

1943 Imprint on Lane County Reviewed

Lane County News Highlights Of '43 Show Memorable Year

- JANUARY**
- 1—Great floods roll down valley; three dead.
 - 2—Floods ebb. 1942 rainfall announced as 44.22 inches; 24.22 inches in final two months.
 - 15—\$40,000 fire damages mill and docks at Cushman.
 - 21—Heaviest snowfall in 20 years blankets Eugene.
 - 23—Murder in lower 13 starts search for negro slayer of Mrs. Martha James.
- FEBRUARY**
- 7—Liberty Ship John Whiteaker, named after Oregon's first governor and an early Eugene resident, launched in Portland and christened by his daughter, Miss Anne Whiteaker of Eugene.
 - 13—Camp Adair day observed, climaxed Eugene drive to furnish 40 day rooms for the camp.
 - 21—Willamette Valley flood damage for 1942 announced as \$8,000,000.
 - 22—City council makes city lots available for victory gardens.
- MARCH**
- 5—University of Oregon to participate in army meteorologists' training program.
 - 14—Bond drive for Lane County "Firebird" bomber tops goal with \$228,471.
- APRIL**
- 14—Dr. Philip A. Parsons, U. of O. sociology department head, found dead at coast home.
 - 18—Lane County War Industries, Inc., announces having obtained \$700,000 in war contracts during first year.
 - 28—Red Cross quota of \$41,400 fulfilled, Chairman Stanley Stevenson announces.
- MAY**
- 1—New airport opens and United Air Lines service comes to Eugene. Is later named Mahlon Sweet field, after Eugene aviation pioneer.
 - 3—Lane passes goal in Second War Loan by raising \$4,988,188.
 - 4—T-Sgt. John W. Duncan, Camp McCoy, Wis., dies after street fight.
 - 10—New airport named Mahlon Sweet field after Eugene's aviation pioneer.
 - 18—County tax levy set at 16.2 mills.
 - 19—U. of O. named for training 400 army engineering students.
- JUNE**
- 10—National excitement stirred by speeches in Lane by Lt. Col. James W. Fraser, who revealed Jap incendiary balloons dropped on Oregon forests.
 - 21—Eugene citizens vote seven mills yearly for next five years to build new \$500,000 high school plant.
- JULY**
- 28—Council begins four months' negotiations with Pacific Telephone & Telegraph requiring company to pay 2 per cent of gross to city in return for 10 year franchise.
 - 30—Huge forest fire, most serious in two years, sweeps out of control for few hours 20 miles northwest of Eugene.
- AUGUST**
- 5—Lorane child dies in cream-pie poison scare which brought illness to more than 70.
 - 9—Springfield man dies of pie poisoning.
 - 9—City manager form of government urged by Councilman Orren Brownson on announcing resignation. Carl R. Baker named to replace him.
 - 19—Protest against Jehovah's Witnesses' gathering starts heated discussion.
 - 23—Mayor appoints committee to study charter changes.
- SEPTEMBER**
- 3—C. W. Guerrier lumber fire at Springfield damages \$55,000.
 - 8—Earl McNutt named president chamber of commerce.
 - 28—Lane beats Marion county in third war loan race with \$500,000 lead.
- OCTOBER**
- 3—Lane near \$8,000,000 in third war loan sales.
 - 9—Two Southern Pacific railroad men killed in crash near Junction City.
 - 24—Medford Ministerial association accuses U. of O. of scheduling Sunday football.
 - 25—Milk shortage averted by health board decision to admit factory milk for pasteurization purposes only.
 - 27—Warren A. Warfield found shot through heart outside suburban home.
- NOVEMBER**
- 2—War manpower commission says labor shortage here eased.
 - 22—Charter committee presents report favoring city manager government to council. Teeth of curfew ordinance sharpened.
 - 28—OCD housing survey shows Eugene "99.4 per cent full."
- DECEMBER**
- 2—Farmer D. I. Hoover sends pig to White House in protest to new deal restrictions.
 - 9—War chest goes over \$115,261 goal.
 - 17—Laddie Robertson, famed penicillin patient, dies.
 - 23—University President Donald M. Erb dies of pneumonia.
 - 23—Alcohol plant using wood wastes, to cost \$3,600,000, assured area.
 - 27—Ben F. Rogers pleads guilty to second-degree murder of Warren A. Warfield, sentenced to life imprisonment.
 - 28—Council adopts recommendation of committee to revise charter for possible establishment of city manager government.
 - 28—Dr. J. F. Cramer resigns as superintendent of city schools to become dean and director of extension service, state system of higher education.

