

Portland Department Store Buys City Hall

CORVALLIS — Roberts Bros., Portland department store, Friday submitted the highest of two offers to purchase the Corvallis City Hall and fire station properties. The Roberts bids were \$156,295 for both buildings, or \$101,700 for the City Hall, a 63-year-old structure. The other bidder was Joe Welner of Weimer's, a Portland clothing store. He offered a combined bid of \$140,000, or \$80,000 for the City Hall.

City Manager James Conville said the offers for the City Hall were better than expected, but the combined bids were slightly below expectations. The city has 30 days in which to accept or refuse the bids. It plans to build a new City Hall outside the business district. Roberts Bros. operates Nolan's department store, here, and also has a store in Eugene.

Man Comes Out Of River Into Officer's Hands

PORTLAND — Edward C. Judd, 30, a mechanic, climbed dripping wet from a river slough north of here Monday night and ran right into two sheriff's deputies and two city patrolmen.

They took him to the county jail where he was booked on a burglary charge in connection with the looting of a hardware and sporting goods store earlier in the day.

The policemen said Judd told them he tried to swim the slough to avoid capture but was forced by the cold water to return to shore.

R. W. Miller and Hal Lynn, the deputies, and James Brown and Fred Griffin, the patrolmen, said they recovered from Judd's car some \$2,000 worth of stolen goods, including guns, radios and out-board motors.

French, Vietnam Discuss Plans For Cease Fire

By FORREST EDWARDS
HANOI, Indochina — French Union and Vietnam military representatives were scheduled to hold their third session at Trung Gia village today to continue mapping details of a possible Indochina cease-fire.

The New York Times in a dispatch from Hanoi said the two sides had agreed on the procedure for exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war. The dispatch said the first POW swap would be made on July 14, Bastille Day and France's national holiday.

The delegates met for the first time in the "peace" village of thatched huts Sunday. The area, declared a neutral zone, is about 25 miles north of Hanoi in territory controlled by the Communist-led insurgents.

The talks were understood to be concerned mainly with regrouping of troops on both sides in case a truce is agreed on in Geneva to halt the 8-year-old war. The delegations recommendations will be referred to the higher level Indochina talks now going on in Switzerland.

Witnesses Vouch For Tale Of Huge Fish That Got Away

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The master of a party fishing vessel told today of "the big one that got away" — and fifty witnesses backed up his story.

Capt. J. B. Mathews, skipper of the Capt. Bae Strickland, and his crew fought a losing seven-hour battle with a 45-foot whale shark in the Gulf of Mexico Sunday.

"It was the biggest thing we've ever seen outside a plaster cast of a whale in the New York Museum of Natural History," said Karl Dronke of Newark, N.J., who was aboard with his wife and son, Karl Jr.

Mathews and his crewman, Milton (Sonny) Payne, had an idea they'd run into a specimen of the world's biggest fish when the Capt. Bae Strickland shoved off Sunday for a day's fishing in the Gulf, with more than 50 persons aboard.

Mathews had spotted a huge whale shark in the fishing grounds 50 miles off John's Pass a week earlier. He hooked the whale shark on a 370-pound test line then but the line snapped like a thread.

Sunday he was prepared with "tackle" that included a foot-long shark hook, three-foot chain leader and 500 feet of five-eighth manila line. This was double spliced into the anchor cable which was an inch thick, with the capstan as a "reef."

When the customers began hauling in cobia up to 25 pounds, Mathews knew the whale shark was nearby, for these are free-loading fish which trail the shark for tidbits.

The Capt. Bae Strickland made a dozen passes at the whale shark before Payne sank the hook into the big fish's lower jaw.

"The crew playing it like any other fish," Dronke said, "Mathews kept a tight line on him and Payne handled the capstan reef. They'd throw the boat in reverse now and then to take up slack, then shut off the engine and let the whale shark tow us. Some aboard complained because the captain wouldn't stop and let them catch grouper."

