

Editorials on the Day's News

Roseburg News-Review

The Weather Highest temperature yesterday, 53. Lowest temperature last night, 38. Forecast for interior southwest Oregon: Cloudy with rain tonight and Sunday; not much change in temperature.

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ROSEBURG, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1929.

VOL. XX NO. 209 OF THE EVENING NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS READ this and shiver: "Twenty deaths are attributed to the worst blizzard the Middle West has experienced in a decade."

THAT terse sentence calls up visions of pitiful frozen bodies in the snow; of widespread, tragic suffering in a bleak harsh region, essentially unfitted for man's habitation.

It is an exaggerated picture. The Middle West is a big country, and many times 20 people die there every day. The fact that they died while a blizzard was raging is a mere coincidence.

THE weather is always news. And the BAD weather the OTHER FELLOW is having is BIG news.

Here in Oregon we have been having some floods. They are ticky little floods, and we have given them little notice.

But go back in the Middle West and read the newspapers. You will probably learn, if you do that, that what has been happening out here in the past day or so is something terrible.

DISTANT pastures, the proverb runs, are always green. The best country lies always on the other side of the hill.

Thus human beings express the thought, more or less prevalent in all minds, that material conditions somewhere else must be better than here.

THAT thought isn't confined to human beings. If you are a close observer of little things, you have seen often a cow standing up to her knees in clover in her own pasture and pushing her neck strainingly through the barb wire fence to eat thistles and scanty grass on the other side.

BUT our attitude toward the weather is an exception to this general rule. Always, OUR weather is the best. Always the OTHER FELLOW'S WEATHER is bad.

A New Orleans man once said to this writer: "Your state of Oregon must be a great state, but I don't think I could stand your heavy rainfall up there."

The normal rainfall in this part of Oregon is somewhere around 35 inches. In New Orleans it is something around ONE HUNDRED INCHES.

ANOTHER curious quirk in human nature: We are always comforted by reports of the other fellow's bad weather.

Note in the Chicago dispatches telling of the Midwest blizzard this interrelated statement: "Havana, Cuba, wrapped in winter garments, feared snow might fall for Christmas."

Middle Westerners, whipped by stinging winds, are immensely consoled by the thought that balmy Havana isn't so balmy after all, but is getting a taste of dirty weather too.

Fortified by that thought, they can weather out the storm without too much complaining.

BAD weather, particularly bitter, recurring cold weather, is a curious thing. You would think off-hand that those regions whose winters are bleak and biting and desolate would be the waste places of the world, whereas all the progress of the world would be clustered in those regions whose climate is uniformly mild and moderate and pleasing.

But the truth, oddly enough, is almost exactly the other way around. SO FAR as we know, civilization got its start in the countries bordering directly on the Mediterranean. Mankind, it is supposed, originated there. Certainly the early history of the world had to do almost exclusively with the Mediterranean area.

And the Mediterranean area has a delightful climate. You would think on that account, it would attract the very best to be had in the way of human intelligence and energy, and thus would dominate the world.

BUT the Mediterranean area, which once DID dominate the world, began to lose its dominance almost as soon as men began to find out that there really was a world beyond the shores of the Mediterranean.

Weight and creative power sprang up in the colder countries

MERGER PLAN FOR RAILWAY LINES GIVEN

Interstate Commerce Body Would Group Systems of United States Into 19 Units.

S. P. Co. Left Practically All Subsidiaries and Allotted Several Short Routes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A plan for merging practically all of the steam railroads of the United States into nineteen giant operating units was laid down by the interstate commerce commission today in compliance with congressional mandate.

Five eastern trunk lines would be formed, headed by the Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, Wabash-Seaboard, New York Central and Chesapeake and Ohio. The Boston and Maine and the New Haven would form the Key system in New England.

In the south there would be three systems headed by the Atlantic Coast line, the Southern railway and the Illinois Central.

Other key systems under the plan were as follows: The Great Northern-Northwestern Pacific, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Union Pacific, the Southern Pacific, the Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe, the Missouri Pacific and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, and Chicago and Northwestern.

Two Canadian groupings were also allowed but were not included in the list of trunk systems.

Keeps Competition Many long established relationships between existing carrier systems would be disrupted by the carrying out of the proposal, but the commission said that it represented the attempt to create a transportation system in the country which would maintain competition and give every important traffic center recourse to two or more lines for transport service.

Without specifying the actual local treatment necessary the commission declared that any railroad consolidation "should be accompanied by unification of all terminal lines in the respective terminals," so that all terminal properties should be thrown open to all users on "fair and equal terms" regardless of terminal ownership.

