



**BIG TRANSFORMER**—Bonneville Power crews slowed Fourth street traffic yesterday as they moved this 17½ ft. high transformer from the power substation south of La Grande to the UP tracks where it will be taken to McNary Dam by flatcar. The giant piece of equipment weighs 80 tons and has a capacity of 230,000 volts. The man on the top of the ladder used the two boards at the front to raise low power lines over the top of the transformer as the truck slowly moved down Fourth. (Observer)

## Problem Of Wheat Surplus

### Another Bumper Crop Predicted

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The nation's mountainous wheat surplus problem landed on the House floor today. Debate was scheduled to begin on rival Democratic and Republican plans for cutting wheat production. Incentive to come up with a solution came from government estimates of a bumper wheat crop this year. It could add several hundred million more surplus bushels to the 2½-year supply already in government storage. Storage costs alone total \$500,000 a day. Taxpayers already were estimated to have three billion dollars invested in the wheat surplus. But there was a possibility both GOP and Democratic proposals would be killed in a bitter floor battle. The stop-gap Democratic plan would raise price supports to 90 per cent of parity and cut planting allotments 25 per cent for 1960 and 1961 crops. The Republican plan would not change either the present price support or acreage allotment for commercial wheat farmers. But it would allow thousands of farmers with small planting allotments to vote on whether to accept the wheat program. The GOP view is that these small farmers would permanently vote down the wheat control program — dropping price supports from 75 to 50 per cent of parity. Other congressional news: Insurance: A compromise bill hiking income taxes on the life insurance industry by about 60 per cent seemed assured of quick House approval. The measure, agreed upon by House-Senate conferees yesterday, would levy about 500 million dollars in taxes on 1959 insurance industry income. Finance: The House Ways & Means Committee opened public hearings on President Eisenhower's request to boost interest rates on government bonds. Democrats have challenged the administration to show that such boosts would not drive up the cost of living. Strauss: The Senate was ready to resume debate on the nomination of Lewis L. Strauss as secretary of commerce. The nomination battle was marked by disclosure that a Florida man had admitted signing other people's names to 47 telegrams sent to Sen. George A. Smathers (D-Fla.) urging Strauss' confirmation.

## WATCH DOG IS STOLEN

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Lulu Mills, worried about a wave of burglaries in her neighborhood, bought a husky Boxer dog advertised as an excellent watchdog. Miss Mills returned from work Tuesday to find her apartment had been broken into and burglarized — of one Boxer dog.

## Cut Fees Like Asks Doctors

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (UPI)—President Eisenhower has asked the nation's doctors to help fight inflation by charging fees that their patients can "reasonably pay." Uncontrolled inflation, he said Tuesday night, inevitably would force Americans in mass volume to turn to the government primarily for medical assistance and this would cause the nation "great loss." Eisenhower spoke at the American Medical Assn.'s annual convention here. He flew back to Washington immediately after his address. The President offered nothing to differ with the AMA's basic opposition to compulsory government-controlled medicine. But he coupled the threat of such compulsion to possible run-away inflation in which "all prices would go out of sight and everybody would go broke." "The medical profession, as much as any other, has vital interest in preventing inflation," Eisenhower said. "Certainly it wants to provide its services for a fee within range of that people can reasonably pay." He continued: "If the time ever comes when large numbers of our citizens turn primarily to the government for assistance in what ought to remain a private arrangement between doctor and patient, then we shall all have suffered a great loss." The President focused his attention on one group of Americans who are particularly prey to the ravages of inflation and the cheapening dollar—older people who live largely on fixed retirement income, pensions, insurance and savings. "To this group," he said, "inflation is not merely a threat—it is a robber and a thief. It takes the bread out of their mouths, the clothes off their backs, and it limits their access to the medical care and facilities they need."

