

Mountain Homes In California In Path of Big Fire

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 5.—(AP)—Hundreds of grimy firemen raced today in a fight to save scores of Santa Monica mountain homes from destruction.

But nature was against them. The Weather Bureau said high winds—which carried flames three miles in three hours yesterday—would rake the area again and humidity, critical below 30 per cent, probably would drop as low as 10 per cent.

The mountain blaze, centered in picturesque Topanga Canyon—winding through the hills from the Pacific to the San Fernando Valley—already had destroyed many homes. A sheriff's captain at one time last night said the figure might range from 50 to 150. Subsequent checks fixed the total at about 55.

Through the night, fire crews struggled desperately to strengthen their lines against the new attack. With sundown, winds of 40 miles an hour and up dropped to gentle zephyrs. Bulldozers beat the brush, building firebreaks. Backfires were set around the 400-home community of Fernwood, to lessen the hazard of tinder-dry chapparal. Big water tankers, converted flame throwers ready to spout steam, tractors and chemical-carrying jeeps were posted at strategic danger points.

The fire broke out about noon yesterday near Mulholland Drive, which follows the ridge between the San Fernando Valley and the sea. A rare northeast wind from the desert, called a Santana by the Indians years ago, blew up. Shortly flames were racing across the tops of dry bushes, down the canyon.

Residents hastily evacuated Silva Park, Topanga Woods, Topanga Flat and Trippett Ranch, all small neighborhoods. As it pushed on Fernwood, the canyon's largest community, schoolchildren marched quietly to safety. It was halted a half-mile from the community as the winds died. A battalion chief was burned and two firemen suffered broken legs; 20 residents were treated for burns. Meanwhile, south of here in the Santa Ana district, flames of another fire continued to lick toward the exclusive Lemon Heights residential section outside Orange, with some estimates of burned over acreage ranging as high as 10,000. A half-dozen cabins were reported burned in Santa Ana Canyon, between Santa Ana and Riverside. Residents evacuated some 85 homes in Lemon Heights.

Americans in 2 China Regions Being Removed

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sliding in Nanking and environs may be subjected to undue hardship. "Accordingly, it is suggested that unless you have compelling reasons to remain, you consider the desirability of evacuation while normal transportation facilities remain available."

Government Army Poor

As the notices went out, all signs pointed to a coming showdown in central China. An estimated 400,000 government troops, most of them mediocre as fighting divisions, were massed in the general area of Suchow, East China military headquarters 170 miles northwest of Nanking.

There they face the tough, seasoned East China Communist armies of Gen. Chen Yi, which already are in a position to make

an outflanking drive and isolate Suchow.

Such tactics were used by Chen's forces in capturing Tsinan, Shantung province capital. That defeat and the more recent disaster in Manchuria wiped out some of the government's best armies.

Ickes May Be Restored To Post in Cabinet

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cabinet sooner or later to take a better paying job, it seems most likely that will be the only reason Snyder rode back to Washington with Mr. Truman from St. Louis. And word passed along to newsmen on the presidential train was that Snyder will be pressed to remain on.

At the same time, these reporters were told that Mr. Truman is not interested in any "reprisal" dismissals. Nevertheless, a post-election conversation piece has been the reported appearance of some administration lesser lights at Republican "victory" parties on Tuesday night.

There's even talk that if and when Forrestal quits the defense spot, Ickes might be put in that job for a while to "knock heads together" and get the Army-Navy unification job finished. Ickes has a reputation for head-knocking.

Forrestal will not be pressed to stay on, nor will Undersecretary of State Robert A. Lovett, the newsmen with Mr. Truman were given to understand.

Lovett caused some raising of Democratic eyebrows last week when he said Marshall had learned of a presidential statement on Palestine only after Mr. Truman had decided to issue it.

Unless Mr. Truman is able to persuade Marshall to change his mind about resigning as Secretary of State, that may be one of the first top jobs the president will have to fill.

Dean Acheson and Will Clayton, two former Undersecretaries, have been mentioned as likely possibilities; along with European Recovery Ambassador W. Averell Harriman and GOP Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan. Vandenberg will surrender his Foreign Relations Committee chairmanship to Democrat Tom Connally of Texas come January 3.

For nearly any vacancy that comes up, Mr. Truman may give a good deal of consideration to his good friend Mon C. Wallgren, who lost his bid for re-election as governor of Washington state Tuesday.

Mr. Truman has proposed a 10th cabinet post for a new Department of Public Welfare to handle such things as social security.

