

V-2 Rocket Sets Speed, Height Records as Meteorites Scatter

Today's Winners
 264-850 9-606
 399-488 99-377
 50-022 329-521
 233-130 399-437
 6-180 338-053
 Prizes in The Oregon Statesman - Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving Campaign award to winners driving campaign award to winners, at The Statesman office.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851



IT SEEMS TO ME
 By Charles A. Sprague
 From Austria comes this letter addressed to The Statesman:
 Klotnerburg bei Weis, 19 XI, 1946
 To "Oregon Statesman, Salem"
 Dear Sirs, I am sorry that you are freshly assured that America and the Americans are the land and the people who are the best and most humane. For this reason I dare to appeal also to your kindness.
 We suffer from hunger. The weekly official rations are only for 2 days but the week has seven days and there is nothing at all one could buy. By American bombs we have lost all our possessions including clothes and by development of things we lost our only child, a young physician.
 I am sorry that I am not an American friend, but I assume that you are acquainted with kindhearted gentlemen and ladies who are ready to help so unhappy people as we are. I do not have the courage to ask for a CARE Package but there will perhaps be a small package the large and happy country. As we need also dresses which are neither obtainable, I do not know how my husband and I will go through the winter. If there is any possibility, I am ready to return the money paid for.
 I count onto your kindness and I would be highly obliged to pass this letter to a person coming in question. Thanking you in advance, I am
 Sincerely yours,
 HEDY MOSSLER
 Klotnerburg bei Weis, Martinistraße 40, Austria

Stassen Confirms Presidential Aim, Tells Program; Vandenberg Not Campaigning



HAROLD E. STASSEN Enlists in Race

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Harold E. Stassen, 39-year-old former Minnesota governor and navy veteran, served notice on the old guard in his party today that he is definitely a candidate for the republican presidential nomination in 1948.
 He made his announcement at a hotel news conference and said his main interest at first will be to develop new labor legislation based on "voluntary" methods to prevent strikes but seeking to "break up monopolies and dictatorships" in unions.
 Stassen's open candidacy, all but avowed up to now, is expected by politicians to put a keen edge on pre-convention activity that otherwise would remain dull two years before nominating time. Vandenberg in asserting he is not a candidate said the "Republican task at hand is exclusively one of now justifying our November victory."

Postoffice in Salem Moving Record Mails

Cancellations in the Salem postoffice totaled 118,000 Monday and at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday were well past 70,000 and on the way to a new record for the holiday season. Last year's peak cancellation was 136,000 reached later in the week. Albert Gragg, Salem postmaster, said Tuesday. The most of the cancellations are registered during the night hours. Gragg said, when outgoing mail is worked.
 All incoming mail is being handled in an auxiliary warehouse on Ferry street. Package mail as it is brought from the trains is taken to this warehouse and distributed about town.
 Possibility of expanding the Salem postoffice space by flooring the full basement of the less than 10 year old federal building is seen as a means of providing necessary floor space for peak mail loads.

Future of U.S. Workers

Stassen said the future of the working people in the United States depends on four things in the next six months:
 1—That big strikes be avoided, in order to bring about high, continuous production.
 2—That salaries and wages of the white collar classes—teachers, pensioners and the like—be brought up to "the new level we have arrived at."
 3—That no extreme restrictive legislation be enacted by congress that would place "extreme power in the hands of the government in violation of the fundamental rights of the workers."
 4—Exercise of "consumer resistance to high prices in this immediate period."

Year's Crop Production Tops in Nation's History

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(AP)—The agriculture department reported today that its final tally confirmed earlier estimates that this year's crop production was the greatest in history, from the standpoint of both quantity and quality.
 Topping the output were record crops of wheat and corn—grains campaign and domestic livestock feeding operations had depleted to dangerously low levels. The crops put the country into a position to ship large amounts of cereals abroad this winter, to expand livestock production and to rebuild grain reserves.
 The aggregate volume of crops was 26 per cent above the previous record of 1942.
 Record crops also were reported for rice, potatoes, tobacco, soy beans, cherries, peaches, pears, plums, and truck crops.
 This year's harvested acreage totaled 345,773,000 compared with 246,482,000 last year and 334,823,000 for the ten-year (1935-44) average.
 Production of food and feed grains were the largest on record, amounting to 162,500,000 tons, or about 7,500,000 tons above 1942's previous record.
 The final figure for corn was 3,297,927,000 bushels. This compared with the 1944 record of 3,228,000,000, with the revised 1945 figure of 2,880,224,000 and with a ten-year average of 2,608,499,000.
 Wheat production was reported at 1,153,713,000 bushels, compared with 1,098,224,000 last year and the ten-year average of 843,692,000.

Whole Town Fights Fire in Oklahoma

BINGER, Okla., Dec. 17.—(AP)—Using garden hoses, wet sacks, ropes, and anything handy to fight a fire, 600 men, women and children aided regular firemen tonight bring under control a blaze which leveled two buildings on the main street and threatened for a time to wipe out this town of 860.
 L. R. Griffin, member of the city board, said no one was injured as the blaze was brought under control about two hours after it began at 5 p.m. today.
 The Hentz general merchandise store, on a main street corner, and the Binger theatre were destroyed by the blaze.

