

Twenty Killed In Two Blasts

Seven Die in W. Virginia Coal Disaster; Five Gravely Injured

(Continued from page 1.) Deaths hampered rescue crews. There were about 70 men in No. 4 at the time of the blast but all but 12 were in unaffiliated areas and camps.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 17-(AP)—A blast that left almost no two bricks joined by mortar, nor timbers by spikes, killed 12 men, women and children of five families in an old downtown tenement before dawn today.

Included among the dead was a baby born to Mrs. Lillian Schneider, 42, while she lay buried in wreckage. Mrs. Schneider's husband, Frank, an tour other children in the family also perished.

A dozen other persons, saved only because they lived on upper floors of the three-story building and came down on top of the rubble, insisted that the investigation, conducted in a room in the building, was not a serious one.

What caused the explosion, which splintered windows for blocks and drove bricks through nearby walls, only one man apparently knew, and he was dead.

Joseph Feldman, deputy state fire marshal, investigated a report that three crocks filled with a highly explosive fluid had been stored in the basement by a tenant. Others theorized that leaking gas was responsible, although A. C. Moorhaus, vice president of a utility firm, said a preliminary investigation indicated such was not the case.

The man who might have been able to say what happened was Joseph P. Koebbe, 33, operator of a general appliance shop on the ground floor.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 17-(AP)—An explosion in the great Bjorkborn dynamite plant founded by Alfred Bernhard Nobel of peace prize fame seriously injured at least 20 persons and shattered many buildings in the southern city of Karlskoga where thousands of inhabitants immediately ran underground into air-raid shelters.

Firemen fought desperately to prevent raging fires from reaching powder magazines. After a 5-hour fight the government defense staff said they had mastered the flames which threatened the extensive munitions and steel works.

It was not immediately determined whether there were any dead.

A great blast knocked out windows, raised some buildings, broke telephone lines and caused general property damage for a distance of a mile from the plant. Part of the city had to be evacuated.

Truck, Car Sales Up Third, Oregon

New truck and car sales in Oregon during the first 11 months of 1940 increased 33 per cent over a similar period in 1939, Secretary of State Snell said yesterday.

Sales this year totaled 37,637 vehicles, an increase of 9447 over the first 11 months of 1939. Motor vehicle registration on December 1 totaled 388,339.

Snell predicts registration will go over the 400,000 mark in 1941.

State Officer Is Hurt by Boulder

MARSHFIELD, Dec. 17-(AP)—A large boulder fell onto the highway and bounced into the car of a state policeman 12 miles east of Reedwood today.

T. C. Kessler, Coquille state trooper, suffering lacerations and shock, was brought to a hospital here. The rock fell from a cliff on the Umpqua highway ahead of his machine and bounced into the right side of the vehicle.

Appeals Chief



Nief R. Allen, of Grants Pass, who was elected chairman yesterday of the first congressional district selective service appeal board, whose headquarters will be in his home city. R. E. Miller, of Tillamook, was named secretary. Other members are P. J. A. Boehring, of Salem, Herman Bernard, of Carlton, and Dr. William T. Johnson, of Corvallis. Board meetings will be held in Salem.

Flu's Prevalence Boosts Need Here

(Continued from page 1.) Recent incidents have emphasized the need for the type of cooperation which has been made possible by the Council of Social Agencies of the Community Chest.

A "Christmas basket exchange" has been opened with headquarters at the chamber of commerce with Miss Helen Foley in charge. Each organization conducting a Christmas Cheer program has been urged to furnish this exchange with a confidential list of the families it is planning to assist.

Some cases of duplication—including one in which three agencies had the same family on its list—have been discovered and adjusted. The Council of Social Agencies is anxious that all organizations make use of this confidential service. The telephone number is 21421.

Wider Spread of Contracts Urged

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17-(AP)—CIO President Philip Murray declared today that defense output was lagging because of the "rather stupid method" by which it had been distributed and administered.

Murray said that the CIO would send to President Roosevelt tomorrow its own plan for speeding production and minimizing work stoppages.

The CIO plan is expected to propose that boards be named for the various key defense industries and authorized to award contracts, be awarded to more concerns than are now getting them. The boards would check employee-employer friction which might result in stoppages.

"Out of some 10,000 manufacturing establishments in the United States capable of producing defense materials," Murray said, "only 50 per cent have received government contracts."

"This is a wholly unwarranted and unjustified disproportionate letting of the defense contract business. It has created a bottleneck which is responsible for the lag in production."

Mrs. W. E. Boot Dies in California

Funeral services for Mrs. William E. Boot, former Salem resident, who died in Los Angeles on Sunday, are scheduled for Forest Lawn Memorial park, Glendale, Calif., with final services in Salem later, it was learned yesterday.

