

Grand Old Veteran of Oregon Politics Full of Hope at 91

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP) — Walter M. Pierce, the stout-hearted grand old veteran of half a century of Oregon's political wars, will be 91 years old Friday, and he's full of bright hopes for the future and full of disgust for the pessimists.

During the past year, he twice was on his deathbed in a Salem hospital, but he made a strong comeback and looks about the same as he did a year ago.

Pierce, former congressman from Eastern Oregon and an ex-governor, still has a clear, active mind, and an amazing memory. His sight and hearing are failing, though, and he has no use of his legs.

Unlike many old people, he doesn't dwell in the past. He thinks of the future, which he considers bright.

"The future looks fine," he said. "I look forward to it with great hopes. We're going through a world revolution now, and this revolution will come out all right."

"This is the revolution of the common man and it's going on everywhere in the world. The oppressed peoples are rising and they will win their rights."

Pierce, a life-long Democrat and one of the greatest political figures Oregon has produced, added that he gets "disgusted with all the pessimism you hear today."

He hopes Sen. Kefauver, with whom Pierce served in Congress, wins the presidency.

"We're politically in great luck in having Kefauver," Pierce said. "I'm decidedly in favor of President Truman, though, and am sorry he won't be a candidate for reelection."

Pierce was happy about Oregon's Democratic primary election results, and said the state is lucky that Monroe Sweetland was reelected Democratic national committeeman.

"The hope of the Democratic party lies in competent young men," he said.

Pierce is strong for the Oregon Council of Churches initiative measure to ban betting on horse and dog races.

"I just wish my legs were strong enough so I could distribute those petitions and get signatures," he declared.

A nurse takes care of him during the night, and he gets out of bed at 8 a.m. Then he is wheeled into his study, where he listens for four hours to "talking books," which are books read on phonograph records. While he's listening, he looks out over his garden and his beloved Eola Hills, five miles west of Salem.

After lunch he takes a nap, and then goes for a ride with his devoted wife, Mrs. Cornelia Marvin Pierce, former state librarian. Silas Buckles, in his mid-70's, who



WALTER PIERCE

takes care of the pretty flower garden and helps with the household chores, goes along with them.

Pierce loves these rides in the family car "because I like to watch things growing."

When he comes home from the ride, he goes to bed, and Mrs. Pierce reads to him until he goes to sleep.

Now he's reading a book on philosophy, and recently he finished a biography of Florence Nightingale and "Goodspeed's Life of Jesus." In the past year he's also read the New Testament three times, all of these by the talking books.

Pierce reads the newspapers and the Bible to him, especially his favorite Bible verse. This verse, written by St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians, is:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Pierce was in the hospital last December and again in March. Both times he was expected to die. The second time, Mrs. Pierce took him home against doctor's orders, and he made a rapid recovery. Seeing his Eola Hills gave him a big uplift.

While he was in the hospital, a report was circulated that Pierce had died. That was the first thing Pierce mentioned when he was interviewed.

With a twinkling eye, Pierce thought it was a big joke that he had fooled the newspaper writers who have his death story all ready to rush into print.

Pierce is proud of his 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He writes them a letter every time he has a birthday, and he's working on it now.

A former farmer, he still owns 1,120 acres of wheat and grass land in Union County. That's what's left of his original 13,000 acres.

Besides Mr. Buckles, as the Pierces call him, his most devoted friend is Jo Ann, a five-year-old neighbor girl who visits him every day.

When he came home from the hospital in March, still in a critical condition, the first thing he said was "Where's Jo Ann?"

He has no fear of death, even joking about it. And from the way he talks, he sounds like he fully expects to see a lot of the future which is so bright to him.



TORE JANSON, art student at Klamath Union High who won three places in the recent National Art Exhibit at Pittsburgh, Pa., has been asked to submit some cartoons or drawings to the Ladies Home Journal. He said he intended to do so, but hadn't decided on the subject matter.

Members of the panel are ordered to report to the courtroom at 10 a.m. (standard time) that day.

Those drawn for jury duty include: Frank W. Damon, Chemult; E. C. Lennet, Merrill; E. J. Casebeer, Bly; Joe Acuff, Crescent Lake; M. S. Biden, Crescent; F. J. Elmer, Ray Drake, C. C. Colson, M. J. Looney, all Malin; Bessie Frazer and Frank DeBel, Bonanza; H. Robbins and Ted Crum, Sprague River; Charles Chipman, Chiloquin; Glenn Kester, Olene; Frank Lowell, Midland; Barbara Musselman, Camp 4; Henry F. Grimes, Lakeview highway; William Blackman, Paul Fairclough and William A. Creswell, Route 2; Clyde Dougherty, Route 3; R. E. Jesche, 1511 Pleasant; Gino Carini, 2241 S. 6th; Evelyn Herman, 2531 White; Ralph Jones, 401 Jefferson; Teresa Grubb, 4517 Winter; J. B. Bishop, 1645 Pacific Terrace; A. E. Bergloff, 2478 Ward; and May Cody, 419 High.

