

**WEATHER**  
Fair tonight and Thursday  
except valley fog or low clouds  
late tonight and morning;  
high 36-46 except 32 south lo-  
cally; low tonight 18-24.

89th Issue 64th Year

# LA GRANDE OBSERVER

LA GRANDE, ORE., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1959

8 Pages

Five Cents



## LOCAL GIRL WITH SAW

Jean Wick, La Grande High School student, holds other end of saw as a dozen national 4-H forestry winners prepare to cut cake marking the 50 million-acre milestone of the industry-sponsored Tree Farm program. Each winner received an all expense paid trip to the 33rd National 4-H Congress, Chicago, from American Forest Products Industries, Inc. Others in picture represent various 4-H winners from throughout east, south and mid-central U.S.

## HEY, KIDS! HERE'S SANTA

A direct telephone to Santa Claus at the North Pole will be in operation today and Thursday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. here.  
Sponsored by the Jaycees, West Coast Telephone Co., U.S. National Bank and City Finance, the direct line to Santa is an annual event in La Grande.  
Youngsters may call WO 3-2141 for a personal conversation with Santa and his helpers at the North Pole.

## AF Plane Sets New Speed Mark

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Air Force announced today that one of its F106 Delta Dart all-weather interceptors set a new official world speed record of 1,529.9 miles an hour Tuesday at Edwards Air Force Base, California.  
The record was nearly 23 miles an hour faster than the speed of 1,483 miles an hour claimed Oct. 1 by the Soviet Union for its new E66 Delta wing fighter. It was 116 miles an hour faster than the previous official record of 1,404 miles an hour set by U.S. F104 May 16, 1958.

The announcement said the record was set by Maj. Joseph W. Rogers, veteran Air Defense Command pilot, over a straightaway, 18-kilometer (about 11 mile) course.

Rogers, using a production model of the interceptor built by Convair in San Diego, took off at 6:30 a.m. p.s.t., and climbed to an altitude of 40,000 feet above the Southern California desert flight test center.

He then touched off the afterburner and flew twice over the course.

The Air Force said the run was made twice to meet official record requirements of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. His speed, an average of the two runs, was more than 2.3 times the speed of sound.

The F106 is the air defense command's newest interceptor. Five squadrons are in service so far. They can be armed with the MB1 Genie atomic warhead rocket.

# Disclose Communist Plot To Poison U.S. Personnel



**TANKS RUSH TO FRONT**—U.S. Sherman tanks roll up Belgian road during start of ill-famed Battle of Bulge 15 years ago today. Note the snow which made fighting conditions even more miserable. This picture was taken near Elsenborn, the northern shoulder of German breakthrough.

## RADIO FREE EUROPE UNIT TARGET OF 'DEATH PLAN'

MUNICH, Germany (UPI)—Officials of Radio Free Europe said today Communists put atropine (a poisonous alkaloid) in salt shakers at the station cafeteria last month in an effort to poison members of the staff.

The attempt failed because officials of the anti-Communist broadcasting station were warned by a double agent

that the salt had been poisoned.  
A statement issued by the station identified the tipster only as "a person ostensibly used by a foreign Communist power for sabotage purposes."

The statement said the poisoner was "a Communist diplomat stationed in Western Europe, acting on the instructions of his government."

The station said the poisoning attempt was discovered Nov. 22, just before the salt shakers were taken into the cafeteria where the station's 1,200 employees take their meals.

Samples were obtained analyzed by American medical fa-

cilities," the statement said. "This revealed the presence in each shaker of atropine, a poison derived from belladonna. The amount in each shaker was 2.36 per cent by weight."

"This was surely enough to kill a man, even if the victim only sprinkled a little salt on his food," a spokesman said.

## Walla Walla Contractor In Low Bid

Bids for construction at Riveria Grade School were opened last night at a special meeting of the La Grande school board.

Elmer Holsten, Walla Walla contractor, submitted the apparent low bid for the construction of fire exits, a new outside boiler room and a cafeteria.

