

18 Seamen Get To Safety From Sinking Freighter

SINGAPORE (UPI) — Eighteen crew members of a wrecked American ship were taken from a storm-battered rock south of here today by a British minesweeper after high waves swept

scrambled to safety. A boat from the minesweeper Fisketon, took them off. It was not immediately known if the original count of the men in the lifeboat was wrong or if four were lost.

Another unconfirmed report said that additional crew members had reached safety in the Indonesian port of Tanjung Pinang. The shipwreck took place in Indonesian waters, about 50 miles southeast of Singapore.

Winds up to 76 m.p.h. made rescue work difficult.

The vessel's agents said that the cargo of wheat was swelling with water. Reports indicated the ship was breaking up and would be a total loss, they said.

The ship, built in 1913, is owned by Peninsula Navigation Corp. of New York.

Three Oregon men were listed today as crew members of the grounded freighter Valley Forge. None of them suffered injury, according to wire reports. They are Gerald Tucker, McMinnville; Fred Lund, Milwaukie, and Thomas Richard, Portland.

them out of reach of an earlier rescue attempt.

The rescue left 11 members of the 7,202-ton freighter Valley Forge's crew of 37 unaccounted for.

The 18-year-old ship, carrying 10,000 tons of American aid grain from Portland, Ore., to India, struck Barlang Kap rock early Thursday in a gale that whipped up storm waves throughout the Singapore area.

A Singapore tug was able to take off eight men before the waves forced it away from the wreck. It reported a lifeboat with 22 men was swept out of reach by the storm as it approached the tug.

Signals received at the Singapore Naval Station indicated that the lifeboat reached a rock in the area of the wreck and its crew

2 Wrecks Greet 1960

Slick streets contributed to two minor accidents in La Grande as 1959 came to a close, and 1960 got underway with a burglary at a local service station.

Earl George Meuli, Rt. 1, and June Marie Steffens, 1304 L Ave., were the drivers of two cars that collided at the intersection of Eighth Street and N Avenue Thursday. No one was injured in the accident.

Edward Franklin Calame, 605 1/2 B Ave., was the driver of a vehicle that collided with a parked car owned by Richard E. Campbell, Rupert, Idaho. The accident occurred in front of 304 C Ave. Thursday.

Gene L. Bolin reported the theft of \$20 from the cash register at the Standard station, 1519 Adams Ave., yesterday. Bolin told police he was working on a car in the publication room of the station when the theft occurred. The keys to the station safe were also taken, police said.

Cited By Police
Gary G. Decker, 1 Pine Crest Drive, was cited by police for operating a motor vehicle with an inadequate muffler yesterday.

Decker was stopped on Adams Avenue between Greenwood Street and Fir Avenue at 9:06 p.m. He was released on \$10 bail.

Mary M. Reed, 2001 Adams Ave., was issued a citation for driving without an operator's license Thursday. Mrs. Reed was stopped in the 1500 block on Jefferson Avenue.

She posted \$5 bail and signed a waiver and will not appear in court.

Walter H. Tachka was arrested on a charge of vagrancy by police Thursday. Bail was set at \$20. Hearings on all cases were scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday.

Elgin Resident Merlyn G. Allen Dies At Age 65

ELGIN (Special)—Funeral services will be held Monday at the Elgin Christian Church for Merlyn Glen Allen, 65, Elgin, who died of a heart attack Wednesday at a La Grande hospital.

Mr. Allen had been a resident of Elgin since 1915. He had been in ailing health for several months.

He was born at Milton, Ore., April 27, 1894, and was a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Elgin Christian Church.

He attended Columbia College and in 1915 earned his degree in pharmacy. He came to Elgin as an employe of Scott Harris in an Elgin drug store following service in World War I. He later bought the drug store and operated it until a few years ago when he sold to S. F. Foster.

He is survived by the widow, Mollie, Elgin; a niece, Mrs. La Velle Bean, North Port, Wash., and a cousin, Roy Allen, La Grande.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. under auspices of the Masonic Lodge. Don Dempsey's Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Victim In Good Shape

Mae Irene Redman, Portland, was listed in good condition this morning at the Grande Ronde Hospital. Mrs. Redman was admitted Thursday following a two-car collision on U. S. Highway 30 at Lower Perry.

The accident occurred at 9:10 a.m. when a car driven by Fred Lester Booher, La Grande, attempted to pass a truck, forcing the Redman car off the highway. State Police said.

