

**IT SEEMS TO ME**  
By Charles A. Sprague

We seem to reserve our highest rewards for those who entertain us. The moving picture and radio are devices which project the performer to thousands of people in distant audiences and so have multiplied the earning power of the star. Bing Crosby and Bob Hope own chunks of baseball league teams. Crosby has an interest in a food processing company whose products he will plug on the air. Hope is bidding for radio stations in Louisville. Singing and telling jokes are probable employment—if you can get it and keep it.

However, even the top comedians are not without their troubles. Fred Allen has been grousing over the competing give-away show at the same hour as his own and says he'll quit radio at the end of the season. Eddie Bergen and his walkie-talkie Charlie McCarthy will go off the air soon, no sponsor having bid for their services although they are rated tops in entertainment. Jack Benny will shift to another network but whether he will hold his following is doubtful. Meantime, television blows a chill breath down the backs of many radio performers, as the coming of sound movies did for the stars of the silent screen.

One trouble with the radio business is the overworking—and overpaying of the big names. A program seems to require a

(Continued on editorial page)

## Jobless Pay Checks Near \$1,000,000

Oregon's monthly unemployment compensation payments are nearing the one-million mark for the first time since 1940, the state unemployment compensation commission said Thursday.

November and early December layoffs, particularly in the lumbering, logging and food processing plants, the commission said, are largely responsible for the mounting payment figure.

Payments to covered workers reached 12,098 in the week ended December 10. The figure was the highest December week since 1945, but allowances to veterans dropped to 5,124, lower than recent periods.

November checks to unemployed civilians were \$535,365, an increase of 1.6 per cent from a year ago, while veterans received \$229,567, a decrease of 28.1 per cent. Judging from payments made during the first half of this month, December totals will be close to \$900,000 and \$500,000 respectively, while later months may go higher, officials said.

## Peiping Forces Counterattack

NANKING, Dec. 16—(AP)—Government counter-attacks outside the walls of beleaguered Peiping and conflicting announcements over the escape or destruction of its trapped army group northwest of Nanking featured tonight's rumor-world Chinese war news.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek remained secluded. A reliable source said he was studying suggestions that he step aside.

Hysterical rumors swept Nanking and Peiping. They ranged from the probable to the absurd and obscured the true situation.

In a dispatch from Peiping at 7 p.m. (8 a.m., EST) Associated Press correspondent Spencer Moosa said General Fu's headquarters announced successful counterattacks just outside the Peiping walls.

## Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	41	24	.00
Portland	40	25	.00
San Francisco	48	34	.42
Chicago	39	33	.00
New York	41	28	.30

Willamette river 15.4 feet.  
FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Partly cloudy today and tonight with little change in temperature.

SALEM PRECIPITATION (Sept. to Dec. 17)		
This Year	Last Year	Average
18.18	17.22	13.97

## Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Best guard we ever had!"

# Supreme Court Asked to Free Jap War Lords

## Urged to Overrule Tribunal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP)—The supreme court was asked in effect today to free Japanese war lords convicted by an 11-nation tribunal at Tokyo of crimes against peace.

Hearings opened this afternoon, and will continue tomorrow. The war lords include former Premier Tojo and six others sentenced to death, and 18 more sentenced to prison for various terms.

Attorneys representing five Japanese sentenced to prison contended today that the supreme court has authority to rule in the case because the international tribunal for the Far East actually was created by the United States. This court, they said, was not created by any international treaty.

**Attorneys Contradict**  
The government attorneys contradicted this. The military court was created by a group of 11 nations which in turn gave General Douglas MacArthur authority to set up the trial court, they said.

They said that if the supreme court interferes with the convictions, it would prove harmful to future international dealings.

Specifically the court is hearing argument on appeal filed by American attorneys for seven Japanese—two condemned to death, five to prison. Tojo himself and the others did not appeal. But if the court rules in favor of the seven, all 25 war lords could be free, not just the seven represented here.

**4 Justices Dissent**  
However, in an unprecedented pre-hearing statement four of the nine justices already have said they do not believe the court has such authority.

The four are Chief Justice Vinson and Justices Reed, Frankfurter and Burton.

Attorneys for the Japanese thus must rely heavily on their argument to convince Justices Black, Douglas, Murphy, Rutledge and Jackson. Jackson served as chief U. S. prosecutor of top Nazi war criminals.

## Hubbard Man Awaits Death in Colorado

CANON CITY, Colo., Dec. 16—(AP)—The hours were ticking away like minutes tonight for Paul J. Schneider. Tomorrow at 8 p.m. the 23-year-old prison farm inmate will be executed in Colorado's gas chamber.

