

Satellite Program Publicized

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The United States plans to launch an average of two satellites a month in 1959 while at the same time forging ahead with ballistic missiles and other nuclear weapons to deter Russia from war.

In the nip-and-tuck race, America is credited by many experts with setting a faster pace in space exploration this year and holding its own in long-range missile development.

Scientists and military men hail the talking Atlas satellite launched Dec. 18 as evidence of spectacular performance by a nation caught flat-footed by Russia's first Sputnik 14 months ago.

In the weapons field as 1958 ends, American Thor missiles are installed in Britain in at least small numbers, ready to hurl atomic retaliation if Russia provokes war.

American Jupiter missiles of the same range are ready for deployment to Italy.

Russia is credited officially here with having operational missiles with ranges up to 3000 or 1,000 miles. She has not, apparently, deployed those weapons to bases in her Eastern European satellite countries.

Both America and Russia are perfecting intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), but neither has them in service. The U.S. Atlas ICBM, one of which became the now-orbiting 8,700 pound satellite, is slated to enter Strategic Air Command units by the end of 1959.

A test Atlas has been fired 6,300 miles down the Atlantic missile range from Florida with considerable accuracy.

Russia is believed to have fired her competing missile 4,000 miles and the U.S. government accepts the reported Russian claim that it can double that range.

Two Burglary Suspects Held

An alert La Grande police officer, hours of interrogation by Chief of Police O. E. Reeve, and the use of teletype communication between here and Hood River resulted in the admission of a Hood River burglary Dec. 22.

Police Officer Leslie L. Gilbert yesterday spotted three young men "acting suspicious" in their car. He "checked them out," and brought them to the police station for further questioning.

Reeve contacted Hood River Sheriff Rupert Gillmouthe after it was learned the three men were from the Hood River area.

One of them, identified as Rosser Payson Smith, 19, had given police his name as James Arthur Arnet and had a drivers license social security card and other identification using that name. He finally admitted his true name.

Cecil Cedric Gabriel, 17, is also held in the city jail in connection with the store burglary which netted several cartons of cigarettes, 10 cases of beer, several cans of food, slabs of bacon and ham and other groceries.

The third man brought in for questioning was Lowell Halm, 19, also from Hood River. He is charged with driving a car with defective brakes and defective muffler.

It was also learned that Smith is wanted on charges of being absent without leave from the Navy.

Hood River county officials are expected to come to La Grande today to talk with the three men and take Smith and Gabriel back with them on charges of burglarizing the Niel Creek grocery store.

City Commission To Meet Tonight

Because of New Year's Eve Wednesday, the city commission will meet tonight. This will be the last meeting for Commission President Robert McMillan who has served on the commission four years.

McMillan will be replaced as a member of the commission by William Herrmann at the first meeting of the commission after the first of the year. Also after the first of the year the commission will vote on a new president.

The Tuesday meeting will start at 7:30 p. m. on the second floor of the city hall building.



MARCH OF DIMES—Members of Alpha Upsilon chapter of Beta Sigma Phi worked last night preparing March of Dimes folders for mailing. The annual drive for polio funds will get under way early in January here under the direction of A. B. (Spud) Olson. Front row, left to right, Alma Hornfelt (back to camera); Linda Sands, Helen Knause, Mary Bea Jenkins and Phyllis Tarter. Back row, from left, Alidean McMaster, Jean Sidor and Pat Young. (Observer Photo)

Ike To Give Talk In Person

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (UPI)—The White House announced today that President Eisenhower will deliver his State of the Union Message in person to a joint session of Congress Jan. 9.

The document will be a broadly based review of world and national affairs and will be followed later by special messages on specific domestic problems.

The President is devoting much of his New Year's holiday on his farm to work on the state of the union and the message to Congress later next month which will accompany his 77 billion dollar budget.

A preliminary draft of the State of the Union message was under study in Washington at the White House today. The President summoned his chief assistant, Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Parsons, and Dr. Malcolm Moos, the top White House speech writer, to Gettysburg Wednesday for a conference on the highly important message.

The new Congress opens Jan. 7. Press Secretary James C. Hagerty confirmed reports that the White House was studying a proposed reorganization and consolidation of the executive offices of the President.

Hagerty hoped before the day was over to announce the detailed plans for Eisenhower's ceremonial signing late this week of the proclamation formally admitting Alaska to the union as the 49th state.

Plane Crashes Into Water

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (UPI)—A twin-engine Swedish-built Scandia plane of the Brazilian domestic airline Vasp plunged into Guanabara Bay before hundreds of beachfront on-lookers today and sank within three minutes.

