

## Thornton Overruled On Representation Decision by Court

Salem—(U.P.)—The State Supreme Court has ruled that members of the Legislature can represent a claimant before the workman's compensation commission without jeopardizing their standing as a legislator. The decision overruled an opinion handed down by Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton.

The case involved an appearance of Rep. Ben Anderson (D-Portland) before the commission to represent the claims of Walter Bennett, an injured Portland painter.

**Not Claim Against State**  
The court held that a claim before the commission is not a claim against the state and that a legislator could rightfully appear as an attorney for a claimant.

The court reversed a Coos county verdict by Judge Dal M. King which had said that a collective bargaining agreement did not require the employer to withhold pay deductions for insurance from the pay of dissenting employees. Justice George Rossman wrote that insurance deductions, being voluntary, are different from the check-off of union dues.

**Ruling Modified**  
The high court modified a ruling in the case of fraudulent sale of Indian timber lands. The case involved a judgment for Henry B. Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor against Jasper Grant and others for payment of \$135,000 paid for the timber lands. The Supreme Court would permit payment of fees to the Portland Trust Company for its services in protecting the rights of incompetent Indians.

## Eugene Girl's Trial May Hear Dr. Harris

Eugene—(U.P.)—The state was expected to call Dr. Homer Harris of the state crime laboratory as a witness today or tomorrow in the trial of Ella Louise Starmer, 16-year-old high school girl accused of manslaughter of the fatal stabbing of her stepfather, Archie Swanberg, last October.

The trial was in its third day today. The defense claims the girl had justifiable reason for killing her stepfather. The girl's attorney, Herman Hendershott, said the girl used the eight-inch butcher knife only to defend her mother and herself. District Attorney Eugene Venn claimed Ella Louise hated her stepfather and was mad because he wouldn't let her go to a football game.

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Pages 1-6

## DeSoto Expedition Oil May Be Produced

New Orleans—(U.P.)—Offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico may uncover a source of oil that was chronicled by the ill-fated Hernando DeSoto's expedition more than four centuries ago.

Survivors of the expedition were picked up at the Mississippi River's mouth in 1543 after the death of DeSoto. A raging gulf storm had battered the Spanish fleet and the ships put into shore near what is now Sabine, Texas.

An account written by a person known only as the "Gentleman of Elvas" stated that the Spaniards found a dark scum similar to pitch on the water and used it to help caulk the bottoms of their leaking ships. It reportedly was the first use of petroleum by white men in the Western Hemisphere.

Since then, there have been other reports of oil on the gulf's waters near Sabine, and recent off-shore exploration has tended to verify the stories.

Magnolia Petroleum Co. officials here said the company has spudded in its first wildcat well eight miles offshore and 10 miles southwest of Sabine. The well was described as "fairly close" to the oil slick described in the DeSoto expedition.

The company has developed several fields off the Louisiana coast, but the wildcat is the first attempt to strike oil off the Texas coast. The well will be drilled to a depth of 13,000 feet.

## Prospect Journalism Class Visits Tribune

Members of the journalism class of Prospect High school, accompanied by their instructor, Miss Madelein Halley, visited the offices and production plant of The Mail Tribune Wednesday.

The visit was part of their study of newspapers. Members of the class making the trip were Geneva Mather, Sue Colley, Donna Clark, Don Anderson, Sid Peterson, Dan Myers, Morris James, Eugene Winingham, Jim Martin, Larry Sanderson and Monte Ring.

The human foot has 26 bones. The smallest is three-eighths of an inch long and the largest is 2 1/4 inches.



ENJOYING PACIFIC COAST CRABS, these Pacific Coast congressmen are guests at Washington, D. C., party aimed at drumming up sentiment against lowering tariff rates on canned crab meat shipped to U. S. from Japan. From left: Rep. Walter Norblad (R, Ore.); Rep. Jack Westland (R, Wash.); Rep. Russell Mack (R, Wash.); host at the party and Rep. Hubert Scudder (R, Cal.) Shellfish they are enjoying are domestic variety, naturally. (International)

## Ford Engineers Crashing Automobiles In Head-on Crashes To Test Safety Belts

Detroit—(U.P.)—Engineers at the Ford Motor Company are strapping lifelike dummies into automobiles and ramming the cars together in "fatal" head-on collisions.

