

POW Urges Raid to Check Compound

Claims He Led Group

Travel Study Offered by Reds, Says Batchelor

SEOUL (AP)—Claude J. Batchelor who asked repatriation from a Red compound Friday told a news conference Saturday he was the leader of the 22 Americans held in Indian custody.

He recommended that the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission flush out the compound in a raid for secret weapons and to investigate conditions in the compound.

Batchelor, whose decision to return to the American side was influenced by pleading letters from his Japanese wife, was handed over to the U.N. command Friday.

The 22 year old corporal is from Kermit, Tex. Other leaders in the camp — indicating there were factions — in the Communist prison camps in the North, Batchelor said, he was known as "a progressive that didn't squeal."

By this he meant he had a reputation for believing Communist ideas but for not "telling" on his buddies.

He said he was guilty of no wrongdoing against his fellows during his more than three years as a captive. He was a member of the First Cavalry Division and was captured Nov. 5, 1950.

Batchelor said he told Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimafya, Indian chairman of the NNRC, that he had been "No. 1 man" among the 22 Americans who declined repatriation. Batchelor said the Chinese Communists had offered him, to decline repatriation:

"Travel and practically anything I wanted. They said I could go to Europe to help in the peace movement. They said I could go to South America and Asia. They said I could have any kind of education I wanted, anywhere I wanted it."

He added: "I didn't want to be a Communist. I just wanted to be a peace-fighter. I just wanted to help the Communists advance some of their ideas — such as that America was an aggressive nation and the Soviet Union was peaceful. At the time, I believed those things. Some of the things they told me I didn't believe."

His decision to return, Batchelor said, was "a slow and growing thing." He told newsmen he made up his mind to return between Dec. 14 and 16 and the letters from his wife "had a lot to do with it."

Asked why he had written his wife that he agreed with Communist views, the repatriate replied: "The letter had to be read by everyone there in the compound before it went out, so I just threw in the stuff about Communism to make it look right. In my letter, though, I kept trying to impress my wife that I would be back."

Why did the letter have to be read by the others? "I can't tell you about that," he said, "but that's the way it was."

Batchelor said the letter written by Pfc. Richard Tenneson, in which he told his mother he would not return to the American side, was read aloud in the compound before being sent out.

Sang Internationale Tenneson's mother, Mrs. Portia Howe of Alden, Minn., received the letter after making a dramatic trans-Pacific flight in an effort to persuade her son to come home.

A reporter asked Batchelor, "on the last day of the explanations, Dec. 23, when the Americans made a loudspeaker broadcast to your compound, were you among the Americans who sang the Communist Internationale?"

Batchelor smiled and said he was, but he refused to say why. At one point Batchelor spoke of the "Chinese" sending information into the camp — something the Indian Command has sturdily denied. When pressed for details, he again declined to answer.

Refuses Comment He also refused firmly but politely to give any details of his leaving the pro-Red compound early in the morning.

Batchelor said the Chinese told the prisoners that Cpl. Edward S. Dickenson of Big Stone Gap, Va., who left the North Camp Oct. 22, had been "persecuted" by the Americans.

He said he did not know that Dickenson had returned home and married, although the Indian command has said that several compound leaders had been told.

Beavers' Favor Returned; Water Hauled for Dam

PRINCETON, Mo. (AP)—The Leslie Austins are paying back their beavers.

They are pumping water from a well into 10-gallon cans and pouring it into a creek bed behind the beavers' dam, a quarter mile away.

Why? Because the beavers used a smart trick last summer to bring water down the dry creek bed during a drought. When the creek went dry, the beavers dug a trench several hundred yards up the creek to a lower water level and diverted it to their dam — and the Austins' 40 head of thirsty livestock. Finally even that supply was exhausted.

Now it's time to repay the beavers and Mr. and Mrs. Austin aren't shirking.

Hot Session Seen for New '54 Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress will reconvene Wednesday for what promises to be one of the hottest sessions in many a year.

With control of both chambers as well as administration prestige at stake in this November's elections, some Democrats were returning to Washington in a mood that could only be described as boiling mad.

They are aroused by Atty. Gen. Brownell's handling of the Harry Dexter White Communist spy case, the abortive move to subpoena former President Truman, and by New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's linking of Democrats with "diplomatic failure, military failure, death and tragedy."