A long study and much controversy within the commission and in the railroad field preceded the announcement. Since 1920, when

REFORESTATION LAW MEETING WITH FAVOR IN OREGON

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 21.—E. J. Eberly, former deputy state forester, now in charge of application of Oregon's new reforestation law, said today forest land owners and county officials are reacting with uniform favor to the new legislative act.

Preliminary classification of Oregon's land, Eberly said, also indicates that the law is fair to both the timberman and the public, although in many instances considerable explaining was necessary before a few were able to understand it.

"The principle of the law," Eberly said, "is to make the forest land contribute to public expense in proportion to the yield of the forest crop. Being new in nature there are innumerable questions arising in addition to the preliminary classification work that has been done in three counties."

STOCKS COLLAPSE FAILS TO SLACKEN PAYMENTS OF TAX

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 21.—Clyde C. Huntley, collector for internal revenue of the Oregon district, said today that the recent slump in the stock market did not prevent Oregon residents from paying their final installment on the first 20 days of December.

An increase of 25 per cent for last year was noted, Huntley said. Income tax collections from this district alone totaled \$1,021,596.93 for the period of December 1 to 20, 1929, while collections for the same period in 1928 totaled only \$827,659.77, Huntley said.

There were no requests for extension of time, the collector said.

FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT DIES AT ADVANCED AGE



EMILE LOUBET

MONTLIMAR, France, Dec. 21.—France today mourned Emile Loubet, former president, who died last night at the age of 91.

He spent most of his latter days sitting at a stove in the village store here, smoking a pipe and discussing current events in a detached manner with peasants hereabout. His boyhood ambition was to become a farmer.

He died not because of any special disease, but because, as his physician said, "His light was just extinguished by old age."

In the seven years of his presidency, from 1899 to 1906, he coped with such fierce outcroppings of racial and religious feeling as the Dreyfus affair, expulsion of the religious congregations, the Grande Chartreuse scandal, murder, strikes and rupture with the Vatican.

MANUFACTURER OF NEW YORK DIES IN MYSTERIOUS WAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—There was some mystery today over the death of John C. Waterbury, 49, manufacturer and socially prominent New Yorker, whose body was found yesterday along the tracks in the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel under the Hudson river.

He was returning aboard a Lehigh Valley railroad train from Wilkesbarre, Pa., where he had gone earlier in the week on business.

E. J. Pyne, district claim agent of the Lehigh Valley, said reports to his office indicated Mr. Waterbury had committed suicide. To support this theory he pointed to the fact that the door of the compartment occupied by Mr. Waterbury was locked from the inside and a window open. Blood stains were found on the window sill.

On behalf of the family, however, a statement was issued saying "The merger of his available indicate that his death was accidental." It declared he had been "in good health, in sound financial condition and was extremely happy in his home life."

Dr. William Braunstein, assistant physician of Hudson county, New Jersey, said he would officially report the death as "probably accidental."

Mr. Waterbury was a member of a family prominent in polo circles. One of his brothers, Larry, was a player in international cup matches. Surviving are his widow and two children.

POPE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST MASS

ROME, Dec. 21.—Pope Pius XI today descended into St. Peter's and while an immense congregation cheered and applauded he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his first mass. It was attended by all the wealth of color and sound which accompanies the great mass in the world's largest church. The cathedral, with a capacity of 70,000, was filled for the event.

Pope Pius was ordained a priest on December 20, 1879, as Don Ratti. He said his first mass the following day at San Carlo Al Corso, in Rome, the church dedicated to the Lombardy region from which he came.

Forty cardinals attended today's service.

At the close of the ceremony the pope said to Cardinal Hayes: "My blessing on yourself, New York and all America."

BEACHING OF SHIP ON FIRE HELD RIGHT

Captain Strandquist Used Good Judgment, Verdict Give on Wreck of the Skagway.

Charges Preferred by Crew and Officers Crumble; Veteran Steamship Taken in Tow.

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—Captain Eric Strandquist of the steamship Skagway used good judgment in the beaching of his burning vessel near Cape Flattery last Monday.

Steamboat inspectors Donald S. Ames and Thomas Short said here today when making known the results of their investigation of the wreck. The inspectors exonerated the captain of the wrecked vessel from all blame for the accident in their decision.

The master of a ship is responsible for the property under his care and the lives of his officers and crew and Captain Strandquist followed what he believed to be the safest course.

Accusations that the captain ignored counsel of his officers and crew and headed for the rocks after being told he could make Neah bay, three miles away, were held groundless by Ames and Short.

