

The Weather
Occasional rain today and Saturday, cool; Max. Temp. Thursday 55, Min. 31; river 6.5 feet, rain .03 inch, south, southwest wind.

EIGHTY-SIXTH YEAR

Schoolhouse Blast Death Toll Is Over 400

Salem Beaten; Semi-Finals in Tourney Ahead

Bellfountain, Franklin, Lincoln, McLoughlin to Clash Tonight

Railsplitters Too Lofty for Vikings Who Put Up Tight Defense

TOURNEY GAMES TODAY
10 o'clock—Astoria vs. Athena.
11 o'clock—LaGrande vs. McMinnville.
2 o'clock—Eugene vs. Chiloquin.
3 o'clock—Ashland vs. Salem.

Semi-finals
7:30 o'clock—Bellfountain vs. Franklin.
8:30 o'clock—McLoughlin vs. Lincoln.

SCORES YESTERDAY
Athena 25, Astoria 44, Milwaukie 30, LaGrande 32, Klamath Falls 21, McMinnville 42, North Bend 21, Bellfountain 39, Chiloquin 21, Franklin 26, Eugene 24, McLoughlin 34, Ashland 26, Lincoln 20, Salem 15.

By PAUL HAUSER
Lincoln high of Portland, its height too much for even a ball-hawking crew like the Vikings, defeated Salem 20 to 15 last night to complete the list of four teams yet undefeated which will vie tonight in the semi-final round of the state high school basketball tournament.

Lincoln, of the four teams the only one not a semi-finalist last year, will meet McLoughlin tonight after Franklin and Bellfountain fight it out for the final berth in the upper bracket.

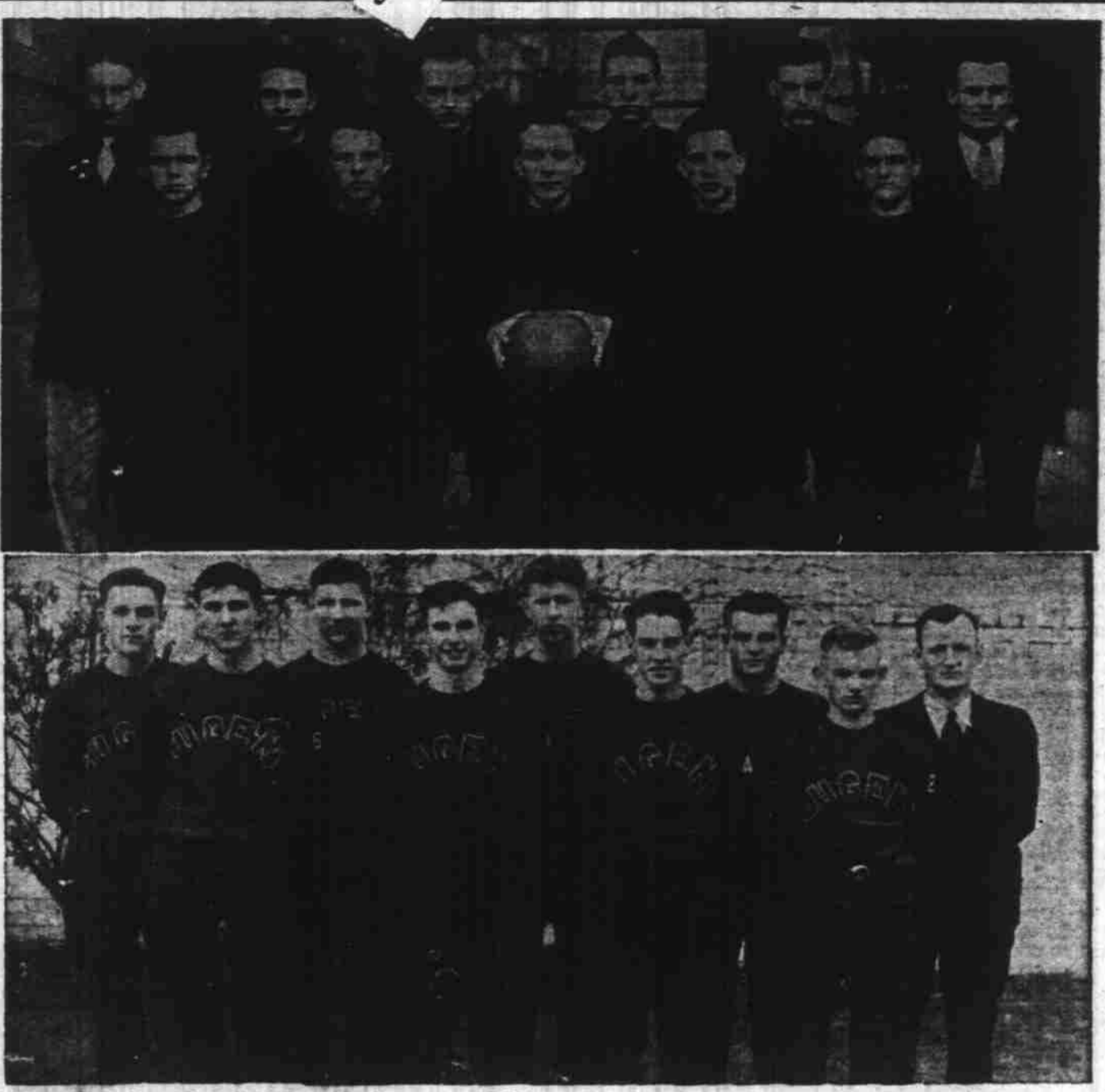
McLoughlin qualified by defeating Ashland 30 to 26 last night in one of the most smoothly played games of the tourney.

