

By Charles A. Squire

It gives a person a little of the old home feeling to see piles of slabwood on the parking strips again. Not so many years ago that was as common as the month of August. Houses were hidden behind these wooden walls. Then came the salesmen for automatic heating, oil and gas, with their appeals to comfort-loving housewives and work-shirking husbands, and the piles of slabwood began to shrink. The esthetic sense of the community was appealed to as the shabbiness of woodpiles lining the streets was pointed out.

But with the war, and rationing of fuel oil, and bars against installing new automatic burpers, there has come a scramble for anything to provide heat. Slabwood was the answer. Not forest wood, for the woodcutters and their familiar trucks disappeared. The old wood market at the end of Chemeketa street was deserted. The boost in price for old fir from \$5.50 or \$6.00 a cord to \$13.50 didn't maintain the supply. The lure of the shipyards was too strong for the workers in the woods.

The same war that stopped production of cordwood, stimulated the cutting of lumber, until the mills have been buried in their waste. Slabwood, mill ends, hogged fuel, sawdust, all by-products of lumber manufacture, are now available in abundance. The city of Portland, as well as Salem and most of the other towns of western Oregon have been saved by slab.

Believe it or not, in Portland over half the population depends on wood fuel for its heating. It was the organization of supply of slabwood from the mills of the valley that kept Portland warm last winter. This summer a fresh attack is being made on the same line, reaching out farther to utilize the wood which now goes into the consumer in mid-valley lumber mills.

Salem schools, we notice, have great piles of slabwood drying on the school grounds, apparently in simple quantity to keep the kiddies warm (Continued on Editorial page.)

### Billings Death Held Accident

Carlson Released After Shedding Light on Mystery

Though not quite all angles of mystery in Stephen Jay Billings' death here Monday had been cleared up, W. E. Carlson, Billings' recent roommate and fellow-worker at a Portland shipyard, was released Monday after he had cooperated with Salem police in shedding light upon some of the circumstances.

On the basis of Carlson's story and other new evidence uncovered Wednesday, viewed in conjunction with the results of an autopsy performed Monday night, it appeared that contrary to circumstances which led at first to a theory of murder, Billings died from the combined effects of a "walking" type of pneumonia and a skull fracture suffered accidentally. Fortified wine, it was indicated, played an important though indirect role in the case.

Billings, it was believed, came to Salem from Portland late Monday, arrived at his mother's home at 1540 North Liberty street sometime during the night, entered without the knowledge of the two young women sleeping upstairs, and suffered the skull fracture in a fall down basement stairs. Death did not occur until late Monday afternoon and the disordered condition of the enclosed porch where he later was found dead was explained, it was believed, by his struggles after being injured.

This version of the case was strengthened by the statements of neighbors who said they heard what might have been groans, though so faint they did not investigate, between 10:30 and 11 o'clock Sunday night. Miss Rosemary Billings, sister of the dead (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

### Dam Material Has Approval

SILVERTON, Aug. 25—(Special)—Approval of priorities for materials needed in construction of the city's proposed new dam on the Abiqua has been granted. Mayor Reber Allen was advised Monday by the war production board headquarters in Washington, DC. Work on construction of the dam will be opened by the council next Monday. Though the council has voted to build a permanent dam at an estimated cost of \$45,000, bids also were asked on specifications for a temporary structure. The old dam was washed out by high water last winter. Since then, the municipal water supply has been provided by pumping, which has been costly. City officials hope to have the new dam built before winter.

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NINETY THIRD YEAR

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## Mountbatten To Command Burma Theater

## Layton Guilty; Death Mandatory

## Verdict Takes 4 Hours

Defendant Calm; Judge to Give Sentence Monday

DALLAS, August 25—(Special)—After deliberating four hours, jurors found Richard Henry Layton guilty of murder in the first degree at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon and gave their verdict without recommending leniency, making death in the Oregon gas chamber mandatory for the former Monmouth policeman convicted of slaying 17-year-old Ruth Hildebrand.

Layton was calm when the jury foreman read the verdict of guilty. After the court room had been cleared, Layton lit a cigarette, put on his dark glasses and asked to be escorted back to his cell in the Polk county jail.

Judge Arlie Walker will sentence Layton Monday morning. At 10:30 Wednesday morning Judge Walker instructed the jury to return one of four verdicts: guilty of first degree murder without recommendation for leniency, guilty with a recommendation, not guilty by reason of insanity, or innocent.

Ruth Hildebrand's nude body was fished from the Willamette river June 26, two weeks after Layton testified she had stumbled to her death in a game of nude tag played by the pair on a path near Buena Vista.

The state contended that Layton had offered to drive the girl home from a bus station, but had driven her to "Lovers Lane" near Buena Vista, raped her and knocked her into the river.

