

Boys' Arrest Clears Up Explosion



INTERVIEWING FLOOD VICTIMS—Kenneth T. Coplinger, left, industrial specialist, and Leon Barnes, financial specialist, both with the Small Business Administration, have set up an office at 814 SE Pine St. to interview persons who have suffered losses during the flood and need financial assistance in the form of loans. The two government men from Seattle will interview applicants today and Saturday, next Thursday and Friday and as often thereafter as necessary. (Paul Jenkins picture).

Use Of Government Funds In Disaster Areas Outlined To Civic Leaders Of County

The use of federal funds in a disaster area varies. That major point evolved in an explanatory session for officials of incorporated cities and county government in Roseburg Thursday. Nineteen men, representing seven cities and Douglas County came to the meeting called by county Civil Defense Director Gen. J. T. Pierce.

A Bureau of Public Road employee noted that BPR funds are "to ease the pain of your disaster." Available strictly for emergency, they restore, for example, an impassable two-lane road to one-way travel.

Control Of Water Will Take Time, Residents Informed

Two major figures in studies of Douglas County's unharmed water situation told some 100 Winston, Dillard, Green and Myrtle Creek residents Thursday night that concrete steps in controlling the county's water will take time. The featured speakers were Gen. Curtis T. Beecher, former member of the State Interim Water Resources Committee, and Ben Irving, head of the Douglas County Water Resources Survey.

They spoke at the Evergreen Grange after a meeting had been arranged by Mrs. Vernon Neustel at the suggestion of Richard A. Eastman, both of Winston Section. The purpose was to discuss flood control. The areas mentioned were the hardest hit in the recent floods.

Gen. Beecher outlined the problems involved in flood control in the county. He said he was sorry he could not offer much encouragement for a "quick solution." Irving outlined the activities of the Water Resources Survey and pointed out where stream and rain gauges had been and should be placed.

Both Irving and Beecher pointed out that gauges and survey information are preliminary to actual flood control. Irving said it would be best to collect information from the gauges for 10 years before actual work gets under way on control, but he said he hopes some concrete work can start in five years.

One immediate effect of the gauges already installed, Irving said, is the warning service which resulted in the saving of considerable property.

After these two reports, the meeting was thrown open to questions on such items as the extent of assistance the Small Business Administration will give (see other story) and deductions allowable on income taxes as the result of flood damage.

Harrison Winston presided at the meeting.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

I hope everyone listened to the radio reports of President Eisenhower's State of the Union message to congress; I hope everyone read — carefully and thoughtfully — the summary of it that was printed in this newspaper.

For reasons that are obvious, the President's message was read to the congress. Following the reading of it, he went before the radio microphones and the TV cameras at his vacation headquarters in Key West and discussed it very briefly.

In the course of this personal discussion, he said: "We will not talk about any reduction in taxes until we have begun to make some modest payments on the national debt. We MUST begin to make some payments on it if we are to avoid

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The Weather

Showery tonight and Saturday. Cooler tonight.
Highest temp. last 24 hours 54
Lowest temp. last 24 hours 42
Highest temp. any Jan. 71
Lowest temp. any Jan. 4
Precip. last 24 hours .30
Precip. from Jan. 1 1.38
Precip. from Sept. 1 26.31
Excess from Sept. 1 11.94
Sunset tonight, 4:52 a.m.
Sunrise tomorrow, 7:45 a.m.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

The Douglas County Court Thursday designated The News-Review and the Myrtle Creek Mail as the two official county newspapers for the coming year. All court proceedings and elections are to be published in the newspapers.

The News-Review

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Big Slide Hinders Reedsport Area

School Children, Workers' Plight Described Here

The giant earth slide blocking Highway 38 one mile east of Reedsport has visibly affected workers and school children in the western Douglas area.

A report of the plight was brought to the attention of persons attending a county-wide session in Reedsport Thursday evening by Reedsport City Manager Al Rear. Rear said some 150 loggers were unable to get to their jobs in the woods. This week approximately 100 of them found it necessary to register for unemployment compensation. Until a new mass of 25,000 tons of earth slid down after Christmas, the men had been able to walk through the slide area. That is now impossible.

Likewise, around 150 school children are cut off from their schools. Residents of the area are attempting to find a type of transportation as substitute to the regular route along Highway 38.

One possibility is the use of a tugboat in the Umpqua, which would ferry students and others around the slide. Reedsport has a tugboat which could be converted for about \$1,500. Cost of daily maintenance for a 12-hour period would be \$350, Rear estimates.