# Big Four Conference Enters Crucial Stage

GENEVA (UPI)—The foreign ministers conference today entered a crucial 24-hour period that could decide its success or failure and whether summit talks will be held. Western delegates openly admitted they were pessimistic that any agreement could be reached at this meeting. An air of crisis was evident over continued Soviet insistence the Allies quit West Berlin. The answer was up to Russia and it was expected today when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko speaks in another of the open sessions he has used for angry tirades against the West. His speech was in reply to the Western ultimatum that the East-West meeting must agree on Western rights in West Berlin or give up the thought of a meeting of heads of state demanded by Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev Charts Course The only question was whether Khrushchev had instructed Gromyko on what to say. Khrushchev met in Moscow Tuesday with East German Communist leaders and was believed to have charted the Communist course. Again the only ray of hope in Geneva came from the long-stalled talks on how to ban atomic bomb tests. Both sides met today and there was some hope of a preliminary agreement. But the West also was faced with a crisis in West German politics that might mean the end of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's leadership and a crisis in NATO that could see France leave the organization in anger at being left out of major global strategy and deprived of Anglo-American atomic bomb secrets. Despite the air of futility prevailing among the Western delegates, none was prepared to break off the conference as long as there was any hope of success. This was reflected in Washington where Senate Democratic Whip Mike Mansfield (Mont.) said it would be a mistake to give up hope and that "this is not the time to scan the time tables or make preparations for the voyage home." Reds Blaming West The Communists appeared resigned to failure of the East-West conference and already were making efforts to blame the West. The first such charge came from the East German Communist news agency ADN which said the West was trying to end the conference without results. Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd and French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville placed the full blame for the deadlock on Khrushchev. They were certain by now that Gromyko had no authority to make any decisions here, even tactical ones, and that the Soviet premier was signaling the moves from Russia. Allied officials said they only hoped Gromyko had accurately conveyed to the Kremlin the West's seriousness in insisting upon sincere negotiations aimed at reaffirming the Western rights in Berlin. They feared that Gromyko today would only put on the public record the tedious Soviet arguments he has advanced in private during the past week. This would mean a blistering new exchange of East-West statements. Lloyd was scheduled as second speaker today to answer Gromyko.

# Roaring Guns Signal Start Of Centennial Exposition

PORTLAND (UPI) — A 100-gun salute, a shot for each year Oregon has been a state, got the Centennial Exposition off to a roaring start here today. Gov. Mark Hatfield headed a list of dignitaries present at noon ceremonies kicking off the summer-long extravaganza. The weather was threatening with showers likely today and Thursday. If rain continues officials will have the last laugh. The Centennial will get \$10,000 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday if more than one-tenth of an inch of rain falls on any of those days. Twenty-three nations have exhibits at the two-week International Trade Fair and the 65-acre site was crammed with attractions. A crash program to complete last minute preparations was undertaken Tuesday with top Centennial officials personally taking charge. Big Crowd Sees Parade The Centennial gates opened at noon and the International Trade Fair at 2 p.m. Gates close at midnight. The gala opening came during the height of Rose Festival week activities here. More than 100,000 persons turned out in downtown Portland Tuesday night for the Merrykhana parade, which got the Festival off to a fun-filled start. Tonight is the big night for one of 11 princesses. She'll be picked as Queen of Rosaria in ceremonies at Multnomah stadium. A huge 32-by-45-foot screen will carry colored pictures of the princesses during the ceremonies. Navy in Town Six sleek Canadian Navy Corvettes arrived in town Tuesday afternoon and tied up at the west seawall of the Willamette river. Five U. S. Navy minesweepers were due in today and more U.S. Navy units, including the cruisers Helena and Bremerton, are due Thursday. Today's Centennial show start kicked off a summer-long event which officials hope will draw six to eight million visitors to Oregon. Newspaper editors were taken on a preview of the Centennial grounds Tuesday afternoon and most comments were highly favorable. Many agreed it would take several days to see it all. Some exhibits still were not in place. A third "Navy" joined the festivities. Twenty-two Coos Bay Pirates aboard their good ship Elfin steamed into port Tuesday afternoon flying the Jolly Rogers at the mast. They fired a full broadside, but the most damage occurred to the Elfin itself. Someone charged one of the cannons the wrong way and holes were blown through two decks.

## COLUMNIST TAKES STAND IN LIBERACE LIBEL ACTION

LONDON (UPI) — Columnist William Connor took the stand in his own defense today at the Liberaice libel trial and denied he ever had any intention of saying the pianist was homosexual. Connor testified that Liberaice's performances had left him with "a feeling of astonishment to begin with and then of nausea... because of the flamboyant nature of his appearance, the actual spectacle of the man and then because of the cloying, sickening nature of what he was singing and trying to put across." Liberaice is suing the tabloid London Daily Mirror and Connor, who writes a column under the pen name of Cassandra, for libel, charging they had implied he was a homosexual. Liberaice has denied this. The pianist is not suing for any specific amount. The judge will instruct the jury to determine whether he was libeled, after the testimony is completed. If the jury finds he was libeled, it will then determine the amount of damages. Defense attorney Gerald Gardner asked Connor whether at any time he had "any intention of imputing homosexuality to Liberaice." "None at all," the columnist replied. Connor said that when he had written about Liberaice, "he is the summit of sex, the pinnacle of masculine, feminine and neuter," he had in mind that "by using his sex appeal he was the greatest exponent in show business and had received audiences which were world records." Connor said that his statement "everything that he, she and it can ever want" was a reference to the "comprehensive nature of his technique, designed to apply to the whole community—the full circle."

