

Noted Deputy Gives Up Post

Originator of Road Stripe Retires

Capt. Peter Vernon Rexford, reputed originator of the center stripe to guide fast-moving vehicles along highways, is retiring from the Multnomah county sheriff's office this month after 31 years of service.



Captain Rexford started his career in the sheriff's office in 1916 as a traffic officer and was promoted to captain four years later. He remained in the traffic department until 1942, when he was put in charge of the civilian defense organization for the sheriff. He held this position during the war years and was placed in charge of the record department and the sheriff's reserve in 1946 upon return to active work in the sheriff's office.

Dad's Device Recalled

It was while riding on a bus from Salem, Captain Rexford related, on a dark, rainy night early in 1917, that the idea for a white center line first was conceived.

"I'm a farmer, just a kid raised on the farm," Captain Rexford said. "I remember the guide line my dad once had." The line lead across a ravine to the bunkhouse on the farm at Hubbard, Or., and served as a guide on dark rainy nights.

The county wouldn't consider financing the striping, Captain Rexford said, and Sheriff Martin Pratt, then a deputy sheriff, bought the paint out of his own pocket. In April a white stripe was painted on the curves of the Columbia river highway just east of Crown Point. In September of 1917 more curves were painted west of Crown Point.

History Kills Contest

A few years later there was a nation-wide contest to determine who originated the center stripe. A cash prize of \$10,000 was offered. Records revealed Captain Rexford's striping was the earliest that could be found. However, information from Europe disclosed the ancients had paved their streets with white brick down the center so the contest was canceled.

In 1919 the lines were thin and were repainted, as were those on the more dangerous curves on the Columbia highway, Captain Rexford said. About 1926 the county and state both started using the line regularly.

Noted Outlaws Captured

Some outstanding highlights in his career as an officer include the recovery of 89 drowned bodies, 56 of which were children under 12 years. He captured Pete and Cal Reed and Joe Asvedo, nationally known counterfeiters, near Viking park on the Columbia river highway. He assisted in the capture of Jimmy Willis and Alvin Kelly near Goldendale, Wash., after the pair shot their way out of the Oregon state penitentiary at Salem in 1926. Captain Rexford lives at 550 S. E. 155th avenue.

Burglary Charged

Richard H. Ackles, 29, of 253 N. Broadway, was arrested by police Saturday night on a charge of burglary. Bail was set at \$3,000. Officers said Ackles was apprehended in Kienow's grocery store, 2038 S. E. 39th avenue, armed with a tire iron.

Exclusively Optical CORBIN'S OPTICAL CENTER

Library Readers Scan Oregonian Files on Microfilm; New Machine Enlarges on Screen, User Turns Crank



A patron of the central library catches up on The Oregonian comics he missed during absence. One returned soldier spent two hours a day reading old issues of L'I Abner.

Patrons of the Portland public library can now search through back issues of The Oregonian by turning a crank instead of a page. The Oregonian has presented the library with a complete file of its daily and Sunday editions on microfilm, and last week the library installed in the reference room a machine which enlarges the film to more than the actual size of the original paper. Operation is simple. Patrons tell the reference librarian what they wish to study. A page gets the proper film from a shelf (each 4-inch roll carries 12 issues of the paper) and inserts it in the machine and all the user need do is turn the crank. There are in fact, two cranks, one for casual speed and the other for fast turning of the pages.

The enlarged printed page is thrown on a ground-glass screen with a soft light behind it. Response to the new convenience was immediate, reports Miss Katherine Anderson, reference department librarian. The machine is in use almost continuously.

Use of the film results in a considerable saving to the li-



Mildred Cline, librarian in the reference department of the central library, places microfilm in the reading machine recently acquired by the library for use of patrons.

brary in time, labor and shelf space. In the past, the reference department averaged from 50 to 100 calls for The Oregonian files daily. This meant that the bulky files had to be kept handy. Even so it took more time for a page to get a file and afterwards return it to the proper shelf than it takes to get the small film and place it in the machine. Too, there is less chance of damage to the film than to a bound volume, for newspaper gets brittle with age and tears easily.

The film reader will also be available for reading other films which the library or a patron may have. Miss Anderson pointed out that a national bibliofilm service in the national capital has access to the library of congress and through it a microfilm of virtually any document can be obtained. It is anticipated that some more recent actual files of The Oregonian will have to be kept handy because the film reading machine will not be sufficient to handle the traffic. One returned soldier last week was using the machine two hours daily—catching up on Lil Abner.

Park Pools' Opening Set

Rain or shine, the eight park pools under supervision of the bureau of parks and public recreation will be open to the public Tuesday with qualified aquatic directors on duty from 10 in the morning until dark. With the exception of Grant and Pier park pools, which are equipped with special self-cleaning devices, the pools will close Mondays for cleaning and water change.