The Skagway lies a total loss a short distance from Cape Flattery.

With her cargo she was valued at approximately \$150,000. Because of the rocky shore and heavy surf, as well as the flames burning at cargo for several days, it was impossible to salvage the freight or vessel.

Liner Disabled MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 21.—Wireless messages received here this morning from the United Fruit line ship Tolosa said the passenger liner Santa Ana was in tow 130 miles southwest of the Isle of Pines, with her rudder gone.

The Tolosa said she was standing by.

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—The historic little wooden steamer Santa Ana, which left here December 11 for a Florida port to become a part of the United Fruit line fleet was one of the first vessels used during the Alaska gold rush period about 34 years ago. She had been lying idle in Lake Union here, except for occasional trips for several years, following her discontinuance on the Alaska route, until purchased for the fruit trade.

Steamer Goes Ashore VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 21.—All passengers and mail were removed today from the steamer Carden, which went ashore at Village Island, opposite Balmoral camp in the Swena river last night.

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WOMAN SCREAMS TRYING TO DROWN; SAILOR SAVES HER

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—An involuntary scream when she struck the cold waters of the bay off pier 14 prevented Mrs. Helene Vail, 26-year-old wife of a Sacramento dentist, from committing suicide last night.

The scream sent W. L. Davis, sailor aboard the U. S. S. Uchida, plunging into the water after her. He brought her ashore and called an ambulance.

Mrs. Vail, who said she was a graduate of the Notre Dame college of Los Angeles, told hospital attendants domestic troubles had caused her to seek death. She said she was estranged from her husband, and that a divorce decree is pending. When it is granted, she declared her husband plans to marry her own sister. Efforts were being made she said, to take her seven-year-old son from her. She will recover.

3 OF FAMILY DIE WHEN HOME BURNS

ELKHORN, Wis., Dec. 21.—Three members of the Carey household were burned to death last night while three miles away, other members of the family joined in singing carols at a school house Christmas party.

Patry Carey, 3, and Mabel, 7, with their grandfather, Herb Snowberger, 62, were alone in the isolated farmhouse. The house was in flames when a neighbor spread the alarm.

The bodies were found amid debris in the basement into which they had been clung when the floors burned away.

Hoover Invited To Try Luck On Umpqua River

An invitation was extended today by telegram to President Herbert Hoover to spend his summer vacation in 1930 on the Umpqua river. Major Mott recently sent the president a gift of a special fishing rod, and at the same time sent some interesting material regarding the vacation facilities of the Umpqua. He received in return a very sincere letter of thanks from Mr. Hoover. As the president is an ardent fisherman and spends much of his time enjoying that sport, and is also quite well acquainted with the streams of the Pacific coast, it is hoped that he may be induced to come to Oregon next summer. A telegram was sent him this morning extending congratulations on his splendid administration and vision of the country's needs, and he is urged in making his plans for the coming summer to take into account the allurements of the Umpqua valley. He and Mrs. Hoover are invited to become guests of the county and try the steelhead fishing on the north river. The message also extends Christmas greetings.

TUNNEY RESISTS WOMAN'S EFFORT TO WITHDRAW SUIT

BRIARCLIFF, Conn., Dec. 21.—The desire of Mrs. Katherine King Fogarty, Fort Worth, Texas, divorcee, to withdraw her \$500,000 breach of promise suit against James J. Tunney, found the retired heavyweight champion today demanding a fight to a decision.

Frank Whider, Mrs. Fogarty's counsel, announced in court yesterday, after he had been granted permission to quit the case as her representative, that Mrs. Fogarty had dispatched a letter authorizing withdrawal of the action which was brought in superior court last May.

Tunney's attorney, Homer S. Cummings, immediately filed a motion for judgment on his cross complaint, which, among other things, alleged that the suit was brought merely to defame Tunney and to extort money. The motion will be argued next Friday before Judge Carl Foster.

At the present time Tunney is living in Greenwich with his wife, the former Polly Lauder, whom he married abroad before the breach of promise suit was filed.

A suit for \$750,000 brought against the former boxer by John H. Fogarty, one-time Fort Worth plumber, who charged that Gene's promise to wed his wife influenced her to obtain a divorce from him, is pending.

ENDORSEMENT OF VETS' HOME PLAN SENT BY PORTLAND

Official notification of the action of the Portland chamber of commerce in endorsement of Roseburg's efforts to secure a branch of the national soldiers' home was received by the local chamber of commerce in a letter from the assistant manager, Lynn P. Sabin, of the Portland chamber this morning.

