Capital Journal

59th Year, No. 2 Entered as second class matter at Salem, Oregon — Salem, Oregon, Friday, January 2, 1948 ★ 10 Cents

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State Buildings To Cost Total Of $8,022,667

Contracts Let for All Structures Except 3 Due in Spring

The estimated cost of buildings for which contracts have been let by the state of Oregon through the board of control, plus three buildings for which contracts will be let in the spring, is $8,022,667.

The funds came partly from legislative appropriations and partly from the state building fund approved by vote of the people. Of $6,000,000 allocated to the board from the building fund, there has been allocated to buildings already contracted $4,625,156. The balance of the $6,000,000 will be required to complete the buildings yet to be contracted, and any shortage will be met by money from the 1947 appropriation.

At State Hospital

At Oregon State hospital has been authorized construction for the total sum of $3,609,951, as follows:

(1) Ward building at cottage farm, with 340 capacity. Cost $688,542.

(2) Treatment hospital, with 300 capacity. Cost, $1,583,637.

(3) Ward building 46-47, with 300 capacity. Cost, $778,761.

(4) Dormitory for nurses, with 100 capacity. Cost, $378,360.

(5) Tunnel to serve above buildings. Cost, $180,651.

Eastern Oregon Hospital

At the Eastern Oregon State hospital a contract was let last year for the nurses' home and it was completed and occupied about July 1 of this year. The admission hospital is under construction.

The program at Pendleton is divided as follows:

(1) Dormitory for nurses, with 48 capacity. Cost, $156,000.

(2) Admission hospital, with 114 capacity. Cost, $1,030,489.

Total improvements at this institution amount to $1,186,489.

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Solve Robberies At Aumsville

With arrest of Erwin Speers, Aumsville, and Blaine Ogle, Salem, both 19 years, Sheriff Denver Young reported that four burglaries in Aumsville during December had been cleared up and that the boys admitted participation in all of them.

Three of the burglaries were during the early morning of December 27 in Mickey's garage, Aumsville Lumber company and the Gentzler garage.

In the Mickey garage burglary R. L. Mickey, proprietor, lost among other things the first dollar bill he'd ever earned which he had tacked on the side of the garage as an inspiration. It's doubtful if he'll get it back. Taken there also was $10 in cash, a table model radio, a Ford condenser and a sport light. At the Gentzler garage, W. W. Bradley, manager, two fog lights were taken, a Yankee sealed beam light, a Schick double head razor and an electric toaster. At the Aumsville Lumber company plant operated by three brothers, C. W., S. H. and Luther Wright, $30 in cash was taken, $60 in another drawer being overlooked and also from that place an electric razor was taken.

The fourth burglary admitted by the youths was at the Aumsville school December 17 when $87 in cash was taken including receipts from sale of meal tickets and also from sale of basketball tickets for a game the night before the burglary. Checks totaling $22 were taken and burned.

Sheriff Young stated that 13 boys were quizzed in the search for the culprits.

80 Percent of Tax Roll Collected

Tax collections against the current 1947-48 roll have mounted to $2,371,772.04 against a roll of little less than $3,000,000 or about 80 percent of the roll or better, and there are still some of the statements mailed in to get out. Harold Domagalla, deputy in charge of the collection department, said there were probably between 500 and 1000 receipts yet to be issued that were received through the mail before the delinquent deadline and he hopes to have these back to the taxpayers in a week or two.

Out of a little over 37,700 statements sent out the receipts have been issued on 29,825 of them, and including those for which receipts have not yet been mailed out, it shows there are still about 7000 taxpayers in the county who have as yet made no payments on their taxes. The deputy figures that the collections are just slightly behind those of last year at this point.

Guerrillas Flee From Konitsa Into Albania

Athens, Jan. 2 (AP)—Greek War Minister George Stratos said today guerrilla forces were fleeing into the Grammos mountains after a "crushing defeat" inflicted in the battle of Konitsa, where a week-long siege of the government garrison was lifted yesterday.