They are embittered too by what they call a failure of the Eisenhower administration to consult with their leaders on vital foreign policy issues.

President Eisenhower has invited the Democratic leaders to the White House Tuesday for a preview of the foreign policy-defense sections of his State of the Union message, which he will read to Congress on Thursday, but Sen. Sparkman (D-Ala.) declared there is "no prior consultation on foreign policy."

Trio Survives Night on Peak

PORTLAND (AP)—Three climbers marooned Thursday night atop 11,245-foot Mt. Hood during a violent storm made their way back to Timberline Lodge at the 6,000-foot level Friday afternoon.

They apparently suffered no ill effects. Forest Ranger Jim Ralph said. The three, experienced mountaineers, had plenty of equipment and food and little fear was felt for their safety at any time.

Fred Hart, Corvallis, Art Maki, Ridgefield, Wash., and Layden Walsh, Olympia, left the lodge Thursday morning, wanting to be the first on the peak New Year's Day. They expected to reach the top by nightfall and stay overnight.

But a violent storm hit Thursday night, bringing heavy snow and gale force winds. Temperatures were 15 to 20 degrees below freezing.

2 Ships Ram in Pacific

Collision Rips Gaping Hole in Bay-Bound Craft

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The freighters Permanente Silverbow and Colorado collided Friday night off the northern California coast, ripping a gaping hole in the Silverbow's No. 4 hold and flooding the forepeak of the Colorado.

But the Silverbow — which had the most damage — radioed she was proceeding toward San Francisco in calm weather, escorted by the other vessel and the passing Standard Oil Co. tanker J. H. MacGaregill.

The Coast Guard estimated there were 45-50 men aboard each of the ships involved in the collision 11 miles off Ft. Bragg, Calif., 145 airline miles northwest of San Francisco.

A Coast Guard patrol boat left Ft. Bragg to join the escort and the cutter Escanaba was ordered out of San Francisco Bay to give any assistance needed.

The Silverbow, 7,629-ton bulk ore carrier owned by the Kaiser Companies, Inc., and registered out of Oakland, Calif., was en route from Portland, Ore., to San Francisco.

The Colorado, a Victory-class freighter owned by the States Steamship Co. of New York and registered out of Vancouver, Wash., left San Francisco at noon Friday for Manila.

William Allen, NW Cannery Leader Dies

William G. Allen, known as the dean of Northwest cannery and the oldest canner and packer in the region, died early Friday night in a Salem hospital at the age of 77.

Allen, resident of Salem since 1911, had been a pioneer of the food canning industry of Marion County and the Northwest since 1883 and contributed greatly in making Marion County one of the leading food processing areas in the nation.

He was responsible for developing several new methods of food processing.

He operated the Allen Fruit Co. in Salem until 1952 when Allen's business interests were centered at Newberg, site of his cherry processing plant.

Born in Kansas City, Kan., July 31, 1876, Allen came to Oregon in 1892. He and his father, W. K. Allen, started the Allen Evaporating Co. there the following year.

Father and son built more than 100 prune dryers in the Northwest before the turn of the century. His father developed the tunnel system of drying prunes. (Additional details on page 2)

Today's Statesman

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. General News 2,456,12; Society-Women News 3; Editorials, Features 4; Comics 6; Church, Valley News 7; Sports News, Features 8.9; Radio-TV 10; Classifieds 10,11

Big Four Session To Start Jan. 25

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Western powers Friday accepted Russia's date of Jan. 25 for opening the Big Four foreign ministers conference at Berlin and at the same time sought to avert any new delay which might arise from argument over an agenda.

Similar notes were delivered by Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen and British and French envoys to the Soviet Foreign Office.

The American note expressed regret that the Soviet government had not accepted the opening date of Jan. 4 which the United States, Britain and France had proposed. But it went on to say that the U.S. agrees to the date of Jan. 25 suggested in the Russian note of Dec. 26.

The United States also made two other principal points in the message to Moscow — as did the British and French governments in their notes:

1. It was agreed as suggested by Russia that the site of the Berlin talks should be discussed by representatives of the high commissions of the four governments in Germany.

2. The United States reiterated its stand that the building formerly used by the Allied Control Authority (previously suggested for this conference by the Western powers) is a suitable one for the parley.