The letter follows the recent visit made by a Roseburg delegation, which presented Roseburg's claims before the directors of the Portland organization. The letter reads:

"The board of directors of the Portland chamber of commerce appreciated very much the opportunity of discussing with your delegation Wednesday the proposal to establish a federal soldiers' home in Roseburg.

"It can assure you that Portland is directly interested in the welfare of your community and this office has been instructed to advise you that our board of directors unanimously endorsed the movement which the Roseburg chamber of commerce has started for the construction of a new federal soldiers' home in your city."

McMILLIN SELLS GARAGE INTEREST

An important business deal became effective today when Art Robertson, who for the past two years has been connected with A. G. McMillin in the operation of the Rose garage on Rose and Lane streets, purchased Mr. McMillin's interest in the business and became sole owner. Mr. Robertson is an expert and experienced mechanic and garage man, and will continue the operation of the garage along the same satisfactory lines as in the past.

Mr. McMillin will remain in Roseburg and will devote his energies to other interests. He may also go into some other line of business at a later date.

Dillard Melon Grower Here—Dillard Williams, prominent Dillard melon grower, spent Friday in this city transacting business.

EX-GOVERNOR REVIVES OLD MURDER CASE

Friend W. Richardson Says He Had Proof Actress Slew Wm. D. Taylor, Film Director.

Advised Foreman of Grand Jury and Was Informed Conviction Effort Would Fail.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—The San Francisco Call-Bulletin today quoted former Governor Friend W. Richardson as saying that he had proof that a motion picture actress murdered William Desmond Taylor, one of Hollywood's most famous directors, mysteriously shot in 1922.

After going into the history of his differences and sharp exchanges of statements as governor with Anna Keyes, then district attorney of Los Angeles county, Richardson said that "About that time I heard that a prisoner in Folsom knew much about the murder of the motion picture director."

Put Off by Foreman Richardson said that he investigated the case, the Call-Bulletin states, and finally went to Los Angeles, where he told the foreman of the grand jury and chairman of the jury's criminal committee that he had the solution of the Taylor murder mystery.

"I asked them whether the facts would be presented to the grand jury and if so if there was any chance of an indictment," the Call-Bulletin quotes Richardson as saying. To this the answer was "No," Richardson adding that "they explained that either Keyes or one of his deputies would be in the grand jury room and that before any person could be brought for trial for the murder the important witnesses would be spirited away, bribed or murdered."

Richardson said that he returned to Sacramento, called in the prison board and explained the situation.

Convict Since Freed "I told them," the Call-Bulletin quotes him, "that already the word was around that I had the solution."

Continued on page 6, Story 3

SHORT SKIRTS BUT NO DIET, EXPERT'S ADVICE TO GIRLS

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Short skirts for health, on no less authority than Dr. Hugh S. Cummings, head of the United States public health service, speaking here; and girls shouldn't diet.

The mortality rate among young girls has increased sharply in recent years, Dr. Cummings said, and he attributed it to "the diet regime" which he called "both silly and dangerous."

As for skirts, they should not be worn lower than the knees, and the surgeon general said.

NEW YORK FERRY HIT BY CAR FLOAT

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Harbor craft ransacked 700 Christmas shoppers, commuters and newly arrived immigrants from the ferry boat West Point last night after the ferry had been rammed and disabled by a car float. Three persons suffered minor injuries.

Unlike the heavy fog which prevailed when the liner Fort Victoria was rammed by the Algonquin in the lower bay last Wednesday, the weather was clear and visibility good. The ferry boat was brilliantly lighted.

In midstream the car float, which was being towed by a tug bashed alongside of it, drove it prow into the port side of the ferry, tearing a hole through which water poured into the engine room. The ferry was saved.

EX-CONGRESSMAN CLAYTON PASSES

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 21.—Judge Henry D. Clayton, 72, of the middle Alabama federal court district, former congressman, died at his home here this afternoon.

Author of the Clayton anti-trust act, which was one of the leading legislative measures of the first administration of Woodrow Wilson, Judge Clayton had a distinguished career in the national congress, in law, on the federal bench, and in the history of the democratic party. He was born in 1857, in Harbour county, Alabama, and obtained his education in the schools of his home county and the University of Alabama.

BATTLE AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION WON BY ACTRESS



ALMA RUBENS

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 21.—Alma Rubens, formerly prominent on the stage and motion picture screen, today is free from the state asylum for the insane at Patton, Cal., sixty miles from here, where she has been under treatment since last June for narcotic addiction, but her exact whereabouts have not been divulged by her family.