Robert Redman, husband of the injured woman, told The Observer this morning that his wife suffered fractures and a possible broken back in the mishap.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR, TONY RAE

Tony Rae Rysdam started the New Year off just right for her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Rysdam of Elgin. The 7 lb., 4 oz. baby girl made her debut at 9:07 last night at the Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande. She is the first baby to be born in 1960 in La Grande. (Observer Photo)

Four Private Planes Missing In Storm; Crashes Kill Eight

United Press International
Eight persons were killed in two plane crashes in the South New Year's Day and at least four private planes with seven persons aboard were missing in a storm belt which stretched from the Rockies to Minnesota.

Two Miami couples were killed Friday afternoon when a light plane plunged into a swamp about 15 miles east of Tallahassee, Fla. Police speculated that the plane may have been low on fuel.

Three men and a woman were killed Friday night when a single-engine aircraft ran out of fuel and crashed in a pasture near Wetumpka, Ala.

The highway patrol said the Beechcraft Bonanza, flying from Bartow, Fla., attempted to make an emergency landing but plummeted into the pasture. Killed were the pilot, Emory G. Diamond, 38, Springhill, La., M.A. Curtis, 42, Cullman, Ala., and Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Stewart of Bartow.

Search parties set out in the teeth of a New Year's Day blizzard that isolated towns and crippled holiday traffic to find the pilots and passengers of the four missing planes.

Two pilots were safe after being reported missing in the storm.

Warren Racine, 25, of Denver, Colo., walked to a ranch after spending 18 hours in his crashed airplane. Racine said he kept warm by tearing out the insulation of his craft and stuffing it around his numbed body.

Another pilot believed lost near the Kansas-Nebraska border turned up safe at Crete, Neb. Arthur Wickle, Sioux Falls, S.D., told authorities he was forced to land at Washington, Kan., where he spent New Year's Eve. He took off again Friday for Yankton, S.D., but heavy snows forced him down once more at Crete.

In Texas, an air-ground search was underway for a light plane piloted by Houston businessman L. J. Alexander. His plane dropped out of sight on a flight between Corpus Christi and Houston.

An aircraft with two Seattle, Wash., couples aboard vanished during a snow storm in the Sierra Nevada between Oroville, Calif., and Reno, Nev.

Two planes bound for Elko, Nev., were also reported missing. Robert E. Anderson of Sunnyvale, Calif., failed to make it to Elko. Meanwhile a Cessna Skylane disappeared over Lovelock, Nev., Friday after the pilot, D. R. Mangels of Cordelia, Calif., radioed that he was headed for a fog bank and descending. The plane was enroute to Elko, Nev., from Napa, Calif.

Fire Activity In '59 Totaled 102 Alarms

There were only two fires in the month of February 1959, but those two alarms resulted in damage of more than half a million dollars here.

La Grande residents were still talking about the Feb. 15 West Building blaze when the fire alarm sent firemen and volunteers to the Grande Ronde Apartments on Feb. 18.

Insurance payments of \$90,263 were made on the \$265,000 West Building fire. Insurance paid \$165,000 of the \$300,000 in damage to the Grande Ronde Apartments. The apartment building is currently being reconstructed.

La Grande firemen answered a total of 102 alarms during 1959 with 42 of the calls general alarms. An average of 19 men answered each fire call.

August was the biggest month in number of fires with 20 as compared to the February figure of two.

Fire department officials inspected 342 buildings during 1959 as part of the department's fire prevention program. Fire schools and drills were also held in several local business firms.

Firemen participated in many community projects during the past year. Fire Chief Ray Snider

has reported. He said that firemen manned a lost and found booth during the Centennial Celebration here and also participated in the parade.

Many Activities
A special demonstration during Fire Prevention Week in the fall was given at halftime of the Bend-La Grande football game. Firemen also kept a daily record of weather in the city throughout the year.

Five members of the department were graduated from the State Fire School at Baker this past year, the chief said.

Fire protection in the city was bolstered with the arrival of the city's new fire engine. The 1,000 gallon per minute pumper with full fire fighting equipment cost the city \$22,850.

A movie projector was purchased by the department to aid in local training sessions. Five smoke masks, seven helmets and four special turnout suits were also acquired during 1959.

