

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m. Temperature: Maximum 82 Minimum 49 Forecast: Partly cloudy with scattered showers, tonight and Friday, cooler east of Cascades Friday.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON Union and Willows Counties

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 19, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Forest Fires Spreading East, West

Pioneers Holding Reunion

More than 125 pioneer sons and daughters of Union county met for their annual pot-luck luncheon and program today at Riverside park pavilion.

Memorial service for Hattie Proebstel Eckley, charter member of the Union county pioneers and organizer of the sons and daughter group was held, at which Mrs. Edith Curry made the memorial address in which she praised the civic activities of Mrs. Eckley.

She reminded the audience the present site of the park is the Proebstel homestead.

Beauties of Valley Address of welcome by George T. Cochran was responded to by Grace Wright Powers, daughter of the late Dunham Wright, pioneer of the county.

Dinner Tonight Members were present from Cove, Allice, Elgin, Summerville, Island City, Union, La Grande, and from the greatest distance Mrs. Belle Hawley McAllister of Portland.

After the formal program the pioneers visited. They will have a dinner tonight and the historical society will meet and elect officers.

Ed Reynolds who is in Klamath Falls visiting relatives, missed the reunion for the first time in many years.

City Will Sell Six Tracts For Taxes July 28

Six tracts of land will be sold for delinquent taxes at the July 28 sale, the city commission decided last night. The city has liens against tracts 2, 4, and 6, but will protect only the liens against tract 4, lot 6, and portion of lot 7, block 25.

The commission also passed a resolution to start suit to quiet title for the west 23 feet of lot 25, and all of lot 26, block 6, Predmore's addition.

Bill presented by C. D. Kelley for 428 street markers, less 10 percent retained, was allowed.

M. J. Goss talked to the commission on the matter of building more seats for the Maverick club show to be held this fall at the fairgrounds.

J. T. Hood, from the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company, explained to the commission a plan for a change in the lighting system on Adams avenue.

City manager's report for week ending July 14: General receipts, \$7,525.14; general disbursements, \$7,797.24; cash on hand, \$47,400.80.

Water receipts, \$1,008.81; water disbursements, \$91.78; cash on hand, \$4,705.23.



TRUMAN PRESIDES AT FIRST BIG THREE SESSION — President Truman presides over the first full-dress session of the Big Three conference as it got underway with a "preliminary exchange of views on matters requiring decision by the heads of the three governments." President Truman, with his aides on either side, is seated with back to camera. Premier Stalin and his aides are seated further on right, while Churchill and staff can be seen at left.

County Share of School Support Fund \$118,607

Union county's share of the \$8,000,000 state school support fund is \$118,607.06, it was announced today by the state department of public instruction.

Suspended districts do not participate in the money received by the counties, nor do districts in which the school tax levy is less than three mills.

First payment will be made Oct. 15, and will be followed by another April 15. The tabulation has been distributed to the counties so they will know their share in advance.

The apportionment, based on a combination of pupil-days of attendance and the teacher units in each county, amounts to about 19 cents per pupil day, and \$257.54 per teacher unit.

The money is derived from state income taxes. The total was raised from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 by the 1945 legislature.

Money going to each county: Baker \$101,696.23; Benton, \$142,067.10; Clackamas \$476,820.95; Clatsop \$152,282.56; Columbia, \$161,343.58; Coos \$215,298.53; Crook \$40,710.43; Curry \$27,999.43; Deschutes \$125,276.36; Douglas \$216,209.83; Gilliam \$20,963.52; Grant \$46,714.94; Harney \$35,405.80; Hood River, \$80,556.63; Jackson \$281,821.70; Jefferson \$12,721.40; Josephine \$124,299.33; Klamath \$264,155.88; Lake \$44,951.03; Lane \$564,712.42; Lincoln \$96,065.93; Linn \$291,999.01; Malheur \$160,539.48; Marion \$465,614.33; Morrow \$37,901.57; Multnomah \$2,510,630.72; Polk \$160,594.70; Sherman \$16,820.69; Tillamook \$85,832.43; Umatilla \$220,953.57; Wasco \$78,170.02; Washington \$330,000.06; Wheeler \$20,130.77; Yamhill \$218,930.20.