A second possibility would be use of a train over Southern Pacific.

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Drain Attorney Files For Justice Of Peace Office

Warren T. DeLaVergne, Drain attorney, has filed for justice of the peace at Drain, county clerk's records disclose.

His name will go on the May 19 non-partisan primary ballot. The term is for six years. John McCool filed for the office on Tuesday, also.

DeLaVergne has practiced in Drain since 1952. He graduated from the University of Oregon Law School in 1931 and was admitted to the Oregon Bar the same year. He is a 1945 graduate of Crosswell Union High School.

The candidate also has been admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court in Portland.

He and his wife, the former Margaret Otto of Elkhart, have one child. DeLaVergne is an Army veteran.

Two local measures already have been filed for the primary election. They are proposals to limit livestock districts in the East Myrtle and Comstock precincts, according to County Clerk Charles Doerner.

There were 39 signatures on the East Myrtle petition and 17 on the Comstock.

Livestock districts are set up through vote of people in the proposed districts. Doerner said several are formed every year. Six signatures of legal voters are required from each precinct in which a district is to be formed.

The purpose is to prevent livestock running at large. Inside a district, livestock owners are liable for damage from animals running at large.

No insurance covered the loss, Hummel said. He is also an agent for a Cottage Grove laundry and dry cleaning establishment. He said items that were smoke damaged would be reclaimed.

Tito, Nasser Continue Blast At Power Blocs

CAIRO, Egypt — Yugoslav President Tito and Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser have continued their good will get-together with a joint blast at one of their pet targets—big power military blocs.

In a statement released during their Nile River trip to the dam, the two leaders declared their "nonalignment" policy had made a major contribution to world peace.

Their aim, they said, was a positive policy "seeking to lead to worldwide collective security."



CLARENCE LEONARD

... he'll take it easy

Clarence Leonard Plans To Retire As Drain Justice

Clarence Leonard, justice of the peace at Drain is the first public official in Douglas County to definitely state he won't run again for office this year.

Judge Leonard told the News-Review today that he believes it's about time to "take it easy." He will have been in office 20 years when his term expires Dec. 31 this year.

The judge said he has no definite plans for the future, other than "to rest and maybe fish a little." He was 71 years old last month.

He could recall no outstanding case he's had before his court. "Mostly, it's been routine business," he said.

But he said he'd "like to thank the people of Drain. They've been awfully nice to me."

Judge Leonard first was appointed to the office in 1936 after the death of the former justice of the peace. He ran for election a month later, and served out the two remaining years of the term.

He was subsequently re-elected three times. Terms run for six years.

The judge, an old-timer in Drain, said he has lived in the same house for over 40 years. His court is set up in the house.

Umpqua Forest Tract Sold Above Appraisal

Some 800,000 board feet of Umpqua National Forest timber, appraised at \$22,255, sold Thursday at the Roseburg office for \$28,782 to the Scott Logging Co. of Tillamook.

The 550,000 board feet of Douglas fir on the 26-acre tract sold at \$9.55 per thousand. It was appraised at \$28.70. The 140,000 feet of pine and 110,000 feet of white fir and other species sold at the appraised prices of \$35.50 and \$13.50 per thousand, respectively.

Other bidders were: Umpqua Plywood Corp. of Myrtle Creek, McGraw Bros. of Medford, Pacific Lumber Distributors of Riddle, Roseburg Lumber Co. of Dillard and Herbert Lumber Co. of Canyonville.

This was the first Umpqua National Forest sale of the year.

Rains, Winds Prospect For Northwest Area

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More rain is the prospect for the sopping and slide-plagued coastal regions of the Pacific Northwest.

A five-day forecast of more rain followed a 24-hour period in which strong winds and downpours hit wide areas of the coastal sectors of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon.

Gusts up to 91 miles an hour were reported Thursday at Campbell River, on Vancouver Island. Some roofs were ripped off and there were communication line breaks.

The Grays Harbor area and Astoria, Ore., had grenching rains. Hoquiam had nearly 3 inches of rain in 24 hours and Astoria reported 2.12 inches. Grays Harbor also had some gusts up to 67 miles an hour.

The storm raised the Grays Harbor rainfall for the week above 6 inches, but the rain-accustomed area took it in stride.

At Seattle, the Weather Bureau reported the week's rainfall of 4.20 inches, nearly equalling the normal total for all of January, was the second heaviest rainfall ever recorded in the city for six days in January.

The five-day forecast is for frequent rain west of the Cascade mountains, with totals of 2 to 4 inches in interior valleys. The prediction for the East Side is for precipitation above normal.

