

T SEEMS TO ME
By Charles A. Sprague

Not since the disappearance of Hitler and Himmler have international "detectives" been thrown into such a state of speculation as that created by the current flap over the whereabouts of Lavrenty P. Beria, the despoised triumvir of the USSR. In as widely separated points as Washington and San Diego the rumor broke that Beria was in hiding outside of Russia. But so far the report has received no official verification.

The only Moscow news was that Beria had been removed from office for anti-state activities and connivance with enemy powers, the usual language of a purge indictment except that he wasn't labeled a Trotskyite; and that he was remanded to the Soviet Supreme Court for trial. No word was given out as to whether he was confined in prison, or where — nor would that be expected in the system of Soviet justice. And no news has come of the convening of a court for his trial.

This silence offers a fertile ground for the sprouting of speculation as to his fate: He has been done to death. He is in prison. He has escaped. And reasons can be advanced to give plausibility to each theory. The first two are quite within the norm of Russian procedure, though usually some sort of trial is held in which the poor victim beats his breast with "mea culpa" (my guilt) repetitions. Trotsky had no trouble leaving Russia, however, and lived for a time in Turkey before going to Mexico, where Stalin's assassins caught up with him.

It is not at all probable that Malenkov would let Beria (Continued on editorial page 4.)

Classes Start Today in Most Salem Schools

School busses, school rooms, school books and school teachers will take the dominant role for some 9,000 youngsters in Salem public schools today with the beginning classes for the new fall term.

A majority of pupils registered during Friday's registration hours at the 27 schools opening their doors, but others will register to swell the enrollment totals to new records today and the rest of this week. Some 1,900 are expected at Salem High School, a record which will probably stand unchallenged with the division of the city into a two-high school plan due before next fall.

Two schools will delay opening their doors but there won't be much delay for their pupils. Morningside pupils will begin classes at Richmond and Liberty School. The opening of Liberty School classes Wednesday will have all youngsters in the classrooms.

Man Turns in False Report of Electrocutings

Irritated police and fire officers were anxious to get their hands on the originator of an emergency call during an otherwise peaceful Sunday afternoon.

City police switchboard took the call from an "excited" voice, a man who reported that two persons had been electrocuted in a car at the west end of the bridge.

But two police cars and first aid ambulance speeded to the scene could find neither the tragedy or the informant. A trace of the telephone call, routed to police with the help of an operator, determined the call had been originated at a tavern near the westside bridge approach. Persons at the tavern said a man used the telephone, then left hurriedly by auto.

Police attributed the call to an irresponsible prankster who probably did not realize that his hoax put many lives in jeopardy.

WEEKS TO SPEAK
PORTLAND (AP) — Sinclair Weeks, secretary of commerce, is to be principal speaker at the annual Inland Waterways Association convention here Oct. 19-20.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



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Beria 'Flight' Brings Conflicting Opinions, Story of Spy Project

Senate Source Convinced of Rumor's Truth

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high Senate source said Sunday Senate investigators are convinced that Lavrenty Beria, deposed czar of the Soviet Secret Police, has escaped from Russia and is hiding in terror of his life, in a neutral European country.

An equally high source in another department of the government was deeply skeptical of the report, however, saying the chances of Beria's having broken through the Iron Curtain were "one in a million."

Both sources asked to remain unidentified at this stage of the case. The Senate source said the mysterious fugitive has been contacted by agents of the Senate investigations subcommittee, that he has asked for political asylum in the United States and is willing to trade the Kremlin's secrets for a refuge from Red assassins.

"Personally, I would not be at all surprised if I developed that the man is Beria, that he finds at least a temporary haven in this country, and that he gives us a great deal of valuable information—if he can be kept alive," this source told a reporter.

Elsewhere, informed American officials said they knew nothing at the present time which leads them to believe that Beria has managed to get out of Russia. But there is no doubt that this government would be glad to receive any man who possesses as many Communist secrets as Beria.

