

TRIAL SET FEB. 7

A date of Feb. 7 has been set for a district court trial before Judge Warren A. Woodruff in an assault and battery case. The complainant is George Post, who accused Harry Hagan Sr. of striking him. Hagan denied guilt and posted \$50 bail.

Foreign News Briefs

SYDNEY, Australia — Frank Sinatra reported Thursday the loss of a large sapphire ring from his Melbourne hotel room Tuesday night.

CAIRO, Egypt — Egypt's supreme military court convicted eight Jews Thursday of spying for Israel and sentenced two of them to death.

SINGAPORE — Malaya and Thailand are expected to launch a new joint drive soon to smash Communist guerrillas terrorizing both sides of the two Southeast Asian countries' common border. Intensified land and air attacks are being set up.

MILAN, Italy — Two men, arrested in connection with a bank holdup, told police Thursday their hands were clean and they could prove it. Their alibi: They were busy stealing four suitcases from a car just at the time the holdup took place.

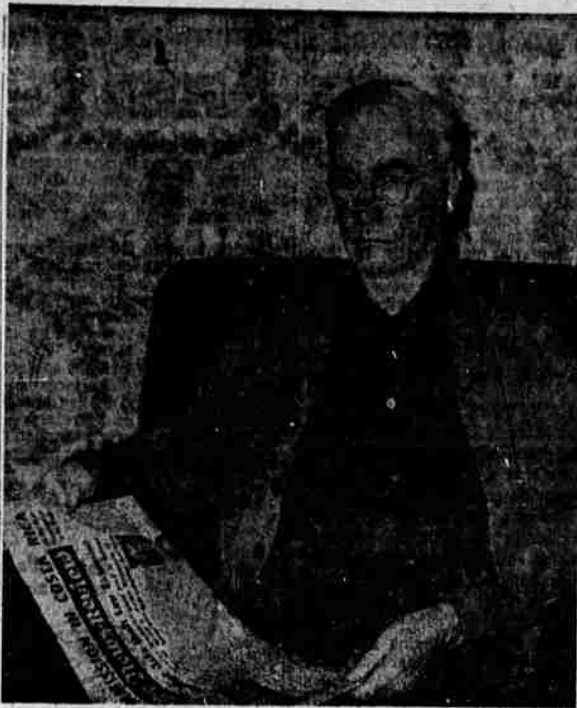
HALIFAX, N.S. — The Canadian Navy says all 47 sailors poisoned by cocktails spiked with duplicating machine fluid are out of danger. The men staged their surreptitious binge below decks Friday night on the 18,000-ton aircraft carrier Magnificent.

HONG KONG — Gen. John E. Hill, U.S. Commander in chief in the Far East, said Thursday he contemplated "no immediate changes at present" in deployment of American ground troops under his command as a result of President Eisenhower's Formosa message to Congress.

CLARK AIR FORCE BASE, P.I. — A jittery Philippines Thursday watched U.S. Sabrejet fighters based at Clark Air Force Base streak for troubled Formosa. But the Filipinos got immediate reassuring news that more of the sleek jets would arrive in these islands as replacements.

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NATIVE OREGONIAN Joe Ledgerwood, reminisces about the origin of the first road built, the trail blazer for the present highway north of Myrtle Creek. He says the first road was constructed over 40 years ago and was built entirely by volunteer labor. (photo by Ruth M. Evans)

Native Oregonian Recalls Highway 99 Construction

By RUTH M. EVANS

Joe Ledgerwood of Myrtle Creek has a special interest in the new Highway 99 being laid along the Boomer Hill Road by the State of Oregon. It was through his efforts that the first road ever built on the northwest side of the river was constructed.

Ledgerwood, a life-long resident of Douglas County and Myrtle Creek, states that Highway 99 just north of the Myrtle Creek city limits was originally laid out as the Boomer Hill Road and was built entirely by volunteer labor with no financial aid from state or county funds, and he adds that the present re-construction of Highway 99 will follow the old original route very closely.

Volunteer Labor
The Boomer Hill Road was constructed entirely by volunteer labor and extended from the foot of Boomer Hill to the old bridge site just south of the present bridge. A wooden bridge was built by the county after Ledgerwood and Ed Weaver circulated a petition in 1911 stressing the need for a bridge crossing the river at the city limits.

Prior to the construction of the first bridge, homesteaders from Boomer Hill had to ford the Umpqua River at the point just below Van Dine's Meat Co., and continue on into Myrtle Creek by way of the Dole Road. During the winter when water in the river was high, the only way to get to Myrtle Creek was by horse, crossing the railroad bridge south of town. Concrete pilings from the old wooden bridge can still be seen immediately south of the bridge constructed by the State Highway Dept., sometime after 1919.

Boomer Hill residents of today will be able to enter the highway being constructed by way of a special right-of-way. A bid was recently awarded a construction company from Corvallis that calls for construction of a 124-foot concrete viaduct connecting Boomer Hill Road with the new alignment of the Pacific Highway two miles northwest of Myrtle Creek.

Methods Compared
Ledgerwood compared the way roads are built now and the way the first road was cut through the

Girl Prefers Jail To Going Home Without Her Dog

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — A 15-year-old Portland, Ore., girl would rather stay in jail here than go home without her dog, Sandy, who has been with her since she was two years old.

Patricia Messick, stranded here without money when her 28-year-old husband of three months was arrested on a charge of cashing a bad check, turned down an opportunity to leave by herself Wednesday.

Her mother, Mrs. Beryle Baker, Portland, sent her a plane ticket, but Patricia refused to go when she learned her dog couldn't go along unless she paid a \$30 charge for him.

St. Joseph residents are trying to raise the \$30. After her husband was arrested, Patricia had no place to go, so she was cared for in jail.

Her dog went right along with her. He stayed with her a full week, too, before he finally broke out for a few hours of freedom. After he was caught, Patricia defended him.

"I guess Sandy got tired of trying to bury bones in the concrete floor here. It was pitiful to see him take a bone and hide it under a newspaper after he had failed to dig a hole in the concrete," she said.

A new alfalfa variety called Lahontan is said to be practically immune to injury from the stem nematode.

continuations, all of which were then called Boomer Hill Road. They constructed the road north to the Alvin Helgeson ranch, southwest on what is now known as the old Weaver road, and on up Boomer Hill to the various homesteads. Ledgerwood said that originally 14 or 15 men volunteered to help build the road, but in a few months the help boiled down to a few reliable steadies. Ledgerwood is one of the original road crew alive today.

The state took over the road sometime after 1919 and constructed the highway as it is now.

Joe Ledgerwood's father, William Ledgerwood, settled a homestead about 3 1/2 miles up Boomer Hill in 1888. Joe Ledgerwood was born Feb. 14, 1881. He will be 74 years old next month. Now retired and living in Myrtle Creek, Ledgerwood owned and operated the city meat market in Myrtle Creek for 30 years. His son, Orin Ledgerwood, owns the Van Dine Meat Co.



NEW OREGON BLUE BOOK gets inspection by Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry. First copies of the 1955 publication will go to members of the Oregon Legislature, and general distribution will follow throughout the state in February. Book was published under new law which moved publication date to January of each legislative year. Number of pages have been cut from 450 to 374.



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