

Weather
Unsettled today and Saturday; snow over high mountains; rains and moderate temp. Max temperature Thursday 56, min. 44. River -3.5 ft. South wind.

Sports?
The Oregon Statesman is Salem's leading newspaper in the field of sports news. Read this page of live sports news every day.

EIGHTY-NINTH YEAR

Italy Reaffirms Military Pact With Nazis

In One Ear..

—Paul Hauser's Column

Rainy Day Items:

That corner of State and Liberty streets by the First National bank was a pretty gusty place last night and the wind, as the wind will do, blew a man's hat away. He was of the usual surly and fractious person makes when his hat is blown off his head and then he watches mutely while the chap...
We never heard of it happening before, but Santa Claus is sick. We walked into Sears' emporium yesterday, inquiring after Santa's good health and found that it wasn't very good. In fact, the Sears Santa hasn't been able to work all week. On investigation we found that Ward's Santa is holding up under the strain admirably.

MARITIME NOTE

We note with interest and approval that the war department has called on the Marion county court for an accounting on the Wheatland ferry and its sister ships, the Independence and Buena Vista ferries. We are happy that our campaign for increased armament aboard the SS Wheatland Ferry has at long last attracted the attention of Washington. We feel more secure now that we know that the waters of the Willamette will be safely guarded. Marion county rules the waves!

ADVICE TO ACROBATS

Don't be at fault
In a somersault
Without a net.
A marble vault
Is cold and wet.

From the international point of view there is something menacing about the red, white and blue signs on the postoffice lawn. They say:

U. S. PROPERTY
KEEP OFF
THE GRASS

Today's little lesson in Long-fellow: "For after all, the best thing one can do when it is raining, is to let it rain."

9 Lost, 2 Ships Downed in Crash

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 7.—(AP)—Nine crewmen are missing and feared dead and two British freighters are lost as the result of two collisions in a "pea soup" fog in the north Atlantic.

The 5989-ton British freighter Manchester Regiment was abandoned as a derelict after a collision on Monday with the 14,118-ton British passenger liner Oropesa, crew members said as they were brought here today by the Oropesa.

The Oropesa also landed 42 members of the crew of the 4607-ton British freighter Chancellor which went to the bottom after being rammed by the British tanker Athelchief.

Explosion Sinks Norwegian Craft

LONDON, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The Norwegian steamer Primula, 1024 tons, sank in the North sea on Monday after an explosion, Reuters (British news agency), reported from Oslo today.

The dispatch said eight of the crew of 15 were missing. The British Admiralty said it had no knowledge of the sinking.

High Wind Forces Men From Woods

TILLAMOOK, Ore., Dec. 7.—(AP)—A wind strong enough to blow off tops of fire-killed trees forced loggers out of the woods in the Tillamook area today.

Loggers reported they were forced to dodge tree limbs that were being whipped through the air as they made their exit.

Finns Launch Fierce Counter Attack

Attempt to Halt Red Drive Begun

Russians Renew Bombardment Along Southern Coast of Finland; Heavy Fighting Reported

HELSINKI, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Finnish troops launched a fierce counter-attack today in the Karelian isthmus in an effort to halt a red army surge toward the eastern terminus of their Mannerheim line.
The Russians bombarded the southern coast of Finland from the sea and renewed their land attacks on the central front.
Contrary to Russian assertions, a Finnish army spokesman said, the invaders were not yet threatening the Mannerheim line, a water defense system composed of an irregular chain of lakes extending almost across the narrow isthmus. The line begins at Sakkola on the east and follows a westward course through the town of Moulua to Kuolema lake, "the lake of death."
(The Russians announced early today they had broken through the Mannerheim line at two places and were continuing to advance northward. On the east, they said they reached Kiviniemi, a town behind the line and 7 1/2 miles west of Sakkola. On the west, they reported occupation of Perkkari, 25 miles southeast of Viipuri, a main objective on the Gulf of Finland.)
Heavy Fighting Reported Along River
The heaviest fighting was reported along the Taipale river and along the southern edge of Lake Ladoga near Sakkola, which is 20 miles from the frontier, and at Usikirkko, about 13 1/2 miles from the frontier and 15 miles southeast of the Mannerheim line's eastern terminus.
Despite the bad weather, the red fleet bombarded undefended (Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

