

PLANE SHOT DOWN BY RUSSIANS, U.S. SAYS



DEMOLISHED BY CREEPING HILL—House lies in shambles on creeping Cooxcomb hill in Astoria, Oregon, where in three months a slithering earth flow has demolished or damaged 21 homes. On the north side of the same hill, geologists warn of a potential slide forming that would do much more damage than the present landslide. About 50 per cent of the city's 18,000 residents live on the north slope. Cooxcomb hill damage is estimated at \$150,000 (NEA Telephoto)

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

I HAVE an interesting letter from a Mr. Darrell Wilson, who describes himself as a recent newcomer to Southern Oregon. He says he likes my politics, he likes my style and he enjoys my writing very much.

BUT, he says, spoofing me gently, why pour it onto these murdering gangsters in Kansas City and the Kansas City cops who look the other way, while paying little attention to the illegal gambling that goes on in Oregon while the authorities look the other way?

YOU have something there, Mr. Wilson.

As I recall it, I got pretty cynical the other day about the killing of these big-time hoodlums back in Missouri. I even allowed as how, if that's the only way they can be got rid of, it may be just as well that a couple of them got plugged in a shooting spree over the division of the swag.

Mr. Wilson agrees as to the probable good accruing from the popping off of the Kansas City gang bosses, but he twits me nicely about being one of those editors

(Continued on Page Four)

Ex-Convict Confesses—

Slaying Of Waitress

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 18.—(AP)—Sheriff Howard Hornbuckle said today an unemployed truck driver confessed that he bludgeoned flame-haired Helen May Piper to death and buried her body down a bluff.

Hornbuckle said Harry A. Wilson, 28, ex-convict friend of the three-married waitress, made this oral statement.

Wilson beat the 27-year-old mother of three children with a hammer after an argument Thursday over use of his car. The two had been drinking.

Wilson had served a prison term for auto theft.

Continuance Of Income Tax As Equitable Revenue Raiser Urged By U. Of O. Economist

A strong case for continuing the state income tax as the most equitable means of raising needed revenue was urged Monday noon by Dr. James H. Gilbert, speaking at the forum luncheon of the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Gilbert, now professor emeritus of economics at the University of Oregon, headed a group of four university faculty members, all expert in various fields of business, finance and economics, present here to announce a special business clinic for the benefit of local merchants and civic planners.

Dr. Gilbert briefly analyzed the national financial structure, then turned to problems facing us on a state level in his talk, "The Eternal Problems of Taxation." "The income of the people is our only source of revenue," Dr. Gilbert declared, in amplifying a quotation from Adam Smith that persons should pay according to their ability and a fair distribution of the tax burden, determined by the amount of individual income.

He said that only fairly recently

Greyhound Line Strike Set Over Pension Dispute

PORTLAND, April 18.—(AP)—A strike on the Overland Greyhound line between Salt Lake City and Portland is set for Friday, April 21.

AFL drivers and shopmen said 268 members would walk out, affecting runs north from Salt Lake City to Ashton, Idaho, to Spokane and to Portland. Other Greyhound lines will not be affected.

The union and the company are in dispute over a pension plan. A company spokesman said the employees had been offered a \$30 monthly pension. A union spokesman protested that Greyhound had better pension plans in effect on at least 20 other lines.

G. E. Motz, general manager of the Union Pacific Stages, Inc., a division of Overland Greyhound, said social security benefits could boost the pension to \$135 for a man retiring at 65 after 25 years of service.

Harold Oathes, union business agent, said the union wanted the retirement age at 60 for drivers and 65 for shopmen and station employees. His plan also calls for a pension of 1.28 percent of the employees' annual salary multiplied by the number of years of service.

The employee would contribute 3 percent of the cost.

Oathes said the union also wanted some changes in working conditions, including subsistence pay for drivers away from home terminals.

The total amount distributed from the state and county school fund during the school year was \$3,497,700.

Multnomah county received the lion's share of the funds, collecting \$443,330 and Lane county was run-

around with a total of \$114,430. Sherman county, with only seven school districts, received the smallest amount in the distribution—\$2,355.

