

# Violence, Nature Keynoted Oregon News During 1956

## Floods, Slides, Bombings, Murders Take Top Positions; Pony Express Ride Listed

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence—man's and nature's—keynoted the big news in Oregon in 1955.

Two bombings, one a murder and the other a \$50,000 extortion attempt, were included in news importance only by a devastating Sunday punch from the weather which brought death and destruction over a wide area as the year came to a close.

The winter storm, followed by floods and slides, took 12 lives and caused damage in the uncounted millions. Only the month before, an early record-breaking freeze had left crops severely damaged.

The first bombing occurred April 14 when a dynamite charge was set off in a room at the big Meier and Frank Co. department store in Portland. At that very moment Aaron Frank, company president, was reading an extortion note ordering him to pay a \$50,000 ransom or another would be set off. The bombing set off a wave of semi-hysteria that led to scores of false bombing threats from cranks to students.

Eight months later to the day, a blind part-time chemist, Clarence Peddicord, was arrested and confessed the bombing. His "eyes," he said, were his sister-in-law, Mrs. Joyce Keller. But she denied implication in the plot.

Just a week after the department store bombing a dynamite blast blew an automobile to bits, killing Portland attorney Kermit Smith, Victor Lawrence Wolf, who invoked an old Oregon law to confess in open court, was sentenced to life in prison. Called a "love slave," he said he committed murder because Smith's widow, Marjorie, asked him to. In a trial of some interest at McMinnville, however, another murder case held high interest among Oregon's newspaper readers. In it, a man and his wife, Wayne and Sherry Fong, were accused of murdering a 16-year-old Portland high school girl, Diane Hank. Convicted once, the Fongs were granted a new trial. Sherry Fong was convicted a second time and sentenced to life in prison. Her husband's second trial is pending.

Four persons died when a Pan American plane bound for Honolulu crashed in the Pacific a few miles off Coos Bay March 26. Fortunately for the other 19 aboard, the U. S. Navy transport Bayfield nearby sped to the scene to save them.

Eight others came home to Oregon from Korea in 1955. They were orphans of American G.I.s, adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holt of Creswell, a benevolent Oregon farm couple who already had six children of their own. After months in Korea, dealing with red tape, Holt flew to Portland with the eight, along with four other orphans adopted by other couples.

Other top stories included the Nyssa polio epidemic following Oregon's participation in the Salk polio vaccination program; two Portland women lost for a week on Larch Mountain found safe; opposition to Southern Pacific's dropping passenger train service on the Rogue River line, highlighted by a race between a locomotive and a horse; shooting of Eugene jailbreak by Martin Reeves; Operation Green Light, civil defense test of Portland evacuation; natural gas coming to the Pacific Northwest; congressional timber hearings.

These, combined with many other stories, made 1955 a high ranking news year.

### Crews Mop Up After Disastrous California Flood

SAN FRANCISCO — Work crews, operating around the clock, passed the halfway mark today as they filled in a levee gap that accounted for 19 deaths at Yuba City during the California floods.

Already the rebuilt levee was holding back Feather River waters from the stricken city, where 250 homes were destroyed and 1,200 others had major structural damage.

The state death toll reached 47, a jump of 12 since Wednesday morning when a wave receded enough that rescue workers were able to start hunting victims.

In addition to the 19 Yuba City victims, there were 8 in the Eureka area, 8 at Santa Cruz, 3 near Colfax, 2 in Tulare County and 1 each at Susanville, Santa Rosa, Sacramento, Colusa, Hamilton, Air Force Base, Stockton and Siskiyou County.

Northern California damage estimates rose to 150 million dollars. Cleaning out the mud remained an individual job, but government and private agencies began providing large scale aid.

The Red Cross said 4,000 persons still were being cared for at 44 emergency shelters. At one time the homeless were estimated at 50,000.

### Bribery Charged In Death Of Rebel In Algeria

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ness an operation at the village of Aina Bid, where "innocent" victims, including women and children, had been massacred by rebels 48 hours before.

He said security forces were in the process of cleaning up a nomad camp and discovered rebels on whom were found personal belongings of some of the victims.

Chassagne said a gendarme and six or eight French soldiers were clearing out tents and lodgings in the village and that he took his pictures in the course of this operation.

