

Radio-Combustibles Probed As Cause of Incendiary Farm

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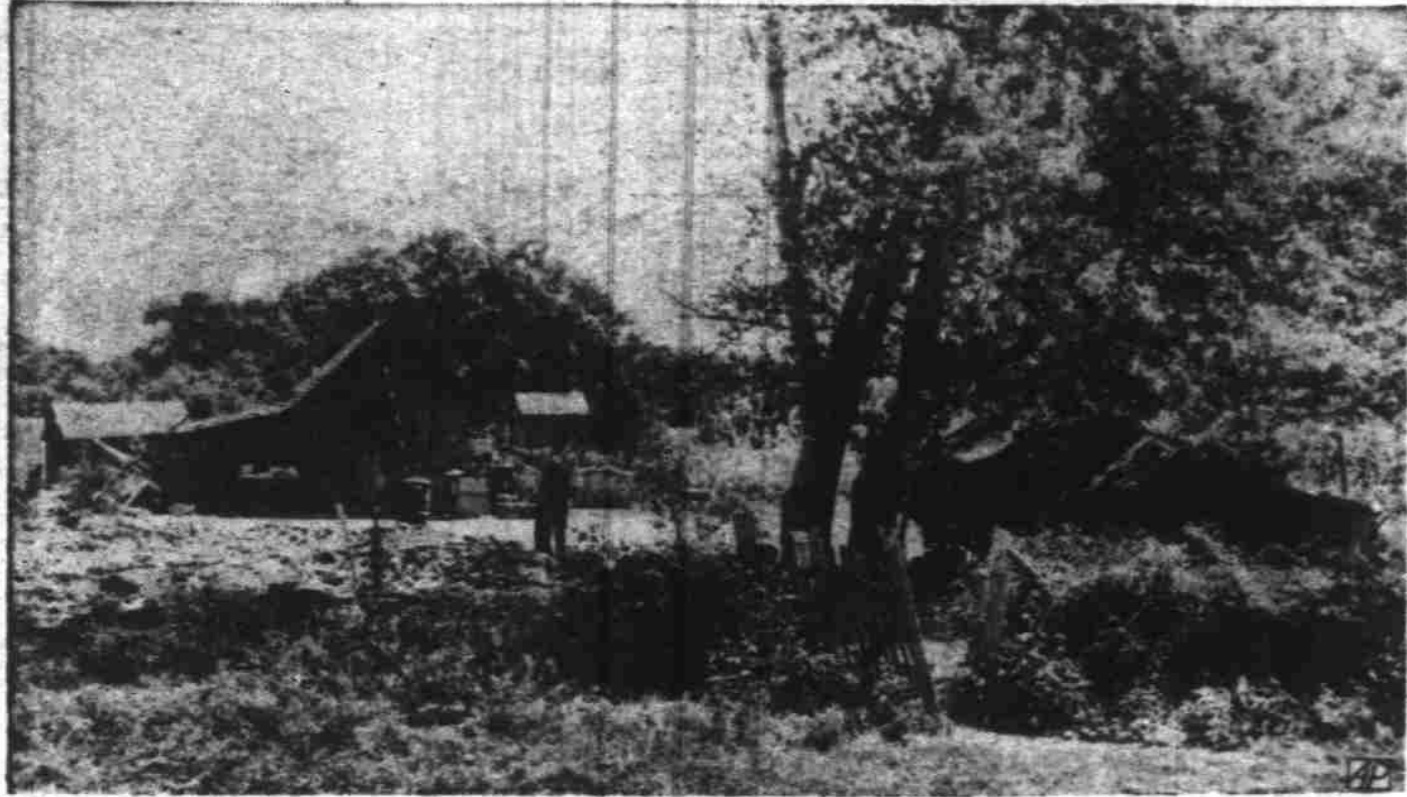
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McCOMB, Ill., Aug. 20 — Charles Willey points to the foundation of his house at McComb, Ill., which was destroyed in one of a series of mystery fires on his farm. The family is now living in a makeshift tent (right). The fires which destroyed the home were described as starting in the wallpaper and later in the walls. A second barn was destroyed later while two fires in the chicken and milk houses were discovered in time and extinguished. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman)

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

Exclusive control by unions of the hiring hall was ruled illegal by the national labor relations board in a case dealing with maritime workers on the Great Lakes. Unions regard this as a stab in the heart for them and will appeal the case to the supreme court. The final decision is months off; meantime the longshore workers on this coast are all set for a strike September 2, control of the hiring hall being a disputed issue in the present negotiations.

