

Was Alligator Seen In Columbia River?

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) — "Yes sir, it was an alligator. All of 14 feet long, too. Right there on the banks of the Columbia," O. B. Cunningham said. "Where?"

"On the banks of the Columbia, about a mile upstream from the Pasco-Kennewick bridge. I thought it was a log until it began to move and I could see it had four legs and a tail."

His wife and son saw it too, he said. Cunningham, a resident of Kennewick, told his story to the Tri-City Herald. The Herald, feeling that such an event had news value, printed the story. Scoffers hoisted and hollered in derision, suggesting the name of several local eyeglass vendors for Cunningham.

But not George F. Epley of Pasco. Nossir. He said "igators in the Columbia are old stuff and he helped capture two of them 38 years ago. "I was about to step on a log," he recalled, "when it started to move. It turned out to be a 7-foot alligator."

He said he and three other men later found the 7-footer sunning himself on a railroad trestle. "It's a wonder there are any survivors," they captured it and another one, trussing them up with a coil of rope. The "igators then were given the Portland Zoo, he related.

Epley said the theory was advanced at the time that the alligators came from tropical regions by boat to Portland and then upstream to Pasco by train. A circus playing in the region at the time denied any knowledge of the toothy creatures.

Epley figures Cunningham's big one could be related to the other two, growing seven feet in the 38 years.

Cunningham and Epley pooh-pooh any suggestion that what Cunningham saw might have been a giant sturgeon. "Sturgeons also look like logs," Epley said, "but I've yet to see one with legs — climbing a river bank."

Or, for that matter, snuggling itself on a railroad trestle, eh, Epley?

Ike Praises Bipartisan U.S. Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower Wednesday expressed firm belief in a bipartisan foreign policy and the Democratic leader of the Senate said his party was willing to go "more than half way" to achieve it.

"As Americans interested in the preservation of our country, I think we should be able to work together in any area of foreign policy, where we are in agreement," Sen. Lyndon Johnson (D-Texas) told the Senate.

At the same time, chairman Leonard W. Hall of the Republican National Committee accused "a few disgruntled Democrats... men of little faith" of "attempting to talk us into an international panic."

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Extortion Letter Sent to Mayor Of San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Mayor Elmer E. Robinson received an extortion letter — possibly from a woman — demanding \$20,000 on pain of death, police admitted Wednesday.

Police and FBI agents guarded Mayor Robinson as he dedicated a downtown garage Wednesday. Presence of so many officers and plainclothes men caused newsmen to ask questions.

"We think we know who sent the letter," Police Chief Michael A. Gaffey told them. "We think it's a woman."

The mayor had this comment on the case: "When police are ready to crack it, there will be a good story."

He said he had not read the letter, received by his wife at his home Monday, but had turned it over to police immediately.

French Planes Blast Reds in River Delta

HANOI, Indochina (AP) — Big squadrons of French Privateers and B26 bombers Wednesday again blasted Vietminh troops in the Red River delta, which a French general called "the route to all of Southeast Asia."

The planes, dropping 1,000-pound high explosive bombs, hit rebel bases in the southern and southeastern delta. The French fear that the area may be the Communist-led Vietminh's new No. 1 target now that Dien Bien Phu has fallen. Rebel troops which took part in the long siege of Dien Bien Phu were reported moving toward the western edge of the delta.

The planes hammered rebel troops entrenched in villages north from the railway and highway linking Hanoi and Haiphong on the coast. These routes are the main supply line for French Union forces in Northern Indochina.

Carefully avoiding the Vietminh troops concentrated in the hills around Dien Bien Phu, the bombers also roared northwest and blasted five big gaps in key highways over which truck convoys with supplies and Vietminh troops were moving east.

The air force also hit a big Vietminh munitions base at Yem Bay, on the upper Red River 80 miles northwest of Hanoi, touching off big explosions and fires.

The heavy aerial assaults slowed the shifting of Vietminh troops out of the Dien Bien Phu area east toward the perimeter of the Red River delta.

Although French authorities said they felt it would take six to eight weeks for the Vietminh to shift into the delta, the French warplanes were doing all they could to slow down that schedule.

Salem Firms Low Bidders On Road Jobs

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon's state highway commissioners Wednesday expressed considerable doubt over a proposal put forward by Glen Jackson, Medford, as spokesman for the State Industrial Development Commission.

He suggested that the highway commission take over direction of the tourist promotion business in Oregon. He said there now were 120 such promotion groups, and much money could be saved if the highway commission would unify the efforts.

The commissioners said they doubted they had authority to do that, but took the proposal under advisement. Bid action included: Klamath-Grading slope on The Dalles-California Highway, f. o. laws, Salem, \$37,000. Referred to engineers.

Lebanon-Crabtree Corner Road, Orland C. Bennard, Portland, \$15,040. Referred to engineers. Marion-Paving 26 of a mile in Detroit. Warren Northwest, Inc., Portland, \$7,261. Awarded.