"I affirm that I never asked for any posing for pictures," he said. "I never saw the gendarme before. I have never seen him since and I certainly never bribed any gendarme."

### Cold Air Sweeps Over Much Of United States

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new cold air sweep extended Friday from the Plains to New England, eastern Tennessee and the Texas Gulf Coast.

Drizzle, sleet, freezing rain and snow fell in light amounts along much of the cold front behind which temperatures were 20 to 30 degrees lower than Thursday.

It was 26 below zero at West Yellowstone, Mont., and -17 at International Falls, Minn.

Some warming occurred in the Northern Plains as Pacific air flowed down the east slopes of the Rockies.

### DIES OF POLIO

OREGON CITY — Helen C. Hauck, 10, died Thursday of polio, the first such death among Clackamas County residents this year. She was stricken last July. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hauck of Oregon City.

### Highway Repairs Of Storm Damage Now Being Rushed

Efforts of the State Highway Dept. and contractors whom the department hired on the spot are beginning to show in the repair of southwestern Oregon's water-battered highways.

Highway 42 to Coquille is open to one-way traffic west of Winston. State police and the department, however, warned motorists to use extreme caution in driving over the route and on Highway 101.

Small slides and sinks in the roadway are hazards to fast driving. Highway 38 still remains closed a mile east of Reedsport. The troublesome slide there still is being shoveled out of the way. There is one-way traffic around the wash-out near Paradise Creek.

Highway 225, between Elkton and Sutherlin, probably will be opened this afternoon, the department said.

Highway engineers said the task of reopening the highways would have been nearly impossible if it hadn't been for volunteer help and contractors hired with small shovels, bulldozers and trucks.

The department had no ready estimate of the number of people who have been working on the highways, but said there were "quite a number."

South of Anlauf, the department still is working to clear away a slide near the summit on the new section of highway. Northbound traffic still is using the new section, but southbound traffic is being routed along the old highway through Drain and Yoncalla.

### Food Staples Are Air Dropped To Four Families

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quests for rehabilitation now pouring into the Red Cross office as the result of the flood, according to Mrs. Herman. She said registration for help is "terrible."

She also reported that a caseworker was being sent in from San Francisco to aid the local chapter in processing the requests.

She asked that any persons losing possessions and in need of assistance contact the office immediately. The office will be open from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. during the week and on Saturday to take applications. She said 50 families have asked for aid.

Mrs. Herman also asked merchants to submit the white dispersal orders to the office as soon as possible. On receipt of the invoice, payment will be made in 15 to 30 days, she said.

The SBA explained the loans would have to be made nominally at 6 per cent because the New England floods earlier exhausted funds, but they will be converted to 3 per cent when Congress makes more emergency money available next year, the SBA said.

Although the damaging rains have ended, damage was not stopped. State highway engineers Thursday reported another major slide dumped 25,000 yards of muck onto Highway 38 between Reedsport and Scottsburg. It will keep the highway closed several weeks, engineers said.

Army Engineers said the Willamette will continue to run nearly bank full for another week or two because upstream reservoirs will release water slowly to make room for future flood threats.

The engineers estimated the reservoirs had cut nine feet off the flood crest at Eugene and 5 1/2 feet at Salem, preventing some nine million dollars in damage.

### Boy Dies Accidentally From Splinter Of Glass

CHICAGO — A 15-year-old boy was fatally stabbed Thursday night by a flying splinter of thick glass after he accidentally dropped a bowling ball through a glass showcase for aid.

Police said a piece of glass about 3 1/2 inches by 2 inches flew into William McGowan's chest after the accident at a bowling alley.

McGowan and a group of boys had been bowling and decided to change alleys. They went to the cashier to pay for a game they had rolled.

Police said Sigmund Hertel, the cashier, told them after he heard the crash of the showcase he turned and saw the youth staggering, his chest spouting blood. He was dead on arrival at a hospital.

### Business Woman Faces Charges Of Embezzlement

NORFOLK, Va. — A businesswoman well known for her contributions to church and charity faced a \$100,000 grand larceny charge today in an embezzlement case that eventually may total one million dollars.