Anti-Malenkov Drive Begins in Arab State

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Police Monday reported a mysterious smear campaign against Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov is spreading in Lebanon. They expressed belief it was sparked by Communists loyal to ousted police czar Lavrenty Beria.

The anti-Malenkov drive was first uncovered with the arrest of an unidentified man in a Lebanese village. Leaflets found on him spoke of "The socialist proletariat loyal to the principles of the great Stalin" and then belabored Malenkov.

Since then, police said, thousands of leaflets have been thrown from rooftops in Beirut and other Lebanese towns attacking Malenkov and praising Stalin.

Authorities expressed belief the leaflets were inspired by loyal Beria followers or independent left-wingers with a grudge against the present Kremlin hierarchy.

DEAN LEAVES TODAY
TOKYO (AP) — Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, the bazooka-fighting warrior who bought priceless time with green troops against the first great Communist onslaught in Korea, leaves for home Monday.

Ten Persons Die in Head-On Car, Truck Crash in California

BAKER, Calif. (AP) — Ten persons including a wedding-bound young couple were killed Sunday in a ghastly traffic collision on the desert highway to Las Vegas, Nev.

A sedan carrying nine persons crashed head-on with a big truck-trailer. All those in the wedding party were killed, as was the truck driver. A sailor hitch-hiking a ride on the truck was injured.

The driver of a second truck whose vehicle was involved escaped injury.

Deputy Coroner Edward P. Doyle said all the bodies were burned horribly, as the truck and automobile both burned.

Traffic on the heavily traveled U.S. Highway 91, principal route between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, was tied up for more than three hours.

Baker is about midway between those points and the accident scene was 14 1/2 miles east of here.

Doyle said the wrecked sedan was traced to a family in Weed Patch, Calif., a town of about 1,200



LAVRENTY BERIA
In Hiding or in Prison?

Commies Say Missing PWs 'Not Captured'

PANMUNJOM (AP) — The Communists said Monday they had "never captured" most of the 3,404 missing Allied troops for whom the U.N. command has demanded an accounting.

Their "preliminary reply" to the Sept. 9 Allied demand came in a meeting of the Joint Military Armistice Commission.

The list included more than 900 Americans.

The missing troops were men once believed to have been captives of the Reds but who were not released in the war prisoner exchange or reported dead.

The Allies asked the Communists to produce the men or reveal what had happened to them.

Some of the missing could be among the 300 South Korean prisoners and about 20 non-Koreans — not further identified — whom the Communists said had refused to return.

Simultaneously, the Communists demanded an accounting for 98,742 North Koreans and Chinese they said were captured by the Allies but never accounted for.

Of the Allied list, the Reds said 519 already have been released to the U.N. command. The Reds also said that 380 more had been "released at the front" during the war, had escaped or had died.

Part of the rest refused repatriation, the Reds said, but they said most of the rest have never been captured.

THE WEATHER
Salem: Max 86, Min 42, Precip. 0.00
Portland: 82, 48, 0.00
San Francisco: 67, 60, 0.00
Chicago: 73, 56, trace
New York: 85, 66, .15
Willamette River: 3.2 feet
FORECAST (from U. S. Weather Bureau, McNary Field, Salem):
Partly cloudy today, tonight and Tuesday. Slightly cooler with the highest today near 78, lowest tonight near 45. Temperature at 12:51 a. m. was 52 degrees.

52 DEGREE PRECIPITATION
Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1
This Year Last Year Normal
Trace .20 .50

New Jersey Man Financed Investigation

BALTIMORE (AP) — The head of an international spy ring said Sunday night that Clendenin Ryan, independent candidate for governor of New Jersey, financed a project aimed at learning the truth about rumors that high Russian leaders wanted to escape.

Ulius Amoss, wartime chief of the Eastern European Division of the Office of Strategic Services and now head of the International Services of Information, said Lavrenty Beria, deposed czar of Soviet Secret Police who is rumored to have fled Russia, was not involved by name.

