

FOUNDED THE OREGON STATESMAN

SALEM NEWSPAPER HISTORY

Oregon Statesman Began As Organ of Democrats

The recently announced plans for merger of the Capital Journal and the Oregon Statesman January 1 arouses interest in the history of the two newspapers.

By BEN MAXWELL No person now living recalls as a personal memoir that event in pioneer history of 102 years ago when, on March 28, 1851, No. 1, Vol. 1 of the Oregon Statesman was published on the second floor of the Frier building in Oregon City.

Asahel Bush, editor and publisher of this official Democratic paper in the Oregon Territory, avowed from his masthead, "No Favor Sways Us: No Fear Shall Awe."

Shrewd and capable Bush, already by experience a competent editor and a lawyer, too, arrived in the Oregon country in 1850. No wearisome, overland journey in a Conestoga wagon for Editor Bush nor any Cape Horn passage either.

Praised by Bancroft Bush's Oregon Statesman began life as a weekly newspaper of seven columns to a page and four pages. A year's subscription sold for \$7, a single copy for two bits.

To Bush is attributed origin of the so-called "Oregon style," a personal journalism, witty, pungent, penetrating, vituperative and sometimes approaching scurrility.

W. L. Adams' rival newspaper, the Argus, became the "Airgoose"; the Oregonian, under Dryer, a journal with a "pot house reputation," and Rev. Thomas Pearne and Pacific Christian Advocate something yet worse.

Oregon Statesman in the 1850s was a political newspaper, a party gazette. Local news was ignored.

"If there is anything in journalism we utterly despise," Bush wrote, "it is petty village puffery."

Up and Down the River Bush also was territorial printer. Business followed the flag and the flag in those pioneer times was, literally, the capital of the territory.

When the capital appeared to be fixed at Salem, Bush arrived here with his printery, set it up in the Nesmith building, about where the freight depot now stands, and ran off the first local issue of his Oregon Statesman June 21, 1853.

When a political faction got the capital re-located at Corvallis in 1855, Bush moved his paper to that hopeful hamlet. Later

that year, when territorial officials there they could draw no pay there, Bush loaded his printery aboard a wheezy sternwheeler and returned to Salem.

If the Oregon Statesman was a political paper, it also was a progressive journal. In 1859 an Adams power press, the first steam power press to reach the Territory, was installed in the Statesman office.

On November 26, 1863, the Oregon Statesman was sold to a local group of entrepreneurs among whom was D. W. Craig. He soon emerged as principal stockholder.

Between July 19 and November 20, 1864, this newspaper, strong in behalf of the Union cause, issued a small daily to keep eager readers informed about those critical days of the Civil War.

Poet Lets Paper Die In 1866, Ben Simpson, business dilettante, acquired the Statesman and made his sons, Sylvester and Sam L., editors and managers. That was bad business judgment.

"The Statesman is dead," Sam lamented and to demonstrate that fact so obvious to McPherson and Morgan, who had picked up the paper cheaply, quoted a Latin maxim.

To the new publishers there was no doubt at all about the demise of the Oregon Statesman. They incorporated the old paper with their new Unionist and let the name "Statesman" die.

Next came Sam Clarke, Oregon Statesman's resurrection man. He had purchased the Unionist, perceived there was prejudice in some minds against that journal, and again assumed the name Oregon Statesman after a hiatus of about three years.

Between 1870, when Clark dropped the name Unionist, and the acquisition of the Oregon Statesman by R. J. Hendricks and George N. Saubert as sole

owners in 1885, there was an astonishing succession of editors and publishers. None, perhaps, was more capable than Sam Clarke, historian and man of affairs.

Frank Hodgkin who knew the Emperor well told about him at Hal D. Patton's 50th anniversary party held in Salem on January 12, 1922.

"I remember he got married," Hodgkin relates. "His wife was a beautiful woman and in the course of time had a boy that was one of the most beautiful children I ever saw."

"Who do you think did it?" "Damn your soul, I did," the Emperor snorted.

On another occasion the Emperor went down to Fleidner's barber shop beneath the Statesman office. He had been on a terrific spree and wanted a comforting bath.

R. J. Hendricks continued as manager and editor of the Oregon Statesman for 44 years, until his retirement in 1928. Associated with him for 20 or more years was Col. Carl Abrams.

Earl C. Brownlee and Sheldon Sackett bought the paper from Hendricks and Abrams in 1928.

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Ask \$4,136.41 Labor Lien

Albany — Suit to foreclose a \$4136.41 lien against a drive-in theater owned by Jones Enterprises, Inc., a New Mexico corporation, has been filed in circuit court here by W. E. Groat, who names the Jones corporation and G. N. and Ethel Gillenwater, Lebanon, as defendants.

