

Murder, War, Kidnaping Do Not Smear This Page!

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The Editor Speaking

SALEM SQUIRRELS have been placed on "relief" to prevent their starving until the state legislators could arrive.

Skating teaches the first lesson in life, that it's hard to get up but easy to coast down.

The mayor of Central Point ordered Art (Hic) Powell to clean up his back yard. Guess he's never read Art's column in the American.

Perhaps one reason labor has managed to sit-down striking is they're tired of always getting a kick in the pants for their trouble.

A **TORNADO STRUCK LOS ANGELES THIS WEEK AND WAS MISTAKEN FOR ANOTHER SUBURBAN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT.**

The folks who recently were telling all their friends how innocent Hauptmann was now are busy being shocked by the Mattson tragedy.

With prosperity returning, Oregon's greatest problem is going to be to keep legislators now in session from feeling too prosperous with the state's money.

The Coast baseball league would pick this kind of weather to announce that bleacher seats next summer will sell at two-bits.

BANK DEPOSITS SHOW INCREASE

Deposits of the First National Bank of Ashland increased \$167,677.38, or 14.2 percent during 1936.

J. W. McCoy, cashier of the bank, also reported that during the year loans averaged higher than for some years past, largely due to special effort toward financing all worthy activities—farm, business and personal.

The bank's statement shows very excellent balance in its investment portfolio as between loans, government bonds, other bonds and securities and reserves on hand; the figures being as follows:

Loans	\$354,032.72
Government bonds	369,800.00
Other bonds and securities	207,420.87
Cash reserves	515,693.80

Earnings for the year were very satisfactory and total resources at the end of the year were \$1,511,036.31.

The business outlook for Ashland in 1937 is encouraging, according to McCoy, and it is believed that there will be a substantial increase both in totals and in earnings in practically all lines represented in this district.

All directors of the bank and all officers and employees were re-elected at the annual meeting held on January 12. Personnel of the directorate is as follows: George W. Dunn, H. G. Enders, J. W. McCoy, W. H. McNair, Thos. H. Simpson and F. D. Wagner.

Officers and employees are as follows: George W. Dunn, president; W. H. McNair, vice-president; J. W. McCoy, cashier; G. H. Wenner, assistant cashier; H. C. Emery, assistant cashier; C. E. Hedberg, assistant cashier; Mrs. June Pentzer, Frances Sander and Ann Guetzlaff.

GABBY GERTIE



"Scientists who teach students how to make food from saw-wood are turning out post graduates."

MARTIN SPEECH IS SHORTEST IN STATE HISTORY

Governor Warns Houses Against Law Tampering And Tax Fiddling

By A. L. LINDBECK
State Capital News Bureau of the Southern Oregon Miner

SALEM—Governor Martin's message opening the 39th regular session of the state legislature was unique in two respects. It was probably the shortest message ever delivered at the opening of a legislative session in this state. It contained no recommendations for new legislation. On the contrary it called attention to the fate of measures voted down by the people at the recent election and cited these as mandates from the people against any tampering with the tax structure of the state or any fundamental changes in the state organization.

The message, less than one thousand words in length, called attention to the improved condition of the state's finances, pointed with pride to the disappearance of the general fund deficit. Directing attention to the balanced budget prepared by his budget director, Wallace S. Wharton, the governor urged the legislators "not to rock the boat" by exceeding the recommendations of the budget and jeopardizing the state's financial credit or by passing new revenue measures and thus increasing the burden of the tax payers.

The governor pleaded with the lawmakers "not to be led astray by the deceitful, false and misleading shibboleths of demagogues who maliciously try to create economic, social and political chaos" and urged that they "not be misled by plausible but designed arguments into enacting laws that will further the work of these destructive demagogues."

Full text of Governor Martin's address follows:

"To the honorable president and members of the senate, and to the honorable speaker and members of the house of representatives of the 39th legislative assembly:

"I welcome you to the 39th legislative session, and come before you to make a report on my stewardship for the past biennium. I wish to express to you my eagerness to cooperate in solving the current problems confronting the state government in the best interest of all the citizens of this great state.

