



High Water at Salem in 1893—View of sternwheelers Altona and Elwood of the Union Pacific at the foot of Trade street December 2, 1893. Crest of the river was 27 feet. Steamer Altona was once pride and joy of the Graham fleet. The Elwood figured in a Portland boat and trolley disaster that took seven lives a month earlier.

FLOOD OF 1893

Steamers Moored at Trade, Portland Tragedy Recalled

By BEN MAXWELL
Although the Willamette reached a flood stage of 27 feet at Salem December 2, 1893, that crest was far below the destructive level of 37.1 feet on February 5, 1890, the big flood year within memory of men now living.

Even so, the Trade street Union Pacific steamboat dock was almost inundated by the high water of 1893, and oldtimers, whose memory went back to the flood of 1861, strolled down to see the steamers Altona and Elwood moored well up Trade street where the paper mill now stands.

H. D. Trover, a Salem photographer who remained in business here until a few years ago, lugged his heavy view camera down to the scene and made an 8 by 10 inch glass negative that is now property of the Oregon State Archives.

Boats Long Since Gone
Trover's photograph on that gray day of 56 years ago shows the steamer Altona at the left and the Elwood moored beside her. Both sternwheelers disappeared from the river decades ago.

The Altona, a 120 foot, shallow draft boat, was laid down by the Oregon City Transportation company in 1890. She was rebuilt and slightly lengthened in 1899. Clyde Raabe, veteran Willamette captain, once the Altona's master and now a Columbia river pilot, recalls that the original pilot house on the Altona has survived nearly 60 years of usage and now serves on the Claire, one of the two or three sternwheelers surviving on the Columbia and its tributaries.

When she made her maiden run between Portland and Oregon City under Captain Arthur W. Graham, June 2, 1890, the Altona was rated "a handsome little sternwheeler" by competent observers. Her cabins were exceptionally elegant and she

An Oak Grove trolley car, the Inez, obviously out of control and with sparks flying and brakes squealing, was approaching the open draw. Passengers froze in terror. Some blocked passage for those crowding to escape as the doomed trolley skidded without sand in its boxes over frosty rails. A flimsy wood guard gate crashed into splinters. For an instant the Inez teetered on the brink and then plunged through the open draw into 30 feet of murky Willamette water. Steamer Elwood was missed by less than a boat's length by the run-away trolley.

Seven Perished

Captain Lee could not instantly stop the Elwood. And he knew better than to reverse the stern wheel and crush to death those who might arise to the surface. Life preservers and planks were tossed to those struggling in the swift, icy water. A boat was launched to pick up survivors.

About 20 passengers were aboard the Oak Grove trolley when it passed beyond control on frosty Madison bridge. Seven are known to have perished in this singular disaster involving a steamboat and a trolley car.

Communist Front Again After J. Edgar Hoover

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington, Dec. 6 (AP)—A new campaign to drive FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover from office is just around the corner under leadership of a left-wing organization already suspect as communist front.

It is known as the national lawyers guild. The guild was born in convention here in 1937 when Washington's political climate was more favorable to communists and their fellow travelers.

At a recent guild-sponsored meeting in New York it was decided to open up against Hoover with a demand for investigation of the FBI. It was agreed to call for a "citizens committee" to investigate and to demand that President Truman give the committee broad powers by executive order. They would include full access to FBI files, the right to subpoena and to question witnesses.

Among Those Present
The United Press was informed that among those present at the discussion of this program were:

Clifford J. Durr, former federal communications commissioner.
Lee Pressman, former general counsel of the CIO who left that office when union leadership turned against communists and fellow travelers.
Robert Silverstein, executive secretary of the guild.
Carol King, a lawyer frequently active in party line causes.
Maurice Braverman of Baltimore, Md.
They and their associates decided to base their campaign

against Hoover and the FBI on an incident in Judith Coplon's recent espionage trial here. The trial judge compelled the FBI to produce its files on Miss Coplon, a justice department employee who got caught associating with an alleged Russian agent. Much of the file material was hearsay, chit chat or anonymous. None of it was fit for evidence in a court of law.

Not Offered as Proof

The FBI was aware of that and had not sought to offer the material as proof of anything. But the judge's action seemingly placed Hoover and his agency in the position of sponsoring or accepting as true this hodgepodge of material which it neither sponsored nor vouched for. The FBI, in fact, protested against bringing the files into court.

FBI procedure is to file away whatever comes into its hands. None of the Coplon stuff was more vague or less worthy as evidence, for instance, than an anonymous letter which the FBI

received many months ago and kept, according to regulations, as part of its file. That letter proved to be the first tip on the irregularities which ultimately sent former air force Maj. Gen. Bennett E. Meyers to jail.

Mrs. F.D.R. Awarded Gold Key of Merit

New York, Dec. 6 (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was awarded a gold key of merit last night as "women of the years" by the Women's Fashion division of the federation of Jewish philanthropies of New York.

The organization also gave "women of the year" awards to Mrs. Ogden Reid, president of the New York Herald Tribune, Actress Mary Martin, Metropolitan opera soprano Helen Traubel, and Mrs. Gertrude Berg,

originator of "The Goldbergs" radio program.

Five members of Michigan State's 1949 baseball team have signed professional contracts

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