

Porcupines Kill Trees

DENVER (AP)—You can include the U. S. Forest Service among those that don't like porcupines. They are unsocial critters with all those quills and, besides, they're "murder" on trees.

Arthur L. Nelson, assistant regional forester here, says porcupine damage to timber in the Rocky Mountain area is getting serious. A single porcupine can damage or kill as many as 100 trees in a winter. They like to climb up a tree and eat the bark away in a complete circle, thus shutting off the flow of sap.

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Chiang, U.S. General Hint Action Near for Nationalist Troops

By SPENCER MOOSA

TAIPEH, Formosa (AP)—Chiang Kai-Shek and the top U.S. general on Formosa hinted Monday that Chinese Nationalist forces may see action in 1953 after reviewing maneuvers in which both narrowly escaped serious injury.

In Washington, officials at the White House, the Pentagon and State Department declined comment on the possibility that Chinese Nationalist troops might see action in 1953.

(A White House spokesman said that for obvious security reasons, if this country planned any major change in Far East policy it certainly would not "telegraph" its intentions to the enemy.)

(Joseph W. Reap, a State Department press officer, commented: "The present policy of the U.S.

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Government is not to use Chinese Nationalist troops on the Asiatic mainland."

(Diplomatic officials said privately that any change in American policy in the Far East was unlikely in advance of the inauguration of Republican President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower on Jan. 20.)

The generalissimo and Maj. Gen. William C. Chase, head of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group, were on a reviewing stand when a shell fragment struck the base of the stand. Neither was hurt.

Chiang took 54,000 officers and men he hoped they would finish next year their preparations for fighting back to the Chinese mainland.

"The people of the mainland," he said, "are waiting for deliverance and if we cannot achieve this, all our training, all our preparations will have been in vain. Enduring humiliation will be our lot if we fail to deliver them."

Chase, whose job is to supervise the use of war materials and to help in training the Nationalists, spoke later at a luncheon.

"I make no promises," Chase said, "and no prophecies, but I think business will pick up next year—and I think you know what I mean."

Chase prefaced this remark by saying he had talked with President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower about the Nationalist armed forces during Eisenhower's visit to Korea early this month.

Crew Taken From Ship on Pacific Reef

HONOLULU (AP)—The 37-man crew of the freighter Quattette was removed Monday from the storm battered vessel which is hard aground on a treacherous reef only 90 miles east of Midway.

Subsiding seas permitted the transfer, balked once before in the storm and early morning darkness, to the nearby Frontenac Victory and a Navy patrol craft, the Hawaiian Sea Frontier was advised.

Capt. C. Catsambis of the Quattette feared the freighter, which ran aground Sunday, might crack up in the crashing seas.

Catsambis and three of his crew remained at the scene aboard the patrol boat pending the arrival of the salvage tug Ono from Honolulu.

The remainder of the crew went aboard the Frontenac and were proceeding to Midway.

The Frontier said it had no late report on the condition of the 7,198-ton liberty ship-type vessel, whose No. 2 hold was flooded after it hit the Pearl and Hermes reef.

ICC Permitted to Regulate Rail Freight Rates Within States

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court gave the Interstate Commerce Commission ICC broader powers Monday to regulate railroad freight rates within a state.

Dividing 6-3, the court ruled for the first time that the ICC may give weight to losses in interstate passenger operations in ordering higher intrastate freight rates.

Justice Douglas, who wrote a dissenting opinion in which Chief Justice Vinson joined, called the action unprecedented and "an unwarranted step" in enlarging the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The decision, while broad enough to apply to any state, specifically applies to an ICC order increasing freight rates within Florida to correspond with increases previously ordered in interstate rates.

Douglas called the ICC's action "a serious invasion of state sovereignty," adding: "The federal agency can now take over the rate-making function, heretofore exercised by the states, whenever any part of the interstate operation, no matter how remote from or unrelated to the intrastate rate, is producing a deficit."

