

Impressive New Oregon Capitol Is Completed Ahead of Schedule

FIRE DOGS HEELS OF LEGISLATORS SINCE EARLY DAY

Every Building in Which Legislature Has Convened Since 1851 Totally Or Partially Destroyed.

By ROBERT LODMELL (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

SALEM, Ore., July 13. (UP)—Every Salem building in which the Oregon legislature convened since 1851 has been either destroyed or badly damaged by fire, records and documents at the state library revealed today.

There has been, however, three buildings which housed either the house or senate which were not burned, but four of the joint meeting places have been completely destroyed and the other one badly damaged by flames.

First One Burned. First legislative building to be destroyed by fire was the \$40,000 territorial capitol. The 1854 territorial legislature met in two rooms of the uncompleted building and voted to change the capital to Corvallis. The following year they met at Corvallis and immediately voted to go back to Salem. They returned and were in session in the nearly-completed capitol when on the night of December 29, 1855, fire broke out and destroyed the building.

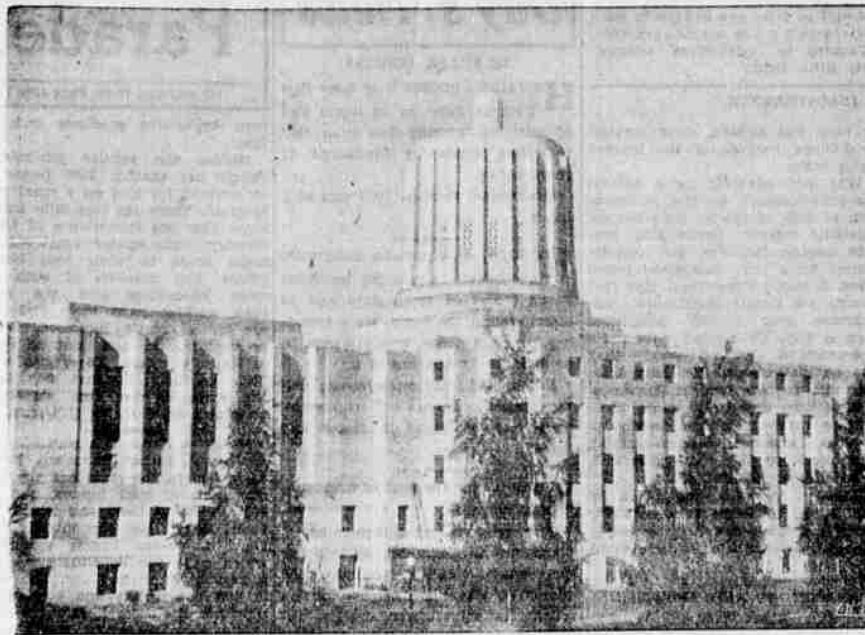
Second legislative assembly to be destroyed by fire was the first Salem meeting place of the legislature. It was the Oregon institute building and was located on the present Willamette university site. The third and fourth territorial legislatures met there in 1851 and 1852. (The first and second sessions had been held at Oregon City—the first state capitol.) The Oregon institute building burned December 27, 1872.

Used Two Buildings. On December 5, 1853, the fifth territorial legislature convened in two buildings—the house in the Nesmith-Wilson building on the northeast corner of Front and Ferry streets and the senate in the Rector building on South Commercial just south of the present Statesman Publishing company building. They met for the sixth and a portion of the seventh sessions in the territorial capitol, but when that building burned, both lawmaking bodies returned to the Rector building which was destroyed by fire on June 3, 1855.