But the United States has already stated what questions should be considered at the Big Four sessions and does not believe this question of an agenda should be further discussed now since the foreign ministers will soon take it up at their conference.

The Western powers have in fact asserted that the business of the meeting will be to negotiate on the unification of Germany and to complete an Austrian peace treaty.

Russia has served notice that Foreign Minister Molotov will talk about world tensions generally, including the German problem, and will insist upon an early Big Five meeting, including Red China. The Soviets have repeatedly objected to talking about Austria at the Berlin conference.

Crack Train Derailed by Rockies Slide

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The Northern Pacific's crack westbound passenger train the Mainstreet hit a slide between Noxon and Heron, Mont., Friday night, throwing the engine and six baggage cars off the track. The engine crew was reported "shaken up," but no passengers were injured.

Northern Pacific's Spokane dispatcher said none of the sleeping or coach cars in the 17-car train were damaged in the derailment at 6:45 p.m. The portion of the train which remained on the track was returned to St. Regis, Mont., to be rerouted to Spokane.

A wrecking crew was sent out Friday night.

THE WEATHER

Table with 4 columns: Location, Max., Min., Precip. Salem 48, 35, .17; Portland 49, 38, .14; San Francisco 57, 43, Trace; Chicago 43, 33, .00; New York 48, 24, .00; Willamette River 3.6 feet.

Forecast (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy with rain and gusty wind this morning, becoming showery this afternoon and tonight. High today near 45; low tonight near 34. Temperature at 12:01 a. m., 45.

SALEM PRECIPITATION Since start of Weather Year Sept. 1. This Year Last Year Normal 19.61 11.53 18.48

Onetime Pal of Dillinger, Writes Autobiography From Prison Cell

By PHIL SLOCUM Staff Writer, The Statesman Bank robber, war hero, pal of John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd, cellmate of Al Capone and one of the last survivors of the gangster era of American history.

This is the story of James H. Audett — Blackie Audett to the underworld — now a convict for the second time in his life at Oregon State Penitentiary.

This is the story that Audett has put into words. It is his autobiography, but it is also the story of an infamous era in American crime and of the underworld figures who strutted on that stage between the two World Wars.

The book, titleless now, is to be published this summer by William Sloane and Associates of New York.

Those who have read the manuscript call it a "whale of a story" and one that covers a part of Americana never touched on before.

Idea for the book was born two and a half years ago. It grew out of a client-lawyer relationship between Audett and Merlin Estep, Salem attorney.

Said Estep: "It took me more than six months to convince Audett to write the story of his life."

"He told me: 'I've lived a life of hell. If the story of my life was written so that it glorified crime, and children and young people followed in my footsteps... no crime I've ever committed would compare with that crime.'"

But Estep said the book serves an important sociological purpose and "will help to get at the roots of crime prevention."

Once convinced of this himself, Audett unfolded the "fantastic" story of his life — most of it dictated on a wire recorder.

The book starts with his childhood. And there were some tragic years there. Audett also tells of his "first mistake."

It reveals much of the lives of leading underworld characters. But it chiefly focuses on that violent and bullet-plattered gangster era between the first and second World Wars.

(Additional details on page 12)



Wide eyed and open mouthed, 7 pound, 14 ounce David Cleon Crutchfield — Salem's first 1954 baby — is shown above getting acquainted with his mother and father New Year's Day at Salem Memorial Hospital. Little David — who arrived at 6:57 a.m. Friday — has a two-year-old sister, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Crutchfield, 3393 Brown Rd., Salem. (Statesman Photo.)

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

One of the problems which should have the early attention of the Board of Control is preparation of some policy regarding this intermediate penal institution whose construction was stymied only by the opinion of the Attorney General to the effect that the appropriation did not include buying a site. Certainly a paucity of authorization for the institution's operation marks legislation on the subject. The only reference to it in the law books is the inclusion of this item with five others in an appropriation bill passed by the last legislature — for

"The purpose of planning, constructing, altering, repairing, furnishing or equipping an intermediate correctional institution within Marion County, \$1,250,000."

Nothing is said as to its government or operation, or who will be committed to it. The presumption is that settling such questions was left to the next legislature. Very well, planning such legislation now becomes urgent. As has previously been remarked in The Statesman, this interval of enforced idleness on construction may be used very profitably for study of the problem and preparation of legislation making effective the program which may be developed.