The eight park bureau-supervised pools are at Columbia, Creston, Grant, Montavilla, Mt. Scott, Pier, Peninsula and Sellwood parks. The aquatic staff is headed by Miss Catherine Grant.

Free Classes Scheduled

Free learn-to-swim classes, sponsored by the recreation department, will be held July 8 through July 19 and are scheduled as follows: For intermediates, 10 A. M.; advanced swimmers, 10:30; beginners, boys at 11, girls at 11:30 and adult beginners, 6:30 P. M. Those wishing to take swimming instruction or to join a class have been asked to register July 1 to 7 with the director or checker at the pool. Swimmers are expected to furnish their own suits, caps and towels. There is no charge for use of the pools. The summer's swimming meets are scheduled for August. Winners in the local meets will compete August 30 at the Jantzen pool.

Suburb Inclusion Object of Petition

VANCOUVER, Wash., June 28 (Special)—Thirty homeowners in Fairview Heights and Wauna Vista, in the outskirts of Vancouver, have indicated on a petition circulated by W. L. McInturff, that they favor annexation by the city. The petition probably will be submitted to city commissioners next week. The signatures represent 75 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property—one quarter by one half mile in size—in the area.

Mill Industry Moving South To Available Fir Stands

Migration of the Pacific Northwest's logging and saw-mill industry toward southern Oregon in search of easily-available old growth Douglas fir has brought with it new "smaller, more modern" mills but accompanied by lowered manufacturing standards, Dr. J. Alfred Hall, director of the Pacific Northwest forest and range experiment station here, declared Saturday in his annual report for 1946.

"Old northern and Columbia river mills are closing or facing closure," his report said. "These are for the greater part, large mills. Many new mills being built further south are smaller, more modern, and usually more efficient in turning out boards and dimensions. It is probable that new installed capacity equals that lost by closure, but the new mills do not equal the old in finishing and dry kiln capacity. Thus, manufacturing standards have been lowered."

Two Counties at Limit

This general migration of the industry south of the Columbia has also brought Lane county "to about 25 per cent above its allowable cut and Douglas county to allowable cut and probably above it," the report said. "New capacity continues to be installed in both counties." "Dr. Hall warned, however, "it is important to recognize that the heavy overcutting in the Columbia basin and Puget Sound parts of the region can no longer be balanced against undercutting in the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue basins." "The rapid migration of industry toward the south brings forceful recognition of the fact that only a few years will see the exploitation of all the hitherto inaccessible southern Oregon country," the report said. It pointed out the area "is not the same as the old Douglas fir region" from climatic and ecological standpoints.

"Utilization is tending toward much more intensive use of the crop" and "wasteful cutting of old growth continues, but is no longer universal," the report said. High lumber prices have been accompanied by relogging of recent cuttings, the "premature and destructive harvesting of second growth" and the development of lodgepole pine as a commercial species "of some importance."

New Industries Multiply

The report also sounded a warning to the northwest's 35-plant plywood industry: "The imperative need for intensive work in pruning and thinning of second growth is quite apparent. It is already too late to do much about clear wood supply for come plywood mills within the next ten years. Perhaps something can be done in the next 30 years, Dr. Hall wrote, "and it is certain that positive measures must be taken if the plywood industry is to endure in anything like its present form."

A special study of the plywood industry, the report said, showed that "nine plants representing about one-fourth of the current installed capacity had less than ten years' life expectancy based upon visible raw material supply and another seven plants, with equal aggregated capacity, had from ten to 20 years' operation in prospect." On the brighter side, Dr. Hall's report remarked "new industries based on wood are being established rapidly in this region and many more are in the investigative stage." It also noted that 57 per

Tract Avowed On Sales Tax

The Oregon Sales Tax committee Saturday denied there was any secret about the identity of the proponents of the sales tax bill, as contended by Morton Tompkins, master of the Oregon state grange.

A letter printed in The Oregonian Friday and signed by Tompkins declared that "the first anonymously published literature favoring the proposed sales tax is now being distributed throughout the state."

Saturday the Oregon Sales Tax Committee said Tompkins apparently referred to earlier copies of a pamphlet which last week was circulated bearing the name of Ralph Watson, political writer, as compiler. The pamphlet also carried the imprint of the committee, with Earl Hill as manager.

New Laws Noted

Watson quoted T. M. Jenner of the Washington tax commission as saying: "It is significant to note that in 1947 retail sales tax laws have been enacted in Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Tennessee (subject to referendum only in Oregon), and that no state repealed its existing sales tax law." "In round figures the state of Oregon will have an income of \$61,000,000 for the conduct of the state government during the coming biennium," Watson declared. "The legislative budget for that period calls for an expenditure of \$64,500,000. That will leave the state facing a treasury deficit of \$3,500,000 at the close of the fiscal year of June 30, 1949. That deficit prediction is on the assumption that anticipated revenues will not decrease nor budgeted demands increase."

