

CALL FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by Betty J. Kindinger, Clerk of High School Building, Beaverton, Oregon, until November 9th, 1949, 8:00 o'clock p.m. Pacific Standard Time for science laboratory equipment as follows:

- Instructor Desks—5 ft. long, 30 in. wide, 37 in. high Sheldon K-100-W or Hamilton No. L-2100 or equivalent.
- Instructor Desk—8 ft. long, 30 inches wide, 37 in. high Sheldon K-102-W or Hamilton No. L-2105 or equivalent.
- Student multiple purpose tables, physics and chemistry combination without chairs—Sheldon J-126-W or Hamilton No. L-2246 or equivalent (Tops to be similar to Hamilton No. W-132 Harlack. Submit quotations for both solid stone tops and also figures for Hamilton No. W-132 Harlack tops or equivalent).

Bids to include equipment installed.

All bids must be in the hands of the District Clerk not later than 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the afternoon of November 8th.

The Board of Directors of Beaverton Union High School District No. 10 Joint reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.

Betty J. Kindinger, Clerk
Published Oct. 21-28, Nov 4, 1949.

All Parties Made Bid For Territorial Printer Plum

LURE OF CALIFORNIA GOLDFIELDS LEFT VOID IN HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF VITAL PERIOD

By Hervey S. Robinson

Any reader who has additional information on names, places or events covered by Mr. Robinson are invited to write the newspaper. In this way, a more complete historical series will be possible.

Address letters to Hervey S. Robinson, % Beaverton Enterprise, Beaverton, Oregon.

(Continued from last week)

When we began preparing this series on the beginnings of Oregon Territory, a century ago, it was with the thought of relating in simple style the story of a period which has been generally neglected by writers of Oregon history. Even in the field of historical fiction this interesting period has been overlooked. We soon discovered a reason for this neglect, a lack of available sources of information.

Newspapers were lacking, when President Polk signed the Organic Act, creating Oregon Territory, on August 14, 1848, there were three newspapers in Oregon. Before General Joseph Lane, newly appointed governor of the territory, could get to Oregon City to set up the machinery of government not one was left. All three had suspended publication and the printers had departed for the California gold mines along with most of the adult male population of Oregon.

Governor Lane found two idle printing plants in Oregon City and one at the residence of Rev. John S. Griffin on the Tualatin Plains near the present site of Hillsboro.

The "Oregon Spectator", the first newspaper published on the Pacific coast, established in February, 1846, in the interest of the American provisional government, had suspended publication in February, 1848 when its editor Aaron E. Wait resigned. George L. Curry's Oregon Free Press, rival of the "Spectator", started in April, 1848, had been discontinued in December of the same year, and Rev. J. S. Griffin's radical and fanatical anti-British and anti-Catholic sheet, the Oregon American and Evangelical Unionist had been stopped by the departure of its printer, in September, 1848, for the California gold fields.

The latter publication was revived in May of 1849 to issue one number devoted entirely to a tirade against the Hudson's Bay company and the Catholic missionaries, blaming them for the Whitman massacre and then passed out of the picture permanently.

So Oregon Territory remained without a newspaper of any kind from the date of Governor Lane's arrival throughout the period of inauguration of the new government until the "Spectator" resumed publication on October 4, 1849, after the adjournment of the legislature, with a new owner, Robert Moore, of Linn City and a new editor, Wilson Blain, late councilman from Tuality (Washington) county and the choice of the legislature for superintendent of state (or territorial) printing.

Relying upon scattered reminiscences, gleaned from many sources, and upon the correspondence of General Joseph Lane, Samuel R. Thurston, J. W. Nesmith, Wilson Blain and other outstanding figures in public affairs in 1849, we are attempting to give you a human interest account of the doings of that first legislature.

Mr. Blain, in the first two numbers of the "Spectator" under his editorship describes the legislative session in some detail. He says: "The first important business of the Assembly was the preparation of a memorial to the United States Congress. This matter consumed the best part of two weeks.

When this task was accomplished and the memorial placed in the hands of Delegate S. R. Thurston who was awaiting its delivery, the assembly adjourned to August 20, to allow the members to go home and harvest their crops. Courtney M. Walker said of the activities of those two weeks, from July 16 to July 28, "no bills have come to final passage, except the memorial to Congress and one to authorize the governor to call elections. Some hundreds are progressing slowly to final passage." It is with the progress of one of these measures that we shall deal in this article.

