

29 KNOWN DEAD IN MENTAL HOSPITAL FIRE

WHO DOES WHAT

By Paul Jenkins



VERNE HARPHAM, at the right in the photo above, contemplatively sips a soda in company with Theo Bond as the two sit at lles' reflecting on the state of the nation. Probably it would be nearer the truth to say they were thinking of the state of the furred, feathered or scaled wildlife members of the nation, inasmuch as both are inordinately fond of hunting and of fishing.

Verne, before his retirement about three years ago, had been supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest for some 16 years. He now maintains an agency for a granite monument company, what time he isn't busy serving on one of several hundred (or thousand) different civic committees he is addicted to. Theo Bond, a native of Douglas county (as Verne is) owns the O. K. Rubber Welders, a tire firm on West Lane street. I don't believe he belongs to as many committees as Verne does, no one else could and live; but he keeps busy between fishing seasons.

The Weather

Cloudy with rain and snow mixed today. Tomorrow mostly cloudy with showers of rain or snow.

Sunset today 4:54 p. m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:45 a. m.

Established 1873

ROSEBURG, OREGON—SATURDAY, JAN. 7, 1950

★ 5-50

Roseburg Has Third Snowfall Within Week

Transportation In City Slowed; Streets Slick

Motorists Cautioned To Travel Only When Necessary On Highway

Roseburg's third snowfall within a week was recorded in the early hours Saturday, with the possibility that snow would continue to fall during the remainder of the day, according to the local weather bureau station.

Already the season's heaviest snowfall, the 2.4 inch total measured at 9 o'clock this morning increased to more than three inches as light, wet snow continued to fall.

Automobile transportation and the city transit service was slowed throughout Roseburg—to a stand still in some sections of the city as motorists became pedestrians, leaving their cars at the top or foot of the steep hills. The city bus system was re-routed to avoid slippery streets in the hilly districts and schedules were slowed.

The Roseburg office of the state police advised against highway travel unless "absolutely necessary." Highway 99, immediately north and south of Roseburg, is still open for travel without chains but state police reported trouble was being encountered on the steep Rice hill, between Oakland and Yoncalla.

State highway department sanders and snow plows are attempting to keep highway 99 open to traffic, but chains are termed a necessity in the mountainous area below Canyonville, 30 miles south of here.

The Coos Bay highway 42 is reportedly in worse shape than the main Pacific highway, with

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Chamber Forum Luncheons Will Resume Monday

Roseburg Chamber of Commerce forum luncheons will resume Monday, Jan. 9, at Hotel Umpqua with an address by Harold E. Schmeer, manager of the local branch of the U.S. National bank.

Schmeer, recently elected president of the chamber of commerce, will discuss present business conditions and the outlook for the future, with special reference to the Roseburg situation.

The public is invited. Marshal N. Dana, editor of the Oregon Journal, editorial page, will be guest speaker at the chamber annual dinner, according to retiring President John Todd.

The annual affair will be held 6:30 p.m., Jan. 25, in the Methodist church dining room. Tickets for the dinner will go on sale Wednesday, Jan. 11, and must be purchased by Jan. 20. Only 200 tickets will be sold because of limited dining room space.

Topic of Dana's talk will be "Their World and Ours," borrowed from the title of the book he wrote after making a comprehensive tour of Europe in the company of a group of American newspaper editors.

According to banquet planners, a feature of this year's affair will be its brevity. Aside from Dana's main address, other talks will be limited to a brief statement by the retiring president, John Todd, and a short response from Harold E. Schmeer, recently chosen to succeed Todd as president for the coming year.

Bomber Refueling Tests Scheduled

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The air force is going to stage bomber refueling tests in the sky above the north polar ice cap, within a striking range of Europe and Asia.

It announced last night that three refueling squadrons will go to Goose Bay, Labrador, to spend a week each on a "training mission designed to increase the efficiency of air-to-air refueling." The squadrons will leave their bases on 10-day intervals, from Jan. 9 to Feb. 5.

In Fort Worth, Tex., Maj. Gen. Robert M. Raney, commander of the 8th air force, said the squadrons will be from the 509th bombardment wing at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, N.M. The group is known as the atomic bomb group because it took part in the Bikini tests.

Raney said the refueling technique will be the same as that employed by the B-50 Lucky Lady on its non-stop global flight last year. The Labrador tests will mark the first time such refueling has been done on a squadron basis, he said.

OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

MOSCOW, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The Soviet capital observed the Christmas of the Russian church today with well-attended religious services and weather slightly warmer than it has been for the past two days. The thermometer rose a few degrees—to 22 below zero.

The cold had little effect on life in Moscow, where oldersters called it the "Christmas frost" just like old times. Business went along as usual and churches were well-attended from midnight on.

LOW BID SUBMITTED

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The Oregon Land Improvement company submitted the high bid of \$525,000 yesterday for 330 acres at the site of the wartime Oregon shipbuilding corporation. The government is disposing of the land, except for 33 acres now used by Vanport college.

Skipper Of Flying Arrow Unafraid Of Mined Seas On Approach To Shanghai

ABOARD AMERICAN FREIGHTER FLYING ARROW, Jan. 7.—(AP)—If any mines have been laid in the Yangtze river by the Chinese Nationalists, the belief aboard the Flying Arrow today was that the Communists will sweep them out to provide a safe passage into Shanghai for this American ship.

Capt. David Jones, who is taking the 6,214 ton Isbrandtsen line ship through the Nationalist blockade despite warnings from the Nationalists and the U. S. State department, regarded the trip calmly. He said:

"It would be best without mines—bullets in preference to mines—but most preferably neither one."

Chief engineer Martin L. Gross of Clearfield, Pa., said they are satisfied with the voyage. Eleven members of the original crew signed off at Hong Kong before the ship sailed ear-

ly this morning. They were replaced by British and other foreign sailors.

Jones said the Flying Arrow has a number of men who served in the merchant Marine before and during the war.

"Take Gross, for instance," the skipper said. "He was torpedoed off northern Russia on a freighter. I've got a lot of others like him who refused to sign off the Hong Kong."

Optimism prevailed among the

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Nationalists Lay Mines On Sea Approach

American Ship Enroute; Attack On Hainan Said Smashed By Nationals

TAIPEI, Formosa, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Nationalist China today announced minelaying has been completed on the sea approach to Shanghai—destination of the American freighter Flying Arrow.

The Nationalists also stepped up air action against the Chinese Communists on the mainland.

Completion of the minefield near the Yangtze river estuary was announced formally by Adm. Kwei Yung-Ching. He is the Nationalist navy commander in chief and guiding spirit behind the blockade of Red ports.

Kwei conferred this afternoon with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. They were believed to have discussed the Flying Arrow, which steamed out of Hong Kong early this morning for Shanghai.

The ship is carrying a \$10,000,000 cargo to the Red port in defiance of warnings by the Nationalists and the U. S. State department. She is due at Shanghai Monday—barring mishap.

HONG KONG, Jan. 7.—(AP)—China's Nationalists today claimed they had smashed a second Red attempt to invade Hainan island, sinking about half of a fleet of 1,000 junks.

Pro-Nationalist reports said government warplanes caught the junks inching down Luchow peninsula toward the big island off China's South Coast. The peninsula is separated from Hainan by a strait 10 miles wide.

The accounts asserted that the warplanes dived upon the fleet and sank approximately 500 junks. The others fled back to the coast of the peninsula.

Other Nationalist warplanes struck at Pakhoi, an assembly port for Communist invasion craft 100 miles north of Hainan.

The Nationalists reports said damage was extensive at Pakhoi and that Communist plans for the invasion of Hainan were greatly slowed.

Seattle Filipino Ambushed, Killed

SEATTLE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—A prominent Seattle Filipino, who fatally wounded a man last May in what was termed self defense, was ambushed by gunmen and killed early today in front of his Lake Washington home.

A short time later the brother of the man shot last spring was picked up by police in a cab near the scene and booked on an open charge for questioning. He denied any connection with the killing.

Detectives also held for questioning a McChord air base soldier and a Filipino laborer.

Victim of today's gangland-style slaying was Fidal Molina, president of the Filipino Social and Improvement club. His expensive car was riddled as he was driving home alone.

Molina's wife, hearing the shots ran to the wrecked car and found her husband slumped in the front seat, dead.

Neighbors told police they saw three men flee from the scene on foot. All available squad cars and officers were ordered to the area and road blockades were established.

In a cab stopped at one of the road blocks was Albert Gonzales, 41, another Filipino and brother of Max A. Gonzales, 42, who was slain by Molina eight months ago.



COMMON SIGHT—Rowing down the street in Kokomo, Ind., was a sight common to many areas of the Hoosier State after a four day rain caused many rivers to overflow. Winter floods drove scores of families from their homes in Illinois and Indiana.