He said Ryan put up \$50,000 for an operation designed to find out the truth about information reaching Amoss' agents that Red leaders were eager to escape Communism.

He said he met with Ryan "in late May or early June."

Big Gamble
"I told him it was an outrageous gamble but for the sake of the country we should learn the truth."

The money Ryan put up was to recruit and pay additional agents to work on the single project, Amoss said.

"I didn't want to compromise my organization with what may have been an attempt to penetrate it."

Amoss said information reaching him about certain Communist leaders desirous of getting out of Russia, began last Jan. 15 in London.

High Excitement
Laid up in a hospital with pneumonia, Amoss said he was visited by one of his agents "in a high state of excitement."

"He had information that Stalin was dead but that the death would not be announced until March."

Ryan said the agent was more concerned about a report that a group of Russian leaders, expecting a shakeup if word of Stalin's death were true, were preparing to flee the country.

Amoss said further information came to him later in the states including the names of those said to be seeking escape.

Recruit Agents
After Ryan put up the money to organize the special group, Amoss said he went to Europe to help recruit the special agents.

It was in Munich, on July 29, he said, that a man who represented himself as a major in the Soviet Secret Police told him Beria had escaped.

Amoss said the purported major did not want to enlist his aid in helping Beria get out of Europe but merely wanted to know if the deposed police chief would be granted asylum in the United States.

Signed by Beria
Although the man had Secret Police credentials signed by Beria, himself, Amoss said he had not been able to satisfy himself about the major's credentials.

"He was brought to me by people I have known—the Western contact of a supposedly dissident or whether it is acting in the capacity of agent for the Soviet government for purposes of penetrating his organization, Amoss said he was not sure.

No Direct Approach
Col. Amoss said he asked the major why United States government officials had not been approached directly on the Beria matter.

He was told, he said, it was feared officials were "cased too thoroughly" for a contact to be made without knowledge of Soviet agents.

Amoss said he was not asked to assist in Beria's escape and so far as he knows, he has not indirectly aided in such an escape—if one has been made.

The group financed by Ryan's money is still in existence Amoss said, and is still reporting.

GRANDMOTHER AT 32
IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Isolanda Giovannini Sunday became a grandmother at 32. She married when she was 15. Her eldest daughter, Vincenza, 16, gave birth Sunday to a daughter.

MAUGHAM, WINNIE VISIT
CAP D'AIL, France (AP) — British Prime Minister Churchill had writer Somerset Maugham in to lunch Sunday here at the Riviera villa where Churchill is vacationing.

Ike, Mamie Pay Surprise Visit to GOP Women



CHICAGO—President Eisenhower waves a cheerful greeting to a conference of Republican women from 18 states at Chicago's Hilton Hotel. Ike, who had been scheduled only for a brief stopover at Glenview Naval Air Station, switched his plans and motored into the city. Left to right: Mrs. Eisenhower, Mrs. Carroll D. Kearns, president of the National Federation of Republican Women, President Eisenhower, and an unidentified GOP women's division official. Others unidentified. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Infant Girl Suffocates in Crib Blankets

Four-month-old Leslie Conner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Conner, Salem Route 3, Box 868, died Sunday evening apparently of suffocation.

The parents reported the tot could crawl backwards but not forwards and had apparently crawled down into the blankets of her crib and been unable to get out.

While Salem first aidmen were en route to the home the parents rendered artificial respiration and on the way to the hospital the baby was given oxygen, but to no avail. The youngster was pronounced dead on arrival.

Forest Fire Weather Felt Across State

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Oregon had another day of hot weather and critical forest fire danger Sunday, but some relief is expected Monday. Brisk easterly winds blowing over the Cascade mountains into the Willamette Valley sent humidities downward in most areas of Western Oregon.

Wind gusts reached nearly 40 miles an hour Sunday afternoon in the Columbia Gorge. The Weather Bureau said the winds are expected to decrease and become westerly by Monday evening. Humidities will be higher in the coast range Monday and in interior sections by Monday night.