Civic Forum Plan Revived

Jewish Community Center Sponsor

Plans to revive the Jewish community center's civic forum—which, prior to the war, brought to Portland lecture platforms some of the world's outstanding figures in the fields of literature, economics, science, education and art—were disclosed this week. The series, operated as a non-profit community-wide venture, was discontinued during the war after five consecutive seasons.

Decision to revive the series, said George W. Friede, general chairman; comes in response to numerous requests. Committees now are arranging for details.

Notable List Cited

Included among the speakers who appeared in Portland under sponsorship of the center were Louis Adamic, H. R. Knickerbocker, Mrs. Ruth Bryan Rhode, Will Durant, Walter Duranty, Erika Mann, Vincent Sheehan, Pierre Van Passen, Sinclair Lewis and many others. Prominent Portland citizens have already consented to serve on the general community advisory committee. These include Dr. Peter H. Odgaard, president of Reed college; Dr. Frank Munk, professor at Reed college; Rev. Raymond Walker; Miss Nell Unger, director of the public library; Marshall Dana, editor of the Oregon Journal editorial page; Philip H. Parish, editor of The Oregonian editorial page. Ex-official board members serving on this committee are: Harry Mittleman, president of Jewish community center; Rabbi E. Charles Sydney and A. David Blatch, executive director, Jewish community center.

Prize Awarded To Cereal Agent

Sherwin B. McCurdy, local representative for Ralston-Purina company, cereal foods manufacturer, has won first prize in a Ralston sales-appeal display contest. Among his promotional ventures have been "Tom Mix Kids," Saturday theater parties in Oregon, Washington and Idaho cities. McCurdy, Ralston sales representative in the Northwest for three years, will go to a regional sales meeting in Salt Lake City in August to receive recognition for his sales promotion work.

Insurance Sales Decline in May

Life insurance purchases in the United States in May showed a decrease of 7 per cent from purchases in the corresponding month of last year but were 44 per cent greater than the aggregate reported for May in 1945 and were nearly twice the purchases for May in prewar 1941, it was reported by the Life Insurance Agency Management association of Hartford, Conn. Total purchases in May were \$1,829,245,000, compared with \$1,956,796,000 in May of last year and \$968,668,000 in May, 1941. In the first five months of the year total life insurance purchases were \$8,931,382,000, in increase of 4 per cent over the first five months of 1946 and 95 per cent over the corresponding period of 1941. Purchases of ordinary life insurance accounted for \$6,197,822,000 of the five months' aggregate, a decrease of 3 per cent from last year but well over twice the 1941 total.

RE-WEAVING BEAVER WEAVERS 414 S. W. Yamhill BE 1952

FAST MAIL SERVICE FILM 25¢ ALL WORK GUARANTEED PORTLAND FILM CO.

Inspiration is an unquenchable thirst to most of us. Whether we are aware of it or not, our mind and eye are forever seeking and searching for ideas to be translated later into actual things of substance. Inspiration was the forethought in the original planning of Lambert Gardens... now it is the subject of inspiration to travelers the world over. LAMBERT gardens 5120 S. E. 28th "a paradise of flowers"

Here Now—for Immediate Delivery BATHROOM FIXTURES Our Plumbing Fixture Dept. has just received a huge shipment of nationally famous Bathroom Equipment, including Bathtubs, Wash Bowls and Toilets. Also new, modern Kitchen Sinks— Available to Private Home Owners, Plumbers and Building Contractors

TOP QUALITY--New Modern Styles ALL NEW - ALL PERFECT BATHTUBS Wash Bowls TOILETS* KITCHEN SINKS ALASKA JUNK CO. Phone ATwater 7501 S. W. 1st and Taylor ★ Portland 4, Oregon

AVAILABLE NOW! The New MONTAG LIFE-LONG AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC HOT WATER HEATER AT LAST—a hot water tank that won't corrode—that won't crack—that is built to last. The tank of the Montag water heater is built of solid HERCULOY bronze. Fast heating is provided by two fully automatic electric elements. Every detail has been carefully engineered to give life-long dependability. See this water heater today at YOUR MONTAG DEALER

HURLEY'S OPTICIANS DR. C. A. HURLEY 21 Years in Portland PAY NOTHING DOWN LOW PRICES SMALL WEEKLY PAYMENTS NEWEST STYLES DIFFICULT CASES BROKEN LENSES DUPLICATED PROMPTLY HOMER SIMOLA, OPTOMETRIST Now Associated With Hurley's HURLEY'S OPTICIANS BE 0189 634 S. W. BROADWAY