

# 'Klamath Chamber Spends Busy Year With Barracks Use Okay The High Point

By CHARLES R. STARK, Manager Klamath County Chamber of Commerce

Successful culmination of an 18-month effort to secure peace-time use of the Klamath Falls Marine Barracks marked the high point of the 1947 Klamath County chamber of commerce year. The full story of the chamber's quest but constant campaign to bring an educational institution to Klamath Falls fills four pages of the chamber's annual report, printed in October. It can be boiled down to a few paragraphs for this year-end summary.

The chamber of commerce became the organization to work out the strategy for bringing about the idea of a school first conceived by Dr. L. T. Coggeshall, senior medical officer of the Marine Barracks. It was decided that the only safe method of approach was to sell the idea on its merits, omitting all emotional or political appeal.

**Obstacles Pop Up**  
The chamber then followed through on this line, telling the story of the barracks and its possibilities to more and more people. The possibility of creating a college branch was dropped in June of 1946 in favor of trying to develop a technical and vocational institute here, after the state board of higher education had tabled the matter temporarily. This was only one of a great many obstacles that kept popping up. Others were delays in closing negotiations with the WAA which prevented getting the school started before the legislature convened, argument over terms of the legislature and unfavorable action by the legislature's ways and means committee.

The ways and means group granted a second chance to the proposal by reconsidering its unfavorable action. The chamber sent a delegation of ten members to Salem, well strengthened with facts and photographs of the barracks, to make a last appeal for approval of the vocational school. The committee reversed its stand and within ten days a week the necessary legislation to establish and finance the vocational school had been passed, just as the session was about to close.

Since then, the chamber has maintained a close interest in the Oregon Vocational school and has aided it in many ways to get off to a good start. The most substantial contribution to its success since its opening on July 10 was the printing of 10,000 copies of an illustrated folder designed to promote enrollment at OVS. These have been distributed to school superintendents and principals, veteran advisers and others in a position to send enrollees to the school.

**Land Issue**  
Another accomplishment which can be traced directly to chamber of commerce action is the increase in the amount of timber land allocated to the Klamath master unit by the O. & C. lands administration. President P. S. Hitchcock and Frank Jenkins led the attack for the chamber, assisted by five other Klamath representatives. Oral presentation, backed by a brief, resulted in the addition of 18,792 acres to the Klamath unit. This area includes about 264,154,000 board feet.

Hitchcock and Jenkins again carried the ball for Klamath county before a civil aeronautics examiner at Las Vegas in presenting the need for feeder air service to connect Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Alturas, Susanville and Reno. The New York attorney for a major air line remarked that this was the best presentation this attorney had ever heard in a CAB hearing by any group of communities. President



CHARLES STARK

Hitchcock missed the chamber's annual meeting on October 20 because the CAB hearing fell on that same day. No decision has been handed down yet in this case.

The chamber has taken an active interest in national and state legislation during 1947. When matters of great importance are pending, the membership is polled to determine how they feel. Senators Cordon and Morse and Congressman Stockman have expressed strong approval of this method of advising them of the attitude of their constituents. The exact results of these votes, together with written-in comments, are sent to the congressional delegation.

**Rate Probe Opposed**

The chamber opposed Senate Bill 1727 which would require the Interstate Commerce Commission to make a full investigation of freight rates applicable to the western states. A careful study of this bill and the existing schedule of rates applicable to the Klamath basin made it apparent that Klamath stood to lose more than it might gain through such an investigation. While there are inequities in some rates, we also enjoy favorable rates on the major products of this area. In a general investigation, competing areas might force an upward revision of our favorable rates which would prove much more costly than the gains in rates now unfavorable. The best approach is to work for revision of individual inequities, it was decided.

The chamber seeks to cooperate in activities for the benefit of the area, even though they are sponsored by some other group. The chamber lined up about 20 entries for the Klamath Basin Potato Festival parade at Merrill, and also made arrangements in San Francisco for a visit there by the festival queen and her court.

School cooperation also was an important part of the chamber's office activity. Football tickets were sold for the Pelican's regular home games, plus tickets for games at Merrill and The Dalles. The chamber handled tickets for the Henley-Amity class "B" championship game, and the advance sale of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas sponsored by the school music department.

**Survey Effort**  
The chamber is playing a leading part in the current effort to secure a comprehensive survey of Klamath

county for the guidance of the city and county planning commissions and various chamber of commerce committees. This would include a complete economic-industrial study together with surveys of streets and highways, parks and recreation, zoning, lighting and kindred subjects.

Community advertising kept the world thinking about Klamath county and Klamath Falls during 1947. A new informational folder was published this summer and has been used to answer the thousands of inquiries about this area which are received every year. Magazine articles and pictures have appeared in the National Geographic, Life, Newsweek, Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, Look, Pic, Holiday, Sunset, Leatherneck, County Officer, American City magazine and many sports, camera and trade magazines, featuring this area.

The Queen for a Day project in May was sponsored by the chamber of commerce. Lovely Guy Williamson and her sister-in-law, Claire Farrell, spent four days, here at guests of the community and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Klamath county got into this project before it became common for the "queens" to be given trips to recreational areas, thereby gaining a maximum of benefit for this national advertising. The Salute to Klamath Falls Week in September gave this basin a further plug on a national, state and local basis.