Annexation Vote In West Roseburg Invalid

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validity of the election. 2. Invalidate the election, and, if deemed advisable, to hold a second election free of legal encumbrances. The city attorney explained the election, if certified, could be contested at any time the city levied a tax, voted on a bond issue or proposed improvements under the Bancroft Act. Court action would take months to decide. The county assessor's office would be thrown into a muddle in determining assessments inside or outside the city, and proposed improvements would be necessarily delayed.

Geddes said that he did not believe the court would uphold the city, because of the small margin of favorable voting. The issue would be a matter of fact, whether or not enough persons were deprived of the right to vote

to possibly defeat the proposal. Additional "yes" votes, he said, would not be considered. Only the possible "no" votes would be viewed by the court.

The Council decided less time would be required to determine the issue by a second election, rather than to chance favorable ruling by the court and the necessary delay.

The vote on Sundale Village was canvassed, showing a 29-0 favorable vote in that area, and the city's vote 1721 yes and 148 no. For Taylor's Addition the city voted favorably 1694 yes and 151 no.

Since the ballots on city councilmen were not available for canvassing, the meeting was adjourned until Friday, Nov. 12, at 5:30 p. m., to complete the canvassing procedure.

Funeral Services Set For Rubin F. Eastman

Funeral services for Rubin Francis Eastman, 70, Glendale, who was found dead up Starve-out Creek Nov. 1, will be held Saturday at the Glendale Presbyterian church, Rev. J. R. Howard will officiate. Interment will be in the Glendale Cemetery. Stearns Mortuary is in charge.

Eastman had lived in the Glendale area 19 years. He is survived by the following children: Mrs. William E. Miller, Portland; Amery A. Eastman and Vernon M. Eastman, Washougal, Wash.; Mrs. Curtis Applegate, Richmond, Calif.; and Mrs. William Ham, Glendale; one brother, LeRoy Eastman, Oakland, Calif.; three sisters, Mrs. C. L. Davis, Chicago, Minn.; Mrs. R. A. Sperling, Worroad, Minn.; and Mrs. W. J. Martin, Spokane; four grandchildren.

Eastman was found beside the road near Hill's Sawmill near Azalea about 8 a. m. Monday by Harry Hill and Clyde Keller on their way to work. He reportedly died sometime after midnight. Coroner H. C. Stearns and Deputy Sheriff Red Eckhardt investigated and determined that death was from natural causes.

Truman Asks Unity In Dealing With Problems

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Budget Director James E. Webb. Topic: What can be done about that prospective \$1,500,000,000 deficit next June 30? A message will arrive from Chairman Edwin G. Nourse of

the president's council of economic advisers. Topic: What can be done about prices, inflation, federal spending?

With the Senate firmly in new hands by 54-to-42 majority, the House returns gave Democrats a 90-vote margin over the Republicans—262 to 172, plus one American laborite. The overthrow of what Mr. Truman called the "Idiot" 80th Congress was impressive.

But no administration official foresaw anything like a "rubber stamp" congress. Several acknowledged that if Mr. Truman tries to put over his ten-point anti-inflation program—complete with standby price control, priority, and rationing power—he'll be turned down cold.

Also, a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats is more than possible on some issues. It was such an alliance in the Democratic 79th Congress that plagued both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

Election Puts State In Financial Muddle

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fare Commission said it would send out no old-age assistance checks until the New Pension Law is clarified. The Commission feared that otherwise the federal government would withdraw its current aid.

There was talk of a court test of the law.

"If there is one chance in 10,000,000 the law will stick, there isn't a chance to get a bid on Oregon bonds," an investment house spokesman said.

Another investment adviser said that some bids might be made at low prices and high interest rates, and that high real estate taxes and major tax delinquencies would follow. He advised cities and school districts to withhold scheduled bond offerings.

SALEM, Nov. 4.—(AP)—Oregon's state and municipal credit is "at least temporarily impaired by the outcome of the general election," a high state official said today.

The official, who declined use of his name, made his statement today after not a single bid was received on \$2,000,000 worth of bonds. Proceeds from these bonds were to be used to finance farm and home loans for veterans. In the past, there have usually

been a half dozen or more bidders on the veterans bonds.

This official said: "Bond buyers won't bid because of the state's severe financial situation, which was brought about by the passage of the \$50 minimum old age pension bill, the refusal of the voters to relieve the state deficit, and the reduction of state income taxes."

"This impairment of the state's credit is only temporary. But, if by any wild stretch of the imagination the courts should uphold the pension bill, this impairment of credit would become permanent."

He said it would be "very hard to sell state or municipal bonds until the matter is clarified."

W. F. Gaarstrom, state veterans affairs director, said his department has enough money on hand to provide loans for all applicants who have their applications on file.

But, he said, no loans can be granted on future applications until more bonds are sold. He said applications would be accepted, however, for payment when bonds are sold.

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