Utopian Group in Klamath Falls Proclaims 'State of Jefferson'

Klamath Falls – Formation of "The State of Jefferson" – a "state of mind" encompassing citizens of southern Oregon and far northern California with Klamath Falls as its "capital," was announced here Friday.

The action by the Klamath Citizens committee marks the first concrete determination to form such a state in more than 100 years.

The new "state" is formed of those citizens "whose minds seek a semblance of Utopia above and beyond the confines of the present great states of Oregon and California," the committee said.

Frank Jenkins, publisher and editor of the Klamath Falls Herald and News, and president of Southern Oregon Newspapers, Inc., was "drafted as first governor."

Telegrams Delivered

Telegrams were delivered to U.S. Senator Richard Neuberger, at Washington, D. C., and State Senator Harry D. Boivin, at Salem, enlisting their support and efforts in behalf of the new "state."

The telegrams read, in part, that the "committee feels it is fitting and proper that Klamath Falls be the capital of the new State of Jefferson by reason of its being the last frontier of the Old West in Oregon and because of its unique philosophy of optimism which is resulting in an unprecedented upsurge of economic prosperity."

It further stated, "Practical purposes of the formation of this idealistic State of Jefferson include increasing awareness of the importance of retaining all water rights now existing in the area; retention of Crater Lake National park in Klamath county, and the establishment of the Klamath Kurbstone Kowpokes as the official militia of the State of Jefferson.

Free Travel

"It is agreed in this move that no travel restrictions shall be imposed in the State of Jefferson during the Oregon Centennial observance, but that all cooperation be given to visitors to the end that their stay shall be longer in the State of Jefferson and Oregon."

The committee noted that the state was first mentioned in the 1850s when gold provided the bulk of the wealth of southern Oregon and northern California. It received its name "Jefferson' 'in the 1930s when the movement sprang up again to direct attention to the neglect by the federal and state highway agencies of roads in the general area of Crescent City, Calif.

Prior to a recent treaty between Oregon and California concerning water rights, the committee noted, the flurry over creation of a new state again arose.

'A State of Mind'

Jenkins, in his first decree as governor of the State of Jefferson, said "It is a state of mind. The State of Jefferson is bounded by the imaginations of its citizens. If the people of the State of Jefferson truly imagine their state to be the most perfect state in all the universe – why, it is the most perfect state in all the universe.

"Let's have no controversies over where our capital is to be. The capital of the State of Jefferson is in the hearts of its people."

Idaho Escapees Caught by Posse

Murphy, Idaho – (UPI) – An Owyhee county sheriff's posse yesterday recaptured two prisoners – one a fugitive from Oregon State Penitentiary – who escaped from the county jail here Friday.

The two, Robert R. Mattson, 31, alias Robert E. Nelson, and Edmond Lee Bender, 18, were flushed out of hiding in the remote Castle Creek area between Grandview and Oreana in Owyhee county.

Dogs were used by the posse to help track the escapees. The fugitives were brought back to the jail here.

Mattson, sheriff's deputies said, escaped from Oregon State Prison at Salem last July and was seized at Grandview about a week ago. He was being held for Oregon authorities when he broke out.

Bender, described as a full-blooded Indian, was being held for violation of probation on a felony check charge.

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Driver Training Surplus Bill Passes

Salem–(UPI)–A bill returning surplus money from the high school driver training program to the highway department for other uses passed the House Friday and went to the Senate.

Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille) said there would be a $1,130,000 carry-over from the program which should be put to use.

The driver training program started in 1958 with funds from drivers' licenses.

Rep. John Goss (R-Portland) maintained that the money should remain for schools rather than be returned to the highway department.

The breath of a normal is usually germ free but the acts of coughing or sneezing or even speaking can spread germs quickly and over a considerable distance.

Uninsured Driver Measure Passed

Salem – (UPI) – The House Friday concurred in Senate amendments to the uninsured motorist bill and sent it to the governor for signature.

The Senate amended the bill to exclude truck drivers covered by workmens' compensation.

Otherwise, the bill provides that insurance companies must write into their policies clauses protecting motorists from injury caused by drivers who have no insurance or who are driving stolen or out-of-state cars.

A motion to appoint a conference committee to explore the bill further failed.

Gov. Mark Hatfield came out for the uninsured motorist clause in his inaugural address. Ex-Gov. Robert D. Holmes had favored a compulsory insurance program.

HILTS PTA Installs Officers

By MRS. M. F. CAVIN

Hilts – The Parent Teacher association held its regular meeting at the schoolhouse April 16.