What is the hiring hall? It is the place where workers report and then are assigned to jobs. It is a necessity on the waterfront where ships come and go and are served at different piers. A stevedore may work at Pier seven one day, at Pier twelve another day. When he reports just before time for his shift to start he doesn't know where he will be sent.

3,500 Idle at Atom Project

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Aug. 20 — Thirty-five hundred men were still idle tonight in a work stoppage at the Los Alamos atomic project. But a week-end settlement of the labor dispute appeared possible. The atomic energy commission presumably was leaving it to the workers and contractors to resolve their differences, after serving notice the contracting firms would be held responsible for finishing their projects.

BUDGET REQUEST DOUBLED

PORTLAND, Aug. 20 — (AP) — The state sanitary authority decided today to ask the next legislature for \$66,000 for the 1949-51 period, nearly double the present budget. The agency said it wanted to hire an additional engineer for field work.

Animal Crackers



New Blazes Destroy Barn on Illinois Farm

DAYTON, O., Aug. 20 — (AP) — An air force technician raised the theory today that sabotage materials, ignited by radio waves, may be causing the strange fires on the Charles Willey farm near Macomb, Ill.

Lewis C. Gust on the office of technical projects at nearby Wright Field said an expert had been ordered to the Macomb area to test for "very high frequencies and short waves."

"It is our business to investigate such matters," Gust said. "Ordinarily, we wouldn't go so far afield, but the situation at Macomb was just too unusual to ignore. We weren't called in."

Two hundred fires — their origins unknown to authorities — have sprung up on the Willey farm. Three new ones struck last night; one destroyed a second barn.

Two others, in a chicken house and a milk house, were put out by the elderly farm couple, who are living in a tent near the site of their former home.

Gust said radio-combustibles were possible.

"If it is true," he said, "we think we must be very high frequencies or short waves."

"We can't afford to take any chances. We must test anything, even if it sounds a bit far-fetched. We don't miss any bets over here."

As the air force proceeded on its own investigation of the Bizarre fires, state fire marshal John Craig of Illinois led the official probe.

Truman Lists Official Draft Deferments

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — (AP) — President Truman today set many a mind at rest by officially deferring married men, farmers, all men with dependents and many others from the 21-month peacetime draft.

The deferments are far more liberal than they were during World War II.

Most of them had been predicted long ago, but they were not official until the president announced them today in a 30-page set of regulations that also ordered selective service to speed up induction machinery.

This will be accomplished by sending out the all-important classification questionnaires as soon as possible to single, non-father, non-veteran eligibles after men 18 through 25 register at their local boards between Aug. 30 and Sept. 18. (Later, all except 18-year-olds must fill out the questionnaires.)

There will be no lottery as in the last war. The call to uniform will be determined by classification (set by local boards) and by age.

These are the men who are exempt from the draft: The law passed by congress automatically exempts war veterans with at least 90 days service between Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941) and V-J day (Sept. 2, 1945), or with 12 months service between Sept. 16, 1940, and June 24, 1948 (the date the draft law went into effect).

Also exempt by law are ordained ministers, students studying for the ministry, and conscientious objectors (from combatant service).

Automatically deferred by the draft law are high school students up to graduation or the age of 20 (whichever comes first) and college students for the rest of the academic year, if they are doing all right in their studies.