Polk-Grading and oiling 3.18 miles of Burns County-Suwer County Road, seven miles south of Dallas. Fred Rouse and Henry H. Miller, Salem, \$94,928. Referred to engineers.

More Sunshine On Weather Slate

The sun is slated to be on the agenda for the Salem area through Friday according to predictions by the U.S. weatherman at McNary Field. Highest temperature looked for today is about 72 degrees with a low tonight of about 42 degrees. Range in Salem Wednesday was a high of 64 and a low of 42 degrees.

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Canada Lauds Change in U.S. Power Policy

OTTAWA (AP) — Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canadian chairman of the International Joint Commission, said Wednesday the United States is abandoning what he called its "ostrich-head-in-the-sand attitude" to downstream benefits for Canada from Columbia River power.

He also told the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee the \$25,000,000 Mica Creek Dam project on the British Columbia section of the Columbia could be cleared for construction within a year.

McNaughton said intense rivalry is developing between British Columbia and the Northwest United States over who is going to receive the benefits of Columbia River power.

He said the Eisenhower administration had decided to encourage the states and private interests to develop the project. The five states concerned — Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Utah — were reaching an agreement on downstream benefits. If the states could reach such an agreement, there was a better chance of the United States arriving at such an agreement with Canada, he said.

Refused Discussion
A year ago, McNaughton said, the American section of the International Joint Commission refused to discuss downstream rights and was instructed not even to talk about it.

The Libby Dam would back up water into Canada for 42 miles, flooding out agricultural land, roads, railroads and communications.

The United States a year ago was willing to make a cash settlement in compensation for these losses but refused to give Canada any rights to the power which would be developed at Libby. Canada is holding out for a share in the power, or downstream, rights. May Give Power.

"The United States now is moving in the direction of giving power in exchange for flooded land, not only cash," McNaughton said. "The principle of downstream benefits is coming to be recognized in the United States. It is no longer just a pious hope."

"We want only our fair share, nothing more. We now are in a more favorable position than a year ago for our representations to be dealt with."

The general referred to Mica Creek below the big bend of the Columbia as an "astronomical investment." He said there is no doubt in the minds of commission engineers that the Mica Creek Dam should be built. It was up to the British Columbia government to decide whether it would be built and, if so, by whom.

Sweden Asks U.S. if Planes Violate Border

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden has asked the United States and Britain to make a thorough investigation of whether any of their aircraft have crossed into Swedish territory without authority, the Swedish Foreign Office said Wednesday night.

The announcement said the Swedes are "expecting definite answers." The Foreign Office said no similar request had been made to Russia since the Soviet Embassy here, after receiving instructions from Moscow, voluntarily declared the planes in question were not Russian.

The request to the United States and Britain follows a series of flights, over Swedish territory by unidentified aircraft two weeks ago.

Army Leads Study Of Radiation As Food Preservative

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army has taken over direction of an intensified program to determine whether radiation can replace present means of preserving food.

An Army announcement Wednesday said the Atomic Energy Commission will discontinue its research work in this field but will cooperate with the Army.

Research to date, the Army said, indicates radiation may offer as great possibilities as other means of sterilizing food, such as chemicals, or the use of heat or cold.

RUSS DENY CHARGE
LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Government denied Wednesday a U.S. charge that American prisoners in the Korean War had been turned over to the Soviet Union by North Korea and Red China.

A normal human ear can distinguish about 333,000 different tones.

Salem Firm's Bid Wins on Fish Tanks

A low bid of \$9,848 by Stevens Equipment Company, 110 Division St., won the company contract to deliver three fish liberation tank units on government-furnished trucks to the Portland district, Corps of Engineers.

One other bid of \$10,500 was received from the Honeyman Manufacturing Company, Portland. Unit price bid by Stevens was \$3,283 and Honeyman, \$3,350.

Two of the tanks are destined for duty at the Leaburg Dam trout hatchery on the McKenzie River. The other will go to the Marion Forks salmon hatchery, 24 miles east of Detroit dam on the North Santiam River.

38 Students Honored at Oregon State

CORVALLIS (AP) — Awards went to 38 students at the annual honors and awards convocation on the Oregon State College campus Wednesday.

Tex. R. Whiteman of Corvallis, a varsity basketball player, won the Corvallis Elks senior award given the junior man judged to have contributed most to OSC in three years through student activities, citizenship and leadership. It is a tuition and cash scholarship for eight months of the senior year.

Ethel L. Doyle, Moscow, Idaho, received the senior woman award for intellect, spirit and wholesome influence. Frances Louise Duryee of North Bend, Ore., won the Drucilla Shepard Smith award for highest scholarship. Her average was 3.96. Straight A is 4.0.

Among the other awardees, Margaret Robb Baker, won the Clara H. Waldo award for senior women.

Chiropractor Removed From State Board

PORTLAND (AP) — Ed Armstrong, the governor's administrative assistant, announced here Wednesday night that Dr. C. C. Dunham, Seaside chiropractor, has been removed from office as secretary-treasurer of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

He said the other members of the chiropractic board Dr. F. I. Goddard, Salem, and Dr. J. E. Mitchell, The Dalles, will go to Seaside Thursday to investigate matters and protect the interests of the state.