The sheriff called it "a family affair."

Fine, Jail Term Given

Slaying Of His Brother

MAYNARDVILLE, Tenn., April 18.—(AP)—A circuit court jury took about four minutes yesterday to acquit 33-year-old Carl Graves of the murder of his brother.

But Judge George Shepherd fined Carl \$50 and sentenced him to 30 days in jail for carrying a pistol.

Commented Judge Shepherd: "This killing won't stop as long as people carry pistols around."

Earl Graves, 43, was shot March 5 at the home of another Graves brother—Clifford. And it was Sheriff Leslie Graves who arrested his brother Carl and placed him in jail.

The sheriff called it "a family affair."

He operated a lumber business here for many years.

(Continued on page Two)

The Weather
Fair and warmer today and Wednesday
Sunset today 6:57 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 5:27 a.m.

Established 1873

ROSEBURG, OREGON—TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1950

★ ★ 91-30

SCHOOL ISSUE CARRIES, 650-261

Board Granted Authority To Revise Plans

Senior High Will Be Of Three Major Units, New Grade School Will Rise

Roseburg School District 4 voters Monday approved by more than a two-to-one margin the school board's request to change plans for expenditure of funds in a school expansion program.

The vote was 650 yes to 261 no, thus granting permission to use existing funds to erect a new elementary school west of town and to use the present Fullerton grade building as a part of a campus-type high school.

This city's tradition of a light turnout at school elections was shattered Monday, with a record 911 votes cast. City School Supt. Paul S. Elliott said last night the heavy vote was the largest in the six years he has been in Roseburg.

Elliott, on behalf of the city school board, thanked local persons for voting, saying he was not only pleased with the outcome of the election, but also indicated the board was pleased with the expression given by the voters.

Heavy Vote Unexpected

He apologized to the many persons who were unable to vote because of the large waiting line. He said the board had no indication the vote would be so large and that the single polling place at the junior high school was thought to be sufficient, as in previous years. Although the outer door was closed at 8 p. m., persons standing in line within the school halls voted for nearly an additional hour.

The vote authorized the school board to change plans for expenditure of funds, originally scheduled for additions to the present senior high school. Under the plan proposed by the board and approved yesterday by the voters, the senior high school will comprise three principal buildings, the present senior high, the library-arts building and a new building.

The vote also authorized the school board to change plans for expenditure of funds, originally scheduled for additions to the present senior high school. Under the plan proposed by the board and approved yesterday by the voters, the senior high school will comprise three principal buildings, the present senior high, the library-arts building and a new building.

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Airport Bond Issue, Budget Elections Dated By Council; Daylight Saving Scheduled

Revised Plans, Specifications For West Roseburg Sewer Are Approved, Hearing Set May 15

The city council last night gave final approval to ordinances setting dates for the airport bond issue and city budget elections and a third adopting daylight saving time, and approved plans and specifications for the West Roseburg sewer project.

At one of the shortest meetings on record, lasting slightly over half an hour, the council officially set June 6 as the date for a vote on the proposed \$300,000 bond issue for airport improvements. If the bonds are approved by the city, the federal government will provide matching funds in a greater percentage than that supplied locally. The election would make possible also the acquisition by negotiation or condemnation proceedings property needed for the airport expansion.

The council formally set May 2 as the date for an election on the issue as to whether the city budget shall exceed the six percent limitation in the amount of \$71,997.17. Because of the very low tax base, which is only \$55,017.83, it is necessary to hold an election to make it possible for the city to acquire its budget funds for expanded operations.

The council's final action on daylight saving time means that Roseburg will go on the early rising hour at midnight April 30, in line with most other cities in western Oregon, Washington and California.

Hearing on Sewer Dated

Plans and specifications for the West Roseburg sewer were approved by the council last night.

(Continued on page Two)

Excise Tax Slash Unlikely In 1950

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(AP)—The outlook for a \$1,000,000,000 slash in excise taxes, a reduction at all this year—looked dim today.

The tax bill being whipped up in Congress may run into a presidential veto.

