

OIL FIRES RAGE OVER STRICKEN CITY

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Senators Baseball Opener Here Tonight

Parking Meters Arrive in Salem by Air

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

A speaker recently back from Europe told the National Conference of Social Work in session at San Francisco that American prestige in Europe has "hit a new low." The impoverished and embittered people of the continent feel we are indifferent to their suffering, that we are concerned primarily with enjoying our luxuries.

There is probably foundation for his report. It follows the pattern of the aftermath of World War I. The destitute are envious of the prosperous. The cohesion induced by common effort against a common foe loosens when fighting ceases, and frictions and tensions arise.

Various reasons cause this reversal of feeling. For one thing the conduct of our officers and soldiers in the army of occupation has been far below that of decency, in thousands of instances. Differences in language, in customs, in wages of soldiers all have proven irritating to native peoples. The new day hoped for with the defeat of the fascists has not been realized. Many fascist undertakings still hold seats of local power, while men of the democratic parties are shunted to one side. Above all, economic restoration has been slow, very slow; and destitution always breeds discontent.

Somehow, too, we have been unable to get over to the masses of the people the extent of our contributions in their behalf. How many Russians, for example, know that, besides the billions upon billions of dollars' worth of lend-lease equipment and food furnished through the American Society for Russian Relief, in cash and in kind, \$84,850,000? These relief supplies were furnished in moments of critical need, doing much to sustain life and provide some measure of comfort.

(Continued on Editorial Page)

Maison Wins General's Star

Appointment of State Police Supt. Harold G. (Fod) Maison as a brigadier general of the National Guard has been approved by the war department, Gov. Earl Snell announced Thursday.

Maison is expected to become assistant division commander of the 41st infantry division, which includes the national guard of Washington and Oregon.

When World War II started, Maison was a captain commanding the Salem company of the 41st division. He rose to colonel, commanding an infantry regiment of the 6th (regular army) division in the Philippines, and fought with the 41st through the New Guinea campaign.

EDITOR SUCCEDES
SPOKANE, Wash., April 17-(AP) George W. Dodds, 82, editor of the Spokesman-Review for 33 years before his retirement in 1942, died today after an operation.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Oh, this is ghastly... you distinctly said white ties!"

More Due To Meet Deadline

Four hundred fifty parking meters arrived in Salem Thursday afternoon following a 15-hour airplane trip from the Michael-Aris Bronze company's plant in Covington, Ky.

Robert Foote, the manufacturer's representative, stated Thursday that he expected installation to begin Friday or Saturday and that fastening of the heads on the meters, to continue through the weekend, probably would be finished by Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Deadline for installation of the complete order of 1,163 meters on order is next Friday, April 25. A cash penalty will be paid the city of Salem by the manufacturer for each day required past April 25 to complete meter installation.

Foote said Thursday that the Warren Northwest company has informed him that 900 meter posts have already been set in Salem, leaving only 263 more to be installed until all is ready for the entire order of meters.

Special plates to reinforce sidewalks undermined with basements have also been shipped here and work installing them will begin soon, Foote stated, thereby allowing timely meter installation in such places. Some basements were drilled into before it was learned that some downtown basements reach out under the sidewalk.

Awaits Word Of Brother in Disaster Area

Anxiously awaiting word whether her brother is safe at Texas City is Mrs. Arne Lien, route 7, box 432C, who Thursday was checking through Red Cross and the Associated Press for news of him.

The brother, Richard Bray, has been stationed with the U. S. navy at Texas City where explosions Wednesday killed hundreds of residents. He has been living there with his wife, Antoinette, Mrs. Lien said last night.

There was no person named Bray on the casualty lists received by Associated Press by Thursday night.

A Mill City couple, Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Reid, Wednesday night heard a first hand report of relief work among victims of the Texas City explosions, talking by telephone with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lockhart of Galveston, Tex. The Lockharts are Mrs. Reid's parents.

Sirens screamed all day in Galveston, where casualties were being brought from Texas City 15 miles away. All hospitals and many emergency centers were receiving the wounded, the Reids were told.