Court Revenues of City Drop in 1943

Fines collected by the city during 1943 were only approximately half the amount collected during 1941, according to figures released the past week from the office of John Fields, acting recorder.

Last year's total of fines, including those collected by the police department and his office, came to \$9,015. This is approximately 50 per cent of the \$18,008 received in 1941, considerably less than the \$11,811 collected in 1942.

Recorder's office fines, all of which are approximate since the final week's figures were not available, during 1943 included: \$1,834.50 for basic rule violations; \$718.35 for drunken driving; \$60 for overtime parking; \$701.50 for intoxication; \$805 for reckless driving; \$150 for disorderly conduct. In addition, the police department collected \$4,945.75 in additional traffic fines, for the offenses of overtime parking, driving through traffic lights and stop streets.

Geological Talk Set For Sigma Xi Meeting

Discussions of several geological regions in Oregon have been planned for the meeting of Sigma Xi, University of Oregon science honorary, at 8:15 p.m. Monday in room 101 Condon Hall.

Heading the program will be an illustrated lecture on "The Kilauea Toa Eruption of 1883 and the Paulina Mt. Oregon, Volcanic Field," by Dr. Robert L. Nichols of the U. S. geological survey and Tufts College, Boston.

Preceding the lecture, which is open to the public, there will be a business meeting in room 108 for members and associates.

control for few hours 20 miles northwest of Eugene.

30-Hour Traffic at All-Time High

Southern Pacific traffic climbed to a new all-time high in 1943 for the fourth year in succession. President A. T. Mercier revealed Friday in a review of the company's activities in the second year of the war.

Net ton miles of freight in 1943 were two and one half times greater than in 1939, the last year before defense production affected rail transportation. Passenger miles were three and one half times greater than in 1941, the last year before the great wartime increase in railroad passenger transportation began.

"Our personnel met the severest tests in the company's history but came through victoriously in every undertaking in 1943," Mercier declared. "New records were achieved by nearly 100,000 Southern Pacific men and women in spite of a growing manpower shortage now around 10,000, and a stringency of equipment necessitating the most intense utilization of locomotives and cars."

As a further indication of the size of Southern Pacific's war load, it was pointed out that the traffic for every day in 1943 was greater than the traffic of all peak days in peacetime years.

President Mercier also called attention to the fact that the sudden wartime industrialization of the west, added to the west-bound flow of military traffic, has made Southern Pacific's transcontinental westbound traffic heavier than its eastbound, whereas in pre-war years the reverse was true.

Eugene Finds Business Good During 1943, Statistics Show

By GLADYS TURLEY

Eugene business ends the year 1943 quite well ahead of 1942 year-end statistics for the city revealed New Year's eve.

Retail sales in Eugene while there were some low periods during the year, ended the season with an estimated 23 per cent gain over 1942. The bureau of census approximated a \$25,000,000 for Eugene retail sales.

Bank clearings up to December 30, 1943, showed a total of \$32,301,048.78. Compared to December 30, 1942 this is a gain of \$4,595,483.46.

Annual industrial pay roll for

1943 in Lane county reached the high of \$34,998,837.00. This does not include the total annual payroll of the Eugene Fruit Growers association and the SP railroad with a total of \$5,800,000.

Average numbers employed in industry in Lane county approximated 10,172 persons. This does not include the 1800 SP employees nor the 2000 Eugene Fruit Growers employees during the canning season, nor the 5000 harvest workers.

Figures on railroad freight traffic and train and bus traffic were not divulged at the year's end for wartime reasons.

Suicides, Not Traffic Deaths, Lead In Lane Coroner Records

By ANN CONNELL

Lane county folk are their own worst enemies, judging from reports of the coroner's office, for suicides hold the highest total of violent or accidental deaths during the two years of 1942 and 1943. In the two years, 34 persons took their own lives. Logging accidents and traffic accidents took the next highest toll, with 27 apiece during the two-year period.

During 1943, there were 14 suicides, and the same number of deaths through logging accidents; last year, there were 20 suicides, and only 13 logging accidents.