Mrs. Boot was the mother of the late Mrs. Asahel Bush. Her grandson, Stuart Bush, attending school in the south, was with her when she suffered the fatal heart attack.

Lease Scheme Offered, FDR Return if Undamaged Is Contemplated; Detail to Be Worked Out

(Continued from page 1.) shipbuilding ways and other facilities—the stronger would be American defense.

Defense Production Helped by Orders. British orders, he said, were a tremendous asset to national defense here because they created additional productive facilities.

Then launching into the plan itself, the president said it was possible for the government to take over British orders, because they were essentially the same kind of munitions this government wanted, and turn them into American orders.

Then, he continued, the government might either lease the materials or sell them, subject to mortgage, to Great Britain on the theory that help for Britain was the best defense for the United States.

What he was trying to do, he emphasized, was to eliminate the dollar sign in supplying Britain. Asked whether the United States would carry the goods across the Atlantic, the president said it was only a detail as to what flag the transporting ships flew.

In One Ear.. Paul Hauser's Column

(Continued from page 1.) explained somewhat vaguely.

"And which one of those diagnoses," asked the old lady, "is the vacuum, please?"

THE UNKNOWING OUT. On low mean days we long the cave when men were not required to shave. On those mean days with hairy chin we mock Beardsall's kin.

And cease scraping away the mass that never withers all our days. This is a line of my blades. Laid and to scratch Beardsall, (Stretching like a gloom-filled mire from adolescence to the grave).

From adolescence to the grave. And swear if heaven holds a Gem I'll gladly forgo a dime.

Invation Before Spring Forecast

Nazi Troops Are Reported Moving Into Italy to Help Duce's Force

(Continued from page 1.) "by land and sea, but principally by air" before next spring, Lord Beaverbrook declared Tuesday night in a radio warning to Britons thrilled by empire successes in Africa and the exploits of their own royal air force.

As minister of aircraft production and a member of the inner council of Britain's war machine, Beaverbrook bluntly told the British they were "much too confident" in assuming that Adolf Hitler "is still military master of Europe, but not so much the master he was."

Heavy explosions heard during the night indicated the British again were attacking German bases across the channel.

Beaverbrook said there were "sure and certain signs" of feverish German activity to bring out a huge air force during the winter—activity on a scale similar to that of last winter which resulted in the crushing of Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France in little more than two months.

Beaverbrook disclosed that a "whirlwind" fighter plane has joined the spitfires, hurricanes, and other fighters in the attack on the United Kingdom. But no further word on the new plane was forthcoming.

The British air and home ministries said there were no bombing activities over the country during the day, but the ministry announced that British bombers smashed at the German industrial city of Mannheim for seven hours Monday night and Tuesday morning in a series of raids extending to the most submarine base at Bordeaux.

The ministry said an airplane factory, a dye plant, and other military objectives were left on fire.

The Germans, however, said the effect of the raids on production was "immaterial" but that 10 persons were killed and 50 injured.

Meanwhile British forces encircled Bardia, Italy's Libyan port after wiping out Italian forts in Egypt in 11 days more than a week.

The British claimed the capture of three more Italian frontier posts. Heavy fighting was reported already under way.

In Albania the Greeks said their troops had taken a camouflage net and Italian position in the northern sector while on the Adriatic coast the Port of Palermo was under Greek artillery fire.

Palermo is south of Chirmara on the coast up which the Greeks are pressing toward Valona. Other Greek units were struggling toward Valona from the island Tepeleni-Kilura pass sector where the Italians are strongly entrenched.

Bitter cold weather took a toll on both sides.

Society Offers to Take Over Pound

Mayor W. W. Chadwick has referred to the police committee of the city council an offer of the Marion-Polk County Humane Society to take over operation of the city dog pound.

The offer was contained in a letter, signed by Leroy Grote as president of the recently formed society, received by the council Monday night.

The society expressed the belief that it could save the city money and would be able to provide more satisfactory facilities in handling the pound.

The pound, newly located on the incinerator grounds, is now in charge of Poundmaster Russell Maw under jurisdiction of the police department.

YM Vacation Plans Are on

Swimming Pool, Lobby, Gym and Trips Are Offered

The Christmas recreation and education schedule of the YMCA for all Salem boys and girls was revised yesterday by Boys Work Secretary Fred Smith to begin today rather than next Monday.

The change was necessitated by the closing of schools.

The swimming schedule will give boys from 8 to 12 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and from 1 to 2:30 on Tuesday and Friday. A mystery marathon swim was announced from 1:30 to 2:30 daily. Each group of boys will be given an hour in the pool.

Girls may swim on Tuesday and Friday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on grammar school, 4 to 4:45 for junior high school and 4:45 to 5:30 for senior high school.

The annual boys' basketball tournament will be December 26 to 31. Boys from 9 to 15 years of age will play in the A and B divisions, and those from 13 to 15 in the Juniors. Boys may form their own teams.