'Reds May Resent Loan,' Says Pepper

WASHINGTON, April 17-(AP) Senator Pepper (D-Fla.) told the senate today that Russia may "resent" lone-handed U. S. aid in Greece and Turkey. He said the proposed American action would justify Russia in taking similar steps anywhere in the world.

Pepper argued that the situation should be handled through the U. N.

'It's not a Small World,' Says Milton Reynolds

WASHINGTON, April 17-(AP) Milton Reynolds and his round-the-world fliers received the congratulations of President Truman at the White House today. Reynolds drew chuckles when he commented wryly:

"Whoever says it's a small world hasn't gone around it lately."

DRAFTED TO LEAVE JAPAN

YOKOHAMA, Friday, April 18-(AP) All drafted enlisted men in the U. S. army will have embarked from Japan by the end of April, the eighth army readjustment section said today. The occupation force then will be made up of regulars and volunteers.

Labor Bill Wins In Waters Park at 8 o'clock

Support for Measure Overwhelming

WASHINGTON, April 17-(AP)-A bill to curb strikes, restrict union activities and make some sweeping changes in new deal labor law was passed overwhelmingly today by the republican-controlled house.

But even as it went to the senate the labor committee there completed a milder measure of its own, stripped of some of the major house provisions, and sent it to the floor for debate to start next Wednesday.

The house vote on final passage was 308 to 107. This would be margin enough to override any veto by President Truman if the lineup on such a test should remain the same.

While the senate labor committee's vote was 11 to 2 for its legislation, Senator Taft (R-Ohio), committee chairman, announced he will lead a fight on the floor to restore some of the stricken provisions through amendments.

The major difference between the two measures is that the house bill curbs industry-wide bargaining, and outlaws jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts. The senate labor committee's bill does not.

Both measures would authorize court injunctions to stave off serious strikes, ban the closed shop and make unions liable for "unfair" labor practices along with employers.

Reps. Norblad and Stockman of Oregon voted in favor of the bill. Rep. Angell opposed it.

New Pumper Added to Fire Department

A new fire department pumper, designed to protect Salem districts in which hydrants have not yet been installed, was all set for action today. And another one will be readied as soon as City Manager J. L. Franzen can find an additional chassis on which to mount another pump.

The pumper came from a surplus Dodge chassis and pump procured several years ago through the office of civilian defense -- was assembled for the city by the W. W. Rosebraugh firm. It includes a 600-gallon tank (many a house fire has been quelled with less than 100 gallons of water), a pump, two 200-foot hose lines, and suction hose for use if the fire is near a source of open water.

Franzen said the market price of a similar outfit is between \$7,000 and \$8,000. He estimated the one now assembled ready for use here would cost the city less than \$800. It is to be painted the usual fire-department red and housed at the central station. The next one assembled is expected to be housed at the east Salem station.

Fire Chief W. P. Roble said the pumper would be invaluable in providing protection to districts recently annexed to Salem and in which the installation of hydrants is not yet possible.

SCHOOL BUILDING OKED

Marion county's school superintendent, Mrs. Agnes Booth, Thursday said she had approved the building program of the North Santiam school district. The construction involves adding two rooms and a stage to the existing school house.

Two Automobiles Burn in Garage

Only the burned wreckage of two autos remains after fire destroyed the cars and two private garages at 640 S. Capitol st., at about 12:10 this morning, city police, who covered in with the fire department, report.

The cars were owned by Charles E. Vredenburg, Jr., 640 S. Capitol st., and by the Portland General Electric company. No damage to adjacent buildings was reported.

'Little Change' in Coin-Swallower

First aid men reported last night there was "little change" in Bert Hanson, 7, of 455 N. 24th st. -- 11 cents to be exact. Earlier in the day the child swallowed a dime and a penny while playing. His condition is not believed to be serious.

The 1947 Western International The 1947 Western International ing to outdo even the banner year enjoyed in 1946 when 808,000 customers attended the games, opens its pennant drive on four fronts tonight, weather permitting. The Salem Senators, second place finishers last season and this year

Possibility of clear weather at Waters park for the season's opening baseball game is seen in a "late" forecast made by the U. S. weather station at McNary field. Light showers are predicted to become lighter as the day turns to ball-game time.

equipped with a new manager and many of last summer's crack players opens with the Vancouver B. C. entry at Waters park at 8 o'clock. Elsewhere in the league the Tacoma Tigers play at Spokane, Bremerton at Yakima and Victoria at Wenatchee.

