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THE WEATHER
Cloudy today, becoming unsettled Saturday with rains by night; Max. Temp. Thursday 47, Min. 32, rain 1.40 inches, river 1 foot.

OVER 50 INJURED IN BLAST

Watchers at Minor Fire are Buried by Hurling Mass As gas Explosion Tosses Roof From House

College Student Killed and Fire Chief may die; two Others in Serious Shape; Warning too Late

BERKELEY, Cal., Dec. 3.—(AP)—One person was killed, 15, three of whom may die, were seriously injured, and more than 40 others were hurt in a gas explosion that tore the roof from a burning residence in the Hillside district here late today.

The terrific blast, which came as firemen battling flames in the home had them nearly under control, hurled burning timbers into a tightly packed crowd watching the fire.

Sherman Pepper, 16, son of Professor Stephen Pepper of the University of California, was killed. Fire Ch. George Haggerty, veteran Berkeley department head was so badly injured he was not expected to live.

Among the injured were University of California students, firemen, and Berkeley residents.

The fire broke out shortly after five o'clock in the home of pharmacist's mate Norman L. Saunders, U. S. N. Saunders was absent at the time. A huge crowd of the university students and Berkeley residents gathered to watch the blaze, fighting of which was directed by Chief Haggerty. Chief Smells Gas, Orders Men Away

As the flames appeared under control, Haggerty, who was inside the house with several of his men, detected the odor of gas. He immediately ordered the men from the building.

At the same time, Saunders, with John S. O'Brien, another petty officer, dashed into the building. At that moment, escaping gas from a large heater in the basement of the residence exploded with a terrific blast. Saunders, Haggerty, and others were blown through the front door and several injured.

The entire roof of the building was torn away, and large pieces of flaming timber hurtled two blocks away. The huge mass of burning debris crashed into the packed crowd of onlookers, partially burying many of them. Windows in surrounding houses were broken, and the side of the home of William Sergeant, adjoining the Saunders home, was torn out.

The screams of the injured, lying in the mass of flaming debris, added to the confusion as ambulances from all emergency hospitals in the city were ordered to the scene. University students and residents of the district joined with the hospital aides in dragging the injured from the debris.

Hospitals Filled; Fire Flares Again

The Cowell Memorial hospital, the Alta Bates sanitarium and the Berkeley General hospital were packed with injured within a short time. Many who were minor hurts refused hospital treatment to allow those more seriously injured to be taken care of quickly.

The fire flamed anew after the explosion and a new danger was added when firemen were unable to shut off gas escaping from the torn furnace connections. Smoke (Turn to page 2, col. 5)

"Sons of Wild Jackasses" Will Oppose Him as Senate Leader



GEORGE H. MOSES

M'NARY MENTIONED FOR SENATE CHIEF

Independents Oppose Moses Despite Threats They Won't get Jobs

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—(AP)—The long-smouldering senate republican row burst into lively flames today with declarations from western independent leaders that they would oppose the reelection of George Moses, of New Hampshire, as president-pro tempore.

Senator Moses referred to the independents as the "sons of the wild jackasses" two years ago.

Senators Borah, of Idaho, and Norris, of Nebraska, the insurgent leaders, in announcing against Moses, insisted their action was evoked by threats they would be deprived of committee chairmanships if they failed to support the New Hampshire member.

Borah and Norris defied retaliation action but it seemed unlikely tonight that such a move would be made against them. Until the dispute is fought out on the senate floor next week, there is no telling what may happen. However, democratic aversion to taking over control of the senate without a majority is expected to preclude an upset in the senate republican organization.

The independents have no intention of attempting to replace Moses with a democrat. They are preparing to support Senator McNary, of Oregon, the popular assistant republican leader, or the veteran Wesley Jones, of Washington.

Nevada Divorce Laws Topic For Debate Tonight

Wage cutting and divorce laws of Nevada will be the topics for a dual debate between Willamette university and Monmouth Normal to be held tonight.

The negative teams will travel for both schools with the women's squads arguing the topic of divorce laws. All the debates will be non-decision contests. The men will be first and will start at 7 o'clock.

Virginia Durkee, Margaret Freeman, Garfield Barnett and Ross Knotts will go to Monmouth. Pauline Moore, Lida Hanna, Elizabeth Smith, Edna Mark and Carroll Shank will debate here. Each coach will act as critic.

