

10 Lives Taken In Northwest Due To Fires

SEATTLE, Dec. 20 (AP)—Five fires accompanying the winter's severest cold have taken 10 lives in Washington and Oregon in the past 48 hours, three in a rooming house blaze here early today. Property loss in other Washington fires this week tops the quarter-million dollar mark.

A two-story wooden home in the First Hill district, near hospitals, was fire-swept shortly after 5 a. m., trapping two women and an elderly man. They were Mrs. Myrtle Kaefer, landlady, Mrs. Anna Peterson and Fred Winters, a Spanish-American war veteran. Occupants escape.

A woman boarder, Lucille Collins, awakened by the smoke and flames, ran from her room and gave the alarm. Merle C. Stallcop, living next door, was unable to break into the back door of the burning building but meantime the other occupants escaped. Three were seriously burned.

Eight miles east of Kent, south of here, a farmhouse fire burned Thomas Menty, about 55, to death about 1 a. m. His wife was away for the night.

Local Fire Added
The worst of yesterday's fires was near Woodburn, Ore., in which Mrs. Bessie Seely, 25, and her three babies perished. A child was fatally burned here and an elderly man died in a Mount Vernon fire.

The property loss at Mount Vernon was \$80,000 and a paper box company plant was destroyed at Tacoma yesterday, with \$50,000 loss. Other bad fires this week were at Kelso, Copalis Beach and Belfair, near Bremerton.

Bill Proposes To Give River Control to U.S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (AP)—Creation of an authority to develop the resources of the Columbia river region in Washington and Oregon is proposed in identical bills introduced today by Senator Mitchell and Rep. Jackson, Washington democrats.

The authority would be patterned after the Tennessee valley authority and have headquarters in the northwest.

The CVA would have authority to generate and distribute hydroelectricity, irrigate arid lands, improve navigation facilities, prevent floods, conserve soil and protect forests and wildlife.

"Congress must soon adopt some kind of a policy regarding widely scattered functions in the Columbia valley," Mitchell and Jackson said in a statement. "There is much confusion. The handling of power facilities alone is on a confused basis with different agencies operating the dams."

"This measure," he continued, "incorporates suggestions made by the president to us in our discussions with him. It provides for a sound and orderly development of a unified basis rather than under piece meal arrangements now prevailing."

Reforestation Bill Postponed


WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (AP)—Plans to obtain a congressional appropriation to rehabilitate areas in Oregon and Washington national forests have been abandoned until after Christmas, northwest senators said today.

The senators decided not to hurry the measure after forest service officials told them inclement weather would delay the work until spring or later. Sen. Wayne Morse (R-Ore) said the work would require about \$1,600,000.

Morse quoted Lyle Watts, forest service chief, as saying the service had no funds for restoration and maintenance at Timberline Lodge, 500 camp and picnic spots and 23 ski areas in Oregon.

REDS HANG 7 NAZIS
LONDON, Dec. 20 (AP)—The Moscow radio said tonight that seven German storm troopers (SS) convicted of war crimes were hanged at noon today in a Smolensk square before 50,000 onlookers.

A new spray has been developed which kills weeds among vegetables at a cost of less than \$12 per acre, as compared with about \$60 for hand-pulling methods.



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Legless Flier Weds



Col. Graham W. West, 34, of Portland, Ore., army flier who lost both legs in North Africa, was married in Denver, Colo., to Phyllis Holley, 33, of Beverly Hills, Calif. With artificial limbs, West flew again in the Normandy invasion, only to be knocked out of action by flak wounds. (AP Wirephoto)

Insurance Commissioner Condemns Federal Control

Any very strict surveillance of the insurance business by the federal government, with an accompanying tax, could become a heavy burden upon the business, which in some states already bears an unfair portion of the cost of government, Seth E. Thompson, state insurance commissioner, declared as he addressed the Salem Lions club at its Thursday luncheon meeting.

For almost 100 years insurance in this country has been regulated by the various states, which have established similar laws but have made provision for specific conditions peculiar to their own areas, Thompson said. Recently, insurance was declared "commerce" and as such most of it may be regulated under the interstate commerce provisions of the federal constitution. To date that regulation has been either expensive nor troublesome, he indicated.

Costs High
Because of the long term contracts involved in insurance more regulation has been required than over other types of business deals, Thompson said. In Oregon, insurance regulations cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 to administer, but the policies pay a 2 per cent tax

which amounts to \$1,250,000. In some states the tax is 4 per cent. Thompson spoke of taxation for other than the purpose of paying costs of regulation as unfair in states where other commodities are not forced to pay a sales tax.

