

# La Grande Evening Observer

Established 1896

WEATHER

Partly cloudy through Friday; few snow flurries over mountains today; high today 40-47; low tonight 18-24; high Friday 36-43.

Daily except Sunday

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1958

Price 5 Cents

## California AF Base To Launch Satellites

VANDEMBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (UPI) — Scientists, engineers and construction men worked feverishly here today to ready this huge new Air Force base for "Project Discoverer," a program aimed at putting a man-carrying satellite into space.

The Defense Department announced Wednesday that the first shot in the program to find out how to put a man into orbit and get him back safely will be fired in about 30 days.

The biggest U. S. satellite to date will be launched. These eventually will include a five-ton artificial moon which is much bigger than anything Russia has put into orbit so far. Mice and monkeys will go first, probably on the fifth or sixth launchings about the middle of next year. When enough information is obtained, a man will be launched, but not in 1959.

Spokesmen explained one reason Vandenberg was chosen for this project is its location on the Pacific missile range, the world's largest, from where it is clear

shot to the South Pole, the direction in which all launchings from here will be made.

"In the Pacific, there is plenty of ocean in which to recover the satellites and many islands which can be used as tracking stations," a spokesman said.

Other reasons:

—Experts believe the jutting section of coast may be the only place in the U. S. where it is possible to launch satellites into Polar orbits. It is only in a Polar orbit that a reconnaissance satellite such as the Air Force Sentry could view the entire surface of the earth.

—The installation is close to "most manufacturers involved in production of missile development" and to headquarters for the Ballistic Missile Division of the Air Research and Development Command.

This base covers nearly 65,000 acres of a wild, beautiful Southern California coastal area which overlooks the "Valley of the Flowers," where 80 per cent of the world's commercial flower seed is produced. It is in the northern section of the tri-service Pacific missile range which extends from Point Mugu, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles, to Point Sal here, 168 miles from Los Angeles.

The Navy has overall charge of the range, with its headquarters at Point Mugu — an Indian name meaning "place of landing," but which is more properly "place of launching." Joined directly to the ocean range is a huge inland missile range, a strip running 500 miles northeast across the mountains and deserts of California and Nevada to the Army's Dugway proving grounds in Utah.

Arrival of the space age here has produced many growing pains, some of them funny. The missile-men must schedule many of their firings on the basis of a Southern Pacific railroad timetable because the SP's main coast line runs through the heart of the base. Passengers on the Daylight train which runs between San Francisco and Los Angeles can see shrouded Atlas and Thor missiles as they whisk through.

## Red Stand Blasts Ban Hopes

GENEVA (UPI) — Hopes for an effective ban on nuclear testing faded today when the Russians announced they will insist on the right to veto decisions of the organization set up to police the ban.

Radio Moscow, violating a pledge of secrecy, broadcast a detailed account of Soviet proposals to the nuclear-test conference here revealing for the first time that Russia will not accept majority rule in the control group.

The broadcast re-affirmed the Russian demand that tests must be banned "for all time," but at the same time expressed "strong objections" to the idea of setting up permanent inspection teams to police it.

The combined effect of the Soviet declarations probably will be to doom the conference on testing to failure.

At the same time, Radio Moscow served thinly-veiled notice on the United States and Britain that Russia reserves the right to resume testing at any time and to continue it until agreement on a ban is reached.

The stated goal of the prospective resumption of Soviet nuclear tests was to "match the total number of U.S. and British explosions since March 31, 1958" — when the Russians announced they were suspending tests.

## Plane Crash Fatal To Four In Denver

DENVER (UPI) — Four persons died in the crash of a private plane on takeoff into a snowstorm here today.

The dead were identified tentatively as Preston Joe Burkhardt, 39, his wife, Columbine, 30, their daughter, Sandra, 14, and Mrs. Kathleen Morrison, Burkhardt's sister.

The party was bound for Woodsfield, Ohio, where Burkhardt's mother suffered a heart attack Wednesday.

Burkhardt was an insurance agent and an expert on guns. He was an experienced pilot, according to his employer, John Price of the Travellers Insurance Co.

## Texans Record Mystery 'Beep'

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI) — A moonwatch team here made a recording of a radio signal from space Wednesday night, noted its period cycle, and concluded that it must be coming from an unidentified, man-made satellite.

A day earlier scientists in Sunnyvale, Calif., who first heard the signal Nov. 26, reported it definitely was not coming from any known satellite now circling the earth.