SHIP SAILS TO ALASKA

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17.—(AP)—The Alaska relief ship, Reef Knot, sailed from here late today for southwestern Alaska ports with 4842 tons of relief cargo.

Drive Shows When Women Drivers Good, They're Very, Very Good; When They're Bad They're Awful

By Wendell Webb
 Managing Editor, The Statesman
 Several interesting conclusions gradually are being formed from data gathered in the current Oregon Statesman-Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving campaign—one of them pertaining to women drivers.
 The women, harangued about their driving, are showing a higher percentage of uniform courtesy than the men. Conversely, the most glaring evidences of discourtesy and unsafe driving practices also have been perpetrated by women.
 But the most outstanding conclusion reached by the courtesy-campaign observers is that the actual percentage of drivers who keep in their own lanes, give proper hand signals, proceed at safe speeds and relinquish their "rights" to help keep traffic moving smoother is startlingly small, both among men and women.

Missile Ascends 111 Miles

Meteor Display Unspectacular, Observers Say

WHITE SANDS, N. M., Dec. 17.—(AP)—New records were set for speed of 5350 feet per second and for altitude of 111 miles by a German V-2 rocket fired tonight, the army said in an official bulletin.
 While awaiting data from observers and development of film from 300 cameras, the army made no mention of its experiment to create man-made meteorites in its first night rocket shoot.
 The new speed, Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner, White Sands commander, said equalled five times the speed of sound and eclipsed the former mark of 5000 feet per second set December 6. The previous altitude mark was 104 miles set last summer.
Army Has No Comment
 The army said it would have no comment until 8 a.m. tomorrow on its meteorite experiment, but from the popular view the shoot was not much of a spectacle at places 100 or more miles away.
 Press reports from Bisbee, Ariz., were the only ones to mention meteorites being visible and then only faintly by the naked eye.
 A press representative stationed about six miles from the firing platform, however, said he saw no evidence of meteorites.
 The rocket was fired at 10:19 p.m. (Mountain standard time) and the all clear came at 10:23.
Flames Light Desert
 The flames from the rockets jet engines lit the desert brightly for about three miles, and the all clear came at 10:23. They were visible for 68 seconds and the white hot rudders for about 52 seconds longer.

Cold Wave to Spread South, East Suffers

SEATTLE, Dec. 17.—(AP)—A faint hope that the 32 men aboard a missing marine corps transport plane still might be alive kept the air over Eatonville crowded with search planes today after several witnesses reported seeing a brilliant fire blazing before dawn in the forest choked hills 25 miles southeast of the western Washington village.
 State Patrol Chief Herbert Algeo, however, discounted the possibility tonight after an hour and a half of flying over the district. "Visibility was excellent and we covered the entire area," Algeo said. "All we saw was a bunch of small logging outfits burning slashings."
 "If the plane is in that area or on Mount Rainier it undoubtedly covered by snow."
 The planes converged on the Eatonville district after W. B. Bray of that district told Sgt. Norman Taylor of the patrol he had seen a "plainly visible fire" early this morning. "It flared up as though it were being fed by gasoline," Bray was quoted as saying.
 An Olympia private flier, Loyal Schlottback, also reported today that he saw a column of black smoke, which changed slowly to a dull gray fog-like color, over a spot 25 miles southeast of Eatonville and west of Longmire, Mount Rainier national park. He was headed for another area to search and did not investigate closely, but on returning over it this afternoon could see no sign of logging operations or an area having burned. He said he "probably made a mistake" in not looking closer this afternoon.

\$15,000 Fund Contributed to Defeat Bilbo

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Senators digging into the financial deals revolving about Senator Theodore G. Bilbo today turned up a report of \$15,000 allegedly earmarked for defeating him at the polls.
 And the senate war investigating committee was told that the custodian of the money—temporarily at least—was Edward Terry, the Mississippi senator's own private secretary at the time.
 J. Marvin Quinn, vice president of the Jackson state national bank, Jackson, Miss., told about it.
 He said Terry told him the plan was for Gov. Tom Bailey to run against Bilbo this year. Bailey did not make the race. He was talked of as a candidate but his health was not good. He died recently.
 Quinn said Terry told him that the \$15,000 had been raised to "get Governor Tom Bailey to enter this race against Senator Bilbo."
 Bilbo fired Terry as his secretary last January 1.

Atomic Power Held Feasible For Airplanes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Dr. Louis A. Alvarez, University of California physicist, said tonight it is "technically feasible" to propel airplanes with atomic power, but that it probably would not be done within ten years.
 At the same time, Dr. Alvarez said "there is no obvious or simple way in which to use atomic energy for space ships."
 He expressed his views in an address at the Washington Aero club's annual dinner in observance of the Wright brothers' first flight. Earlier Dr. Alvarez was presented the Robert J. Collier trophy by President Truman for outstanding achievement in aviation during 1945. The award was based on the scientist's work in developing a radar method for guiding airplanes in bad weather.

