

WEATHER

Few snow flurries becoming partly cloudy tonight and Thursday; highs 25-32; low 12-24.

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Dangerous Driving Conditions From Sudden Snow Fall

Motorists were warned today to carry chains on all highways in Eastern Oregon, with ice and snow making road conditions hazardous.

The sudden snow fall crossed up the weatherman who had predicted continued cold weather with some spotted cloud conditions for Eastern Oregon.

Packed snow was reported this morning on Highway 30 West from La Grande through Pendleton.

Snow welcomed Some three inches of snow fell in the La Grande area during the night with a blanket of snow covering most of the valley.

The snow was welcomed by farmers and forest officials who have expressed concern over the lack of snow fall so far this winter.

Insufficient snow in the mountains could lead to a serious shortage of water during the hot summer months, it was pointed out.

It was the second snow fall of the season for La Grande. Some three inches fell Nov. 4. The weatherman failed to produce much of a white Christmas but motorists will have a white New Year holiday to hamper their driving.

Power Outage Electric service to most of Union County was temporarily interrupted this morning at 8:54.

Geneva Talks Wrecked The Communist newspaper also accused the United States of having wrecked the Geneva nuclear talks, bogged down for more than a year, by supplying West Germany with atomic arms.

The editorial, signed by Vladimir Zjukov, referred to President Eisenhower's announcement Tuesday that the United States did not intend to extend the U.S. moratorium on nuclear weapon tests.

"Somewhat earlier, the United States carried out underground explosions of atomic weapons," Pravda said.

"These tests can be definitely considered as 'underground experiments' against the Geneva (nuclear) conference on the cessation of nuclear tests which have been bogged down for more than a year due to the faults of the western powers," Pravda said.

"How can one reconcile the beautiful words of certain Western statesmen with such acts as supplying the revanchist (revenge-seeking) West German Bundeswehr with nuclear weapons to which much attention was devoted by the recent session of the aggressive NATO bloc?" the editorial asked.

"One can hardly regard as a sign of love of peace the fact that the government of the United States decided from the first of January to abandon the moratorium on nuclear experiments," it said.

President Eisenhower announced Tuesday in Augusta, Ga., the United States would not extend the formal U.S. moratorium on nuclear weapons tests but promised they would not be resumed without advance notice.

Richmond, Va. (UPI)—Two Atlantic Coast Line diesel switch engines slipped out of the ACL yards here today and chugged away without their crews, one for 68 miles.

The first engine stopped near the edge of Richmond on a railroad trestle over the James River.

The second engine, No. 240 of the ACL, clipped along at 25 miles an hour for 68 miles before a pursuing crew from the rival Chesapeake and Ohio Railway could stop it near the hamlet of Strathmore, Va.

There were no injuries primary damage was some torn yard switches which the two errant engines sailed through after they chugged out of the yards.

An automatic device flashed a warning to the C&O that an unscheduled train was on its tracks between Richmond and Strathmore. None was scheduled at the time, but the C&O alerted all of its trains to stay off the line.

C&O road foreman J.A. Nuttycombe and trainmaster J.F. Bickers Jr., both of Richmond, rushed to intercept No. 240, driving by automobile until they could board a C&O switch engine.

Running on parallel tracks, which border the James River, the C&O crew planned to drop behind the ACL runaway on the same track when it was possible, then board it from the rear.

But Nuttycombe and Bickers said they decided to use a long hook to smash the window of the runaway engine. Then they managed to pull the throttle and set the brake with the same hook.

The little engine ground to a halt. It was still standing near Strathmore several hours later while the ACL tried to determine how the two engines got away from its yards here.

Typhoon Harriet Roars Toward The Philippines MANILA (UPI)—Late-season typhoon Harriet roared today toward the northern Philippines with 140-mile-per-hour winds.

The Manila Weather Bureau said the southern part and eastern coastal regions of Luzon, the Philippines' biggest island, will begin to experience intermittent rain and strong winds late this afternoon.

Portland (UPI)—The Aug. 7 Roseburg explosion and fire was Oregon's biggest 1959 news story, a survey of United Press editors throughout the state showed today.

Nearly every editor voting picked the Douglas county disaster as the top news event. Oregon's Centennial celebration and related events was second.

The top stories of 1959: 1. Roseburg disaster. 2. Centennial. 3. Stubblefield Siamese twins. 4. Discovery of Martin girls' bodies. 5. Cranberries. 6. Legislature. 7. Portland newspaper strike. 8. Political stumping for 1960 primary. 9. Mt. Hood jet collision and rescue. 10. Highway and hunting accidental death tolls.