Chairman Doughton (D-NC) of the tax-writing House Ways and Means committee told newsmen "the prospects are not bright."

That the committee can produce a bill reducing excises—on such things as furs, jewelry, luggage, toilet articles, transportation and communications—and at the same time make up the revenue loss by larger collections elsewhere.

In a special message to Congress January 23 Mr. Truman called for a cut in excises, but he said he couldn't approve such cuts "unless they were accompanied by provision for replacement of the revenue lost."

The tax legislation managers on Capitol Hill have not given up hope of coming within the specifications the President laid down, if a veto is to be avoided.

But some say they hope Mr. Truman will sign the bill, if it fails only a few million short of finding other tax sources to cover up the excise cut.

Virgin Islands Slaying

Of Woman Gets New Trial

PHILADELPHIA, April 18.—(AP)—A 26-year-old native laborer sentenced to death for slaying his sweetheart has been granted a new trial by three federal circuit judges who went to the Virgin Islands to grant him a hearing.

The three jurists—Albert B. Marks, Harry E. Kalodner and Calvin Magruder—yesterday set aside the death sentence pronounced on Leander Price. The Virgin Islands are under the jurisdiction of the U. S. third circuit court.

Price was convicted on a murder charge in the slaying of 21-year-old Laurissa Peterson on Jan. 7 because he feared she was planning to leave him for another man.

The court opinion held the evidence did not establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the slaying was a "deliberate and premeditated murder."

Slays Wife Rather Than

Get Up And Look For Job

TACOMA, April 18.—(AP)—A young Tacoma husband admitted in a signed statement to police today that he flew into a rage, smashed an alarm clock, then shot his wife because he didn't want to get up early to look for a job.

Detective Bob Stittworth identified the slayer as 20-year-old Thomas E. S. Pahr. His wife, Margaret, 17, was killed outright by a single bullet as their three-month-old son slept nearby.

The young husband, whose statement said he had consumed four beers with a friend an hour before the shooting occurred, was weeping at the side of his dead wife when police officers arrived.

Pension Lien Law Would Take Effect Date Of Election

SALEM, April 18.—(AP)—Attorney General George Neuner ruled today that if the people vote for the so-called pension lien law at the November general election, the law would take effect as of the date of the election.

This law, passed by the last legislature, gives the State Welfare commission claims against the estates of deceased pensioners up to the amount of pensions which have been paid. It was fought bitterly by old age pensioners, who succeeded in getting it referred to the people.

State Rep. Joseph E. Harvey, Portland, for whom today's opinion was written, had asked whether the law would be retroactive to last July if the people vote for it in November. Neuner said no.

Harvey also told Neuner that if the law becomes effective in November, many old people would sell their homes in order to prevent the welfare commission from filing claims against their estates.

Neuner pointed out that the law also provides that if a pensioner does sell his home in order to prevent such a claim from being filed, he automatically disqualifies himself from getting an old age pension.

Under this law, when a pensioner dies, the commission can dispose of his property to collect money which has been paid out in pensions. This would prevent the property from going to the heirs of the estate.

O-C Timber Sale Dated Wednesday

Eight parcels of O & C timber, carrying a volume of 39,010 M board feet appraised at \$285,769.75 will be offered for sale Wednesday at Roseburg by the Bureau of Land Management, region I.

The Roseburg auction is one in a series being held this week. A total of 41 parcels, carrying a volume of 131,605 board feet and 25,450 lineal feet, appraised at \$1,172,961.85, are offered. Sales were conducted Monday at Medford and Salem, and will be held today at Eugene, Wednesday at Roseburg, and Thursday at Coos Bay.

Sixteen of the parcels were being offered for sale by sealed bids today at the regional office in Portland.

The timber lands are located in Benton, Coos, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties.

DADDY 36TH TIME

AMIENS, France, April 18.—(AP)

—Paul Demaie, 70, a bick-kicker, last night announced the birth of his 36th child.

Demais's first wife died in 1927, after giving birth to 24 children. He married again in 1935.