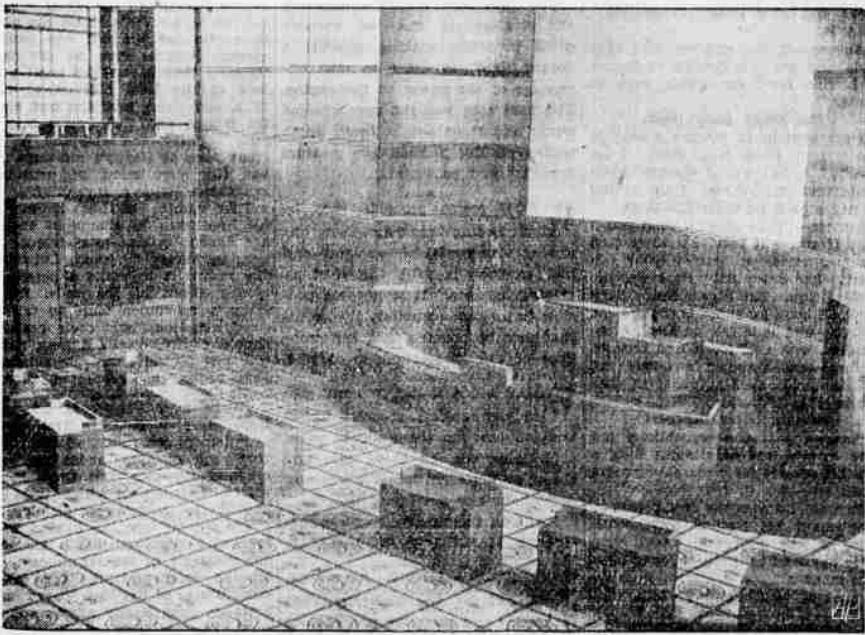
Second capitol, first occupied in 1876, was the meeting place of the state legislature until it was destroyed by fire on April 25, 1937. On May 28 of this year, firemen conquered flames in the Holman building which housed the ninth and tenth territorial legislatures as well as all state legislatures until 1876. This building still stands on the northwest corner of Commercial and Ferry streets, although it was badly damaged by flames.

Three to Go. The three buildings which housed either the senate or house and were not destroyed by fire are the Nesmith-Wilson building, the Marion hotel and the Armory. The Nesmith-Wilson building which was the meeting place of the house during the territorial session in 1853 was torn down many years ago. Both the Marion hotel and armory, which housed the senate and house, respectively, during the special session of 1935 and the regular session still stand.

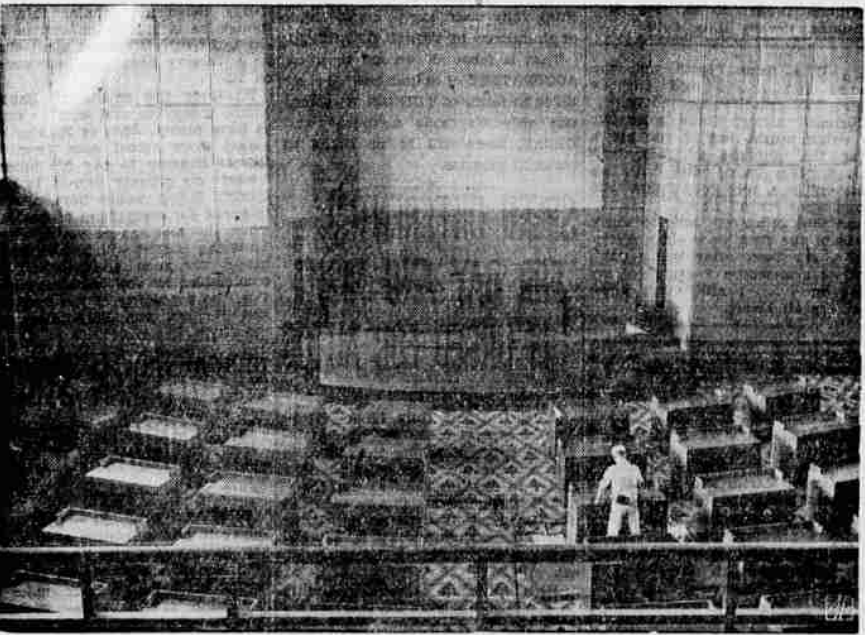
Today, Oregon's first fireproof capitol and legislative meeting place was open for public inspection and the "fire-jinx" which has haunted Oregon lawmakers for 87 years is dead.