VFW Officers at Union Installed, Charter Presented

Officers were installed and charter was presented last night at the first meeting of Crag Mountain post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Union.

Officers installed were: Earl Johnson, commander; Estel Posey, senior vice-commander; Allus Mayes, junior vice-commander; Clarence Dobbs, chaplain; William Dobbins, quartermaster; Norman Haskell, adjutant; and Merton Davis, L. D. Harris, and Edward Griggs, trustees.

Death Comes To Mrs. Crouter, Union Resident

Mrs. Daniel H. Crouter, 74, of Union, who has been a resident of Union county for 47 years, died at a hospital here this morning after a long illness.

A native of Heppner, Ore., she had been a lifelong resident of the state, and was a well known resident of Union. She was a member of the Methodist church there. Funeral services have not been fixed until members of the family who live at a distance can be heard from.

Besides her husband, she leaves five sons, L. D. of New York City; Paul of Malta, Mont.; Alfred of Union; Daniel of the U. S. marines; Robert of Prosser, Wash.; five daughters, Mrs. B. W. Mackie of Redwood City, Calif.; Maude of Astoria, Mrs. Mary Ellis of Pittsburgh, Mrs. R. H. Dunnington of Alderwood, Wash.; Mrs. M. C. Allen of West Ingelwood, and Dora of Union; two brothers, Arch Geer of Salem and Bert Geer of Marysville, Wash.; a sister, Musa Geer of Goodnow, Hills, Wash.; 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild. A son, Cmdr. Mark H. Crouter, was killed in action in the southwest Pacific.

Truman Bargains Supplies Against Aid in Pacific

POTSDAM, July 19 (UP)—President Truman carried into the third big three session today the most potent bargaining stock of the conference — billions of dollars of American aid to be balanced against military help in the Pacific.

Prime Minister Churchill is learning Truman's position in this conference is strictly give and take.

An official announcement—one of the few pieces of concrete information seeping through the rigid censorship — revealed Truman gave an official state dinner tonight. Churchill, Stalin and five representatives of each government attended.

The big three had established a schedule of regular meetings. The foreign ministers were meeting daily at 11 a.m. to prepare the material for the following meeting of Mr. Truman, Stalin, and Churchill. The procedure began Monday with Secretary of State James F. Byrnes presiding and the chairmanship rotating thereafter.

Charles Ross, White House press secretary, disclosed Gen. Omar N. Bradley was summoned to the conference compound Friday to discuss his new job as chief of veterans administration with Truman.

The president's policy, it can be revealed, is essentially this: The United States will not pour out its tremendous material wealth without something concrete in return. It will not undertake fresh economic burdens without some concessions from the other side.

And Truman is completely uninterested in concessions involving goods or cash — because there simply isn't any of either in Europe.

Annual 4-H Club Crops Tour Will Begin Friday for 115 Oregon Boys

Annual eastern Oregon 4-H livestock and crops tour has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 20-21. Price Schroeder, assistant county agent in charge of 4-H club work, announced today.

Because of wartime restriction, the tour will be held principally at the experiment station at Union. The 4-H boys and leaders from eastern Oregon counties will assemble on the grounds Friday morning at 9:30. At 10 will be rope holsters, tying livestock, etc.; 12 lunch; 1 Hall ranch on Catherine creek, branding, dehorning, castration, vaccination, and range management; 4:30 grasses and weeds; experiment station; 5:00 games; 7 softball; 8 assembly; 10 to bed.

Camp at Station Saturday starts with breakfast at 7 a.m., 8 beef judging and management; 9:30 sheep judging and management; 11 weeds and crops identification; 12 lunch; 1 dairy judging and management; 2:30 hog judging and management; 3:30 swimming at Cove.

