



James W. Smith—On his 107th birthday July 8, is caught by photographer in talkative mood, recounting with remarkable memory for places, dates and people, the days in the 1860s when he rode with Nathan Olney's Oregon cavalry on reprisal missions after mauling Indians. —Express photo.

### Waterloo Man Enjoys Good Health on 107th Birthday

Lebanon, July 8—James W. Smith, Oregon's oldest Civil war veteran, observed his 107th birthday quietly at his home in Waterloo, receiving a few close friends and members of the press in the small cabin at the rear of his niece's home, which was occupied by his brother, Benjamin, until his death last fall at the age of 94.

Smith, apparently in good health and spirits, talked at length, recalling Civil war days in the Oregon country when he was a member of Nathan Olney's cavalry scouts, recounting several particular incidents of dangerous missions which his troop made into Indian country. He spoke in a number of Indian dialects, interpreting for his listeners.

He also speaks fluent Spanish as a result of the many years he spent along the Mexican border after his discharge from the army.

"I spent many years in the gold and silver mines of Nevada, California and Colorado," he said. "And at the age of 70 I was still doing a full day's work in the Colorado mines. After my return to Oregon, I still found plenty to do, even after I had reached the age of 90."

Smith receives a monthly pension as a Civil war veteran.

Abraham Lincoln is his idol and many pictures of him adorn the walls of his cabin. He also prizes a photograph of his commander, Nathan Olney, sent to him recently from California by a great-niece of Olney.

Born in Buchanan county, Missouri, Smith was a baby when brought across the plains in 1843 by his parents who were members of the famed Gilliam wagon train. In that train was Dr. Marcus Whitman, destined to die later in the flaming massacre of his mission near Walla Walla. The Smith family settled near Oregon City and reared a family of 10 children.

For many years and until January, 1947, Smith lived alone in his own home at Forest Grove, but after a period of illness, he came to live with his niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. George Ashmon. He does not, however, care for the conveniences of her modern home and prefers the little cabin

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### Woodburn School Problem Is Slated for Election

Woodburn—A petition signed by 20 legal voters of the Woodburn school district and filed with the school board requests a bond election to provide funds to finance the proposed Woodburn school building program. The board members immediately took action on the petition and set July 29 as the date for the special election.

The petition asked that the question of contracting a bonded indebtedness in the sum of \$375,000 by the Woodburn school district be submitted to a vote of the people. Purpose of the bonds was given as "providing funds with which to acquire, to construct, to reconstruct, to improve, to repair, to equip, to furnish a school building and/or school buildings or additions thereto and to acquire all property, real and personal appurtenant thereto or connected therewith in and for the said school district."

The building plan, authorized by the school board on June 13 after a discussion of the program with the local advisory committee, calls for converting the present high school into an elementary school and building a new high school on a site to be selected.

Immediate action on the local school building program was declared essential by the school board due to the fact that the state department of education has ruled the Woodburn elementary schools non-standard for the coming year due to overcrowding. August 1 was set as the deadline for the district to present a plan for remedying the situation and gaining a rating of conditionally standard. The non-standard rating makes the district ineligible to receive approximately \$40,000 in basic school support funds but this money may be received if a conditionally standard rating is given.

The bond election will be held at the Lincoln grade school July 29. The polls will be open from 2 to 7 p.m. standard time (3 to 8 p.m. daylight saving time), and all residents of the district who have been registered voters at least 30 days before election and residents of the district for at least six months will be eligible to vote.

### Drainage Assessment System Is Changed

Lebanon—Assessments against property owners in storm drainage districts will be based on the square footage, rather than on lineal footing it was decided at a meeting of the city council.

Decision to use the new system was approved when it was pointed out by consulting engi-

neers that storm sewers served property owners in ratio to the amount of ground being drained. A plan to assess sanitary sewers in the same method was tabled for further discussion when it was pointed out that properties were served equally by the latter system.

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### Street Projects Are Considered

Dallas — United Contracting company of Portland has commenced summer repair work on the Dallas city streets, according to C. B. Sundberg, chairman of the street committee of the city council.

No street improvement project is contemplated similar to those of the past several years, and consequently cost of the work being done will not be levied against the adjoining property. Funds for the patching and re-

pair work come from state tax money allocated to the city.

The company will also do large paving jobs for the Willamette Valley Lumber company and for the new Evangelical Mennonite Brethren church.

One of the larger single jobs for the city will be the laying of a new oil coat on Court street in the downtown district, Sundberg states.

Paving of North Levens street will be done by the state, and the contract is not expected to be let for the job until later this month.

Lebanon Asks Bids  
Lebanon—An additional six blocks of city streets are being

advertised for paving this summer under the second year phase of a continuous city paving program. Bids have been asked on Second street from Oak to the Santiam canal, east Sherman street from Walnut west to the end of the street, and on Cedar, from Main to Hemlock.

Bids will be accepted by the city recorder until noon Saturday, July 30. They will be opened and read at the following Tuesday council meeting.