He was convicted of slaying Frank J. Ford, Denver filling station operator in September, 1947. Schneider told officers after his arrest in October, 1947, at Pikeville, Ky., that he had killed two Detroit filling station men after the Colorado slaying.

Governor Knous has rejected clemency pleas from Schneider's brother, Ray, and a sister, Mrs. Marie Nash, who live on farms near Pikeville.

A death row guard said Schneider "seems to be scared" of his impending execution. He has been writing a treatise on his views of the Bible since he was imprisoned in death row last Feb. 13.

## CROP Christmas Train Crowded

DAYTON, O., Dec. 16—(AP)—Americans laden with food and the yuletide spirit flooded the Christmas trains for 43 nations with gifts today.

Officials of Christian rural overseas program said the outpouring of national generosity was so great that in many states trains must now be split into sections.

Sponsors said a total of 2,000 carloads still is expected.

## AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED

MANILA, Friday, Dec. 17—(AP)—The Manila Times said today the name of Rear Adm. Howard Harrison Good had been submitted to President Elpidio Quirino as the next U. S. ambassador to the Philippines. Good commands the 13th naval district at Seattle.

## Preparations for Reopening of Airport Control Tower Start

Work was started Thursday to prepare city airport facilities for reopening of the McNary field control tower by the civil aeronautics authority early next year.

City Manager J. L. Franzen announced that official work has been received from CAA headquarters notifying the city it will man the tower as soon as needed repairs are made and equipment is installed.

E. E. Batterman, Salem contractor, began work Thursday morning to make alterations and repairs on a city-owned quonset hut at the base of the tower.

Several new windows will be installed, the floor strengthened to hold up heavy transmitter equipment and the building divided into three rooms. The hut will house the control chief's office, a repair shop for radio equipment and the transmitter section.

# The Oregon Statesman

98th Year

24 PAGES

The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Friday, December 17, 1948

Price 5c

No. 238

## Mercury Drops to Winter's Low of 24 Degrees

### Selected as Rose Queen



PASADENA, Cal., Dec. 16—Virginia Bower (above), 18-year-old blonde and blue-eyed co-ed at Pasadena City college, today was named queen of the 1949 Tournament of Roses. She will preside over the Tournament of Roses parade and the Rose Bowl football game. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

## Industrial Safety Meet Attracts 300 to Salem

More than 300 delegates crowded sessions of the state's fifth annual industrial safety conference Thursday, and a full agenda is on tap for the concluding meetings today.

Governor-elect Douglas McKay addressed the convention following the banquet Thursday night. McKay praised the state industrial accident commission's work in the safety and rehabilitation work, and promised full support during his term as governor.

Other speakers at the closing session of Thursday's schedule at the chamber of commerce were Al Blackman, two years chief of the safety division for the state of California, and Roy Morse, representative of Long-Bell company. Visitors from California, Washington, British Columbia, Idaho and Colorado were among the record breaking number of delegates representing employers, employees, and labor management organizations.

Robert M. Evenden, director of the accident prevention division, conductors of the conference, introduced Paul F. Gurske, chairman of the commission, to open the meet at the Women's club building.

Gurske cited the heavy population gains of the state in recent years and the importance of a stepped-up safety program. Walter J. Pearson, state treasurer-elect, represented Gov. John H. Hall in the official welcome to conferees.

## Four Men Trapped in Christmas Mine

ST. MEINRAD, Ind., Dec. 16—(AP)—Four men were trapped when a portion of the roof fell on them in the Christmas coal mine today, and rescue workers were hampered by further cave-ins.

John Harpenau, who with two brothers, Jacob and Sylvester, operated the mine on lease, said there seemed "no possibility" the trapped men would be found alive.

Work on the tower will include sealing the observation room, laying new floor covering and installation of a number of electrical outlets. Additional electrical fixtures and plumbing will also be installed in the hut.

Airport Manager Wallace Hug announced Thursday he has been informed by weather bureau that six men will be employed by the CAA to operate the tower on a 24-hour-a-day basis after installations are completed.

Earlier this month Hug stated about 30 days would be required to put the tower into operation.

Reactivation of the tower will clear away the last obstacle in the path of the proposal to locate an Oregon naval reserve training center at the field. The decision on where the center will be located is now pending in Washington, D. C., naval headquarters.

Rescue workers were hampered by further cave-ins.

Rescue workers were hampered by further cave-ins.

## -And It's Headed Lower

BRRTT!  
Temperatures in Salem dropped to 24 degrees, the lowest point of the winter Thursday morning, and the lowest reading since February 12. And the weatherman predicted a low of 20 degrees for early today.