The inauguration of the new government called for public printing, always regarded in that day as the subject of party patronage. Governor Lane was a Democratic politician and made no exception to the custom. While he was will-

ing to follow a non-partisan course in matters of local government the allotment of public printing was a different matter.

George L. Curry, who owned the plant of the Free Press was a deservng Democrat and should have the patronage and he got it, in so far as Governor Lane and Territorial Secretary Pritchette were able to give it to him. He printed the proclamation of the Territorial Government, the notices of election and the call for the legislature.

Election ballots were not provided by the boards of election as is done today. The various party caucuses prepared tickets for their nominees, which were distributed before election, or at the polls, and served for ballots. S. R. Thurston, the successful candidate was on the "Mission" ticket in Clackamas and Tuality districts, at least, possibly in all the others. Printing of these tickets was no doubt given to Governor Abernathy who controlled the old "Spectator" press.

George L. Curry received the patronage of the old "American" party, composed chiefly of Democrats who were renewing their old party allegiance and drifting toward a Democratic organization in Oregon. J. W. Nesmith was the candidate of this group.

Under date of May 27, 1849, Curry wrote to Nesmith at his residence in Polk county: "Herewith you have two hundred tickets. I have retained sufficient, after supplying Lewis and Vancouver, for Clackamas."

When the legislature convened a partisan fight over the matter of printing developed at once. The legislature claimed the right to give its printing to whomsoever it chose. Secretary Pritchette declared that he was the party to employ the printer and that he would not pay for any printing unless he hired it done. (He intended to give the work to Curry.)

The very first act of the House of Representatives after completing its organization was the appointment of two of its members for a joint committee with the council to arrange for the necessary printing and the council at once named two from its membership for the same committee. This committee, when organized was headed by Rev. Wilson Blain who was in line for the editorship of the Spectator when it should renew publication and intended to secure for his employer the printing contracts arising from legislative action.

The committee secured the printing of enough copies of the governor's message and some minor jobs without much conflict. There were virtually no full-time printers in the territory but Mr. Curry, engaged in other work, could find time and had the ability to set up and print small jobs in his spare time, and Ex-Governor Abernathy had someone similar available for the Spectator press for we find references to printing work given to Geo. Abernathy. It seems most probable that the incidental jobs were divided between these two men without any contest.

On August 27, the House took up the consideration of a bill to enact and cause to be published a code of laws. Consideration of this bill was continued from time to time until September 5, when it was passed and sent to the Council and in due time after several conferences, it passed that body.

This was the patronage plum for which all were looking. This contract would set a printing establishment up in business. It was eagerly sought by Robert Moore who was on the point of purchasing the Spectator. Pritchette, who controlled the funds appropriated by Congress for the territory intended to give it to Curry, and friends of Thurston's wished to stave off its publication until the arrival of a printing plant which he was negotiating for in the East with a view to establishing a new Democratic paper to claim the printing contract.

This plant with which The Oregon Statesman began publication did not arrive in Oregon until after Thurston's death, which occurred on a westbound ship off Acapulco, Mexico, on April 9, 1851, on his way back to Oregon. Asahel Bush, whom Thurston had secured to be his editor, took over the paper and made it the recognized organ of Oregon Democracy throughout the remainder of the territorial period.

The printing controversy flared

up in the legislature on September 6, when the House passed a resolution to have 1000 copies of the Memorial to Congress printed for the use of the two houses. The next day the Council refused to concur and on September 11, Mr. Kinney Representative from Yamhill, voiced the attitude of Secretary Pritchette in a resolution that the Secretary of the Territory was the proper authority to contract for the printing of all laws passed by the legislature.

The resolution was promptly tabled. Blain was elected to superintend the printing of the laws and contracted with Robert Moore as was expected. When the legislative committee asked for the copy for the publisher Pritchette refused to surrender it. Eventually it was secured and printed under Moore's imprint. We do not know whether

he was able to collect for the job. When Asahel Bush arrived with the Statesman plant, he was elected public printer and the Statesman became the official paper. But that is part of another story.