Franklin provided the biggest surprise and the greatest thrills of the tournament when it defeated Eugene, touted as the coming champion, 26 to 24 in a game in which a last-second field goal decided the issue.

Bellfountain breezed easily through Chiloquin to win both the B championship and its second try in the tournament semi-finals.

Relegated to the list of those who tried and lost were the four teams given their first defeat yesterday. With fourth place their goal they will meet in two games this afternoon.

VIKINGS ANXIOUS TO UPSET VICTIMS



Above, the Salem high basketball team who upset McMinnville the first night of the state tournament and then bowed to Lincoln in a close-checking game Thursday night. Top row, from left, Manager Carlin, Gallaher, Hill, Macz, Chambers, Coach Harold Hawk. Lower row, Low, Wickert, Medley, Upston, Maynard. Lower picture, the Eugene Axemen, victims of a Frank Merritt upset at the hands of Franklin. From left, Baker, Kilborn, Hamer, Igoe, McNeese, Stevenson, Caven, Austin, Coach Fritz Kramer.

All on WPA Sent Copies of Speech

Hopkins Address in Favor of Court Plan Mailed, Griffith Explains

PORTLAND, Ore., March 18—(AP)—The Oregonian tonight quoted E. J. Griffith, Oregon WPA administrator, as confirming that 15,000 copies of a speech by Harry Hopkins, federal administrator, favoring the president's proposed supreme court plan, had been sent to WPA employees in the state.

The administrator explained, the newspaper said, that the speech, given March 1, was too long for inclusion in the WPA magazine which goes regularly to all workers, and the 15,000 mimeographed copies were prepared to supplement the regular issue of the magazine.

"Sending out a speech by the head of our staff is not political," Griffith was quoted as saying. "It is a matter of routine to advise workers of his attitude on a social question of interest to them."

Asked if he had urged employees to communicate with congress, the newspaper said, Griffith replied:

"Probably, in the course of conversation, I have talked with several persons about the matter and suggested to some that they contact congress."

(Turn to page 2, col. 1)

Cofferdam Leaks At Coulee Fought

GRAND COULEE DAM, March 18—(AP)—Giant pumps fought a losing battle tonight against water which ran through a broken cofferdam cell and led indirectly to the death of a workman.

Austin McAfee, of Kelso, was crushed to death last night by a big truck during feverish attempts to plug the leak in the dike.

Danger of Flying Kite Near Power Line Is Stressed

A graphic portrayal of the dangers of flying kites near power lines was set up in the window of the Portland General Electric company store at 237 North Liberty street yesterday.

The exhibit shows three of the kites which caused as many short circuits of 11,000 volt lines within the last month, a street scene depicting such an occurrence, and a clincher formed by a mixture of molten copper from a fallen line with soil.

The street scene shows a high tension line melted in two, an automobile damaged by the fallen wires and a doll kite flyer lying in the street, still clutching his tinsele kite string.

"We put in the exhibit to show what this kite flying near power lines means," District Manager W. M. Hamilton said. "I hope all children will come down town and see just what can happen."

Dykstra Selected Wisconsin Leader

MADISON, Wis., March 18—(AP)—University of Wisconsin regents appointed Clarence Addison Dykstra president of the institution today.

Under a one-year contract, the 54-year-old Cincinnati city manager and former university professor will take office July 1, succeeding Dr. Glenn Frank, whose 11-year tenure ended in his ouster on charges of administrative inefficiency.

Dykstra will receive \$15,000 a year and certain expenses. Dr. Frank received \$20,000 and expenses when he came here in 1926, but the salary was trimmed gradually to \$15,000. At Cincinnati, Dykstra received \$25,000 annually.

Teachers Get Raise

OREGON CITY, March 18—(AP)—Park Place grade school teachers have been reelected for next year with 8 per cent salary increases.

Law School Deans Favor Court Plan

WASHINGTON, March 18—(AP)—The deans of two university law schools, appearing today at a turbulent hearing in which senators snapped and glowered at each other, called for the enactment of the Roosevelt court reorganization proposal.

Dean Thomas F. Konop of Notre Dame described the measure as a "safety valve to save the supreme court and its jurisdiction," unless it is enacted, he said, an "outraged" people will put through an amendment "sweeping the supreme court out of the constitutional picture."

Dean Leon Green of Northwestern urged passage of the bill to obtain a "re-interpretation of the constitution" and provide a "fair supreme court."

In the course of a sharp cross examination, Senator O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) asserted that the bill held only a "glorious hope" that such a reinterpretation would ensue. Green disagreed.

With an air of triumph, opposition senators confronted Green with assertions that his prepared statement had been submitted to the justice department for revision and that he was a candidate for appointment to the bench of the circuit court of appeals. He denied both contentions.

McReynolds Bill Passed by House

WASHINGTON, March 18—(AP)—The house smashed the McReynolds neutrality bill to passage today over all opposition, 374 to 12.

The republicans and some democrats sought vainly to make more rigid a provision granting wide discretion to the president to set up a cash and carry system for handling war material shipments to nations at war.

Backers of the legislation made but one important concession on the cash and carry provisions—an amendment limiting their operation to two years.

Two Pedestrians Injured Slightly

Helen F. Smith, 22, 430 North Liberty street, and Florence Weidner, 57, North Cottage, were struck but apparently not seriously injured by an automobile driven by Forrest Ivan Gist, Cloverdale, at the Center and Liberty street intersection at 6 o'clock last night.

Amelia Trims Speed Record, Honolulu Trip

Less Than 16 Hours for 2400 Miles; Clipper Comes in Later

Rest Taken Before Next Hop to Howland Isle on World Circuit

HONOLULU, March 18—(AP)—Amelia Earhart's \$80,000 "laboratory plane" streaked into Honolulu today ahead of two big sky clippers to set a speed record in her 2400-mile dash from Oakland, but delayed until tomorrow a flight to Howland island, second stage of her world flight.

"I'm terribly tired," she said, adding that she wanted to await better flying weather. Miss Earhart told reporters she had stuck to the controls most of the night, relinquishing them to Paul Mantz, her technical adviser, only as the speedy ship approached Wheeler field for a landing. Seems Longer, Says Amelia, But Isn't

Amid the cheers of several hundred early morning spectators, (Turn to page 2, col. 2)

Conference Hears Policy for Power

Public Agencies to Have First Call, Declared by WPA Official

EUGENE, Ore., March 18—(AP)—Problems pertaining to the distribution of power to be generated at Bonneville dam were considered today at the opening session of the commonwealth conference on the University of Oregon campus here.

E. J. Foley, jr., general counsel for the WPA, and representative of the president's committee on national power policies, said that under the committee's recommendations states, counties, municipalities and cooperative associations would be given first chance of utilizing the power. The TVA, he added, has set the precedent for such a policy.

He described the federal program as designed to stimulate industry and relieve unemployment, and not to destroy private industry in the power field.

Orlando R. Bear, chairman of the state planning board, outlined the board's recommendations that the power be marketed to the best interests of public agencies and industry, and that a market study precede establishment of policies and rates.

Helen Wills Love Regains Normalcy

LOS ANGELES, March 18—(AP)—Helen Wills Love was quoted tonight by The Los Angeles Times as saying, when she was aroused from her strange trance:

"I want to go back where I was, away from staring eyes, fingers that point at me, crying, 'You're guilty—you must pay.'"