The boys will camp on the grounds at the experiment station and meals will be served on the tables provided for picnic purposes at the station. Each boy is to provide his own table service and bedding and everything is so arranged that the program will move smoothly from 9:30 Friday morning until its close with the swim at Cove on Saturday afternoon.

A large delegation is expected, since beside the 60 members from Union county planning to attend, there will be eight members from Umatilla county, 10 from Malheur, 25 from Baker, four from Grant and six from Willamette.

The delegations from the various counties will be headed by: Union, Assistant County Agent Price Schroeder; Umatilla, Assistant County Agent E. M. Houser; Baker, Assistant County Agent James Parent; Grant, County Agent William H. Farrell; Willamette, Emergency Assistant Lee Hulburd.

L. J. Allen, assistant state 4-H club leader and H. G. Avery, superintendent of the Eastern Oregon experiment station, will be in charge of the tour.

14 Injured, None Killed in Halifax Arsenal Blasts

HALIFAX, July 19 (UP)—Fire spreading uncontrolled through the nearby Royal Canadian naval arsenal set off a continuous drumfire of heavy ammunition today, driving thousands from their homes in Halifax and Dartmouth and pinning them against the sea.

No trains were leaving or arriving and all boats had fled.

Wild rumors began sweeping the city at dawn as residents ventured into the glass-strewn streets after a sleepless night.

There were only 14 persons officially reported injured, but there were numerous rumors that at least six persons were killed. Communications were jammed and there was no way to check the rumors.

The city was almost panic stricken. The worst was waiting for the next explosion.

Rites Monday For M. A. Stephenson

Milan A. Stephenson, 79, died early today in a hospital here. He was born Aug. 10, 1865, in Eugene, but had lived all his life in Union and Baker counties.

Surviving him are two sons, Clarence, La Grande, Archie, Huntington; one sister, Mrs. Lou Shaw, Portland; four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and other relatives.

Funeral will be 2 p. m. Monday at the Snodgrass funeral home interment will be in the Masonic cemetery.



TARGET BY NIGHT — In the first night sea bombardment of Jap homeland, Hitachi, war "boom" town 75 miles north of Tokyo, is smashed by terrific shelling of Admiral Halsey's third fleet, while 1500 carriers continued to strike capital.

Record Force of B-29s Hammers 4 Honshu Cities

GUAM, Friday, July 20 (UP)—A record-breaking force of more than 600 Superfortresses, following up the greatest fleet surface and air bombardment in history, showered almost 4,000 tons of fire bombs on four Japanese industrial cities of Honshu island early today.

The newest and greatest Superfort attack came while Tokyo bay echoed from the crash of American gunfire from a naval squadron which shelled the mouth of the enemy stronghold in a bid to flush out the remnants of Japan's imperial fleet.

47 Blasted The Honshu cities of Hitachi, Choshi, Fukui and Okazaki were the targets, raising to 47 the number of Japanese industrial centers blasted in the 20th air force's knockout campaign.

In addition, the Superforts pinpointed the Nippon Oil company refinery north of Osaka with a sarg of high explosives, making it the tenth oil center sought out.

The navy revealed American carrier pilots sighted and attacked Japanese "combat shipping" at the Yokosuka naval base just inside Tokyo bay yesterday, suggesting major enemy fleet units might have been caught there.

On the List Units of the great Superfort,ess fleet dropped their incendiaries over a 310-mile stretch of Honshu. Hitachi, vital war production center 75 miles north of Tokyo with a population of 52,000, was still reeling from a bombardment by heavy fleet units Tuesday night.

"Hitachi came up for its turn coincidentally," a headquarters spokesman said. "It has been on our list for a long time."

Choshi, Honshu's most important fishing harbor, lies 60 miles east of the bomb-battered Japanese capital. Fukui, prefectural capital, is one of the leading industrial cities of western Honshu. Okazaki is an industrial suburb of Nagoya.