Traffic fatalities, which formerly claimed the largest number of lives, have fallen with the restrictions on speed and gasoline to 17 in 1942, and only 10 in 1943.

Murders numbered three in Lane county during 1943, and one of these, the famous "Lower 13" case, was not actually committed in Lane county, although an investigation was conducted from the local office. The other two cases were the Frye case, murder and suicide, and the recent Warfield case. During 1942, there were four cases of murder on record.

Of deaths caused by trains, there were four this year, including the two lives lost in the recent train wreck near Junction City, and but two last year.

Other industrial accidents than logging took a toll of eight lives each year. Accidents within the home or on the farm were the cause of seven deaths in 1943, two in 1942. Drownings were eight in 1943, and four in 1942.

Total fatalities on the coroner's records for 1943 were 77, four more than for 1942. These were distributed by months as follows: January, 10; February, 5; March, 9; April, 6; May, 5; June, 7; July, 6; August, 4; September, 8; October, 8; November, 5, and December, 3.

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Public Conduct In 1943 Has Lapse

By GLENN HASSELROOTH

Public conduct in Lane county, gauged by public records, followed the national pace in 1943 and made it a "low year" in the aggregate record of offenses.

Juvenile cases, criminal prosecutions, and divorces all were on the increase, and the number of marriages declined. The totals reflect a national, and supposedly wartime, trend in which recorded crime has increased.

Births in Eugene alone decreased from 1,628 for 1942 to approximately 1,500. Deaths were approximately half, in the county, with 750 listed for 1942 and 600 for 1943.

Marriage licenses were down only slightly—592 as compared to 611 for the year before—but these established showed less and less of a tendency towards keeping it "lasting proposition." Divorces granted totaled 313, compared to 287.

Juvenile delinquency in the record showed the most pronounced jump, concurring to authorities' statement that break-up of the home (through parents' working, having gone to war, and so on) is one of the prime causes. There were only 61 cases in 1938, 121 in 1939, 82 in 1940, 62 in 1941, 112 in 1942. During the first 10 months of 1943, there were 331 juvenile cases on the books of the county officer, and no let-up came during November and December.

Criminal prosecutions were up —1,079 as compared to 995. Of the former, 43 were heard in circuit court and 1,036 in justice court. Civil suits had an unexpected decline, 1,095 in 1943 and 1,267 in 1942.

Records at the county sheriff's office were on a fair par for the two years. July through November period showed 94 for 1942, 92 for 1943. State police files show a small increase, 951 over 856. The 1942 figure represents 170 criminal cases, 688 traffic, fish and game. Last year's included 133 criminal, 818 traffic, fish and game.

TOWNSEND NEWS

Townsend headquarters is open every afternoon from 1 to 5. Saturdays from 10 to 5.

Business meeting starts at 7:30 followed with dance and refreshments.

Tuesday

Eugene Club 1 meets at Silver Spray hall. Following business meeting, installation of officers for following year will be held. All members requested to attend.

Club 3 will meet at R. B. Dove's home on new highway 99 north. Potluck supper will be held.

Junction City Number 1 at Townsend hall.

Thursday

Harrisburg at Community hall, 8 p. m.

Friday

Club 7 at David Haggart home, 171 Monroe street. Installation of officers will be held.

Lt. Col. Pierpont M. Hamilton of New York, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his work in convincing a French garrison to cease firing during the African invasion, is a great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton.

At the height of the Tunisian campaign, Maj. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle's 12th Army Air Force used up 1,100,000 gallons of high-octane gasoline a day. The month's ration for all Atlantic Seaboard automobiles is 15,950,000 gallons.

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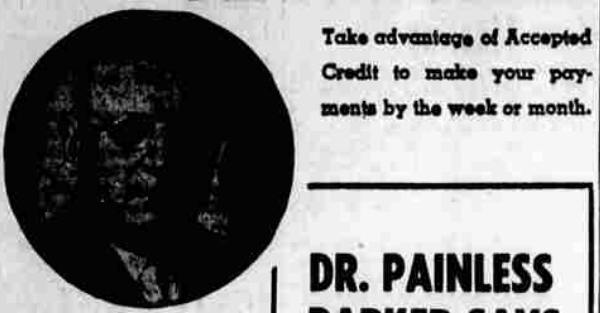
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