The charge was placed against Miss Minnie G. Mangum, 52, a 39-year official of the Commonwealth Building and Loan Assn. She was accused of embezzling the \$100,000 from her employer over a period of a year.

Commonwealth's Atty. Linwood Tabb Jr. said he had been advised there were additional irregularities that would swell the total to at least \$500,000 over five years.

A spokesman said the company has recovered assets valued at \$300,000 from Miss Mangum, including eight houses worth \$50,000. One was a modest bungalow where she lived with her sister in nearby Portsmouth.

### Federal Aid Made Ready By President's Order

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munities. A variety of federal grants and loans are available to cities that may plan to rebuild damaged or blighted areas.

The Agriculture Department also offered surplus food, including feed for stranded livestock and poultry.

A telegram was sent by the White House staff to Gov. Paul Patterson of Oregon telling him "such funds as may be necessary" will be available "to supplement state and local efforts" to relief.

The telegram, sent by Wilton B. Persons, presidential assistant, said Eisenhower "asked me to express his deep concern with the hardship and suffering caused the people of your state by these floods."

The Small Business Administration will open temporary offices for stranded livestock and poultry. Pass and Cook Bay to receive loan applications. Disaster loans at 3 per cent interest are available for repair or rebuilding of dwellings with a repayment period up to 20 years. Business loans at the same interest rate may run up to 10 years.

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### Dollar Co.'s Bridge At Glendale Replaced

The Robert Dollar Lumber Co.'s railroad switching bridge is back in operation slowly to make room for future flood threats.

The bridge was damaged recently when raging Cow Creek waters put a kink in the center rails, reports Correspondent Mrs. G. B. Fox, Glendale.

Another company, the Multnomah Plywood Co. is also served by the bridge.

### Copco's Contract For Continued Use Of Dams Approved

WASHINGTON — Undersecretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis Friday announced approval of a 50 year contract with the California Oregon Power Co. for continued operation of Link River Dam on Oregon for irrigation and power purposes.

Davis said this action clears the way for immediate construction by Copco of a large hydroelectric development on the Klamath River, some 30 miles downstream from Link River Dam and immediately north of the California - Oregon border.

The dam is a feature of the Klamath reclamation project in southern Oregon. It was constructed by Copco and deeded to the government under a 1917 contract.

Under that contract the dam has been operated to improve the output of Copco's power plants on the Klamath River in Oregon and California subject at all times to prior demands for irrigation on the Klamath project.

Davis said the new contract continues the same arrangement but also defines more precisely a much broader area which may be irrigated with water released from behind the dam.

The contract, Davis said, was okayed by the Klamath River Commissions of Oregon and California and by representatives of water user groups in the area.

Davis said the contract continues provisions of the existing agreement under which the company will provide power for pumping of irrigation and drainage water on the existing and any future reclamation projects in the area at rates substantially lower than those in general effect throughout the company's service area.

Copco on January 28, 1954 was granted a conditional license by the Federal Power Commission for its proposed development, Big Bend No. 2, estimated to cost \$10 million dollars.

The commission stipulated that the license was conditioned upon willingness of the interior secretary to extend the existing Link River Dam contract.

SAN FRANCISCO — A state official says California is ready to go to trial on its charges that human life and fish resources are endangered by the way an Oregon power firm operates two dams on the Klamath River.

Dept. Atty. Gen. Ralph Scott made the statement Thursday after the state supreme court denied a petition by the California Oregon Power Co. of Medford, Ore., that would prohibit the Siskiyou County superior court from hearing the case.

The power company contended that the state court had no jurisdiction and that jurisdiction rested with the Federal Power Commission.

California charges that the power company's two Copco dams, upstream from the confluence of the Klamath and Shasta River, are shut down when electric power is not needed. This results, the suit charges, in drying up the river for 75 miles downstream and the destruction of 2 million salmon and steelhead trout and other fish each year.

In addition, the suit asserts that when the plants are returned to operation a wave of water pours downstream, menacing public safety and health. The suit charges that 18 persons have been drowned in such surges during the last eight years.

### Manslaughter Charged In Death Of Woman

FOSSIL, Ore. — Charles W. Iremoniger, 33, was indicted on a manslaughter charge Thursday because of the death of his wife Dec. 18.