Observers at the scene said no one was killed, and only a few persons aboard were injured.

The plane took off for Sao Paulo from Santos Dumont Field with 31 passengers and four crewmen aboard. One engine caught fire and the pilot attempted to circle back to the airport.

But he did not have enough altitude and the plane hit the water about 200 yards short of the runway and 250 yards from the fashionable Hotel Gloria.

Passengers scrambled out of the wreckage before the aircraft sank. Small boats immediately began picking them up and carried them ashore.

LIBRARY CLOSURE SET

Persons expecting to read a good library book New Year's Eve or during a lull in the Rose oval football game, should go to the La Grande library before 5 p. m. Wednesday.

Librarian Miss Mabel Doty said the library would remain closed New Year's Day.

W. Europe's Economy Strong After Freedom

LONDON (UPI)—West Europe's economy bounced back strongly today from its first big post-war dose of freedom, and economic experts said the way was now clear to import more U.S. and Canadian consumer goods.

The British pound sterling, which any foreigner now can change for U.S. and Canadian dollars, kicked off its second control-free day with a new showing of strength. Continental currencies followed suit.

The biggest sour note in a generally bright European economic picture came from France. Communist-dominated labor unions there rumbled ominously against the heavy doses of austerity ordered by the De Gaulle government.

President-elect Charles de Gaulle's ability to enforce a stern belt-tightening financial program to keep France's newly devalued franc in line would be the first showdown test of his government's authority.

Western Europe got its economic boost Monday when Britain and ten continental neighbors made their currencies "externally convertible"—meaning that any foreigner could convert the currencies almost without restrictions into dollars and other hard currencies.

It was a daring move designed to restore sound money in Europe and first results were promising. British financial experts said there now is no reason why Britain and other Western European nations should not progressively step up their imports of consumer goods from the United States and Canada.

Hitherto, because of a shortage of dollars, most Western European countries have had to limit their dollar area purchases to heavy capital goods and vital necessities commodities like oil and coal.

But now American cigarettes, coffee, breakfast foods, canned goods and other consumer items for which Europeans have been "starving" for years are likely to cross the Atlantic in increasing quantities.

West Europe's foreign exchange markets and stock exchanges reacted enthusiastically to the new situation. The pound sterling and most continental currencies stood firm all day Monday and opened strongly again this morning.

Dufur Man Gets Wheat League Job

PENDLETON — The appointment of Andrew J. Ward, Jr., Dufur, as Assistant Secretary of the Oregon Wheat Growers League was announced today by President Frank Tubbs, Adams rancher. Ward, who has been doing graduate work in agriculture at Oregon State College, will assume his post with the League offices in Pendleton on January 2.

Ward fills the vacancy created this fall when Jim Hutchinson became far east marketing director for the Wheat League in January.

As assistant secretary, Ward will work with League officers and committees, and county wheat growers associations, as well as with the Oregon Wheat Commission, in helping to carry out the growers' varied program of activities. A portion of his time will be devoted to League publicity.

Prizes Await Contest Winner

Among other awards, the girl selected as Miss Oregon Centennial in Portland next summer, will receive a trip to Hawaii, a trip to Atlantic City to participate in the Miss American pageant, a college scholarship from the Pepsi-Cola Company and will reign over the Oregon Centennial during 1959, according to Dale McKee, publicity director for the local 1959 state.

The winner of the Union county "Miss Centennial" contest, slated here Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in conjunction with a Birthday Ball, and her two princesses will be entered in the Miss Oregon Centennial contest.

McKee also reported that the Oregon Pageant committee in Portland has agreed to cooperate in sponsoring a Miss Oregon Centennial contest to select a Miss Oregon for 1959.

McKee urged local groups and business organizations to sponsor an entry in the local queen contest.

Only cost to the sponsor is a \$2 entry fee, he said. The entry must be between the ages of 18 and 21, unmarried, and free to reign over Union county festivities throughout the year if she is selected as queen.

He said that the Miss Oregon pageant committee will send a representative to work with the county committee to organize the local pageant. Entry blanks for the contest may be secured at the county centennial office in the Scajawaen Hotel, McKee said.

Car Report Stirs Brief Flurry Of Excitement In Hunt For 5

PORTLAND (UPI)—A report that a station wagon similar to the one belonging to the missing Ken Martin family was seen here Monday night touched off a brief flurry of excitement.