GUERRILLAS RETREAT

ATHENS, Aug. 20 — (AP) — A Greek army general staff spokesman said tonight the communist-led guerrillas were in full retreat in the Grammos mountain after the virtual collapse of their last defense line.

SCHOOLS GET \$40 MILLION

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 — (AP) — Four universities — Columbia, Yale, Princeton and Harvard — will share an estimated \$40,000,000 under terms of a will filed today.

Tax Officials, Attorney General End Fight to Move Tax Surplus

Oregon's surplus income tax suit is a dead issue as far as the state tax commission and attorney general's office are concerned. Officials of the two departments said Friday they would not attempt to get a second rehearing of the suit in which the state supreme court reversed its original decision by ruling Thursday in favor of plaintiff Charles A. Sprague, former Oregon governor, who contended the surplus could not be used for general fund expenditures but could be used only for offsetting property tax.

Other state officials have pointed out that a general fund deficit estimated to exceed \$6,000,000 now will have to be met by a property tax levy which in turn would be offset by part of the present \$40,000,000 income tax surplus.

[State employee leaders expressed concern Friday over fate of the re-

Russians Told to 'Fire' Consul

Butchers End Local Walkout

Salem's one-day-old meatcutters' strike ended late Friday afternoon when employers met union demands calling for weekly wage increase of \$5.

Announcement of the settlement was made by H. E. Carlson, secretary of the Oregon Independent Retail Meat Dealers association, who represented eight markets involved in the walkout Friday morning.

The new scale increases journeymen from \$65 to \$70 and head meat cutters from \$70 to \$75 for a 48-hour week. Agreement was reached at 5:30 p.m. at the conclusion of an afternoon meeting of Carlson, union officials and members involved at the Salem Labor temple.

Markets struck Friday were at two Busick stores, two Erickson stores, the Paramount market, the State Street market, Werner's market and the Broadway Grocery and Market.

In granting the increase, Carlson told union officials butchers would have to operate "more efficiently than ever to offset the wage boost."

"Meat dealers, he said, are caught in a "cross-fire" between the current buyers' resistance and the demand for higher wages.

Carlson stated the market owners agreed on the settlement in order to avoid a general tieup of the local meat industry and to prevent possible meat shortages, which he said would have occurred had the strike continued over the week end.

Cancer, DAV Benefit Game Set for Sept. 4

A benefit baseball game, designed to augment the Babe Ruth cancer fund which sponsors believe is being initiated nationally, and also to assist the Disabled American Veterans building fund in Salem, is being scheduled for Saturday night, September 4, at Waters park.

The announcement was made Friday by Verne Ostrander, president of the DAV building fund, who said considerable support already had been assured by individuals and officials of civic organizations.

Ostrander said George Emigh, business manager of the Salem Senators, had offered to donate the park for the game. Participants have not been selected, but Ostrander said the game probably would be between a Salem and an out-of-town team.

Milk Act Violations May Cost Dairies Licenses

PORTLAND, Aug. 20 — (AP) — Four Portland milk dealers may lose their licenses because of milk act violations, E. L. Peterson, state director of agriculture, said today.

He added there may be others, for he has not finished reviewing transcript of hearings held here recently. The specific violations have not been disclosed.

1901 Locomobile Mixes With Log Truck — Loses

The horseless buggy was no match for a modern-day log truck tonight and Ralph Jacob Wortman, McMinnville, surveyed the wreckage of his 1901 Locomobile with saddened eyes.

The two- or three vehicles were involved in a highway accident about three miles west of Willamina on highway 18. The log truck was undamaged, but the 47-year-old steam driven Locomobile was practically a total loss.

The ancient forerunner of today's speeding autos was the first car to negotiate the route from McMinnville to Tillamook. Wortman was attempting to retrace the route when the 1901 steamer developed boiler trouble. His wife driving another car was towing him homeward when the accident occurred. They had pulled to the side of the road to let faster moving traffic by when a last minute jerk of the low-line hurled the Locomobile into the path of the 28-year younger 1940 International log truck, driven by Dolan George Hagar, Grande Ronde.