SANTIAM RIVER WATER SUPPLY HELD POLLUTED

Possibly More so Than the Willamette Because of Smaller Volume

Little Advantage in Costly Pipe Line Seen; Health Board Makes Report

By C. A. SPRAGUE
One of the proposed sources of supply for Salem water which will be voted on at the election December 15 is the Little North Fork of the Santiam river. The advocates of the \$2,500,000 bond issue urge building a pipeline to tap this stream a short distance above Meham, with an auxiliary intake in the main fork of the Santiam a little above the point where the Little North Fork enters it. They call this "mountain water." In reality the term "mountain water" is a misnomer. The theory of mountain water is to tap some stream above civilization which drains a protected watershed. Portland has such a watershed in the Bull Run reserve, and even Portland now chlorinates its water.

So far as Salem is concerned there is no practical source for mountain water from a protected watershed. Marion lake might be used, but it is remote, the water is warm, and in midsummer has much vegetable growth. In fact its water is said to be about the poorest of any in the Santiam watershed.

Water Looks Good But is Contaminated

The water of the Little North Fork appears to be very good water. It is clear and cold. The stream flow varies radically. In the summer-time it diminishes to a small stream, in winter or in the floor season it flows in large volume. This water is subject to much contamination. There are the mines up at Elkholm, which are worked intermittently. There are small farms along the stream. Just above the proposed intake are Camp Santiam, Taylor's Grove and the Boy Scout camp. Numerous summer homes cluster about the bridge at Taylor's.

This small stream, which diminishes to 2 1/2 second feet in September, is contaminated at these points. The water, instead of flowing then in the natural water course and having the benefit of aeration over the riffles and oxidation of foreign matter in the sunlight, would be diverted into a steel pipeline and whatever impurities it has, conveyed direct to the reservoir and into the distributing system. It would have to be chlorinated to be safe for use.

While the bacterial count is not available to compare with the Willamette, it is conceivable that the count might be higher for the Little North Fork than for the Willamette above Salem, because the stream flow of the Little North Fork was only 2 1/2 second feet last September 6, while the Willamette just below Albany had a measurement of 3400 second feet and is much larger at Salem. The factor of dilution is much greater with the Willamette than with the Santiam.

State Health Board Reports Its Findings

In order to get the most accurate information possible regarding the proposed source of supply, (Turn to page 2, col. 1)

VALLEY AND SILETZ PURCHASE REFUSED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—(AP)—The Interstate Commerce commission today refused to allow the Oregon Southern Pacific or the Oregon Electric railway to purchase the prosperous Valley and Siletz railroad.

The commission denied the Southern Pacific petition for permission to purchase the railroad because it found nothing in the record to show the present owners of the Valley and Siletz were willing to sell to that company. The Oregon Electric was denied a permit to buy because the price of \$2,000,000 offered was held unjustified and because all points the Oregon Electric now serves are fully served by the Southern Pacific.

The Oregon Electric's petition for permission to build two miles of track to connect with the Valley and Siletz, which operates 40 miles of line in Oregon between Valsetz and Independence, where it connects with the Southern Pacific, also was denied.

PIONEER IS FOUND DEAD IN HIS HOME

W. M. Abrams, a neighbor of Jacob Schnebly, 75, yesterday found the aged man dead in his little ranch home near the new penitentiary annex. Schnebly is believed to have died Wednesday as a newspaper issued on that day was discovered beside his fully-clothed, reclining body.

Snebly came to Oregon from Germany about 40 years ago on a ship that sailed around Cape Horn. For many years he lived in the Michigan City district in Polk county and often worked on Wallace farm. He had lived on his five-acre ranch for the past five years.

Surviving are two nieces: Mrs. August Jaeger of Wilsonville and Mrs. David R. Yanits. Funeral arrangements are in charge of W. T. Rigdon and Son.

ANN HARDING HURT JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 3

(AP)—Ann Harding, blonde star of the screen, was reported "resting comfortably" tonight despite a dislocated shoulder.

Mogan Seizes Truckload of Alleged Wine

Upholding the reputation which the Oregon state police are making for themselves, Patrolman Farley Mogan yesterday afternoon walked single-handed into headquarters with four men in his custody.

The quartet, apparently believing the officer meant business, straggled into the police station ahead of him, plunked down a gallon jug of what was said to be wine, and waited for Patrolman Mogan. "Three more of these are coming," they told the desk officer, as the patrolman entered, carrying three jugs.