The Drain-Reedsport Highway. (Continued on Page 2 Col. 5)

12th Boy Quizzed On Petty Thefts

In a continuing effort to stamp out a recent wave of petty thefts, Roseburg police Thursday questioned another boy and turned his case over to juvenile authorities.

The 12-year-old (4-6, 76 pounds) admitted several small larcenies at local stores extending over a two-year period. He was the 12th boy in the 9-16 age class questioned in the past month.

The child admitted stealing a measuring tape, with another youth, at a hardware store on North Stephens Street Thursday, officers said. He told officers he also has taken items from Pay Less Drug Store and Woolworth's and \$2 from his mother. He said he took candy from City Drive In Market and keys from Billy Mohr's towing service about two years ago, officers related.

Missing Ring Returned To Steamboat Resident

A ring belonging to C. J. Aymond, Steamboat, and bearing his family crest has been returned to him. It disappeared in Roseburg in November.

The ring, highly valued by the owner because of its historical background, may have been stolen rather than lost, according to Police Chief Stan Olson.

The case has been marked "closed," but Olson said a city detective plans to question the man who returned the ring to Aymond.



STEPS UP—Fred M. Darby

former deputy surveyor of Douglas County, has moved up to the position of county surveyor vacated recently by Ben B. Irving, who resigned Dec. 31. For the past 1 1/2 years, Darby has been in charge of the surveyor's office while Irving was administering the Water Resources Survey. Irving continues as head of the survey. (Paul Jenkins picture).

Alaskan Family Is Found Dead

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Civil Air Patrol plane searching for the five members of the Simeone Wassela family spotted their bodies Thursday on the frozen tundra near Lake Illamna, 250 miles southwest of here.

The pilot reported the bodies of Simeone, 40, his wife, 35, and their three children, ranging in age from 1 to 14, were beside their dog sled. Seven of their nine dogs also were dead.

Searchers said all apparently were the victims of exposure.

The Wasselas left Newhalen Dec. 27 behind their dog team for Igluig, some 50 miles distant on the tip of the lake. Three other families were in the party. They arrived at Igluig Saturday and said they lost track of the Wasselas when they dropped behind after leaving Newhalen.

A search was started Wednesday when they were five days overdue at Igluig.

A party was sent in Friday to recover the bodies.

Neal Children's Fund Reaches \$300 Mark

The Neal Children's Fund reached the \$300 mark today. Roseburg newspapers, radio stations and the Douglas County State Bank which are collecting money for the benefit of the children reported the sum.

The children are Margaret Elaine, 13, Alvis, 8, and Billy, 6. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Neal, two sisters and a brother were killed in an earth slide at Remote Dec. 26.

Circuit Court records Thursday disclosed that the children's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Robbins, Riddle, have been appointed guardians of the children.

China Refuses To Fix Release Of Americans

LONDON — Red China refused Friday to fix a time limit for the release of Americans the Communists are holding in prison as criminals. Peiping Radio, commenting on Chinese Communist talks in Geneva, said:

"While they are serving their sentences, they have no right to request permission to return to the United States."

The United States has accused Red China of violating an agreement it made Sept. 10 to permit all American citizens within its control to return home "expeditiously." The Chinese Communists said 27 of 40 Americans had been released so far.

"Americans who offended against the law in China must be dealt with in accordance with Chinese legal procedures and no time limit can be set for their release," the Peiping broadcast said.

"It is only when they have completed their sentences or when China has adopted measures to release them before the completion

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House Committees To Fly Over Flood Ravaged Sections

Members of two U. S. House of Representatives committees plan to fly over the flood-damaged sections of southwestern Oregon as far north as Eugene next week. House's Rep. Harris Ellsworth said today.

News-Review correspondent A. Robert Smith in Washington, D.C., telegraphed the announcement today. He said seven members of the Public Works and Interior committees have scheduled a five-day inspection of west coast areas hit by the December floods.

Congressman Ellsworth said he requested that the Army Engineers from Portland meet the committee to brief them on the Oregon disaster and accompany them in their flying inspection of southern Oregon "to explain the nature and extent of floods."

Ellsworth said after conferring with the committees, he gained assurances they would take time to fly over Oregon even though time did not permit stops on the ground.

Meanwhile, the Farmers Home Administration Friday declared Douglas County a disaster area. This means farmer residents are now eligible for crop damage loans from the administration at 3 percent. Also declared disaster areas were Jackson, Coos, Curry and Josephine counties.