The offensive against Konitsa was believed to have been aimed at capture of a capital for a Greek communist government, existence of which was proclaimed in a Christmas eve broadcast by Insurgent Leader Markos Vafiades.

7-Day Battle Ends

A general staff communique reviewing the seven-day battle said: "This is the first fruit which has been repeated by the bogus government of Slavo-communists."

The communique said one column of troops entered the town and relieved the Konitsa garrison yesterday, but that a second column was held up by fire aimed at the Bourozani bridge, 11 miles west of Konitsa.

The communique disclosed that on the first day of the attack the Konitsa garrison, consisting of some 900 men, was "completely isolated . . . to a considerable depth" when a force of more than 3,000 guerrillas made a frontal assault. Some sources estimated that the rebel strength totaled 10,000 men.

Cross into Albania

Guerrillas forced their way into Konitsa the third day, the communique said, but were annihilated.

An authoritative source said the Konitsa siege was directed by a "Balkan staff" consisting of Russian, Yugoslav and Bulgarian officers operating from Skoplje, Yugoslavia, 65 miles north of the Greek border.

Stratos said some of the fleeing guerrilla units had crossed into Albania eight miles north of Konitsa.

Military sources in Athens said a number of the guerrillas actually were trained in Albania and Yugoslavia and all their arms and ammunition came from those two countries.

Pauley Asked For His Records

Washington, Jan. 2 (U.P.)—Edwin W. Pauly, special assistant to the secretary of army, today was given until Monday to turn over to senate investigators his personal records on commodity speculation.

A senate source said that unless the millionaire California oil man voluntarily produces the requested information by that time, he may be served with a subpoena.

The senate appropriations committee asked for the records December 12 after hearing Pauley testify that he had made "substantial" profits by speculating in grain and other commodities. Two weeks later, Sen. Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.), who heads an appropriations subcommittee investigating speculation, wrote Pauley a hurry-up letter.

The army department official replied from his Los Angeles home that "the information is being assembled and will be forwarded to you as promptly as possible." Pauley pointed out that the senators "did not specify any particular deadline."

The subcommittee, it was learned, has decided that Monday would be an appropriate deadline.

But, in the meantime, the telephones of the court members have been kept ringing by ex-GIs who have had experience of one sort or another during their army career in the placing of such bridges.

County Engineer Hedda Swart stated that the bridge which is 150 feet long to be used for replacing the old 100-foot span of the wooden bridge, comes in units weighing 600 pounds each. The army he said, used six men on each side of a unit in putting it into place and he believes the bridge crew with the instruction books at hand, will be able to do a fairly quick job in placing the structure.

France Plunged To New Crisis by Premier's Bill

Paris, Jan. 2 (AP) — Premier Robert Schuman presented a new anti-inflation bill to the French national assembly today and threatened to resign if any changes were voted in it.

The bill was designed to raise about 120 billion francs—a billion dollars.

Schuman decided to withdraw a previous anti-inflation bill approved by the assembly. That measure gave Frenchmen a choice of paying 150 billion francs additional income tax or of investing the same amount in government bonds. It was designed to help pay for a big reconstruction program and to drain off excess purchasing power.

Amendments Cut Income

Amendments in the chamber cut the expected income from the bill by about a third. Deputies exempted several classes of French citizens from its provisions.

The premier said his new bill was a compromise and told the deputies he would accept no changes. The cabinet, at a meeting earlier, authorized Schuman to demand a vote of confidence from the assembly "as often as necessary."

Cabinet Stakes Existence

Schuman told the deputies the new bill also was designed to "sponge up" excess purchasing power in France. The premier did not say whether the taxpayers could avoid taxes by buying the equivalent amount of bonds.

"The government will stake its existence on this new text," Schuman declared.

"The government recognizes its responsibilities and wants to associate the assembly with them. We will not accept a diminished position either from a financial or political point of view.