Miss Rubens was committed to the state institution on a complaint signed by her mother and her husband, Ricardo Cortez, motion picture actor. Previous attempts to treat her at private institutions and at Spadra, an institution for men, but nearer to her home than Patton, in which she was placed by special dispensation, failed. She escaped from Spadra.

In recent letters to Los Angeles friends, Miss Rubens has said: "I am coming out of the hospital a new Alma Rubens. I shall devote all of my time to the work of going back on the stage and screen a better actress."

COLD STILL GRIPS LARGE REGION OF UNITED STATES

By the Associated Press—Cold continued to reign supreme over a great portion of the United States today but the blizzard which sent the icy blasts as far south as the Gulf of Mexico had spent its fury.

The middle west and Great Lakes regions were digging themselves out of one of the worst storms in a decade. Zero temperatures hampered the snow removing process but most transportation facilities, except on Michigan highways, were back on normal schedules.

Several southern states still reported freezing weather. The cold wave was felt over the entire south with the exception of southern Florida and the Atlantic coastal states.

New England started repairing the damage from several days of sleet and ice, which broke down trees and wires and crippled both transportation and communication systems.

The middle Atlantic section welcomed the chilly winds which had dispersed the fog and rain that had hung over the region for days.

MRS. L. A. THOMAS OF DRAIN PASSES

Mrs. Lenora Ann Thomas, wife of William H. Thomas, who resides near Drain, passed away early this morning after a long illness. She was born in Van Wert, Ohio, June 7, 1859, and was married November 19, 1879, to Mr. Thomas in Xenon, Ohio. They have been residents of Oregon for the past 20 years.

She leaves, besides her husband, two children, Archie D. Thomas of Oakland, Calif., and Mrs. Ethel Esler of Drain. She is also survived by two sisters, Miss Emma Clemmons, Xenocopia, Ohio, and Mrs. Clara Crow, Dayton, Ohio. Services will not be definitely set until word is received from relatives, who are expected to come to Drain for the funeral. H. C. Stearns, of the Douglas Funeral Home, is in charge of arrangements.

CADET'S COAT FOUND STRIPPED OF BUTTONS

HITCHINSON, Ill., Dec. 21.—Perhaps some of the girls are wearing West Point brass buttons as souvenirs. The correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune writes that when the army football squad, enroute to the state, took a workout here, one player tossed his overcoat on the bench. When he came back for it the buttons had vanished.

ALABAMA HAS ECHO OF RIFT OVER SMITH

Democratic Regulars Place Ban on Senator Heflin, Who Bolted Ticket Last Year.

Independent Candidate for Governor Also Opposed—Congress Votes Adjournment.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 21.—Hugh A. Locke, independent candidate for governor, said today that Senator J. Thomas Heflin, who also was announced for reelection as an independent, would attend a statewide meeting here January 3 to plan Locke's campaign.

Locke had no comment to make on reports that his followers would form a coalition with the Heflin forces and arrange a full independent ticket.

Hoover-crabs Barred—Meanwhile steps were being taken to obtain opinions from the courts and the attorney general on the decision of the state democratic executive committee, which barred Locke and Heflin among others from competing in the next party primary. The committee excluded as candidates from the 1930 democratic primary all persons who supported the republican presidential ticket or who openly opposed the democratic nominees.

"I had hoped," Locke said, "that Al Smith would cease to be an issue in political affairs in Alabama, but the twenty-seven members of the state committee who voted for the ruling made him the test for qualification for office. They have infected him and Tammany hall into the next primary and the next election."

The democratic presidential ticket carried Alabama last year by 7,000 votes as against a winning margin of nearly 68,000 in 1924.

Congress Adjourns—WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Congress adjourned today for the Christmas holidays, both senate and house quitting after brief sessions.

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BOY'S KILLER DIES IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 21.—Nervous and unable to repeat the prayers uttered by his priest, Peter Rudnikowski, slayer of a 7-year-old New York boy, died in the electric chair at the state prison last night.

Rudnikowski, a pale, peaked little man of 37 who lured Joseph Stravell from his east side playmates with a bag of candy, killed him when he cried for his mother, and then in a drunken ramble confessed to police, waddled his fingers as he walked from the death house.

TRAINMEN PINNED BENEATH WRECKAGE

PEORIA, Ill., Dec. 21.—Two Toledo, Peoria and Western freight trains crashed head-on near the station at Forrest, between Peoria and the Indiana state line today. Crews of both trains were pinned beneath them and a rescue crew is fighting its way through the snow drifts from Peoria with acetylene torches to free them.