

BLAST KILLS 4 NEAR REEDSPORT

Brandy Bar Quarry Scene Of Tragedy

Workers Buried Under Tons Of Rock; 5th Man Injured, Not Seriously

Four men are dead — three of them buried under thousands of tons of rock — and another was injured as the result of a premature explosion at the Kern, Kibby and Mc Kinnon rock quarry near Reedspport Wednesday.

The dead: George Kleut, Reedspport. John Doyle, Reedspport. Norman Aspley, 4534 NE Lombard St., Portland. Charles Whitman, Rt. 4, Box 118, Tacoma, Wash. The injured: John M. Peterson, 825 Empire St., Butte, Mont.

Whitney died last night at Keizer hospital, North Bend, where he and Peterson were taken following the blast. Peterson was expected to live. His injuries were listed as not serious.

Two men managed to cling to a small ledge high on the 200-foot wall when the premature blast toppled an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 tons of boulders to the quarry floor. Witnesses saw three of the victims fall amid the massive rock pile.

Whitney and Peterson were struck by rocks showering among some 40 men working on the job, which supplied material for an Umpqua river mouth jetty project.

Tragedy Described Deputy Sheriff Cecil Bever, reporting on the investigation made by himself, Officer James Joy of the state police and Deputy Coroner John Unger, said a crew of seven men were working on a ledge about 150 feet above the floor of the Brandy Bar quarry Wednesday.

One hole had been loaded with eight boxes of powder and was being prepared for shooting by Kleut, a powderman employed with the company for 17 years. The other hole had been loaded with seven boxes of powder, Bever reported.

The officers were told that the first shot went off prematurely, blowing off the face of the cliff and carrying five of the seven men with the rock.

The two men who saved themselves by clinging to a ledge were Sam Knight, Lakeside, and Giuseppe Brancosio, Reedspport. By the time ropes were dropped to

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Accord Reached In Rail Dispute

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The White House today announced a three-year peace pact between the major railroads and four operating rail unions.

The agreement provides: For 120,000 railroad yardmen an immediate increase of 23 cents an hour, with another two cents on Jan. 1 and cost of living adjustments every three months beginning next April 1. The adjustments are to be made at the rate of one cent an hour for every rise or fall of one point in the government's consumer's price index.

The 23-cent pay boost is retroactive to Oct. 1. For about 180,000 road service workers — an immediate increase of five cents an hour, also retroactive to Oct. 1, and another five cents effective Jan. 1, plus the same cost of living arrangement.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS As these words are written, we have a commander for our forces in Europe. General Ike has just been named to fill that post. He is the best man in the world for the job. Not only is he an able military leader, our European allies have complete confidence in his fairness.

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO FIND (and train and equip) AN ARMY FOR GENERAL IKE TO COMMAND.

Where will such an army come from? I wouldn't know. So far as I can gather from what I read, NOBODY knows.

Britain? The present strength of Britain's armed forces is 708,200. Of these, 375,200 are in the British army; 188,000 are in the Royal Air Force; 124,900 are in the Royal Navy.

SEVEN EIGHTHS OF BRITAIN'S GROUND TROOPS ARE SERVING OVERSEAS, all over the world. Wherever they are, they're in hot water—as in Malaya where guerrilla fighting ap-

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Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Reizenstein One Christmas rush you won't see: industries and retailers complying with the administration's "request" (not order) to roll back prices.

The News-Review

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MOBILIZATION HEADS START JOB

Stabilization Director Also Draws Action

Big Industries Announce Price Rollbacks; G.M.C. Appeal Turned Down

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Charles E. Wilson took office today as director of defense mobilization and immediately appointed General Lucius Clay and banker Sidney Weinberg as his assistants.

Clay, former U. S. commander at Berlin, is relinquishing his duties as chairman of the board of the Continental Can Co.

Weinberg is senior partner of Goldman, Sachs and Company, New York investment banking firm. He was a vice-chairman of the War Production Board in World War II.

Already, in another step toward cushioning the shock of the defense buildup on the nation's economy, the government had asked 250 large corporations to give at least seven days' notice before raising prices on any major products.

Economic Stabilization Director Alan Valentine said this would give his agency time to study the proposals and decide if they were justified. If not, the agency could ask or order their abandonment.

Valentine telegraphed the companies to give such advance notices on any line in which they do an annual business of \$500,000 or more.

The Economic Stabilization agency also told General Motors corporation that its appeal for modification of an automobile price roll-back has been rejected.

Two firms asked to help hold the price line — International Harvester company and Socony-Vacuum Oil company — wired agreement to go along. Sinclair Oil Corp. officials said their company would comply. And Standard Oil company (New Jersey) officials said compliance was up to affiliated operating firms but added they would be "surprised if the affiliates did not go along."

