

Oregon Capitol Building Destroyed 27 Years Ago Today

Salem—UPI—Twenty-seven years ago today the Oregon Capitol Building was gutted by fire—an historic blaze, the cause of which has never been determined.

Arson was suspected for a time, but an extensive investigation that ranged as far as Nevada and California proved futile.

The fire raged for 12 hours and during that time a false brick chimney toppled from the third floor, killing Salem volunteer fireman Floyd McMullen.

A large amount of state records went up in flames along with oil paintings of Oregon governors, various pioneer items, Oregon World War I memorabilia, and even a number of treasured brass spittoons. Damage was estimated at \$1 million.

Saving Factors

There were some saving factors. Firemen poured streams of water into the state treasurer's office, saving \$3 million in bonds in a vault, and a vault in the secretary of state's office preserved, untouched, the original Oregon constitution, written by hand.

At 6:40 p.m. April 25, 1935, janitor Walter Wesolowski was in his office on the capitol's first floor with his son.

Gov. Charles H. Martin was

in Medford, attending the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet.

Wesolowski suddenly sat upright in his chair and told his son, "I smell smoke."

The blaze appeared to have broken out in a basement room below the capitol rotunda. Wesolowski's son was sent to turn on the capitol fire alarm but already flames had licked quietly over the basement ceiling and into wooden beams.

Dome Collapsed

At 8:01 p.m. firemen had to evacuate the building and the dome collapsed.

All available firemen and volunteers were on the scene and Salem Alderman Merrill D. Ohling put in a call to Portland, asking for help. An hour later Portland Fire Department trucks and crews arrived, helping to save at least the building's shell.

Returning from Medford, Gov. Martin immediately took steps to get U.S. Public Works Administration funds to build a new capitol.

Construction of the existing marble and bronze capitol began on the site of the old one. It opened in 1937 and is considered fireproof.

Other Fires Checked

The probe of the 1935 fire included checks into large, unexplained fires within the previous week-fires at Silverton, Albany, Corvallis, Bend and North Bend. But no connection was found.

A special session of the legislature met to approve construction of the new building, built with the aid of PWA funds.

Oregon's first capitol building, built in 1854, also went up in flames—in 1855. That fire was never explained either. The second capitol, destroyed in 1935, was built in 1876.

Funeral Rites Held For Grover A. Whalen

New York—UPI—Grover A. Whalen, New York's official greeter for many years, was buried Tuesday following a pontifical requiem mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral attended by about 1,000 mourners.

Whalen, 75, died last Friday from a stroke. He served as the city's official welcomer under several administrations and was credited with originating the ticker tape parade.

BURGLAR PROOF JAIL?

Waukesha, Wis. — UPI — Waukesha County recently completed construction of a new half-million dollar "escape-proof" jail and court house. Deputies reported Tuesday Lawrence Warrick, 39, used a spoon to dig his way out through two cement walls.



RECEIVES AWARD—Mrs. Joy Swartsley, Steven Swartsley Jr.; his mother; his father; his grandmother, Mrs. R. A. Swartsley, Medford; and his brother, Jerry, who received his Eagle Scout award four years ago. (Brainard Photo)

Union Officer On Witness Stand

Portland—UPI—A suit against officers of Local 701 of Hoisting and Portable Engineers moved into its seventh day today after top officer P. R. "Red" Wages denied union irregularities.

Wages, business agent and financial secretary for the big local, was the only witness Tuesday. He is one of the officers that the union members who filed the suit want to oust.

Wages, elected to his post in 1958, told the court, "I had nothing to do with the election, period." Previous testimony has centered on alleged irregularities in that election.

On charges of failure to call an election in 1961, Wages said he was advised to wait until this year in opinions

CITY MANAGER QUILTS

Vancouver, Wash. — UPI — Robert D. Clute, city manager here, announced his resignation Tuesday, effective June 1. Clute, who has held the position four years, said he would join a Portland investment banking firm.

WHAT A SWITCH

Memphis, Tenn. — UPI — A man said Tuesday he pulled a switch on one of the city's new fire alarm boxes because he thought it regulated a pedestrian traffic light.

Goodman To Play At White House

Washington — UPI — Clarinetist Benny Goodman will give President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan a sample Friday night of the jazz show he takes to Russia next month.

Goodman will lead a small band for part of the entertainment at the White House press dinner, hosted jointly by the White House Correspondents Association and the White House News Photographers Association.

Other entertainers will include actress Gwen Verdon, British comedian Peter Sellers and Sally Ann Howes, former leading lady in the stage play "My Fair Lady."

4-H Club News

Phoenix Club

The last meeting of the Phoenix 4-H club opened at 8 p.m. President Randy Howell opened the meeting. Mindy Hackett, secretary, read the minutes. We made rope hatters and talked about in the summer going to Grants Pass for a judging contest. We adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m. Our next meeting will be held at the Phoenix High school.

Carmen Howell, Reporter.

Mixers and Stitches

The fifth meeting of the Mixers and Stitches 4-H club was held at the home of Mrs. Jack Rents, our leader. The meeting was called to order by Cathy Zarasinski, our president. At the meeting, four girls in groups of two made muffins. The other girls judged.

Refreshments were served by Patty Miller and Mary Ann Marlin.

Mary Paradis, Reporter.

Southwest Medford

The meeting of the Southwest Medford Livestock and Poultry 4-H club was called to order by Marlene Nougier. Before the meeting we saw a film on judging livestock. At our last meeting we saw a film on poultry called "Something to Crow About," and

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another film on 4-H summer school.

After the films, Pat Jones led the pledge of allegiance and Bernadette Becker led the 4-H pledge.

Sheila Franklin showed us the lambs that were born this year. Cheryl Becker gave a demonstration on

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Court Records

CIRCUIT COURT
Muriel Janice Allen vs. Albert Cooper Allen, divorce complaint.
Beverly Lee McQuat vs. Paul Curwin McQuat, divorce complaint.
Mary Elouise Jones vs. Glen Buster Jones, divorce decree.
Barbara Jean Pamplin vs. John Pamplin, divorce complaint.
Donna Mae Huff vs. Allan LeRoy Huff, divorce complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Clyde Harmon Varney, 114 Rose St., Medford, and Kathleen Gail Johnson, Long Beach, Calif.

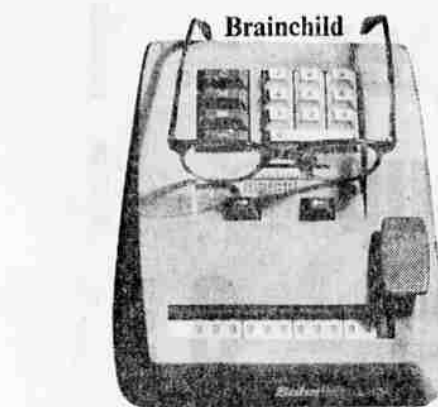


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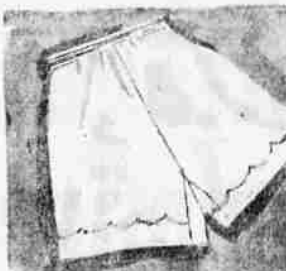
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