

Familiar Face Gone from Camp This Year

Statehood Bill Predicted Soon By Alaska Backers

Washington—Alaskan statehood backers Saturday forecast the bill will come up before congress shortly and be passed by both chambers by substantial majorities.

Alaskan "Senators - elect" Ernest Gruening and William A. Egan and "representative-elect" Ralph J. Rivers said they are now in a position to make a "firm" prediction that the long-delayed Alaska measure is now on the threshold of congressional approval.

Gruening, former governor of Alaska, said the delegation could not identify the senate and house "leaders" they had talked to, but added "we are assured the Alaska bill will be brought up for a vote in both chambers shortly."

The statement by the three Alaskans was the most positive they have made so far on the immediate possibilities of statehood for the territory.

One of the biggest breaks for Alaska statehood came just before the end of the last session of congress when Speaker Sam Rayburn D-Tex. promised he would support statehood and help get it through the house.

Rayburn, who had not previously committed himself on the Alaska issue, repeated his promise when congress opened its new session earlier this month.

Senior, Junior Citizens Named

Ashland — Clarence Lane was named Ashland's Senior Citizen and Dale Williams their city's Junior Citizen at the annual banquet cosponsored by the Ashland Junior Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis club here last week.

Harry Wright, Kiwanis club president, and Dick Cotte, Jaycee president, made the plaque presentations.

Other candidates for the Senior Citizen award were Wayne Wells, Henry Galey and Frank Davis, and other candidates for the Junior Citizen award were Bill Warren Jr., and Bob Boyce.

Contest Entered By Cities Here

Medford and Ashland are among 25 Oregon cities entered in the 1957 Automobile association's pedestrian protection contest, according to the Oregon State Motor association in Portland.

Each city is to turn in a complete report of traffic accidents and deaths that took place during 1957. A board of judges will then evaluate various activities of traffic safety programs and the traffic record. Awards will be presented on a basis of excellence of the safety programs and pedestrian accident reductions.

In the 1956 contest Oregon placed first in its population and motor vehicle use group while Portland received a second place. Eugene was given a honorable mention award for its group in the nationwide competition.



TAME DEER—Salt licks outside Henry Van Berger's cabin at Lake of the Woods attracted many deer during the 20 years he

was caretaker at Camp McLoughlin. Above three does and a fawn enjoy the salt and pieces of bread left for them.

Klan To Hold Rally In Spite of Ruckus In Recent Meeting

Burlington, N.C.—The Ku Klux Klan intends to go ahead with a scheduled rally here Saturday night although state and local law enforcement officials expressed belief it had been cancelled.

The Rev. James W. Cole of Marion, S. C., Grand Wizard of the Carolinas Klan, said Friday night the rally would be held as scheduled and would be the "greatest show of strength in the history of the Klan."

Cole said the rally would be held four miles west of here on U.S. 70A. It was the first time the place of the rally had been definitely established.

Director Walter Anderson of the State Bureau of Investigation said Friday that FBI sources had reported the rally cancelled.

Cole told United Press "we will have a meeting, all right, but won't be done there."

Cole is a fugitive from North Carolina, battling extradition on a charge of inciting riot in connection with a gun battle between Lumbee Indians and Klansmen a week

Ranger Reported Better at Hospital

Robert Webb, district assistant ranger at Star ranger station, who was taken by Mercy Flights to a Palo Alto, Calif., hospital Monday for medical treatment, is improving, according to word received from Mrs. Webb, who accompanied her husband on the trip.

Webb had been under observation in a Medford hospital for chest pains and was sent to Palo Alto to be under the care of specialists. He suffered a coronary occlusion Tuesday in the California hospital but was considerably improved by Wednesday night, Mrs. Webb said.

Webb will remain in Palo Alto to recuperate and to undergo further tests and observation before returning to Medford. Mrs. Webb, who is a teacher at Washington school in Medford, was to return today.

