



OPENING CEREMONIES at Hartfields women's wear store at Eighth and Main found Oregon Tech Homecoming Queen Jessie Lee Long surrounded by an admiring group of men. They are (from left) Hank Henry of KFLW, Mayor Bob Thompson, Roy Murphy, Klamath Merchants association head; H. Grant Lee, Hartfield's operations manager; and Leo Hartfield, president of the stores. Hartfields opened Friday morning.

# Americans Spend Record Sum For Food During 1951, Figure To Go Up Next Year

By JACK R. RYAN  
NEW YORK, (AP)—Americans spent more money for food in 1951 than ever before. And the food bill seems likely to push even higher in the coming year.

Our total expenditure for food, including meals eaten at home, in restaurants, hotels, and hospitals, in the armed forces and on farms, is expected to add up to about \$66 billion for the year just ending. That's three and a half billion dollars more than in 1950.

Most important individual foods rose much more than that, of course. A few, like eggs, beef and pork, have eased just recently, but the declines have been outweighed by seasonal advances in other items like fresh fruits and vegetables.

Economists of the agriculture department don't look for any big jump in food prices in the new year, barring unusually bad crop weather or other emergencies. But they do foresee a slight uptrend for the following reasons:

Heavier spending for defense will mean more jobs, higher consumer incomes, more spending money. At the same time, because of sharper cutbacks in critical materials, there will be fewer durable goods like automobiles, refrigerators, appliances. A lot of this extra money is expected to be channeled into food buying. Per capita consumption may rise as much as three percent.

In addition, the population is growing. And the armed forces are expected to need more food in 1952.

Further, marketing costs are expected to go up some more as wages in the food industry edge higher. Many grocers contend they are already being squeezed by rising operating costs. An industry advisory committee recently asked the office of price stabilization to boost the amount which grocers are allowed to add to the cost of goods in figuring their selling prices. The margin hike they want could raise price ceilings on packaged groceries about two percent.

Supplies of food as a whole are expected to be bigger in the coming year, but not enough to offset the anticipated larger demand. Federal forecasters say the situation should shape up something like this:

Meat will be more plentiful especially beef and veal. Consumption per person may exceed 144 pounds compared with 141 this year. The 1952 crop of chickens, turkeys and eggs should top even 1951's huge production. Milk output won't go up much, and lively demand probably will result in slightly higher prices at retail.

Fresh and frozen fish should be more abundant than the canned produce. At least until the 1952 pack starts to market. The military will take a bigger proportion of canned fruit. Carry-overs of canned fruit may reduce processing in coming year, leaving more fresh fruit for consumers. Less non-citrus fruit will be produced, and less grapefruit, but more oranges at lower prices. Banana imports may be smaller. Prices of most fresh vegetables should be lower than in 1951 and supplies of canned and frozen vegetables will be adequate.

The most significant factor bearing on the economic outlook

for the food and grocery industry is the downturn of earnings, according to Paul S. Willis, president of Grocery Manufacturers of America. Its hundreds of member companies include most of the major U. S. food manufacturers.

"Profit margins have declined, almost without interruption, for many years to a new low for both segments," he said in a year-end statement. "Here is an industry that is working harder and producing more with less proportionate reward than ever."

He said the records of 89 representative grocery manufacturers surveyed by GMA showed that their average net profit after taxes declined from 4.6 cents on dollar sales in 1939 to 2.4 cents for the

first half of 1951. The profit rate for distributors declined from 1.7 cents in 1939 to 1.1 cents in 1951.

"During this period of declining margins, the actual unit production of goods had doubled and in some cases tripled," Willis added, "and the only thing which has preserved the industry's financial strength is

the record sales volume."

## New Logging Operation On

PORT KLAMATH—New logging operations in this locality got underway last week, when a crew of three sets of fallers (six men) started work cutting timber for the Jack Kellum sawmill at Chilcoquin at a point about two miles east of here via highway 232 north. The rest of the logging crew started work this week. Formerly known as the Yawkey tract, the timber is now owned by the state of Oregon.

J. W. Fisher of Klamath Falls is the contractor, and his brother, Thomas P. Fisher, is in charge of the work. Fisher brothers had for some time previously been engaged in logging at the Seven Mile division of forest service timber located west of Ft. Klamath. Carl Lee and Jim Fisher are working on a woods contract at Hoopa, Calif.

On Thursday, Dec. 13th, three trucks started hauling the cut logs to the sawmill at Chilcoquin. Owner and driver of one of the trucks is Roy Winer of Medford, employed as driver for the Modoc Lumber Co. in its Seven Mile operations here until the shutdown of logging.

PORTLAND, (AP)—Frank E. McCaslin, president and general manager of the Oregon Portland Cement company is Portland's first citizen for 1951. McCaslin, a former president of the chamber of commerce, was selected by the Portland realty board Saturday.

He had eaten the sandwiches earlier.

## Baby Gorilla Proves Big Handful To Raise In Home

ANACORTES, Wash., (AP)—A bottled, diaper-wearing gorilla has become one of the main attractions of this pugest sound city.

If you think you have problems with a household of children, how would you like to try the likes of Bobo?

"It's surprising how quickly we became attached to the little fellow," said Mrs. Ray Lowman. The 4½-month-old babe from the jungles of West Africa was bought in Columbus, Ohio, last month by her son, Bill Lowman of Anacortes. He is a ship captain on the Puget Sound-Alaska run. He said he got the gorilla for a pet.

Bobo already is a nationally known figure. He was featured in life magazine last month while still an Ohio child.

His father and mother were killed. The former owner, William said, described Bobo as the youngest gorilla in captivity. He is a rare specimen because a baby gorilla seldom lives if taken from the jungle.

Bob is cute as a bug—or a baby. He's a 12-pounder, dark-skinned, with some hairiness and a prominent jaw.

By the time he is 12 years old, he probably will be 4 feet tall and will weigh 500 pounds.

But by that time the Lowman don't expect to be worrying about how to handle the strongest animal on two legs.

"By then we hope to have him in a circus or zoo," explained Mrs. Lowman. "He'd be much too great a problem."

But now Bobo is no more of a problem than any baby would be—except that he has to be more carefully guarded from the chance of catching colds.

"He sleeps a lot, has to have his diapers changed regularly, is bottle-fed a formula every three hours and chews a rattle. For his Sunday best, he has a flannel jacket."

"People may think we're eccentric in bringing a gorilla into our home," commented Mrs. Lowman, "but from the scientific viewpoint, its rearing will be an interesting experiment." The Lowmans plan to chart Bobo's development for the benefit of science.

Lowman hasn't disclosed what he paid for Bobo. It is reported that

he will be worth \$4000 at 6 months of age.

**Stickup Nets Coffee For Thief**  
PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP)—A masked man armed with a shotgun, early today held up the hotel Arnold—and all he got was the night clerk's unfinished coffee.

Charles McNally, about 60, told police he was alone in the lobby when the man came in carrying the gun and wearing a yellow-knit mask that "looked like somebody's underwear."

He said he reached under the desk to grab a steel bar he keeps there and accidentally knocked his lunch box to the floor.

Apparently the thief thought it was the cash box. He grabbed it and fled.

McNally said the box contained a bottle partially-filled with coffee.

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