

WEATHER
Cloudy with light showers or snow flurries today and clearing tonight; partly cloudy Sunday. High both days 36-48; low tonight 22-34.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, KIDDIES

Santa Claus in person shouted greetings and distributed candy to hundreds of good little boys and girls last night, up and down Adams Avenue here, as he paid his first official visit to this area heralding the opening of the Christmas shopping season. (Observer Photo)



HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD? St. Nick asks the age-old question of a curious little girl who clutches two candy canes given her by the interested gent with the white whiskers. A proud dad also is delighted to meet the jolly fellow once again. (Observer)

Jolly Old St. Nick Visits Kids

By GRADY PANNELL
Observer Staff Writer

With a resonant "Ho, Ho, Ho," jolly old St. Nick (Santa Claus to the younger set) hove into view last night on La Grande's Christmas Season Boulevard of twinkling lights.

The rotund gent with the silvery whiskers delighted old and young but most particularly the small fry.

The fellow with the goodies on his back distributed same to several hundred kiddies who moved like a human tide from street corner to street corner along the downtown business section of Adams Avenue.

Pretty Helpers

Santa also had several young helpers this trip, pretty teen-age girls, and one harried gentleman drumming it up for the Chamber of Commerce—Hence Snodgrass.

Santa told the little ones that he ran out of snow up above Pendleton and had to come in with wheels on his sleigh. He also said to the inquisitive little people that he parked his reindeer at the edge of town.

The good man whose name is legend distributed hundreds of red and white candy canes and promises by the thousand before he tramped out of sight, but he advised he would return again in a few days.

Stores Stay Open

Last night's visitation by the northland man also heralded the official late-hour opening of stores. Business establishments will remain open until 9 p.m. until the day before Christmas.

Many parents took their children through the magic toyland last night. All stores are stocked with one of the largest assortments of Christmas novelties that Santa's tired old eyes have seen.

Reds Try To Grab American Code Secrets In New Delhi

YOUTH RULED THE ROOST

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, England (UPI) — A 16-year-old boy was ordered held by court officials yesterday while they considered his parents' complaint that their son refused to let them watch television, kept the bathroom for himself while forcing his father to shave in the kitchen, locked his parents up at night, seized his father's weekly pay and forced his parents to live on an allowance.

Oregon Artist's Drawings Shown At EOC Gallery

Seventeen drawings by Oregon artist Carl Hall are featured in the Eastern Oregon College art exhibit, being shown through Dec. 10, in Walter M. Pierce gallery.

Alpha Rho Tau, EOC art honorary, sponsored the formal opening of the exhibit to which the public was invited.

Hall, Willamette University artist in residence, is represented in several museum collections, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The Salem artist took his art training at the Meininger Art School in Detroit. During World War II he was combat artist for 33rd Infantry on Okinawa. In 1948, he was featured in the March 8 issue of Life.

Hall, who is art critic for the Oregon Statesman, was one of the jurors for the "Oregon Scene" Centennial art show.

U.S. LODGES PROTEST ON KIDNAP OF YANK

NEW DELHI, India (UPI) — The U.S. Embassy charged tonight that Chinese Communists dragged U. S. Marine Sgt. Robert Armstrong from a taxicab on a public street in Bombay and bound him by the neck and arms to a pillar in the garage of their consulate Friday.

The Embassy lodged a protest with the Indian government today charging it was a "high-handed violation of the personal rights of a United States citizen in a friendly country."

Even as the embassy released its report on Armstrong, reliable sources reported that two Chinese thugs attempted to seize coded American diplomatic telegrams in Bombay this morning.

The messenger carrying them escaped but said he could identify his assailants.

Armstrong Held

The Embassy statement on the Armstrong incident said at least six Chinese surrounded the Marine in his taxi cab in front of the Chinese Communist consulate and dragged him into the compound.

The Embassy statement said the Chinese pulled Armstrong, pushed him and "were striking him in the ribs with their fists."

One Chinese stood by holding a heavy club and was quoted as telling Armstrong that if he yelled "you will get this."

The statement said Armstrong was searched twice and later moved to an open area where he was photographed.

The U. S. Embassy said Armstrong was dragged into the consulate about 7:40 a.m. and Indian police arrived on the scene within 25 minutes.

Two high-ranking Indian police officers arrived at the Chinese consulate about 9:30 a.m. and insisted that Armstrong be released.

Attempt To Poison City Dads

SEATTLE, Wash. (UPI)—Chief Detective Vic Kramer said today that arsenic found mixed in coffee in an employes' lunchroom at the County-City Building here was a "cold-blooded attempt at mass poisoning."