Truman Weighing Appeal To End Coal Curtailment

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—(AP)—President Truman today weighed an appeal from his top Senate aide for swift action to restore full coal production.

Senate democratic leader Lucas of Illinois carried that plea to the White House yesterday and got a promise that Mr. Truman would review the situation today.

Russian Red Star Criticizes 'State Of Union' Speech

MOSCOW, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The Soviet armed forces newspaper Red Star today described President Truman's state of the union message as a "mixture of demagogic promises and improbable statements."

In the first extended Soviet comment to appear on the President's speech, the newspaper said the declarations of Truman cannot confuse anyone.

"The fine oratory of the American President is denied by the facts," the editorial said.

Answering Mr. Truman's statement that the United States had liquidated its first postwar economic drop, the article declared that an economic crisis is "irreparably moving on in the United States."

The editorial said "dry statistics of official government accounts deny... in toto" the President's assertions that the welfare of the broad masses of Americans are improved.

"In defiance of the truth," Red Star continued, "Truman stated that a good beginning had been made in securing housing for low income groups."

"Senator Paul Douglas (D-Ill.) the paper added, "whom even the committee on un-American activity cannot suspect of reprehensible opinions, has a different opinion about American housing. He recently wrote in Colliers (magazine) that millions of Americans live in repulsive conditions in dirty, smelly slums. The number of which grows continually."

The newspaper accused Mr. Truman of ignoring the facts in his references to American foreign policy.

Mummers March Heralds 1950 Is Officially Here

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The Mummers marched in Philadelphia today making it official that 1950 is here.

Their annual New Year's parade today postponed, the Mummers struck up the familiar rhythms of "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers" at 8:30 a.m., and began the five-mile, six-hour march up wind-swept Broad street.

It was chiefly along the parade route, but hundreds of thousands of persons, from Philadelphia, the East Coast and some from all over the United States, lined the street to watch the prancing, dancing Mummers strut.

A \$50,000 pot of gold—in prizes—will be split up at the end of the parade in which 7,000 "subjects" of King Monnus paid tribute to that monarch of fun and mimicry.

Costumes glittered in the sunlight, the bright reds, the gaudy yellows, the spangled multicolor garb of the 36 Mummers clubs including 26 of the world-famed string bands.

An estimated 500,000 persons were expected to watch the parade.

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31 Injured In Midwest Catastrophe

Barred Windows Of Iowa Institution Block Way Of Screaming Patients

DAVENPORT, Iowa, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Twenty-nine women were known to have died and 11 others were presumed dead in a fire which swept a mental hospital early today.

Nine hours after the blaze started Coroner C. H. Wildman said the bodies of 26 women had been recovered and 11 other patients were missing and almost certain to be dead in the ruins.

The sister superior of the hospital said 31 other patients had been treated for burning or injuries, accounting for the 65 women and three men known to have been in the building.

The path to safety for many of the patients was blocked by barred windows.

Except for a nurse's aide, all the dead and missing were patients. They were asleep in the three-story St. Elizabeth's ward building of Mercy hospital when the flames broke out at 2 a. m.

Fire Fought 4 Hours

The fire was brought under control in a four-hour battle.

The flames spread rapidly through the 60-year-old brick structure, one of four buildings comprising this eastern Iowa city's largest hospital.

Screams of the trapped women spread the alarm.

Aid was sent at once from the nearby five-story main Mercy hospital building and 14 fire companies came immediately.

As the flames swept upward

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Manslaughter Is Jury's Verdict In Father Slaying

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—(AP)—De Witt Combs, 23-year-old ex-Marine, will not go to the electric chair for killing his sweethearts' father in a blazing duel in the dark.

An all-male jury spared him the extreme penalty last night by finding him guilty of manslaughter. He was charged with first degree murder.

Combs blamed his 58-year-old victim, Francis S. Fay, for smashing his romance with Rita Fay, 20, and pleaded innocent by reason of temporary insanity.

The high-strung, red-haired youth pale at the verdict. He will not hear his sentence until Jan. 20. It could be up to 20 years in prison, or less, as the judge sees fit.

Last April 16—carrying a loaded shotgun—Combs broke into Fay's basement and doused the house lights by pulling the master switch. He said he hoped to find Rita upstairs and talk over a reconciliation.

But instead he was challenged by her father, and the two men shot it out in the dark—Fay's pistol against Combs' shotgun. Fay's bullets went wide and he dropped from the shotgun blast.

