

# Washington Report

By Bob Dickey

Washington, Apr. 15—In his Washington press conference last week, Monroe Sweetland, Oregon's democratic national committeeman, made some extremely optimistic predictions.

He prognosticated that Oregon would be a democratic state by '50 or '52. In support of this conclusion, he cited the following points:

1. That the old political landmarks are now washed away by the 60 per cent increase in Oregon's population. In this rapid gain in the populace, Sweetland sees the backdrop for a democratic upsurge.

2. That the Oregon democrats will have the wholehearted support in this year's campaign from the democratic national committee and both the senate and house democrat congressional committees. (This means money, campaign material and big name political speakers.)

3. That the Oregon democrats have an active party organization in every single county in the state.

4. That the party has a complete slate and is actively contesting almost every political post in the state.

5. And finally, Sweetland maintained that the democratic primary in Oregon will be in the limelight this year because so many of the republican candidates are uncontested. This, he pointed out, will serve to aid the Oregon demos in their battle for recognition in the state.

**Battleground**  
In connection with the congressional seats, Sweetland refused to admit that his organization had any special district in which they were concentrating.

He forecast that the demos had a very good chance to make a clean sweep. But when pressed on the issue, he said the real battleground was going to be in the fourth congressional district where Rep. Harris Ellsworth will be carrying the republican banner.

### 32 Beethoven Sonatas

#### To Be Played by Arrau

New York (U.P.)—Claudio Arrau, pianist, will present all of the 32 Beethoven sonatas in two cycles of seven programs each, in Puerto Rico and Bogota, Colombia, next May. Arrau was noted for his performances of the cycle in Europe before the war and in South America. There is a possibility that he may repeat the feat in New York during the season of 1951-52.

### NO TIME TO TRIFLE

Longview, Wash. (U.P.)—Police pulled alongside an auto moving erratically along a residential street to find the driver was a seven-year-old boy. He was lectured and hustled off to school after explaining that he was late to classes, had seen the auto and "had to hurry."

Truman Stops  
Sweetland also revealed that he prevailed on President Truman to add two more Oregon stops on his non-political western trip to dedicate two generators at Grand Coulee dam this spring.

Originally the president had planned to stop at La Grande and Pendleton on his way out to Grand Coulee. But now he will also make a short stop in Umatilla and in Baker.

**Misquoted**  
Rep. Harris Ellsworth of Roseburg got the surprise of his life the other day when he heard himself quoted as saying Sen. McCarthy's charges against the state department were purely partisan. Actually the Oregon republican had made exactly the opposite statement.

In his weekly newsletter, Ellsworth made the following statement: "So far as I am concerned, I would like to believe that the state department is practically pure and that the charges (McCarthy's) constitute merely a partisan outburst without much basis in fact." He then went on to say that there apparently was, however, much truth in what McCarthy has been saying.

Shortly after Ellsworth released this newsletter, Frank Edwards, a radio commentator sponsored by the A. F. of L. labor union announced over the air that "McCarthy was under fire from his own party."

Edwards then went on to say Rep. Ellsworth had announced that "So far as I am concerned, I believe the state department is reasonably pure and McCarthy's charges constitute merely a partisan outburst."

In other words, the A. F. of L. newscaster had distorted the meaning of Ellsworth's statement by leaving out the highly significant words "I would like to believe."

This misquoting was no doubt highly embarrassing to Ellsworth for Edwards broadcasts over Mutual's national network. And for that matter, some of the radio stations in the congressman's district carry the program.