Wortman, who has been a familiar sight at valley fairs and festivals with his Locomobile, didn't put a bullet into the horseless head for he's considering the long mammoth task of rebuilding the old car.

MONTANA COLD SNAP

HAMILTON, Mont., Aug. 20 — (AP) — Cold weather notes: Mrs. Florence Frost today transferred property to Mrs. Linetta Snow. Both live on Johnny Freeze's milk route who says they've been warm friends for years.

'Love Us, Love Our Candidates, By Gum'

By Wendell Webb
Managing Editor, The Statesman

Politics reared its unsolicited head before 75 Oregon publishers and prospective legislators last night at a meeting designed only for sweetness and light.

Two of several attending democrats, Sen. Thomas Mahoney and Senate Nominee Jack Bain — neither of them averse to getting their names on page one — walked right smack out of the session and headed back to Portland when they discovered two things:

1. The republican nominees for governor and state treasurer, Douglas McKay and Howard Belton, respectively, were at the speakers' table.

2. The democratic nominees for governor and state treasurer, Lew Wallace and Walter Pearson, had not been invited at all.

There seemed to be a simple explanation, but it wasn't good enough to entice Mahoney and Bain to pass up a chance for publicity in favor of the roast

Jet Plane Visits Salem, Adds Air Show Feature

What is believed to be the first jet plane to land at Salem streaked onto the McNary field runway at 7 o'clock Friday night and added another feature to Sunday's Junior Chamber of Commerce air show.

Capt. Curry of Portland flew the air force F-80 from Williams Field, Ariz., landing at Salem because Portland's field is in operative. He will take off Sunday at 1 p. m. while the Jaycee air show is in progress and will give a demonstration of speed flying before heading for Arizona, Jaycee officials said.

The show, which will start at 12:30 p. m. will include spot landing and balloon breaking contests by local pilots. Richard Spooner of the Eagle Flying club will be arranging the contests with the cooperation of the seven other flying service on the field.

Main attractions of the air show will be Swede Ralston's air circus and a Salem motorcycle club thrill show featuring Dave Scott crashing through a blazing board wall. Art (Pop) Whittier, 54-year-old parachute jumper will give a demonstration of a delayed action jump. Maj. Al Vaughn of the Oregon civilian air patrol will act as emcee.

Traffic to the twice-delayed show will be routed out Mission and 25th streets from Salem to the west side of the field. Incoming traffic from Turner seeking to bypass the show will be dispatched over the pen annex road to State street. Tickets from the two previously-delayed show will be honored Sunday, Jaycees said.

Valuable information about the location of this country's key industries and military installations could be obtained in this way, the army said.

Ethiopia Angered By Dewey's Stand

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — (AP) — Ethiopia expressed "profound resentment" today over Governor Thomas E. Dewey's proposal that Italy be allowed to administer her former African colonies under a United Nations trusteeship.

The Ethiopian legation here issued a statement calling Dewey's proposal "unfair" and declaring that the Ethiopian government never will agree to the return of Eritrea and Somaliland to Italy "under any guise."

Wainwright New DAV Commander

NEW YORK, Aug. 20 — (AP) — Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright today was unanimously elected national commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Wainwright was nominated by State Senator Albert L. Daniels of Greenfield, Ohio, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Wainwright immediately appointed Col. John P. Duffy of New London, Ohio, as his chief of staff. Duffy, a chaplain, was imprisoned with the general in Japan during the war.

Mary Jane Geelan Crowned as Queen of Flaxaria at Mt. Angel

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

MT. ANGEL, Aug. 20 — In the most beautiful coronation scene to date, Mary Jane Geelan of St. Paul (picture of page 5) was crowned queen of Flaxaria by King Bing Charles Claggett, Salem cherries, on the new 32-foot outdoor stage on St. Mary's playground. This opened the three-day Oregon Flax festival for the 10th year.