No forest fires of any size were reported.

Temperatures were warmer in Western Oregon than in the eastern part of the state. It was 92 in Medford, 86 in Salem, 84 in Eugene and 82 in Portland.

Highest reading in the eastern part of the state was 82 at Ontario. At Bend, temperatures dropped below freezing in the early morning.

Baby Alligator Spent Three Weeks Unnoticed After Escape, Owner Says

Original owners of Salem's mysterious little alligator were located Sunday afternoon and the animal was given a new home at Salem High School—after three weeks of roaming free.

The foot-long reptile, found on a northeast Salem lawn Saturday noon, was owned by Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Paddock, 1143 N. 21st St., and Sunday they donated him to the biology department at Salem High.

Paddock, Salem representative for Circus Foods, said he was giving a food sale in Albany about three weeks ago and the store he was in was selling baby alligators. "I jokingly told the manager that if he had any of the animals left at the end of the day I'd like one," and he did," Paddock explained.

Paddock said he brought the animal home and put him in a wash tub, complete with brick, water and plywood cover and set it on the back porch.

Late the next morning Mrs. Paddock went to show the animal to friends and found he'd gotten away. A thorough search ensued, replete with concerned neighbors and the Paddock's 15-year-old twin boys, but no one found the animal, unnamed at that time.

After beating the swamps for several days the Paddock's presumed the "little stranger" had fallen prey to some dog or stranger's boot. But Saturday noon, much to the surprise of a Salem woman, the 'gator was found.

"Mrs. F. E. Kenyon, (reported first as Mrs. Clarence McCollam), 1255 N. 19th St., called city police Saturday when she stepped from her front door and found the animal punning himself. The reptile was captured by city police and given to Miss Carmelita Barquist, biology instructor at Salem High School. She esti-

Mehama Junction Wreck Kills Man

MEHAMA—Earl Edwin Miller, 80, of Mehama, died as a result of a two-car collision near 6 p.m. Sunday at the Mehama junction on the new Highway 22.

Miller became Marion County's 11th traffic fatality of 1953. The accident occurred when the westbound auto driven by Earl Nott, McMinnville, and the Miller auto, pulling onto the highway, collided at the junction overturning the Miller car. Neither Nott, his wife Lulu, nor their passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Hewitt, Salem, were seriously injured in the crash. The Notts and Hewitts went to Salem General Hospital for treatment of minor lacerations and bruises and were released after examination.

Both cars sustained considerable damage in the crash. Investigating state police presumed Miller had misjudged the distance the Nott car was from him as he pulled onto the highway. Miller's body was taken to the Weddle Funeral Home in Stayton where announcement of services will be made later.

Miller was a retired farmer and resident of the Mehama area for about the past 30 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian, about five years ago.

Survivors include three sons, Vernon Miller, Mehama; Ernest Miller, Silverton, and Harry Miller of Montana.

Two Hurt as Car Dives Over Bank

CLEAR LAKE—A car apparently failed to negotiate a turn in the highway just south of here Sunday morning and plunged 50 feet over a bank, hospitalizing the two occupants.

Taken to Salem Memorial Hospital by Willamette Ambulance Service were Roman Lara and Mrs. Ruby Quinarino, both of Brooks Route 1. Condition of both was considered "good" by hospital authorities Sunday evening. Lara suffered lacerations and Mrs. Quinarino possible internal injuries.

The council voted in August to recommend the ILA's suspension from AFL membership. But Meany said the council decided on the stronger course of expulsion because the ILA has failed to accomplish its "clean up" plan.

The ILA has been under sharp attack from crime investigators for harboring criminal elements on New York and New Jersey piers. Meany said the AFL ordered the ILA eight months ago to rid itself of criminal elements but the union has failed to take satisfactory action.