Should tonight's inaugural at Waters park be rained out, the opener will be tried again Saturday night at 8 o'clock. Four games are scheduled with the visiting Capilanos -- singles -- tonight and Saturday night and a 1:30 p. m. doubleheader Sunday. Salem goes on the road to Vancouver Monday.

Managerial Debut

Jack Wilson, long a major league pitcher with the Boston Red Sox, Washington Senators and Detroit Tigers and a native of Portland, will be making his managerial debut in professional ball with the Senators. Wilson has replaced Ted Gullic who this season is a coach on the Portland team.

Wilson will start Lefthander Kenny Wyatt for Salem, Wyatt being a 15-game winner in the league last season. Wyatt will be opposed by Bob Snyder who also won 15 last season for the Capilanos. Snyder is a righthander.

Bill Beard Catches

Catching for Salem will be the veteran Bill Beard, once an all-around athlete at Willamette university and the past few years a Class AAA catcher with Seattle. Rookie Marty Krug, Jr., will be at first base, holdover Al Spaeter at second, veteran Hank Bartolome at short, Beaver optionee Mel Nunes at third, holdover Lou Kublik in left, popular Frank Lucchesi in center and rookie power hitter Bill Gregory in right. Vancouver's lineup is dotted with many players who performed for Manager Bill Brenner's team in 1946.

Brief pre-game ceremonies, starring Governor Earl Snell, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Mayor R. L. Edfstrom and Warden George Alexander will start at 7:50 p. m. Downtown merchants have donated a number of prizes as "firsts" for Salem players. If the weather is good, a throng of around 5,000 is expected for the game.

(Additional details on Sports Page)

AID FOR TEXANS ACCEPTED

WASHINGTON, April 17-(AP) Basil O'Connor, chairman of the American Red Cross, said today that voluntary contributions for the relief of Texas City disaster victims will be accepted by any of the organization's 3,754 chapters.

Austria Pact Hopes Dim; Some Diplomats Packing

By Wes Gallagher
MOSCOW, April 17-(AP) Chances for salvaging an Austrian peace treaty from the deadlocked Moscow conference faded tonight and some German experts among the delegations prepared to leave for Berlin apparently abandoning hope of further progress on a German pact.

In London a foreign office spokesman said a special train will be ready in Moscow on Tuesday to return Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin and the British delegation. He said that while there were no definite plans to leave then the train would be ready "if there appears to be no good reason to stay longer."

Death Toll Set at 650; New Explosions Held Imminent



TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 17--This view of the dock area here (top) shows damage caused by the series of explosions which rocked this city yesterday killing an estimated 650 persons and injuring thousands. (Below) Four dazed and battered rescue workers limp back from the danger area. (AP Wirephotos to The Statesman.)

Truman Offers Aid To Area

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 17-(AP)-Blast-torn Texas City went through a second night of fear tonight as flaming oil tanks threatened further explosions to add to the devastation of two days' blasts which left an estimated 650 persons dead, thousands injured.

The huge oil tank farm of the Humble Oil company was burning, the latest conflagration spreading from explosions which blasted three ships in the harbor and destroyed the multi-million dollar plant of the Monsanto Chemical company.

Rescue workers evacuated the immediate danger area early tonight and gas masks were passed out as a precaution against the possible spread of poisonous gases from further explosions.

Hoover Garrison, Jr., director of the Texas department of public safety, telegraphed Gov. Beauford H. Jester at Austin that there was no necessity for further evacuation. He said, however, that one tank containing a small amount of high-octane gasoline might explode "at any time before tomorrow morning or fires may burn selves out without further damage."

Abandoned Hope

John H. Hill, deputy mayor and a chemical engineer, said that the Humble Oil and Refining company had abandoned hope of saving any portion of the oil storage tank farm.