The Times said the woman convicted of shooting to death the man she said was her secret husband, added:

"But now that I'm back, I mean to make a fight of it—a fight for my acquittal."

The Times interview continued, in part:

"I can't believe that a week has passed. I keep thinking it's last Friday (the day she went into her sleep)."

"There were no dreams. It was very peaceful."

Worst Disaster in U.S. History Involving Children; Scenes of Horror in Texas Town Related

Fire Is Raging In Auto Plant

Where Sit-Down Strikers Hold Forth; Climax of Dispute Held Near

DETROIT, March 19—(AP)—Fire departments of two suburbs were fighting a fire early today at the Chrysler corporation's main Dodge automobile plant in Hamtramck. The factory is one of those occupied by sitdown strikers.

(By The Associated Press)
Michigan's paralyzing labor trouble moved toward a crisis yesterday.

Chrysler corporation attorneys conferred with Circuit Judge Allan Campbell on further legal moves to regain eight plants held by 6,000 sitdown strikers, but action was deferred until today (Friday).

Earlier the Rev. Frederic Stead, dean, was appointed chairman of the mediation board of three which grew out of Gov. Frank Murphy's "law and order" conference Wednesday.

Over 90,000 Idle In Auto Industry

Union forces holding the plants redoubled their guard. More than 90,000 wage earners in the automobile industry were idle. Wages were raised on a large scale of the textile industry on the eve of the start of the committee for industrial organization campaign to enroll more than a million workers.

About 44,500 employees in the Carolinas will benefit from pay raises announced yesterday. Increases were sighted for thousands more.

Sidney Hillman, chosen by the C. I. O. last week to lead the textile drive, called the textile workers' organizing committee together in New York. The union claims 100,000 already are under the C. I. O. banner.

Printers Strike At Indianapolis

(By The Associated Press)
Union printers in all three of the Indianapolis, Ind., newspapers voted yesterday to go on strike at once while an agreement to settle the prolonged Remington-Rand strike was announced at Washington and Michigan's labor trouble moved toward a crisis.

Glenn L. Mitchell, president of the Indianapolis Typographical union No. 1 said printers at the News, Star and Times voted a walkout shortly after union members left their jobs at the Star, Indianapolis' only morning newspaper. He declined to state the union's demands.

At Washington American Federation of Labor leaders and James H. Rand, Jr., disclosed they had reached an agreement involving employment of about 1,200 Remington-Rand strikers.

Dynamite Has No Bearing on Blast

OVERTON, Tex., March 18—(AP)—American Legion officials said tonight that several sticks of dynamite found in wreckage of the London Consolidated school had no connection with a blast that killed an estimated 450 children.

They explained that the dynamite was found in a part of the school which was not badly wrecked. The explosive was left after blasting on a football field recently.

Late Sports

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., March 19—(Friday)—(AP)—Sam Brendon, president of the St. Louis Cardinals, early today said that Dixie Dean had wired him he had signed his contract and would report for spring training today.

Terrific Explosion Lifts Roof, Then Entire Building Crumples Crushing Pupils and Teachers; Gas Blamed

Ten Minutes Before Dismissal Time; Martial Law Declared; Long Rows of Bodies Await Identification

NEW LONDON, Tex., March 19—(AP)—Surveys showed 899 bodies of school children and teachers had been removed early today from the wreckage of the London Consolidated high school building where a terrific explosion occurred yesterday.

NEW LONDON, Tex., March 18—(AP)—A gigantic schoolhouse explosion killed more than 321 children just before their dismissal hour today in the worst disaster of its kind America has known.

It happened in the heart of the east Texas oil fields in a \$1,000,000 school plant. The high school building, center of the London consolidated school, was torn apart in an appalling tragedy.

A captain of the Texas rangers estimated the dead at 350. The recovered bodies ran up to 214 in the early evening. The school principal feared the total would reach 670.

At 3:20 p. m.—ten minutes before the end of the school day—the walls were shaken with shattering force. The roof rose, then settled with killing strength on the children trapped within.

An explosion of accumulated gas in a space below the first floor was one theory. There are seven producing oil wells on the campus.

Chaos rivaling the explosion itself developed in the aftermath. Martial law became necessary.

From his Warm Springs, Ga., vacation President Roosevelt summoned the Red Cross "and all of the government agencies" to render every assistance in their power.