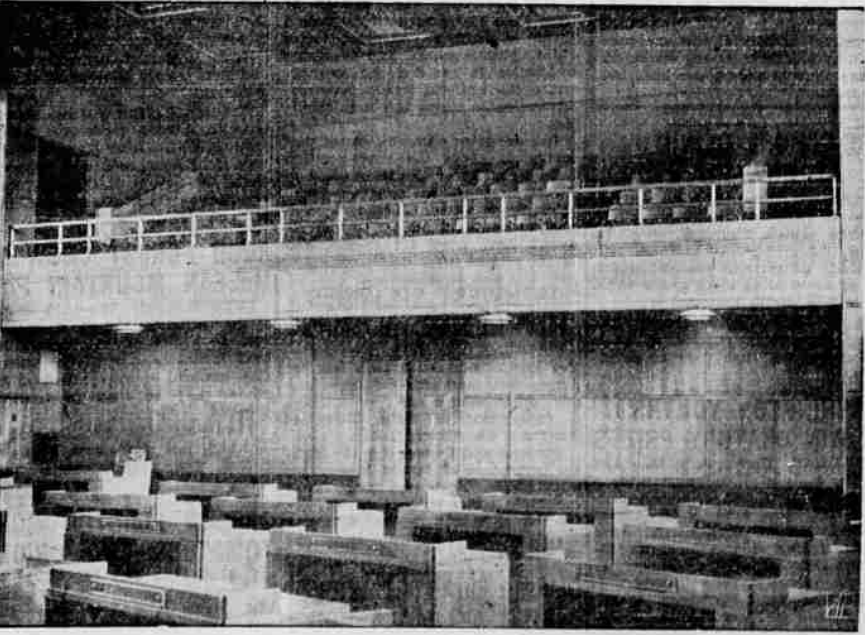
CAPITOL BUILDING



THE SENATE



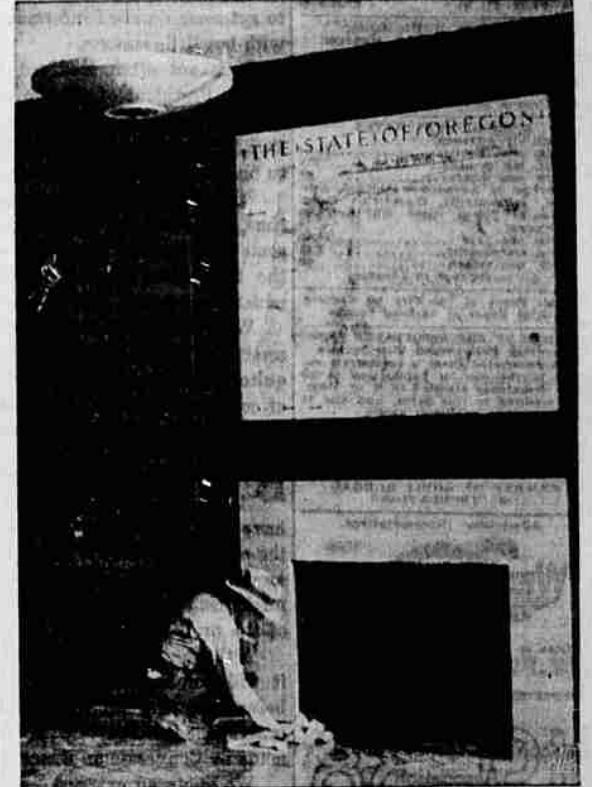
THE HOUSE



HOUSE GALLERY



SENATE STAIRWAY



THE STATE

Oregon's impressive white capitol, formally accepted by the public works reconstruction commission, the board of control and the public works administrator, was occupied by executives and departments this week. From the high marble dome, a statue of a typical pioneer will look across the lush Willamette valley to the coast and Cascade mountains. Legislators will occupy the house of representatives and the senate in January when the affairs of the state will be pondered in an atmosphere which preserves early traditions amidst modernistic simplicity. The structure, completed ahead of schedule, cost \$2,500,000 in state and federal funds. It replaced the historic state house destroyed by fire more than three years ago. State officials began the task of moving in this week.—(Photos by Associated Press.)

MODEL AIRPLANE CONTEST PLANNED

An unofficial flying model airplane contest will be held at Medford municipal airport at 9 a. m. Thursday under sponsorship of the local junior chapter of the National Aeronautic association. The contest is open to anyone interested in model building and a nominal entry fee will be charged. It was stated by George Gillings, secretary. Entrants will be registered at the airport between 8:30 and 9 Thursday morning.