International Harvester announced it is withdrawing price increases announced Dec. 12 and (Continued on Page Two)

Draft Dodger Gets Prison Sentence



ALFRED BERGDOLL In Father's Footsteps

NEW YORK — (AP) — Alfred Bergdoll, son of Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, notorious draft dodger of World War I, was sentenced today to five years in prison for dodging the 1950 draft.

Bergdoll, 23, a - week clerk, pleaded guilty last Monday to failure to report for physical examination last August 21 and to report for induction into the armed forces November 9.

Kids' Christmas Party Set At Local Theaters

The annual children's Christmas party, sponsored by the local Elks lodge, will be held at the three local movie theaters Saturday afternoon.

The Christmas program will include free moving pictures, and Santa Claus will be on hand to distribute candy treats to the children in each of the three theaters. The Elks hand the city of Roseburg over to the children each year on the Saturday before Christmas. The Christmas program is financed by the profits from the organization's annual minstrel shows.

The program will get underway at the theaters at about 1 p. m. Saturday.

Truman Sends Holiday Message To Armed Units

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman's holiday message to members of the armed forces says their mission "is to strengthen and to give hope to all who seek peace on earth."

The brief message concludes: "May the real spirit of Christmas abide with you, and may all of us, in concert with all free peoples, come nearer in the New Year to realizing man's ultimate dream of liberty, justice and freedom."

Tax On Excess Profits Given Senate's O.K.

Difference With House Version Sends Measure To Joint Conference

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Congress drove today for a hurry-up agreement on terms of an excess profits tax to skim billions from corporation earnings.

The Senate gave the measure hasty approval Wednesday, after a sketch-the-highlights report from its tax-writing finance committee on what the bill would do.

Designed to tax away an additional \$3,200,000,000 of this year's corporation profits, and far bigger sums as defense spending mounts, the bill differs radically from the form in which the House had passed it earlier.

Today a committee of Senate and House members took over, seeking a compromise.

Senator George (D-Ga.), heading the conferees, said the bill undoubtedly contains errors that the next Congress will have to correct. But on the whole, he told the Senate, it is the best that could be devised in his short session of Congress.

As passed by the Senate the measure would boost the corporation surtax from 20 percent to 22 percent, to go along with the excess profits levy. The House had proposed no surtax change, but its version of the excess profits levy was far less mild.

Both House and Senate already are agreed, however, on a 75 percent tax on assumed "excess profits" defined as earnings that exceed 85 percent of the average for the three best years from 1946 through 1949. And both agree the tax should be retroactive to last July 1.

The Senate bill declares that the combined corporation-income tax, surtax and excess profits levy, may not take more than 60 percent of any firm's net income. The House had proposed a 67 percent ceiling.

The Senate measure provides alternative methods for firms to compute the excess profits tax. The main option allows them to claim exemption credits equal to 8 to 12 percent of their assets.

Firms earning less than \$25,000 a year would be exempt from both tax boosts.

The pending bill would fall well short of the \$4,000,000,000 goal Mr. Truman set for it to raise this calendar year, but George and his Senate finance committee estimated it would bring in \$4,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000 next year.

The Senate and House disagree as to which branch's versions would bring in more revenue.

BONUS DEADLINE CITED

SALEM — (AP) — The deadline for applying for soldiers' bonuses in Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Louisiana is December 31, the State Veterans department said.

Hoover Urges U.S. To 'Arm To Teeth,' Defend Frontiers

Stop Sending Troops, Money Overseas Until Nations Arm Selves, Ex-President Advises

NEW YORK — (AP) — Former President Herbert Hoover urged the nation last night to concentrate on fortifying the Western hemisphere as a "Gibraltar."

He called on his fellow-countrymen to "arm to the teeth" to hold the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, with the island outposts of Britain, Japan, Formosa and the Philippines.

Mr. Hoover, speaking on radio and television, said it would be "sheer folly" to engage in land war with Communist hordes in Asia or the continent of Europe.

Regional Safety Group Organized For County Duty

The Governor's Roseburg Regional Safety committee held an organizational meeting in the city hall here Tuesday night, and officers were elected.

The Rev. Willis F. Erickson, 242 South Rose, was elected chairman; E. R. Titcomb of Rock Island Lumber Co., Sutherlin, vice-chairman; Henry Wilcox of Paterson's Bakery, secretary, and J. P. Mutschbacher, publicity.

Attending the meeting from Salem were Charles F. Bollinger, assistant director, accident prevention division of the State Industrial Accident commission; H. M. Stevens and George Smith, local representatives for the commission.

The organization's purpose is to cooperate with employers and employees in accident prevention as well as promote safety in the home, school, on the highway and in other activities.

Bollinger stated four cities have organized Governor's Regional Safety committees and other committees and other committees are being organized. He also reported on the accomplishment of the other committees and the favorable cooperation given by their respective communities. In promoting safe working conditions, training programs and the encouragement of employee interest and participation in such programs or in promoting safety on the highway or in the schools, if one fatal accident has been averted, the program is considered a success, he said.