Dallas citizens apparently were not interested in following the city's first murder trial in two years. Layton's trial drew less than one out of seven citizens of Dallas to the half-filled court room to hear testimony reported in all of the state's daily newspapers.

Not one employe in the block of business houses near the Polk county court house questioned Tuesday had crossed the street to the trial.

Of the 127 people counted in the court room Monday afternoon, 38 were either before the bar of the court as jurors or court officials, or behind the rail but present as witnesses waiting to be called.

According to Sheriff Thomas Hooker of Polk county, Layton called for the papers each morning, apparently to check the reports of his trial.

He also asked for magazines with "lot of pictures" and spent some time looking at cartoons and reading western stories.

## Lewis Fails Again to Get Portal Pay

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25—(AP)—John L. Lewis has failed a second time to get the war labor board's approval for portal-to-portal pay for his United Mine Workers. The board rejected a proposed payment of \$1.25 a day on grounds it amounted to a general wage increase contrary to the national stabilization policy. The \$1.25 payment for the time miners spend in travel from the mine mouth to working places was included in a tentative contract between the union and the Illinois Coal Operators association. The board turned it down yesterday, eight to four, with labor members dissenting. The decision, however, pointed the way for the miners to increase their earnings by doing eight hours of productive work a day, instead of seven, with time and a half for the eighth hour. The board took the position that time and a half after the seventh hour is not a wage increase requiring board approval. For years, the mine workers' contracts have provided for time and a half for all time in excess of seven hours in a day and five days in a week. An eight hour day would add \$1.50 a day and upwards to the miners' pay envelopes.

## "This Is the Way We Can Our Food"



"We do it like this," Mrs. Maybelle Burch, supervisor of food preparation at the Salem community cannery, shows Neal Craig, superintendent, as Salem housewives busily scrape carrots and corn. Below, Craig and George Grant, processor, are capping tin cans, last step before final processing of produce.

## Production Nears Peak At Community Cannery

Celebrating the end of its first month of operation Wednesday, the Salem community cannery nearing production peak was nearly swamped with the lowly vegetable which has been making headlines for the last two weeks—beans. For in the four weeks since the cannery opened, 90 per cent of the produce put up for consumption next winter has been beans, and of that amount 80 per cent has been grown in victory gardens. Neal Craig, supervisor, revealed.

Beans are not alone, however. Carrots, corn (both cream style and whole kernel), beets, tomatoes, chicken, apricots, peaches, pears, and meats and fish will go into the cans before the end of the season in mid-October, with early vegetables already filling 29,000 cans for 600 families. Plans for the cannery were made last spring soon after the start of victory garden classes. Those inaugurating the victory garden movement consulted with E. R. Alexander, specialist in agricultural education from Washington, DC, as to the most feasible method to preserve the produce which the gardens promised, since early growing weather indicated such bountiful crops that a surplus would be available over and above regular home use. Every can of vegetables, fruit and meat put up this summer is releasing an extra can for the soldiers and sailors in war zones and for hard-pressed allies, and each can is saving precious ration points for the housewife.

Because of difficulties in obtaining equipment, the first plan for circulating pressure cookers among organized groups of housewives had to be abandoned. Instead, the community cannery idea started, with funds for its (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

## 'Give Up,' FDR Tells Hitler

Axis Will Learn Plans in Battle, Says President

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER. OTTAWA, Ont., August 25 (AP)—Out of his knowledge of the new forces to be loosed upon axis Europe by the decisions of Quebec, President Roosevelt Wednesday sternly warned Adolf Hitler: "Surrender now."

The allies are bent upon achieving "victory in the shortest possible time," he said, and have arrived at definite war plans with which Germany, Italy and Japan will be duly acquainted on the field of battle.

The president made no mention of surrender by Italy or Japan, but said that if Germany's leaders could know the strategy mapped at Quebec "they would find surrender would pay them better now than later."

Speaking on Parliament hill in the capital of America's northern good neighbor, the chief executive also disclosed that Prime Minister Churchill, Frigate Minister Mackenzie King and he had discussed post-war problems at their Quebec meeting.

The president's remarks appear to project the united nations organization into the post-war period as machinery suitable for creating a permanent peace. "Everyone of the united nations believes that only a real and lasting peace can justify the sacrifices we are making, and our unanimity (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

## Reds Drive Beyond Gains Of Last Year

By W. W. HERCHER. LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 26 (AP)—Russian troops eclipsed last winter's counter-offensive mark Tuesday by capturing Zenkov, 85 miles northwest of fallen Kharkov, and widened their breach in the enemy's Donets basin lines, where they killed 2500 Germans. Moscow announced today. More than 80 villages were reported captured today.