Intercity contacts were made with Portland, Tulelake, Lakeview, Merrill, Exeter, Alturas, Bend and McMinnville, either through our visiting civic groups in those communi-

## U.S. Warns Ships Away From Eniwetok Atomic Test Area

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 (AP)—The United States put all nations on notice today to keep their ships, planes and people out of the Eniwetok atomic weapons testing area, starting one month from now.

The state department was busy relaying to embassies and legations a formal warning from the atomic energy commission. In something of an understatement, that notice said "hazards" will exist in a 39,000 square mile area surrounding the Pacific atoll beginning January 31 and "throughout the calendar year 1948."

The total area is roughly half that set aside for the Bikini atom bomb experiments of 1946. However, the commission's announcement said that "if necessary, warnings of any hazards outside the designated danger area will be given in the event that such dangers are created by activities conducted within the danger area."

This was taken to mean that the 39,000-square mile area is a basic zone, to be expanded temporarily as tests are conducted. Winds and currents, which might carry radioactive clouds or water, generally move westward from the Marshall Islands through most of the year.

**GREETINGS**

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"Young Man"

Bob Walker of Merrill was judged "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" when the selection of 1947 was made early in January of 1947. Walker's selection was made on the basis of his participation and leadership in community and county affairs. Naming the "Outstanding Young Man of 1947" will take place at the annual Junior chamber of commerce banquet here January 13.

## Tugboat Strike Called Off Today

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (AP)—A threatened strike of 3500 tugboat workers in New York harbor was averted early today when operators and AFL union representatives reached agreement on a contract calling for 10-cent hourly wage increases.

The agreement was reached after 14 hours of continuous negotiations at a session called by Mayor William O'Dwyer. O'Dwyer, fearful of a repetition of the walkout two years ago which tied up the harbor for 13 days and caused a day-long city-wide business shutdown, intervened in the dispute Tuesday.

There are 114,000 blind persons in the United States.

## County Clerk Issues 365 Nuptial Tags

The county clerk's office issued one marriage license for every day in the year during 1947—365 of them—which was fewer than the number of wedding permits granted here in 1946 or 1945.

The number of divorce decrees granted in circuit court were off this past year, too, with only 283 coming out of the court. In 1946—the year of decision, apparently—there were 446 divorces granted here and only 383 marriages. Totals for 1947 were 502 marriages licenses, a peak year, and 345 divorces.

**Wives Win Out**  
Virtually all of the divorce decrees turned out in court during 1947, and they went to wives in a ratio of four to one. The default divorce suits are generally out and dried in advance, needing only the official papers and the court appearance to make them valid. Occasionally a divorce suit is contested where the custody of children or of property is involved.

Cruel and inhuman treatment, which in Oregon covers a multitude of sins, was the allegation in probably 90 per cent of the 360-odd suits for divorce started this year in the local court. Desertion for a period of a year was listed in most of the remainder, while several suits were for annulment of marriages on some legal infraction.

The other Oregon grounds for divorce—a felony and conviction for a felonious crime—were not specifically charged in any divorce actions started here this year.

**SPEAKER**

PORTLAND, Jan. 1 (AP)—Senator Levertt Saltonstall (R-Mass.) will speak at the Multnomah county republican central committee's annual banquet observing Lincoln's birthday.

The banquet program will be February 11, the eve of the birthday of the first republican president.

## "Granddad" Southwell Celebrates 98th Birthday

By MAX MARVIN

HENLEY—Ben "Granddad" Southwell, a long-time resident of Klamath Falls, celebrated his 98th birthday Saturday, December 26. On this occasion his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Southwell, honored him with a birthday dinner and party. The beautifully decorated four-layer birthday cake was baked by a neighbor, Mrs. G. D. Reeder.

An evening of checkers, pinocle and Chinese checkers was enjoyed. Ben Southwell entertained the group by playing on his violin.

Southwell, originally from Scott, Ill., came across the plains in '52. His uncle, grandmother and cousins who were in the same wagon train were massacred, and an aunt was shot but recovered.

Southwell settled in Cottage Grove and after farming in different locations in Oregon, moved to Klamath Falls.

As a boy Southwell liked to hunt and fish. He has many interesting stories of encounters with wild animals, including the time a wild bear chased him over a fence.

"When I came here," he said, "it was nothing to shoot a panther or a bear. Killing a deer was as easy as killing a rabbit now." Southwell holds a pioneer hunting license and killed his last deer about 11 years ago.

Still retaining a very clear mind for his age, Southwell enjoys life and takes an interest in present-day happenings. His friends have always admired his witty sayings.

Enjoying comparatively good health for his years, "Granddad" Southwell takes care of a flock of chickens, prunes the apple trees and makes the family garden. Last year his garden at his son's, Frank Southwell's place in the Henley district, was admired by everyone who saw it.

Asked if he had any advice to give the young people, he replied he didn't believe they needed any. "Good grub" was the answer when questioned as to what made him live so long. "Guess I'll never pass on," he said, "looks like I won't."

Southwell, who looks like a violin which, according to the date inside, is 257



"GRANDDAD" SOUTHWELL

years old and was made in Cremona, Italy. He still plays this violin which he bought when he was 19 years old and which he has used many times to play for dances. "I once refused a thousand dollars for that violin," he commented after proudly displaying it.

Neighbors and relatives who gathered on his birthday to wish him many more happy years, were Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Reeder, Dwayne and Donnie; Mr. and Mrs. Marshall McClay and Jimmie; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Southwell, Steve and Dave, and another son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John Southwell of Ashland.

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