Particularly unsafe conditions in the vicinity of Roseburg were discussed at the meeting. Rev. Mr. Erickson appointed the committee to investigate such situations.

Those attending were Rev. Mr. Erickson, Titcomb, Wilcox, Mutschbacher, Gene Miller, Ted Pursia, Howard Cracraft, A. W. Kenney, William Green, Smith and Stevens.

The next meeting will be Jan. 26.

WHO DOES WHAT By Paul Jenkins



WILFRIED MAEDING obligingly poses for a publicity picture at McDonald's Ice Creamery, with Lila Salles and Carol Sue Carnes, who had left their respective nearby offices for a customary mid-afternoon milkshake. The affair was conducted with speed; when the flashbulbs exploded and the radio reporters present started to leave, Wilfried exclaimed, with proper and understandable disappointment, "Shucks, is that all?" Now, there's a young man I could like. We would seem to have a community of interest, I'd say.

The finding out about American manners and customs and American everyday modes of life is the occasion for Maeding's visit to Roseburg. One of a group here at the invitation of radio station KRNR and under its sponsorship, he is living in a Roseburg home, working at a Roseburg retail store and being entertained in his spare time by its mayor, its banker, its baker and its candlestick maker.

We hope he likes us; that he finds us friendly and kindly, and we hope he understands us, although we freely confess that we do not in the least understand ourselves. For our part we can feel assured that Wilfried Maeding is a most excellent young man and that his youth, in view of his experiences, is extremely deceptive. For years he was a member of the German anti-Communist underground and the Russians have a price upon his head.

Americanism Amazes

Exchange Student Given Eyeful Of Real Democracy During Stay In Roseburg

After his first day at work at Nielsen's market, Wilfried Maeding of Berlin, Germany, was amazed at the informal relation between management and employees.

"When I was introduced to the employees," said Maeding, "the manager slapped them on the back and called them by their first names. It was very collegiate."

Maeding is one of the foreign students from the University of Oregon visiting Roseburg and working in local businesses for a week as promoted by KRNR.

The tall curly-haired youth is stocking shelves at Nielsen's and trying to sandwich in a tour of the city between working hours. Wednesday afternoon, Mayor Al Flegel took him and five other students to the Roseburg Lumber company. The young German couldn't contain himself when he saw the size of the operation. "It's much bigger than any we have in Germany," he said.

Other sources of astonishment to him were the extensive Christmas decorations and the uncounted passers-by when the group was having its picture taken on the street. "In Germany, when pictures are being taken, you get a big crowd in no time," he said.

Saw Berlin Crumble Wilfried came to this country a little over four months ago to attend the university on a scholarship from the United States government. (Continued on Page Two)

Pardon Slated For Habitual Criminal Who Composed Cantata In His Prison Cell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (AP) — Frank M. Grandstaff, who composed the 70-page "Big Spring Cantata" in his prison cell, soon will be a free man.

It is believed he will be the first ever pardoned as a habitual criminal in Tennessee.

Before an announcement by Governor Gordon Browning Wednesday, the 49-year-old convict-composer faced the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind prison walls.

Browning said, "I am giving him a pardon to let him get out of the state. I have made errors. For those who have stood by me, I can say there will never be a time they will feel ashamed of me. For those who doubted me, I must prove them wrong."

Grandstaff said the first thing he'll do is go to the Catholic cathedral here "and drop down on my knees in prayer. Then I'll get in touch with the girl I should have married 30 years ago. Then I'll go to see my mother again."

The "girl," he said, is Mrs. Mildred McConkey of Fort Wayne, Ind. He said they plan to marry. At Fort Wayne, Mrs. McConkey, 47, "swing shift" worker for General Electric, said she could hardly believe the news, she added that when Grandstaff is freed, "I am going to marry him." Each has been married twice before.

The Weather

Generally fair today, tonight and Friday. Highest temp. for any Dec. — 70 Lowest temp. for any Dec. — 54 Highest temp. yesterday — 54 Lowest temp. last 24 hrs. — 44 Precip. last 24 hours — 0 Precip. from Dec. 1 — 4.11 Excess from Dec. 1 — .72 Excess from Sept. 1 — 22.07 Sunset today, 4:40 p. m. Sunrise tomorrow, 7:42 a. m.



LEGION SCOUT TROOP—Members of the troop attended the American Legion Christmas party at the army Wednesday night. Santa Claus was on hand and treats were distributed to the scouts and many other children. The program consisted of Christmas movies and several musical acts. From left to right, top row, they are Steven Reed, Mike Overton, Eddie Lindell, Art Manville, Jeff Schultze (Explorer and junior assistant scoutmaster), Scoutmaster Ray Lorange, Mike Vasey, Jim Schulze, David Otterman, Frank Benson, Loren Anderson and Leonard Chamberlain. Members of the troop not appearing in the picture are Laurence Lawson, Maurice Schultz, John Jolson and Darryl Major. (Picture by Paul Jenkins).