Groat alleges that he performed labor and furnished materials for construction of the theater and has never been paid in full for his services or for the materials.

Two Traffic Victims Still In Hospital

Albany — Two persons injured in a traffic mishap late Sunday about four and a half miles west of Albany on U. S. highway 20 were still confined to the Albany General hospital Monday.

Hurt were Mrs. Wilma Miller and Ralph Franklin, both of Alsea. Mrs. Miller's husband, Richard Wesley Miller 23, who was driving, was not hospitalized. He escaped with minor injuries.

It was reported that Mrs. Miller suffered severe cuts on her face and back and that Franklin suffered a broken jaw, and also cuts and bruises.

Estimate Traffic Toll May Reach 360

Chicago (AP) — The nation's traffic death toll over the New

established the Statesman's tradition as a morning paper in 1868 when he published the Unionist during the interregnum.

On May 1, 1949, the paper launched its Monday issue to make the Oregon Statesman a seven-day newspaper.

J. W. P. Huntington had

Year's weekend, the National Safety Council estimated today, may reach 360.

The council said its estimate was for immediate traffic deaths only and covered the period from 6 p.m., Thursday, New Year's Eve, to midnight Sunday local time.

Jury's Verdict Voided by Judge

Albany — Judge Fred McHenry in circuit court here has issued an order setting aside a jury verdict in the case of Lloyd E. and Alberta Pickett vs. Frank V. and Eleanor Britton, and granting the plaintiffs' petition for a new trial.

A jury had returned a verdict in favor of the defendants and accordingly a judgment was entered to that effect October 29, but the plaintiff's attorney filed a bill of exceptions on the basis of those exceptions, upon which their petition and the order were based.

Winter Extension Terms Start Monday

The winter term of the general extension division program of the Oregon State System of Higher Education will start classes Monday and Wednesday nights next week.

Classes available will include improvement of reading for business and professional people, school finance, foun-

dations of physical science, Oregon school law and system of education, health education, elementary school supervision and administration, and problems of philosophy.

Additional information may be obtained from the office of George D. Porter, director of adult education, 460 North High street.

RHEE PARTY WINS Seoul (AP) — President Syngman Rhee's liberty party Tuesday won an overwhelming victory in the elections for committeemen of the National Assembly.

Linoieum NATIONAL BRANDS CAPITOL FLOOR COVERINGS 217 S. High Ph. 45751

Tele-fun by Warren Goodrich



"One of us has gotta come out of hiding to phone—to avoid mistakes, you gotta watch the dial, you know..."



Capable and shrewd Asahel Bush founded the Oregon Statesman at Oregon City and published the first issue from an office on the second floor of Frier's building, March 28, 1851.



Oregon Statesman's obituary was written by Sam Simpson, editor, in December 1866.



Editor and publisher of the Oregon Statesman from 1884 to 1928, an interval of 44 years.

Reds Ship Gold Bars to Britain London (AP) — Another shipment of Soviet "hammer and sickle" gold bars, the fourth this winter, arrived in London last night.

Hong Kong to Get Relief Supplies New York (AP) — The National Council of Churches is speeding relief supplies to victims of a Christmas day fire that left thousands homeless in a village near Hong Kong.

Stram Will Talk On College Plan Walter Stram, president of Dakota Bible college will be guest speaker at the 7:30 p.m. Wednesday mid-week service of the Garden Road Christian church.

BLAST KILLS MAN Detroit (AP) — An exploding drum of alcohol turned Leslie Swenson, 45, of Hazel Park, into a flaming torch last night. He died a few hours later.

BECKE and WADSWORTH "All Kinds of Insurance and Surety Bonds" 562 State St. Opposite Court House PH. 4-3333

MEMO TO STATE FARM MEMBERS FROM "Si" Olson - Ari Holscher J. Earl Cook - Larry Buhler 625 High St. Ph. 4-2215 GREAT NEWS! If your auto policy includes medical payments coverage, you now have broad new MAX coverage.

Pre-Inventory Sale! INLAID LINOLEUM Reg. \$2.45 & \$2.95 sq. yd. — Out it goes at \$1.59 Sq. Yd. Sandran Plastic Countertop Reg. 70c Lin. Ft. Out it goes at 49c Plastic Floor Tile 9"x9" — Reg. 19c Per Tile Out it goes at, each 12c RUBBER TILE 9"x9"—6 colors to choose from—Reg. 25c each—Now only—Each 15c FORMICA COUNTER TOP Cut pieces—Reg. \$1.00 sq. ft. — Closeout. sq. ft. 70c LOADS OF LINOLEUM RENANTS 6-ft. width—All Sizes—Per ft. \$1.00 Norris Walker Paint Co. 1710 Front St. Salem, Oregon Phone 4-2279