"Oregon has come through the depression years with flying colors. As you know, the deficit of \$1,304,290.31 which faced the state at the beginning of my administration has been converted into a surplus of approximately \$200,000. This is the first time since 1925 that the state deficit has been eliminated.

"Bonded indebtedness of the state has been reduced to \$49,108,010, the lowest in 15 years. Out of this total approximately \$46,800,000 is represented by the outstanding obligations of the Oregon State Highway commission and the World War Veterans' State Aid commission. Both issues are self-liquidating, and will be retired on schedule unless adverse action is taken.

"The entire bonded debt of the state can be eliminated under the present program of retirement by 1960, provided no new bonds or obligations are incurred in the meantime.

"For the first time in history, the state of Oregon will remove the property tax from real and personal property, except for that portion of the levy outside of the constitutional 6% limitation, of which more than one-half is for the elementary school fund which is not properly a state tax in that it is collected and distributed solely within the counties. The tax levy for strictly state purposes for this year is 1.15 mills as compared with 2.86 mills in 1936. This represents a reduction of more than \$1,500,000. Due to excellent administration by the World War Veterans' State Aid commission, the 0.5 mill levy for that commission has been waived for this year.

"The state has done its part in lifting the load from the real property taxpayers in accordance with my avowed program. This has been accomplished through a constructive program of economy which has measured actual needs and demands of the state governmental agencies and provided therefor, within reason, instead of an arbitrary and unsound cutting. This has been effected through the system of budgetary control which was authorized at my request by the 38th legislative assembly. It demonstrates anew the wisdom of sound business correlation of governmental activities.

"It is essential that the tax load be not increased at this time. Then, the people of this state may

(Continued on page 8)

Ashland Gateway Matches Six Others In December Totals

Nearly doubling total registrations of out-of-state motorists of the former record-holder, Grants Pass, Ashland last month moved well to the front in this department with 1,318 windshield stickers being issued here to guests of the state.

The Grants Pass chamber of commerce registration office, leading all Oregon until the Ashland Chamber of Commerce office was relocated on the plaza, registered a total of 706 during December, taking second position. Secretary J. R. Harvey of the climate city acknowledged the realignment in a recent letter to Chief of Police C. P. Talent, who has been godfathering the new booster club here. Harvey wrote "We can't sign 'em up unless they go by our door, and congratulations to you folks and to Marchal Stansbury, your secretary."

An interesting sidelight on the increase is found in the fact that figures just released by the secretary of state show that Ashland registered exactly as many out-of-state cars as did six other ports of entry put together, including Grants Pass, Brookings, Lakeview, Milton, Ontario and Portland.

During 1936 California motorists formed the larger part of incoming drivers, with Washington second. All states in the union and most countries of the Americas as well as many in the Orient and Europe were represented in registration records for the past year. Total increase in motor travel through the state was about 39 per cent over 1935, with 139,855 having been recorded during '36, time.

Dr. Walker, Dentist, Will Reopen Hanson Office Here Monday

Dr. R. E. Walker, dentist, will take over the practice of the late Dr. C. W. Hanson Monday, having purchased office and business of the well known Ashland man. Office in the Swedenburg building, formerly occupied by Hanson, will be opened.

Dr. Walker, graduate of University of Southern California and North-Pacific Dental college, Portland, recently completed nine years of schooling. During the past year he has been associated in practice with his father, Dr. W. W. Walker, in Grants Pass.

Dr. Walker will practice general dentistry here.

CAST CHOSEN FOR DRAMA

Selection of a cast for a religious drama, "The Return of the Prodigal," were made Monday night by young people of the Neighborhood church. They include Ione Minor, John Barker, Harold Reedy, Rodney Rogers, David Bergstrom and D. E. Nourse. The play will be presented twice, February 11 and 12, because of limited seating capacity of the church. Esther Carter and Roberta Nourse will be in charge of costumes.

PEACHEYS CELEBRATE 57TH WEDDING YEAR

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Peachey, 100 Lincoln street, observed their 57th wedding anniversary and Mr. Peachey's 84th birthday yesterday at their home. Later in the day they were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Dunn in Bellevue.

Mrs. Morgan, a neighbor, presented the couple with a birthday cake and good wishes were accorded them by other neighbors.

Collects Dime Novels as Hobby



Charles Bragin, a retired business man of Brooklyn, N. Y., collects dime novels as a hobby. His collection, part of which is shown examining, is one of the most valuable in America. Recently he refused \$1,000 for a collection of 191 copies of the Frank Reade Library. One of the copies in his collection recently brought \$425 at an auction sale.

FULLER HEADS BIRTHDAY BALL FOR ASHLAND

FRIDAY NIGHT, January 29. Ashland folk will dance in honor of the president's birthday anniversary and for the financial benefit of local infantile paralysis victims and the Warm Springs foundation in Georgia, devoted to work against the plague.

John H. Fuller, postmaster, will act as chairman of the birthday ball, which probably will be held in the Elks club. Already the American Legion and American Legion auxiliary have endorsed the plan, and other Ashland organizations are expected to get behind the movement within the next few days.

Infantile paralysis, a disease which cripples and maims children, has been successfully combated at the Warm Springs foundation for a number of years. President Roosevelt himself having regained his health there. Of funds raised here from the ball, 70 per cent will remain in Ashland for the direct benefit of any victims whom the disease might strike, while the remaining 30 per cent will be forwarded to Georgia for use at Warm Springs.

Already one youth, a Talent boy, is recovering at the foundation.

The birthday balls were inaugurated in 1934 and have become a nationwide observance in honor of the chief executive since. The Ashland ball will be held the evening prior to Roosevelt's birthday anniversary, which falls on Saturday, and will be a link in a chain of thousands of like affairs, the season's chief social function.

Postmaster Fuller is expected to announce committee appointments within next few days.

Bill Ausland Suffers Painful Spinal Injury

Mount Ashland ski course Saturday was the scene of a near tragic accident when Bill Ausland of the state highway department, while careening down a hill, stumbled and fell on a snag, suffering a bad cut at the base of his spine.

Ausland, who was accompanied by a group of boy scouts, none of whom could drive a car, was forced to walk the entire seven miles from scene of the accident.

Following the mishap Ausland underwent an operation Saturday night performed by Dr. E. G. Everett, who reports his patient improving rapidly, and probably will recover completely within a month.

BANTA TO LEAVE FOR PORTLAND FOR MEET

C. W. Banta, regional officer of the Townsend clubs for this district, will leave Saturday for Portland, where he will attend annual meeting of regional officers.

The meeting will plan a program for Oregon clubs in 1937.

AAUW WOMEN MEET

The American Association of University Women, Ashland unit, met at 7:30 p. m. Thursday in basement of the public library. A short program was presented and plans were discussed for the future. Tea was served during the social hour.

Bud Gandee is among those not quite up to par this week, having been ill for the past couple days.

Mrs. Arthur Peters underwent a tonsillectomy, performed by Dr. C. A. Haines, Thursday evening.

MUST DANCE NOW



Petite Lily Pons, beautiful opera and movie star, photographed in her dance practice outfit, consisting mainly of shorts, going through steps of the dance routine she must master for her new opera role in "Coq D'Or." Lily must hit a high E note while doing a ballet, one of the most difficult tasks ever assigned an opera star.

NEW SEMESTER TO START 25TH

Monday, January 25, has been designated the first day of school in the new semester by Superintendent of Schools George A. Briscoe.

Classes will get under way immediately with Superintendent Briscoe urging all students intending to enroll to do so upon the start of school and not stay out a week or two longer. Children, who are six or more and just entering school, must get started before February 1. No beginning pupils will be accepted after this date.

A school clinic will be available and parents are urged to send their children for physical examination. Examinations are not required but are beneficial to both the new student and classmates.

It is essential for the parents to enter children in the proper school. Ashland has two districts, west and east sides. Dividing line between the districts is formed by Gresham and Third streets. Those living on the west side must attend the Washington school and those on the east the Lincoln school.

Beginners in the junior and senior high schools must make arrangements with the school principals for entrance and class assignments.

Oregon Birth Rate Exceeds 1936 Deaths

The 1936 birth rate in Oregon exceeded the death rate by 123. There were 1,158 births and 1,035 deaths recorded throughout the state during the 12-month period.

Multnomah county led all counties with 381 deaths and 359 births while Marion county was second in death rate with 90 deaths.