The arsenic was found after eight staff members of the city planning commission became ill last Monday. The results of police laboratory tests reported Friday revealed they had drunk coffee laces with the poison.

A search of the lunchroom on the eighth floor of the building disclosed arsenic in a two-pound tin of drip-grind coffee and more arsenic in a jar of instant coffee. "This was no accident," Kramer said. "It was deliberate."

Union Seed Growers Will Attend Confab

Union County seed growers will attend the annual meeting of the Oregon Seed League which opens in Corvallis on Monday.

R. W. Schaad, La Grande, president of the league, will direct the conference.

Attending from Union County in addition to Schaad will be Homer Case, president of Northwest Creeping & Chewings Red Fescue Association; Creston Shaw, chairman of the league's turf committee; Clayton Fox, chairman of the league's forage grass committee; Billy Howell; Marcel Trumpe Van Holt; Ted Sidow, secretary of the Northwest group and secretary of the turf committee; Darcey Sater, manager of H. L. Wagner & Sons; Welby Vaughn, and Tom Ruckman, secretary of the Fine Fescue Commission.

Research Report

Research dealing with varieties, weeds, diseases, cleaning and storage of Oregon's multi-million dollar seed growing industry will be reported at the convention on the Oregon State College campus.

Highlight of the meeting will be a talk on soils, crops and people of Russia by Dr. Wynne Thorne, director of the Utah State University Agricultural Experiment station, who recently toured the Soviet Union.

Rex Warren, OSC extension farm

crops specialist and secretary of the league, estimates 300 persons will attend.

Growers will have a chance to discuss their own problems during committee meetings on potatoes, certification and new varieties, seed commissions, cover crops and ryegrass, turf, forage grasses, and legume. Schaad announced.

Seed History

Meetings are also scheduled for the resolution and legislation committee and the Northwest Chewings and Red Fescue Association.

Oregon's 40-year development of seed growing into an industry of national importance will be told by H. A. Schoth, OSC-USDA agronomist.

Special reports also will be given on crop estimates and outlook, production and use of dryland range grass in the Northwest, tariff commission hearings in Washington, D.C., seed growing in the future and grasses used to plant American laws.

Frank McKenison, Salem, director of the state department of agriculture, will be one of the program speakers.

Main speaker for the banquet Tuesday evening will be Helmut Schreima of the OSC department of business administration, who will tell of his experiences in Europe from 1932 to 1945.

U.S. 'Loss Of Face' Unless Moon Is Shot

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A spokesman for the American Rocket Society said today the United States would suffer a fatal loss of prestige unless it tried again within three months to fire a satellite into orbit around the moon.

It was learned that the Air Force could get around shortages of rockets and launching pads and could launch another Atlas-Able rocket carrying a picture-taking moon satellite in as little as two months if the White House issued the necessary orders and priorities.

A successful U. S. moon shot in the near future would boost American prestige before President Eisenhower's trip to Russia in the spring. The Russians hit the moon with their Lunik II just before Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev visited the United States in September.

But so far the government has no definite plans for a new Atlas-

Able lunar probe. Officials said after an Atlas-Able moon satellite failure Thanksgiving Day at Cape Canaveral, Fla., that the United States might not try to experiment again until the end of 1960.

Andrew G. Haley Jr., general counsel of the American Rocket Society, told United Press International, "It is vital that we make another attempt to orbit the moon, certainly within three months."

A one year delay, he said, would be "fatal to American prestige."

Former Oregon Senator Rufus Holman Stricken

EUGENE (UPI)—Former Oregon Senator Rufus C. Holman died here Friday at the home of his stepson, Eugene Attorney Ernest Lundeen.

Holman, 62, a Republican, served as U. S. Senator from Oregon from Jan. 3, 1939, to Jan. 3, 1945.

Univac Predicted Marriage; Young Couple Did Just That

VAN NUYS, Calif. (UPI)—A happy marriage was in the cards for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kardell from the day they met more than two years ago on the "People Are Funny" television show.

Electronic data processing cards carrying the personality traits of the two young persons were stuffed into a Univac machine on the show. Univac shuffled the cards through its electronic maze and proclaimed Robert and Shirley, both 27, were meant for each other.

The cards couldn't have been more right if they were stacked. The Kardells celebrated their first wedding anniversary Oct. 18 and are planning a plush new Polynesian-styled home to recreate the magic of their Hawaiian honeymoon paid for by the television people.

"Everything seems to be working out very nicely, Kardell said. "Right now we are in the process of buying a lot in nearby Woodland Hills on which to build our house."