An official contest for members only will be held on Thursday, July 21. Anyone ten years of age or older is eligible to join the Junior chapter. Gillings pointed out: Dues are nominal. Meetings are held every Monday at 7:30 p. m. at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

Weather. Northern California: Fair tonight and Thursday, except fog on the coast and scattered light thunder-showers over mountains, not so warm in delta region; gentle changeable wind off the coast.

Oregon: Fair tonight and Thursday, with fogs on the coast; gentle northwest wind off the coast, slightly warmer in the northeast portion tonight.

HARDER REVIEWS ALASKA JOURNEY AT ROTARY MEET

Ben Harder entertained the Rotary club with an interesting account of his recent trip to Alaska, as a feature of Tuesday's luncheon-meeting. The Rotarians and guests were taken on a verbal pilgrimage to the vast and romantic northern territory where airplanes are used by fur buyers, great fisheries supply millions of cans of red salmon and giant mines profitably operate on the per-ton ore.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Harder told briefly of the Russian settlement of the Alaskan territory in 1784, of establishment of Sitka as their base in 1799 and later sale of the vast territory to the United States for \$7,200,000. This sale, explained the speaker, was made as an exchange for aid given to the North during the Civil war and history has proven that "Seward's Folly" was a highly profitable investment.

Alaska, according to Mr. Harder, has an area equivalent to that of the United States with the exception of Texas, while the population is but \$2,000.

Harder told the Rotarians of his journey through the famous Inland Passage, to Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Sitka. The romantic atmosphere of the picturesque city of Sitka especially appealed to the speaker who described the famous St. Michael cathedral, founded in 1816, the army air base and Indian schools.

Sitka was known as the "Paris of the Pacific," when San Francisco was a mining settlement, Harder said. Bells in many famous, old Spanish missions in California were cast in Sitka foundries. Priceless art objects in the St. Michael cathedral especially attract tourists who visit this historic settlement, many of them brought from Ft. Ross in California.

Concluding his account, Mr. Harder lauded the courtesy and hospitality of Alaskan people and commented upon the fact that living costs average but 15 per cent higher than in the United States, despite the fact that many of the necessities of life must be shipped from the states.

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ELK HERD LACKS GRAZING IN PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, Mont. (UP)—Park officials are eager to reduce the elk herd here.

Contrary to a prevalent notion, elk are far from extinct today, although they were quite scarce at one time. Wholesale slaughter by sportsmen last fall failed to bring the park herd down to a size supportable by the available range, and other means were being sought to reduce its number.

There are 18,876 head in the mammoth herd, 3,800 more than officials estimated could be grazed on available feed, despite killing of 3,581 by hunters—more than a thousand of which were shot in a deliberate attempt to thin the herd.

Zoos and private herds took only 214, some going as far as Korea. A limited number of buffalo also are available for private herds, park authorities report.

CARPENTERS, PAINTERS PLAN SUNDAY PICNIC

Local union No. 2067, Carpenters and Joiners of America and local union No. 1124, Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America will give a joint basket lunch picnic at the upper Applegate picnic ground near McKee's, Sunday, July 20. All union and non-union carpenters and painters of the Rogue river valley and their families will be welcome.

Ice cream and coffee will be free and swimming and other amusements will be provided. Lunch will be about 1 p. m.

The cost of U. S. intervention in Haiti between 1915 and 1930 was more than \$23,000,000.

The Holland tunnel between New York and New Jersey is 9,250 feet long.

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Why I Like Golf...

"Tennis is a great game. I'll admit," said the sales manager. "I used to play a lot of tennis and still play occasionally, but mostly I play golf."

"You see, it's this way—in tennis I have to be right there, when and where, the ball goes, or I miss the point. In golf whether I smack one down the fairway or putt on the green, that little ol' ball just sets there and waits for me."

Most advertisers like newspapers for about the same reason the sales manager likes golf—prospects don't have to be in any one place at any one time, because the newspaper may be picked up and read at any time that suits the convenience and the mood of the prospect. Dad may do his reading on the train or car, mother in mid-day or after dinner, and junior members of the clan at whatever time they're home. But all will read it sometime for newspapers are a universal habit.

The Medford Mail Tribune

Prepared by West-Holliday Co., Inc.