Insurance is second only to transportation in the United States in the amount of money involved, Thompson said.

Carols Played
Frank Sanders, Lions accompanist, played a group of Christmas carols as a special feature of the luncheon meeting, which was held in the mirror room of the Marion hotel, where a big Christmas tree was lighted.

The 25,000 civilian airplanes in the U.S. in 1941 represented one plane for every 5200 people.

CIO, GM Talks To Continue Despite 'Policy'

(Story also on Page 1)
By the Associated Press

At the request of President Truman's newly appointed fact-finding board General Motors and the UAW agreed to meet this morning to try to agree on a basis for resumption of collective bargaining on the strike issues.

The president's statement of policy came a few hours after General Motors informed Mr. Truman's fact-finding board it would withdraw from hearings on its wage dispute if profits and prices were considered as evidence.

Walter C. Merritt, New York labor lawyer who represented the corporation, told the board the issue of profits and prices was "entirely irrelevant" to the hearing since General Motors was "not pleading poverty or inability to pay."

Confidential
Merritt contended the union had demanded highly technical and confidential information on the company's financial position which would have to be based on speculation and prediction on future conditions. He added the union, if such information were given, could well suggest that the company operate its business differently to save money or otherwise attempt to influence management operations.

President Truman said that since neither the government nor its board would endeavor to fix a rate of return for the employer "since wages are paid out of earnings, the question of earnings is relevant."

Informed that General Motors had objected to submitting its records to a fact-finding board, the president said he was sorry to hear that and hoped they would reconsider.

Recess
The GM fact-finding board recessed until Saturday, before resuming a study of the month-long strike which has kept more than 200,000 idle. By then, the board said, it would have reached decision on whether to consider prices and profits in relation to wages.

Under legislation advocated by the president and up for consideration in congress after the Christmas holidays, fact-finding boards would be given authority to subpoena records—power lacked by fact-finding boards now in existence.

Efforts to restore harmony on another front in the automotive industry were stalled when the CIO-UAW rejected as a "mockery" a Ford Motor company offer

of a 12.4 per cent wage rate increase and negotiations were adjourned to Jan. 8.

'Shackle' Unions
The union criticized a condition attached to the wage proposal that the union not seek more wages even if higher OPA price ceilings are granted for new cars, asserting this would "shackle" the union. It charged that surrender of other union demands such as increased vacation pay, removal of interplant and intra-plant inequalities would amount to no increase at all for some employees.

Schools Closed By Icy Roads, Flu Epidemic

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 20 (AP)—The flu epidemic, coupled with icy roads, today had halted classes in 27 Clark county schools with total enrollment of about 4000.

Influenza closed Camas schools, where officials reported 225 students and 18 teachers ill. The Yacolt grade school also was shut down because of illness, which was blamed along with sleet for closure at Battle Ground.

Treacherous highways, slowing and stopping school buses, were responsible for most of the other closures, officials said. Vancouver

schools stayed open. Among those shut down in Clark county's 23 districts: Walnut Grove, Chehalis, Pleasant Valley, Good Hope, Fargher Lake, Amboy, Union High, West Mill Plain, East Mill Plain, Russell, Fisher, Proebstel, Orchards, Hurton, Harmony, and Pleasant Valley.

Truman Sets Out to Rescue 'Full Job' Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (AP)—President Truman set out today to rescue his so-called full-employment bill, terming a house substitute unacceptable.

He disclosed that he has made an appeal to a joint congressional committee for quick enactment of a measure passed by the senate, which he said meets the essential characteristics of his program.

At the same time, the chief executive disclosed he will speak out forcibly soon on a congressional proposal to transfer the U. S. employment service back to the states over his opposition.

In his final news conference before Christmas, Mr. Truman also said he wants navy secretary Forrestal to remain at his post at least for the present, despite their differences over army-navy unification.

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UNO Preparatory Group To Select 6 U. S. Cities

LONDON, Dec. 20 (AP)—The United Nations preparatory commission decided tonight to set up a committee with representatives from 12 nations which will tour the United States and select a maximum of six cities as candidates for a world capital.

The committee will fix a deadline for new offers and for hearings from representatives of prospective sites for headquarters of the United Nations organization.

Weather Holds Back Troop-Carrier Planes

SEATTLE, Dec. 20 (AP)—Two giant aerial troop carriers hurrying to Seattle to speed midwestern veterans home for Christmas have landed at Great Falls, Mont., because of weather conditions, the Seattle port of embarkation reported tonight.

The big planes were to have landed at Boeing field here at 5:30 p. m. (PST) and started the return to Chicago journey at 7 p. m., each carrying 100 men.



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