Blizzard Paralyzes Great Plains Area

SNOW DRIFTS ISOLATE TOWNS, TRAP CATTLE

United Press International
A holiday blizzard paralyzed the Great Plains today and sent howling blasts of cold, snow and sleet into Mississippi Valley.

Safety officials posted dangerous driving warnings as highways coated over with ice or disappeared altogether beneath the 11-inch snowfall and four-foot drifts.

The storm isolated towns, trapped livestock in farflung pastures and apparently swallowed seven persons missing in four small airplanes somewhere in the vast blizzard area.

The storm centered in eastern Nebraska and spread blizzard conditions from northwest Kansas through western Nebraska, extreme eastern Wyoming, Montana and most of the Dakotas.

The storm was expected to bite into the midwest today, bringing heavy snow, high winds and drifts to Minnesota, Wisconsin and upper Michigan.

Sleet and freezing rain were to produce dangerous driving conditions in northwest Illinois and northeast Iowa.

Snowfalls mounted to 11 inches in western Nebraska, where whistling 60-mile-an-hour winds reduced visibility to zero.

In the southwest, Silver City, N.M., was isolated by its third big storm in 16 days. Sheriff John Turney banned all travel from the beleaguered town when eight inches of snow and four foot drifts blocked highways in the vicinity.

The weather bureau predicted a belt of freezing rain or rain and snow from northern Missouri and eastern Iowa across northern Illinois and Indiana into southern Michigan today.

Other rain was expected to stretch eastward from the storm-

HE FOLLOWS THE TRADITION

ROME (UPI) — The New Year's Eve tradition in Italy is to throw out the window old pots and pans, bottles and rubbish, at midnight.

The Rome afternoon newspaper Giornale d'Italia Friday said that a man in Pescara was carried away with the spirit and threw his wife out the window.

The man was identified only as "Mr. Augusto R."

The wife, the newspaper said, was not badly injured and made up with her husband over another bottle of wine.

Sen. Kennedy Jumps Into Political Race

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. John F. Kennedy announced officially today he will seek the 1960 Democratic presidential nomination and said he is confident that he can "win both the nomination and the election."

The 42-year-old Massachusetts Democrat, front-running in the polls and second to announce for his party's presidential nomination, had been an expected candidate for months.

In his formal announcement, he noted that for the "past 40 months" he had toured every state and had talked to Democrats "in all walks of life."

He said he will enter the New Hampshire presidential primary March 8.

Kennedy reserved any decision about other primaries until later, "as their filing dates approach."

But he was expected to enter also the April 5 Wisconsin and the Oregon May 20 presidential primary contests, if not others of lesser political significance.

Kennedy's formal statement was released at a 12:30 p.m. e.s.t. news conference in the big Senate caucus room, scene of most of the Senate's headline making investigation hearings, including the labor-management inquiry in which the Senator participated.

Kennedy said the presidency "is the most powerful office in the free world."

"Through its leadership can come a more vital life for our people," he said. "It is cherished the hopes of the globe around us for freedom and a more secure life."

Kennedy is the first major Roman Catholic contender for the presidency since the 1928 elections when Republican Herbert Hoover defeated Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York.

Priest Shot To Death Inside Car

BUFFALO (UPI) — A well-liked Roman Catholic priest who had left the rectory of Holy Cross Church to visit shut-in parishioners was shot to death in his car Friday.

Police could find no motive for the killing of the Rev. Vincent L. Belle, 37.

"This looks like the work of a fanatic," Erie County Dist. Atty. Carmen Ball said.

Father Belle's body was found in his car in a garage at the rear of the rectory about 9 a.m. by another assistant pastor when the shut-in parishioners called to say Father Belle had not arrived.

He was sitting in the front seat with the car door still open. He had been shot three times with a small caliber gun. Two of the shots lodged in his chest.

At first, it was thought he had suffered a heart attack. The bullet wounds were not found until his body had been taken to a funeral home.

County Clerk Resting At Home After Illness

Union County Clerk C. L. Graham, now convalescing at his home following a Christmas day heart attack, expects to be back at the courthouse early this month.

He was hospitalized here for a brief period of time following his illness.

Dog Tags Available At Courthouse Here

Union County dog licenses are now due and can be obtained from the county clerk's office at the courthouse here.

License tags for males are \$1 and \$2 for females.

SET DRUG HEARINGS

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate anti-trust subcommittee will hold its second round of drug hearings from Jan. 21 to Jan. 29. It will take a look at prices charged for tranquilizers.

