

La Grande Observer Evening

Established 1896

Daily except Sunday

LA GRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1959

Price 5 Cents

U.S. May Have More Radioactive Fallout Than Other Nations

WASHINGTON (UPI) — New evidence before Congress indicates the United States may have more to fear than any other major country from radioactive fallout produced by nuclear explosions.

Fallout, mainly from Soviet nuclear tests promises within a few months to double the amount of radioactive Strontium 90 in a belt centered on 40 degrees north latitude, which passes through the middle of the United States.

Firm Paid Large Sum To Unions

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate Rackets Committee heard testimony today that a big East Coast printing firm paid out more than \$300,000 to union officials to get favors from the teamsters and longshore unions.

Executives of the Neo Gravure Printing Co., Weehawken, N. J., said the money was paid to Harold Gross, ex-convict president of teamsters Local 300 in Miami, and to Cornelius Noonan, head of Local 1730 of the International Longshoremen's Association.

They said \$15,750 was paid to the pair during a 1948 teamsters strike to make possible night deliveries of newspaper supplements to the New York Times and Mirror.

The company prints Sunday supplements for a number of East Coast newspapers. Its officials said the Time and Mirror later reimbursed Neo Gravure for the payments to the union officials.

Payments For Peace
Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.) suggested that officials of the two newspapers be asked whether they deducted the payments as business expenses for tax purposes.

The Neo Gravure executives said Gross was paid \$100,000 over a 13-year period to keep peace with the teamsters.

In addition, they said, \$28,000 in cash was paid to Gross over seven years so that copies of the American Weekly could be delivered to the New York Journal American without fear of a jurisdictional dispute between the teamsters and the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union.

Sing Sing Graduate
William P. Hillbrant, treasurer, and Charles E. Chenieck, vice president and general manager of Neo Gravure, said the firm paid salaries to Gross totaling \$98,459 at the rate of \$143 a week plus \$460 a month since 1945, when he went on the payroll as a foreman.

Committee staff members said Gross was hired several months after being paroled from Sing Sing Prison where he had served about three years of a sentence for extortion.

Earlier, 13 officials of the New York Newspaper Deliverers Union took blanket refuge behind the Fifth Amendment when asked if they received payoffs from newspaper distributors.

Called before the committee in groups of three and four, the witnesses — including nine members of the 10-man union Executive Board — all pleaded possible self incrimination to avoid answering questions.

JUST ROCKS
MONTREAL (UPI)—City officials today launched an investigation into garbage collection after learning that employees of some private firms that get \$6.80 a ton were loading up with rocks.

Small but Mighty!
"I sold it the first day — I'd call that immediate results," says Mrs. Holmes.

32—Appliances, etc. —32
MONTGOMERY Ward chest type freezer, good condition. \$150. xxx C Ave. WO x-xxxx.

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KISS OF DEATH AT PONDOSA

A wink, a head nod or a lifted finger— these were signs which signaled the kiss of death yesterday for Pondosa, Ore. as the auctioneers recognized the various maneuvers as bids on sawmill equipment,

homes and real estate. Legitimate bidders and just plain sightseers are shown above while a locomotive was auctioned for \$27,000 to a Portland scrap dealer who said he would use the vehicle in his operations. (Observer Photo)



REX ROBERTS

AUCTIONEER'S CHANT MARKS END OF OLD LOGGING TOWN

BY H. E. PHILBY
Observer Staff Writer

PONDOSA (Special)—This ghost town had a one-day revival of life yesterday under the chant of an auctioneer and thousands of visitors and sawmill and real estate bidders.

All that remains today is the job of moving out houses and thousands of sawmill equipment pieces and the memory of a one-time active and thriving lumber village of 250 people.

Although Valsetz Lumber Company officials and auctioneers announced that it was hoped the town would be bought in one piece and retained as a town, but the 543 registered bidders decided differently. Not a single bid was entered for the entire site of 53 homes, 11 industrial buildings, a water system and 280 acres of land.

Rex Roberts, representing the Northwest Machinery Sales Company of Roseburg successfully bid \$7,750 for the sawmill property, hotel, general store and 11 industrial buildings, all located on about 240 acres. He later purchased the two wells and equipment which was the mill and town water supply system. One house was included in the sale.

Roberts said he had no idea what the firm would do with the mill and town site, but that ownership of the buildings would allow his firm to temporarily leave other equipment at Pondosa during the auction.

The first piece of real estate put up for auction was a house with 35 acres. This was bought for \$7,600 by F. L. Dorman of Star, Idaho. He purchased the property for his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dorman, of Rt. 1, Baker, who plan to farm the acreage. Some of the 53 homes sold for as little \$300. Cost of moving the houses was estimated at between \$300 and \$1,000, depending on the size of the house. The prices were based on moving the houses to either La Grande or Baker.