The men were: R. C. Lewis, W. S. Powers, R. C. Dorr and George Poplock, all of Seattle. They were lodged in the city jail on charges of possession of liquor.

Patrolman Mogan captured the four men as they were driving a truck along the Pacific highway north of Salem.

MONMOUTH LAD IS REPORTED MISSING

Donald McCaleb Fails to Show up Monday at School, Word

MONMOUTH, Dec. 3.—A quiet search has been going on since Monday for Donald McCaleb, 14, junior high student at the training department of the state normal school here.

Young McCaleb walked daily four miles to school from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. McCaleb who live west of town. Monday morning he left home as usual, and en route to school left a book for his mother at Johnson's book store here.

That was the last that was seen of him, as he did not show up at school.

His mother, learning he was not at school, discovered that he had taken all his clothes with him, and also a brown army blanket and a flashlight. She notified Verd Schrank, city marshal here, and later Sheriff Hooker of Dallas was notified.

So far, no trace of the lad has been found.

He ran away once last year, going to the home of relatives in Salem. This time, these relatives did not see him.

The boy is said to have talked to his schoolmates about running away, and to have asserted that his father was unfriendly toward him.

His mother is greatly worried. His teacher, Florence Beardsley, says she is not surprised that he left, as she thought he might have been contemplating it.

SLIPPERY HIGHWAYS IMPERILING TRAVEL

Slippery roads in the western and southern part of Oregon and danger, sleet, conditions on north and central highways were reported yesterday at the Salem branch office of the Oregon State Motor association.

Worst sleet-covered roads were on the upper Columbia river highway and in the Blue mountains. Six inches of snow was reported at Bonnerville and eight at Hood River. The lower Columbia river highway was said to be safe for driving.

North and south of Portland to the state lines were slippery but negotiable, according to the reports. As there was no snow on the Siskiyou portion of the Pacific highway, traffic was moving as usual.

The Wapinitia cut-off was reported without snow but very slippery. No snow was reported on the Redwood and Oregon Coast highways.

Teacher's Auto Catches on Fire

Just as Floyd L. Siegmund, mechanical drawing instructor at the high school, prepared to drive away from school yesterday afternoon, a cloud of smoke burst from the hood of his car. The fire at the source of the smoke proved a tiny one and firemen called by the instructor soon put it out with a hand extinguisher.

The blaze, caused by a short circuit, did but slight damage to the wiring.

Silverton Bird Grand Champion

BANDON, Ore., Dec. 3.—(AP)—A single-comb White Leghorn hen, owned by Fred Wambeck, Silverton, was declared grand champion bird at the Bandon egg and poultry show which closed here tonight.

Warnock will receive a silver trophy offered by the Bandon Lions club.

SUPER HIGHWAY HERE APPROVED BY ROAD BOARD

Three Lane 30-Foot Width Assured; Counties to Buy Right-of-way

Conference on Material to Be Used Will be Held Early Next Week

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 3.—(AP)—Widening of the Pacific highway between Oregon City and Salem to a 30-foot highway was approved by the state highway commission here today. The decision was reached after a day spent in hearings, negotiations and investigation of highway types.

The project, which ultimately will cost approximately \$2,000,000 will include widening of all bridges and culverts to four-lane width and the acquiring of a 100-foot right-of-way over the entire route.

It will include addition of a ten foot lane to the new section between Oregon City and New Era and the realignment and reconstruction of the pavement over the remaining distance.

Construction will proceed as funds become available, the commission decided, and the highway will be built on the most modern designs in order to provide for future traffic needs.

Counties Must Buy Needed Right-of-Way

The commission will ask the counties affected to acquire the additional right-of-way needed. The first section lies immediately north of Salem and the Marion county court will be asked to obtain the right-of-way for inauguration of construction on a four-mile unit. The highway engineering staff was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for (Turn to page 2, col. 3)

MEIER HERE TODAY THEN GOING SOUTH

Governor Julius L. Meier will be at his desk in the capitol for the bulk of today on his last visit to Salem before he goes south to San Francisco to spend the holidays with his daughters and their children. The governor is expected to leave Portland for the south Sunday night.

While here today Governor Meier is expected to participate in the hearing which involves David Lee Byers, Sutherlin school principal, whose certificate to teach in Oregon has been revoked by Charles A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction. Governor Meier is ex-officio chairman of the state board of education.