A slight warm-up for Saturday morning has been forecast, but generally the Willamette valley was in for more cold weather.

Despite freezing temperatures, state police reported Salem area highways comparatively free of ice Thursday night. Elsewhere in the state, some slippery sections were reported.

Three accidents—one involving five cars—occurred at the Interstate bridge near Portland Thursday, as a result of glassy pavement.

Lakeview, with a reading of one degree above zero, was the coldest spot in Oregon Thursday. Other lows in a frosty state were: Klamath Falls 2, Bend 3, Baker 4, Elsie 5, La Grande 13, Ontario 19, Roseburg 29, Portland 29 and Medford 26.

In the Cascade mountains, snow has stored a record amount of water, Jack Frost, Medford, in charge of snow surveys for the U. S. Soil Conservation service reported Thursday.

Measurements taken Wednesday, showed 46.6 inches of snow containing 12.2 inches of water at Mountain Forks course; Santiam junction, 67.3 inches of snow with 19.7 inches of water; and Hogg pass at Santiam summit, 102.6 inches of snow with 30.7 inches of water.

## Flood, Politics, Fire Plague Latin America

By the Associated Press  
Flood, fire and political strife plagued Latin America yesterday (Thursday).

A flood in Brazil took 200 lives, authorities reported. Eleven died in a Guatemalan fire, set off by firemen battling an invasion. The family of the president of El Salvador, ousted by revolution, took refuge in the Chilean embassy.

Dispatches from Belo Horizonte in Brazil told of a cloudburst which caused a violent flood, the worst in Brazil's history, in southern state of Minas Gerais. One town Leopoldina, reported: "One hundred and eleven bodies have been recovered and scores of people are missing."

Reports said the floods left more than 1,000 injured and homeless. In Guatemala City 11 persons were reported killed and 15 injured when a fireworks plant filling Christmas orders exploded.

The workshop was in a private home. One baby was killed. In San Jose, it was disclosed that Juan Figueres, head of the Costa Rican government which says it is fighting an invasion from Nicaragua, paid a visit to the front Wednesday. He was accompanied by President-Elect Otilio Ulate.

## ISRAELI DOWNS PLANE

TEL AVIV, Israel, Dec. 16—(AP)—The Israeli foreign office said today a two-engine "enemy" Mosquito plane was shot down over Israeli territory November 20.

## Hiss Pleads Innocent to Perjury; Truman Sticks To 'Red Herring' Opinion

### Flood Takes Seaplane Base on 13-Mile Trip

Attempts are underway today to return to Salem a run-away sea plane base which skidded down the Willamette river for 13 miles on the crest of heavy flood waters Tuesday night.

The floating hangar and a small single-engine sea plane it housed cut loose from its moorings on the river at the north edge of Salem and slipped down-river, according to Harold Lamb, one of the owners of the base. It was located Wednesday floating placidly in a flooded grain field on a Grand Island farm just below Wheatland.

The missing hangar is the property of the Salem Seaplane base. Although the sides of the hangars are damaged and the wooded approaches washed away the plane was not damaged. About five feet of its tail assembly protruded from the rear of the hangar during the ride.

The plane was flown back to Salem Wednesday. William Carter, West Salem, owner of the Romona Towboat company and Willard Taylor, owner of the Salem Boat house, towed the hangar from the flooded field to the river edge Wednesday.

"I can't imagine how the hangar left the river and got into that field," Taylor said. "It slipped by a farm house and the Grand Island Gravel company works without striking anything."

"We will have to wait for another flood and high water before bringing the hangar back up the river along the water edge," Taylor stated. "Every effort will be made to salvage the base."

Representatives of the seaplane base said a new one would be constructed if it is found impossible to return the run-away.

## Absent-Minded Santa Chided

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 16—(AP)—The department store Santa smiled and nodded amiably as the youngster asked for an electric train.

"Don't you think you'd better write it down?" the boy cautioned.

Santa assured him he didn't need to. "You might forget it," the boy persisted, but the busy Santa Claus politely turned his attention to the next child.

The first boy, however, was more determined. He took his mother into line again, waited patiently and finally confronted Santa a second time.

"Well, young man, what do you want for Christmas?" Santa beamed.

The boy stretched to his full four feet and screamed at Santa: "I told you you'd forget! Now write it down!"

## ISRAELI DOWNS PLANE

TEL AVIV, Israel, Dec. 16—(AP)—The Israeli foreign office said today a two-engine "enemy" Mosquito plane was shot down over Israeli territory November 20.

## French Blast Reds' Berlin Radio Towers

BERLIN, Dec. 16—(AP)—French engineers today blew up the giant transmission towers of radio Berlin but only silenced temporarily Soviet Russia's most powerful propaganda voice in Germany.