Total sale price was \$33,925 for the separately sold houses, real estate and industrial buildings. Employees of the Milton J. Wershow auctioneering company

of Los Angeles, Calif. are pouring over sales records today, trying to determine the total auction figure. Bidders are here paying for their purchases and arranging to move their items.

The 551 registered bidders represented numerous large lumber firms in Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho, as well as local area residents interested primarily in the houses, office equipment and small shop items. It took 11 hours, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. to complete the sale.

Three auctioneers varied the pace to suit the mood of the crowd. Some items, among the literally thousands offered for sale, auctioned at ridiculously low figures and other pieces of equipment

equally ridiculously high figures. M. Gale Beals of Mt. Emily Lumber Company, a subsidiary of Valsetz, said that for the most part he was happy the way the auction was going. It was Beals who made the ignored request that the entire townsite and homes be maintained as a single unit.

Numerous local residents expressed remorse over the death of Pondosa, particularly in view of the potential of the area as a tourist attraction because of the nearness to the geographic center of the United States as recently determined.

The death of Pondosa also marked the demise of the Big Creek and Telocaset Railroad. This 14-mile private track line owned by a Portland investor, was built in 1926, when Pondosa was established, to haul logs from cutting areas to the sawmill. A 50-ton locomotive, owned by Mt. Emily and used on the line, was auctioned to Manuel Schnitzer, a Portland scrap dealer. Schnitzer paid \$27,000 for the locomotive.

Held Manager Prisoner Then Robbed Bank
ONTARIO, Calif. (UPI) — Two bandits held a bank manager prisoner during the night and then accompanied him to his bank of America branch this morning before fleeing with an estimated \$60,000 to \$70,000, the FBI announced.

The two men, one tall and the other short, went to the home of manager Frank Colella about 9 p.m. Tuesday. The tall man identified himself as "Sgt. Murphy" of the Ontario Police Department and, although the men were not in uniform, Colella permitted them to enter.

After entering the house, the bandits drew guns and told Colella they planned to rob the bank branch. Then they forced the manager and his wife and his father into the Colella car. Colella said the men drove them around Orange and San Bernardino counties throughout the night.

When the time lock on the bank vault was due to open, the five people entered the bank at 8:50 a.m. before other employees arrived and took the money from the vault. They left Colella and his wife in the bank while they fled in the manager's car.

The car was found minutes later abandoned in the parking lot of a motel in this community 35 miles east of Los Angeles. The FBI said the bandits were seen driving away in a late model, two-tone Buick.

The Highway Patrol, police and sheriff's departments in all nearby Southern California counties were alerted by an all-points bulletin for the bandits.

WEATHER
Sunny today and Thursday; some high clouds; high today 55-60; low tonight 28-34. High Thursday 60-66. Outlook through Monday — Mostly sunny and warm; no rain; highs 58-68; lows 28-38; no serious frosts.

RED CHINA ENDS HOPE FOR TIBETAN SUCCESS

TOKYO (UPI) — Communist China ended today any Tibetan hope of independence or even self-government within the Communist empire. It predicted total communication once the Tibetan rebellion was ended.

Peiping admitted the anti-Communist uprising had spread to three mainland provinces stretching almost to Inner Mongolia but said "in the main" the rebellion has been quashed.

An official Red Chinese assessment of the Tibetan situation, a 12,000-word editorial in the official Peiping's Peoples Daily, was broadcast today by Peiping Radio.

It gave Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India a dressing down for his statements on Tibet. It proclaimed total Communist authority over the Himalayan kingdom ruled for centuries by a Dalai Lama.

It warned that "no interference by a foreign country or by the United Nations under whatever pretext or in whatever form will be tolerated."

Legislators Pass Income Tax Bills; End Now In Sight

SALEM (UPI) — The 50th Oregon Legislature, expecting to wind up its work today, went into an afternoon session as the Senate became embroiled in a battle over state salaries.

The Legislature passed its biggest hurdle Tuesday by approving an income tax program and sending it to Gov. Mark Hatfield.

The Senate scheduled an afternoon vote on a motion to cut an appropriation for state salary increases from \$3,150,000 to \$1,500,000. Sen. Dan Dimick (R-Roseburg) proposed the motion which was criticized by Sen. Alfred Corbett (D-Portland).

The Senate also, after spirited debate, passed with only six dissenting votes and sent to the governor an approximate 10 million dollar building program for the Board of Higher Education.

The main income tax bill, which would eliminate the federal income tax deduction and lower rates, got by the Senate 19-11 after passing the House 33-27.

