

USAF Preparing Landing Strip on Polar Ice Island

(Editor's Note: The following story was written by Jack Ryan, managing editor of the Fairbanks, Alaska, Daily News-Miner, who flew Monday over the polar ice island T-3, 120 miles from the North Pole. Ryan talked by radio to Air Force and civilian scientists as well as nine stranded Navy crewmen. His 10th Rescue Squadron C-54 was on a return flight from Greenland to Fairbanks.)

By JACK RYAN

OVER FLETCHER'S ICE ISLAND (P)—An ice island drifting 120 miles from the North Pole was humming with activity Monday. The crew of a stranded Navy bomber labored to remove a faulty engine, two engineers with a snow weasel attempted to clear off a 4,000-foot air strip and a party of six Air Force and civilian scientists carried on weather observations.

The island is a massive rectangular-shaped piece of ice hemmed in tightly by jagged pack floes that extend in every direction as far as the eye can see.

Scientists on the ground reported that this pack grows and groans and makes noise that sound like gunfire every time the wind blows.

As our C-54 circled the island, members of the scientific party gathered round their tiny radio set and described the activity.

"We are trying to clear an air strip that will accommodate C-54 aircraft," said Mike Brinegar, 10th Rescue Squadron survival expert who was a member of the original landing party.

"But snow on this island is very dry and powdery. It doesn't pack down very well. There are about three feet of snow on the island."

Two engineers from the Alaska Air Command, Col. William P. Benedict and Civilian Employee Fritz W. Awe, were landed on the ice island last Thursday with a snow weasel.

Their job was to build an air strip so four-motored planes could supply the island. Now they must complete the strip and the Navy will not be able to get a new engine on the island and fly out the big Navy P2V bomber, stranded Saturday by a valve failure.

The replacement engine would be too big a load for a twin-engine C-47 to bring in.

Lt. Frank Brink, member of the stranded Navy party, said the Air Force scientists on the desolate island are showing their unexpected guests every hospitality. This despite the fact that the Air Force had figured supplies for only five or six persons.

"We are just as comfortable as anyone could be 120 miles from the North Pole on a floating piece of ice," Brink said.

"We are sleeping in our Arctic survival tents in the plane. The temperature is 34 degrees below zero and there's a cold wind blowing," he said.

Brink was preparing to leave the island on a 10th Rescue Squadron C-47 which had landed with a load of supplies after a 700 mile flight from Greenland. Some of the stranded crewmen were to be evacuated to Greenland; three of the original crew of 12 left with the C-47.

The only installations on the island are four small huts constructed of snow blocks with canvas roofs. These four shelters are connected by tunnels so scientists can pass from room to room while polar gales are blowing.

Young GOP Refutes Letter Backing Paget

The Oregon Young Republican Federation has denied that it is officially backing Lowell C. Paget, Portland, candidate for GOP national committeeman.

At a lively session in Hillsboro Sunday the federation state executive committee repudiated a letter sent out recently, ostensibly backing Paget. The letter was sent to Paget and was signed by 11 members of the young GOP executive committee.

The committee Sunday authorized Clay Myers, state chairman, to send a letter to all republican county chairmen and vice chairmen stressing the neutral position of the federation on republican candidates in the primary campaign.

All four candidates for GOP national committeeman spoke at the meeting. They are Glenn R. Jack, Oregon City; Jess Gard, Portland; Charles L. Paine and Paget, all Portland.

A letter from a few of our members in support of one candidate was not approved in any form by the Young Republican executive committee," said Myers. "In no manner can it imply an endorsement by any of the others on our 35-member state board."

Myers said the signers of the illegal letter were aware of the federation's constitutional requirement of neutrality on candidates during the primaries.

Paget is manager of the Oregon Taft committee.

The original letter was declared to have been prompted by Patrick L. Roden of Astoria, chairman of the Collegians for Taft in Oregon. Roden offered no explanation for his action at the Hillsboro meeting.

Signers of the repudiated letter included Robert Packwood, David Card and Robert Batchelder, all Salem; Edward J. Georgeff, Henry A. Buerner, Helen Horton, Helen R. Strand, Delton Porter, Paul A. Egger and Marilyn Peake, all Portland; and Ellen Christiansen, Eugene.

Tools Stolen By Burglars

Prowlers were active in two Salem businesses over the weekend, one of which netted \$293 worth of hydraulic tools.

The tools were lost Sunday night from the Viesko and Post Contractors, 1440 S. 13th St. Entry was made through a storage room door.

Another prowling was made of the Mayflower Milk Company's trucks last Saturday night. The fleet, some 19 in number, was rifled for possible merchandise that might be left in the glove compartments. There was no record loss.

QUEEN GIVES UP TITLE

LONDON (P)—The War Office announced Monday that Queen Elizabeth II has given up her rank as honorary brigadier of the Women's Royal Army Corps "because of circumstances connected with her accession to the throne."

One-Year-Old Warrant Served In Accident Case

A year-old Marion County District court warrant was carried out Monday when Walter Burgett, Longvale, Calif., was returned to Salem after having been arrested by state police in Roseburg.

The warrant charged Burgett with failure to remain at the scene of an accident. He was recognized over the week end by one of the persons who was in the accident about a year ago. He is being held in Marion County jail in lieu of \$500 bail.

Also arrested by state police Monday and taken to the county jail was Albert Joseph McKay, Woodburn, charged with driving while intoxicated. He was arrested near Brook and is being held in lieu of \$250 bail.

War Surplus Deal 'Tipster' Tells of Profits

By ROGER D. GREENE

WASHINGTON (P)—Frank Nathan, a one-time horse-and-wagon huckster in Pittsburgh, testified Monday he picked up \$95,000 in fees and expenses as a tipster on "deals" involving the sale of government-owned war surplus property.

But Nathan, who now resides at Miami Beach, Fla., swore he never threatened to block the sale of a government aluminum plant to a California syndicate unless he was given 20 per cent of the profits.

Testifying before a Senate investigations subcommittee, Nathan acknowledged he had been told by Jess Larson, former head of the old War Assets Administration, to stop using Larson's name to try to influence various deals.

The witness testified that Larson "laughed like and sneered" when he asked for tips on WAA sales.

He said Larson told him: "You are not going to get any deals anyhow."

Looking for tips how he operated after he came to Washington in 1947 in quest of "deals," Nathan said he spent a lot of time "foolin' around" WAA headquarters looking for tips.

One day in 1948, he said, he happened to glance at a WAA brochure announcing plans to sell equipment at a government aluminum plant at Torrance, Calif.

Nathan said he telephoned the information to Joseph Labowitz, a New York junk dealer, and each of them eventually pocketed \$57,000 in fees from that "single long-distance telephone call."

The Senate group is seeking to determine whether Larson, now head of the General Services Administration, committed any improprieties when he was boss of the nation's multi-billion-dollar war surplus sales. Larson has denied any wrongdoing, and the committee has said it has found nothing wrong so far.

Reservists to Hold Bivouac

An overnight bivouac will be held April 18-20 at Salem's D. Battery of the 722nd anti-aircraft artillery automatic weapon battalion.

The bivouac will be held at Camp Withycomb in Clackamas, Ore. The group is also scheduled to spend two days qualifying on the small arms range. They are to join the others of the 722nd and the 237th anti-aircraft group at this bivouac.

Two men recently enlisted in Battery D are Lyle F. Mackey, 1915 Candlerwood Dr., and John R. Schott, 1230 N. 17th St., both of Salem.

L. A. Williamson, Carpenter, Dies At Home of Son

The death of Lewis Augustus Williamson Monday, late resident of 140 N. 21st St., was reported by relatives.

Williamson was born in Granger, Ore., May 20, 1870. He spent his boyhood in Granger and surrounding area and lived for some time in the McCoy area. He was a carpenter by trade.

His wife, the former Nettie May Roberts, succumbed some years previously.

Williamson had retired and was living with his son and his family. Services have not yet been announced by the W. T. Rigdon Company.

He is survived by his son, Eston M. Williamson, Salem; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Legion Poppy Posters Judged At Silverton

Statesman News Service

SILVERTON—Finalists in the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Poster Contest, junior division for all Silverton schools, were announced Monday in the contest sponsored by Legion Auxiliary Post 7.

From the fourth, fifth and sixth grade division the following won prizes of \$3, \$2 and \$1 respectively: Carol Seifer, sixth grade at St. Paul's school, won first place; Mary Schorenberger, also sixth grade at St. Paul's school, won second place, and Maria Arends, fourth grade at Eugene Fields school, won third place.

In the junior high school division the following won prizes: Dolores Esser, eighth grade at St. Paul's school, won first place; Patricia Thorikson, eighth grade at Silverton Junior High, won second place, and James Carroll, eighth grade at St. Paul's school, won third place.

This was the first time that St. Paul's school has entered this contest and they had four winners. Judges in the contest were Mrs. Harlan Lowe, Mrs. Gordon Elwell, Mrs. Ralph Schmidt, Mrs. Norman [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] of Silverton.

Rites Set for Mary McGee

Services for Miss Mary Ann McGee, 16, will be held at 1:30 p. m. Wednesday in the Clough-Barrick chapel with Evangelist W. M. Speck officiating and interment in City View Cemetery.

Miss McGee was reported to have been in ill health most of her life, suffering from a liver infection. She had lived the past 13 years with her parents in Salem and was born in Rector, Ark.

When not suffering from ill health or hospitalized—she attended the Salem schools. She was lately in Leslie Junior High School.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar S. McGee of Salem, and several aunts and uncles.

First Aiders Answer Three Emergencies

Three emergency calls were answered Monday by the Salem first aid.

Oris Hill, 180 S. 12th St., was taken to Salem General Hospital after he suffered a heart attack in the 100 block on North High Street. He reportedly had not collapsed.

Mrs. Charles Murdock, Pendleton, a passenger on a Trailways bus, fell at the company's bus station. She suffered abrasions of the left knee and was advised by first aid men to see a doctor.

Mrs. Pauline E. Watson, 2586 Lee St., suffered bruises and was taken to Salem General Hospital for further examination after she was struck by an auto while crossing Liberty Street at State Street. The automobile was driven by Harley C. Hughes, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Hughes was not cited.

Death Claims Mrs. Trueax

PEDEE — Mrs. Golda Bevans Trueax, resident of Pedee, Ore., practically all her life, died in a Portland Hospital late Monday night after a serious operation.

Mrs. Trueax was about 45 years of age and was born in Pedee. Funeral services have not been set, but will be arranged by the Bowman Funeral Chapel at Dallas.

She is survived by her husband, Roland Trueax, Pedee; three daughters, Wanda Trueax, Pedee; Nancy, Salem, and Mrs. Betty Baxter, Foster, Ore.; one son, Thomas, Pedee; two sisters, Mrs. Jesse Edwards and Mrs. Veina Edwards, both of Philomath; and three grandchildren, all of Foster.

Mrs. Trueax was a member of the Evangelical Church of Pedee.

WRECK VICTIM DIES

PORTLAND (P)—Amos DeLarn, 70, Portland, died in a hospital here Monday of injuries suffered when struck by an automobile at a downtown intersection Saturday.

He was struck by a car driven by [illegible] of [illegible].

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Bus, Truck Crash In Woodburn

A bus and truck collision Monday afternoon in Woodburn resulted in minor injury of one unidentified woman and the smashed front of a Skyline Bus Co. vehicle.

The bus, driven by Wayne Kief, Eugene, struck the rear of a Salem Navigation Truck which was stopped for a school bus unloading across the highway.

No serious damage was incurred by the truck.

Schuster Death Weapon Found In New York

NEW YORK (P)—Finding of the murder weapon spurred an intensified hunt Monday for the killer of Arnold Schuster, the young salesman who put the finger on Bank Robber Willie Sutton.

After a day of hush-hush activity, police confirmed that they had the gun.

Ballistic tests showed it was the .38 caliber revolver from which death slugs were pumped into the 24-year-old Schuster a short time after he pointed out the fugitive Sutton to police.

Believing the gun was stolen from an overseas shipment, police questioned some 80 longshoremen during the day.

It was the first major break in the case since Schuster was slain outside his home March 8.

The pistol was found in a parking lot a few blocks away last Wednesday, police disclosed, and tests the next day proved it was used in the killing. But the prize find had been kept secret.

Only after 100 detectives were called to Brooklyn, and sent out on new arrest missions, did news of the development become known.

There were still puzzling aspects. Only three empty cartridges were in the gun. Four slugs had entered Schuster's body.

Police were searching sewers and back alleys in the vicinity for other clues.

Californian Held In Burglary Case

Buster Allen Shirley, Riverside, Calif., was arraigned in Marion County District Court Monday on a charge of burglarizing the Elkhorn Resort east of Mehama, and the case continued until today. He is being held in lieu of \$2,500 bail.

State police and sheriff's deputies were continuing investigation Monday for others believed involved in the burglary.

The first patent for a system of wireless transmission of motion pictures was issued to Dr. Mahlon Loomis, of Washington, D. C., in 1872.

STATE

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