## Infant Death Toll From Plastic Bags Prompts Widespread Action

United Press International A steadily climbing toll of infant deaths prompted widespread action against the otherwise innocent plastic bag, a United Press International survey showed today. The survey revealed more than 40 infants have suffocated when they became entrapped in the bags. The survey also showed the bags have been used for suicide in an ominously increasing number. Practically all the victims have been only a few months old. One 4 months, apparently pulled a bag over his face while he was in his crib at Neptune, N.J., Monday. At about the same time, Bridget Ledington, 3 months, died in Chicago. She was found entangled in a cleaner's bag which apparently had blown on top of her. In many communities cleaning shops and laundries have voluntarily curtailed use of the plastic wrappings. Some legislators have considered passing laws restricting them in some manner. The plastics industry has held top-level conferences on the problem. At New Rochelle, N.Y., Paul Cohen, president of the Technic Tape Corp., one of the world's largest manufacturers of polyethylene film, said his firm was working on a "breathable" plastic bag. This plastic would be full of pinholes. The company said an infant could breathe even if caught in two sheets of it. The plastic people and the cleaners launched an educational campaign last month. Two million folders warning of the danger have been distributed. Additionally, the manufacturers have conferred with representatives of health agencies, the National Safety Council and the American Medical Association. The education campaign seemed to be the most direct, immediate answer to the problem.

## Tense Crowd Watches Start Of Rape Trial

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) — Four white youths accused of raping a Negro coed went on trial today in a case that was rapidly building up into a demonstration of whether southern justice has a "double standard" for Negroes and whites. Shortly after the trial began in a small 114-year-old courthouse, sheriff's deputies herded a tense, overflow crowd of Negroes out of the ground floor of the building. They had milled into the corridor after finding no room left in the Negro spectators' gallery upstairs. One Negro youth, who told Sheriff William P. Joyce "it is none of your damned business" when the officer asked his father's name, was marched into the sheriff's office for questioning. Others in the crowd reluctantly left the building but stood outside, crowded against the entrance. The four defendants, ranging in age from 16 to 24, face death in the electric chair if they are found guilty without a jury's recommendation of mercy. No white man ever has been executed in Florida for rape of a Negro. All four have pleaded innocent. 50 Jurors Dismissed Judge W. May Walker already had dismissed about 50 out of a jury venire of 256. He said a number were ill or in the old age bracket where they may be excused if they wish. Of those still empanelled, only three were women and there were "several" Negro men. The Negro girl, a student at all-Negro Florida A&M, is recovering from influenza but she intends to testify at the trial. She was asked what punishment she thought her assailants should get if they are found guilty—whether it should be death. "I don't know what they should get," she said. "I just think they should get what a Negro boy would get in the same circumstances." The defendants are Wilton Colinsworth, 24; Patrick Schirbrough, 20; David Beagles, 18; and Ollie Stoutamire, 16. The girl's identity is widely known but it has not been published because of a Florida law making it a criminal offense to print the name of any rape victim. Abducted From Lovers' Lane She was parked in a car with a college boy date in a lovers' lane in the early morning of May 2, accompanied by another Negro boy and girl, when four whites carrying a shotgun and knives held the boys at bay and ordered the girls into their car. One girl broke away into the bushes but the second was abducted and allegedly assaulted seven times. The four defendants were arrested after a 100-m.p.h. auto chase after the boys called police. The two Negro boys, Richard Brown and Thomas Butterfield, were brought by police to Tallahassee Tuesday from their homes in Miami where they had gone when the college year ended.

## Andrews Picked Board Chairman

Horton Andrews was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of School District No. 1 to replace outgoing board member J. Dale Standley at the board's regular meeting last night in the superintendent's office. New vice chairman, to fill the vacancy created by Horton's election, is Charles A. Reynolds Jr. District Clerk Ray Williams told the board that the district is operating with-in the budget and would complete the current fiscal year on a cash basis. Contracts for new school furniture were awarded to four of the eight firms bidding for the supplies. Contracts were awarded to McGlasson Stationary, 200 folding chairs and 24 single tier lockers for a total of \$1186.40; Northern School Supply, 15 desks totaling \$473.25; Virco Manufacturing Company, 113 tables totaling \$1,879.80, and Frank D. Cohan for 160 chairs totaling \$792.25.