A second tax bill would continue installment payments of state income taxes but with a one per cent per month interest charge to raise more money. It passed the House 37-22 and the Senate 19-11.

The House vote on the main income tax bill was strictly along party lines with the 33 Democrats for and the 27 Republicans against. In the Senate three Republicans voted for the measure and three Democrats voted against it. The GOP members in favor included Sens. Edwin Durno of Medford, Donald Husband of Eugene and Francis Ziegler of Corvallis. The Democrats opposed were R. F. Chapman of Coos Bay, G. D. Gleason of Portland and Boyd Overhulse of Madras.

Would Broaden Base
The income tax bill lowers the printed rate from the present 3 to 2.5 per cent range to a range of 2.5 to 7.5 per cent. But by elimination of federal deductions legislators feel it will raise enough to support an estimated 314 million dollar budget.

Both Sens. Harry Beavin (D-Klamath Falls) and Ward Cook (D-Portland) said it was not an easy task to reach a stage of compromise because of the wide variance in tax ideas held by the House and Senate. Beavin said the main income tax bill would broaden the tax base through eliminating the deduction for federal taxes and would bring in a large number of taxpayers who had not paid a state tax in the past.

But Beavin said the increases were not large. He said one feature included in the bill was a provision for persons living in Vancouver, Wash., and working in Portland to take the standard deduction which is impossible under present Oregon tax laws. Another section of the bill reduces withholding on agricultural workers from 2 1/2 per cent to 2 per cent.

The measure would raise state income tax receipts about 9 per cent and produce some 12 million dollars in revenue.

Other Highlights
Board of Control: The Senate passed 17-13 a bill to abolish the three-man Board of Control and sent it to Gov. Mark Hatfield where a veto was considered likely.

Capital Gains: The Senate concurred in minor technical amendments to the capital gains bill and sent it to the governor. The bill is designed to attract new industry.

Trust Deed: The Senate completed legislative action on the "trust deed" bill and sent it to the governor. The amended bill provides an alternative method for financing homes in Oregon.

Both Sides Agree
The weekly magazine, The Iron Age, said nothing short of a miracle seems likely to prevent a long and bitter strike. It said the USW might strike some companies and let others work. In that case, Iron Age said, the companies have provided for a mutual assistance plan under which operating firms would turn over part of their revenue to those hit by walkouts.

Eisenhower and leading economists have expressed fear that an inflationary agreement in steel could touch off a new wage-price spiral in the nation. A steel agreement will set the pattern for wage talks in other basic industries such as aluminum and can making.

The union began individual bargaining talks Tuesday with U.S. Steel, Bethlehem, Republic and Kaiser Steel. It met separately today with those four firms and seven other basic steel companies. The last of the industry's Big 12 will join negotiations Thursday.

Completion of these preliminary "sound off" meetings, possibly early next week, four-man bargaining teams of each side will open the actual give-and-take talks.

Couple Admits Slaying Children
SAN DIEGO (UPI)—"I held my left hand under his chin, against his throat, and pushed down with my right hand on top of his head. I held him this way for about two or three minutes."

A handyman was thus quoted by sheriff's deputies in describing how, with the alleged agreement of his common-law wife, he killed her two small sons because "they were a bother."

Archie Merriam, 37, after his arrest Tuesday, obligingly put his left hand against his throat and his right hand behind his head to reenact for news photographers how he strangled the boys Saturday night while their mother, Mrs. Wanda Brogdon, admittedly sat nearby in an auto.

Merriam and Mrs. Brogdon were booked on suspicion of murder.

They Tried To Be Cheerful
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Every body tried to be cheerful in the quiet sick rooms as Sir Winston Churchill tapped his cane along the hospital corridors with President Eisenhower at his side.

But well-wishing could not diminish the tragic scenes they found when the President, 68, and his distinguished visitor, 84, went to call at Walter Reed Army Medical Center Tuesday afternoon.

They saw Gen. Georgia Callett Marshall, 78, America's World War II Army chief of staff, lying motionless and virtually speechless, the victim of a stroke.

Then they saw John Foster Dulles, 71, the secretary of state who only a few months ago soared across oceans in jet tanker planes. Dulles, who is fighting the ravages of cancer, was in a wheelchair.

Sir Winston, who moves with some difficulty himself because of what the President called the wear and tear of time, walked to the foot of Marshall's bed and chatted with the five-star general's wife for about 20 minutes.

Mrs. Marshall assured the former prime minister that her husband was delighted to see him. Marshall recognized Churchill, but was unable to converse with him.

The meeting with Dulles lasted 17 minutes. Reporters were not present, but White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty supplied details.

Winnie And Ike Pay Sad Call On Two Sick Friends

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