

Blanss Sentenced

Stanley Eugene Blanss was sentenced by Judge G. F. Skipworth in circuit court Friday to a term not to exceed four years in the state penitentiary on a charge of grand larceny.

He had previously pleaded guilty to the larceny of a truck and trailer owned by the System Freight company. The records show that he has had a previous criminal record and that he was released from the penitentiary only last December.

Jerry Cronin was arraigned in circuit court Friday on a charge of entering a motor vehicle with intent to steal and will enter his plea Saturday. On the day previous he was bound over by Judge Brownell of the Eugene Justice court with bail fixed at \$500 and afterward he waived grand jury action.

3 Speeders Fined

Continuing their campaign against speeders on old highway 99, through the River Road district, state police Thursday arrested three drivers and each was fined \$20 in the Eugene Justice court.

Those arrested and fined were Howard Douglas, 18, of Inglewood, Calif.; Delbert Theodore Barron, 41, of Fairfax, Mo.; and Fay May Pendarvis, 38, of Reedsport. All pleaded guilty to driving at a speed of 20 miles an hour faster than the law allows.

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Road Work Requested

A petition signed by 164 persons, asking that the county road extending from a point west of Clear lake past the Fern Ridge dam to the territorial road, a distance of four or five miles, be improved and oiled, has been received by the county court. The petitioners state that there is very heavy traffic over the road and that during the winter time it is very rough.

The court has received a petition from farmers living along the McKenzie highway five miles east of Springfield, asking that the small culverts on the highway be replaced by larger ones to eliminate the flooding of their lands. As the matter is not in the court's jurisdiction, the petitioners were asked to take it up with the state highway engineers at Salem.

Oregon Trail Council To Elect Officers

Reports of 1944 activities and election of officers will feature the annual meeting of the Lane district committee of the Oregon Trail council, Boy Scouts of America, Walter H. Banks, chairman, announced today. The meeting will be held at noon, Monday, Feb. 19, at the Oxburn hotel.

K. A. Wells, scout executive of the Oregon Trail council, will describe the district's 1944 activities, including organization and extension, advancement, training, camping, and finance.

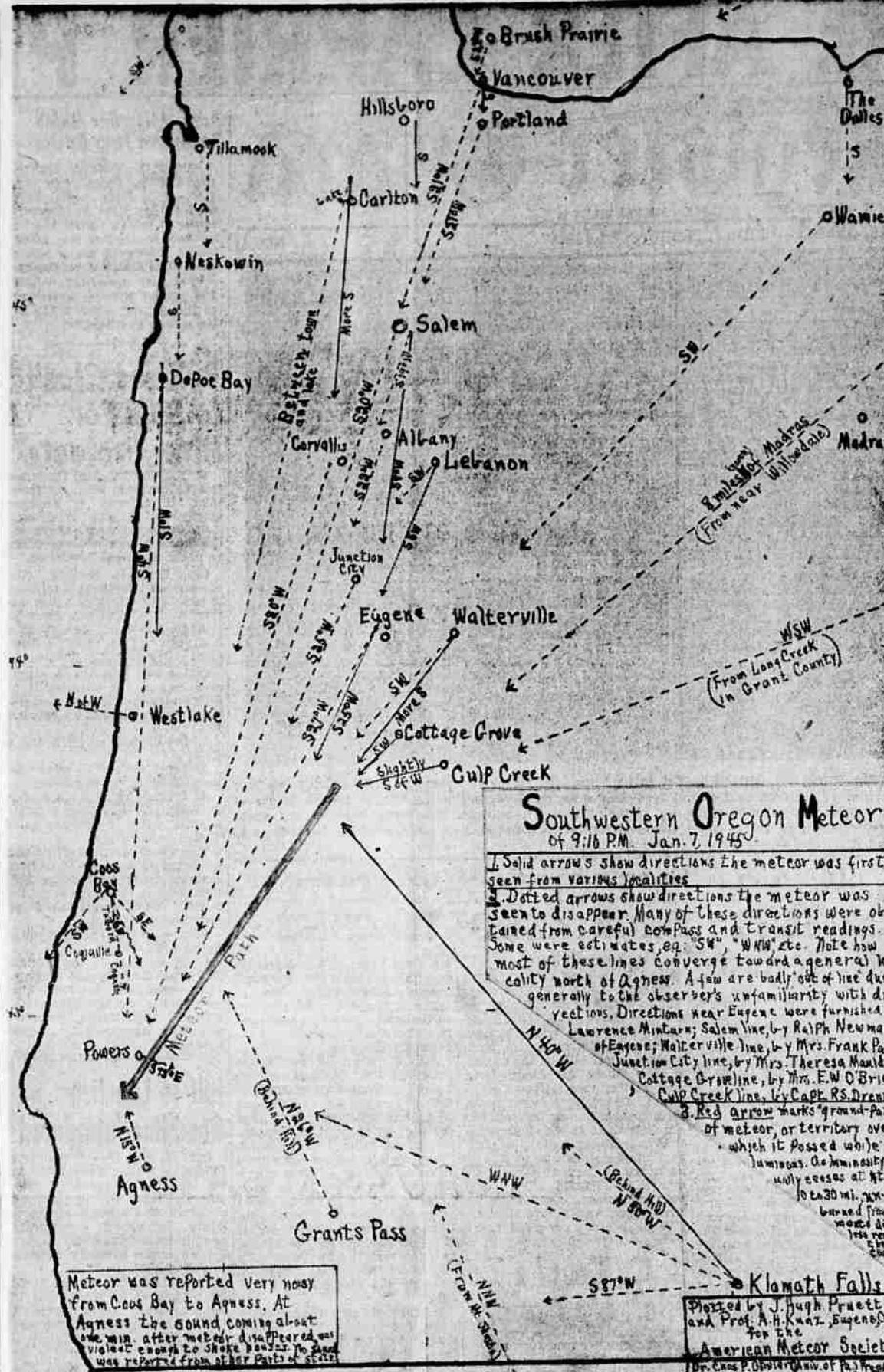
The Lane district committee administers the scouting program in most of Lane county and is one of seven districts making up the Oregon Trail council. The council serves six counties in western Oregon.