Police set up roadblocks at Cascade Locks and on the Mt. Hood highway after a service station attendant east of here reported selling gasoline to two men in a 1954 Ford station wagon painted cream with a red trim. This was the type of car Martin was driving when he and his wife and three daughters, of Portland, vanished Dec. 7 after going on a Christmas tree hunting trip.

However, search for a vehicle bearing the Martin's license number—IG-7156—proved fruitless. The attendant had said the digits 7156 "seemed to stick" in his mind. Later a similar vehicle was reported to have stopped at a Troutdale store.

Meanwhile, authorities were ready to write off as a possible clue an abandoned 1951 car found east of Cascade Locks. The car, belonging to Mario Alvarez of Los Angeles, was reported Monday to have been in Los Angeles Dec. 9, two days after the Martins disappeared. Alvarez said he loaned the car to Lester Price. A service station operator in Los Angeles reported selling Price gasoline Dec. 9 and said he had a credit slip signed by Price. Price also picked up his pay check Dec. 8 at a printing firm, according to a spokesman for the firm.

Two other possible leads still were being checked out. A woman's glove found near the highway east of Cascade Locks was sent to the FBI lab for checking.

Two hunters reported they had seen a vehicle resembling the Martin car in the Lolo Pass area northwest of Mt. Hood Dec. 7. A re-check of this area was scheduled.

The best clue to the Martin's disappearance was a credit slip indicating they purchased gasoline at Cascade Locks, east of here on the Columbia River highway, the day they vanished.

Cuban Rebs Raid Explosives Depot

HAVANA (UPI)—Cuban rebels struck into the heart of Havana Province today with a daring raid on an explosives depot in which they dynamited the huge stores of ammunition they could not carry away.

The raid on a privately owned explosives depot at Guanabacoa across the bay from Havana followed rebel claims to have smashed government forces in Central and Eastern Cuba. The rebels were boasting they were "at the doors of triumph."

Government sources disrupted the sweeping rebel claims but admitted there was heavy fighting around the city of Santa Clara in Central Cuba where the rebels have claimed major successes in street fighting.

The army said its forces were on the offensive in Central Cuba and were driving the rebels ahead of them despite rebel propaganda broadcasts to "create unrest."

The blast of the Guanabacoa explosives were heard in lower Havana. Police called in all reserves and alerted the 19 precinct stations in the Greater Havana area. Roads and airports were blocked off.

First reports said several armed men aboard a six-wheeled truck pulled up in front of the explosives storage of the Armera de Cuba, importers of explosives, at 6:30 a.m. and with the aid of two of the three soldiers on guard loaded the vehicle.

They tied up a civilian watchman and the third soldier and dynamited what explosives were left. Police established roadblocks in the area, adjacent the Hebrew cemetery in Guanabacoa, and also put on a special guard at the private airport in nearby Bacuranao. Roads leading out of Havana also were placed under vigilance, particularly the Central Highway leading to Pinar del Rio Province at the western end of the island.

It was the second rebel-authored incident of sabotage in Havana Province in 12 hours. A small bridge was blown up Monday night at Guira de Melanao.

At the same time a new radio station which identified itself as the "Voice of the Communist Party" appealed to all workers and members of the party to join forces against the "last stand of the dictator" President Fulgencio Batista.

Rebel radio broadcasts said insurgent forces had captured 80 per cent of the rich farming province of Las Villas in Central Cuba in a major rebel victory that would cut the island almost in two and seal off Havana from its food supplies.

Other broadcasts reported sweeping victories in Oriente Province, the center of rebel activity in easternmost Cuba. Rebel radios said the army was on the run in many areas falling back on the provincial capital of Santiago.

The government bombed the rebels relentlessly in around-the-clock bombing and strafing attacks in perhaps the heaviest fighting of the Fidel Castro-led revolution, but heavy street fighting was reported underway in Santa Clara, the capital of Las Villas Province, 100 miles east of Havana.

Santa Clara, a city of 150,000, is one of the principal communication centers of Cuba. It controls all main north-south and east-west railroads and highways and supplies Havana with much of its meat, sugar, coffee and tobacco. Already a meat shortage was reported in Havana.

A rebel broadcast said their troops smashed through government lines to enter the city of Santa Clara and capture the University of Santa Clara three miles from the city limits. It said "army forces fell back towards the Leoncio Vidal Barracks," headquarters of the Third Military District.

The radio said the rebels were led by Dr. Ernesto Guevara, a left-wing Argentine-born physician who successfully assaulted nearby cities last week.