"We're interested in Hawaiian modern, we're going the complete Polynesian route. A contractor here has a custom home we're interested in and we'll have it built for us."

Kardell, appropriately an employe of System Development Co. which builds computing machines similar to Univac, said the house will have three bedrooms to accommodate the "two or three children" they intend to have.

While waiting for completion of the house, however, the couple is living austerely among "our early depression" furnishings.

"Most of the stuff is what we had before our marriage," Kardell said. "We picked up a coffee table in Hawaii and a new bedroom set and a dining set since then. We stay home quite a lot lately. On the average we go out once a week, usually to dinner and a movie, sometimes just to dinner."

Shirley, currently unemployed, plans to return to work the first of the year. She was an advertising copywriter before her marriage.

Youth Injured When Auto Hits Bridge Near Here

Larry Young, 18, was injured last night in a one-car accident about one half mile west of the city. Hospital attendants told The Observer this morning that Young was resting comfortably and is in good condition.

Young was the driver of the car which apparently slid into the left side of the bridge and then continued to bounce back and forth through the bridge, Oregon State Police said.

Other passengers in the car were unhurt. They were Bill Long, Richard Strued, 17, Lawrence Keefer, 18, and Robert Cannon, 17, all of La Grande.



DONATE TO SALVATION ARMY

Sam Bailie, La Grande, left, and Vic Eckly, La Grande postmaster, are among the first to contribute to the annual Salvation Army drive for the Christmas season. Funds from the "kettles" are used to finance the Army's Christmas activities. Bailie is chairman of the Christmas committee of the SA. (Observer Photo)

Steel Union, Management Back To Conference Table On Tuesday

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The steel union and companies, under new government pressure to settle their six-month old dispute, resume federal mediation sessions Tuesday.

The conferences will be the government's first formal effort to reopen contract talks since the 500,000 striking United Steelworkers returned to work Nov. 7 under a Taft-Hartley injunction after a 116-day walkout.

The new government pressure to break the stalemate came in a letter Friday from acting Commerce Secretary Philip A. Ray to Arthur J. Goldberg, general coun-

sel of the Steelworkers Union.

Ray rejected Goldberg's suggestion that the government build up its stockpiles of defense steel now in case the strike resumes when the 50-day Taft-Hartley order expires Jan. 26.

Ray said defense needs require a continuing flow of steel and therefore cannot be met by stockpiling.

The official said resumption of the strike when the injunction runs out would cause a "second crisis" having an "intolerable effect upon our national health and safety."

Although the letter was addressed to the union, observers

considered it a prod to both sides to resolve their differences.

In announcing the new contract talks, Federal Mediation Chief Joseph F. Finnegan did not say whether the strike would separately or jointly with union and management representatives.

Joint sessions normally are held only when there is an indication of progress toward a settlement.

Goldberg wrote Commerce Secretary Frederick H. Mueller Nov. 20 urging steel stockpiling so that "should the strike resume, any peril to the national safety will not be chargeable to the union."

He said the strike in all likelihood would resume Jan. 26.

'LITTLE RABBIT IN HOLE'

Firemen Spend Hour To Free Tot From Septic Tank Hole

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI) — Firemen practically stood on their heads to rescue a 3-year-old boy trapped for more than an hour at the bottom of a septic tank hole.

They kept him from getting panicky by telling him: "You look just like a little rabbit in his hole."

The excavation where William Marc Turner, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gene Turner, became trapped Friday is located just to the rear of a lot where the Turner's recently built a new home.

Marc and his 2-year-old brother were playing in the back yard while Mrs. Turner hung up the

wash. Suddenly, she noticed Marc had disappeared.

"Where's your brother," she asked the youngest child. He started to cry.

Frantically, Mrs. Turner began searching. Then she heard a faint cry.

"Mommy, get me out of this hole."

Marc had tried to jump on top of a metal septic tank that had been lowered into the hole. He slipped and fell between the tank and the wall of the excavation, which had not yet been filled in.

Firemen rushed to the scene. They tried to reach Marc, but he was wedged at the bottom of the six-foot hole with one leg crum-

pled underneath him, about two feet below their fingertips.

They had to wriggle head first into the narrow space and claw away the dirt from the wall with small garden tools. Mrs. Turner stood nervously by, trying to comfort the scared youngster.

He began to whimper.

"Now you know how a rabbit feels in his hole in the ground," a fireman told Marc as he chipped away the dirt. Marc was so interested about the rabbits, he forgot to cry.

When the boy was finally freed, he was given a thorough examination.

"He wasn't hurt," Mrs. Turner said. "Just a few scratches, and real dirty."