(Continued next week)

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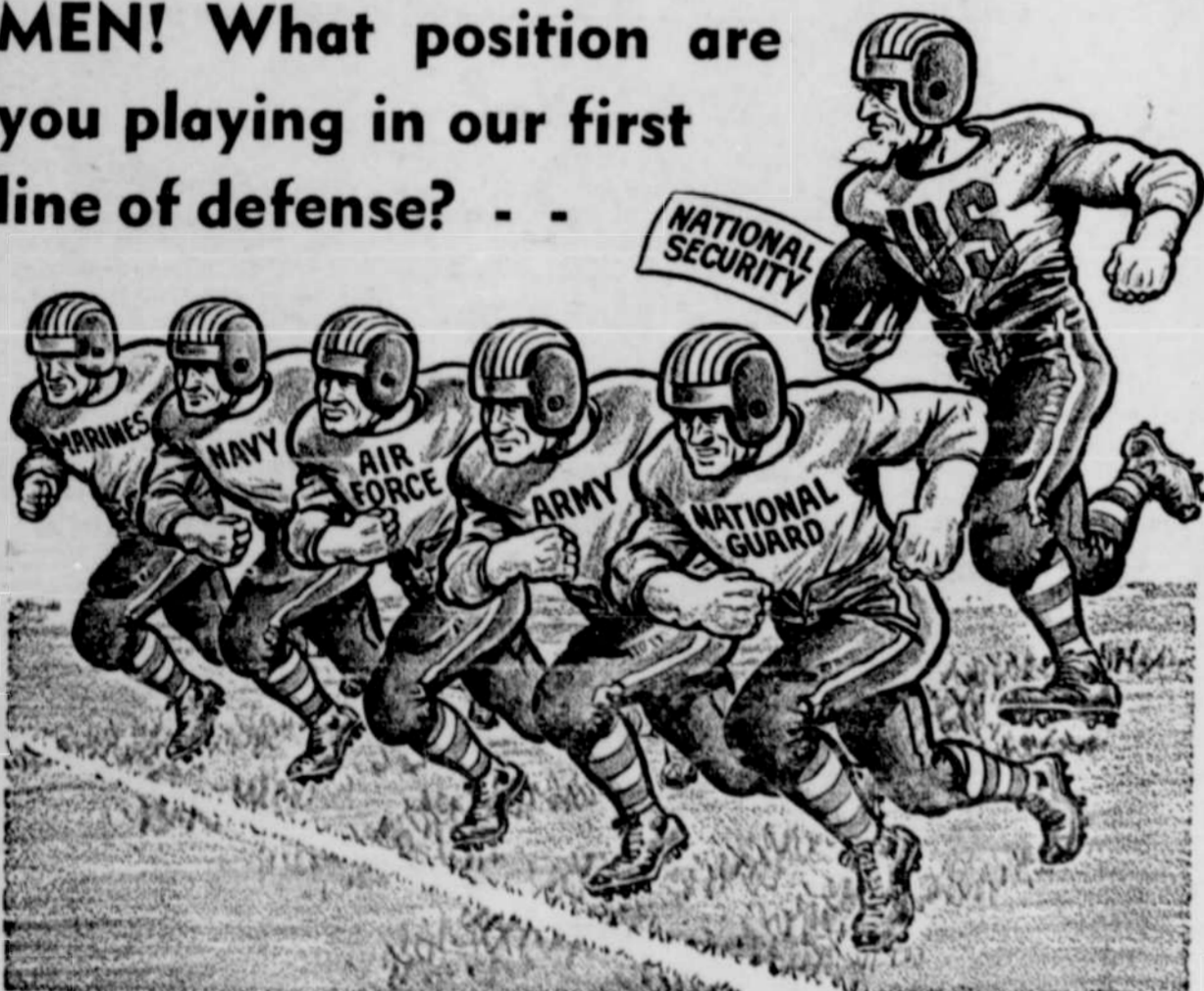
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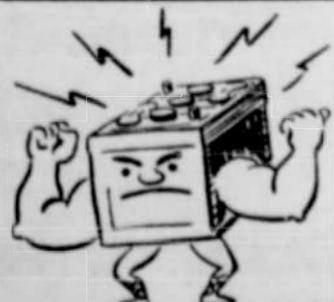
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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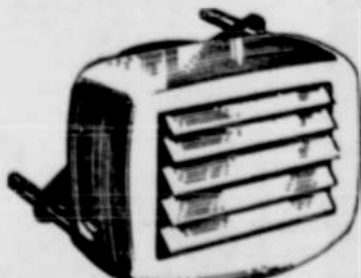
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