

Speed Pilot Sets New Cross Country Record

NEW YORK (AP) — Speed pilot Joe Debona flew from Los Angeles to New York in 4 hours, 24 minutes and 7 seconds Wednesday for a new transcontinental record for piston-engine planes.

He failed, however, in his effort to beat the jet plane record of 4 hours, 8 minutes and 5 seconds.

Debona flew a propeller-driven World War II Mustang fighter plane.

The previous record for a piston-engine plane was 4 hours, 52 minutes and 53 seconds, set in 1950 by Paul Mantz.

Probe Launched Into Fatal Fire

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. (AP) — Three investigations were opened Thursday into a fire that snuffed out the lives of 10 sixth grade pupils and destroyed the frame annex of an elementary school in this heavily populated Buffalo suburb.

The fire, which flashed through the 100-foot long building just before the noon recess Wednesday, caused injury to 23 other persons, including four 11-year-olds whose burns were considered critical.

The dead included six girls and four boys, all sixth graders. Their badly charred bodies were found pressed against what was left of a window wall. A few feet away were a doorway and broken windows — avenues of escape the youngsters never found.

Nineteen other pupils, three teachers and the principal of the school were hospitalized with burns or injuries. Two of the 31 pupils in the building escaped uninjured.

John Dwyer, Erie County district attorney, opened an investigation to determine if there had been any criminal negligence on the part of anyone concerned.



SEVEN DIE IN FLAMES—Fire fighters move in to battle blazing B-36 bomber after it flipped over during a takeoff run and burst into flames at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash. Three crewmen escaped the inferno but seven others died in the fire. The B-36, designed to carry the atom bomb to any corner of the globe, originally cost about \$3,500,000. Some, however, have been converted into reconnaissance planes at an additional cost of \$1,500,000.

Motorists Will Get Blue, Gold License Plates

SALEM (AP) — Every Oregon automobile will get new blue and gold license plates next year, Asst.

Reclamation Department Considers New Projects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bureau of Reclamation is asking funds to begin six new irrigation projects in the year starting July 1.

Commissioner W. A. Drexler told a House Appropriations Committee in testimony made public Wednesday that the bureau proposed submitting a supplemental budget request of nearly 25 million dollars to the Bureau of the Budget.

He said this included \$7,150,000 for new projects, about 16 million dollars for going projects, a million dollars for general investigations and 300 thousand dollars for an emergency fund.

None of the six "new start" projects is in the Northwest. Drexler listed "going projects" for which money beyond that requested in the regular budget for the year starting July 1 would be asked. They included: Palisades, in Idaho and Wyoming, \$1,700,000; Columbia Basin, in Washington, \$4,000,000; and Yakima-Kennecook, in Washington, \$900,000.

HAIR CAUSED DEATH
DETROIT (AP)—John Schweitzer, 52, was fatally injured at a factory when his hair became entangled in a metal-shaping machine he was operating.

Secy. of State William E. Healy announced Tuesday.

They will replace the present black on aluminum plates, which will be five years old in 1955.

They will have gold numerals on blue background, the Oregon state colors.

Healy said no decision has been made yet as to whether they will be made of aluminum or steel.

For the first time, the plates will have a letter, which will indicate the month they expire. For example, plate No. 2B-554 means it expires in February.

The present plates are made of magnesium and aluminum alloy. It is the State Department's policy to issue new plates every five years.

Healy explained that the letter had to be added to the license plates because the numbers are getting too big. During the next five years, the numbers will go over the million mark, and there is room on the plates for only six figures.

Bids on 750,000 of next year's plates were opened Tuesday, with Screw Machine Works, Portland, having a low bid of \$221,150, or 24.5 cents a pair. This company now has the business.

Cordon, Ellsworth Bill Proposes Partnership Deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Oregon lawmakers have asked Congress to authorize the federal government to take in a partner in construction of Green Peter and White Bridge dams.

The bill was introduced Wednesday by Sen. Cordon, and Rep. Ellsworth, Republicans, and is patterned after similar legislation they have introduced for construction of Cougar Dam.