Justice Burton, who wrote the main opinion, said the Interstate Commerce Act "leaves no ground for a claim that the commission may not give weight to passenger revenue deficits in prescribing intrastate freight rates to meet overall revenue needs." He added:

"We conclude that there is no reason why the commission may not give weight to passenger deficits in prescribing intrastate freight rates in Florida, it does in prescribing interstate freight rates in the Southern territory."

What is new in the case is the ICC giving weight to interstate passenger deficits in ordering higher freight rates with a state.

Previous orders for intrastate increases have been based on the ground the rates favored intrastate over interstate commerce, or they failed to yield a fair share of the carriers' revenue.

In another action the court ruled 8-1 that courses of conduct, rather than multiplicity of individual acts, must be listed by the government in complaints against employers under the Fair Labor Standards Wage-Hour Act.

This decision upheld the action of U. S. District Judge Albert A. Ridge in dismissing all but three counts of a 32-count information filed by the government against the Universal CIT, Credit Corp., Kansas City, Mo.

Judge Ridge let stand one count for each section of the act alleged to have been violated.

Justice Frankfurter, who wrote the main opinion, said Judge Ridge was right. And he took occasion to chide Congress—as the court has done before—for not using clear and definite language in criminal laws.

"We should not derive criminal outlawry from some ambiguous implications," Frankfurter wrote.

Anne Baxter To Divorce John Hodiak

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Anne Baxter filed suit Monday to divorce John Hodiak—and she wouldn't say whether her recent zippy publicity, including cigar-smoking, was in any way involved.

Her complaint to end the movie couple's six-year marriage made only the usual general charges of cruelty, mental anguish, and ill health.

It didn't detail their settlement dividing property and giving Anne custody of the Hodiaks' 18-month-old daughter, Katrina.

"It's very sad," was the only comment Miss Baxter would add and she sounded sad indeed over the telephone.

In accordance with show-business tradition, she kept on emoting in a murder mystery while her lawyer entered the suit.

How about the recent reports of the once prim Miss Baxter smoking cigars after dinner—and wearing a rhinestone in her navel for a Cleopatra role? Did they have anything to do with the couple's separation three weeks ago?

"I'm sure everyone's going to ask that," Miss Baxter replied. "But everything's in our statement. We worked very hard on it. I don't want to say anything further."

Specifically, were the cigars to blame? "You know that isn't true," she answered. Then John didn't object?

"I'm not going to say anything more. John feels the same way," Hodiak was away on location.

Woman Convict At Walla Walla Given Pardon

SEATTLE (AP)—The only woman ever to escape over the wall at the Washington State Prison, Walla Walla, returned home Monday night with a Christmas pardon from Gov. Arthur B. Langlie.

Mrs. Maxine Guernon Valela, 33, was met at the Seattle-Tacoma airport by her husband, Joseph, and her ecstatically happy two small children.

In 1948 she scaled the prison walls with a bed-sheet rope, four years after her sentence to 20 years for assault. Then she came to Seattle, married, bore two children and led an uneventful life.

Last October, after a Seattle newspaper printed an article and her picture in a series on prison escapes, she surrendered voluntarily and was returned to her cell.

Penitentiary officials said her only concern there was for the welfare of her children, a girl 3, and boy 2. The State Board of Prison Terms and Paroles investigated. The recommendation was for a conditional pardon.

The governor agreed.

On her arrival, she held back the tears and said:

"This is a wonderful Christmas present."

Water is essential for all life processes.

No Driver Requirements

SOUTHBIDGE, Mass. (AP)—South Dakota is the only state that requires no examination, issues no license and sets no legal standard for automobile drivers, according to the 1952 edition of a survey of state requirements for motor vehicle operators. All that is required is that the driver be at least 15.

The survey, published by the American Optical Co., says that all other states require licenses and have driver examinations. Age requirements for drivers range from 14 in Arkansas, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina and Texas to a high of 17 in New Jersey.

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