Queen Jeannette Hoffer, last year's queen, escorted by Mayor Jacob Berchold, led the procession. Following was the royal court and their escorts, Queen Mary and King Bing; Crown Princess Regina Traeger and Bunt Clark; Princess Bette Twito and Bob Fisher; Princess Marilyn Myers and Deryl Myers; Princess Rita Dreescher and Cedrick Reaney, and Mrs. Rose Appleby, chaperon and Paul Stege, and Lois Schmitt and Jimmy Wagner, crown bearers.

The program which followed the coronation, which was in charge of Joseph Berchold, flax festival chairman, included presentation of

Lomakin 'Abused' Position

By John M. Hightower
WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — (AP) — Secretary of State Marshall, acting on an order from President Truman, today virtually directed the Russian consul-general at New York to leave this country.

A note delivered to the Russian embassy in Washington stated that the consul-general, Jacob M. Lomakin, had misinformed his own government, sought to mislead the American people, and otherwise "abused" his official position.

The charge grew out of Lomakin's actions in the case of the Russian school teacher, Mrs. Chasana Kosenkina, who last week threw herself from an upper story window of the consular building in New York, receiving serious injuries.

The United States government considers that Consul-General Lomakin's conduct constitutes an abuse of the prerogatives of his position and a gross violation of the internationally accepted standards governing the conduct of foreign officials. Secretary Marshall's note to the Soviet embassy stated:

Lomakin Put on Spot
The American action apparently puts Lomakin on an extremely hot spot. He will lose his official status here in a few days by order of President Truman. If he goes home to Russia, American diplomats believe, he will be in bad trouble for having bungled the refugee school teacher case; if he doesn't leave this country readily he may be deported — unless of course he wants to join the ranks of the red Russian refugees which no one here expects. In New York, Lomakin declined to discuss his situation.

Truman Asks Court to Block Dock Walkout

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — (AP) — President Truman today ordered emergency court action to block an east-coast strike of 45,000 AFL longshoremen set for tomorrow midnight.

The justice department will seek a federal court order in New York tomorrow that would keep the men working for about 80 days — or until November 3 if the dispute is not settled before then.

Mr. Truman acted under the "national emergency" provision of the Taft-Hartley law.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 20 — (AP) — The National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint today charging the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union (ILWU) and two affiliated unions with refusing to bargain in good faith to avert a threatened shipping tie-up.

A scheduled strike by the ILWU and other unions was banned by a federal court injunction which is to expire September 2.

Petitions Ask to Legalize Liquor Sale in Turner

Initiative petitions seeking a vote in November to legalize liquor sales in Turner were filed with the Marion county clerk's office Friday.

The petitions — containing 103 signatures — were submitted by Kenneth E. Barker of Turner. They will be checked for validity of the signatures by the clerk's election division. Turner is a dry city at present under the local option law.

The petitions must contain signatures of at least 10 per cent of the total voters in the last general election if the measure is to appear on the ballot. Figures at the clerk's office show that 866 persons voted in the 1946 election in Turner.

Sooter Moved To County Jail

DALLAS (Ore., Aug. 20 — (Special) — Amos Sooter, Dallas, is in Polk county jail awaiting grand jury action on a first degree murder charge, following his arraignment Friday morning in justice court. He was bound over to the grand jury, which is already investigating the slaying, allegedly by Sooter, of Fred Arthur Baley, also of Dallas.

Sooter was still somewhat weak but recovering from the effect of gunshot wounds, self-inflicted August 12, after the slaying. He has been in the hospital until today and is being kept under guard in the jail.

Murphy Store to Handle Hollywood Postoffice

A contract postoffice branch of the Salem postoffice will be opened in the Karl T. Murphy store at 2037 Fairgrounds rd. in the Hollywood district around September 1. It was announced Friday.

The Hollywood branch has been inoperative since the resignation of Melvin Stuhrt two months ago. Hollywood is one of four branches of the Salem postoffice. The others are West Salem, Four Corners and Keizer.

OUR SENATORS



Won 4-1 - Lost 8-0