

**Capitol Memo**

**Strange Boards and Commissions Noted In Oregon's Past**

By DOUGLAS GRIPP  
Salem - (UPI) - Through the years, Oregon has had some strange boards and commissions.

But none can match for mystery the Oregon Tunnel Commission, created in 1931 and abolished in 1959.

State archivist David Dunaway said he understands a main purpose was to drill a traffic tunnel through the West Portland hills. But records fall to show that in 28 years the group ever got near a tunnel, much less dig one. The commission spent no money and there is a question as to whether it ever held a meeting.

The only piece of official correspondence dealing with the commission is a letter in 1936 from Gov. Charles Martin asking the commissioners, "what is the status of your commission?"

He apparently never received a reply.

**To Welcome Veterans**  
Then there was the Overseas Welcome Commission of 1919, whose purpose was to go to New York to welcome returning Oregon World War I veterans.

The vets must have had a ball. The agency wasn't abolished until 1927.

The Oregon Soldiers' and Sailors' Commission of 1919 had a more solemn task. It was to operate until it was felt Congress had made adequate provision for care of veterans. Either Congress was pokey or the Legislature unsure but the ax didn't fall on the commission until 1936.

World War I also produced the 1919 State Committee to Provide Designs for Medals to

Oregon Veterans. In 1925 it seemed like a good idea to have a State Department of Americanization. This group spread the patriotic word in Oregon public schools.

Other bygone agencies include the Pure Seed Board, the Stallion Registration Board and the State Lime Board. The latter was formed when it was decided the state should go into the limestone business.

**Other Commissions**  
Groups which served obvious purposes - like the still familiar Centennial Commission - include the old Battleship Oregon Commission, New York World's Fair Commission and the Oregon Golden Gate International Exposition Commission.

A hint of the days when residents of sparsely-settled eastern Oregon were fierce about domination by Western Oregon appears in a 1929 law creating the Oregon Advertising Commission. The law stipulated that "at least one" of the commissioners had to be a resident of "that part of Oregon east of the Cascade mountains."

Even in the atomic age there are some unusual state agencies. To the layman, probably the strangest is the Oregon Chewing Fescue and Creeping Red Fescue Commission.

Despite the name, the seven-member agency is very active. Fescue, for the record, is a tufted perennial grass with panicle spikelets.

Purpose of the commission, formed several years ago, is to promote the growing of fescue grass seed.



**Small Worlds Around Us**

By Lynn M. Watkins

**You Can Be An Explorer— And Right at Home**

The spirit of adventure is strong in nearly every one of us. We all have the desire to explore. Ordinarily we subdue this urge because of a supposed absence of explorable regions. We do not need to, however; we can satisfy our yen without traveling to far away lands, for there are countless frontiers, as yet unknown, and within five miles of our homes, regardless of where we live.

You actually can be an explorer, even a pioneer. You can duplicate, to a large measure, the exploits of an adventurer in darkest Africa. You can stand on an unknown shore and can, if you desire, delve into mysterious regions where man has never been, and where a galaxy of living creatures have their homes.

**Rockefeller Gets Stassen Support**

New York - (UPI) - Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller Wednesday had the full support of New York's 96 delegates to the Republican National Convention and will go to Chicago July 25 as the delegation chairman.

In addition, the Governor picked up the backing of Harold E. Stassen who will attempt to persuade Pennsylvania's 70 delegates to lead a draft Rockefeller movement. The New York governor has stated he would accept a "draft" to be the GOP standard bearer, but has flatly declined to accept the number two spot on the Republican ticket.

**Eichmann Case Will Go To UN**

United Nations, N.Y. - (UPI) - The collapse of diplomatic talks with Israel will prompt Argentina to take the Adolf Eichmann case before the United Nations Security Council today, informed sources said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Mrs. Golda Meir and Argentine Ambassador Mario Amadeo failed to reach agreement in an hour-long conference Tuesday.

Argentina demanded that Eichmann, who was taken from its territory to face a mass murder trial in Israel, be returned. Israel insisted he would be tried in an Israeli court.

London - Iran is believed to hold one-third of the world's petroleum reserves as well as vast mineral wealth.

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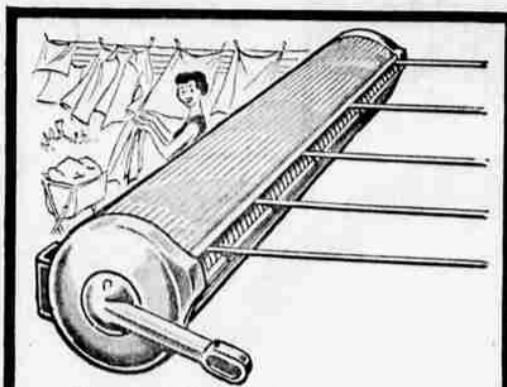
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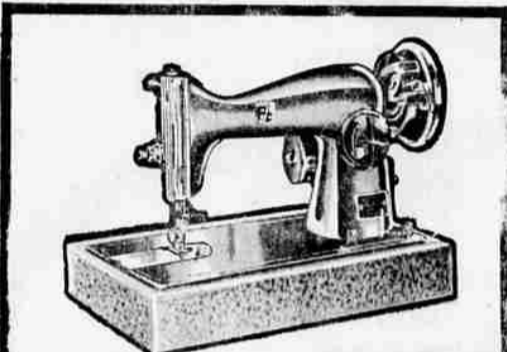
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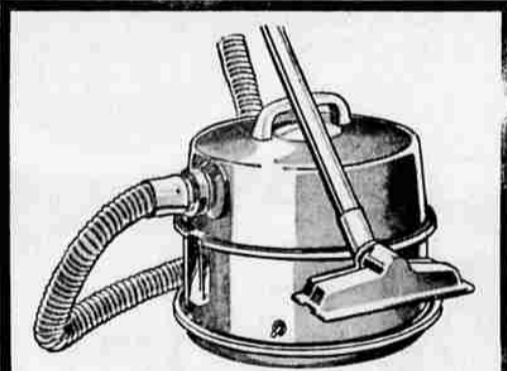
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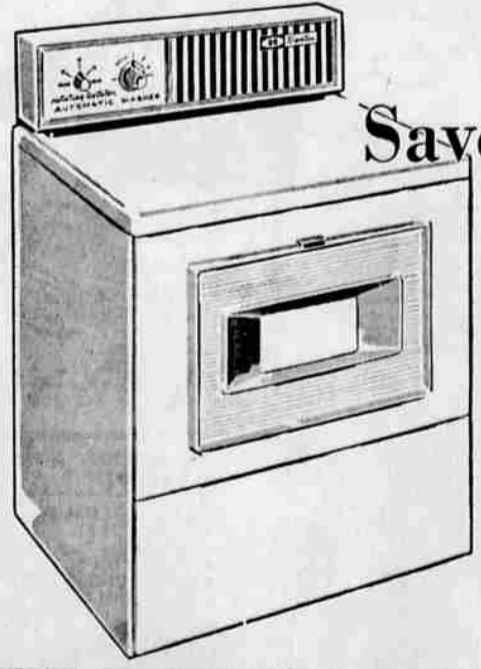
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