They are smashing cars into trees, against embankments. Then they pull the battered dummies out of the wreckage and go to work.

The engineers are seeking an answer to a new question posed for the auto industry and every person who takes the statistical gamble with death or injury every time he gets into a car.

Will safety belts, similar to those the airlines use, cut down on traffic fatalities?

Bills are pending before Congress and in many state legislatures which would make safety belts compulsory equipment in every motor vehicle.

**Still Testing**

The broad aim of Ford's tests, and similar ones being conducted by other auto manufacturers, is to find out exactly what happens in an auto crash, to see what if anything can be done to cut down the traffic death rate. Safety belts are getting a lot of attention.

"Any force that acts to restrain a person in a crash would tend to reduce the severity of the injuries," said Fletcher Platt,

Ford's manager of traffic safety and highway improvement.

But he said there isn't enough information available yet to say just how much protection a safety belt would offer, whether it would be a worthwhile safeguard.

Opponents of the belt idea argue that many motorists are thrown clear of cars in accidents when they might have been crushed inside.

Platt said this argument is not a sound one. "Many persons are injured or killed by being thrown. The odds seem to be with a person who stays with the car."

**Just Beginning**

Al Haynes, assistant chief research engineer, said the auto industry is just beginning to gather the facts about safety belts.

Ford's guinea pigs are dummies

that resemble human beings in weight and size and are intricately adjusted to "react" just as a man or woman would at the instant a crash occurred. The deliberate wrecks are photographed by movie cameras from every angle. The accordeoned wreckage is pulled apart and examined inch by inch.

"We don't know how much force the belts should be able to support," Haynes said. "And another question is how much pressure the human body can stand. The safety belts in airplanes meet certain CAA specifications but we are dealing with different conditions."

Automobile safety belts are already on the market. A good set for one car costs between \$30 and \$35, including installation. But the auto industry's safety engineers aren't ready to say how safe a safety belt is.

## Bills in Legislature

Salem—(U.P.)—The House has passed five bills and a resolution in its briefest meeting of the session and received a deluge of 266 new bills for first reading.

All measures received unanimous approval on the floor, including one to provide penalties for counterfeiting, removing, or defacing tags and markings on agricultural products.

The House passed and sent to the governor a bill allowing private persons to refer juvenile dependency and delinquency cases to the courts outside counties where they reside. The measure was previously approved by the Senate.

Other measures winning final approval before going to the Senate would require quarterly reports by county school superintendents to the state superintendent of public instruction; give a full 12-months registration for vehicles being registered for the first time in the state; and extend the prorated vehicle license purchase agreement to private as well as for hire carries.

Members suspended the rules of the house to give immediate approval to a Senate resolution calling for a joint observance of Lincoln's birthday anniversary on Feb. 11.

Salem—(U.P.)—Rep. C. Allen Tom (R-Rufus) has introduced companion bills in the House to require mine operators to restore the shape and surface of soil condition of the area they had mined at the end of their operations, and to prevent silting of any body of water by mine operators if it would affect the agricultural or recreational value of the water.

A bill introduced by Rep. Maurice Neuberger, Portland Democrat, would put the state police force under state civil service.

A series of judiciary committee bills included: One to extend pension benefits to widows of Supreme or Circuit Court judges who died before retirement but after six years of service; to eliminate the present restriction of more than two circuit judges

serving temporarily on the supreme court bench, and providing for two additional circuit judges for Multnomah county and one additional judge in Lane county.

Salem—(U.P.)—Partnership construction of the John Day dam on the Columbia river has been recommended by the State and Federal Affairs Committee of the Oregon House of representatives, but Reps. Walter J. Pearson and Maurice Neuberger, Portland Democrats, served notice they would bring out a minority report.

A House joint memorial to Congress urging partnership construction of John Day was introduced by Rep. Charles A. Tom of Rufus and it was this memorial that the committee voted to send to the floor of the House with a favorable recommendation.

Reps. Pearson and Neuberger have expressed belief that such dams should be built by the federal government alone.