Court of Inquiry Will Investigate

Governor James V. Allred declared martial law in the precinct, ordered in national guard troops and instructed that a military court of inquiry be set up to begin an investigation.

Red Cross nurses, doctors by the score rushed against time to alleviate the confusion here.

Oil field workers tore at the debris, frenzied parents strove to find their children and hundreds of curious blocked the highways.

Supt. W. C. Shaw, who lost a son in the explosion, said accumulated gas in a space between the floor of the two-story building and the ground undoubtedly caused the explosion. The building was heated by gas-steam radiators and there was no main boiler.

There were 700 pupils in the high school.

Witnesses said there was an ear-hammering explosion after the grumbling roar that preceded the blast. The roof then, they said, moved up, the walls crashed outward, and the roof fell into the wreckage, crushing those within.

For Quarter Mile

The high school building was wrecked. A flame shot forth for a brief time. Nearby stood the graded school—empty—its several hundred pupils having already been dismissed for the day.

Bricks hurtled through the air (Turn to page 2, col. 1)

Building Permits Continue to Gain

Permits for a \$6500 house and a \$2000 store building were issued by the city building department yesterday along with two smaller permits.

A Volchok received the house construction permit. This new home will be located at 1895 South Church street.

The 12th and State street business block will be enlarged by the store building to be built at 1260 State by William Lebold. It will be 26 by 65 feet in size.

Permits for a \$175 private garage at 593 Highland avenue was taken out by Sarah Patrick and for re-roofing a house at 630 Le-felle at cost of \$25, by Mrs. E. Weller.

Task of Removing Bodies Is Speeded

"Richest School in World" Now Shambles; Parents Seek For Children

By WILLIAM T. RIVES
NEW LONDON, Texas, March 18—(AP)—I walked into a scene of desolation and despair at the London consolidated school tonight that made by heart sick.

Hundreds of children lay buried underneath a mass of brick and stone, wreckage of a fine three-winged building that boasted a reputation as the "richest school in the world" because of its location in the center of the vast east Texas fairland of oil.

With automobile traffic halted about a mile and a half away, we walked upon the eerie scene, lit by flares from gas pipes nearby, jutting 30 feet into the air and by floodlights on the football field nearby.

In the middle of a ring of about five thousand persons lay the remnants of the huge structure. The center portion had only a bare split wall at the rear still standing.

The brick and stone were piled about 15 feet high in a quarry-like effect. From the high school.

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Sit-Down Strike Here Short Lived

Salem's first sit-down strike, which occurred yesterday afternoon proved of the "quickie" variety in both beginning and ending.

The four drivers employed by the Merchants City Delivery, 450 Ferry street, sat down on the office bench at 1 p. m. yesterday and announced they would stay there until they received their March 15 pay checks and an explanation of a change in wage system was given. They got the checks and the explanation from Clyde Johnson, proprietor, at 4 p. m. and by 4:05 were driving truck again.

The drivers contended that they were underpaid, with \$60 a month the wage of the best paid of the quartet, and that they would earn still less under an hourly wage basis which they said the proprietor had announced as effective Wednesday.

Johnson said the strike was the result of a "misunderstanding."

Student Eye-Witness Tells Of School Explosion Horror

(Editor's Note: Martha Harris, 15-year-old student in the New London school, was a short distance away from the structure when it was struck with a terrific roar and killed hundreds of children. She describes the scenes here.)

By MARTHA HARRIS
OVERTON, Texas, March 18—(AP)—I was in the home economy building about 60 yards from the school when I heard a terrible roar. The earth shook and brick and glass came showering down.

I looked out a window and saw my friends dying like flies. Kids were blown out through the top onto the roof. Some of them hung up there and others fell off two stories to the ground. I saw girls in my class jumping out windows like they were deserting a burning ship.

Brother and Friend Escape Unscathed

My brother Milton Harris, 16 years old, jumped from the second story and didn't get a scratch; just a little bruise on his knee when he hit the ground. My friend, Geraldine Ruffin, jumped out too and was not hurt.

My brother said the place just blew up all of a sudden and scared them awfully. It took his breath away and all he knew was (Turn to page 2, col. 2)

BALLADE
By R. C.
One little child is harmed and we, though strangers, mourn in sympathy; the grief of loved ones we would share, we know the cross that parents bear. What if by hundreds children die. The shock's too great; with tearless eye we grope for words that will convey our feelings—yet—what can we say?