

State Embarks On Unique Population Guess Program

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
SALEM (AP)—The state of Oregon is embarking on a unique project in which it will estimate the population of its 218 cities and towns every year.

No other state is doing it. The State Census Board, created by the 1955 Legislature, is feeling its way along, but it will have its 1956 population figures ready by April 15.

The new system was inspired by the League of Oregon Cities, which doesn't believe that the federal census, taken every 10 years, is up to date enough in a rapidly growing state.

At stake are two annual state apportionments to cities, including \$5,200,000 of liquor revenues and \$800,000 of highway revenues.

This money is apportioned on the basis of population of each of the 218 cities.

OLD LAW
The old law provided that the federal census should be used. But it also said that the secretary of state, at a city's request and expense, could conduct population counts at any time.

This enabled any growing city to increase its share of state money, but at the expense of the other cities.

So the Legislature put an end to this business, providing for a three-member State Census Board to make estimates for every city every year.

Members of this board are Ivan Reutcha, Portland, a steel company executive, who is chairman; Deane Huxtable, registrar for the State Board of Health, executive secretary; and Ken Tollenaar, of the University of Oregon Bureau of Municipal Research.

The board has sent its questionnaires to all of the cities and towns. It has advised each city to either make an estimate, or to conduct a census count under supervision of the board. Fifty-four cities are taking such population counts this week.

The others will make estimates. Then the board will revise these estimates, and announce the final figures.

NO APPEAL
There will be no appeal from the board's estimates. However, if any city doesn't like its estimated population, it can go ahead and make an actual count.

There will be a natural tendency for a city to fudge in order to get a little extra money. But the board has an answer to that.

"As a check on these cities," Huxtable said, "we have Board of Health figures on births for each area. We also have school district figures on enrollment, which is a good indication as to migration of people."

The new system will be better because it will be fair to every city. Under the old system, some cities were penalized because they couldn't afford to have the secretary of state make census counts.

In making the estimates, each city will have to provide detailed information to back up its figures. The city officials have to explain fully how they arrived at their figures. They must list details on any territorial annexations since the 1950 federal census.

They have to summarize any industrial and commercial changes in the community. The idea is that if there has been a population increase reported, the new people are employed.

The city officials have to supply information on the number of new homes, and electric and water meters for every year since 1950.

COME PRETTY CLOSE
After getting that material, along with the Board of Health and school enrollment figures, the board will be able to come pretty close to the actual population of each city. Huxtable thinks.

The cost of this new activity is surprisingly low. The board will have \$20,000 available for expenses, but Huxtable doesn't think the board will need anywhere near that much.

There are no salaries to pay, as Huxtable will do his work as a part-time activity in his job as Board of Health registrar.

About the only expense will be for office supplies and to pay experts now and then to perform technical jobs.

"We're learning a lot," Huxtable said, "and we'll learn a lot more as we feel our way along. We can't profit by anybody else's experience because we're in an entirely new field."

EASTER EGG HUNT
The Mooseheart Alumni Committee, Women of the Moose Chapter 467 will sponsor an Easter egg hunt at Moose Hall Friday March 30, following the regular potluck.

Potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m., the egg hunt will follow. Entertainment for the parents will be in the lounge. Friends and guests are invited to bring a dish and attend the potluck and Easter egg hunt.

DANCE POSTPONED
DENVER (AP)—For the first time in 37 years, local police will forego their annual Policeman's ball since a pay raise was approved at a special election March 28.

Set. Thomas L. O'Neill explained, "We didn't feel it was fair to ask the public to support a dance after giving us the pay raise."

Lutheran Ladies Aid Receive Invitation
DUNSMUIR—An invitation to attend a dedication service in Chico on May 5 was extended the members of the Lutheran Ladies Aid at their last meeting. The Rev. Martin Schabacker announced the service and also described the proposed University Lutheran Chapel which is to be built in Berkeley this summer.

The meeting was at the Rustic Chypel in Dunsmuir with Nellie Kins, president, presiding. Mrs. Minnie Stanley and Mrs. Dorothy Plymate served refreshments.

Annual Lakeview Lion Easter Egg Hunt Set
LAKEVIEW—The third annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Lakeview Lions Club, will be held Easter Sunday afternoon at the Youth Center in Lakeview. All children in Lake County, through the 8-year age limit, are invited to participate, according to Don Maxwell, club president.

Audie Leryik, instructor at the Lakeview Junior High, is in charge of arrangements and reports that the boiling, coloring and hiding of the eggs will be done by Troop 12 of the Boy Scouts, which is sponsored by the club.

There are three age divisions in the hunt, through 4 years; 5 through 6, and 7 through 8. Prizes will be awarded finders of golden eggs in each group.