Ceilings To Be Suspended Soon . . . On Some Jewelry, Fur Coats, Luxuries

WASHINGTON, July 19 (UP)—The government soon will announce a broad change in price control policy which will lift or suspend price ceilings on 59 to 100 items, including jewelry and many types of fur coats, authoritative sources revealed today.

This action is being taken, it was said, to "streamline the office of price administration so it can spend more of its budget and manpower on basic reconversion pricing."

Free Energy Deputy Price Chief James F. Brownlee was scheduled to hold a press conference on reconversion pricing late today. It was doubted, however, he would announce the new exemption policy since it has not yet reached the "directive stage."

Croix de Guerre With Palm Given Sergeant Seward

Receives One of Highest Honors From French

Sgt. Harley Seward, 27, La Grande, husband of the former Gloria Wilkerson and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seward, has received the Croix de Guerre with palm for taking part in the liberation of France as a member of the first engineers, his family received word today.

The honor is one of the highest awarded by the French to a soldier.

Sergeant Seward did not describe the particular action for which the cross was awarded, but did reveal in his letter he expected to be starting homeward soon. He is in a camp near Rouen, called "20 Grand" from which soldiers are deployed to Le Havre from where they are sent home.

From de Gaulle The citation he received came from Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

Sergeant Seward has been in service five years, having left with the national guard, and has been overseas 18 months. He was in a hospital in Britain with a back injury on D-day, however, and when recovered from that underwent an emergency appendectomy.

Born at Elgin Born at Elgin, Sergeant Seward went to grade and high schools here. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and of the Eagles. He was the first Eagle to leave here in service in this war. At present, he writes his wife, he is helping to build camps for troops awaiting home orders or for occupation troops.

Besides the decoration already mentioned he has four ribbons for combat campaigns, etc. He lacks one point of having enough for discharge.

Sergeant Seward is the second La Grande soldier to receive this award, the first being Lt. Francis (Hans) Snodgrass.

Five Chinese Die For Killing Men

CHUNGKING, July 19 (UP)—The Central news agency today reported the execution of five Chinese army officers convicted of murdering more than 100 of their own troops, some of whom were buried alive.

In addition to wholesale murder the executed officers were accused of misappropriating military supplies, torturing relatives of their troops, extortion and other crimes.

The five officers of the Chinese 80th army were convicted by the inspectorate general for military law. A sixth officer involved in the case died while awaiting trial.

New Spot Flames Scatter

PORTLAND, July 19 (UP)—With Tillamook county fires creeping east farther into Washington by the hour and roaring west toward the ocean fanned by whipping winds, exhausted navy men have had to be returned to Astoria today for respite, after many days grueling battle.

Additional replacements from Fort Stevens, Fort Lewis, and Camp Adair were being rushed in today to stations at a camp set up where the Wilson river road crosses the Wilson river.

At noon, the entire countryside in the vicinity of the Consolidated lumber company camp was reported by spectators as an inferno, where flames leap from tree to tree, and new spot fires started from embers burst into house-size conflagrations every quarter hour.

Spreads One large spot fire born during night hours between the 28,000-acre Washington county-northeast Tillamook county and the 5,000-acre Salmonberry river fire, was spreading in both directions. Officials in charge expected the three fires to merge some time today.

Astoria and Tongue Point sailors narrowly escaped during the night, when fire moved toward them. They lay on the ground and sprayed the sea with fire-extinguishing fluid before they could move.

From Washington county headquarters at the lumber company camp, Dwight Phipps, assistant state forester, fire chief for the Wilson river burn, is directing the work of nearly 2,000 men working frantically to check the blaze before it reaches green timber.

The Salmonberry blaze was advancing northward, while the Wilson river fire was gaining to the north at the west end.

At the Portland mills camp at the west end of the Wilson river conflagration the roofs were burned off the donkey engines.

The Wilson river highway was closed between Glenwood and Tillamook Junction. Re-opened Tuesday it was reclosed yesterday because of burning snags, hot rocks, and dense smoke.

A. J. Ford, district maintenance superintendent of the state highway department, said McNamer's camp, a former WPA construction camp, is in the path of the fire.