Educational trips will be taken to the Western Paper Converting company Thursday, December 26, to a 9 a.m. Valley Packing company and Salem Linn mill Friday, December 27, at 9 a.m.; Oregon Pulp and Paper company, Monday, December 30, at 9 a.m.; Cherry City Banking company, Monday, December 30, at 7 p.m. Oregon state penitentiary, Tuesday, December 31, at 2:15. All trips are guided by adults and leave from the Y.

The Y lobby will be open from 1 to 8:30 p.m. every day except Christmas for games and tournaments. Facilities are available for ping pong, box hockey, shuffle board, tennis, checkers and others.

50 Carloads Logs Handled Each Day

(Continued from page 1.) board feet of "lumber in the raw" to each carload, 300,000 board feet of logs, the daily output of the mill, 177, New York, ex-milled weight champion, in ten action-packed rounds tonight. There were no knockdowns.

OAKLAND, Calif., Dec. 17-(AP)—Buddy Bear of Sacramento, Calif., 241-pound "little" brother of champion Max Bear, won a third-round technical knockout over Harold Blackhear, 192, Montebello, Calif., negro, in a scheduled ten-round fight here tonight.

Abetz and Laval Together, Rumor

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There were some rumors, even, that Germany might demand Laval's reinstatement.

This was supported by informants in Berlin who said Germany was interested not in Laval's cesor but "whether any change in French policy has taken place."

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In Bern it was reported a Petain-Hitler meeting might be expected if Abetz and Petain agreed on a future basis of French-German collaboration.

If they didn't, anything might happen, including total German occupation of France.

The position of General Maxime Weyand, the French commander in Africa, entered into the speculation. He has shown no intention of returning to France to join in any negotiations with the axis and right now has a strong, unbeaten army at the back of the routed Italians in Libya.

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THURSDAY—Henry Fonda in "Young Mr. Lincoln," and Brian Donlevy in "Sharpshooters."

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THURSDAY—Bob Hope, Martha Raye in "Never Say Die," and John Payne, Gloria Dickson in "King of the Lumberjacks."

KLAINORE Today—The Marx Brothers in "The Marx Brothers Go West," and Sigrid Gurie, Ralph Byrd in "The Dark Streets of Cairo."

CAPTOL Today—Allan Jones, Nancy Kelly in "One Night in the Tropics," and The Three Mesquiteros in "Trail Blazers."

SATURDAY—Marlene Dietrich in "Seven Sinners," and Jack Holt in "A Fugitive From a Prison Camp."

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Late Sports

BOULDER, Colo., Dec. 17-(AP)—Forward Leason McCleud poured in 19 points for Colorado but it took Guard Martin Trotsky's last minute free throw for the Buffaloes to beat Oregon State tonight, 42 to 41, in a wild and thrilling basketball contest.

Colorado won 28 to 29 last night over the touring Oregon State five, which won the Pacific coast conference northern division title last winter.

The game was tied at 15-all at the half, and Colorado's inexperienced sophomores squad had to battle furiously to nip the taller Oregonians.

Near the finish, Barney Oldham, net-sized guard from Hays, Kas., pitched two pinch field goals and the score was tied with one minute to go, 41 to 41.

VANCOUVER, BC, Dec. 17-(AP)—Vancouver Lions drew to within two points of top place in the Pacific Coast Hockey League here tonight by taking a 2-1 decision from the Portland Buckaroos. All goals were scored in the last period.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17-(AP)—Stanford university's veteran basketball team downed the San Francisco Olympic club 51-48 tonight despite the 20 points scored by Angelo "Hank" Lulestik, former Stanford star who returned to amateur play with the club.

ROCK ISLAND, Ill., Dec. 17-(AP)—The touring University of Idaho basketball team added Augustus Murray tonight, winning a rough contest by 56 to 41 count before a crowd of 1890.

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New York, Dec. 17-(AP)—Mello Bettina, 189 1/2, ex-milled weight champion, outsmarted and outpunched Solly Kruger, 177, New York, ex-milled weight champion, in ten action-packed rounds tonight. There were no knockdowns.

British Publisher and Wife Bet on Dats War Will End; He Says '43

PORTLAND, Dec. 17-(AP)—A wager between Sir Evelyn Wrench and his wife rests on the date the European war will end.

Logging trains "chug" their loads out of that area as soon as enough flats have been piled high and shunt them onto a siding that borders the Salem-Dallas highway opposite the new Bonville sub station. From there logs start on the second leg of their journey to Portland saws and eventually into housing for army units.

Bid Is Received On Gates Bridge

Construction of the proposed new bridge across the North Santiam river at Gates will cost Marion and Linn counties a total of \$15,988, if the low bid, by J. F. Johnson, of Newberg, received by the state highway commission in Portland yesterday is accepted.