Twelve hours after dynamite brought the two tall towers crashing to earth in the French sector, Soviet commentators Heinz Schmidt was back on the air on the same wave length and apparently with the same broadcasting power.

Radio Berlin's personnel refused to say how they managed it, but German engineers said they might be using another tower at Potsdam.

Schmidt told his radio audience the day-long interruption of powerful Soviet broadcasting was caused by an "order from Washington," not by the French.

The French said they blew up the towers in their sector because they menaced American and British planes flying into nearby Tegel airfield. The Russians had ignored a notice last month that the demolition would be carried out. Radio Berlin's studio is in the British sector.

The action is expected to bring some retaliatory move by the Russians against the French or against all three western powers in the city.

The committee also challenged the justice department to support the claim of its spokesman.

In Washington, President Truman told his news conference the Hiss indictment had not led him to change his opinion of the congressional inquiry. He has repeatedly called the inquiry a "red herring."

Meanwhile, the same federal judge who heard Hiss' plea swore in a new 23-member grand jury to continue the hunt for alleged communist spies. The justice department said the investigation would be a sweeping one with prosecutions of "whomever the evidence hits."

## Boys to Sing at Tree-Lighting

The YMCA boys' chorus will make its debut tonight at 7:30 when it sings at the lighting ceremony for the giant Christmas tree at Marion county courthouse.

This will be followed at 8 p.m. by the chorus' public concert at the YMCA, with Wesley Bolliger conducting the 40-voice chorus. Numbers to be sung are Old French Christmas Carol, Lullaby on Christmas Eve, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, We Wish You a Merry Christmas and O Come All Ye Faithful.

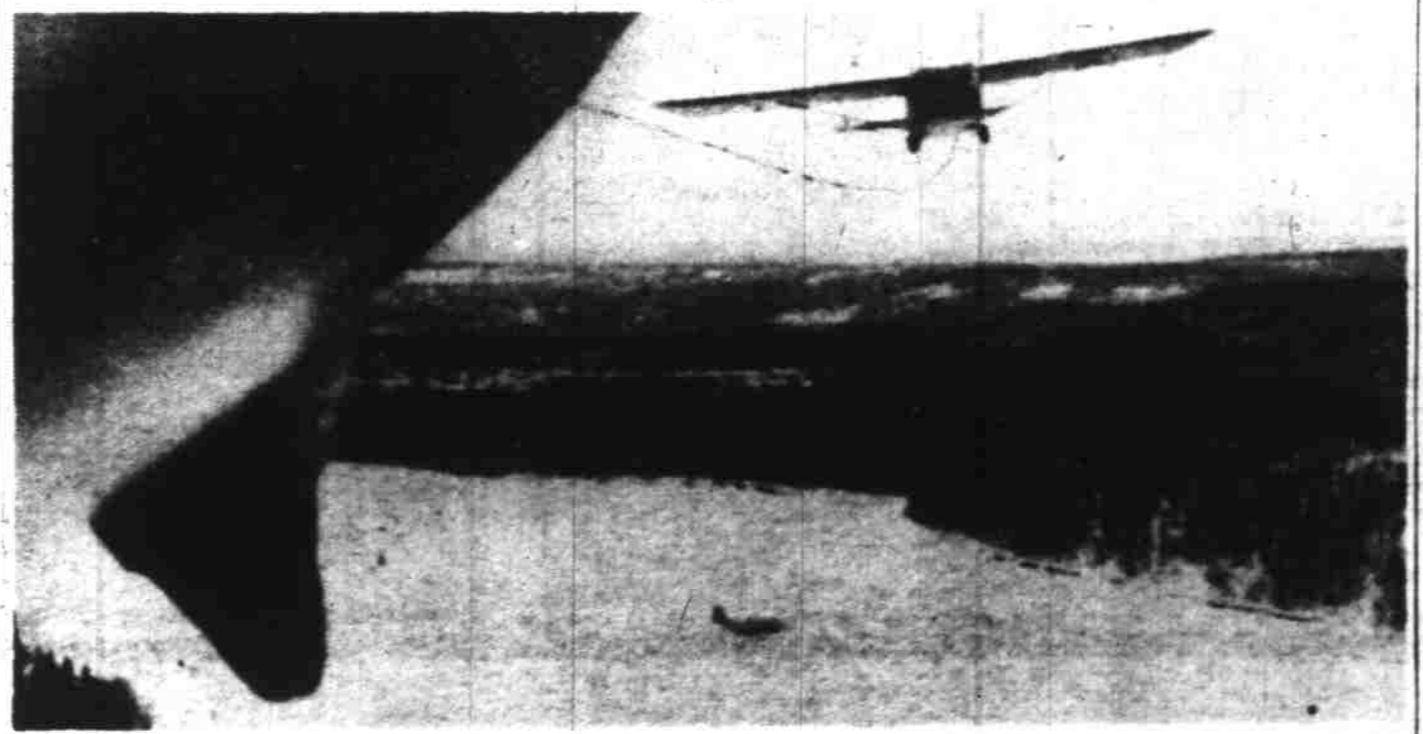
Intermission music will be a Christmas medley by the Parrish junior high school instrumental ensemble.