Byers was accused by Mrs. Edith Ackert, Douglas county school superintendent, of being "too friendly" with some of his women teachers. Following the revocation of his certificate, Byers exerted his legal right of appeal to the state board of education.

During Governor Meier's absence from the state, Willard Marks, president of the state senate in the 1931 session, will be governor as provided for by the state constitution. It will be Marks' second experience as master of the executive offices. Governor Meier having gone south for a short time last summer.

Woman Laughs Self to Death

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 3.—(AP)—The antics of a comedian in a motion picture caused Mrs. Mary D. Armsted, 53, to laugh herself to death at the El Comodoro, Mrs. Armsted went into a state of laughter, then into hysterics and finally fell from her theater seat.

City Lighting Contract Delayed; Dads Too Busy

Although the city of Salem now is paying light bills to the Portland General Electric company at rates given in a contract made several years ago and now expired, the members of the council light committee seem unable to spare enough time to city business for negotiation of a new and more favorable contract.

For three weeks, Chairman Frank L. Wilkinson has attempted to arrange a meeting of his committee for this purpose but each time the session has been called, some one of the other two aldermen of the committee have claimed their inability to attend. The other two committeemen are George Averett and S. A. Hughes.

The old power contract was made when prices were high and the rates were in accordance. While general values have decreased greatly within the past

Validity of Stock Of Empire Officer Group Not Decided

Unruh Arrested Upon Charge of Lacking Brakes

After colliding with a car driven by Chet Lindley, 619 Court street, at Center and North Capitol streets yesterday, David Unruh, 1191 Ruge street, West Salem, was arrested by city traffic officers on a charge of neither carrying a driver's license nor having effective brakes on his automobile.

Lindley reported to police that Unruh failed to stop at the through street. Unruh claimed he could not stop on account of the wet condition of the pavement.

WOMAN BURNED IN STRANGE ACCIDENT

Water Turned on, Pipe in Stove Burns; Blaze Spreads Rapidly

KEIZER, Dec. 3.—Mrs. Charles Weathers was seriously burned about the face, arms and chest, her small son burned slightly and parts of the family home destroyed yesterday morning when a peculiar accident occurred at the home here.

Water had been turned off at the house on account of freezing weather, and as Mr. Weathers turned the water on from the lower immediate steam was created in the hot water tank and a pipe in the stove exploded, with Mrs. Weathers and the three-year-old child in the kitchen.

The explosion hurled Mrs. Weathers' clothing. A can of tar on the back of the stove caught fire. Mrs. Weathers grabbed it and threw it to the floor. The blazing tar set fire to the floor, draperies, woodwork and doors also catching fire. Windows were broken in the kitchen.

Mrs. Weathers ran out of the house to call help, her son Earl responding by throwing clothes about her and rolling her on the floor to smother the flames which lapped at her garments.

Earl rushed into the kitchen and found the three-year-old brother huddled in one corner, with his hair singed. Earl controlled the blaze with a fire extinguisher, where every hope is held for recovery. An arm is the most seriously burned.

The Weathers had planned an event for Sunday in celebration of the birthday of Mr. Weathers' mother, but this will be cancelled. Mrs. Weathers is in the Willamette sanitarium in Salem, where every hope is held for recovery. An arm is the most seriously burned.

Kills His Sister Thinking She is Mother-in-Law

PAULS VALLEY, Okla., Dec. 3.—(AP)—Homer Hurt, Garvin county attorney, announced tonight that J. O. Logan, 64, had confessed he killed his sister, Mrs. Indiana Anderson, with an axe, after mistaking her for his mother-in-law.

BODY DISCOVERED
PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 3.—(AP)—Three men chasing their dog in the hills back of Elmon, Portland suburb, late today discovered the body of an unidentified man who apparently had been dead some time.

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State Seeks to Collect Civil War Debt of U. S.

The state of Oregon, through the attorney general's office and its delegation in Nevada, will exert every effort to recover from the federal government approximately \$358,000, which was alleged to be due the state for money advanced in paying the Oregon troops and providing necessary equipment during the civil war.

Attorney General VanWinkle left for Washington last night, where he will submit copies of the claims to the proper officials. The claims were compiled by Hal E. Hoss, secretary of state, under authority vested in his department by the 1931 legislature. It was said that similar claims already have been paid to the states of Nevada and New York. California now has a claim pending in Washington.

The amount alleged to be due the state of Oregon was determined by the board of war examiners of the federal war depart-

18 SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS

GOING UP! SHOPPING DATE