Holsten's bid totaled \$41,991. The only other bidder was Bechtel Brothers, La Grande, with a bid of \$45,577.

The contract was tentatively awarded to Holsten by the board pending an investigation by the architects and the board.

Work is to begin on the building within 10 days if the weather permits.

Completion of the kitchen has been deferred until the 1960-61 school budget is determined.  
Superintendent Lyle Stigs told the board that there are sufficient funds in the building account to complete the kitchen.  
It is anticipated that the kitchen can be completed and the two new additions ready for use in September 1960.

# Ike Writes State Of Union Message Aboard U.S. Vessel

ABOARD U.S.S. ESSEX (UPI)—President Eisenhower worked on his State of the Union Message while cruising on the sunny Mediterranean today and received a 21-gun salute from the flagship of the British Mediterranean Fleet.

The President, aboard the Des Moines, a heavy cruiser, was sailing on a westerly course between Malta and Sicily when the H.M.S. Tiger, flagship of Adm. Sir Alexander Bingley, rendered passing honors.

Bingley is commander in chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet and of NATO's Mediterranean forces.  
Eisenhower watched from the flag bridge of the Des Moines as the British ship thundered its greeting.

The chief executive's Sixth Fleet task force was drawn up in a column headed by two destroyers; then the Des Moines, then the aircraft carrier Essex, the guided missile cruiser Boston and two destroyers.

The American vessels were making a leisurely 10 knots as the chief executive continued on his way to Tunisia.

The President's immediate destination was Tunis where he confers Thursday with President Habib Bourguiba halfway between Gibraltar and Suez. Eisenhower was expected to receive another elaborate reception in Tunisia, a newly independent Arab nation which wants Western aid without donor countries being too dominant in the use to which such aid is put.

From Tunis, where the President will go ashore by helicopter for a visit of about five hours, the task force will sail for Toulon, France, where Eisenhower meets Secretary of State Christian A. Herter Friday afternoon.

**To Travel By Train**  
The two men will travel together by train to Paris where a Western summit meeting opens Dec. 19.

Early this morning the Des Moines was heading in a westerly direction from the Grecian Islands toward the Tunisian coastline that juts out into the Mediterranean.

The Essex and Boston traveled 1,500 yards off the stern of the President's ship, followed by the destroyers Mullinix, Vogelgesang, McFox and Stormes.

Two other La Grande men, Glenn Nice and Frank J. Heron, died as a result of the crash.

## Jim Herron Reported In Good Shape

BAKER (Special)—Condition of Jim Herron, 2701 Ash St., La Grande, was reported as good Wednesday morning at St. Elizabeth Hospital here.

Herron was recovering from injuries suffered Sunday when the pickup in which he was a passenger collided with a Greyhound Bus at Oxman overpass near this city.

Two other La Grande men, Glenn Nice and Frank J. Heron, died as a result of the crash.

# Flood Threats To Western Area Of Washington Now Diminished

SEATTLE (UPI)—Civil Defense spokesmen announced late Tuesday night that western Washington's raging rivers were no longer rising, thus diminishing the threat of a second serious flood in the area in less than a month.  
Many families were evacuated

Tuesday, thousands of acres of low-lying farmlands were inundated, and Stevens Pass, Washington's main cross-state highway, was washed out. But Civil Defense people said the situation was not nearly as serious as the Nov. 23 flood.  
No town was hit very hard by Tuesday's high water but several communities along the Stevens Pass Highway reported minor flooding in their extreme city limits.

The only really serious trouble spot remaining was south of Kent along the Green River where a dike was announced as in danger of going out.

The dike, which spokesman said was weakened by the November flood, was backed up by a recently completed secondary dike. However, it was feared the secondary dike had not set long enough to be firm.

Many of western Washington's secondary highways were covered with water in spots. It was hoped these would be cleared sometime today, however, as temperatures were dropping and the rain had stopped falling at many points in the mountains.  
A CD spokesman at Everett, north of here, said the Sillagumish River had dropped considerably from Tuesday's mid-afternoon reading. He added that the Sobomish and Skykomish rivers were holding their levels.