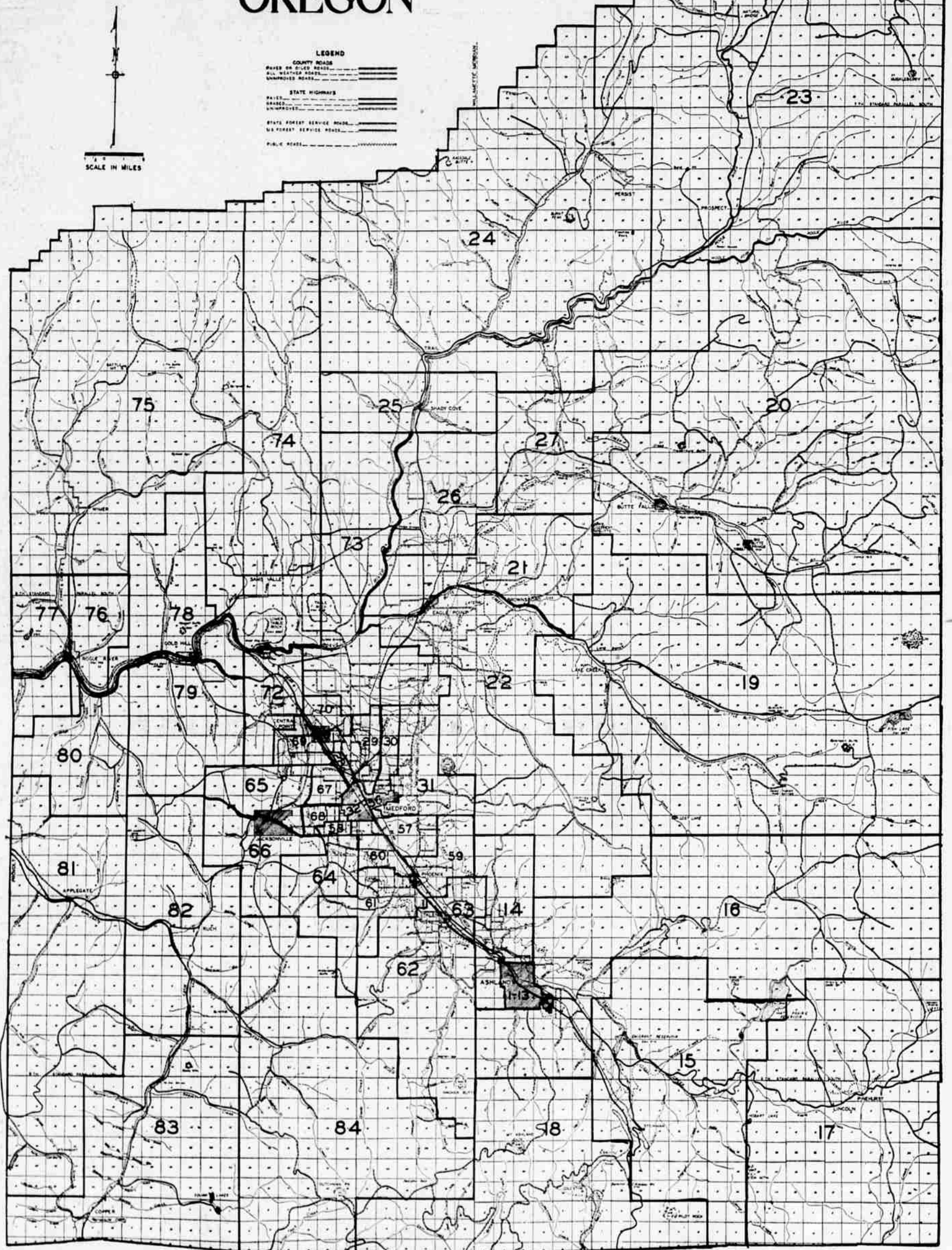
Ellsworth is now somewhat appeased, however, because he denounced Edwards on the floor of the house. And Fulton Lewis Jr., on his national newscast, he made a complete disclosure of the fiasco.

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## Lincoln Died 85 Years Ago Yesterday; Old Newspaper Describes Assassination

Eighty-five years ago yesterday—April 15, 1865—President Abraham Lincoln died from an assassin's bullet.

The story of the president's death, the circumstances surrounding it, and the progress of the Civil War then in its final stages, are told in an old copy of the New York Herald of that date, owned for several years by Aubrey Sanders, Route 1, Box 229-D.

**Headlines Long**

The lead story about the president has a serious of headlines half a column long. They say: **IMPORTANT. Assassination of President Lincoln. The President Shot at the Theatre Last Evening. Secretary Seward Eagerly in His Bed, but Not Mortally Wounded. Clarence and Frederick Seward Badly Hurt. Escape of the Assassins. Intense Excitement in Washington. Scene at the Death of Mr. Lincoln. J. Wilkes Booth, the Actor, the Alleged Assassin of the President, &c, &c. The Official Despatch.**

The story then goes on to quote a message from Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, to Maj. Gen. Dix in New York, telling the details of the crime.

**Details Given**

Under the heading "Additional Details of the Assassination," the following picture is given: "Washington, April 15—1:30 A. M.

"President Lincoln and wife, with other friends, this evening visited Ford's theatre, for the purpose of witnessing the per-

formance of the American Cousin.

"It was announced in the papers that General Grant would also be present; but that gentleman took the late train of cars for New Jersey.

**Pistol Report Heard**

"The theatre was densely crowded, and all seemed delighted with the scene before them. During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious until a man rushed to the front of the President box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming 'Sic Semper tyrannis!' and immediately leaped from the box, which was on the second tier to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, making his escape, amid the bewilderment of the audience, from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse, fled.

"The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing towards the stage, many exclaiming 'Hang him! Hang him!'

**Wildest Excitement**

"The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and of course there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance.

"There was a rush towards the President's box, when cries were

heard: 'Stand back and give him air.' 'Has any one stimulants?'

"On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above the back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out.

"He was removed to a private house opposite to the theatre, and the Surgeon General of the army and other surgeons sent for to attend to his condition.

"At midnight the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Colfax and

**NOT ALL VELVET**

San Francisco (U.P.)—A bo ut two-thirds of the revenue from traffic tags issued during 1948-49 was spent trying to collect them, the city controller lamented. He reported that \$1,323,705 was collected in that fiscal year from traffic tags but the city spent \$885,734 issuing and trying to collect.

Farnsworth, Judge Curtis, Governor Oglesby, General Meigs, Colonel Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon General Barnes and his immediate assistants, were around the bedside.

**President Insensible**

"The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible, and breathing slowly. The blood oozed from the wound in the back of his head. The surgeons exhausted every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone.

"The parting of his family with the dying President is too sad for description.

In other columns, all of which were set off with reversed column rules in mourning, were additional details of the assassination, and a survey of the crumbling defense of the Confederacy, a description of the fall of Richmond, the confederate capital, and President Jefferson Davis' last proclamation.

Great Barrington, Mass. (U.P.)—James R. Dohoney operates a laundry and an automobile driving school, teaches two high school driver-education classes, works as an auctioneer, serves as a deputy sheriff and substitutes occasionally as clerk of courts.