British Repel Nazi Air Raid

Warplanes Over Northeast Coast Driven Off; 10th Ship Sunk

LONDON, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Great Britain reported a successful defense of the air above her northeast coast today, with British battle planes forcing two German raiding attacks into retreat.
But she had to acknowledge the tenth naval loss of the war in the sinking by a mine of the 209-ton navy trawler Washington. Eight men aboard her died.
British airmen reported they scored hits on two of today's ten raiders, none of which dropped any bombs. All were driven off, eight of them as they approached the vital Firth of Forth area in Scotland, where the city of Edinburgh and the Royal naval base.
In addition, authoritative sources said two German Dornier flying boats were badly damaged yesterday when beset by defense craft as they approached the British east coast. The air ministry announced tonight, however, that one British plane failed to return from patrol duty yesterday.
Today's sea war toll included the 8,159-ton Netherlands motorship Tjandoon, torpedoed and burned in the English channel after calling at a British contraband control port en route to the West Indies. Six of the crew were missing. It was the eighth ship lost in the war by neutral Netherlands.
Norwegian shipping also was hit with the loss of the 6,214-ton tanker Britta off England's west coast Wednesday night and the 1,024-ton steamer Primula in the North sea Monday. Both ships were reported sunk after explosions. (Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

Scandinavian Nations Make Peace Plea

Effort to Settle Finnish-Soviet Dispute to Be Made Via League

OSLO, Norway, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The foreign ministers of Denmark, Norway and Sweden decided today to make all possible efforts through the League of Nations for peace negotiations between Finland and Soviet Russia.
Conferring on issues raised by the Finnish-Russian conflict, the Scandinavian ministers also discussed possible general consequences of the fighting, but they announced no decisions.
Since Denmark already has proclaimed neutrality, the ministers were not expected to advocate any joint Scandinavian action in support of Finland beyond conciliatory action through the league.
Attending the conference were Dr. Peter Munch of Denmark, Dr. Halvdan Koht of Norway and Richard Sandler of Sweden.
There were unconfirmed reports that they considered the advisability of appealing for general European peace but a communique issued at the end of the meeting lent no support to these reports.
However, the Scandinavian states are deeply concerned lest the conflict spread in their direction. Since the Russian invasion of Finland many Scandinavians have seen small hope of avoiding such a spread except through restoration of peace among Germany, Great Britain and France.

Druggist's Body Found in Creek

SILVERTON, Dec. 7.—(Special)—Death of George Steelhammer, prominent Silvertown druggist, was caused by injuries received in an automobile accident and drowning, it was determined at an examination last night. Steelhammer's body was found in a creek near the Davis schoolhouse yesterday morning. He had been missing from his home since Wednesday night.
Steelhammer was returning from a trip to the Silvertown hills when his car skidded and went over a 75-foot embankment, it was believed. Apparently he had left the car to go for help and stumbled into the creek. Examination of the body is being held. (Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

Washington Murderer Goes To Gallows at Walla Walla

WALLA WALLA, Dec. 8.—(AP)—Ralph Carson, 33 year old army deserter, was hanged early today at the state penitentiary for the murder of Lynwood Sproul, aged resident of Mora, Clallam county, October 4, 1937.
Carson in a last minute statement maintained he was innocent. "Everything I said at my trial was true," he told the witnesses gathered for his execution. He entered the death chamber at 12:06 a. m. One minute later the trap was sprung and he was pronounced dead at 12:19 a. m.
He showed no trace of nervousness other than when he half shook his head in answer to prison officials' question if he had anything to say.
His only message, in writing, was read by the Rev. Arvid Ohnells, Seattle, his missionary friend: "This is my own statement of the last in this world. To all the officers I am thankful for their kindness to me."

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"The testimony I gave on the witness stand was the whole truth, I am thankful to my spiritual adviser, Rev. Ohnells and Doctor (E. T.) Allen (prison chaplain).
"I depart from this world, with peace in my soul to meet my creator through my lord and savior."
(Signed) Ralph Carson.
Fifteen minutes before the trap was sprung to claim the fifth man executed here this year Lt. Gov. Victor Meyers, acting governor in the absence of Gov. Clarence D. Martin, phoned Warden J. M. McCauley to ask if everything was ready. P. E. Mahoney, warden's secretary, said the message did not contain further advice.
Only a sister who "may reside in Maine" survives the slayer, officials said.
Because no claim was made upon the body it will be buried in the institutional cemetery in simple services led by the Revs. Allen and Ohnells Friday afternoon.