"The country must know the government has behind it a parliament with confidence in it," he said.

Cable Workers Out on Strike

New York, Jan. 2 (AP)—Union overseas communication workers went on strike at four cable companies today, tieing up an estimated two-thirds of their facilities for transmissions between the United States and the rest of the world.

The walkout, which involved some 3500 employes, began at 12:01 a.m. (EST) and came while federal conciliators still were attempting to bridge differences between uion and company negotiations.

The dispute stemmed from their failure to agree on provisions of new contracts to replace those which expired last midnight.

The companies are the cables division of the Western Union Telegraph company, Mackay Radio and Telegraph, Inc., the Commercial Cable company and All-American Cables.

The unions are the CIO American Communications association and the Independent All-America Cables Employes' association whose members had voted to join the CIO union in strike action.

The last-ditch effort to avert the tieup involved the ACA and Western Union with conciliation officials hoping that agreement between the company and the union would serve as a pattern for overall settlement. Negotiations with the other companies were broken off earlier.

Bailey Steel Bridge Races Stork to Marooned Homes

When the county bridge crew Friday morning started moving a Bailey steel bridge from the state highway shops up to the Lumker bridge site on the little north fork of the Santiam to replace the old Lumker bridge, demolished earlier in the week when a logging truck went through it into the river, it was incidentally putting Marion county in a race with the stork. Report has it that marooned in homes beyond the bridge are three expectant mothers who, the report further says, can't wait too long for outside aid to be at hand when needed.

County Judge Grant Murphy stated Friday that the temporary Bailey bridge should be shoved across the creek and in readiness for use by Monday, but court members admitted it was a little problematical as nobody in the crew has had experience with handling that kind of a structure.

Home Demolished by Tornado in South—A resident of Cotton Valley, La., looks at the remains of a small home which was leveled by the tornado which struck the small town on New Year's eve. At least 10 persons were killed in the town by the storm. Storms swept five southern states. At least nine other persons were killed and 200 injured by the storms. (AP Wirephoto)

Spectacular Gain in Salem Postal Receipts

Salem post office receipts during 1947, consistent with other records made in the community, shot upward for a gain of $60,706.51 over the receipts for 1946, figures furnished by the post office showed today. The 1947 total was $634,595.15, and the total for the previous year was $573,888.64.

Total receipts for the fourth quarter of the year were $196,206.53, a gain of $16,198.39, while the total for December, 1947, was $91,256.68, a gain of $8473.36 over December, 1946, figures of $82,722.11.

The spectacular gain throughout the last year averaged about $15,000 a quarter, it was said officially.

An extra-long legislative session at the beginning of the year and a prosperous Christmas season doubtless boosted the figures. Nevertheless the Salem post office has been showing gains consistently for over 10 years, the only exception being in 1939 when there was a slight drop.

As the Christmas mail business got under way at the end of 1947 it was necessary for the post office to arrange for a substation in a large warehouse on Trade street. A sub-station had been necessary the previous year also, but not requiring so much space.

Receipts by years for the last 11 years, for purposes of comparison, were:

1937, $325,883; 1938, $357,557; 1939, $354,463; 1940, $374,210; 1941, $393,648; 1942, $399,605; 1943, $432,512; 1944, $487,824; 1945, $528,664; 1946, $573,888.64; 1947, $634,595.15.

Probe Reds in Canal Zone

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—Chairman Thomas (R-N.J.) announced today that the house committee on un-American activities will make an on the spot investigation late this month of "communist infiltration" in the Panama Canal Zone.

The Panama inquiry will be part of a five-point program the committee has outlined for immediate consideration. This includes a resumption of the investigation of communist influences in Hollywood and hearings on attempts to steal atom bomb information, to indoctrination of Negro groups with communism and the spread of fascism.

Thomas said he will conduct the Panama investigation, assisted by Robert E. Stripling, chief investigator. Whether other committee members will accompany them to Panama has not been decided.