EASTER SERVICES
LEADVILLE, Colo. (AP)—What is believed to be the highest Easter sunrise service in the nation will be held atop Mt. Leadville, Cooper Hill. Participants will be borne to the top of the hill by a ski tow. Services will start at 9:30 a.m. at the base of the hill and will move to the summit for the blessing and final prayer.

Three Killed In Granary Blast; 10 Blocks Levelled

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A devastating explosion blasted a four-story granary into flaming rubble last night and cut a 10-block swathe of damage through Philadelphia's busy 30th and Market Street section.

At least three persons were missing and believed dead. Four others were on the critical list.

Scores were treated for injuries, some of them late evening shoppers heading home at the time of the blast—8:10 p.m.

Not until the cold morning air cleared away the pall of black smoke was the extent of the destruction fully revealed. As far as the eye could see there were broken windows, smashed automobiles, scattered debris.

Twenty-five of the injured were students at Drexel Institute's night college, less than a block from the rear of the granary.

Those listed as missing were: Edward Johnson, a new employee of the grain firm, of Philadelphia; Byron Weldon, truck driver, of Millville, N.J.

Arthur Harold, another driver employed by a grain hauling company, also of Millville.

SCENE OF BLAST
The scene of the explosion was two blocks west of the Schuylkill River that separates the downtown portion of the city from West Philadelphia.

Across the street from the blast building—the milling plant of the Tidewater Mill and Elevator Co.—the new Philadelphia Bulletin four-story building took the full fury of the blast.

Windows were reduced to glass powder, ceilings fell, partitions were hammered out of shape and office furniture was overturned.

The force of the blast tore down communications lines on Market Street, knocked electric signs off buildings and showered the area with fragments of metal and wood.

The explosion was felt 25 miles away. The city hall switchboard reported an estimated 25,000 telephone calls were received in a four-hour period.

Workmen in the demolished plant's warehouse said they were alive "by a miracle." An employee of a nearby business place said "it seemed as if a train roared at us and then burst with hellish fury."

Firemen and police probing the seething debris for dead and injured worked under strain, well aware of the chance that another blast might occur.

DUST BLAMED
The explosion was blamed by the milling company's night superintendent on collected dust.

Samuel Purdy said he was attempting to light a pilot light in a drying vat when the blast was touched off. The building collapsed almost immediately and burst into soaring flames.

Purdy and three of four other employees of the milling firm escaped with injuries.

"It was a dust explosion because that's the sort of thing that happens in places like this," Purdy said.

"All the lights went out. I remembered I had a flashlight in a back pocket and got in touch with two men in the No. 21 bin. I helped get them out. I turned off all the switches I could, but I couldn't get to the main switch—it was too far away. The fire was raging and I had to get out."

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"CAROUSEL," a gay musical which was a tremendous Broadway success, will be shown on the wide screen at the Esquire Theater beginning Friday. Shown here in a scene from the color and CinemaScope film is Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones who play the leads.

NBC To Announce New TV Programing For Home Sets

By CHARLES MERCER
NEW YORK (AP)—NBC, now making plans for its fall color television programing, soon will announce the most extensive color programing yet seen by the home audience.

It's expected that the network will offer at least one major attraction in color every evening of the week. Robert Sarnoff, NBC President, reportedly has given top priority to this phase of the network's television programing plans for the coming season.

Although color programing has increased considerably in the past year, plans in the making at NBC apparently would more than double the amount of color time now available to the public. One major attraction each evening on NBC probably would mean at least one hour and possibly an hour and a half nightly.

At the moment NBC is the only major network with plans for stepping up color productions. CBS, which presents a few color programs, is maintaining its policy of "watchful waiting." ABC, which offers no color programs, has said it might launch some in the fall of 1957 if the audience is large enough. Both NBC and CBS are affiliated with manufacturers of color sets. ABC is not.

You can look for a change of emphasis in the nature of color set advertising by the way. Manufacturers are awakening to the fact that a large percentage of the public doesn't realize all black and white programs can be seen on color sets. The new theme in color

probably will be that you get two sets for the price of one color set.

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Five Children Perish In Fire

CASSELLMAN, Ont. (AP)—Five children ranging in age from two months to 3 years were killed Wednesday night when fire razed their farm home in this community 35 miles southeast of Ottawa.

A sixth child and the mother were in a nearby barn when the fire broke out and were unharmed. The victims were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Alcide Quessnel. They were Helen, 5, Jean, 4, Guy, 4, Claude, 2, and 3-month-old twins Francois and Francoise.

Quessnel, 24, works in a general store at St. Isidore. The house was gutted and the children were dead when he arrived home.

The 22-year-old mother told police she was in a barn with her sixth child, 3-year-old Gerard, when the fire started. She smelled smoke and heard the crackle of

flames too late to save the children in the frame house.

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