

2 Men Killed in Mt. Angel Blast

Blast in Creamery Results in Deaths

MT. ANGEL, March 9 — Stephen Sprauer, 33, and John Polinsky, 55, died today after a milk cooler tank blew up suddenly at about 3 p.m. in the Mt. Angel Creamery.

Both men died in a Silvertown hospital where they were removed after the blast. Sprauer died shortly after arrival at the hospital and Polinsky succumbed to ammonia burns and other injuries at about 8 p.m.

Polinsky and Sprauer, both creamery employees, were standing on a platform above the cooler when the mechanism exploded. They were blown off the platform onto the cement floor. Members of the Mt. Angel fire department donned oxygen masks to drag them out of the ammonia fume-filled room five minutes later.

A third man, Paul Wachter, was also in the room near the

Robbery In West Virginia

MARTINSBURG, W. Va., March 9—(AP)—Two gunmen in a melodramatic holdup reminiscent of wild west days robbed everybody aboard a Baltimore and Ohio express train, shot one person and slugged several tonight.

The robbers forced the Ambassador, Detroit bound from Baltimore, to stop outside this small town in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. They were joined by two accomplices and escaped in a car they stole from a nearby night club.

A chef was shot in the leg when the robbers fired twice to make passengers open the club car which they had locked. A passenger and three trainmen were slugged with gun butts. None required more than first aid treatment when the train arrived in Cumberland.

Club car passengers locked the door when they became aware of what was happening. The gunmen shot twice into the car, one bullet ricocheting and inflicting a flesh wound on a chef's leg.

After making a clean sweep of money among the passengers, the gunmen headed for the front of the train. They met Engineer C. C. Moore who had come back to investigate the emergency signal. He was banged on the head and herded back to the cab where the three crewmen were held at gunpoint.

Backed Up Train
Engineer Moore was ordered to back up the train to a grade crossing siding. There the two gunmen forced the crewmen out of the cab, robbed them and fled.

Martinsburg police in scouring the area for the robbers were informed at a night club that four armed men had shown up there, stolen a sedan and left. The car was found abandoned a short distance away and later another auto which was stolen by the quartet was discovered nearby.

(Additional details on page 2.)

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Bar to Liens Requested; Anti-Red Bill Approved

By Wendell Webb
Managing Editor, The Statesman

An outright bar to state liens on the property of most persons getting old-age pensions was approved by a 6 to 3 vote of the house welfare committee Wednesday, apparently on the basis of protests aired at a public hearing the previous night.

The committee wrote the anti-lien provision, which exempts property up to \$5000 in value, into the bill calling for \$50 minimum monthly assistance to persons over 65 years old. But the provision will get a going-over in the joint ways and means committee, which has offered a bill of its own demanding liens to insure repayment of state assistance.

Compromise Possible
There was talk Wednesday of a \$2500 compromise in the lien provision.

Meanwhile, the senate unanimously passed and sent to the house Sen. Jack Bain's proposal to bar communists from state employment. Dismissed persons would have the right of appeal.

The senate also passed and sent to the house measures putting school-bus inspection under the secretary of state; raising from \$75 to \$100 a month the income exempt from garnishment, and providing for a plaque on the new state office building in Portland in honor of former U. S. Sen. Frederick W. Mulkey.

Passed by the senate and sent to the governor were house-approved measures creating a state potato marketing commission, increasing the mileage allocation in sparsely-settled school districts and asking President Truman to spur U. S. delegates in the United Nations to work for a world police, and reduced armament and a limited world federation.

New Bills Entered
The senate received nine new bills Wednesday, including those to increase the salary of supreme court justices from \$8500 to \$10,000 a year; prohibit livestock from running at large; license dental hygienists and permit children to be excused from physical education classes.

The senate has a fairly full calendar today, and the house sets the session's record—it has 29 bills up for final passage, including its own measures proposing amendments to the withholding tax law, the licensing of practical nurses, licensing of building contractors, changing the "deadline" for dams on the Rogue river to permit construction of a \$90,000,000 project, altering the milk-grading act, and requiring that initiative measures must provide means of financing whenever proposed.