The offer was referred to the two county units for consideration.

Plans call for steel truss structure for the Gates crossing, replacing a condemned bridge.

NW Base Hospital Set for Vancouver

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 17-(AP)—The army's base hospital for northwest troops will be located at Vancouver barracks, officers said today.

They applied to the city for water service for a 750-bed hospital unit containing 45 buildings. The unit will be constructed next year.

LAST DAY "SWANEE RIVER" with Don Ameche Andrea Leeds, Al Jolson and "WINNER TAKE ALL"

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Public Schools And WU Close

1456 Absent and Teacher Staff Depleted; Open Early, Jan. 2, Plan

(Continued from page 1.) until Monday, were again suspended Monday afternoon through the Christmas vacation, because of the large number of absences caused by influenza and colds.

PORTLAND, Dec. 17-(AP)—The influenza epidemic reached into upstate Oregon, causing the closure of several cities' schools today.

Corvallis, home of Oregon State college, closed city schools. Salem, St. Helens and Willamina followed suit.

Vancouver and La Center, Wash., across the Columbia river, also shut down until after the holidays. Portland schools closed yesterday after absences reached a total of over 11,000.

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Elected Senator Is Named to Job

OLYMPIA, Dec. 17-(AP)—Senator-elect Conrad C. Wallgren of Everett, democratic congressman of the second Washington district, was appointed by Governor Martin today to the seat vacated by Lewis B. Schwellenbach's ascension to the federal bench.

The appointment had been expected generally in political circles because Wallgren would take the seat in January, anyhow, as the result of his election last month, and the earlier appointment will give him committee seniority ranking over newly elected senators who take their seats next month.

Violation Charged

Salem police last night arrested George Vick, route 2, on a charge of failure to stop.

Grounded Ship's Damage Is \$5000

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 17-(AP)—Damage to the steam schooner Whitney Olson, stuck off Clatsop spit yesterday, approximated \$5000, Capt. Carl Swanson said today.

The coast guard cutter Onondaga rescued the freighter after her anchor chain parted and she went aground. The ship was towed to Portland today to enter drydock.

Post Is Declined By Lloyd George; Windsor Willing

LONDON, Dec. 18-(Wednesday)—(AP)—The London News Chronicle says that David Lloyd George has declined the ambassadorship to the United States, although pressed strongly by Prime Minister Churchill to accept.

Lloyd George, the paper added, refused the post in consideration of his advanced age—78.

Last night an authoritative source said several more days might be required to find the "ideally suited" man for the job, made vacant by the recent death of Lord Lothian.

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 17-(AP)—While thousands waited to wave him a farewell, the Duke of Windsor said today he would accept the post of ambassador to the United States should it be offered and "if I thought it was in the interest of our two countries."

He made the statement at a press conference aboard Axel Wenzsagren's yacht, Southern Cross, shortly before sailing on the return voyage to Nassau. The yacht brought the duke and duchess here a week ago.

Child Bride Is Held at Tacoma

TACOMA, Dec. 17-(AP)—A 13-year-old child bride, married six days ago to a 24-year-old Camp Murray soldier, was held in a juvenile detention home tonight while sheriff's deputies sought her mother on a warrant charging her with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Prosecutor Thor Tollefson said the mother, Mrs. Ardella Murray of Tacoma, "helped in making arrangements for the wedding and was present at the ceremony" when her daughter, Betty, a junior high school student, married Ralph Conway, 24, a member of Oregon's 186th infantry, here last Thursday.

Mrs. Murray's ball was set at \$1000 when the warrant was filed in justice court this afternoon.

Tollefson said Mrs. Murray, mother of five children, who has been on relief since her husband disappeared several months ago, told welfare department authorities her daughter might get married. The prosecutor added authorities warned her against child marriage.

Action against Conway depends on military authorities. Tollefson said 41st division headquarters at Camp Murray reported the soldier-husband "on duty with his regiment."

According to the prosecutor, the schoolgirl and Conway obtained a marriage license at Olympia last week. A Grays Harbor couple also obtaining a license, signed affidavits that the girl was 18 years of age.

Corvallis Woman Takes Own Life

CORVALLIS, Dec. 17-(AP)—Blanche Barker, 27, animal industries division secretary, killed herself last night, Coroner A. L. Keeney said today.

A janitor found her in her office with a bullet wound in her head, a revolver under her body and a note on the desk.

She was formerly a student at the southern branch of University of Idaho, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Kennedy, Idaho Falls.

Stray Dogs Are Campaign Object

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17-(AP)—The humane society launched a campaign against stray dogs in Portland today in an attempt to curb an outbreak of rabies.

The county already has started rounding up dogs and officials considered declaring a quarantine within city limits until Gary Daniel, humane society president, announced his plans.

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