

STILL BATS HIGH

Doc Stork Keeps Score Level Up; 2223 Babies in County

By DOUGLAS THOMAS

Old Doc Stork was busier than ever in Marion county during 1949, statistics for the year released by the county health department disclosed today, but he showed signs of weakening under the strain of the booming baby market.

During the first 11 months of the past year a total of 2,223 births were recorded in Marion county as compared with 2,191 for the same period in 1948, a year which marked a decline from the all-time peak in 1947 of 2,445.

Although more births were reported in 1949 than in 1948, the birth rate, based on a comparison between the number of new arrivals and the total population, showed a decline from 25.32 to 24.02 in 1949.

The slipping birth rate indicated that the population of Marion county is growing by immigration faster than the weary old bird can go.

The figures for 1949 prepared by the county office showed that 424 of the births in Marion county were credited to persons outside the county who underwent maternity care in local hospitals.

Despite the climb in the number of citizens in Marion county both by immigration and by new additions from Doc Stork, the number of deaths in the county from all causes skidded from the 630 reported in 1948 to 556 in 1949.

The greatest single cause of death in Marion county was heart disease and associated disorders. A total 183 persons succumbed to heart disease alone, while an additional 81 were stricken by arterial disorders and 60 more died of apoplexy.

Cancer rated as the second highest killer, causing 105 deaths in this county for the first eleven months of the year in comparison to 94 for the same period in 1948.

Nearly 600,000,000 acres of western lands in the United States are classed as semi-arid and arid.

Four Corners Firemen Make Excellent Record During '49

Four Corners, Jan. 2—The annual report of the Four Corners volunteer fire department covering the rural fire protection district for the year 1949. Twenty-eight runs were made with one false alarm. Two were outside the district. Called for assistance from Salem twice and assisted Salem once. Total value of property at risk including buildings and contents \$980,000. Total loss incurred approximately \$93,000, of which \$60,000 was the Pen Annex fire reducing the total fire loss to our district to approximately \$33,000. Fire Chief W. R. Gould was available to respond to 21 of the calls. Total number of men responding to all calls were 152 men, an average of 6.2 man per fire. No accident or injuries occurred to anyone while on fire calls.

Improvements added to the fire house include a heating plant and a hose dryer. Permits issued for fires totaled 88 with no fires getting out of hand. Forty-four fire hazards were reported with 39 eliminated.

Social activities included the annual dinner with the firemen's wives as guests, the annual St. Valentine's dance and the decorated horse-drawn fire engine float entered in the civic division of the Cherryland Festival in Salem for which they received second award. Chief W. R. Gould and Assistant Chief Waldo Miller extend their appreciation to the cooperation of the volunteer firemen and the citizens of the district in so willingly supporting the fire control program for the past year and look forward to increased efficiency for the coming year.

Four Corners—The Four Corners Garden club will hold their January meeting Thursday evening, January 9, at the community hall. Program committee, Mrs. Raymond Hough, Mrs. Floyd Green, Mrs. Homer Bales, Mrs. Buena McKee. Hostesses will be Mrs. Harold Halfman, Mrs. Arlo McLain, Mrs. Cecil Snook, Mrs. Warren Shrake, Mrs. Ross Chrisman.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Rickman and family drove to Astoria on Thursday to celebrate the birthday anniversary of their daughter Mrs. James G. Taylor.

Four Corners—Social events take precedent as the holiday season draws to a close. Mrs. Cecil Snook, 145 N. Elma avenue, complimented her daughter, Marilyn, on Thursday afternoon, the occasion being her 12th birthday anniversary. Games were in play and the birthday

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'Miss Cheesecake'—Mary Collins (above), 20, of Beaufort, Tex., was selected as "Miss Cheesecake of 1949" by Stars and Stripes, U. S. newspaper, in Frankfurt, Germany. Miss Collins is a model in New York City. (AP Wire-photo)

New York's Water Supply Still Short

New York, Jan. 2 (AP)—New York's water supply, up a little from recent rains, is now almost exactly what it was at the start of December—about 91,000,000,000 gallons.