Kidnap Try Trial Starts In Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — Jimmy Valentine, 41, telling reporters "this is the first time I ever was in jail when I could say I was innocent," went on trial Wednesday on a kidnap attempt charge.

Valentine, who gained eight pounds while off his narcotics habit while in jail awaiting trial, is accused of trying to abduct George P. Brice III, 9, son of a wealthy financier, from a fashionable private school last March 19.

The grand jury indicted him after the boy's mother and their maid identified him as the man who forced them to drive to the school to get the boy.

Valentine also was indicted for kidnaping the two women but the current trial involves only the try against the boy. The abduction attempt failed when Mrs. Brice was allowed to enter the school alone and gave the alarm.

Selection of a jury will continue Thursday. The first session attracted an overflow crowd.

ROME WORKERS STRIKE

ROME (AP) — Rome's industrial workers went on a 24-hour strike for higher wages at midnight Wednesday.

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Tot Admits Being Lost, Returned Home

Three-year-old Linda Lyda, 2020 N. Church St., and her black dog on a leash, gave parents and police a start Wednesday afternoon when she turned up missing from home.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lyda, called city police. The youngster, in the meantime, came across two grade school girls some distance from home and confessed to them that she was lost. They returned her to her parents.

Who Froze Monkey Tail?

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Who froze the monkey's tail? City zoo officials say it already was frozen when he was donated last November by James Terry. "Not so," Terry said Wednesday.

The question arose Monday when zoo officials tried to catch the monkey and his tail hit the cage. To make a long tail short, the frozen four inches just fell off.

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Corporate Tax Rate Kept in Revision Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Finance Committee confirmed officially Wednesday it has tentatively approved several important sections of the omnibus tax revision bill including a year's extension of the 52 per cent corporate tax rate.

The committee issued its first statement of its actions after seven days of closed-door hearings on the 875-page bill. Several weeks of additional sessions are in prospect.

Chairman Millikin (R-Colo.) said any further interim reports are contingent on newsmen making it clear that sections all are subject to reconsideration.

Reporters had been informed privately in the past week of several of the major committee decisions.

One of these was the extension for a year, to April 1, 1955, of the 52 per cent corporation tax rate. Without the extension, it drops to 47 per cent.

More Revenue
The administration asked for this to bring in an extra \$1,200,000,000 of revenue in the next year. This will largely offset, in the first year of operation of the measure, the \$1,400,000,000 of revenue losses caused by various other sections.

Among other provisions tentatively approved were: Allowance to farmers of a tax deduction for specified soil conservation expenses up to 25 per cent of gross income. The finance committee modified this to make clear the provision applies to earthen dams not subject to depreciation, and to construction of water-courses and ponds.

Granting of full split income benefits to widows and widowers with dependent children and single people with very close dependent relatives. The Finance Committee modified this to make a taxpayer eligible for the benefit if the dependent is a "grandchild, one of whose parents is dead."

Lists Deductions
Increasing the allowable deductions for charitable contributions to 30 per cent instead of the present 20 per cent. The House made this additional 10 per cent applicable to religious orders, educational institutions, hospitals, churches, and conventions of churches. The Finance Committee struck "religious orders" from this list.

Elimination of the basic rate of 20 per cent income tax on \$1,200 of retirement income. The House reduced this credit if the individual earns more than \$900 a year. The Finance Committee knocked out the \$900 limitation for persons over 75.

Permitting taxpayers to deduct medical expenses above three per cent of gross income instead of 5 per cent as in present law. The provision also doubles the present ceiling and makes it \$2,500 per person and \$10,000 per family.

The Senate group knocked out of the bill a House provision permitting the taxpayer to deduct interest charges up to 6 per cent of the average unpaid balance on an installment buying contract. Under present law, he may deduct the interest only if it is separately stated in the installment contract.

Lipstick on Hankie Not Grounds for Separation

QUEBEC (AP) — Lipstick on a husband's handkerchief doesn't establish grounds for a legal separation, Justice Oscar Boulanger has ruled in superior court.

The judge said a wife did not have grounds for a separation simply because at a dance a husband could not resist the temptation to taste his partner's lipstick.

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Gordon McRae To Headline Two Rose Fete Shows

PORTLAND (AP) — Gordon McRae, radio and television singing star, will headline two Rose Festival night shows here June 10-11.

The Portland Rose Festival Assn. announced Wednesday McRae had signed a contract to sing on "Starlight Serenade," a festival musical presentation on a Thursday and a Friday night.

He is the second name attraction lined up for this year's festival. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, famed Hollywood western couple, and their horses will lead the big annual parade June 11.

Meters to Replace Hitching Posts

EUGENE (AP) — Landmarks of the horse-and-buggy days here—two hitching posts—have been ordered torn down by the City Council.

Appropriately the posts, which have been little used in recent years, will be replaced on the county park block downtown with parking meters.

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