Free Enterprise System In U. S. Superior For Young Men, National Jaycee Head Says

"Greater opportunities are offered to young men in America under our system of free competitive enterprise than can be found anywhere in the world," declared Clifford Cooper, national Junior Chamber of Commerce president, in a speech before the local Jaycee organization at the Hotel Umpqua Monday night.

Cooper used the greatness of the American system as his principal theme in an hour long speech before 40 members and their guests at the Roseburg Jaycee dinner given in the national president's honor.

He stated that one of the greatest dangers facing America today was the gigantic growth that American government had made in the past decade. This menace, said Cooper, was one reason why the national Junior Chamber of Commerce has worked so hard to get the Hoover report on governmental reorganization adopted by Congress.

"Money in the United States is power," declared Cooper, "and with the American government operating on a \$42 billion budget,

Airliner Has Close Call In Bomb Plan

Culprit Shouts Warning In Nick Of Time; Would Have Slain His Family

LOS ANGELES, April 18.—(AP)—A suicide watch was placed on John N. Grant today as police advanced a love triangle theory for the near-bombing of a plane carrying 16 persons, including his wife and two children.

Grant, 32, was placed under strict guard after it was found he had torn strips of cloth from his jail cell mattress in an attempt to make a noose, detective Jack Goldstone said.

The young father, who police say lost his nerve just as the alleged plot was about to come off, was linked with an airline stewardess in a striking similarity to the Canadian plane explosion case which brought a murder conviction to J. Albert Guay recently.

Police Lt. C. E. Ream said that Miss Betty Suomela of Hermosa Beach told him that she was in love with John Henry Grant, 32, and that at the approximate time yesterday that he placed the bomb on an United Air Lines DC-3, she thought he was appearing in court getting a divorce from his wife.

The stewardess, who is not employed by United, told Ream that Grant led her to believe that he would marry her after the divorce. Ream questioned the stewardess after Grant drove her car to the airport. Ream said he was convinced that the stewardess was in no way implicated in the case and that she would be released.

Nerve Deserted Him

Just as the airlines DC-3 was about to leave Los Angeles international airport for San Diego yesterday, Grant ran to the ticket counter and screamed:

"Don't let that plane take off! I just put a bag on it full of gasoline."

At the same moment a baggage handler loading the plane out on the field dropped a heavy suitcase. It exploded and flames flared up, singeing the man's eyebrows and hair.

The baggageman, Harold Mayer, quickly extinguished the flames and tossed the suitcase out on the ground. He opened it and found an alarm clock wired to ignite a box of matches, which in turn would explode several gallons of gasoline contained in sections of an innertube. Only a small portion of the gasoline was ignited, however, and no one else was injured.

Det. Ned G. Logsdon, who arrested Grant, said the onetime top-flight aviation engineer, told him he was \$6,000 in debt. He quoted Grant as saying he planned to collect \$25,000 in insurance taken out at the airport on his wife and two children.

Penalties Imposed On Three Drunken Drivers

Municipal Judge Ira B. Riddle today reported disposition of the following cases, all involving pleas of guilty to drunken driving charges:

Duane Gerald Polk, 26, Roseburg, fined \$200, sentenced to 90 days in the city jail and driver's license revoked for two years, following his second appearance in recent days on the same charge.

Haldeen Wilmer Hubbard, 39, Roseburg, fined \$150, and Willie Thomas Calloway, 41, Roseburg, fined \$100. Driver's license revoked for one year in both cases.

Logger Killed At Pond In Sutherlin

Warren Freeman, Sutherlin, formerly of Astoria, was killed about 2 p. m. Monday while working at the mill pond of the Rock Island Lumber company, Sutherlin, Harry Stearns, coroner, reported today.

Freeman was working on a pile of logs which suddenly shifted. He was thrown 25 feet to the water, where he hit a floating log. He was under the water approximately five minutes before it was possible to pull him to the surface.

Whether death was due to the blow or to drowning has not been determined.

The body was sent to Astoria today.

County Home Contracts Let For \$187,693

Mike Harris Construction Co., of Grants Pass was awarded a contract for a low basic bid of \$144,999 for construction of the new Douglas County home, following the opening of bids here at the courthouse.