Loan applications are to be filed from Douglas County with the administrator, William E. Walsh at Eugene. Ellsworth has also asked the FHA to reconsider and add Lane County to the disaster list.

Engineering Draftsman Transferred, Promoted

Loren A. Weber, presently an engineering draftsman in the State Highway Dept. division office in Roseburg, is being promoted this week to resident engineer in Huntington, according to W. C. Williams, deputy state highway engineer.

The new position will involve responsibility for all highway location and construction activities in the Huntington area which will result from the construction of new dams on the Snake River.

Weber first went to work for the department in 1941 as a chairman. After a stint in the armed services, he returned in 1946 and has worked continuously since as a transitman, inspector and draftsman.

Portland Author Dies From Accident Injuries

WICKENBURG, Ariz. — Mrs. Claire Warner Thompson, 55, a Portland author, died Thursday from injuries suffered in an automobile accident last Sunday.

She wrote a book on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and during the early 1930s was supervisor of the Oregon WPA writers' project. Mrs. Thompson, a winter visitor here, was hurt when a car she was driving hit a culvert. A passenger, Melba L. Lapanos, 25, of Wickenburg, died Wednesday from injuries suffered in the crash.

LOCAL GAME CANCELLED

The Roseburg-Couville high school basketball game scheduled here tonight has been cancelled because of weather, according to Athletic Director Bob George.

Large Cache Of Dynamite Is Recovered

Blasting Machine, Caps, Dynamite Said Stolen From Powder House

The arrest of five boys, aged 14 to 17, Thursday night has definitely cleared up the source of two blasts which shook residents of Roseburg and nearby areas on Dec. 3 and 6, according to Sheriff Ira C. Byrd.

Deputies recovered 1 1/2 cases of dynamite, a blasting machine and 15,000 caps, the sheriff said.

The explosives were part of the loot in the burglary from a powder house at the end of Newton Creek Road, Columbia Powder Co., had counted 18,000 caps and the blasting machine as missing, plus four cases of dynamite.

Byrd said the dynamite was of an "extra-hot" variety. It had been stored in the attic of a vacant house at 2007 Winter St. in Cloverdale. The sheriff said it would have blown up the whole neighborhood had it been set off there.

A deputy, Carl Smith, was tipped to the solution of the case when he arrested a 16-year-old boy on an auto theft charge Thursday night. The youth allegedly had stolen a car from a Lockwood used car lot on Dec. 31. The car subsequently was recovered by state police in Sutherlin.

When Smith arrested the boy, he said: "I guess you know why I'm here."

The boy unexpectedly mentioned dynamite. Soon, the unexpended explosives had been recovered and the other four boys arrested.

No formal charges have been made yet, Byrd said. Two of the boys apparently weren't involved in either of the blasts.

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POSSE CAPTAIN — Mrs. Dorothy J. Collins is the first captain of the newly organized "Doug-Etts," believed to be the first mounted women's sheriff's posse in Oregon, if not the Northwest. The 13 charter members are training now in law enforcement and search and rescue.

Youth Jailed, Fined For Reckless Driving

An 18-year-old youth was sentenced to five days in the county jail and fined \$50 Thursday after he pleaded guilty to reckless driving before Dist. Judge Warren A. Woodruff.

William Joseph Tachick, Atholene, Wis., was arrested by state police Thursday afternoon on Highway 99 near Winchester. The arresting officer said he had chased Tachick for about four miles at speeds ranging up to 100 miles per hour.

The speeding driver finally was slowed when he got behind a freight truck and couldn't pass. Police said they were inspecting the scene of an accident which killed Woodrow Wilson Chase, 37, Myrtle Point, when they saw Tachick pass another car on the same curve on which the fatal accident occurred.

Hinsdale Vice President Of Metallurgical Corp.

EUGENE — Dale Fischer, a Eugene lumberman, is president of the newly formed Oregon Metallurgical Corp.

He said the firm plans to build a titanium metal reduction plant at Albany, the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

Elected vice president was O. H. Hinsdale, Reedsport. Oral Thurnell Albany, is secretary and Tom Winn, Eugene, treasurer.

SLATES CONVENTION

EUGENE — The national convention of the Churches of the Brethren, expected to attract 5,000 persons, is one of more than 20 conventions to be held here in 1956. The church convention is scheduled for June 11 through 17.

On July 18 the first combined Oregon meeting of the AFL-CIO will be held here.

Levy Fact Rant

By L. F. Reizenstein

Piano-clowning Liberace's first movie venture is the season's biggest flop, according to the verdict of dramatic critics. Verily, "the shoemaker should stick to his last."