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New California Bridge Partially Destroyed by Fire
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The \$1,100,000 Rosecrans Avenue bridge over the Los Angeles River, dedicated only last Aug. 15, was partially destroyed by fire Sunday.

Sections of the 1,000-foot span buckled and collapsed in the intense heat as a column of black, oily smoke rose more than 2,000 feet into the air. The flames burned out heavy timber understructure and twisted the steel framework.

Investigators of the fire department's arson detail said they believe the blaze was started by a small bonfire, probably lit by tramps or by horseback riders who use the dry river bed as a bridge path.

BASEBALL
National League
At Brooklyn 5-1, Philadelphia 4-3
At Milwaukee 3-2, Cincinnati 4-0
At St. Louis 11, Chicago 6
At New York 4, Pittsburgh 5
American League
At Boston 8, New York 10
At Detroit 3-2, Cleveland 4-6
At Philadelphia 15-4, Washington 9-3
At Chicago 4-8, St. Louis 0-2

Prize of \$100,000 Nets Jet

By SAM SUMMERLIN
SEOUL (AP) — A Russian-built MIG swept unheralded out of Communist Korea Monday and its pilot brought the silvery jet fighter to a \$100,000 landing at a U. S. base northwest of Seoul.

The \$100,000 was the prize offered for the first MIG turned over to the Allies in top combat condition. The U. N. Command in Tokyo affirmed Monday that the offer still was good.

Allied intelligence officers instantly clamped complete secrecy over the identity of the pilot and began questioning him. But a mounting weight of evidence indicated he was Korean. Despite an early statement by a 5th Air Force spokesman that he "is not a North Korean."

The MIG, pride of the Red air force in the Korean War, was yanked into a hangar and armed air police stood guard.

Red Stars Showing
It roared down out of clear, sunny skies, the red stars on its wings and rudder showing clearly against the silvery body. Its arrival apparently caught the sprawling Kimpo Air Base by surprise.

It was from Kimpo that the sleek American Sabre jets, scourge of the MIGs, roared out during the Korean War towards the far northern Yalu River where the jet battles blazed.

The spokesman said the pilot "will not be interviewed or identified for fear of retaliation."

A tight security was clamped around the base. Special officers guarded all entrances. Everyone entering or leaving was checked. No visitors were permitted.

Lt. Gen. Samuel Anderson, 5th Air Force commander, rushed to the airfield at Kimpo, home base for the sleek American Sabre jets which tangled with the MIGs throughout the war in flashing battles over North Korea.

"The pilot is now under interrogation by Air Force intelligence officers," the spokesman said.

Armed Guards
His plane was placed in a hangar by itself. A cordon of U. S. air police armed with .45 caliber pistols guarded it.

During the last days of the Korean War, Gen. Mark Clark offered \$100,000 to the first Communist pilot to land a MIG in Allied territory in Korea. The offer was beamed to North Korea and Manchuria by radio for days but there was no takers.

It was a bright, sunny day with only wisps of clouds in the blue sky when the MIG roared south out of North Korea.

The 5th Air Force spokesman said the pilot had black hair. **Commander Escorts**

A convoy of Allied reporters and cameramen was stopped at the gate of Kimpo airfield and held there until the base commander, Col. J. R. McDougal, personally came to the gate and escorted the press to the officers club.

Associated Press photographer Fred Waters said McDougal told them he doubted that even pictures would be allowed of the MIG jet, at least for awhile.

Known in Advance
It was known immediately how the Communist flier managed to reach Kimpo but one officer said it was certain that a MIG would not approach the vital airbase "without our knowing about it."

He said "there are a number of ways" that the pilot could have signaled that he wanted to land but he did not know under what circumstances the flier managed to land at the base without interference.

Waters said an American pilot who met the plane after it landed expressed belief the Communist pilot was a North Korean.

The American said the flier pulled out the picture of a girl from a pocket of his flying suit, "ripped it up and threw it away."

The American pilot said the pieces were picked up and pieced together and the girl "also looked like a North Korean."