## High School Group To Sing At Elks Confab Tomorrow

La Grande High School's Mixed Ensemble and the Girls' Chorus will entertain members of the La Grande Elks lodge Thursday evening with a special Christmas music program.

It is the regular meeting of the membership at the Elks' Temple and is scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Betty Faulkner is director of the musical groups.

## Republican Wins Important House Seat In Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI)—Republican John Kyl, who staked his campaign on President Eisenhower's "Crusade For Peace," won the race for congressman from Iowa's 4th District Tuesday in a victory over an "anti-Benson" Democratic opponent.  
Republican leaders immediately hailed the election as an indication the GOP is on its way to victory in 1960.

## Union High School Yule Event Tonight

Union (Special)—Union High school band and chorus will present their annual Christmas program tonight.  
There will be two drawings for prizes, one by the high school majorettes and another by the Union Junior Women's Club.  
The program is divided into three parts and will consist of music by the band and Christmas songs by the chorus, and will conclude with the school alma mater.

## THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

# Burp Guns Herald Desperate Runstedt Attack 15 Years Ago

(Editor's Note — Fifteen years ago today, one of the greatest battles for survival ever participated in by U.S. troops broke with savage fury along the snow-covered Ardennes Forest. It was better known as the Battle of the Bulge and ranks possibly as the greatest single military victory turned in by the Allies during all of World War II and also was the closest Germany came to deciding the outcome of the war. Grady Pannell, Observer newsman, was a member of an infantry division that was almost caught by crushing Panzer divisions. He describes in graphic detail those uncertain first days of the fighting.)

BY GRADY PANNELL  
Observer Staff Writer

Rapid-firing burp guns and screaming "88's" heralded the sudden and surprised onslaught by dozens of spirited German divisions that December 16 of 1944.

They came streaming on foot and by barn-track tanks and camouflaged half-tracks out of the driving snow Casey Field General Von Runstedt was in command. He was following the orders of lunatic dictator Hitler.

The entire Schnee-Eiffel of the Monschau literally crawled with enemy troops and gigantic and new Tiger Royal tanks that withstood direct fire from small anti-tank guns.

So swiftly did the Wehrmacht advance, American outposts and front lines were overrun in a matter of minutes, while behind the fluid front confusion mounted and entire infantry units withdrew without orders.

**Deepest Thrust**  
I was with the Second (Indian Head) Division about 14 miles inside Germany at the time. It was then the deepest thrust made by any American division, and our mission was the cutting of the strategic Roer River network of dams in order for Gen. Patton's armor to the south to dash through in a pincher development.

To our immediate south was where the initial breakthrough occurred. In a matter of a few hours we were an island in a raging current. You could hear the shooting but visibility was practically zero.

Then, the white-garbed soldiers of Von Runstedt became visible, and it was soon "the great battle for survival."

Captured Germans given them to take no prisoners. They hadn't the time to clutter up their advancing lines with columns of captured Yanks. Their timetable read, "Christmas in Paris."

This they almost accomplished

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**TIERED INFANTRYMAN**—This soldier of the Second Infantry Division reflects the grim aspects of battle as he stands before knocked out U.S. tank retriever in battered Belgian town of Wurtzfeld along the Elsenborn ridge, scene of some of the hardest fighting between Americans and invading "Bulge" German troops and tanks.

## U.S. NUCLEAR LEADERSHIP

# America Assures NATO Allies Of War Might In Arms Race

PARIS (UPI)—The United States told its NATO allies today that it still has a nuclear lead over the Soviet Union, "both with respect to nuclear weapons and to the means of their delivery."

Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates gave the assurance to the NATO Council of Ministers. He said the U.S. "is confident of its nuclear superiority."

He also warned the alliance against expected Soviet concessions that would allow Western nations to reduce their defense costs.

He pledged that the U.S. would maintain its powerful ground, air and naval forces in Europe.

