Boyle's Column

John Adams Really Got Something Going In 1800

By HAL BOYLE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—One hundred and forty-seven years ago President John Adams—a stiff-minded man from New England—moved to the nation's new capital here, bringing along 131 federal employes. That's all there were.

But to some contemporary citizens, opposed to the growth of bureaucracy, even that number seemed like unnecessary padding of the government payroll. They thought the United States could run its affairs on a smaller budget.

At that time the treasury employed sixty-nine people, the state department seven, the navy fifteen and the army eighteen. I don't know what the remaining 22 of the original 131 did, unless they sharpened quill pens.

Bitter Complaint

The 32 senators and 115 congressmen complained bitterly about the housing shortage in a metropolitan area containing 14,000 overcrowded souls.

The railroads of the day—stagecoaches—also had trouble with their schedules. It took one treasury clerk six days to bring his wife and nine children from Philadelphia, the former capital.

The woeful misadventures of these government pioneers have their counterparts today in the daily struggles of a vast army of modern federal employes to build a fuller life in still-cramped but ever-growing Washington.

For a forecast major post-war population drop in the capital has failed to materialize.

Since 1800 the population of metropolitan Washington has grown from 14,000 to approximately 1,300,000, spurred by the development of the federal payroll into the area's chief "heavy industry."

Now civic planners say there is a need for 49,000 new dwelling units to accommodate newcomers expected to swell the population to 1,500,000 by 1950, when year-long sesqui-centennial celebrations will be held to observe the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the federal budget here.

Business men began to revise their estimates of a declining Washington after a wartime survey disclosed that only one out of eight adults had any intention of leaving.

"We know the number of government employes will be reduced," said Edwin N. Lewis of the board of trade, "but only one-tenth of the federal government's workers live in Washington anyway. The cutdown won't be too hard here."

The capital also expects soon to have its second biggest industry—the tourist group—going full blast. Before the war some 3,500,000 tourist and convention visitors spent from forty to fifty million dollars annually. Much of it went for steaks to build up their legs for the free walk through the capitol building.

So short is living space that rundown ancient brick dwellings in historic Georgetown zoomed from $3000 up to $9000. Residents feel, however, the price peak has passed. But restaurants, buses and street cars are still jammed. A fleet of 8000 taxis is kept busy.

Old-time Washingtonians sigh for the pleasant leisurely life of yore, but see no hope of it ever returning.

The 131 federal employes of 1800 grew to more than 300,000 during the war. Last November 299,218 persons still on the government payroll here drew $84,942,461.

John Adams really started something.

Crater Skiing Said Good

Clear bright weather today at Crater Lake national park makes for excellent sight-seeing trips, trees sparkling in the sun with their dusting of snow diamonds makes a photographer's field day.

This is the report from park authorities, extending an invitation to tourists to visit this winter wonderland. Roads are in good shape and no chains are required. Skiing is good from 11 a. m. when the top crust is softened until late afternoon when it starts hardening up as the temperature drops again.

The mercury stood at 25 degrees at the park at 8:30 a. m. Wednesday. Tuesday the maximum was 42 and minimum temperature 22 degrees. There are 108 inches of snow on the ground.

Cleaning Plant In New Quarters

The Cascade Cleaners have moved into their new plant at 330 South 7th, the same building as occupied by the Cascade Laundry. Both firms are operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Isensee.

The laundry and cleaning plant offices will both be in the 330 South 7th location where extensive remodeling and modernization has just been completed. The cleaning plant was formerly located at 1116 Main.

Vet Housing Meet Slated

A conference of representatives of financial institutions, building industry leaders and members of veteran's organizations will be held at the chamber of commerce Thursday at 7:45 p. m. The conference is being sponsored by the chamber as a result of the president's statement regarding the housing program for 1947, and the nationwide interest in the development of rental housing facilities for veterans.