Dr. Paul Seabase, in charge of the Trinity College moonwatch team in San Antonio, said the signal consists of a constant "beep-beep," in a series of two each similar to that sent out by the first Sputnik.

He said the broadcast appears to come in intervals of about one hour and 40 minutes, "apparently from an unidentified, orbiting satellite." He added that the signal is right on the Russian frequency of 30,004.

The scientist said his team picked up the sound twice on Tuesday night.

A Defense Department spokesman said Wednesday that the department had not been told of any "mystery" signal.

After the first announcement of the signal by the California scientists there was brief speculation that it was coming from a Russian rocket, shot past the moon and traveling out beyond Mars.

## Labor Seeks Minimum Wage Hike

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Organized labor and its allies launched a major drive today to obtain an increase in the federal minimum wage and extend it to include millions of workers not now covered.

New demands for Congress to revamp the Fair Labor Standards Act were expected to result from a two-day conference marking the 20th anniversary of the minimum wage law.

The AFL-CIO and the National Consumers League, joint sponsors of the meeting, lined up such new deal headlines as former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and economist Leon Keyserling to address their conference.

The Labor Federation was on record in favor of a 25-cent boost in the minimum to \$1.25 and extension of coverage to nearly 10 million additional wage and salary

workers.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, scheduled to speak today did not commit himself on a higher minimum or broader coverage in his prepared remarks.

Mitchell said he would ask Congress to amend the act to authorize him to sue an employer to recover back wages for an underpaid worker without the worker's written permission as now required.

He said many workers are reluctant to give their consent even though they have been paid wages below the legal minimum.

"Any man (who) cheats his employees will not be expected to look kindly upon being dragged into court by one of them," Mitchell said. The cabinet member asked more workers to complain if their employers violate the



SKI CARNIVAL—The annual Ski Carnival, co-sponsored by the junior and senior high school ski clubs, will be held at the junior high school starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow night, Harvey Carter, principal there, said this morning. Purpose of the event is to secure funds for the school ski teams, and to purchase additional equipment for junior and high school club members.

At the carnival a queen from each school will be selected. High school queen candidates (top picture) are from left, Patty Parker, Donna Dodge and Cresta Shaw. Junior high queen candidates are from left (bottom picture) Bonnie Scott, Carol Easley and Susan Cunningham. The public is invited to attend the carnival. (Observer Photos)



## Tighter Fire Law Promised

CHICAGO (UPI) — City officials promised to tighten fire laws today when an investigation indicated lack of fire doors sucked suffocating gases to the second floor of a parochial school, killing 87 children and three nuns.

Investigators combing the charred Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic grade school for clues to the tragic Monday afternoon holocaust believe the flames broke out in rubbish under a basement stairwell.

They said the flames and smoke and gases swept up the open stairwell to the second floor, killing the children in one searing breath.

Most of the victims were found in six classrooms on the second floor. The first floor, protected by a metal fire door, suffered relatively little fire damage.

However, the pastor of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church and the janitor of the school denied any implications of negligence. The pastor, Msgr. Joseph Cucussen, said as far as he knew no papers or rubbish had accumulated beneath the stairwell.

## Local Firemen Protest Order To Do City Hall Janitor Work

Paid and volunteer firemen appeared en masse at the City Commission meeting last night to object to an order now in effect that firemen must do the janitor work in the city hall building.

Fire Chief Ray Snider said the firemen met yesterday without his knowledge to discuss the order issued effective last Monday by City Manager Fred Young. Snider, however, said that since the men object to the janitor work order, he would back up his men on the objection because such work will impair the efficiency of the fire fighters and

lower the morale of both the paid and volunteer firemen.

A number of paid and volunteer firemen spoke on the subject, stating that a few minutes lost getting back to the fire hall from washing windows or mopping city hall floors might be costly in fighting a fire. Also, they said, "we are proud of being firemen" and that they did not want to be doing janitor work. They said they would do anything in the line of work to increase the efficiency of the fire department.

Commissioners said they would meet with Young to discuss the janitor work order. Young was home in bed with the flu last night and did not attend the regular commission meeting.

Commissioners last night also discussed the possible sale or lease of the Morgan lake property to the State Game Commission. Commission directed Young to get together with William Brown of the game commission to see just what arrangement could be worked out.

The game commission wants the lake so trash fish can be killed and the lake stocked with trout next year.