A new station heard in Havana, which claimed to be pro-rebel, hailed him as a "Communist comrade."

A report from central Cuba said the rebels were planning to form a provisional government at Caibarien, 25 miles southeast of Santa Clara, under Dr. Manuel Urrutia, a former Oriente Province judge who fled into exile in the United States and returned to Cuba recently.

Fire Siren Will Test New Alarm

The La Grande fire siren will sound at 7 p.m. today, but unless something unforeseen happens, it will be only to try out a new fire box and call paid and volunteer firemen to drill.

Fire Chief Ray Snider this morning said a new fire alarm box has been installed by the U. S. National Bank, and the siren will be set off from that box to try it out.

A high voltage wire last summer was blown into the city fire alarm wiring system and burned at the old box by the bank.

Snowstorm Lashes Southwest

United Press International

A record southwestern snowstorm raged through the night, crippling traffic and stranding motorists in parts of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

A record 14 inches of snow stalled traffic in Albuquerque, N.M., Monday, snapping utility lines and knocking out electricity to at least 50,000 persons.

Up to 15 inches of snow hit other sections of the southern plains of New Mexico and drifting snow of six to seven inches swept the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles.

Drifts of nearly eight feet closed all roads in the Oklahoma panhandle during the night, and other roads in central and northwestern Oklahoma were reported as hazardous with packed snow and freezing rain.

In Texas, scores of persons were stranded by the heavy snow along U.S. 287 from Amarillo to Dumas Monday before highway crews opened the highway Monday night.

The Texas Highway Patrol said roads into New Mexico north of Amarillo were blocked by snow, and plows worked through the night to restore traffic.

The snow storm was blamed for a car-truck crash Monday which killed Mrs. Elizabeth O'Dell Whiteside, 39, Amarillo, and her daughter, Tanya, 10, at Vernon, Tex.

The snowstorm continued during the night from Oklahoma and southwest Kansas westward into southern Colorado and eastern New Mexico.

An 18-inch snowfall buried Fraser, Colo., Trinidad, Colo., reported five inches and Denver had one inch.

Warmer temperatures in the 30s and 40s prevailed in the Ohio Valley and the Atlantic Coast and in the Pacific Coast states. Rain continued in the East from eastern Virginia into southeastern Pennsylvania into southeastern New York.

Mrs. Duncan Faces Charge

VENTURA, CALIF. (UPI)—A 54-year-old mother whose fear of losing her son allegedly led her to mastermind the "for hire" slaying of her daughter-in-law will be arraigned on a murder charge today along with two confessed killers.

Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, a Santa Barbara, Calif., matron, and Augustine Baldonado, 25, and Luis Moya, 22, confessed killers were indicted by the grand jury Friday for the bludgeon-strangulation of Olga Duncan, 30.

District Attorney Roy Gustafson said he would seek the death penalty against all three when the case comes to court.

The attractive victim who was seven-months pregnant when she was killed Nov. 17 had married attorney Frank Duncan, 29, last June 20. They separated only two weeks later and were planning a reconciliation at the time of the slaying, according to Duncan.

At the same time the three defendants accused of Olga's death were to be arraigned, it was believed a private funeral service for the attractive Canadian-born nurse would be held at the First Methodist Church.

Olga's father, Elias Kupezyk 61, a railroad worker from Benito, Manitoba, Canada, arrived in Los Angeles, about 65 miles south of here, on Sunday and Monday held a tearful meeting with Duncan. They had never met before.

Kupezyk and his son-in-law agreed to comply with a wish expressed by Olga several years ago that she be cremated. They said cremation would take place at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park.

Teen Dance Set Tomorrow Night

Youth Activity Committee spokesmen said this morning that a teenage "New Year's Dance" would be held at the armory tomorrow night from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Music for the holiday dance will be provided by records and regular admission charges will be made.

They also reminded teen-age girls that either dresses or sweater and skirts must be worn to the dance. Pedal-pushers are out, according to the committee. All teenagers in the area are being urged to come and make the dance a happy holiday affair.

BULLETIN

CHICAGO (UPI)—Twelve-ounce Gloria Hanses, who if she had lived would have tied the record for the smallest baby to survive, died today in her third day.

PLANE CRASH KILLS TWO

PORTLAND (UPI)—A light plane crashed near the Baldoock freeway about 15 miles south of here today, killing its two young occupants.

The victims were identified by state police as Jerald Wayne Hallet, 18, and Harold Richard Monroe Jr., both of Los Angeles.