



Last Look—Ruth Steinhagen, flanked by Attorney Michael Brodtkin and a policeman in Chicago's felony court, cranes her neck to see her hero, Phillies' first baseman Eddie Waitkus (in wheelchair, right), who she shot June 14 "for the thrill of murder." The felony court bound her over to the grand jury, which indicted her for assault with intent to commit murder. The proceedings in which Waitkus testified against her, took only one hour and a half. She was adjudged insane at the hearing. (Acme Telephoto)

HANDLES A MILLION BUCKS A DAY

Pearson, State Treasurer, Admits Politics as Hobby

By WILLIAM WARREN

What's this? A state official who admits politics is his hobby? State Treasurer Walter J. Pearson says golf and politics are his hobbies. From putter to politics. From state affairs to fairways.

From greens to greetings—they are the pet pastimes of your state treasurer. Pearson's compact department—some 35 employees all told—closed Saturdays and Sundays, handles nearly a million bucks a working day, some \$225,000,000 a year.

Income taxes, insurance, inheritance, gift taxes. Gasoline and malt beverage taxes. And taxes in the form of contributions for workmen's accident and unemployment compensation. Fees, fines, interest, federal government contributions, and revenue from state sale of liquor.

All this luscious lucre passes through the office of state treasurer.

Pearson is quick to point out that his department functions efficiently because of a staff that knows its stuff.

Man-behind-the-know behind the dough is Fred H. Paulus, deputy state treasurer. E. E. Peterson is cashier.

Betty Templeton, Pearson's private secretary, and Bernice Martine-Lally, accountant and attorney in her own right, do double duty as receptionists. Pearson says the department belongs to the public, and the public is always welcome in the department, headquartered in the northwest corner of the capitol's first floor.

The Salem office handles all the treasurer's business except inheritance and gift taxes of Multnomah county, which are handled by the Portland office.

The inheritance tax brings in some \$1,200,000 a year. It works like this: If you die, leaving lineal descendants—children, parents, stepchildren, stepparents, grandchildren, etc.—your estate is exempt for the first \$10,000. The state will assess the estate 1 per cent on the next \$15,000, 1 1/2 per cent on the next \$25,000, 2 per cent on the next \$25,000, 3 per cent on the next \$25,000, 5 per cent on the next \$200,000, 7 per cent on the next \$200,000, 10 per cent on the next \$500,000 (have you still got money?) 13 per cent on the next \$500,000, and 15 per cent on everything over \$1,000,000.

If the estate goes to collateral—brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces—the state basic inheritance, as listed in the last paragraph applies. In addition, after \$1,000 exemption, the next \$2,000 is tapped for 1 per cent, the next \$2,000 for 2 per cent, the next \$5,000 for 4 per cent, the next \$20,000 for 7 per cent, the next \$20,000 for 10 per cent, the next \$50,000 for 15 per cent, and everything over

\$100,000 for 20 per cent. Hang on, that's not all.

There's still the stranger class—Money to beneficiaries who are no relation. First you deduct the original inheritance tax. Then after exempting \$500, you take out 4 per cent for the next \$500, 6 per cent for the next \$1,000, 8 per cent for the next \$2,000, 10 per cent for the next \$6,000, 15 per cent for the next \$15,000, 20 per cent for the next \$25,000 and 25 per cent for everything over \$50,000.

Some try to duck the inheritance tax by donating their dough before they die. But the state takes a cut of the cake, anyway, in the form of gift taxes.

If you want to shuffle your shekles to charitable, educational or religious establishments, your donations are exempt from the gift tax. Otherwise, if you have an urge to unburden your booty, you'll have to cut the state in for 1 1/2 per cent of any gift not over \$10,000, 2 per cent from \$10,000 to \$50,000, 3 per cent from \$50,000 to \$100,000, 5 per cent from \$100,000 to \$300,000, 7 per cent from \$300,000 to \$500,000, 10 per cent from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 (say, this is getting downright generous!) and 12 per cent over \$1,000,000.

Practically all state money passes through the office of state treasurer, who incidentally is also a member of the board of control, state land board, state banking board, state bond commission and state reclamation commission.

Also, it is up to the state treasurer to invest the state's surplus cash—there's always some, you know.

Mostly these state investments—amounting to about \$169,000,000 in the two years ended June 30, 1948—are in government operations. Federal government bonds, municipal bonds, school bonds, port bonds.

That way the greenbacks have a two-way stretch—they help the various governments function, and at the same time they make money for the state of Oregon.

Pearson is married and has two youngsters, a girl now trying her business wings in Portland, and a boy going to Grant high school in Portland.

Singer Feature In Orchestra

One of the many attractions of the 1949 Cherryland festival is the dance held nightly at the grandstand at the fairgrounds, with Claude Bird and his orchestra playing.

Featured with the orchestra as a vocalist is the wife of one of the orchestra men, Kay Acoff. Her husband, pianist for the orchestra, is Norman Acoff.

Kay, who came to Salem two and a half years ago, and has a young son 10 months old, who claims much of her time, is a brunette. The former Kay Butler, she has been singing and writing music since 12 years of age. For 12 years her interest was in classical music, but later she switched to singing the blues in Los Angeles resort clubs.

During the time she was singing at Los Angeles clubs Kay wrote a blues song called "Baby," which caught the fancy of Nate Cole and later of Johnny Mercer. Both used the song for their orchestra.

