



PUBLIC TO GET FORD STOCK—Francis C. Reed of New York, special counsel for the Ford Motor Co., files statement disclosing profits, dividends, sales and other heretofore guarded secrets with Margaret Lamb, Securities and Exchange Commission filing clerk in Washington, D. C. Ford will offer 10,200,000 shares of its common stock for public sale at about \$75 a share. The registration showed that from 1946 through Sept. 30, 1955, Ford's net profits totaled \$1,536,800,000.

Former Resident Recalls Historic Merrick Building

(Editor's note: The following reminiscences about the Merrick building, known for many years as the Natatorium, of the Nat, were written by B. A. Nelson, route 2, box 99, Portland. Many people hereabouts also have a nostalgic feeling about the old building, now being torn down.)

Received a copy of the Medford Mail Tribune dated Dec. 12 in which there was a piece of news that interested us very much. Also brought back to us some very fond memories.

It all dates back to a cold day, Mar. 1, 1911. I and another lad had just drifted into Medford, on our way some where, any where we could find work. A policeman came up to me and wanted to know if I wanted work which of course I did. He directed me to the Natatorium where they wanted a janitor. I met W. K. Bryon and was put to work. I was to receive \$3 a day.

Remember that! Let me see if I can remember the Nat as it was then. To the right of the main entrance was a moving picture theatre. To the left was a confectionery and to the left of that a gym. Upon entering there was a barber shop and office. Then came the swimming pool. In the winter time this was covered and used as a skating rink. At the rear of that were several bathtubs where one could get a bath for 25c. The boilers were also in that vicinity. In the basement there were two bowling alleys, pool tables and a shooting gallery. On the second floor was the big dance hall and stage. Public dancing every Saturday night. Another smaller dance hall for private dances. At one corner adjoining the big hall was a small conservatory of music. Some lady taught singing there. Am I close to a proper description of the Nat?

My wife, the former Clara Sample, came to Medford with her folks when they used to wash the mud from Main st. with a fire house. She worked at the Nat confectionery when I started there. We were married at Jacksonville, Ore., July 20, 1911.

After our marriage we were permitted to erect a tent house in the rear of the Nat along the banks of Bear creek. Mr. Weyed, the engineer, also had a tent house near us. Our son was born while we lived there.

Training for Fight Bat Nelson and his brother Frank had a tent pitched on the Nat grounds. He was in training for his fight with, I believe Bud Anderson. We became good friends and had many pleasant chats together. I saw Bat take an awful beating from Moran at Frisco.

After a time Mr. Merrick bought out the other stock-

holders. Mr. Brown moved to his orchard, eleven acres of apples. We went to work at the old Sterling Mine.

That bit of news sure did bring back a lot of memories to both me and my wife. Thousands of people found happiness inside the walls of the Natatorium. Now it is to be torn down. Here's to a grand old building.

May Propose Soil Bank Next Month

Philadelphia — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower will propose a soil bank to congress next month, according to the January issue of the Farm Journal. The magazine, which will be issued today, said the only two questions that remain were: "What kind?" and "Will it work?"

The Farm Journal estimated the plan would "put some \$350,000,000 extra in farm mailboxes" and at the same time "help the Republicans in an election year."

The soil bank program is designed to raise farm incomes. It would authorize the government to rent crop land from farmers who agree to plant the land in grass or trees. The system would theoretically reduce the acreage used for producing crops already in surplus.

Sergeants Host To Party For Privates

Soul, Korea — (U.P.) — The Christmas spirit Saturday permeated the tough hides of the 26th Anti-Aircraft Battalion's sergeants.

The sergeants invited privates and corporals to a Christmas eve party for their partying guests.

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