

Attractive State Department Branches Rise in Many Cities

By WILLIAM WARREN
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Simple but attractive red-tiled structures are beginning to dot the state Oregon from North Bend to Ontario, from The Dalles to Klamath Falls—branches of the secretary of state's office which come in for a lot of discussion and questioning since the first one was opened at Hillsboro last August.

The fact that State Sen. Rex Ellis and his brother, Bruce Ellis, both of Pendleton, built the first or are building the first four—at Hillsboro, Grants Pass, North Bend and Hood River. This brought a lot of queries to Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry about the prospects of local capital putting up the buildings. Newbry said local capital would be not only encouraged but welcomed in any locality, but it was difficult to get people interested at first, while the Ellis brothers were willing to build.

Assistant Secretary of State William E. Healy, who has been handling a lot of the details, gave a picture of the situation as it is, statewide today.

Already completed are the branches at Hillsboro, Grants Pass and Hood River. Under construction are the ones at Ontario and Eugene.

Sites have been approved in North Bend, Bend, Oregon City,

Albany, Lebanon and Newport. Other branches will be built at Medford, Klamath Falls, The Dalles, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker, Gresham, Astoria and Corvallis.

In Medford, the site under consideration is owned by the county. A Jackson county rancher and republican leader, John Neidermeyer, wants to build the structure for lease, as the others are, to the secretary of state. Attorney General George Neuner has been asked for an opinion as to whether the county can sell the property, which is part of an old fairgrounds property.

Sites and builders are being sought in the other places.

Healy said: "It isn't always easy to get local capital interested in these projects, because they are not always a particularly profitable investment, when cost is considered."

"Here's the way it is. The secretary of state's office specifies that the building, if it is to lease it, must meet certain conditions. It must follow the same general plan. The building, 24 by 44 feet, must be on a lot 100 by 100 feet which must have black top pavement for parking. It is a one-story concrete building with white stucco exterior walls and red-tiled roof. It must be on a main highway and outside the congested area of the city where it is located.

"Some men who have been interested in building have declined to go through with it after finding that costs wouldn't make the limited rent a profitable venture. Under the most favorable conditions it costs \$9,200 for building, black topping, blueprints and engineering. On top of that must be added the value of the land—sometimes as high as \$10,000 or \$12,000.

"We specify that we won't sign any lease until the structure is built and approved. That means it is the owner's risk until completion. And then we sign a 10-year lease at rent ranging from \$110 to \$150 a month." Healy said that on a county level, the amount of money paid for rent will be about the same as that paid now. In several cases the secretary of state's offices are scattered in a county, and these will be consolidated into the one building.

The secretary of state has a man in each office to handle motor vehicle registration, issuance of drivers' licenses, and the furnishing of tourist information. A man from the office of financial responsibility drops in once a week at each place for consultation of motor vehicle insurance.

The public utilities commission will have a representative in each of the structures, so that truck drivers, when they get their motor vehicle licenses, can get their PUC permits at the same time. As an example of what this will save the driver in time, Healy said that a man who gets his truck license in Grants Pass at the present time has to go to Medford for the nearest place where he can get his PUC license.

During the heavy state income tax collection period—about five or six weeks each year—the state tax commission will have a representative at each branch to help persons with their tax forms.



In Tragedy's Wake—Guarded by a sad-faced bulldog, three bikes stand idle beneath the shot-pierced window of the John Conner home at Alexandria, Va. Police said Conner methodically shot down his three children, one after the other. Part of the shotgun charge which killed one child pierced the window. The dog was the Conner children's pet and the bikes, their toys. (AP Wirephoto)

Jury Acquits Willie Joe Dunn

Bremerton, Dec. 9 (AP)—A superior court jury acquitted Willie Joe Dunn, 27, last night of first degree murder charges for the killing of his wife and her lover.

Ruby Dunn, 26, and James Dickens Jr., 22, were killed in the bedroom of Dickens' home Oct. 1. All principals in the case were negroes.

Prosecutor James Munro had asked for the death penalty. Dunn's attorney, Curtis H. Coons, pleaded self-defense in the shooting of Dickens and temporary insanity in the killing of Mrs. Dunn.

The jury deliberated five and a half hours while Dunn, an unemployed former shipyard worker and the father of three children, read the Bible in his jail cell.

The jury decided in a special verdict that Dunn now was sane and safe to be a free man.

Dunn testified that he entered the Dickens house after Dickens and his wife had twice ignored his previous knocks and shouts. He said Dickens reached under his clothing, as though for a weapon, and threatened to

kill him. He said Dickens previously had threatened him when he warned the man against his attentions to Mrs. Dunn. Dunn testified that he did not recall shooting either of his victims, and that he "came to" three blocks from the scene.

Lebanon Opening New Funeral Home

Lebanon—The city's newest funeral home, Warner and McHenry, will be opened to public inspection Saturday and Sunday, it was announced by Joe McHenry this week. The new business is located at the corner of Grant and Park streets in the building formerly occupied by the United Evangelical church.

The structure originally was built and used for a funeral home by the late Cas and Nathan Lowe before its sale to the church.

Both Joe McHenry, who will manage the local parlor, and his partner, Frank Warner, operate the Warner and McHenry Funeral home in Corvallis.

Falling Tree Kills Man

York, Pa., Dec. 9 (AP)—Sixty-seven-year-old Edwin Young chopped down a tree on his farm

at nearby Freysville yesterday, died at York hospital. Deputy Coroner Ralph Keech said both the tree fell on top of him. Forty-five minutes later, Young his legs had been fractured.

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Opening Set At Academy

Salem College and Academy plans an opening program in the new gymnasium-auditorium for the afternoon of December 11 at 3.

The program will feature greetings from the Department of education, the city of Salem, and various civic and religious organizations from Salem and Dallas.

Rev. Oscar Brown, chairman of the board of trustees, will speak on behalf of the board, and Rev. Robert G. Hovland, president of the school, will speak on the theme: "Another Milestone."

Professor Ronald J. Lush will be there with his choir and band to furnish the music.

Salem College and Academy is now in its fifth year of operation with an enrollment of 238 students and an administrative and teaching staff of 20 people. The campus consists of 28 acres on College Heights 1½ miles west of Salem overlooking the city and Willamette valley. Three new buildings have been erected since May 1947: The administrative and classroom building, the chapel, and the new gymnasium now under construction. A college sized football field provides the facilities for a well-rounded educational program.

Except for a few from Washington, Idaho and California, most students come from the area in and around Salem and Dallas.

Tragic Twist To Xmas Hope

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 9 (AP)—William J. Boston, 49, decided he would sell his shotgun and use the money to buy Christmas presents for his five children.

Yesterday, Boston got the gun out of a closet and began cleaning the barrel. His wife, working in the kitchen, heard an explosion and ran into the living room to find Boston shot dead.

Lackawanna county Coroner Paul E. Kubasko said the shotgun had been discharged accidentally. The charge struck Boston in the head.

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