Britain and Italy added their pledges to maintain or increase present defense forces.  
But France's role in the alliance—amid American criticism of its—caused controversy in the meeting amid the general show of unity.  
NATO Secretary General Paul-

Henri Spaak condemned an "indecision" on the part of the U.S. in leaking charges that France, by not living up to its military commitments, was endangering the alliance.

Gen. Nathan B. Twining, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, meeting the charges at a secret meeting of the NATO Military Committee.

French Defense Minister Pierre Guillaumat said today his government was seriously concerned that the charges had been leaked to the press.

Gates defended Twining and said that although he regretted the publicity given the charges, facts are facts and cannot be ignored.

"My government endorses the military substance of the speech made by Gen. Twining," Gates told the ministers. "It is within the competence, rights, and responsibility of generals to com-

ment on the military consequences of political decisions."  
Spaak said he thought the press had magnified the disagreement. He said he felt the council would agree with him in condemning the leakage. Then he ruled the incident closed.

**Reports on Soviet Strength**  
The dispute was shaded by Gates' appraisal of American nuclear strength and a clear warning by the NATO intelligence chief that the Russians are now in a position to attack from any point of their periphery.

U.S. Adm. Walter F. Boone said that intelligence reports show these developments in Russia's war potential:  
—The Soviets have completed a thorough overhaul of their forces and their arms, both conventional and nuclear.  
—The Soviet submarine menace is as great as ever.

## Wallowa Meet On Livestock At Enterprise

WALLOWA (Special)—Wallowa County Livestock Marketing Association annual meeting will be held Friday at noon in the Odd Fellows Hall at Enterprise. A free lunch will be served.

Speakers on livestock markets and prices will include Prosser, North Portland; Harold Cohn, Hermiston; and Morgan Beck, Ontario. These men have received shipments from Wallowa County during the year.

This is the first dinner meeting held by the shipping association for several years and indicates increased interest in the important problem of how best to market Wallowa County livestock.

During the past season most hogs have been shipped to Portland, Creek to Cohn feed yards on Bitter sheep and feeder cattle to Ontario Sales yard.

## Mother, Grandmother

HIALEAH, Fla. (UPI)—Mrs. Raymond Lites, 34, became both a mother and grandmother within less than three hours Tuesday.

Mrs. Lites gave birth to a boy at 11:46 a.m. and her daughter, Mrs. Robert H. Hall, 18, had a girl at 9:23 a.m. Both babies were reported in good condition.

# Manhattan Borough President's Prestige, Position In Balance

NEW YORK (UPI)—The borough president of Manhattan makes \$24,000 a year, rides around in a Cadillac limousine and enjoys one of the top jobs in the city administration.

It is the highest city post a Negro ever has attained in New York and Hulan E. Jack, West Indian-born, affable Democratic political figure has enjoyed a prestige few residents of Harlem achieve.

Charges such as those that toppled Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams from a pinnacle of power—accusations of accepting gifts from someone doing business with the government—were made Tuesday against Jack.

A grand jury is investigating the charge that Jack allowed a businessman to pay \$5,500 to remodel the borough president's seven-room apartment from glass-enclosed, fixtures tub to recessed lighting fixtures.

Jack has refused to say if he would resign in face of the charges.

The businessman, Sidney J. Ungar, was being considered by the City Board of Estimate as sponsor of a federally-aided slum clearance project in Manhattan in 1958 when Jack's home was remodeled. Jack is a member of the board and has an unwritten veto power over any building project in his borough.

Ungar appeared before the grand jury Tuesday and answered

all questions concerning the remodeling after he was granted immunity from prosecution based on his testimony. Dist. Atty. Frank S. Hogan's office said.

Ungar previously had denied he paid for the remodeling job, but both men have refused to discuss the investigation while the grand jury is taking testimony.

As in the case of Sherman Adams' friendship with Bernard Goldfine, whose gifts of a rug and a vicuna coat forced Adams to resign, Ungar and Jack have been friends for years.  
Ungar was once Jack's campaign manager. Both men have strong ties to Tammany Hall, the New York County Democratic organization.