

HARRY'S HUMAN



Former President Harry S. Truman, vacationing in Hawaii, accepts an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Congratulating him after presentation is Dr. Gregg M. Sinclair, University president. (UP Telephoto)

Excitement Gripped Salem 90 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

The merry month of May 90 years ago brought the frontier village of Salem excitement, apprehension and amusement.

Patch-eye Byrnes surveyed the molten bottles that contained his stock of whiskey in the Crystal saloon until Salem's first disastrous fire struck at 3 o'clock in the morning, May 10, 1863. Then he glanced at the smirking miners with sore feet (frozen in the Santiam mines) who hung around the scene of his disaster.

"Loafers that sat in the Crystal all day and never bought a drink! Dead-beats!" Patch-eye fumed.

He had kicked them out of the Crystal and it was they, he guessed, who had fired his saloon.

"The . . ." and Patch-eye gave them a name that Rev. Thomas Pearne, editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate wanted to call Asahel Bush of the Statesman but never quite dared to utter.

But the fire didn't stop with Patch-eye's place. It spread down the street and burned out P. D. Palmer's saloon too (that afforded Patch-eye some small degree of consolation), destroyed the Union House hotel and a number of other unpretentious shacks on the east side of Commercial street between State and Ferry.

C. P. Crandall and E. M. Waite became publishers of the Statesman about this time and they well may have regarded Patch-eye's loss and Palmer's

too, as a distinct social gain. But Dr. James H. McBride was really a more worthy editorial target. He was a Republican, a minister in the Disciples church and President Lincoln had lately appointed him minister to the Sandwich Islands. They took after Dr. McBride in their finest "Oregon style" of vituperative journalism.

"Dr. McBride passed through Salem last week and it is reported that he is enroute on horseback to Honolulu. Here he will enter the practice of "medersun" and the discharge of his duties as United States Commissioner. He had a pair of saddle bags supposed to contain a stock of pepper sauce and lobelia sufficient to last during Lincoln's term. . . . A sickly season may be looked for among the Kanakas."

Dr. McBride had scarcely ridden from sight before a "greenback cuss" bought a bill of goods from a Salem store, deposited it in his wagon and then drew greenbacks on the merchant for payment. Forthwith the storekeeper rushed to the wagon, gobbled up his wares, returned them to his shelves and told greenbacks to budge.

Just then some more generous merchants allowed greenbacks a value of 60 cents on a bill of goods. Others said 50 cents was enough. Anyway the paper money was working a veritable revolution in the relationship between debtor and creditor. It used to be that debtors dodged their creditors.

Now creditors went about trembling and watchful lest on some unlucky corner they should encounter one who owed them money.

During the month of May 90 years ago Thomas Frazer, the United States assessor, had cause to advertise. He was reminding the home folks that the federal income tax was due June 30. Everyone must pay on net profit, less \$800.

It was this less \$800 exemption that excused most Salem folks from payment in 1863. Civil War inflation prices had not yet hit this locality. Commercial Market advertised beefsteak, best quality, 8 cents a pound; boiling beef, 3 and 4 cents; pork, 10 cents; corn beef, 6 cents.

But 49ers who wanted to try their luck again joined the rush to Boise river mining camps and found conditions different there. It cost \$50 to be a saddle train passenger between The Dalles and Boise. In the camps bacon was selling for six bits a pound, flour for 30 cents, coffee at \$1.25, tobacco at \$8. Whiskey, said a contemporary account, was not to be had for love or money.

Another government sponsored advertisement called for 100 local volunteers to serve three years in the army unless discharged sooner. Pay for a first sergeant was \$20 a month, a corporal got \$14, a farrier (blacksmith) \$15, a private \$13.

A report had it that 1000 stand of arms had been ordered to Oregon for home defense. Just then a vague movement towards establishment of a Pacific Republic was in the air and the mysterious Knights of the Golden Circle composed of

southern sympathizers were supposed to be associated with it.

Local patriots were taking no chances. In Salem an effort to recruit volunteers for a light artillery company was afoot and the government promised that if 20 young men signed up they could have the state's cannon located here. (Does that cannon still exist as the mounted brass gun, dated 1857, now to be seen on the curb at the armory?)

A telegraph service of sorts from Yreka, California, (end of the transcontinental line) reached Salem April 13, 1863. What burned Crandall and Waite up was the way news dispatches about the Civil War reached the Statesman. They came in garbled, disjointed and with nearly all names hopelessly misspelled. So, when Mr. Strong of the Oregon Telegraph line was threatened by one who would shoot him for trespassing Crandall and Waite accepted the item as news but with no word of editorial sympathy.

During May of 1863 Peter Lorillard, the tobacco manufacturer, offered local connoisseurs a choice between eight named varieties of brown stuff and seven of the yellow stuff. Glass blowers entertained spectators at the courthouse, the post office moved to the rear of the Moores and had an entrance on State street, a new ferry started operation a half mile below its well established competitor. Prospective patrons were assured that it could carry 40 head of cattle across the Willamette with perfect safety in four to six minutes.

Then there was H. Smith and George H. Chance, surgical and mechanical dentists. Their office was in the Kenyon building

NEW ROLE



Actress Shelley Winters appears to like her role as mother as she proudly holds her baby daughter, Vittoria Gina, for the camera. Her husband, Italian actor Vittorio Gassman, in Rome making a picture, hasn't seen his baby girl yet. (UP Telephoto)

School Election Set, Woodburn, April 30

Woodburn—A special school election is called for April 30, from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Lincoln school to authorize the \$116,870.97 portion of the levy which exceeds the 6 per cent limitation. The total budget is \$174,916.25.

All persons residing in the

Woodburn consolidated school district who have been registered voters for 30 days or more and have lived in the district for at least the past six months are eligible to vote in Thursday's election. Property ownership is not required.

Members of the citizen's committee serving with the school board in drafting the 1953-54 budget were O. L. Withers, Elmer Witham, H. F. Butterfield, Gordon Luffman and Homer Wadsworth.

where Wiley Kenyon, Salem's first photographer, sold books and made portraits. And there were some among the oldtimers who dreaded having their likeness struck by Photographer Kenyon more than they feared Dentist Chance's forceps.

There are about 300,000 accidents to human eyes each year in the United States.

SODALITY DANCE Mt. Angel—The Sodality of Mt. Angel will sponsor a public dance at the Mt. Angel auditorium Thursday night, with Eddie Folks and the Mel-O-Tones providing music for the occasion. Theme song for the dance is "Sweethearts."

The original inhabitants of Ireland are believed to have been Scots.



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