## White Fence To Be Target Of 'Painters'

There's something about a blank wall that makes it impossible for would-be painters to leave it that way. And the big plain-white fence on Adams Avenue that covers the site of the recent fire is clearly no exception to the rule. Tonight at 6 p.m. a contingent of amateur artists will tackle the fencing and before the night is out, it will be transformed into a "beautiful mural portraying the wonders of Northeastern Oregon." At least that's what they say. They will be members of La Grande's Lions club, who will utilize paints and supplies donated by local paint stores to illustrate prominent features of the area, like lakes, mountains and the Geographic Center, as the way to promote Oregon's Centennial celebration. But the nine men or so who will wield the colors won't exactly be allowed a free hand to express their creativity; they'll be following a sketch made in advance by John Evans, assistant librarian and English instructor at Eastern Oregon College. Evans will first outline the series of illustrations on the 90-foot long fence, and then the arty Lions will follow close by to fill in the colors. When it's all over, Evans says, La Grande's main street will sport a "pictorial map depicting attractions of our area through a series of cartoons. This much is certain: La Grande will be minus one fence painted just plain white.

## New Fire Truck Due This Month

La Grande's new fire truck will be delivered about June 21, according to a representative of the Western States Fire Apparatus Co. The new truck will be a pump-and will add more than 1,000 gallons per minute to the pumping capacity of the La Grande fire department. The truck was ordered last fall, a portion of the cost having been budgeted for the 1959 fiscal year. Successful bidder for the chassis of the truck was the Gettings-Lynch Motor Co., La Grande. Equipment for the truck is being built and installed by the Western States Fire Apparatus Co., of Cornelius, Oregon, who won the contract with their bid. The new truck will be housed in the present fire station at the City Hall. The city's two pumper fire engines will be parked in the fire station one behind the other. This procedure is in compliance with regulations governing storage of fire-fighting equipment.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy tonight; increasing clouds Thursday; high Thursday 55-60; low to night 33-38.

## Eastern Oregon Youths In Top Form In Judging

THE DALLES (Special)—Eastern Oregon high school boys were in top form for the Future Farmers of America livestock judging contest here, Monday, at the 13th annual 4-H and FFA fat stock show and sale. Judging teams from Wallowa, Enterprise, and La Grande high schools led the contest that attracted 23 high school chapter teams from throughout Oregon. The young judges scores were rated against those of official show judges in placing beef, sheep, and swine. Members of the first place Wallowa team were Perry and Robley Johnston and Gary Willet, all sophomores at Wallowa high school. They scored 1677 points out of a possible 1800. Enterprise team members Norman Pratt, Roger Koeh, and Keith Simmons collected 1618 points to edge out the third place team from La Grande. Gary Willet, Wallowa, was high individual in judging all animal divisions, scoring 594 points out of a possible 600. Second high individual judge was Norman Pratt, Enterprise, with 576 points. Gary and Norman both made perfect scores in judging swine to tie for first in that division. Jerry Harms, Canby high school, chalked up a perfect score to win the sheep judging contest. Official judges were unable to stump the sharp-eyed young stockmen in beef judging, and 12 boys ended up with perfect scores in that division. The annual show and sale is sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League and this year attracted contestants from 20 Oregon counties. The young exhibitors brought 385 head of beef, sheep, and swine that will be auctioned Wednesday.

## Tryouts Set For EOC Play; Actors Wanted

A call for persons to try-out for roles in "Dr. in Buekakin Clad" was sent out today by Richard Hiatt, director of the Centennial play written by Dr. Alvin Kaiser of Eastern Oregon College. "No experience of any kind is required to try-out for the play, and we want all interested persons in La Grande and area to try out," Hiatt said. Tryouts begin Monday, June 15, at 7 p.m. in the college theatre, and will run every night during the week through Friday. Persons who could not appear at the regular times can call Hiatt (WO 3-3590) to make special arrangements. Some 15 speaking parts are available, Hiatt said, but extra roles will be added for qualified persons who try out. Both men and women are needed. The play, which will portray the life of Dr. Marcus Whitman, will be presented next month as part of Union county's centennial observance.



EOC'S "TYPICAL" SENIOR—Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Detrick, Jr., of La Grande, both seniors at Eastern Oregon College, relax during week of finals. Bob, who receives his degree Friday, and Donna, who graduates in August, are among the 85 per cent of EOC seniors who are married. They have three daughters. Donna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Holloway, and Bob is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Detrick, La Grande.