Bennett's Job Goes to Boody

PORTLAND (AP) — Nate Boody, department store executive, was named Wednesday by the Portland City Council to fill the unexpired term of J. E. Bennett, city commissioner recalled at the primary election.

Boody will serve until a new commissioner is elected in November. He is a former president of the Portland Retail Trade Bureau.

Circuit Jury Names Drawn

Thirty-one names were drawn Wednesday by Sheriff Red Britton and County Clerk Charlie DeLoop for the regular Circuit Court jury panel for the new term of court starting June 16.

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BAR EXAMS SET
SALEM (AP) — The State Supreme Court said Wednesday the annual state bar examinations would be held July 15-17. Already 171 applications have been received.

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30 Known Dead In Car Plunge

MADRID, Spain (AP) — An overcrowded streetcar plunged 85 feet off the historic Toledo bridge here Wednesday night and carried at least 30 persons to their death on the river bank below. Some 80 persons were seriously injured.

Rescue workers, digging through the wreckage on the bank of the Manzanares River, had recovered 30 bodies by early morning. Six were women and two young boys.

The streetcar, which had a normal capacity of 48, had been jammed with at least 100 persons. Its brakes gave way as it moved down a 600-foot incline, and it crashed through the railing of the 230-year-old bridge.

Senators Eye News Handling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investigating senators called on all government departments and agencies Thursday to explain their methods of handling news.

Sen. Moody (D-Mich.), a former newspaperman, asked for the information as chairman of an "anti-censorship subcommittee" set up to check on government policies on classifying information.

Part of the inquiry will deal with Truman's executive order of last Sept. 24 directing civilian agencies and officials to put secret, confidential or other restrictive labels on documents and information "pertaining to national security."

These tags normally keep such information from reaching news reporters and hence, the public.

The President's order brought a storm of protests from many editors and publishers as well as some members of Congress.

Moody said a form letter went out to all departments and major agencies asking for copies of each agency's rules and regulations, the number of persons authorized to classify information, and methods taken to remove classified labels when need for secrecy ends.

Moody asked that replies be made by next Thursday.

150 Stricken, Ham Blamed

PORTLAND (AP) — The State Board of Health Wednesday blamed baked ham for the food poisoning of 150 persons at a church banquet in Grants Pass May 13.

None of the ham was left for examination, but Dr. Samuel Osgood, state epidemiologist, said, "we believe the ham was the most probable cause, and contamination probably occurred during or immediately following slicing, with about three hours of incubation before consumption."

No one died from the poisoning, but all but 30 of the persons at a mother-daughter banquet suffered pains, and some were hospitalized.

Plywood Firm Incorporated

SALEM (AP) — The Winchester Plywood Association, with capital stock of one million dollars, filed articles of incorporation here Wednesday.

The Association's headquarters are at Winchester, Douglas County, and its stock is divided into 200 shares worth \$5,000 each.

The incorporators are E. O. McClintock, Everett A. Fah, Clarence L. Rothrock, M. M. Rucka, Jesse W. Howard and Ray Austin.

The Southern Oregon Sanitarium, Inc., of Merlin, Josephine County, also incorporated with \$5,000 stock. It was incorporated by George and Della Ashbaugh, Ina J. Moreno and Mary M. Graves.

MOSES LAKE, Wash. (AP) — Grant County's Public Utility District commissioners announced Wednesday a plan for the PUD to build the long-projected Priest River Dam on the Columbia River.

The estimated cost would be 250 million dollars.

The commissioners, at a meeting Tuesday night, authorized filing of condemnation proceedings to acquire title to the land at the proposed dam site, 20 miles below the Vantage Bridge.

The projected dam would be the third largest power producer in the Pacific Northwest, exceeded only by Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams.

Construction by a PUD of a major Columbia dam would be an unprecedented move in the history of the region's power development. All other big Columbia projects have been built by the federal government, although the Chelan County PUD has an agreement for enlarging of the privately-owned Rock Island Dam upstream.

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PTA Notes

RIVERSIDE
National Family Week was observed at the last meeting of Riverside PTA with Rev. Galen Ostad giving an enlightening talk. He said that too many parents plan everything for the child instead of letting the child make some decisions for himself. By the time the child is high school age he should be quite independent. New officers for the year were installed by Mrs. L. C. Hornby.

They were Pres. Mrs. Axel Carlsson; 1st Vice Pres. Mrs. Warren Ausland; 2nd Vice Pres. Mrs. Harry Goeller Jr.; Secy., Mrs. Alexander Luft; Treas., Mrs. Sam Ritchey.

A violin solo was presented by Mrs. L. C. Hornby, accompanied by Mrs. Florence Pickle, Mrs. Alexander Luft, representing five to state PTA convention, gave an interesting report of the convention. Volunteer blood donors signed up for the summer as follows: Hazel Watkins, Lois Ritchey, and Mrs. Axel Carlsson.

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