The low bid of H. E. Hawk Plumbing & Heating Co., Medford, of \$33,679 for plumbing and heating, and the low bid of Trowbridge Electric Co., Roseburg, of \$8,925 for electrical work were also accepted.

The overall combined bid of \$187,693 was well within the estimate of Architect William Laing. The county court announced the awarding of the contracts after taking the bids under advisement to study alternate proposals. The basic bids for general construction were accepted.

Alternate bids had been submitted by each of the general contractors. The number 1 alternate was whether the county or the contractor was to do the excavation, alternate No. 2 would have provided a deduction for Douglas fir partitions and roof trusses over steel, and alternate No. 3 if wood doors were used instead of Holobilt aluminum doors. The alternates were disregarded, to provide.

(Continued on page Two)

School Budget Given Preliminary Study

A preliminary examination of the 1950-51 school budget was given last night by the city school board at their regular monthly meeting in the offices of School Supt. Paul S. Elliott.

A general discussion of the various items preceded a decision to call a special school board meeting for 7:30 p. m. Friday. Following that meeting, the budget committee will be called for final examination of the budget, Elliott said.

At the Friday meeting, Elliott said the board would also take final action on setting the date for opening bids on the new Fullerton or west-side grade school building.

The board also announced its decision to employ Bruce Hamilton on next year's teaching staff. Hamilton will teach sixth grade classes at Riverside.

Three Swept Over Dam At Savage Rapids; 1 Drowned

GRANTS PASS, April 18.—(AP)—One man was drowned when a boat containing three employees of the Grants Pass Irrigation district accidentally was swept over Savage Rapids dam this morning.

Boatmen are searching for the body of Walter Crouse, 65, an irrigation district employee for 25 years. In Josephine general hospital are Kenneth Morfield and Ray Holcomb. Their condition is not serious. Morfield succeeded in swimming ashore. Holcomb was rescued in a boat by Ced Hefferan, operator of the nearby Weasku Inn.

Hefferan said he was attempting to reach Crouse when he sank from sight.

Waterways Bill Now Up To 2-House Compromise

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(AP)—When House and Senate conferees reach their compromise agreement on the \$1,840,000,000 waterways authorization bill, the approved figure for Columbia river basin projects will be somewhere between \$108,000,000 and a quarter of a billion dollars.

As approved by the senate last night, the bill contained \$249,250,000 in authorizations. Only \$107,997,000 in projects was approved by the House.

Sen Magnuson (D-Wash.) said the eventual cost of all projects involved in the quarter-million dollar authorization would be \$1,500,000,000.

(Continued on page Two)

Note Demands Indemnity For Crew Of Ten

Punishment Of Those To Blame Asked; Scorching Rebuke Given Moscow

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(AP)—The United States charged today that Russian fighters shot down the missing American navy patrol plane over open waters of the Baltic sea.

It demanded that Russia punish those responsible and pay appropriate indemnity for the lives of the ten men lost in the plane.

The charge and the demand were made in a formal reply to Russia's protest of April 11 that an American plane had flown over Latvia and exchanged gunfire with Soviet aircraft on April 8.

The American note demanded also that "the most strict and categorical instructions" be issued to the Soviet air force to prevent any new incident "so clearly calculated to magnify the difficulties of maintaining peaceful and correct international relationship."

The note flatly rejected Russia's claim that the American plane flew over Russian territory in violation of international law.

It charged the Soviet with a "violation of international law and of the most elementary rules of peaceful conduct between nations."

The 600-word counter protest said the American investigation determined that the U. S. plane involved was the navy four-engine Privateer patrol craft which has been missing in the Baltic area since April 8.

All American aircraft operate under strict instructions to avoid flying over any foreign territory except with express permission, the note said.

It added that the U. S. investigation convinced the government that the navy plane did not fly over any Soviet or Soviet occupied territory or territorial waters adjacent thereto.

In view of the findings, the note said "it must be concluded that Soviet military aircraft fired upon an unarmed American plane over the open sea following