The state and federal affairs committee, headed by Rep. William W. Bradeen of Burns, also acted favorably on a bill to establish a state historical board to co-ordinate the activities of state historical agencies in Oregon. The aims of the bill were explained by Rep. E. H. Mann of Medford and Sen. Monroe Sweetland of Milwaukie, who were members of a legislative interim committee to study historical institutions in Oregon.

Salem—(U.P.)—Legislation to ban fishing derbies has been introduced in the House by two Oregon representatives who charged that such derbies encouraged wasteful fishing practices.

Reps. Robert Elstrom, Salem, and John P. Amacher, Winchester, both Republicans, introduced a measure in the House which called for elimination of the federal tax offset against the state income tax.

Gov. Paul Patterson favored such a bill in his message to the Legislature. It would raise about \$30,000,000.

## Continuous Revolts Seen in Costa Rica

Managua, Nicaragua—(U.P.)—Costa Rican ex-President Teodoro Picado says the revolt that collapsed there Tuesday is only the first in a series that will continue until President Jose Figueres is overthrown.

Picado, father of the West Point-trained captain who led the rebel army, said in an interview last night Figueres has transformed Costa Rica from a nation of brothers into a "country of many hates."

The frontier was still tense today with Nicaraguan troops drawn up to the north while Costa Rican troops beat the bushes to the south in search of rebels who might still be lurking in the former "buffer zone." No clashes were reported.

## Merry-Go-Rounders Plan Dance for Polio Benefit

The Merry-Go-Rounders Square Dance club will hold a dance and white elephant auction sale at Camp Corral Saturday, Jan. 28, it was announced today. Dancing will be from 8:30 p. m. to midnight and all proceeds will be turned over to the March of Dimes.

Calling will be by all square dance callers who can attend, the announcement stated.

Sponsors urged all square dancers to attend and to bring a white elephant item to be auctioned. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

California occupies more than one-third the Pacific coastline of the United States.

## Mardi Gras Dance Scheduled Saturday

A Mardi Gras dance, with proceeds going to the March of Dimes, has been scheduled for the Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel Saturday night, it was announced today. Music will be provided by Johnny Lusk's band and admission will be \$1 per couple. The party will be cabaret style, those in charge said.

A 900-pound steer, cut, wrapped and with a year's free locker service, will be given away during the intermission. Other entertainment also is planned.

## Central Point Sets MOD Projects

Central Point—Several events have been scheduled for the next few days in the Central Point March of Dimes campaign, according to Wendell Panter, chairman.

A Mile o' Dimes, sponsored by the Central Point Explorer Scouts, will be held on Pine st. Saturday.

A square dance will be held at Legion Memorial hall Saturday, starting at 9 p. m., with Medford callers participating. It is sponsored by Myers-Holland American Legion Post 129, in cooperation with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Larson. Admission will be by a contribution to the "Bucket of Bucks" which will hang in the foyer, according to those in charge.

A Mothers' March will be held Monday from 7 to 8 p. m. and volunteers who desire to assist in the project are asked to contact Panter.

A Blue Crutch day also is planned, when tiny lapel "crutches" will be sold throughout the city.

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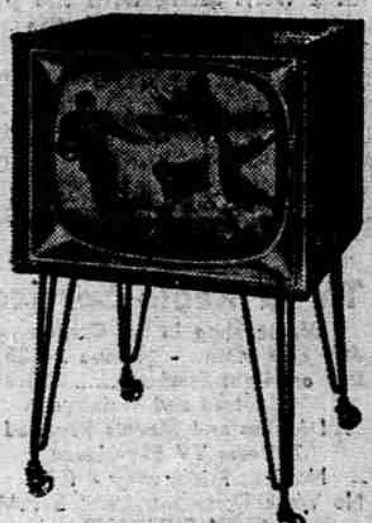
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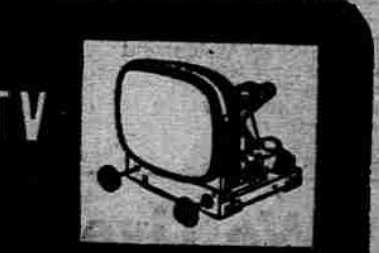


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