Iremoniger said he awakened from a nap that day to find his wife dead on the kitchen floor. An autopsy showed she died of a blood clot on the brain.

Dist. Atty. Robert Abrams said the date has not been set for a re-arrest of Iremoniger, a mechanic and a life-long resident of Fossil.

### SA Corps Slates Service, Social

A consecration service at 11:15 p. m. will be preceded by a social hour in the Salvation Army chapel, 517 NE Winchester St., Saturday night.

Two motion pictures, "Frying Pan and the Fire," and "Man who Missed His Breakfast," will be shown.

The program will conclude the seasons' special projects held annually by the local Corps, Major Fred A. Dorin, local corps officer said.

The Army's annual Christmas cheer kettle appeal made possible aid to 123 families with a total of 788 persons. A "Toy and Joy" program for children was observed Tuesday evening.

Through the co-operation of county jail officials, prisoners in the jail were remembered with a service and treats on Christmas Day.

"We are most grateful for the fine service given by Chairman Dave Geddes and all friends who once again made the program possible," Major Dorin added.

### Special Disaster Appeal Is Issued By Red Cross

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sonnel for the RC and persons desiring assistance may contact them.

Thursday, Byrd announced the following appointments, adding that others in Oakland, Astoria, Sutherlin, Scottsburg, Camas Valley and Elkton are now being made.

Already serving are: Reedsport — City Recorder Erwin Johnson, who may be located at the recorder's office.

Myrtle Creek — Mrs. Alice Lillibo, city recorder, whose office is in the water department.

Yoncalla — Mrs. Kitty Jobe at the Yoncalla Telephone Co. office.

Days Creek, Milo and Tiller — Mrs. G. M. Krell at the Days Creek Store.

Canyonville — Mrs. Norman (Dorothy) Chappell.

Riddle — Judge R. L. Newton at the city hall.

Glendale — Robert A. Proffitt at his insurance office in Glendale.

Drain — Mrs. Eva Taylor at her home.

### CARPENTERS AGREE

SALEM — The Oregon State Council of Carpenters Thursday night announced agreement with employers on a three-year contract, providing a 3-cent hourly increase Jan. 1, and 10-cent increases in each of the next two years.

Ivor T. Jones, council secretary, said the first year actually provided a 15-cent package with 10 cents of the money going into a health and welfare fund.

### Patterson Won't Remove Multnomah Co. Sheriff

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governor then asked Thornton if the governor could ignore the law.

In Thursday's opinion, Thornton held that the governor could ignore the law and let Schrank stay in office.

If any taxpayer wants Schrank removed, he can file a suit against the governor. This would place the constitutional question before the courts.

The governor also said: "In making this determination, I wish to emphasize that the interest of the public will in no way be jeopardized by not declaring the office vacant."

"Sheriff Schrank has put up a new official bond in the statutory amount and in addition thereto, has a supersedeas bond filed on his appeal which will cover any judgment that may be granted against him on appeal.

"This means that the public has the same protection now that they would have had, had the judgment never been obtained.

"It is my hope that this matter will be determined by the courts in order that Mr. Schrank and all officers similarly situated might be certain of their position."

The case has political overtones, because Schrank is prominently mentioned as a Democratic candidate for secretary of state, Gov. Patterson is a Republican, and Thornton is a Democrat.

### Christmas Death Totals Revised In Latest Report

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officials fear another record will be set.

The council based its estimate on a projection of reports of 34,500 Americans killed in traffic in the first 11 months of the year.

A later survey, taken Thursday by The Associated Press from incomplete state police records, showed at least 35,785 traffic deaths.

The safety council figures that delayed reports, deaths through New Year's Eve and deaths later from injuries suffered late this year will bring the over-all total for the year to 38,500.

This would top last year's safety council figure of 38,000. It is 5,000 more than the 33,417 U.S. soldiers, sailors Marines and airmen killed in the 37 months of the Korean War.

Traffic deaths totaled 3,680 in November—10 per cent more than the same month in 1954.

The safety council predicts 420 will die in the three-day New Year weekend. The greatest previous toll was 407 over the four-day 1952-53 holiday.

**Greetings of the Season**

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