The bill would leave to the Federal Power Commission the determination as to what company or entity would join with the government in building the two dams on the Middle Fork of the Santiam River.

The Mountain States Power Co., and Pacific Power & Light Co., are reported interested in the project.

Under the proposal, the government would pay for flood control features of the dams with the partner paying power costs.

The bill would lay aside present authorization for the dams for one year after which it would be reauthorized if no company seeks to enter into the partnership.

Green Peter is 10 miles northwest of Sweet Home, and would have installed power capacity of 81,000 kilowatts. Another 15,000 kilowatts would be generated at White Bridge Dam which would operate as a re-regulating reservoir to alleviate river fluctuation caused by Green Peter.

Designed solely as a flood control project as now authorized, Green Peter would have an estimated cost of \$32,013,000.

With power facilities included, plus the power only facilities of White Bridge, the overall project cost is estimated at \$58,365,000.

On the basis of these estimates, the government's partner in the undertaking would pay an estimated \$26,352,000, the difference between the cost of the flood control project and the overall undertaking.

Defamation Suits Filed By Two Labor Officials

EUGENE (AP) — A suit charging defamation of character and asking \$20,000 damages was filed in circuit court Wednesday by two Eugene labor officials against the manager of the Lane County Employers' Assn.

Joe Willis, business agent of Local 6, Bricklayers, Masons and Carpenters, Union (AFL) and Jens Horstrup, a negotiator for the union, named Alfred (Pat) Blair in the action. They charged that Blair wrote a letter to the U. S. Department of Labor containing defamatory and false statements against them in connection with negotiations last fall with Eugene General Contractors.

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TEMPERMENTS CLASH

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A difference in artistic interests was cited by George A. Hormel II of the meat packing family as he explained the breakup of his marriage to Leslie Caron, French actress and ballerina.

"I am a musician; my wife is an actress," Hormel, 25, a pianist, said as he obtained a divorce yesterday on grounds of cruelty. He and Miss Caron, 22, were married in 1951 in Las Vegas, Nev.

PLAN NEW CHURCH

JERUSALEM, Israel Section (AP) — A new Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation is to be built at the Nazareth site of the one built more than 200 years ago over the ruins of previous Churches of the Annunciation. This is the spot where tradition says the Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary and predicted the birth of the Holy Child.



Muddled Model

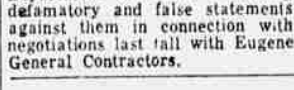
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Supreme Court Rules Against Minimum Rates

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel can't stop a railroad from reducing its freight rates, as long as those rates don't discriminate between shippers or localities.

Heltzel never has tried to regulate the minimum rates of railroads. However, by fixing exact rates for trucks, he regulates minimum rates for the truckers.

The Supreme Court case had its origin when the Pacific Inland Tariff Bureau, representing 400 truckers, sought to stop the Southern Pacific Railroad from reducing its petroleum rates from Portland and Coos Bay to points in Southern Oregon.

The railroad asked Circuit Judge Rex Kimmell of Salem for an order to prohibit Heltzel from taking jurisdiction in the case.

Kimmell refused to grant the order but the Supreme Court decision, by Justice George Rossman, said that he should have.

This matter of minimum rates for railroads has been the matter of hot legislative disputes.

In the 1953 session, the truckers tried, and failed, to get a law giving Heltzel jurisdiction over minimum rates on railroads.

The Supreme Court decision doesn't say whether Heltzel has authority over truck minimum

rates. However, Heltzel's authority over the minimum truck rates never has been challenged.

Rossman wrote that railroads can reduce their rates to meet competition. He rejected the truckers' claim that rail rates are unlawful when truck lines can't meet them profitably.

The case set a precedent in that it is the first time in Oregon that a writ of prohibition, which the high court ordered Gimmell to issue, has been used. There was

some question as to whether this kind of action is proper, but the Supreme Court said it is.

MINERS TAKE HOLIDAY

PITTSBURGH (AP) — All coal mines covered by United Mine Workers' contracts closed Thursday to mark the 56th anniversary of the union winning the 8-hour day. The traditional contract holiday is marked by numerous rallies.

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