

Formal Charges Against Two Firemen Aired at Hearing on Demotions; Chief on Stand

(Photo on page 1)
Charges of two Salem fire captains' asserted inefficiency and insubordination were detailed Wednesday by Fire Chief W. P. Roble at a formal demotion hearing before the Salem civil service commission.

The chief himself was on the witness stand for three hours before commissioners recessed the hearing until 1:30 p. m. Friday. Much of the chief's testimony was given under cross-examination by Allan Carson, attorney representing Ben O. Faught and J. F. Baggett, both veteran Salem fire department members who are appealing their demotion from captain to fireman.

The men were demoted June 15 when their chief charged them in demotion letters with insubordination, inefficiency and discourtesy in their conduct in the department.

Specific Charges Given
Fire Chief Roble's sworn testimony contained these specific charges against Faught, who was head of the fire prevention bureau:

That he did not keep the chief informed of his inspection work; that he did not put out for the fire department general orders of all off-duty men in second alarm and bigger fires; that he had never worn the uniform as prescribed for all firemen; that he had not inspected some downtown buildings frequently enough; that he had not reported to the chief as requested on several occasions; that he had been rude in instructing firemen on tours of business buildings.

Drill Held Inefficient
Chief Roble made these charges against Baggett, who was captain in charge of a shift at the east Salem station:

That he did not drill his men enough; that his shift had performed too little hose and motor maintenance; window and brass cleaning; that he had criticized the department's salvage policies; that he was "antagonistic and vitriolic toward any changes"; that he often referred to the chief in profane and vulgar language.

Chief Roble maintained that the attitudes of both Faught and Baggett had been persistent since he became chief in March, 1947, and that he considered their demotion necessary to promote the morale and efficiency of the entire force.

Other Witnesses Called
Under cross examination the chief denied that the demotions stemmed in any way from the recent firemen's convention which opposed city manager government.

Other witnesses called in the four-hour hearing at city hall yesterday afternoon were M. J. Gillson and Jack A. Hayes, deputy state fire marshals, and William F. White, chief engineer for the Oregon insurance rating bureau.

They were called by the fire chief through his counsel for the hearing, Attorney Bruce Williams. The city attorney, Chris J. Kowitz, sat in as adviser to the civil service commission, composed of William J. Entress, chairman, Kenneth C. Perry and Monroe Cheek.

There was a quiet, attentive audience of nearly 50 in the city council chamber during the hearing. Most of them were firemen and their wives. Over 20 firemen were subpoenaed for the hearing.

Hunt Started for Boy Fishermen in Wild Country

MEDFORD, July 12 (AP)—Sixteen-year-old Thomas Williams Richey, missing on a fishing trip since yesterday, was hunted in the wild Rogue river region near Prospect today.

Art Close, state forest lookout on Bald mountain, reported that the youth's fishing gear had been found on a cable car across the Rogue river not far from his home at Wildwood.

Richey was fishing alone.

Work to Start Immediately on Water Tank

SALEM HEIGHTS — Footings are to be poured immediately for a new 33,000-gallon water tank for the Vista Heights water district, it has been announced by John Douglas, manager, Wednesday.

The new tank will relieve the high area near the Douglas property at the end of Salem Heights avenue, where the tank will be located. Dimensions of the tank will be 30 feet diameter and 25 feet in height. Walter Barkus is president of the district.

CAR REPORTED STOLEN
A 1937 Chevrolet coach, license number 221-021, was reported stolen Wednesday night from Raymond C. Watkins, 1540 Shady In. Watkins told city police the auto was parked in the 100 block on North Church street.

The Jersey Giant, white or black, is one of the largest breeds of chickens. Roosters will weigh as much as 12 pounds or more—the size of a small turkey.

Baseball Tonight
Salem Senators
Vs.
Wenatchee
8:15 P. M.
Waters Field
Box Seat Reservations
Phone 8-4847

U.S. Machine-gun Unit Moves to Front



SOUTH KOREA, July 12—Members of a U. S. machine-gun unit set up their equipment along a road somewhere on the South Korean front as they move forward to bolster South Korean and American units engaged with the communists of the north. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Carriers, Freighters Are Yanked Out of Storage for Korean War

Navy carriers and freight vessels were yanked out of storage in the Pacific northwest today as one phase of fast-moving activities related to the Korean war.

The 13th naval district in Seattle reported two 7,800-ton escort carriers from the reserve fleet at Tacoma—the Cape Esperance and the Sitkoh Bay—would be "de-mothballed" and ready for service in 30 days. In Washington, D. C., a navy spokesman said the two baby carriers would be used strictly for transport purposes.

In Bremerton, Wash., the navy reported the ammunition ship USS Paricutin, now at Mare Island, Calif., would be reactivated at Hunter's Point, Calif., under "highest priority."

The maritime administration in Washington announced 16 ships from the west coast reserve fleets, including seven from Astoria, Ore., and three from Olympia, Wash., would be chartered to six coast steamship lines to provide shipping for the war in Korea.

