's parade drivers and racers rode through Salem on cars, trucks and trailers. Mingled among the youngsters were dignitaries, bands, color guards and pretty girls.

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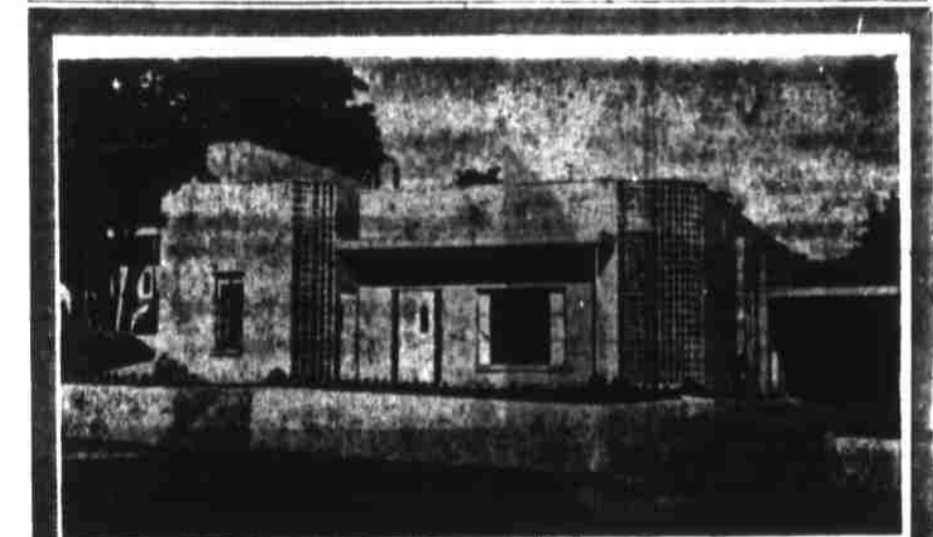
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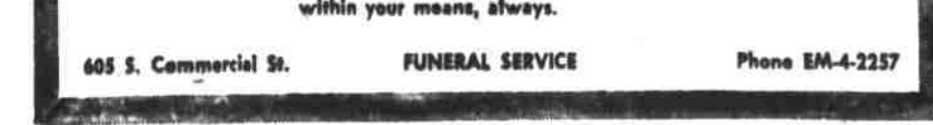
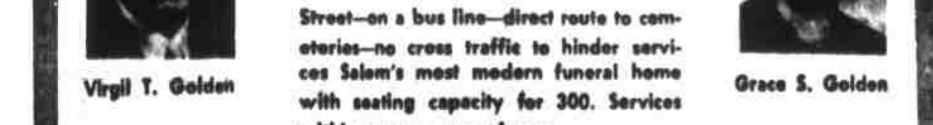
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