Installation of officers was held with Mrs. Edna Barr, president of the 25th district PTA acting as installing officer.

Officers installed were president, Vern Burns; vice president, Mrs. Doug Whittaker; secretary, Mrs. James Cain; treasurer, Mrs. H. G. Thompson; auditor, Robert Preston, and historian, Victor Van de Weghe.

Mrs. Barr spoke on the progress the 19 units of the 25th district have made on the development of a juvenile hall to be built in Yreka. It was voted to buy flowers for the graduating class and suggested that the Scout leaders select a neighborhood chairman. A motion was approved that the school picnic be held at Twin Plunges June 4.

The following program was presented: Songs, poems and folk dances by the first and second grades; announcer was Donna White; a playlet entitled, "The Laughing Princess," by members of the third and fourth grades; a dance, boogie ballet by Carleen De Clerck and Janet Cavin, and a piano solo by David Simmen. Announcer was Gail Gould.

Hostesses were Mrs. M. E. Barron, Mrs. Doug Whittaker and Mrs. Al Simmen.

Mrs. Elizabeth Maguire returned home Monday after spending several days visiting Mr. and Mrs. William Kleaver, students at Chico State college in Chico.

The fifth and sixth grades visited the L. G. Robertson ranch near Hornbrook April 14 where they saw a Mynah bird, a monkey and a parrot. Transportation was furnished by Mrs. Robert Trinca, Mrs. Gino Trinca, Mrs. M. E. Barron and their teacher, Mrs. L. E. Jeter.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cain and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Van de Weghe and family celebrated the belated birthdays of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Oakley at the Oakley home in Ashland Sunday. Also present were Oakley's children, Terry, Robbie and Paddy Ann.

Mrs. Vern Burns and children and Mrs. John Shaw attended funeral services for Diane Baker held in Ashland last week. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Baker.

Mrs. Anna Salliday of Salem is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Fox and daughters. She is Mrs. Fox's mother.

Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Hamilton and children were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Barlow and family of Trail and Mrs. Leone Flescher and children of Ashland.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vieira and daughters, Sharon and Karen, vacationed several days last week in Sacramento.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Watson and children of Shafter, Calif., have purchased the Mt. Crest ranch and are living in the large ranch house on the property. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Lee and family, who were managing the ranch for the former owners, will continue to live there until school is out.

Mr. and Mrs. Ozzie Bernheisel visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bernheisel and family in Happy Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goodwin and daughters visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orvil Green and daughter Jeri in Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ayris visited friends here Thursday.

Karl Schmid, a teletype operator at the Distant Early Warning station at Point Barrow, Alaska, visited the elementary school on Monday, April 20. He spoke on life in Alaska, telling the children about the only true Eskimo village left in Alaska which is located near Point Barrow, and how the Eskimo people lived on things they could get from the land and the sea. The language spoken by the people is neither written or in sign language, but is handed down orally from father to son, and will, no doubt, in years to come, be a lost language. This is the only town near Point Barrow, he said.

At the station temperatures this winter dropped to 47 degrees below zero and Schmid said this is mild as last winter it dropped to 60 degrees below zero. The equipment is under the cover of a plastic dome similar to the one at Twin Plunges, to keep it from freezing. The only recreation is movies, books and magazines. These men are hired for just three year hitches, due to the long periods of isolation and loneliness.

Schmid is on vacation after spending a year and a half at Point Barrow and was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Fenton and family. He is a former Chico State college student and a classmate of both Fenton and Aristeo Perez. His home is in Red Bluff.

The Community club held its regular meeting Thursday, April 22. Mrs. Fred Haynes was hostess. Both canasta and pinochle were played and Mrs. H. G. Thompson held high score and Mrs. Louis Dettmar low in pinochle. In canasta, Mrs. Ozzie Bernheisel held high score and Mrs. Orville Rife low. Others playing were Mrs. Ernest Spannaus, Mrs. Frank Graves, Mrs. Walt Adams, and Mrs. Frank Ayris of Central Point.

Mrs. E. Spannaus was hostess to a Sara Coventry Jewelry party April 21. Mrs. Vella Flaherty of McCloud is demonstrator. Cookies and coffee were served to Mrs. Walt Adams, Mrs. Fred Haynes, Mrs. Al Simmens, Mrs. Ozzie Bernheisel, Mrs. Frank Graves and Mrs. H. G. Thompson. Mrs. Simmens received the door prize.