He made the announcement shortly after a tank exploded and rocked the city at 8:33 p. m. Hill said that there was no storage of highly-inflammable and explosive butane gas on the farm, but conceded that "we haven't any idea what is in two spherical tanks on property adjacent to the Humble farm. He asserted that danger of more serious explosions was dependent on the contents of the two tanks, one large and one small.

Bodies Still in Wreckage

Two hundred and seventy-one bodies had been counted at a late hour tonight by rescue workers digging into the ruins of the waterfront and industrial area. Of these, 194 had been identified. Many more bodies still lie in the wreckage.

Fire Captain J. B. Ruby of Houston estimated that anywhere from 75 to 150 bodies remained in the Monsanto plant alone.

'Deepest Sympathy'

WASHINGTON, April 17-(AP)-President Truman offered the resources of all federal agencies for relief in the Texas City disaster today.

Mr. Truman, following developments from the White House, telegraphed Mayor J. C. Trahan of Texas City:

"My heart and the heart of the nation go out in deepest sympathy to the suffering people of Texas City. May God lighten the burden of sorrow which has fallen on the community with such tragic force."

Senator O'Daniel (D-Tex.) introduced a resolution in the senate demanding a "full and complete investigation" of the disaster.

Hospital Survey Committee Named

Gov. Earl Snell Thursday appointed three members of the hospital survey and construction advisory council to the state created by a legislative act which will become effective July 6.

Those appointed were Robert Schmidt, Albany farmer; Fred Andahl, Portland architect and E. S. Benjamin, Salem, secretary of local 670, cannery workers' union.

Arriving from Britain, he was greeted at the airport by an 80-voice male workers' choir. Wallace was visibly tired but brightly perceived at the unexpected reception.

Grandcamp Fire Crowds Unaware of Blast Threat

By Harry Blanding
Editor, The Temple Telegram
Written for the Associated Press

TEMPLE, Tex., April 17-(AP)-Maurice Patterson, a dock worker whose home is at Holland, Texas, 15 miles from Temple, today told the story of the Texas City disaster from the viewpoint of a laborer who barely escaped from the explosion ship, the Grandcamp.

The crowd of thousands that stood on the Texas City docks Wednesday morning watching the burning Grandcamp had no warning of any explosion danger, Patterson said.

He was one of a gang of 20 workers that went on the Grandcamp early Wednesday morning. His group was ordered off the burning ship a short time before the explosion.

"It was ammunition of some kind in No. 5 hatch that blew up," Patterson said. "The nitrates in No. 4 hatch -- we had loaded about 68,000 bags of it in there -- were burning when we went on the ship, but the explosion came when the fire hit the ammunition hatch."

"Those people on the docks, who had come down to watch the fire, never had any warning that there might be an explosion. They just stood there waiting for it."

Patterson said another crew of 20 dock workers was on the Grandcamp when the ship blew up.

'Guess All-Killed'

"I guess all of them were killed," he said. "I don't know how many of my crew were killed. I was maybe 100 yards away when the explosion came... the blast seemed to blow all of the water out of the bay... I remember that a big wall of water hit me, and that there was oil all over me... but none of the pieces of the ship hit me... I stumbled around until I found my car..."

"There was a big chunk of the ship stuck in the back end of the car, and the gasoline was running out. But I got the car started and got home some way."

"We tried to stop the fire on the Grandcamp," he said, "but it was burning all down in the bottom of the ship."

"We tried to seal the hatches and turn in the steam, but it didn't do any good. Hatches were blowing off before we got off the ship."

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	63	50	.00
Portland	61	50	.26
San Francisco	60	43	trace
Chicago	59	32	.04
New York	55	43	.00

Willamette river 5.8 feet.
FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy with occasional light showers today and tonight. Highest temperature today 65. Lowest tonight 46.

Sweden Greets Wallace With 80-Voice Choir

STOCKHOLM, April 17-(AP)-Henry A. Wallace told Swedish newsmen tonight that small European nations have a great, perhaps determining role to play in the world's search for peace.

Arriving from Britain, he was greeted at the airport by an 80-voice male workers' choir. Wallace was visibly tired but brightly perceived at the unexpected reception.