"We are going to investigate primary reports that communists are making headway in their program to infiltrate labor groups in the Panama Canal Zone," Thomas told a reporter.

He declined to say whether he and Stripling will inquire also into the current controversy between the government of Panama and the United States over leasing of bomber bases to this country.

"One of the first things the committee will do when congress reconvenes next week," Thomas said, "is to hold public hearing to inquire into the spread of fascism in this country. We will question Gerald L. K. Smith during this hearing."

35 Visas Asked For Mihai Retinue

Bucharest, Romania, Jan. 2 (AP) — The Romanian government asked today for 35 visas for former King Mihai, Queen Mother Helen and their retinue to enter Switzerland.

Diplomatic passports were requested for Mihai, who abdicated Tuesday, and his mother.

A spokesman for the communist-dominated "popular democratic republic" which succeeded the monarchy, said the requests may reach Swiss federal officers in Bern tomorrow, but that a reply is not expected before late Monday or Tuesday, because Swiss offices close at noon on Saturday.

The Weather

(Released by United States Weather Bureau)

Forecast for Salem and Vicinity: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain tonight. Showers Saturday. Lowest expected temperature tonight, 40 degrees; highest Saturday, 50 degrees. Maximum yesterday 50. Minimum today 45. Mean temperature yesterday 47, which was 7 above normal. Total 24-hours precipitation to 11:30 a.m. today 1.24. Total precipitation for the month 1.72, which is 1.42 inches above normal. Willamette river height at Salem, Friday mornin, 8.1 feet, rising.

Vet Insurance Policies Probed

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—Veterans Administrator Carl C. Gray, Jr., said today former President Herbert Hoover is arranging for a committee of insurance experts to investigate the veterans insurance program.

Franklin D'Olier, chairman of the board of Prudential Insurance company, will head the insurance men.

Hoover is arranging for the study as chairman of a committee which congress established to survey the organization of the executive branch of the federal government and recommend steps to promote efficiency.

Gray, who took office as successor to Gen. Omar Bradley last Wednesday, said he has already received numerous complaints about the insurance service provided to war veterans.

"I am determined the veterans shall have the best possible insurance service," Gray told a news conference.

Greeks Unified by Red Secession

Athens, Jan. 2 (AP)—Dwight P. Griswold, chief of the U. S. military mission in Greece, declared today the proclamation of a communist state in the north by Markos Vafiades unified the Greek people and ultimately will "have a good effect."

Griswold said the seven-day battle for Konitsa, in which the guerrillas were repelled in a bid to establish a capital, had no effect on the American military aid program.

"It gave me a greater respect for the Greek army, which seemingly put up a good fight and did its job," he said.

5 Alarm Fire In New York

New York, Jan. 2 (AP)—A five-alarm office building fire which spread to two converted apartment houses blanketed Manhattan's west side at Columbus Circle in dense smoke today.

An undetermined number of persons, many clad in nightgowns, were led down ladders and an 80-year-old woman leaped to safety in a lifenet.

Eight firemen were overcome by smoke in fighting the blaze which started in the office building in West 58th street at 7:19 a. m. (EST).

The rear wall of the four-story loft building at 230 West 58th St., caved in shortly before 10 a. m., but no one was injured. At that time fire officials said the front wall of the same building was weak and might also collapse. Shortly after 10 a. m., Frank Murphy, chief of operations of the fire department, said the fire was under control.

Launch Drive For Joe Martin

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—A one-man drive to make House Speaker Joseph W. Martin the compromise presidential nominee of the republican party was launched today by Rep. Leo Allen (R-Ill.).

Allen appraised Martin's chances of getting the nomination at "one in five." He said the speaker knows of the campaign now getting under way to "talk him up."

"All he says," Allen told reporters, "is that he doesn't see how anyone could refuse the nomination."

The chairman of the influential house rules committee said he figures the republican convention in Philadelphia this summer will supply an opening for Martin by following the pattern of 1940.

That was the year when Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York and Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio fought to a stand-off in the early rounds, allowing the late Wendell L. Willkie to snatch the nomination on the fifth ballot.

Allen said it looks to him as if Dewey and Taft are in about the same positions they occupied eight years ago and have about the same strength.

Sleet and Snow Storms Strike East to Seaboard

Tornadoes Rip 5 Southern States Leaving Death Toll of 100

(By the Associated Press)

Winter's most damaging storms of ice and snow struck across the central states and eastward into southern New England over the New Year's holiday after a series of tornadoes ripped through five southern states.

The storm left a wide path of destruction in their wake. The property damage was expected to run into the millions. The death toll was near the 100 mark, not including the 20 persons who were killed in the twisters which struck in Dixie.

Over 80 Traffic Deaths

More than 80 persons died in traffic accidents over the holiday period. Fourteen persons were killed in a crash of two Missouri Pacific passenger trains in a snow storm in Otterville, Mo. The tornadoes which twisted through Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama injured 250, destroyed 240 homes and damaged 250 others.

The freezing rain and snow, which yesterday centered near the Chicago area, continued today in many parts of the storm belt. The weather bureau said the freezing rains today extended over a narrow band from lower Michigan across Lake Erie to southern New England. Snow was expected to follow.

Snow in Mid-west

Snow continued to fall in parts of Illinois and Indiana and in Ohio and Pennsylvania There was about 10 inches of new snow on the ground at Milwaukee and from six to 10 inches throughout lower Michigan. The fall in northern Illinois, southeastern Iowa and parts of Missouri measured from four to six inches.

Temperatures in the midwest, which yesterday hit a low of 25 below in Minnesota, moderated throughout the day and no subzero marks were reported early today.

Reports from the snow and ice storm areas were similar in connection with the crippling effect on transportation, communications and property damage.

Traffic Disrupted

Traffic—rail and air, was disrupted and in some communities paralyzed. Sleet and freezing rain covering electric wires cut off telephone and light service. Street cars in many cities were halted and radios were silenced due to mechanical difficulties and wrecked towers.

Scores of communities in several states were isolated from telephone communication as the icy gales snapped lines. Highways in many midwest areas were impassable. Trains and buses operated far behind schedule and all airline flights in and out of Chicago and other midwest cities were cancelled.

The strong winds — gusts reached as high as 60 miles an hour in some parts of the storm belt—wrecked radio towers in Chicago and broke store windows and uprooted trees in many communities. Nine transmitter towers toppled and three others were damaged in and near Chicago. Mechanical difficulties interrupted broadcasts on many of the major stations.

2 Escaped Oregon Cons Recaptured

Two state prison convicts who escaped from the prison farm last September 23 have been caught in Los Angeles and Arizona, Prison Warden George Alexander was advised today.

Eugene Hammond, who entered the prison Jan. 16, 1945, to serve five years for larceny, was captured in Los Angeles.

Leroy E. Thomas, who entered prison from Multnomah county Aug. 29, 1945, also to serve five years for larceny, was caught in a stolen car at Elroy, Ariz., which is north of Phoenix, Alexander said.

Heavy Snow and Floods Hamper Highway Traffic

Week-end travel in western Oregon and the mountains might be hampered by heavy snow and floods, the state highway commission said today.

The Pacific highway was in bad condition today in the Siskiyou mountains of southern Oregon, as well as between Weed and Dunsmuir in California. Chains are absolutely necessary in both areas because of the heavy snowfall.

The commission said the Willamette river at Eugene was rising one foot every three hours, and that highways would be flooded tonight if the rise continues during the day.

The Wilson River highway was blocked by a fallen tree 19 miles east of Tillamook, but the commission said it expected to have traffic restored this afternoon.

The Bellevue-Hopewell highway was closed today by high water a mile east of Bellevue. The Astoria-Megler ferry across the Columbia river resumed operation today as the gale force winds abated.

Chains are required in mountain passes.

The 9 a.m. road report:

Santiam junction — 30 degrees, snowing, 14 inches new snow in past 36 hours, mostly slushy. Some packed snow across summit, 56 inches roadside snow at summit, 18 inches at junction.

Odell lake, Willamette highway—34 degrees, snowing hard, 14 inches new snow at summit, packed snow throughout district; chains absolutely necessary.

Oregon Streams Rising As Result Of Heavy Rains

Santiam at Flood Stage; Storm Damage To Wire Systems

New Year's day rainstorms were bringing up rivers throughout the valley region, Friday, with flood stages forecast for at least two points. The Santiam at Jefferson is due to reach 15½ feet early Friday evening, the U. S. weather bureau reports. Flood stage there is 13 feet. No great amount of damage is predicted.

The Willamette river is due to hit a crest of 13½ feet at Harrisburg early Saturday morning. Flood stage there is 12 feet.

At Salem the Willamette read 8.1 feet at the local gauge Friday morning, booming up nearly 5 feet in the 24-hour period ending this morning. Flood stage here is 20 feet.

Heavy Rainfall

Downpours of rain in the Salem area totaled 1.24 inches in the 24-hour period ending at 10:30 a.m. The two-day total for the new month stood at 1.72 inches Friday morning, or 1.42 inches above normal amount for the period. December's rainfall was below normal for that month.

The heavy winds sweeping the Salem region New Year's day hit a velocity up to 50 miles an hour in guests of less than a minute; while the wind of a minute's average were recorded at 41 miles.

Near Cloudburst

A shower of "cloudburst" proportions, accompanied by lightning and thunder, hit the Salem downtown area shortly after 11:30 a.m. Friday. Some sections did not report as severe a storm, including the area where is located the weather bureau. The weather bureau said they saw the heavy shower and noted the lightning.

The oddity of an electric storm in January was explained by weather bureau officials who said a "cold front" moved in about that time, the colder air coming in stirring up the atmosphere.

New Year's day mean temperature was seven above normal, the winter day being a mild one despite the wind and rain.

Storm Damage in Valley

The Portland General Electric company reported scattered storm damage all over the Willamette valley division. Manager Fred Starrett said no serious damage occurred, but a repair crew was kept busy throughout the night, and worked about 12 hours before being relieved.

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65 Mile Gales Rip Northwest

(By the Associated Press)

Highway crews took to the arduous task of clearing Washington and Oregon highways today after coastal regions of the two northwest states were lashed yesterday by a high wind that reached a peak of 65 miles an hour at Tatoosh island and 58 miles an hour at Astoria, Ore.

The blasts brought a deluge of rain that turned to snow in the mountain regions, halted shipping and ferry services at the mouth of the Columbia river, disrupted power service throughout western Oregon and left highways clogged with felled trees.

The Great Northern railway's Empire Builder No. 2 train was delayed several hours after it struck a small earth slide 12 miles south of Everett yesterday. The front pair of engine trucks was derailed but no injuries resulted.

The highway from Tillamook to Otis was closed by trees in Oregon; one-way traffic was enforced along the Coast highway near Cannon Beach.

The Astoria-Megler ferry service was halted and ships refused to attempt to negotiate entrance and exit to the Columbia river.

Falling branches cut telephone service to Salem and Astoria for two and one hours respectively.

Highways at Snoqualmie Pass and Mount Rainier were blocked by snow, cutting short the year's initial ski trips of many persons.

Residents of Tacoma and vicinity were treated to the rare spectacle of a 20-minute January lightning storm beginning about 12:10 a.m. today. It was followed by very heavy hail and a deluge of rain.

Ontario Loads Car

Ontario, Ore., Jan. 2 (U.P.)—A freight car will be loaded with wheat, food and clothing here this week-end as the area's contribution to the northwest Friendship Ship.