Surging swiftly through Kharkov, the Russians fanned out to the west and south to threaten Poltava and Lozova, 75 miles to the southwest and south, respectively, the daily communiques disclosed. Savage German counter-attacks had failed to halt the Russian drive toward the Dnieper river bend, it was said.

Lozova's capture would cut one of the main rail escape routes for the Germans in the Donets basin. Only limited gains were made on the Bryansk front, the communiques said, but Russian bombers set afire German trains in attacks on Novozybkov and Unecha on the railway running westward to Gomel.

Soviet airmen also were striking at enemy airdromes and troop concentrations below Kharkov in the ambitious Russian effort to crush the entire German line in southern Russia and trap thousands of Germans (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

## Manville Married, Goes Sans Wife

NEW YORK, Aug. 25—(AP)—Tommy Manville, married today for the seventh time, showed up at El Morocco club Wednesday without his wife—and with several scratches on his face. Manville, accompanied by two plain clothes detectives, said he and his bride, the former Macie Marie (Sunny) Ainsworth, 19, "had a fight" and that he didn't know where she was. The marriage of the wealthy asbestos heir and the showgirl, who is from Matagorda, Tex., took place without previous announcement, Miss Ainsworth having broken their engagement two weeks ago because they were not well enough acquainted.

## New Command



LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

## Bombers Blast Nazi Airfields In France

By GLADWIN HILL. LONDON, Aug. 25—(AP)—In the lull between heavy bomber blows American and RAF medium bombers Wednesday concentrated for the second successive day on westernmost German air fields in France, showering down explosive destruction on three bases and one power station, while Thunderbolts and Spitfires mowed down faltering Nazi fighter interference.

US Eighth air force Marauders hit the power station at Rouen and the Tricqueville air field and RAF Mitchells struck at the Bernay St. Martin airdrome and RAF Bostons the air field at Beaumont Le Roger.

Few enemy fighters showed themselves and one of these was downed by an RCAF squadron. Not an allied plane was lost. (The federal communications commission reported in New York that the main radio in the Berlin area, Deutschlandsender, had gone off the air Wednesday night along with the Nazi-operated Calais and Paris radios in France, indicating the possible presence of allied bombers, and that the German-controlled Kalundborg radio in Denmark had said its transmissions and those of the Copenhagen radio had been interrupted for nearly half an hour "for military reasons.")

It was also announced tonight that a burst of anti-aircraft fire from guns which had not been fired against enemy planes in several months destroyed a low-flying Junkers-88 just off a northern Scottish island. The raider (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

## Bette Davis' Husband Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 25—(AP)—Arthur Farnsworth, husband of Screen Actress Bette Davis, died late today of mysterious injuries received Monday when he was found unconscious on a sidewalk. Dr. Paul Moore, who with Miss Davis was at the bedside when death came, said Farnsworth suffered a basal fracture of the skull, presumably in a fall while walking. Farnsworth never regained consciousness sufficiently to tell what happened, the physician said.

## Kenneth Everett, 11, Killed By Hit-and-Run Motorist

Ralph Eugene Rutherford, 17, of route 7, Salem, was arrested by state police late Wednesday night in connection with the hit-and-run accident in which Kenneth Everett, 11, was killed. Sgt. C. Emahiser said Rutherford admitted he was the driver. Kenneth Everett, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Les Everett, Fairhaven avenue, was fatally injured Wednesday night about 8:50 when his bicycle was struck by a hit-and-run motorist on the road between the state penitentiary and Four Corners. A companion, Robert L. Culver, 30 Robert avenue, also was struck and severely but apparently not critically injured. The Everett boy died about 9:30 p. m., within a few minutes after he and the Culver boy had been brought to the Salem Deaconess hospital by Miss Verna Harms. Death was due to a fractured skull and resultant injury to the brain, the attending physician said. Young Culver's injuries included a gash on the skull, bad cuts on the head and one ear and numerous bruises. His condition was reported "good." Winabelle Walker of route 6, an eye-witness, said the boys were "away off the road" when struck, and that the automobile was going at high speed, striking them from behind as they cycled westward. State police were notified and made efforts to trace the offending car. It was reported that the two boys had been on the way to visit the home of Everett's sister. In another accident at the intersection of Market street and East Turner road, a collision between two automobiles, Fred Hamlin and John H. Miller, both of Turner, were injured. First aid car men who treated them reported that Hamlin suffered fracture of four ribs, Miller had chest bruises. They were taken to the Salem General hospital, but Miller was able to leave soon afterward. Hamlin's injuries were not considered serious.

Dimont

Thurs. sunset 8:01  
Fri. sunrise 6:25  
(Weather on Page 3)