Missing American Girl May Be Corpse Found In Morocco

EDITOR'S NOTE: UPI correspondent Robert Rooney of the Madrid bureau went to Tangier to look into the mysterious slaying of a girl believed to be an American. In the following dispatch he reports how the new and untried Moroccan police force is moving slowly and carefully toward solution of the case.

By ROBERT ROONEY
UPI Staff Writer

TANGIER (UPI) — Commissioner Maazouzi shakes hands and smiles all around. But he insists he can say nothing. He wants to make no mistake.

As a police official in Tangier, the city long wise to the ways of crime, he has his reasons. They are good ones.

The youthful police official is investigating the most celebrated murder the city has seen in years, and until his case is complete he is keeping mum.

In cafes, bars and on street corners the city's international population of 200,000 confines itself to gossip — the case is already solved, to their own satisfaction at least. No one is waiting.

Boy Finds Body
They are eager to see how the young Moroccan police force, which replaced Tangier's old brigade after the nation achieved independence, would handle this murder. It was the first the city has known in more than two years.

On Dec. 13, a young Moroccan shepherd boy, tending his flocks

in the Kabiria forest on the outskirts of Tangier, found a burlap-wrapped bundle.

The bundle contained the body of a young girl, mutilated and badly decomposed.

A police doctor said she died from strangulation, but while still alive she had been struck on the back of the head. The face was battered to prevent recognition.

There seemed to be nothing for the police to go on. That the dead girl was a foreigner — one of the thousands who flock here every year — seemed certain.

Name Leads Out
Nine days later her name leaked out. Reports said the girl was Barbara Helen Moeller, a 19-year-old college coed from New York.

A week passed and nothing happened. Then, on Dec. 19, a 26-year-old Englishman, William Edward Moore, was picked up for questioning. A short time later he allegedly attempted suicide while under police guard. He was hospitalized.

Moore had been seen often with the Moeller girl. He had left her before her body was found and had not been seen since. Officially, nothing else was known.

Commissioner Maazouzi, standing in the sun in front of his office, could add only: "Within a few days at the most we will be able to release a complete story to the press. You understand, other than this I can say nothing."

AMERICAN ON TRIAL FOR LIFE

Yank Flier Admits One Attack Mission For Indonesian Rebs

JAKARTA (UPI) — American Pilot Allen Lawrence Pope admitted at his trial today that he flew one attack mission for the Indonesian rebels.

The Florida flier, who was shot down last May, denied that he flew other attack missions.

Pope is being tried on four charges: assisting the enemy in time of war, which carries a maximum penalty of death; participating in an armed rebellion against the legal government of Indonesia; manslaughter, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Under cross-examination by Judge Sardjono, Pope admitted that he attacked the Pattimura Air Base at Ambon with bombs and machine guns. He said he strafed "what appeared to be a C-47 transport plane, but was later found out to be a dummy,

and also a fuel truck."

"I myself made no other attacks," he said.

Pope also admitted that he had flown "about a dozen flights for the rebels and all types like test flights, training flights and patrols like the one we are discussing here in court."

Pope is charged with attacking other air bases, the Ambon harbor and a conveyer. But he denied these charges, stating that except for the attack on the Pattimura Air Base "I attacked no other ob-

jects, no harbors nor ships."

"Pope chose not to plead guilty or innocent at his trial's second session today. This is permissible under Indonesian law.

If Pope, of Homestead, Florida, is treated as a legitimate prisoner of war instead of as a soldier of fortune, he could not be held responsible for some of his actions in "combat."

The defense claimed the Geneva convention is applicable not only to "belligerent states but also to belligerent bodies or communities."

The judge overruled the defense counsel stressing that only sovereign nations could be belligerent parties in war and that the Indonesian rebels are not a sovereign nation. He also stressed that the legal definition "enemy" under Indonesian law includes rebels and insurgents.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with scattered light snow flurries likely tonight; partly cloudy Sunday with chance of a few light snow flurries persisting south portion; high Sunday 24-34; low tonight 5-15.



VISITORS FROM AFAR

Two visitors to La Grande whirl down the Sixth Street hill on their flying saucers as Grande Ronde Valley children enjoy winter fun in the snow. The pair, Jimmy and Janet Andrews, didn't come from another planet, just another state. The two children are from Enumclaw, Wash., and are visiting at 1116 Jefferson St. (Observer Photo)