## Mail Delivery Slated Sunday

One delivery of all classes of mail will be made in Salem Sunday. Postmaster Al Gragg announced in disclosing that Christmas business apparently is getting new records at the Salem postoffice. There will be no Sunday rural delivery.

There were 121,000 letters cancelled December 15 (Wednesday) this year, compared with 116,000 on December 15 (Monday) last year. Postal receipts thus far in December are \$3,000 ahead of the comparable period in 1947. Fifty-one persons already have been hired this Christmas season and more will be needed. Normal postal crew approximates 150. Helpers have been placed on all city foot routes.

## Airmen Rescued by Glider in Alaska



FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Dec. 16—Glider rescue of six men from crash-landed C-47 transport is shown in this picture taken from Air Force C-54 which dropped and picked up glider on Stewart river near Fairbanks, Alaska, December 14. Glider has just been snatched from frozen river. In background is belly-landed C-47. Similar maneuver is planned to rescue nine U. S. fliers stranded in Newfoundland. (AP Wirephoto from U. S. Air Force to The Statesman.)

## QUICKIES



"Let's say in a Statesman Want Ad we lost \$500 — and see what happens!"

## Official Claims Solons Burned Spy Evidence

NEW YORK, Dec. 16—(AP)—Alger Hiss formally pleaded innocent to perjury charges today. At the same time, a justice department official claimed the house un-American activities committee may have bungled a chance to indict a wartime spy ring.

Hiss, one-time high-ranking state department official, spoke out in loud, clear tones — "I plead not guilty to both counts" — at his arraignment. He had been accused of lying when he testified he had not made secret papers available to unauthorized persons.

The justice department official, who would not permit use of his name, told newsmen a house committee investigator had ruined one roll of films of vital government documents.

## While Film Removed

This occurred, the official said, as the roll was being removed from a hollow pumpkin on Whitaker Chambers' Maryland farm. The films produced from this pumpkin led to Hiss' indictment and revitalized the whole espionage probe, being conducted both by the committee in Washington and a federal grand jury here.

"So far the FBI has been unable to produce what was on the (one roll of) film," the official said. "The bungling amateur investigator — and I use the word amateur advisedly — may have prevented the possible indictment of an entire wartime espionage ring."

## Retoris Angry

However, the house committee angrily reported in a Washington statement a short while later that the justice department spokesman's assertion was a "patent fabrication" and a "vicious, sneak attack."

The committee also challenged the justice department to support the claim of its spokesman.

In Washington, President Truman told his news conference the Hiss indictment had not led him to change his opinion of the congressional inquiry. He has repeatedly called the inquiry a "red herring."

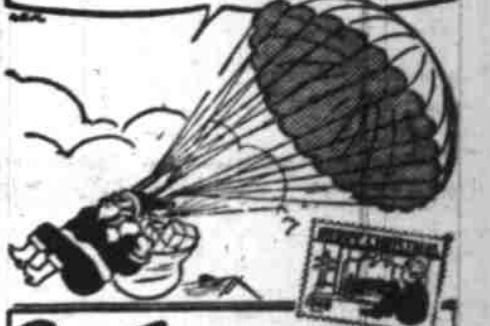
Meanwhile, the same federal judge who heard Hiss' plea swore in a new 23-member grand jury to continue the hunt for alleged communist spies. The justice department said the investigation would be a sweeping one with prosecutions of "whomever the evidence hits."

## Mail Delivery Slated Sunday

One delivery of all classes of mail will be made in Salem Sunday. Postmaster Al Gragg announced in disclosing that Christmas business apparently is getting new records at the Salem postoffice. There will be no Sunday rural delivery.

There were 121,000 letters cancelled December 15 (Wednesday) this year, compared with 116,000 on December 15 (Monday) last year. Postal receipts thus far in December are \$3,000 ahead of the comparable period in 1947. Fifty-one persons already have been hired this Christmas season and more will be needed. Normal postal crew approximates 150. Helpers have been placed on all city foot routes.

## 7 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT



Buy CHRISTMAS SEALS