Roseburg, a city of 12,200, is still recovering from that August disaster which claimed 13 lives and caused an estimated 10 million dollars in property damage. The disaster was touched off when a truck laden with 6 1/2 tons of explosives blew up near the heart of the downtown section. The truck had been parked near a warehouse and blew up after a fire of undetermined origin spread to the vehicle.

The year was Oregon's 100th anniversary as a state. The 2000-mile trip of a modern-day covered wagon train from Independence, Mo., to Independence, Ore., brought national publicity to the event. A 100-day exposition and trade fair was held in Portland. An Ohio great-grandmother, Mrs. Emma Gatewood, hiked on foot all the way to Portland.

Denett and Jeanett Stubblefield, born at Nyssa, Ore., June 29, were successfully separated by surgery in Portland Oct. 19. Just this month Denett was able to go home to Parma, Idaho, with her parents. Jeanett remains in a Portland hospital.

One of 1958's biggest mysteries was at least partially cleared up May 3 and 4 when the bodies of Sue and Virginia Martin were found in the Columbia river. The girls, their parents, and another sister, Barbara, vanished Dec. 7 of last year while on an outing to gather Christmas trees.

The cranberry furor, touched off when the government announced that a chemical used on berries had produced cancer in rats, drew down fifth place. Oregon is a leading cranberry producing state and the industry was hard hit by the announcement.

The 1959 legislative session, which produced an income tax that was referred to the people, drew down sixth place. Just behind it was the continuing Portland newspaper strike which started Nov. 10.

Political stumping for the 1960 primary, a collision of two jet planes over Mt. Hood Oct. 22 and the subsequent rescue of the four airmen involved, and the state's tragic accidental death toll on highways and in the woods rounded out the top 10.

Other stories ranking near the top included the capture of Richard Allen Hunt who had kidnaped the Harrisburg police chief and wounded the Brownsville police chief March 24; the dedication of The Dalles dam with Vice President Nixon attending, a B-52 crash near Burns June 23 which killed five Boeing employes, the continuing Morse-Neuberger feud, the Oregon Dunes national seashore controversy and the slaying Oct. 8 of Ronald Kilby, a Hermiston policeman.

Jim Cash, left, receives farewell handshake from Cy Taylor, manager of the local Montgomery and Ward Co. Cash, who has been with the firm for the past 21 years, is retiring Thursday. He has served in a number of various positions, including assistant manager during the war. He received several top 80 pins, awarded in the Western region, in connection with his department sales. Cash is active in civic affairs, Maconic and Eastern Star lodges, past chairman of the Salvation Army advisory board and member of Chamber of Commerce. (Observer Photo)

Two La Grande police officers finished in the top five of the Oregon Association of City Police Officers pistol match for the period from June to September. Curtis Culp and Gaylen Searles finished second and fourth respectively in the top-rated competition in Class 1 for officers with averages between 225 and 300. Culp finished only nine points out of first place with a 1070 while Searles copied a 1028 for fourth place. Portland officers, who have dominated the event for years, finished first, third and fifth.

La Grande's two winners were the only individual performers to rank in the first five. Only three of the listing of more than 75 officers were not members of police departments in Portland, Salem and Eugene. The third officer outside the main three was from Corvallis.

In addition to state-wide competition, the La Grande police department holds qualification shooting throughout the year. All officers must qualify on the range even during their probation period, according to Chief Oliver Reeve.

Three new members of the board of directors of the La Grande Chamber of Commerce have been elected by the general membership of the organization.

The three new members of the board will serve three year terms. Elected were Rily Allen, La Grande Observer; Carlos Esley, Eastern Oregon College, and John Sullivan, U.S. National Bank.

Officers of the chamber for 1960 will be elected at next Wednesday's meeting of the membership at noon in the Sacajawea Hotel.

DETROIT (UPI)—New Year's revelers are going to get the VIP treatment by Detroit's bus system.

Bus drivers will deposit passengers at their doorsteps on request if the passenger lives within two blocks of the regular route.

HAVANA (UPI)—The arrest of 37 Cubans, including a U.S.-educated sugar planter, has smashed a vast conspiracy against the Government of Premier Fidel Castro, it was reported today.

Army intelligence agents said the arrests frustrated plans to terrorize the nation with a campaign of sabotage and murder.

At the same time, the pro-government newspaper Combate carried new reports of an impending invasion, saying that anti-Castro forces armed by the Guatemalan government are about to sail for Cuba.

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