Four were removed today. The Wake Forrest Victory and the New World Victory were moved from Olympia to Seattle, and the Joplin Victory and Navajo Victory were towed from Astoria to Portland to be readied for service.

A clamp-down on ship movement information occurred.

Navy Denies Aircraft Carrier Valley Forge Sunk Off Korea

WASHINGTON, July 12 (AP)—The navy said tonight there is nothing to rumors that the Aircraft Carrier Valley Forge has been torpedoed in Korean waters.

Capt. Walter Karig, a spokesman for the navy department, said contact has been made with the ship following reports that the vessel had been hit.

"I checked position and heading at 7 p. m. (5 p. m. PDT) and at that time I knew where she was heading and she was not going down," Karig told a reporter.

Asked if the ship had been torpedoed or otherwise damaged in any way, the navy officer said: "I am authorized to deny that, too." The navy said it was unable to give the position of the ship "for security reasons." Karig reported, however, the vessel was "in Asiatic waters" where she has been since before the fighting in Korea started.

BERLIN, July 12 (AP)—Reports multiplied in Berlin today that detachments of East German police troopers in new field gray uniforms are being shipped to mysterious destinations. A senior United States intelligence officer said he did not exclude the possibility that the police are being dispatched to Korea. The Berlin anti-communist press has been reporting recently that East German police would be used in "international brigades" there.

cars were stalled during the down-pour.

Flooding at Fullerton and in the rain-hit southwest Nebraska area was not extensive. Some railroad tracks were washed out and a few homes were flooded.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

There It Was—
Right In The Middle!

Easy Roberts moved his lawn early last Saturday. Then he sat on the porch, and watched Handy Peterson cutting his grass.

The Roberts' property and the Peterson's border each other—with no hedge or fence between them. So, when Easy noticed Handy had left about a four-foot strip unmowed along the boundary, he walks over and asks why.

"That's your land," says Handy. "Mine ends here. See, it lines up with that oak tree across the road!" Easy didn't think so, so they went up and down looking for the surveyor's marker. Where did they find it? Right in the middle of their "no man's land!"

Well, they both grin and take turns finishing the job and then retreat to Easy's for a friendly glass of beer together. From where I sit, a little searching around for the truth of the matter often shows that the other fellow is as much right as you are—at which point the whole thing doesn't seem as important anyway.

Joe Marsh

Two Brush Fires Quelled

Two brush fires, one in a lot on Oak between South 10th and 17th streets and another in a lot in the 3200 block on South Commercial street, were extinguished Wednesday by city firemen.

Little damage was reported from either blaze. Firemen also were called Wednesday afternoon to put out a small fire at the residence of Mrs. Lottie Hoover, 345 Division st. Firemen said the fire started in a radio, and only the radio was damaged.

Senate Kills FEPC Bill For Session

WASHINGTON, July 12 (AP)—The senate killed FEPC today.

No prospect remains for revival this session of the hotly disputed proposal to set up a fair employment practices commission to prevent racial or religious discrimination in the hiring, firing and advancement of workers.

Twenty-seven democrats, most of them from the south, and six republicans delivered the death blow.

Together, their 33 votes represented more than one-third of the total membership of 96 senators, and under the circumstances this was an absolute block against consideration of the bill. The FEPC advocates would have had to tally 64 votes—two thirds of the entire membership—to win.

Clam Chowder Tillamook Day

Clam chowder will be served to visitors at various points along the Tillamook county coastline Sunday in observance of Tillamook Hospitality day.

Chowder will be served from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. at Netarts, Oceanview, Tillamook, Barview, Rockaway, Manhattan and Wheeler.

Guest books from the 1949 Chowder day showed registrations from 20 states, Alaska and Hawaii.

HOT ROD RACES

Sat. Eve., 8 P. M.
Time Trials 8 P. M.
Salem's
Hollywood Bowl

Threat of Rail Strike Lifted; Docks Tied Up

By The Associated Press
The last threat of an immediate strike against the nation's railroads was lifted Wednesday. But a longshoremen's dispute hit New Jersey shipping and a strike was called against Braniff Airways.

The Railroad Yardmasters of America notified President Truman his men would "forego for the present their right to strike" Saturday because of "the situation our country finds itself in today."

The AFL longshoremen's dispute brought to a standstill shipping activities on all major piers on New Jersey's Hudson river waterfront.

Contract talks between Braniff International Airways and AFL Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, airline division, collapsed at Dallas, Tex. A union spokesman said a strike would begin at 6 a. m. Friday.

BABY CHRISTENED
GERVAIS — The Christening of Gregory Oakes, six-week-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Oakes of Portland, took place Sunday, July 2, at a 11 o'clock ceremony performed by the Rev. Sealfield at the Sacred Heart church. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley DeJardin of Gervais were sponsors. A dinner followed at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cutforth.