Commissioner Gordon Clarke said he would like to hear some opinions from the public on what they think should be done with the lake property which the city can buy from the California-Pacific Utilities Company for \$7,500. Details on the purchase are being worked out between city and utility company officials.

## Fire Nearly Under Control

MALIBU, Calif. (UPI) — The huge Malibu brush fire which has destroyed 40 homes and blackened more than 20,000 acres was reported almost under control today but still extremely dangerous.

More than 2,000 men remained on firelines, concentrating mainly on hot ticks of flame which endangered a populated section near Webster School and two other hot spots along a five-mile perimeter on the east and west lines.

A fleet of airplanes dropping packs of a water-borate solution bombed the area, especially the hot spots and the inaccessible sections in the rugged canyons.

The fire by night looked like a million bonfires from a distance. But the stench of destruction could be smelled from miles away.

Residents returning to sections which already have been wiped out and no longer offered anything for the blaze to feed on, were faced with a terrible scene of desolation.

The blackened hillsides which only two years ago fed the disastrous Malibu fire that claimed one life, 45,000 acres and 60 million dollars worth of property were once again littered with the carcasses of animals.

## Nine Survive 'Copter Crash

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Survivors of a helicopter crash that took one life and injured nine other persons told today of a harrowing four-hour wait for rescue from the chill waters of the Potomac River.

Coast Guard and Washington harbor police rescued the passengers from the fog-shrouded river Wednesday night, and at first it was thought all had been saved.

But early today harbor police found the body of one man floating near the marsh-like crash scene two miles south of here. He was identified from papers

as M. A. Thralls, 48, a civilian employe of the Fairchild Camera Co., Syosset, N. Y.

The papers indicated he lived at Convent Road and Fourth Place, Syosset, N. Y.

The nine men rescued were six Marines and sailors and three civilians.

The helicopter, a Sikorsky HR2S, was on a routine turnaround flight to Anacostia Naval Air Station here from Patuxent Naval Air Station about 50 miles away in southern Maryland.

One of the civilian survivors, Clarence Chick, 29, of Lexington Park, Md., said the helicopter "was flying along when all of a sudden water rushed in and metal started flying." He said he found himself hanging upside down by his seat safety belt.

Another passenger, Navy aviation machinist's mate Clayton Akers, 26, of Pulaski, Va., said he

guessed the plane hit a sandbar. Akers, who suffered minor cuts and bruises and exposure, said some of the passengers and crew stayed in the overturned helicopter and some clung to it in the water.

The accident happened within hailing distance of shore. But the men's plight went unnoticed until residents of a large nearby apartment in South Alexandria, Va., finally heard their cries and alerted harbor police who sped to the rescue.

The survivors were in the river for nearly four hours after the plane went down about 6:30 p.m. e.s.t.

Chick said most of those aboard stayed in the helicopter after the crash. "The tide came in and we were about knee deep in water," he said.

Akers said there was no indication of trouble until the helicopter hit.

"All of a sudden there I was in the water," he said. "It was pretty cold."

Akers said he shot two flares to attract attention. But police said their search was hampered by fog even after the apartment dwellers notified them of the crash.

The Navy said the helicopter was piloted by Marine Maj. William Quick 37, of California, Md.

## Lost Plane Search Continues

PENDLETON (UPI) — Wreckage of a light plane, believed to be one missing since Monday with two men aboard, was spotted on a mountain top today, a search official here reported.

CONDON, Ore. (UPI) — Search resumed in central Oregon today for a light plane missing since Monday on a flight from Spray, southeast of here, to Seattle.

Aboard the craft were William Kelsey, 25, Seattle and Richard Jacobs, 32, Kent, Wash.

An all-day aerial search Wednesday failed to produce a sign of the craft.

There was a report Wednesday night that a logger had seen what he believed to be airplane wreckage about four or five miles northeast of Kinzua, which is between Condon and Spray. Bruce Mercer, a local businessman, said he and eight other men searched until 2:30 a.m. in the rugged area without finding a trace of wreckage. He said they hunted an area 1 1/2 miles long by 500 or 600 yards wide.

Earl Snyder, head of the State Bureau of Aeronautics, said in Salem the search was being concentrated today on an area 15 miles wide and 30 miles long from Spray to Kinzua. He said about four planes would search this area. Other aircraft will search a triangle with Spray, Boardman and The Dalles as the points.