28 Die in Spanish Train Wreck, Suspect Sabotage

MADRID, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Twenty-eight persons were killed and more than 100 were injured today, railroad officials said, when the Andalusia Express crashed into a stationary string of freight cars at Cinco Casa, 100 miles south of Madrid.
 Immediately after the wreck a group of railroad employees was arrested at the tiny Cinco Casa station on charges of suspicion of sabotage.

Long Range Planners Urge Relocation of State Penitentiary

Officials of Salem's long range planning commission, headed by former governor Charles A. Sprague, appeared before the state board of control here Tuesday and urged that the state penitentiary, now located at the eastern terminus of State street here, be relocated on a site some distance from the city.
 Sprague told the board that the land now occupied by the prison was badly needed for city expansion. Five proposed sites, all located east of Salem, were proposed. One of these, containing approximately 2400 acres, lies along a county highway between the state hospital farm, five miles east of Salem, and Aumsville. Approximately 60 per cent of this property is classified as rough land with 1000 acres available. Board members agreed that before anything definite is done the state land board should be asked to appraise the several sites and report back.
 Governor Earl Snell declared that the Oregon state hospital, located north of the penitentiary, also presented a serious problem and eventually might have to be relocated. Sprague countered that while this was possible the penitentiary proposal was the most important at the present time.
 There is a possibility, board members declared, that the Marion county delegation in the legislature may present a bill at the 1947 session providing for the prison relocation. Land now occupied by the penitentiary would be sold by the board of control.
 Funds for removal of the prison to another site would have to be appropriated by the legislature. Sprague stressed that the present prison plant is old and even if replaced by the present site will have to be remodeled and another number was thus moved up for today's prize.

Author of the letter is of course a stranger who has taken this means of appealing to the charity of Americans. But the letter is probably an accurate reflection of the need of the Austrian people and of their hopes of success from America. Austria is perhaps the worst off of any of the countries overrun by the war. Left weak as a result of the first world war, it is now quite impotent after the second. Here again division of control of the country has prevented a more rapid return to self-support.
 The CARE package the correspondent refers to is the package of food purchased at a cost of \$10 from surplus food stores sent abroad for the American army. The name comes from the initials of the (Continued on editorial page)

Gas in Water Mains Results in Explosion

KLAMATH FALLS, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Paul Albert Sanders, 19, turned on a water faucet at Tulelake and out came gas. So he reached over to flush the toilet and—bang! The explosion blew off two doors, sprung the walls of the building and set Sanders' clothing and hair afire.
 Fellow workers put out the flames with fire extinguishers, and took him to a hospital for treatment of burns about the hands and face.
 Members of the Tulelake city council explained it was the latest in a series of incidents resulting from methane—or marsh gas—in the water mains.
 They decided to make several openings in the mains near the water distribution plant in an attempt to relieve pressure. The said gas was being formed in the mains, which are not connected at present to storage tanks because workmen are getting ready to connect the system to an aeration and screening plant. They decided that in no previous incident did fire result.
 Sanders said he could not remember whether he had a cigarette in his hand.

Russians Delay Atom Plan Vote

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Dec. 17.—(AP)—The United States failed today in an attempt to bring about an immediate vote of approval on its proposals for international control of atomic energy.
 Soviet Delegate Andrei A. Gromyko charged that the American resolution was in complete conformity with the historic disarmament decision of the United Nations general assembly and asked more time to study it.
 U. S. Delegate Bernard M. Baruch, who told the U. N. atomic energy commission he had intended to ask a vote on the American proposals at this session, appeared sorely disappointed at the delay, but finally agreed to postponement of the commission's deliberations until Friday.

Courtesy Driving Campaign Prizes

Following is the list of prizes in The Oregon Statesman-Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving campaign:
MAJOR GRAND PRIZE
 Seventeen jewel watch choice of men's or woman's (Stevens & Son).
GRAND PRIZES
 1st: New tire and tube (State Tire Service).
 2nd: Dish set, service for 8 (Salem Hardware).
 3rd: Sandwich grill and fry rod (Sears Roebuck).
 4th: Permanent wave (Larsen's Beauty Studio).
 5th: Wool auto robe (Bishop's Clothing).
 6th: Airplane suitcase (Miller Mercantile).
 7th: Table lamp (Elstrom's).
 8th: Electric room heater (McKay Chevrolet).
 9th: Two tickets Elinore theatre.
 10th: Two tickets Estimote theatre.
 In addition, every one of the prize winners (daily and grand) will receive a certificate entitling him or her to an \$ x 10 brownstone photograph (Bishop-Moderne).
 All prizes are being made available at The Statesman office, with the exception that certificates instead of actual merchandise will be issued for the photographs, gasoline-oil, the permanent wave and ice cream.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH

"Of course I control the basic patents."

6 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT