

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Eastman Boom
- 24 Killed
- Grazing Wanted

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM — President Roosevelt's program for curtailment of federal highway appropriations would, if approved by Congress, cost Oregon a total of \$18,300,000 during the next four years, according to R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. The proposed drastic cuts in federal aid for highway work would delay completion of the state highway system by 15 years, Baldock said.

Elbert Eastman, Portland attorney, is sponsoring a move to remove the political labels from candidates for public office in Oregon and make both the primary and general election strictly non-partisan. Under the terms of a proposed initiative measure filed by Eastman with Secretary of State Snell this week, the primary election would be conducted as an elimination contest, the two high candidates for each office to compete in the finals at the general election. If enough signatures are secured to the initiative petition Eastman's proposal will be up to the voters at the general election in November, 1938.

Twenty-four persons were killed in traffic accidents on Oregon highways during November, according to Secretary of State Snell who points out that this was less than 50 percent of the record of 58 fatalities established in November, 1936.

More than \$100,000,000 passed thru the state treasury department during the period from July 1, 1936, to November 30, 1937, according to State Treasurer Holman. This represents an increase of approximately \$30,000,000 over the figures for the similar period ending November 30, 1935. Cash on hand in the state treasury as of November 30 totalled \$13,372,079.35, all earmarked for specific purposes. In addition to current expenses of state government approximately \$6,000,000 will be paid out by the state during 1938 for maturing principal and interest on state bonds.

The interior finish of the new building to be constructed for the State Forestry department will be of typical Oregon woods, each room to be representative of some native wood of the state. One room will be finished in Douglas fir, another in ponderosa pine, and other rooms in hemlock, spruce, redwood, white fir, myrtle, alder and ash. The new building which is to be located near the state highway shops just east of the Salem city limits will be 73 by 100 feet in size, with two stories and a partial basement. Purchase of the site for the building was authorized by the Forestry Board at a recent meeting.

Oregon's chief executive has been selected for the role of matchmaker by a comely eastern miss who declares her willingness to marry any man who will provide \$500 to pay for an operation needed by her mother. The miss who has appealed to Governor Martin for aid in finding her man is Maureen Donelle, 20, of Cumberland, Md., who describes herself as a brunette Jean Harlow. She admits that she is "not at all bad looking," in addition to which she is "not a bad cook and housekeeper."

Installation of the new lethal gas chamber at the state prison will start this week according to Warden James Lewis, who has just returned from a trip to Arizona where he made a study of a similar death chamber in use in that state. Cost of the gas chamber, installed, is estimated at approximately \$2000.

A. R. Hollingshead, Malheur county rancher, told the State Land Board this week that the proposal to block school lands into large grazing areas would put all of the

small stockmen out of business because they were not in position to bid for the grazing rights in competition with the big stockmen. Hollingshead gained considerable publicity about a year ago when he attempted to collect tolls from motorists using a state highway across his land, claiming that he had never been paid for the right-of-way.

In spite of protests by eastern Oregon stockmen to the effect that state lands were of little if any value for grazing purposes the State Land Board has been swamped with proposals to lease the land, with bids averaging three and one-fourths cents per acre per year. Proposals received by the board call for more than 1,000,000 acres of grazing land whereas the state's holdings in the grazing area total only 700,000 acres.

While the proposals are based upon the state's proposal to block its holdings into sizeable grazing areas the Land board is still pondering the blocking problem with much sentiment adverse to such a procedure at this time. Opposition to the blocking program is based largely upon the argument that administration of the lands under the Taylor Grazing act will materially improve its value within a few years and, incidentally, bring higher bids for its use from stockmen.

Marvin Klemme, regional grazer, is expected to meet with the Land board next week to discuss the blocking proposal.

J. M. Devers, for the past 20 years

attorney for the state highway commission, is being prominently mentioned as a possible republican candidate for the United States senate. Devers admits that he is in a receptive mood but insists that he does not propose to make the plunge unless definite evidence of substantial support is forthcoming from the rank and file voters whose choice will determine the winner in the May primaries.

J. C. Joy of Portland has been elected as chairman of the Industrial Accident commission, succeeding Albert R. Hunter of La Grande who resigned from the commission because of ill health. Roy G. Buchanan of Pendleton, appointed by Governor Martin to fill the vacancy on the commission caused by Hunter's resignation, began his new duties December 1. Hunter who has been in California for several weeks, will remain with the commission in a minor capacity.

Solon T. White, state director of agriculture, just returned from a trip to Washington, D. C., says that he found Oregon turkeys featured on the menus of many of the larger hotels in cities of the east.

Sponsors of the move to repeal the milk control act came out in the open this week when they filed articles of incorporation for a new organization. Incorporators include E. C. Allen of Portland, member of the legislature from Multnomah county, and C. R. Wagoner, well known

as a Townsend organizer and more recently mentioned as a candidate for governor of Oregon. The articles of incorporation declare that the milk control act was passed by the legislature contrary to the wishes of the voters of the state.

The automobile registration department will begin mailing out the new 1938 license plates next Monday and the new licenses may be displayed after December 15. Applications for plates this year are slightly behind the 1936 record for the same period, according to Secretary of State Snell.

More Oregon Clubbers Win National Honors

Latest word received by the state club office at OSC from the National Club congress at Chicago tells of more Oregon winners in the various national contests there. Edward Weston of Tillamook placed first in the western division and third nationally in the 4-H rural electrification contest, winning a trip to Chicago and a \$200 scholarship.

Barbara Sargent of Amity was chosen as one of the four healthiest club girls in the United States, all of whom were so nearly perfect there could be no distinction, and LaVerne Whitehead of Turner won first place in the informal party dress class of the national style revue.

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