Snyder said it was raining when the pair took off from Spray Monday morning and that the search was being concentrated south of the Columbia river in belief the plane did not make it into clear weather north of Condon that day. He said this possibility was not being ruled out, however.

## Translator Power Hike OK

The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that television translator systems can use up to 100 watts of output power, officials of the Grande Ronde Television Association reported this morning.

The local system has been limited to 10 watts output power at the translator until now, according to Harlow A. Speckhart, Translator system associations over the nation have been working several months to get an increase in the allowable power.

Speckhart said that since many home in the valley have been shaded by trees, buildings, etc., the Grande Ronde Television Association has been actively promoting 100 watts output before the industry and the FCC in order that it might provide an adequate signal to all homes in the valley proper. Union and La Grande particularly have been hampered by the attenuation of signal within their towns.

Speckhart said it would be impossible to modify the Grande Ronde Valley station before next spring because of winter weather conditions. The modification would cost between \$18,000 and \$20,000 for all three channels here, Speckhart said.

Because of the cost involved, members of the board of directors of the local translator system said it will be up to the association members whether or not the wattage is increased here. There are now 740 association members, Speckhart said.

Speckhart said "The advantages of 100 watts output are that every home in the valley proper would have no trouble getting a snow-free picture and television sets would not have to be kept tuned to a peak in order to give satisfactory reception."

## \$100,000 Jewel Theft Reported

NEW YORK (UPI) — A \$100,000 jewel robbery — the third East Side haul in two weeks — was reported Wednesday night by socialite yachtman John Parkinson.

Parkinson told police that the gems, including his wife's \$25,000 diamond necklace, disappeared from his whole-floor Fifth Avenue apartment sometime between Monday and Wednesday noon. There were no signs of forcible entry.

Parkinson, a broker, said the jewels had been in a drawer in a bathroom closet adjoining the master bedroom of the 12-room apartment. He said that in addition to the necklace, a diamond and an emerald ring worth \$12,500 each, a \$17,000 pearl necklace, and \$6,500 diamond and sapphire bracelet were missing.

The Parkinson apartment is five floors below that of Mrs. Julius Ochs Adler, widow of the vice president and general manager of the New York Times, who reported \$12,000 worth of gold jewelry missing from her apartment Tuesday.

Authorities are still searching for clues to the theft of \$35,000 worth of jewels and furs from the Hotel Plaza suite of Porfirio Rubirosa, Dominican playboy-diplomat, and his wife Nov. 21. The hotel is eight blocks down Fifth Avenue from the Parkinson and Adler apartments.

## Police Probe Double Murder

PHOENIX (UPI) — Police investigating the throat-cutting double murder of gambler Gus Greenbaum and his wife today sought a former employe who once served a prison sentence for stealing from Greenbaum.

Milner Jarvis was wanted for questioning on his whereabouts at the time of the brutal slayings. Police said Greenbaum signed a complaint which led to Jarvis' arrest and conviction of stealing \$45,000 in 1948 from the Las Vegas Flamingo Hotel owned by the wealthy gambler.

Jarvis was sentenced to 2 to 14 years in Nevada State Prison. He was released before his term expired and less than two weeks ago was seen in Las Vegas.

Police emphasized Jarvis was not a suspect but that he was sought as a matter of routine. A \$10,000 reward was being offered for the killer.

Greenbaum, 65, president of the fabulous Riviera Hotel on Las Vegas Strip, was found in his home Wednesday with his throat slashed.

Mrs. Greenbaum, 64, fully clothed, her hands tied behind her with her husband's bow ties, and her throat also cut, was discovered 75 yards away in a den.

DIRECTORS REELECTED — Stockholders of La Grande Industrial Promotions at the fourth annual meeting of the corporation last night, re-elected Dave Baum, Dr. Fred Otten, and John Sullivan to serve three-year terms on the board of directors. Corporation officers will be elected within the next two weeks at the annual board meeting.



RADAR EDUCATION — State Police officers Sgt. D. J. (Casey) Casiato and Fred Carpenter, this morning explained and demonstrated the use of radar equipment in checking speeding to La Grande high school driver training classes. Casiato explained the legality of the equipment and assured the students that you can't "beat" the radar by the use of aluminum foil in hubcaps or "systems" for blocking the radar readings. Carpenter drove a police car past the radar equipment so the students could check his speed on the equipment. High school instructor Harry Mondale is shown above at left, with Casiato in uniform at right near the police car and radar equipment. (Observer Photo)