Infant mortality was very low with 14 deaths for the entire year, or a rate of 12 deaths per 1000 live births.

JUNIOR HIGH DROPS TILT

Ashland Junior high school basketball team, completely outclassed by large opponents, bowed to a fast moving St. Mary's quint 40-10 in the St. Mary's gymnasium in Medford Tuesday evening. Reddy, Saint forward, led scoring with 16 points, while little Bobby Weaver was outstanding for the Lithians.

KATE F. GRAINGER

Funeral services for Kate F. Grainger, who died Tuesday, will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the Stock and Litwiller chapel. Interment will be in Ashland cemetery.

HENRY WILLIAM CLARK

Funeral services for Henry William Clark, who died Monday, will be held today from the Stock and Litwiller funeral home at 10 a. m., the Rev. Merle L. Edwards officiating. He is survived by his wife, five sisters, all in Oregon; one sister living in Dallas, Tex., and a brother in Los Angeles. Interment will be in Mountain View cemetery.

OREGON DEBT SHRINKS TO \$200 A PERSON

State Financial Condition Best of Any On Coast Figures Show

By A. L. LINDBECK
State Capital News Bureau of the Southern Oregon Miner

SALEM—If you are an average Oregon citizen your share of the public debt, not including that of the federal government, amounts to nearly \$200.

Figures compiled by State Treasurer Holman and released in his biennial report show the aggregate debt burden—bond and warrant—of the state and its numerous political subdivisions, to be \$194,136,446.22. But even that figure is \$36,000,000 under the figures for 1936 when the aggregate debt seems to have reached its peak at \$230,200,948.12.

Cities are responsible for the biggest contribution to the aggregate debt load—probably because there are more of them. Anyway the total debt—bond and warrant of the cities and towns of Oregon amounts to \$76,243,498.84. The state debt, totalling \$50,586,810, ranks second. County debts total \$24,609,866.53; school districts, \$19,612,750.62; irrigation districts, \$12,363,675.44; port districts, \$7,569,214.58; drainage districts, \$1,978,369.61; water districts, \$1,067,320.60; highway improvement districts, \$105,000.

Bond issues account for \$179,126,937 of the public debt in this state, but outstanding warrants as of last July 1 totaled \$15,009,508.

Holman's compilation shows that the state has reduced its debt load by \$14,000,000 since 1928 when it reached its peak while the cities have whittled \$12,000,000 off their debt load in the past four years. School districts owe \$5,000,000 less than they did in 1932 and the load of irrigation districts has been reduced by more than \$5,000,000 since 1930, largely through refinancing with federal aid during the past year.

While the gross debt of the state and its subdivisions totals \$194,136,446.22 sinking funds and other assets amounting to \$42,885,974.61 reduce the debt to a net of \$151,250,471.61. Assets of state departments alone amount to more than \$27,000,000, most of this being represented by first mortgages and real property held by the World War Veterans State Aid commission. Cities and towns report sinking funds of nearly \$12,000,000 while the sinking funds of school districts total nearly \$2,000,000.

William E. Lamb, Oregon's official hangman, who died this week in the Veterans' hospital at Portland, was one of the most interesting characters this state has ever known. Mild mannered and as gentle in demeanor as his name might indicate he admitted to having officiated at the execution of more than 700 persons—only one of these a woman—in the nearly 60 years of his experience in this unusual and gruesome profession. Most of Lamb's hangings took place in the Philippine islands where he served for 17 years with the United States army. During the 16 years of Lamb's employment at the state prison here he officiated at 14 hangings. Lamb was a native of Virginia and was 79 years of age last September.

Governor Martin will not be (Continued on Page 8)

SEEN in a DAZE

By Our KEYHOLE REPORTER

PAT PATTERSON denying that milk has become any richer since all the water pipes froze.

PARKER HESS granting an autograph to a Medford fan during a basketball game.

PAT DUNN yelling "Wheeee, here I come!" at the Mount Ashland ski run.

FORT DUNN suffering a frozen pipe.

H. S. HARRISON and MERRICK THORNTON still wishing one and all a Merry Christmas via window card.

ELLERY HALL driving a new sedan that drinks water like it was the morning after.