Registration Officer

Application for the position of registration officer for the veterans administration in the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington are being sought by the United States civil service commission, Postmaster F. L. Armitage announced Friday in Eugene.

The salary for this position is \$3163 a year with overtime compensation, Armitage said. There is no written test and no age limits. Complete information and forms for applying may be obtained from the post office in Eugene or any first or second-class post office.

Of several artesian water areas in Australia, one, the Great Australian basin, takes in an area of 600,000 square miles.



The Southwestern Oregon Meteor Of January 7, 1945

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Pacific Director,
American Meteor Society

A dazzling meteor suddenly flashed blue-green against the sky, wildly scurried toward the horizon, exploded—and was gone! The blinding fiery visitor with its streaming tail of flame and varicolored sparks momentarily lighted clearly the landscape below. But within two seconds all was over and the darkness seemed inky black.

Such is the picture described by those nearest the path of the brilliant fireball which dashed across southwestern Oregon at about 9:10 p.m. P.W.T. on Jan. 7, 1945. It was visible as a spectacular object for hundreds of miles in every direction.

Newspapers and radio stations at once asked observers to send data to the American Meteor society. The information most desired was the apparent angular height of the meteor at its appearance and disappearance points, and the directions from the observer, as measured along the horizon, of these two positions. With accurate data of this sort from widely separated localities, lines of sight may be drawn which will determine approximately the territory over which the celestial visitor passed, its height, slope of descent and probable landing locality of any unburned fragments.

74 Reported

Reports were received from 74 observers scattered over the greater part of Oregon and in southern Washington and northern California. To about 30 of these, questionnaires were sent with instructions on how to measure directions and angular heights. Compasses and clinometers were mailed to a few. Others used their own compasses. Transits were used by three.

Many observers were in moving automobiles where directions were uncertain. Their data is usually only approximate; sometimes, badly in error. But those among familiar landmarks usually had definite lines of sight. Ernest Flint of Vancouver, Washington, drew a diagram showing where he was sitting in church and the open window through which he viewed the fireball. R. G. Ott at the east end of the Steel Bridge in Portland noted it fell behind the Veterans Hospital.

At Salem, Dr. G. C. Bellinger aligned the object with a familiar fence, and Ralph Newman noted it disappeared at the end of a long street. Near Corvallis, Mrs. L. D. Corl projected an imaginary line from her eye—from her position on a davenport—to the window. Not far from there, J. H. Batcheller obtained another indoor line of sight which checked to an exact degree with that furnished by Mrs. Corl.

The best solution from the data obtained indicates the fireball came visible at a height of approximately 70 miles over a locality about 30 miles south of Eugene, dashed downward at a steep slope and two seconds later disappeared about 100 miles to the southwest at a low level in the coastal region near Agness.

Considerable noise was heard along a 50-mile strip from Coos Bay to Agness. As most of that region was cloud-covered, much confusion and contradiction exists in the directions reported from there.

This meteor was harder to trace than many due to the broken clouds existing over a great part of western Oregon. In the region from Coos Bay on south to Agness it was cloudy and the observers were greatly confused by the flash which seemed like lightning coming through the clouds. At Coos Bay one observer reported the fireball passed directly over head and disappeared in the southwest; another, in the direction of Coquille; another, in the southeast. At Agness it was reported passing overhead and disappearing in the northwest; at Westlake, going overhead and on out over the ocean a little north of west.

From many places the fireball disappeared behind clouds that were well up in the sky. From the fact that many from all sides of its path reported it seemed to be going "almost straight down". It seems certain the fireball's path through the air had a very steep slope. From most places where the sky was clear, the reports indicated the meteor went behind hills.

The solution offered seems the most logical from the reports received, many of which are quite conflicting. Some directions cannot be reconciled with the general run of directions received. But the solution is not considered perfect.

SPRINGFIELD

Firemen Save House

SPRINGFIELD — Dave Brown, well-known horseman living two miles from Goshen, Friday credited the Springfield fire department with saving his home from a blaze that broke out shortly before 10 a.m. Thursday.

The call reached the fire department just at 10. But the firemen needed official permission to make the run beyond the city limit. Luckily they saw the mayor nearby, got their permission, and made a quick run to the fire, reaching it at 10:15.

Brown, with only a garden hose, had managed to confine the fire to the roof until the firemen took over. Only their timely arrival, saved his home, he declared.

UNIT DISCUSSES LANDSCAPING

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SPRINGFIELD VISITORS
SPRINGFIELD—Visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray McKinney recently was T/S and Mrs. George. Mrs. McKinney is the mother of George.

The couple also visited in Roseburg before going on to Santa Barbara, Calif., where George will report for further orders.

PARTIES GIVEN AT CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD — Wednesday afternoon saw two valentine parties held at the Christian church for children of the beginners and primary departments.

Mothers of the beginners were guests at the party from 2 until 4 p.m., in the Sunday school room. From 3 until 5 p.m. the Busy Bee club entertained at a party for all the first, second, and third grade children of the church.

FINES
SPRINGFIELD — A fine has been assessed in the recorder's court against Wayne Bowers, \$10 forfeited bail, basic rule.

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