Both the senate and house will resume at 10 a. m. today.
(Additional details on page 1, 3)

WOOL OUTPUT DROPS

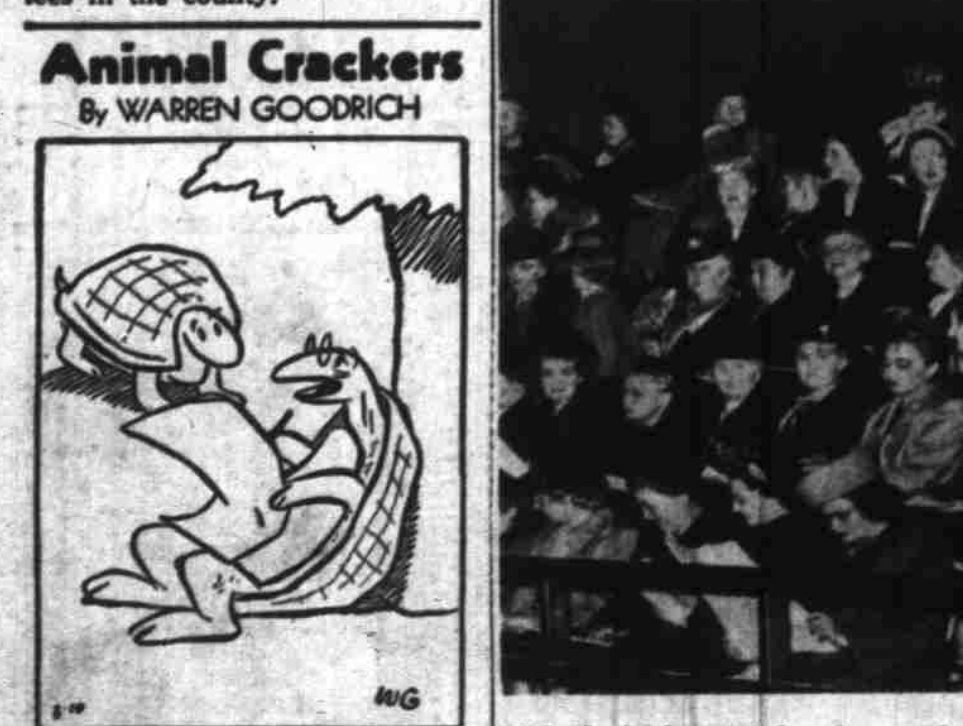
PORTLAND, March 9—(AP)—Oregon's wool production dropped to a 39-year low in 1948, the federal crop reporting service said today. The total was estimated at 6,100,000 pounds, about 8 per cent less than in 1947 and only 50 per cent of the 1937-46 average.

REBUILDING CROOK DIKES

PRINEVILLE, Ore., March 9—(AP)—Crook county dikes are being rebuilt along the Crooked river to guard against possible floods this spring. Record snows in the mountains also have led to formation of evacuation and relief committees in the county.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Do you realize there's only 290 days 'til Christmas!"

House Backs Radar Fence, Rocket Range

WASHINGTON, March 9—(AP)—Two defense moves to guard the United States against sneak aerial attack and to develop long-range missiles for counter-attack were unanimous approval in the house today.

By voice vote, the lawmakers passed and sent to the senate:

1. A bill authorizing the air force to set up a "radar fence" to warn of the approach of enemy planes.
2. A measure approving construction of a 3,900-mile range for testing guided missiles.

Military witnesses have testified that robot missiles capable of traveling 500 miles will be ready for testing this year. This compares with the wartime German V-2's record of about 250 miles.

At the outset, the bills would limit expenditures to \$85,800,000 for the radar warning system and \$70,000,000 for the missile range. Ultimately, the radar net is expected to cost \$161,200,000 and the rocket-test range about \$200,000,000.

Butter Prices Skid in Salem

Decrease in butter and butterfat prices in Salem continued Wednesday.

Butter dropped one cent per pound, to 89 cents wholesale and 74 cents retail.

Butterfat prices were 66 cents for premium, 64 for No. 1 and 62 for No. 2.

PORTLAND, March 9—(AP)—Butter went down a cent at most Portland retail outlets today, reducing the price range to 71-74 cents a pound for grade A.