According to Folger Johnson, state director of the federal housing administration, there is a statewide movement to encourage the construction of rental projects under the FHA plan of financing as provided by the veterans emergency housing act of 1946. At the conference, he states, a full explanation of the details of the program, as well as an open discussion of the latest changes in FHA regulations and procedure will be conducted by representatives of the state FHA office.

Any interested party is invited to attend the conference, it was added, especially architects, contractors, realtors and dealers.

The ancient Hittites erected the first fine buildings of stone in western Asia.

Firearms Bill Protested

Nearly 500 names have been signed on a petition protesting the proposed act making mandatory the registration of all firearms in the United States. Most of the names on the petition are from the Bly district, but it is thought that another series of petitions will be distributed among sportsmen in Klamath Falls. C. F. Proebstel and Fred A. Enos, both of Bly, are circulating the petitions.

The text of the petition reads, "The United States attorney general, Mr. Clark, announced December 7, 1946, that he intended to ask the congress at its next session to enact a law to require the registration of all firearms, and a tax on their transfer.

"This is one of the most outrageous pieces of legislation which has ever been requested.

"We, the undersigned, are opposed to this legislation against firearms."

Copies of the petition will be sent to the Oregon senators, Representative Lowell Stockman and Governor Earl Snell.

Tax Office Offers Aid

The local office of the collector of internal revenue, located in room 201 of the post office building, is open to assist taxpayers in the filing of their 1946 income tax returns, according to Laurence K. Ellson, deputy collector. The office will be open from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. each weekday except Saturdays. March 15 the office will be open from 8 a. m. to 12 midnight.

Ellson stated that deputies would also be in the following towns on the stated dates: Merrill post office, February 11; Bonanza post office, February 13; Gilchrist, timber company office, February 17 and 18; Chemult hotel, February 19; Lakeview city hall, February 25 and 27; Bly, forest service, February 26; Chiloquin, city hall, March 3.

Terminal Pay Claims Held

More than 1400 claims are being held at the terminal leave disbursing office, according to the Klamath Falls navy recruiting office, for which no action can be taken due to the failure of the claimees to indicate their address on the claim.

Also, the office pointed out, there are 1700 bonds at the disbursing office which have been returned as undelivered by the post office. Any person whose claim was mailed prior to November 1, and on which payment has not been received, is requested to inquire from the terminal leave disbursing office, Great Lakes, Ill., as to the status of his claim, as it is possible that it is being held up due to lack of a correct address, or any address whatever.

Navy Boots To Florida

The local coast guard recruiting office in the county courthouse has announced that under the new enlistment order, all seamen will be sent to Mayport, Fla., upon an original enlistment, for an eight weeks' initial training period.

On completion of preliminary training the seaman now has his choice of attending any one of several specialist schools for training in electronics, aviation or other crafts. The rank of petty officer is awarded on graduation.

It was added that all petty officers re-enlisting under the new orders will be assigned to general duty in the district in which they are accepted.

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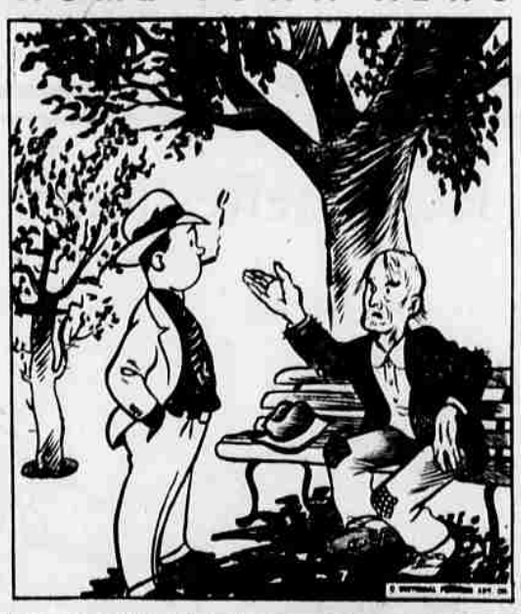
HOME TOWN NEWS



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