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Russia Warned to Sidestep Balkans

In New Conquests

Britain, France Are Told to Leave Ships of Italy Alone in Statement of Policy by Fascist Council

Non-Intervention in European War Is Reiterated by Mediterranean Power; Ciano Makes Talk

ROME, Dec. 8.—(Friday)—(AP)—Italy today reaffirmed her military alliance with Germany and her policy of non-intervention in the European wars at present, but issued an implied warning to Soviet Russia not to intrude into the Balkans.
She also gave explicit warning to Britain and France not to interfere unduly with her commerce on the high seas.
These statements of policy were issued in a communique after a four-hour session of the fascist grand council, the first since the European war began, at which Premier Mussolini and his foreign minister, Count Galeazzo Ciano, made long speeches reviewing international developments.
The council asserted Italian-German relations "remain as established by the treaty of alliance and the exchanges of views which took place before and afterwards of Milan, Salzburg and Berlin."
Mention of the alliance, however, has virtually vanished from the fascist press since the war began. Precedents justify non-intervention.
At the same time the Italian policy of non-intervention in the conflict was "justified on the grounds of 'immediate precedents,' the character of static siege assumed on the western front," the war's prosecution by "blockade and counter-blockade," and the "displacements which have occurred in the territorial situation and the ratio of forces" in eastern Europe as a result of the conflict.
The implied warning to Russia not to cherish new expansionist designs in southeastern Europe was contained in the assertion that "everything which may happen in the Danubian-Balkan basin cannot fail to interest Italy in view of the common territorial and maritime frontiers which were lengthened since the Albanian kingdom's union with Italy."
Italy recently made representations to Britain concerning her blockade of German exports, and referring to its effect on Italian maritime commerce, the council warned: Italy Not to Aid Germany in War
"Italy intends to safeguard it in the most explicit manner." That Mussolini stipulated in advance of the signing of the Italian-German military alliance last May that war over Poland would not bring Italy to Germany's aid.
It also tended to confirm previous indications that German rapprochement with Soviet Russia and its consequences had produced a new set of circumstances freeing Italy from her pledge.
Foreign observers interpreted the declaration as an expression of Italian determination to remain outside the conflict so long as the French-British blockade continues, or so long as no move toward the Balkans by Germany or Russia compels the Italians to reconsider their policy.

Farm Bureau Favors Pact

Trade Treaties Endorsed by Federation in Chicago Meet

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—(AP)—The American farm bureau federation proposed today a readjustment of business and labor policies to place industrial and farm prices on the same level.
Reciprocal trade agreements, defended by Secretary of State Hull during the federation's convention, were endorsed at the closing session, but a resolution suggested that the trade pact act be amended.
The farm bureau said that unless prices are adjusted to provide for a maximum consumption of the products of both agriculture and industry congress would be asked to appropriate more funds for the AAA.
The resolution said that control of production has not been rigid enough to raise market prices to "parity levels" and appropriations for benefit payments to farmers have not been sufficient to bridge the gap between open market prices and parity.
The federation's board of directors was empowered to support "such tax measures as may appear feasible and most effective in raising the required revenue."
Failure to raise agriculture's income to parity was blamed as the major cause of unemployment. The resolution asserted that labor would get more jobs and business more customers if the buying power (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1)

Council Awaits Base Authority

Application Sent 2 Weeks Ago for Civil Flying Training Here

Application for inclusion of Salem as a training base in the civil aeronautics authority training program was made by the airport committee of the city council about two weeks ago, Dr. Harold M. Olinger, chairman, said last night. He said he had not been notified that the application was accepted.
Dr. Olinger said he believed the program would provide for training of about ten pilots at the Salem airport, presumably under a local instructor appointed by the CAA. The training will include both ground school and flight instruction and is expected to start immediately.
The council committee conducted its negotiations with Major Wiley White of the CAA.

State Wheat Men Meet at Condon

CONDON, Ore., Dec. 7.—(AP)—Wheat farmers of the Columbia basin and representatives of eight states joined here tonight to consider the national wheat situation at the 12th annual convention of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League.
Representatives from five other states were scheduled to arrive later. Many of the delegates were attracted by the league's national contest to determine which of the 1940 wheat counties showed the best compliance to the 1939 federal wheat program.
General sessions will open tomorrow.