David Webb, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Webb, is staying at the home of District Ranger and Mrs. V. E. Taylor during his parent's absence.

U HAUL IT

Nashville, Tenn.—Thieves broke into a feed mill Friday, stole a safe containing \$5,000 and took one of the firm's trucks to haul it away when their own transportation was inadequate.

Henry Van Berger Retires to Cabin South of Copper

By JIM FISHER

Next summer when Boy Scouts from Medford and vicinity return to Camp McLoughlin, their summer camp on the shores of Lake of the Woods, a familiar face will be missing.

For the first time in 20 years, Henry Van Berger will not be there to serve as caretaker, mailman, master mechanic, and advisor to young and old alike. The deer and chipmunk that knew his kindness will probably miss him as much as the campers and staff at Camp McLoughlin.

Henry was born April 11, 1880, in Rotterdam, Holland. When he was 14, instead of joining a boy's organization such as American boys now do at that age, Henry went to sea. For the next few years, he sailed aboard a windjammer, visiting the many ports of Europe.

In 1905, Henry joined the Dutch navy and sailed twice around the world before ending up at San Francisco in 1907 at the age of 27. Here he found work in the reconstruction of the city that had suffered the terrible earthquake the year before.

This work lasted for several years, but Henry grew restless. He traveled the west coast finding work whenever he felt like working. In Washington, Henry ran a logger's "donkey," the portable steam engine used in cable logging.

He ran an air compressor for a mining operation in Nevada and also worked in the mining industry in Arizona. Eventually his travels brought him to Medford where he worked in a fruit-packing house.

Two years ago, Suzie and Lizzie were both mothers of twins and kept making their daily visits to Henry's cabin.

Then one morning, shortly after the deer season had opened, the district ranger at the Lake of the Woods ranger station found Suzie shot to death near his house. Even though she had been within the half-mile "no shooting zone" of the lake and despite the fact that no deer season was on in that part of the state, Suzie had been shot and left to die.

Henry's two fawns were found lying beside her. Henry felt very badly because of this and worried about her two fawns. His worries vanished the next day when Lizzie showed up at Camp McLoughlin with her two fawns and the two fawns of Suzie's.

Henry's afternoons at camp were spent looking over his pride, the fleet of camp boats or helping some of the Scouts in their merit badge studies. If most of the Scouts were out of camp on hikes, Henry would walk over to the ranger station and visit the cook, hoping for a cup of coffee and possibly a sample of pie or cake. He would relive his former forest service days until it came time to get back to camp.

After supper, there was generally some activity around the campfire or special ceremonies and pageants for visitors. Henry would always attend and contribute much to the show by his participation in stunts or exchange of pranks.

Change Bedded Down When the camp bedded down for the night, Henry would make his check of camp before turning in for another day.

Henry's working season at Lake of the Woods began in May or June, depending when the melting snow made roads possible. He would stay at the camp until some time in late October or early November when the snows once again covered the ground.

Both in the spring and in the fall, Henry would have a big job in the directing of work for the opening and closing of the camp. Volunteer help from Medford was told where to put the boats and how the pipes were opened in the spring. The next fall, shutters were placed on the windows and everything put away for the winter.

Amusing Stories Henry can sit and tell amusing stories of his life for hours. His Dutch accent combines with his strong sense of humor to make interesting tales. One of his favorite stories concerns the time he signed up for Social Security. The office clerk asked him if he was married and upon receiving an answer of "no," jokingly asked Henry if he had any children.

Henry came back with the quick reply, "yes, 18,000!" That was the number of Boy Scouts Henry had known at Camp McLoughlin by that time. By the end of his last season last year at Camp McLoughlin, this number had increased to 22,000, not counting more than 1,000 Girl Scouts who had used the camp and numerous church groups of children from almost every denomination who also used Camp McLoughlin.