Attending funeral services of Mrs. M. J. (Red) Noll in Lakeview Wednesday were Mr. and Mrs. Art Blanchard and Mr. and Mrs. Art Hartman. Mr. and Mrs. Noll were former residents and Noll is employed as sawyer at the sawmill.

Election of officers was held at the last meeting of the Hilts volunteer fire department and are president, Robert Goodwin; vice president, H. G. Thompson; secretary, Lester Chase; and treasurer, William Roush.

Mrs. Joe Caston is a patient at Sacred Heart hospital where she underwent major surgery Wednesday.

Pioneers Repulse Pottawatomie Party With Drawn Pistols

Rossville, Kan. –(UPI)– A war party composed of 11 Pottawatomie Indian braves charged the On-To-Oregon wagon train Friday but Wagonmaster Tex Serpa and Scout Gail Carnine sucessfully repulsed the raiders.

The party, dressed in colorful war paint and costume, swooped down on the train as it pulled into the schoolyard at Silver Lake, Kan., a small community near here.

Coincidentally, the school children had been let out of classes moments before to watch the raid.

Defensive Circle

Serpa and Carnine quickly pulled the Conestoga wagons into a defensive circle and charged into the braves' midst with drawn pistols and scattered them in four directions.

The only near-casualty of the day was Serpa, who was caught in 82-degree weather dressed in longjohns and buckskin clothes.

The train pulled into the city park here late Friday to spend the night.

Oldest in Kansas

Earlier, the Oregon group stopped for lunch at the E. A. Wood home, 10 miles northwest of Topeka. The eight-room house, built in 1826, is the oldest in Kansas and was a supply point for covered wagons as they treked westward 100 years ago.

The train planned to cover eight miles yesterday to St. Marys, where the Oregonians would spend the weekend.

Twenty-one Oregon stalwarts are on the train of seven covered wagons pulled by Missouri mules and horses. They are attired in the garb of the pioneers of the 1850s.

Sendoff by Truman

The caravan pulled out of Independence, Mo., last Sunday morning after a sendoff by honorary wagon master Harry S. Truman.

Making about 20 miles daily in their push westward, the modernday pioneers expect to reach Independence, Ore., about the middle of August as part of Oregon's Centennial celebration. The route is over the old Oregon Trail used by oxen-drawn wagons more than a century ago.

Tax Commission Budget Block Loses in Senate by Two Votes

Salem–(UPI)–A motion to return the state tax commission's $6,995,871 budget to the Ways and Means committee lost by a bare two votes in the Senate Friday. The vote was 15-13.

The motion was made by Sen. Ben Musa (D-The Dalles) who charged that the commission could save a million dollars a year by adopting modern business methods in its departments. The budget subsequently was approved and sent to the governor.

Musa said the tax commission had a staff comparable to that of the internal revenue department in Washington, D.C., which processes tax returns on the federal levy and collects hundreds of other types of taxation.

Short Form

"The tax commission in this state could be utilizing a short form that would save a great deal of money," Musa said.

He also said that antiquated methods caused unnecessary expenditures of money.

The commission was defended by Sen. Ward Cook (D-Portland), a member of the Ways and Means committee. Cook said that a reorganization of the tax commission is underway and with two new commissioners recently installed he thought it certain that many improved methods of operation would be instituted.

Over the past 10 years, Cook said, the Legislature has imposed new duties, other than tax collections, with the result that the tax commission is loaded with expensive duties that must be accomplished.

Other Legislative Highlights

Welfare: The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill putting the state welfare commission under the direct control of the governor.

Indictments: A House joint resolution providing for indictments both by ag rand jury or by the district attorney filing an information with the circuit court passed the Senate with only five votes against it.

Ways and Means: Sen. Alfred Corbett (D-Portland), cochairman of the Joint Ways and Means committee, told the Senate that while ways and means still had some appropriation bills to consider, the present outlook was for expenditures during the next two years of between $309 and $310 million from the general fund.

Appointments: Senate President Walter J. Pearson announced appointment of Sens. Alfred Corbett (D-Portland), Carl Francis (R-Dayton) and Boyd Overhulse (D-Madras) as members of the Interstate cooperation committee.

Pearson is automatically a member of the committee by virtue of his office.

Legislature Briefs

Salem–(UPI)–A bill by Rep. Sam Wilderman (R-Portland) giving a motorist assurance of a chance at a court appearance when his driver's license is suspended passed the House and went to the Senate Thursday. Wilderman said a license may be suspended arbitrarily now and that it was then too late to get court relief.