"The whale shark didn't seem to bleed. At least it didn't attract any other sharks."

"The party fishing boat Atlanta came alongside and took off those who'd had enough, but we stayed. So did about 25 others."

The ship's log showed the whale shark towed it 18 miles during the seven hours the fight lasted. Then it gave a lunge, snapped the line and left. Mathews estimated it would weigh 15,000 to 20,000 pounds.

A La Carte

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Baked Virginia | 1 Harness part |
| 4 Prepare potatoes | 2 Prayer ending |
| 8 Cloverleaf | 3 Bread spread |
| | 4 Landed property |
| 12 Eucharistic wine cup | 5 Greek war god |
| | 6 Afternoon nap |
| 13 Operatic solo | 7 Owned |
| 14 Century plant | 8 Belgian marble |
| 15 French sea | 9 Oil |
| 16 Poverty (comb. form) | 27 Tarkington novel |
| 18 Absorb | 10 Mislaid |
| 20 Oatmeal porridge eaters | 11 Minor ledger |
| 21 Atmosphere | 17 Jewish state |
| 22 Ripped | 19 Is borne |
| 23 Ripped | 23 Group of eight |
| 24 Ripped | 24 Nimbus |
| 25 Ripped | 25 Imitated |
| 26 Ripped | 38 Shackie |
| 27 Ripped | |
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

PATTER COMEDY
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NORMAN LINTEL
ENR TELLE OFE

CAPER EDITORS
ANEAR DONE
VERSA IRENE
EREA SAVINGS

ERA EPI DPE
STAIN CERALE
INTENT ENABE
COASTS RSPAITD

MODEST MAIDENS



CAPTAIN EASY



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



FROM NINE TO FIVE



LI'L ABNER



ALLEY OOP



BLONDIE



NATO Maneuvers Will Take Place In July

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department announced today a major maritime exercise will be staged by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Channel Command July 16-25.

Ships and aircraft of the NATO forces will be provided by Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. They will include about 20 destroyers, escort vessels and patrol craft and 45 minesweepers, as well as some 30 naval vessels and auxiliaries making up convoys. There will also be merchant ships in the convoys.

Douglas County VFW Members At Bend Meet

Several Douglas County Veterans of Foreign Wars and auxiliary members have gone to Bend for the annual state convention of the units.

The VFW activities will last through Friday, with Saturday being devoted to a meeting for state members of the Military Order of the Cootie. The convention opened Wednesday.

A. E. (Bus) Williams of Roseburg, outgoing state commander of the order, said the meeting will be culminated by a big parade Saturday night, which will be filmed for television. A third degree scratch for members will be held Friday morning, followed by registration, a council administration meeting and election of officers for 1954-55.

Among those representing VFW Patrick W. Kelley Post 2468, and auxiliary, Roseburg, are Williams; Wally Cox, who will be sworn in as state deputy commander; Mickey Mulver, post commander; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hoover, local seam squirrel and lady gold bug; Mr. and Mrs. Frosty Holmes; Paul Erno, grand adjutant of the Cooties; Stanley Mohr, past post commander, and R. L. Preston past deputy commander.

Honored guest of the Cooties at Bend will be R. F. Nichols of Los Angeles, junior vice commander of the U. S.

Oregon Cooties rank third in the nation in hospital work, Williams pointed out. During the first six months of the year, they traveled 36,000 miles to see 11,000 hospitalized veterans.

Britain's Housewives Battle 'Freedom' Meat

LONDON — Housewives Tuesday began a battle against the high price of Britain's new "freedom" meat.

Butchers said a lot of housewives entered their stores but few bought anything—waiting for the prices to drop.

Rationing ended at midnight Saturday and prices immediately went up. Prices were still up Tuesday with only a slight drop. One butcher said: "Within a day or so the whole situation will be back to normal. Customers are already talking about boycotting meat and living on fish and eggs."

Rump steak in Reading had jumped from 49 cents last week to 70 cents a pound. Prime joints had jumped 14 cents.

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