Out Again More than 400 fire fighters from Fort Stevens camped at the Smith logging operations were forced to move back to the Tillamook air base, 20 miles distant, as the huge blaze on its western front in Tillamook swept coastward on both sides of the Wilson river.

In Polk county, the Willamette valley lumber company fire broke out of control again, 30 miles west of Dallas, covering some 2800 acres, according to Earl Fulgham, company manager. He said the fire had destroyed an estimated 4,000,000 feet of logs and some \$8000 worth of Willamette valley's equipment.

The Wilson river conflagration has also invaded an island of green Stimson timber, a stand of old-growth Douglas fir and the last remaining belt spared by the famed Tillamook fire of 1939, according to Gordon T. Hanson, Stimson official.

Mountbatten Goes To See MacArthur

MANILA, July 19 (UP)—Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten visited Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters last week to coordinate the final pushes against the Japanese from the southwest Pacific and the India-Burma theater, it was announced today.

Mountbatten, allied supreme commander in southeast Asia, was accompanied by key members of his staff on the visit to MacArthur's headquarters.

Mountbatten commands the forces facing the largest Japanese-held land masses so far uninvaded by the allies, including Malaya, Thailand and Sumatra, as well as a number of Indian ocean islands and parts of Burma.

Oscar Poarch Makes Nearly Everything of Wood But Hasn't Yet Tried to Make Women's Hats

He eventually may have to build a large house to take care of the expanding products of his hobby, but Oscar Poarch, artisan in wood, figures it's worth it.

Poarch turns out beautiful specimens of woodworking in his basement shop at 2006 Cedar, shaping the rough pieces of wood on his lathe, and polishing and varnishing the pieces by hand.

Some of his products have been given away, several have been sold, but the remainder rest in every available space, under beds, on tables, in boxes, and on shelves, making the house a treasure trove of wooden masterpieces.

Furniture Poarch has made every imaginable article from wood, and a few unimaginable, such as a purse for Mrs. Poarch, made of hinged strips of pine. He has offered (threatened?) to make a hat, too, but Mrs. Poarch is still a little apprehensive, although she admits her husband's hobby has come in mighty handy when it comes to such things as toy bowls, flower pot coasters, ash trays, wall shelves, and bud

vases.

He has made several pieces of furniture too, such as a bed, pine breakfast nook table and bench set, tables, drop leaf tables, coffee tables, dressing table and bench, and two and three-tiered conversation-piece tables.

Many Woods Poarch also has made some graceful honey-beige box elder standing lamps, half-sphere candlestick holders, salad bowls, fruit bowls, picture frames, sewing baskets, plates, pin-up lamps, and a pine paperweight with a top made from a thunder egg agate given him by a friend, Cecil Parsons.

He makes most of his products from ponderosa pine, but has several articles made from tano mahogany, myrtlewood, (which is grown in only two places in the world—the Holy Land and southwest Oregon), maple, box elder, juniper, South American maple, California redwood, Honduras mahogany, teakwood, camphorwood, cherry, apple, and Troy walnut. Troy walnut was planted by the first settlers on the Grande Ronde river, who

brought seedlings of Missouri black walnut with them, planting them at what is now Troy.

Prefers Pine Poarch prefers pine not only because it is a native wood, but also because such a variety of colors is found in it: shadings from blue to purple, pink to red, beige to brown-black, and white to sun-yellow. A spontaneous growth when the cap rises in the spring and summer causes the colors. Poarch has sometimes been asked by customers if the colors are painted in, but no paint made could achieve the delicate shades put there by natural means. The colors, however, sometimes may be artificially produced by laying the wood in a moist place.

Poarch also prefers pine because striking contrasts are made possible, proven by a rich tiger-striped beige and brown salad bowl, a marble-pine plate with watermelon colored stripes, a rolled-edge birdseye bowl, a rug-set bowl with golden flecks, and an ivory-white bowl with dark stripes, with a border of stripes.

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