Several hundred members of the Medford football team that had attended summer training sessions at the camp

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MEMENTOS—Henry Van Berger's cabin on the Applegate river south of Copper contains many mementos he collected in the 20 years as caretaker of Camp McLoughlin at

Lake of the Woods. Carvings, trophies and several other gifts are displayed on the cabin wall behind his stove.

were not included in the 22,000 boys.

Tested by Service Man

Another time, Henry was tested by a visiting forest service man who offered Henry and others a cigarette while walking around the camp. Henry refused the cigarette and told the others that they should know that no smoking was permitted except in certain areas during the fire season.

While he was working for the forest service, Henry was sent to a fire near Camp McLoughlin. Lightning had started the fire in a tree that grew in a big lava flow. No water or dirt was available to put out the fire, so Henry was told to stay with the fire until it went out. He stayed there for several days before no smoke appeared from between the lava rocks.

Two years ago, Henry had a bad case of pneumonia and was forced to leave camp for a few days. His quick recovery surprised his doctor who told him that his remarkable good health was probably due to his living and working outdoors.

"Yes," said Henry, "and because I was never married."

Heart Works Hard Last summer, the Boy Scouts had left for the season and a church group was using Camp McLoughlin when Henry became sick. A doctor's examination showed his heart was having to work too hard in the high elevation of Lake of the Woods. No one can imagine Henry's thoughts as he left Camp McLoughlin for the first time in 20 years without being chased out by the winter snow.

Although many friends wanted Henry to move into town, he returned to his small cabin in the Siskiyou where he now spends his time panning for gold and enjoying the small pleasures of life.

The cabin and cabin grounds are kept as neat as Camp McLoughlin ever was. Trees have been planted to fill in empty spots around the cabin area and narrow paths lead to the river.

Roof Over Woodpile Henry has placed a roof over his woodpile so that it is covered and also attached to the cabin. Inside the one-room cabin are cases of canned food to last him throughout the winter in case a heavy snow would fall. Henry's mementos cover the walls and add to the atmosphere.

He tells of his life at Camp McLoughlin and elsewhere using his pet expressions, such as "big squeeze" meaning boss, "little squirt" for a tenderfoot Scout, and "the boys" meaning the many Scouts he has known.

Henry still gets around as well as anyone for all of his



HENRY'S CABIN—Just over the California line south of Copper is the one-room cabin, with an attached woodshed, built by Henry Van Berger and his friends from native logs.

78 years, and his wide suspenders and closely-smoked cigarette are still as much a part of him now as they have been for years.

Rides to Copper When good weather permits, Henry rides to the Copper store with one of his few neighbors and then rides to town with the mailman. He visits friends, shops, and then returns the next day, using the same means of transportation. He admits that doesn't like to be away from his cabin too long since he soon misses the quiet, unhurried life found there.

Henry plans on spending more time with his gold mining now that he won't be returning to Camp McLoughlin each summer. One of his biggest regrets is that he wasn't able to stay with his job for 25 years.

One of Henry's proudest possessions amid all of his gifts, trophies, and other mementos is not as spectacular to look at as you might think. It represents Henry's feelings toward his adopted country and the thousands of Boy Scouts that he has watched grow up to become doctors, military men, and business men.

This possession is a 1958 membership card of the Boy Scouts of America.

Ashland Drive-In Broken Into Friday Ashland — The Hanby Drive-In Market, Litha way, was broken into Friday and about \$40 in cash and an undetermined amount of food were reported missing, according to Ashland police.

Officers said the burglars gained entrance by kicking in the rear door after first trying to break a window.

An undetermined amount of wine, coffee, cigarettes and meat was taken, police said. The money was on a shelf,

they added. The break-in was discovered when employees arrived for work, police explained.

JUST LOOKING Salem, Ill.—Two would-be burglars know the "ins" of their profession, but flunked miserably on the "outs."

Floyd Weber, 39, and his nephew, James Melton, 29, stuck their heads out of a service station window Friday to see if the coast was clear. Instead they looked down the barrel of a policeman's revolver.

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