Then Combs forced his slender, brunette girl friend into her bedroom and talked to her for half an hour until police forced their way into the house with tear gas.

He said she patted his cheek and called him a "sweet guy" during the tense interlude. She testified her arm "may have been" around the young killer.

Pension Plan Would Include All Workers

EUGENE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Jon Titcomb, resident manager of the big Springfield Weyerhaeuser operation, emphasized Friday that any pension plan apply to all employees of the company, whether or not they belonged to a union.

"We are not going to discriminate against one of our people just because they do not belong to a union," Titcomb said. Another high company official said in Eugene that the company wished to maintain the strictest neutrality in the day before next Monday's election to determine whether workers want to be represented by the AFL, CIO or no union. The election affects Lane and Douglas county Weyerhaeuser workers.

Signs With Bullets

BALTIMORE, Jan. 7.—(AP)—John Mandie, 6 foot 4 inch pioneer from Oregon State college, signed with the Baltimore bullets yesterday as expected. Mandie was made a free agent by the Washington Capitols the day previous. He played with the Indianapolis Jets last year.

Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Reizenstein

Deep snow unexpected? Too amazed for words? Well, don't be vexed. And don't neglect To feed the hungry birds.

ECA PLANS AT STAKE

Britain's Recognition Of Communist China Raises Cry To Curtail Fund Loan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Great Britain's diplomatic recognition of Communist China raised a fresh congressional cry today for drastic cuts in European recovery funds.

Senator Taft (R-Ohio), who has called before for substantial reductions in Economic Recovery administration funds, told reporters he thinks the British diplomatic move "will provide a lot of ammunition for those who want ECA funds cut."

He added, however, that he doesn't expect Congress to chop off all economic aid to the British just because they have agreed to do business with the Communists.

Senator Brewster (R-Me) said the English action "presents a problem of how far we can go in allowing our support to be diverted to the implementation of policies at variance with our own."

"The whole theory of the Marshall plan is to fight Communism," he said, "and here they are giving it diplomatic recognition."

Brewster suggested that the British were interested primarily in what he said was England's \$2,000,000,000 investment in Hong Kong.

Senator Dworshak (R-Idaho) said he has no doubt that Congress will insist "not only on a reduction of Marshall plan funds but on more realistic use of the funds that are appropriated."

Senator Byrd (D-Va) said he hopes that the over-all foreign

Ambassador Hotel Digs For Own Water Supply

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The 19-story Ambassador hotel is digging for water in its basement.

Facing the threat of restrictions on use of water for air conditioning next summer because of the city's water shortage, the hotel management launched a hunt for its own water supply.

A spokesman said a beer company used to have some wells on the site before the hotel was built in 1921. Workers are cutting through basement floors trying to find the old well casements.

In the Day's News

REPRESENTATIVE Homer Angell, of Portland, back in Washington for the opening of congress, squares away and tells a reporter that "the people in my district feel this congress must grant relief from high taxes."

He and they want wasteful spending by the government stopped and the cost of government reduced.

WELL, Homer is a member of congress—even if he is only a Republican.

Reckless spending will stop

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Russian Atom Explosion Predicted For Tonight

LONDON, Jan. 7.—(AP)—Tonight is the night the Russian's are expected to touch off their second atomic explosion, according to British Editor Kenneth de Courcy.

De Courcy is the man who predicted last January Russia would have the atom bomb in 1949. His magazine, a monthly intelligence digest, reported on Sept. 1-23 days before President Truman announced it—that there had been an atomic explosion in Russia.

De Courcy, who claims to have contact with highly placed information sources in several eastern European countries, said Russia would set off another atomic explosion at exactly midnight Greenwich mean time (7 p.m. EST and 2 a.m., Sunday, Moscow time).

He said it would be set off in blasting for an Asiatic Irrigation project. If there's a technical hitch, DeCourcy said, the Russian general staff plans to postpone the experiment until Jan. 10.

Yugoslavia Town To Get Clothes From America

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—(AP)—The people of the little Yugoslav town of Perlez won't have to be ashamed of their clothes any longer.

They were so ill-clad when Rep. Harvey (R-Ind) visited them last fall that they begged him not to take their pictures.

Harvey reported today that the citizens of his home town, New Castle, Ind., were so stirred by the story that they have contributed 700 pounds of good clothing for the ragged Yugoslavs.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later in Eugene.