Salem Residents to Compete For Holiday Lighting Prizes

Plans are going forward in downtown Salem to sponsor a "Christmas lighting contest" for Salem's residential districts this holiday season. The city will be divided into four sections with three awards or prizes given to the three best exterior home lighting Christmas themes in each district. Judging will be conducted by the Salem art center officials. For a number of years Salem residents have shown an interest in Christmas lighting effects with many beautiful displays that caused much favorable comment and gave Salem wide publicity throughout the northwest. This year, with the addition of valuable prizes, it is hoped that Salem will sparkle brighter than ever.
Included in the plans are the decoration of the streets in the business center with displays on the lamp posts, festoons of greenery in the intersections and other suitable decorations on the holiday order. Also calling attention to Salem's spirit of good will building will be a campaign by business interests, through the Salem Advertising club, pointing out the advantages of trading at home.
The Salem Cherrians will illuminate the large tree on the courthouse lawn as in past Christmas seasons. King Bing Harold Busck was authorized at the last meeting to appoint a committee (Turn to page 3, column 4)

Record Set

YAKIMA, Dec. 7.—(AP)—One hundred births in St. Elizabeth's hospital in November set an all-time high for the institution, attendance said today. The previous high, 83, was in July, 1938.

Late Sports

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 7.—(AP)—The Portland Buckaroos scored in every period tonight to defeat the Vancouver Lions 4 to 1, in a rough and tumble Pacific coast hockey league game.

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"I have been in close touch," Ickes said, "with the liberal and the progressive elements in both democratic and republican parties, and I believe I know how they feel about this matter. I, therefore, can say that they would not support Paul McNutt even if he were selected by Mr. Roosevelt."
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In a resolution adopted at a luncheon presided over by Charles F. Ernst, director of the department of state welfare of Washington, the westerners urged a solution be found whereby proper shares of the burden were borne by the states and federal government. The resolution urged that proper governmental agencies be asked to find funds to finance the federal government's share of such expense and the states to acknowledge there were benefits as well as detriments in the flow of migrants to the west.
"We are not approaching this question with any intention of clubbing anybody or the federal government," Ernst said, "but it is a problem which must be solved and we feel our plan will produce an equitable basis for its solution."
Among the welfare leaders attending the luncheon were: Lora Howard, Oregon director of social work; C. L. Schottland, deputy director of welfare of California; James M. Kirby, New Mexico director of public welfare; Earl M. Kouns, Colorado director of public welfare; B. Child, Idaho director of public assistance; S. S. Hoover, Wyoming director of public welfare; I. M. Brandford, Montana director of public welfare and regional directors of the social security board from San Francisco and Denver.

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McNary For President

IT'S OFFICIAL: 'McNARY FOR PRESIDENT'

Official start was given the Oregon "favorite son" movement yesterday when the first petition to put the name of Senator Charles L. McNary on the republican presidential ballot next May was filed at the Marion county courthouse yesterday. Mrs. Lester W. Weber, precinct committeewoman for Salem No. 19, home precinct of Governor Charles A. Sprague who signed the petition, presented the paper for filing, assisted by Lewis Judson, Marion county republican central committee chairman (left), and County Clerk U. G. Boyer (right) accepted it.—Statesman staff photo.

Attorney General Justifies Expense

Answer to Snell's Query on Audit Report Holds for Court Action

The county court is justified in making payments to the Salem justice court for clerks' and stenographers' salaries, telephone expenses, office rental and other expenses according to opinion of Attorney General I. H. Van Winkle submitted to Secretary of State Earl Snell yesterday.
The attorney general submitted his opinion after Justice of the Peace Miller B. Hayden had written the secretary of state protesting the report of state auditors for 1938 in which the court was criticized for allowing such expenditures. Snell proceeded to ask the opinion of the attorney general on the law involved, and yesterday received his statement.
The attorney general found that sections referring specifically to the Salem justice of the peace required him to furnish his own office, clerical help and courtroom at his own expense, but only after receiving "such amounts as the county court shall approve for the payment of such expenses."
"That is, the county court may grant the justice of the peace a stipulated allowance for such purposes; it is the justice of the peace who will provide and furnish his own office, clerical help and courtroom, whether it cost him more, the same, or less than the amount allowed him by the county court and, in addition, the county court is required to provide him with the necessary blanks, office supplies and stationery for conducting his office."

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