Salem – (UPI) – Sen. Francis Ziegler (R-Corvallis) said Friday he would be a candidate for Senate president in 1961 if Republicans have a majority or if there is a tie in the upper chamber between Republicans and Democrats.

Salem –(UPI)– A civil rights bill passed the Senate Thursday. It is tougher than one passed earlier by the House.

The Senate bill specifically prohibits brokers and salesmen from accepting any listing with the understanding that a purchaser may be discriminated against solely because of race, creed or color.

The House measure would give brokers and salesmen an out by providing they could not be charged with discrimination if the owner included a racial restriction in his listing.

Salem–(UPI)–The House passed 54-4 and sent to the Senate Thursday a bill to permit the state to take over numbering of recreational boats. It also would bring Oregon into uniformity with federal safety and equipment requirements and set up a state marine board.

Home Burned To Foundations

A home was burned to its foundations at 2082 College way Friday afternoon, according to the Medford fire department.

The house was vacant at the time and is owned by W. T. Griffay, firemen said. The fire apparently started under the floor and extended up to the roof and ceiling. Origin of the fire is unknown, firemen said.

No damage resulted from an overheated oil stove at 404 South Ivy st., Saturday morning, firemen said. Owner and occupant is Ivan Hayes.

Nicaragua, largest of the Central American states, has long shorelines on both the Caribbean and the Pacific.

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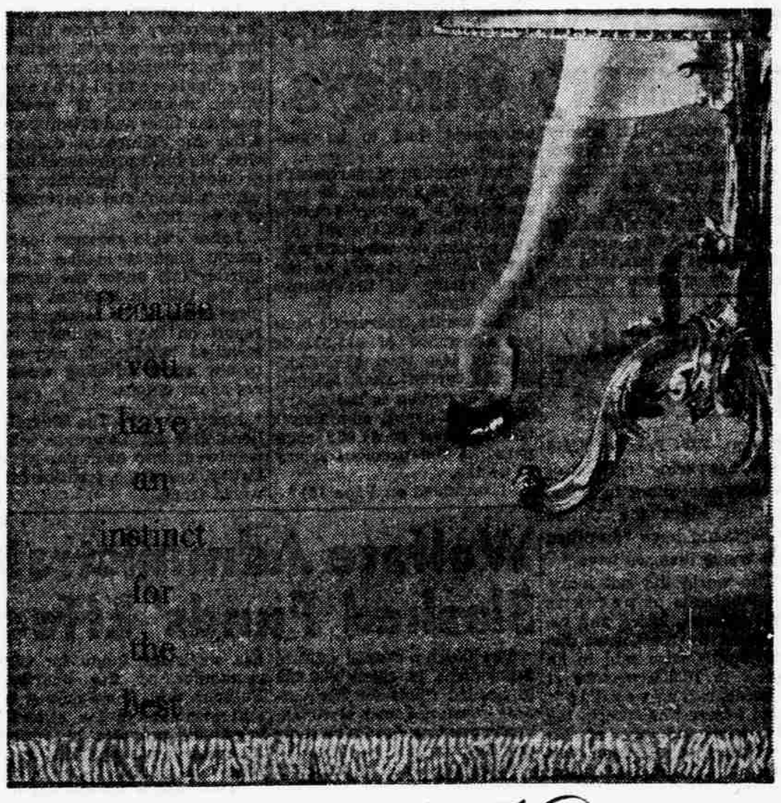

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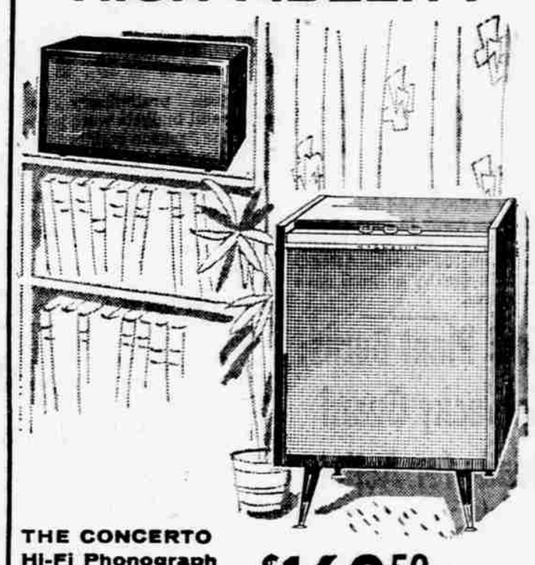
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