In late 1944 Kay's song was used by the nationally famous singer, Peggy Lee, for one of her first recording sessions with the Capitol Record company. Only recently the record was released in an album of collector's items featuring the best of several well known singers and bands.

Members of Bird's orchestra are all local men. Besides Bird who plays and Acoff, other members of the orchestra are Charles Claggett, drummer; Eddie Jones, trombone; Dean Prather, saxophone; and Ralph Wagers, bass.



Featured With Orchestra—Kay Acoff, local singer, who is featured as a vocalist with Claude Bird's orchestra, playing nightly for Cherryland Festival dances.

Army-Reclamation Plan Now in Bill

Washington, July 1 (AP)—Sen. Warren Magnuson, (D-Wash.), has introduced a bill to authorize the reclamation bureau-army engineer comprehensive plan for development of the Columbia river.

Magnuson said in a statement that he believes the plan should be authorized in order to insure that the projects is includes will go forward without delay. He said authorization of the plan could not be regarded as a substitute for the proposed Columbia valley administration.

Continued Ban on Jap Fishing Urged

Seattle, July 1 (AP)—The continued closure of coastal waters of all the allied powers to Japanese fishermen was recommended in a report by a special American fisheries mission released yesterday through the U.S. fish and wildlife service.

The report, which followed a survey of the Japanese fishing industry, further urged that "it be made clear to the Japanese that subsidies on export of fish or 'dumping' will not be tolerated."

Boy's Mouth Burned By Firecracker

The first fireworks casualty reported in Salem this year was a painful injury suffered Thursday afternoon by Johnny Judah, 7, who put a lighted firecracker in his mouth.

The result, bad burns in the mouth and several loosened teeth, and part of one thumb nail blown off.

Johnny found the firecracker on the Richmond school grounds. First aid was called to help him, and succeeded in taking care of the wound without sending him to a hospital.

In colonial times, pastors were paid in meat grown by Virginia planters.

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\$117,915,000 for Oregon Highways

Washington, July 1 (AP)—The federal works agency recommended today that \$324,524,500 worth of improvements be made in the Oregon and Washington highway systems in the interests of national defense.

The recommendations included \$117,915,000 for Oregon highways and \$206,609,500 for Washington. A \$50,243,000 figure was proposed for Idaho.

In a report covering nationwide highway deficiencies, the agency proposed that congress boost the federal ante for improving highways.

Hawaii, three times the size of Delaware, grows 90 percent of the world's supply of pineapple.

Pearson says his duties as state treasurer do not call for a lot of travel. He did go to Washington, D.C., recently to testify for the proposed Columbia valley authority at a congressional hearing, but he stressed that he went as a citizen of Oregon, not as state treasurer, and he paid all his expenses out of his own pocket.

Which comes back to his candid admission that golf and politics are his hobbies. Says Pearson:

"What's wrong with politics? After all the dictionary definition of the word is 'the science of government!'"

"What's wrong with politicians? After all, a politician is 'one versed or experienced in the science of government.' If a man isn't versed or experienced in the science of government, why should he ask the voters to put him in office?"

"What we need are more politicians, in the original sense of the word."

Priest Resigns From City Club

Portland, July 1 (AP)—The resignation of a Catholic prelate from a prominent civic club because of its recently adopted divorce report was disclosed today.

The Very Rev. Thomas J. Tobin, vicar-general of the archdiocese, resigned from the City club in a protest of a report he called "a violation of fundamental human rights."

The report, drafted after months of study by business and professional men in the organization, suggested changes in divorce laws, marital counseling, and a possible "family court."

"They proposed to say whether people should marry," said Father Tobin. "This is a fundamental privilege of the individual and the state has no right to take it away from him."

One bit of the long report sets forth as a general principle the premise that the welfare of the community should have precedence over the desires of people who wish to make or break a marriage contract.

Opportunity Drive Three-Fourths Over

Tokyo, July 1 (AP)—Communist-led rioters seized a police station and held it for eight hours last night in a Fukushima prefecture town north of Tokyo.

Japanese press reports said 600 to 700 demonstrators, led by a brass band, overpowered the small police force in the coal town of Taira and raised red flags outside the station.

The rioters were said to have beaten five policemen severely and smashed windows and furniture. They freed a communist prisoner and locked up one policeman. Five demonstrators were injured during the fighting, two of them severely.

The mob dispersed about midnight. By noon today, the situation was reported quiet. The rioting was believed in retaliation for the removal of police of a large communist placard from the center of the city.

Vivian Kellems Plans Womens' Party

Portland, July 1 (AP)—Vivian Kellems, Connecticut industrialist, self-styled reactionary and one of the government's severest critics, arrived Thursday enroute to Eugene to visit her 78-year-old mother.

Miss Kellems said she planned to start a new political party—a women's party.

"It's motto will be 'Put house-keeping in the White House.'"

Miss Kellems, who operates a factory at Stonington, Conn., will refuse to collect withholding taxes from her employees because it is an "unwarranted" burden on the employer and "unconstitutional."

Baron Rothschild, French Banker, Dies

Paris, July 1 (AP)—Baron Edward Alphonse James de Rothschild, 81, titular head of the great international banking family, died at his home here yesterday.

He was a former regent of the Bank of France, president of the board of the Nord railways and a large shareholder in oil, steel and metal developments.

He leaves a wife, the former Germaine Halphen, and a son, Baron Guy de Rothschild.

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