A month of water saving, plus a break in the long drought, stabilized the condition, water officials said.

But they warned that the reservoir level is still far under normal.

Yesterday's gain of 192,000,000 gallons is only a five-hour supply for the city, Chief Water Engineer Edward J. Clark said.

Traffic Deaths Decline

Portland, Jan. 2 (AP)—City traffic records put 1949 on the books as the safest year since the count started in 1925.

There were 33 traffic fatalities, the lowest since records were started in 1925.

Financial Condition Reflects City Growth

Salem's growth in the last 10 years is reflected in city finances, and significant comparative figures have been compiled by City Treasurer Paul Hauser.

In 1939 the Salem tax levy was \$361,423.73. For the fiscal year 1949-1950 it is \$572,320.29. City receipts have multiplied.

Ten years ago they were estimated in the city budget at \$30,000, and the estimate for the present fiscal year is \$352,535. This does not include taxes or water department revenues.

Salem's assessed valuation in 1939 was \$15,029,502. It hasn't quite doubled, but now stands at \$28,267,738. Taxes per \$1000 of assessed valuation 10 years ago were \$60.80 and are now \$72.10.

The city's cash balance on December 31, 1939, was \$107,881.28 and on the same date in 1949, \$537,633.30.

The city had no parking meters then, but has 1507 now, and roundly then will return this fiscal year \$110,000. And there was no sewer rental charge to water users then, but for 1949-50 this item will produce about \$100,000.

Budgeted items for city expenditures have increased correspondingly.

In 1939 there was budgeted for the airport \$432. Now the item is \$15,200. For playgrounds, parks and band the increase has been from \$8368 to

\$391,423.73 ten years ago.

In 1939 the city's bonded debt was \$3,251,107.30. It has been reduced, and outstanding last June 30 was \$1,899,249.93. On that date general obligation bonds were \$321,573.11, street improvement bonds \$169,052.57, and water bonds \$1,408,624.25.

Ex-Comedy Queen Dies

London, Jan. 2 (AP)—Kate Carney, cockney comedy queen of the British music halls in the days before World war one, died last night in a London hospital. She was 80.

A veteran of more than 50 years on the stage, she took part in the first royal command performance in 1912. These performances have since become a British stage tradition.

Glider Pilot Breaks Altitude Record Again

Bishop, Calif., Jan. 2 (AP)—John Robinson, Arcadia, Calif., glider pilot, broke the world's altitude record by soaring 33,800 feet above sea level in his single place sailplane.

Robinson's feat, announced yesterday by official timer Harland Boss, was 300 feet higher than the previous record set a year ago on the same airport. Robinson held that one, too.

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Former Prisoners of War May Make Claims Tuesday

Washington, Jan. 2 (AP)—The war claims commission starts accepting tomorrow claims for compensation from former American prisoners of war, and civilians interned in the Pacific.

Claims will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis. Payments are expected to begin in early spring.

The claims may be filed up to March 1, 1951. Claims forms may be obtained at 70 regional Veterans Administration offices, the war claims commission here, and the state agencies set up by governors.

Those eligible for compensation are an estimated 133,000 American veterans who were taken prisoner in all theaters of war, and 7,000 American civilians who were interned in the Pacific area. Civilian internees in the European theater are not eligible.

Approximately 10 per cent of the prisoners of war died in prison or since, and approximately 1,000 of the 7,000 civilian internees died in internment camps or since.

In case of death proper survivors are to be paid the compensation.

The war claims act provides that \$1 a day be paid for each day a member of the U. S. armed forces was held prisoner of war if the enemy failed to provide the amount and quality of food required under the 1929 Geneva convention. Some prisoners of war were held more than three years, which would give them benefits of more than \$1,000.

The civilian internees are to be paid \$60 a month for each month of confinement if over 18 years of age at the time; under 18 years, \$25 a month. An adult internee held three years, therefore could receive more than \$2,000.

The money for the benefit claims will be paid out of the war claims fund which consists of liquidated enemy assets.

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