Santiam Flax Growers Exporting Tow, Mexico

JEFFERSON, Mar. 9—The first carload of tow is being loaded in Jefferson by Santiam Flax Growers to be shipped out this week to Mexico, as part of a contract made with a Mexican company several months ago. It will be the first time that tow produced in this country by private enterprises has been shipped to another country.

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Pressmen End Strike; Publication Still Stalled

PORTLAND, March 9—(AP)—The strike of AFL pressmen against Portland's two daily newspapers ended today, and employers said publication would be resumed "as soon as production problems can be solved."

The end of the 20-day strike was announced in a joint statement by publishers of The Journal and The Oregonian and the Web Pressmen's Local 17.

It did not mean, however, that publication would be resumed at once, since the AFL printers have announced they will not go back to work until "future working conditions" have been settled.

Claim Lock Out
The printers, laid off with other of the papers' 2,000 employees February 19, asserted they were locked out, and indicated they would demand pay for the period since.

The CIO American Newspaper Guild local also has announced its members would not return to work until the situation has been discussed in a meeting of members.

If convicted, the 48-year-old former broadcaster for the radio would face a possible maximum penalty of death in the electric chair.

As the seven-week trial here entered the climactic phase, Judge Curran instructed the jury at length on defense claims that "coercion, compulsion and necessity" drove Miss Gillars to make her propaganda broadcasts from Germany during World War II.

These factors, he said, could not be used as an excuse for treason unless the jury believed that Miss Gillars suffered a well-grounded fear of "immediate death or great bodily harm" if she had refused to obey her German masters.

"And a fear that she might be sent to a concentration camp is not sufficient," Judge Curran said.

Other details were not disclosed. The pressmen originally asked a publisher-financed pension plan—of which no mention was made in the new contract—and up to \$110 weekly, although this later was scaled down to an approximate \$90.

Church Bingo Games Safe

PORTLAND, March 9—(AP)—Church bingo games are safe in Portland and punchboards are, too—at least for a while.

Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee said today she had no intention of ordering police to molest the church games and raffles.

The punchboards were seized impending seizure when Circuit Judge Alfred P. Dobson issued a temporary restraining order against the city on a plea from Martin Kors, a punchboard distributor.

Minimum Pay Hike Advances

WASHINGTON, March 9—(AP)—The house labor committee today approved a bill to raise the national minimum wage from 40 cents an hour to 75.

After more than six hours of heated discussion, several republican-sponsored amendments were tentatively voted into the bill.

Then Rep. Bailey (D-WVa) moved to substitute the original bill for the amended measure. His motion carried 13 to 12, with three democrats voting with the committee's nine republicans.

After that, the committee went through a formal vote approving the bill in final form. It passed 15 to 6.

Turner-Aumsville School Issue Talk Tonight at Lyons

STAYTON, March 9—Another meeting for information and answering questions regarding the proposed merger of union high school districts 4 and 8 will be at Lyons at 8 p.m. Thursday.

Sponsored by the Lyons grange, it will be in Rebekah hall, open to the public. A representative is expected from the state department of education.

The Stayton and Turner-Aumsville union districts will vote Friday on whether to consolidate. Polling places are the high school in Stayton and the school gymnasium in Aumsville.

More than 200 persons attended an "information" meeting at Stayton high school Tuesday night. Questions were answered for more than two hours by Mrs. Agnes Booth, Marion county school superintendent, and Cliff Robinson, state director of secondary education.

THE WEATHER

	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Salem	53	34	.01
Portland	51	33	.01
San Francisco	57	39	.24
Chicago	38	29	.12
New York	67	35	.00

Willamette river: 4.1 feet.
Forecast from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem: Mostly cloudy today and tonight with occasional light rains today. High today near 52 degrees; low tonight near 35 degrees.

SALEM PRECIPITATION

	Sept. 1 to March 10	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
This Year	52.50	53.50	53.50

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WASHINGTON, March 9—Soviet Ambassador Alexander S. Pushkin arrives at the state department today to ask Secretary of State Dean Acheson to secure the release of Valentin A. Gubichev, arrested in New York on an espionage charge. Acheson rejected the demand. (AP Wirephoto to the Statesman.)

State legislators Wednesday worked under the watchful eyes of hundreds of members of Oregon Republican Women's Federation who descended on the legislature from all parts of Oregon. Pictured above is the senate gallery packed with interested women spectators. (Statesman photo.)