An architect has been appointed who has made some studies from his standpoint. So far as I know nothing is being done by any (Continued on Editorial Page 4.)

Student Seeks Financing By Extortion

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police Chief William H. Dovey said Friday a Pomona College student has admitted trying to extort \$40,000 from four wealthy families.

The chief said Robert Wallace Moeen, 23, has signed a statement acknowledging he wrote the letters demanding \$10,000 from each family.

Chief Dovey said Moeen implicated James Chambers, 23, of Long Beach, and that Chambers was booked on suspicion of extortion.

The chief said he will be questioned as a possible accomplice. Intended victims of the plot, detectives said, were James W. Wood and Lester Callahan, millionaire oil men; Elmer Decker, owner of an oilfield equipment firm, and Ed Frank, wealthy furniture dealer, and their families.

Animal Crackers



"I've got that lousy 12 to 4 A.M. shift!"



First baby born in 1954 at Salem General Hospital and the second 1954 child in Salem, 9 lb., 10 1/2 ounce Suzanne Rita Riley is shown above with her mother, Mrs. Earl T. Riley, 5015 Windsor Island Rd., Salem. Suzanne arrived at 9:29 a.m. Friday, and has two brothers and two sisters. (Statesman photo.) (Story on page 2.)

Little New Year Gets Damp, Blustery Start

Little 1954 got off to a damp, blustery start in mid-valley Friday, but otherwise the new year found things very quiet, unmarred by serious mishaps.

Police reported traffic normal and careful with only one accident listed in Salem. Restaurants noted a heavy flow of holiday diners and theaters counted more-than-average patronage.

Many residents took advantage of the day to rest up from accumulated holiday activities and to watch or hear the annual football bowl games on television and radio. Skiing enthusiasts migrated to favorite snow areas at Mt. Hood and Hoodoo Bowl.

Most business will be open today but some announced closures to give hurried employees another day of rest before diving into inventories and January sales.

City workers will get an extra holiday again with offices closed today.

The weatherman declined to take any holiday however, promising high winds with gusts to 50 miles an hour early today. Considerable rain is expected to accompany the storm, tapering off to showers this afternoon.

One Oregon Death On Holiday's List

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS The first fatality of the long New Year's holiday was reported Friday.

Dead is Mrs. J. A. Livingston, 43, of Glide, Ore. She was killed when a car driven by her mother, Mrs. Susan Tillotson, plunged off a narrow road east of Roseburg at about 3 a.m. Friday.

TROUPE RETURNS

NEW YORK (AP)—Arthur Godfrey and his troupe returned Friday after giving a New Year's eve entertainment for American officers and men at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland, the "loneliest Air Force base in the world."

Holiday Toll Remains Low

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Traffic accidents had taken the lives of 132 persons in the first 30 hours of the nation's four-day new year's holiday weekend.

The violent death toll was 175, twenty-four persons perished in fires and 19 others were killed in accidents of miscellaneous types.

Motor mishaps were in 33 states with New York reporting the most, 13. However, Illinois, California and Michigan each reported 12.

A week ago, after approximately the same number of hours in the Christmas holiday period, the total fatalities had reached 249, of which 211 resulted from traffic, 22 from fires and 16 from miscellaneous causes.

Woman Held For Murder

PORTLAND (AP)—Police booked Elicie Carroll Young on a murder charge here Friday after her husband's bullet-punctured body was found in a hotel room.

The man, Norwood Carl Young, 54, had been shot three times—in the back, groin and leg.

Patrolman Lee Stockdale said the woman admitted the shooting. He quoted her as saying, "I got tired of him battering me around."

The shooting climaxed an argument which had been underway for several days, Stockdale said. The Youngs are Negroes.

BLAZE UNDER CONTROL

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A forest fire that menaced Mt. Wilson's observatory and television transmitters appeared virtually controlled Friday.

Woman Held For Murder

PORTLAND (AP)—Police booked Elicie Carroll Young on a murder charge here Friday after her husband's bullet-punctured body was found in a hotel room.

The man, Norwood Carl Young, 54, had been shot three times—in the back, groin and leg.

Patrolman Lee Stockdale said the woman admitted the shooting. He quoted her as saying, "I got tired of him battering me around."