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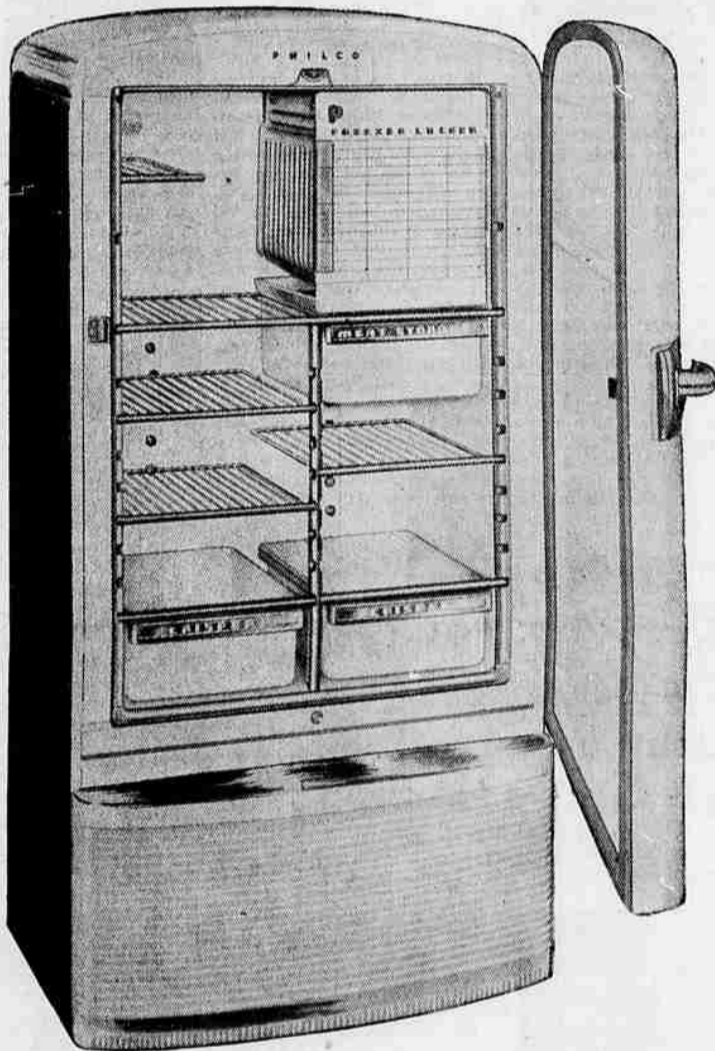
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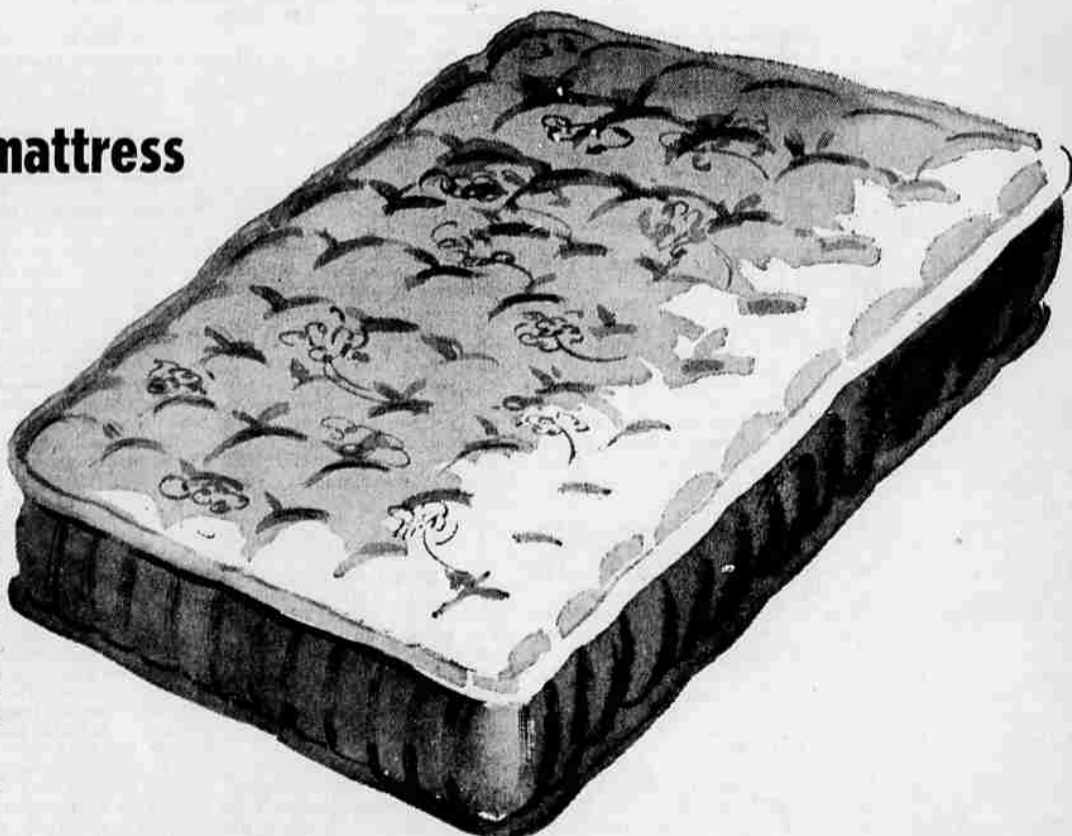
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