The shooting climaxed an argument which had been underway for several days, Stockdale said. The Youngs are Negroes.

BLAZE UNDER CONTROL

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A forest fire that menaced Mt. Wilson's observatory and television transmitters appeared virtually controlled Friday.

The man, Norwood Carl Young, 54, had been shot three times—in the back, groin and leg.

Patrolman Lee Stockdale said the woman admitted the shooting. He quoted her as saying, "I got tired of him battering me around."

The shooting climaxed an argument which had been underway for several days, Stockdale said. The Youngs are Negroes.

BLAZE UNDER CONTROL

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A forest fire that menaced Mt. Wilson's observatory and television transmitters appeared virtually controlled Friday.

Woman Held For Murder

PORTLAND (AP)—Police booked Elicie Carroll Young on a murder charge here Friday after her husband's bullet-punctured body was found in a hotel room.

The man, Norwood Carl Young, 54, had been shot three times—in the back, groin and leg.

Patrolman Lee Stockdale said the woman admitted the shooting. He quoted her as saying, "I got tired of him battering me around."

The shooting climaxed an argument which had been underway for several days, Stockdale said. The Youngs are Negroes.

BLAZE UNDER CONTROL

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A forest fire that menaced Mt. Wilson's observatory and television transmitters appeared virtually controlled Friday.

The man, Norwood Carl Young, 54, had been shot three times—in the back, groin and leg.

Patrolman Lee Stockdale said the woman admitted the shooting. He quoted her as saying, "I got tired of him battering me around."

The shooting climaxed an argument which had been underway for several days, Stockdale said. The Youngs are Negroes.

BLAZE UNDER CONTROL

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A forest fire that menaced Mt. Wilson's observatory and television transmitters appeared virtually controlled Friday.

Rose Bowl Mich. St. 28, UCLA 20

Orange Bowl Okla. 7, Maryland 0

Sugar Bowl Ga. Tech 42, W. Va. 19

Cotton Bowl Rice 28, Alabama 6

Gator Bowl Tex. T 35, Auburn 13

Sun Bowl Tex. W. 37, Miss. S. 14

Tangerine Bowl Ark. St. 7, E. Tex. St. 7

Salad Bowl Ft. Ord 67, Gt. Lks. 12

(Details on sport pages 8, 9.)

Prison Guard Raise Plan Draws Veto

State Board of Control members announced Friday they have decided against asking for emergency funds to raise the pay of State Prison guards.

The announcement was made in a prepared statement which said the decision was agreed upon by all three members—Gov. Paul Patterson, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbery and Treasurer Sig Ulander.

Specifically, the control board said it would not apply to the State Emergency Board for funds to make possible an increase in guards' starting salary, as urged recently by the Oregon Public Employees Council, an AF of L union.

Leo Butts, Portland agent for the union, recommended a boost of from \$250 to \$300 for guards' starting pay, followed by automatic increases.

Butts contended such an increase would reduce the turnover in prison operating personnel and attract a higher type of guards.

Prison Warden Clarence Gladden also has recommended higher pay.

Board of Control members said that while there was some merit in the proposal for increased salaries for guards this issue was before the 1953 Legislature and the ways and means committee did not grant the request.

Instead, a sub-group of the ways and means committee requested the board of control to conduct a study of the schedule for guards at the Oregon Prison, along with salaries paid to similar employees in penitentiaries of other states and the 1955 recommendations with the 1955 Legislature.

In a statement issued by Board of Control members it was stated that "because of this request the board feels that no circumstance has arisen in the intervening period since adjournment of the 1953 Legislature to justify board members recommending an increase in the salary schedule for guards to the emergency board."

Work on Holiday Costly to Farmer

OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP)—Swain Miles didn't take a holiday Friday and it wound up costing him \$400.

The Daviess County farmer worked all day plowing a field, then discovered that he had plowed under his billfold. It contained his driver's license, social security card, papers and \$400 in cash.

KPTV Wins Okeh For Tall Antenna

PORTLAND (AP)—Station KPTV received permission Thursday from the City Council to replace its 210-foot antenna with a 500-foot one on Council Crest in Portland's West Hills.

Station officials said the new tower, to be shipped soon from Cleveland, would improve reception in fringe areas.



BLACKIE AUDETT