

Grand Finals of Mid-Valley Spelling Contest Tonight

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IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sengue

The fight over Snake River hydroelectric development in Hells Canyon heads for a showdown battle. Tuesday bills were introduced in Senate and House in Washington to authorize the federal government to undertake this development. Its sponsors were Senators Morse and Neuberger of Oregon, Magnuson and Jackson of Washington and 26 of their colleagues, and three members of the House: Mrs. Edith Green of Oregon's third district, Don Magnuson of Washington and Mrs. Gracie Plost of Idaho. Only two Republicans are among the number: Senators Langer and Young of North Dakota. Never before has such a strong front been presented for this project; and it seems certain that the question now will go to a decision on the floors of Congress. Favorable action there would not insure federal development, for the bill would require presidential approval with scant chance of repassage over an executive veto. This referral to Congress is welcome, for it is the proper body to make the decision on a policy which involves not only the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars but also the future role of the federal government in power development here and over the nation. Of course such a decision would not be final because some future Congress could alter or reverse a policy decision. As far as Hells Canyon itself (Continued on editorial page, 4)

Ike Over Cold But Mamie Still Has Flu

WASHINGTON (U) — President Eisenhower went golfing Wednesday after the White House reported he was almost completely recovered from a "slight cold." Word on the President's condition was relayed to newsmen by his physician, Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder, who also sent a message that Mrs. Eisenhower still was in bed with the flu but feeling better. James C. Hagerly, White House press secretary, quoted Snyder as saying the first lady was progressing satisfactorily. Hagerly added, however, that she has cancelled all her engagements for the rest of the week. Snyder ordered Mrs. Eisenhower to bed Monday. The President developed what Hagerly called "slight symptoms of a cold" Tuesday, and he stayed away from his office most of that day. The chief executive cancelled a news conference he had scheduled for Wednesday but did keep a breakfast engagement at the Sulgrave Club with a group of Republican women.

Princess Said Ready to Wed Commoner

LONDON (U) — Princess Margaret, was reported ready Wednesday to surrender her royal prerogatives for the love of a divorced commoner. The 24-year-old princess and RAF Group Capt. Peter Townsend, 40, father of two children, intend to marry this fall, an informant in touch with the royal family said. The informant declined use of his name. Townsend, British air attaché in Belgium, was quoted as saying: "There can be nothing said until the time is ready or somebody else does something." Word that the engagement is to be announced was leaked here in London to an important group of commonwealth newspapers. There is every indication the people of Britain and the commonwealth are being tested to determine how they would react to a formal announcement.

New Jet Fighters Can Be Carried In Mother Planes

WASHINGTON (U) — The Air Force disclosed Wednesday it has formed the first unit of jet fighters capable of being launched from and returning to mother planes. The unit, the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, has been activated at Great Falls, Mont.



"That's right, Junior—but keep your nose down and look worried!"

Parrish Site for Big 'Bee'

Fifteen girls and five boys will compete under the floodlights of Parrish Junior High tonight for the championship of The Statesman-KSLM Mid-Valley Spelling Contest for 1955.

The 20 Grand Finalists comprise the top two spellers from each of the 10 semi-finals in which the champions of 84 schools participated in the last two weeks. The contest takes in Marion, Polk and parts of Linn and Yamhill Counties.

Tonight's finals will begin at 7:45 p.m. and the public is invited without charge or collection of any kind. Much of the contest will be broadcast direct from the stage by KSLM. Top prize is a \$100 defense bond.

Prior to the picturesque spelling bee, the 20 Grand Finalists, their 20 teachers, county school officials and judges are to be guests of the sponsors at a dinner at Parrish. The event is designed to give the contestants time to become acquainted and familiar with their surroundings.

Contest in 5th Year

Judges for tonight's finals are Supreme Court Justice Harold Warner, and Circuit Judges Joseph Felton and Arlie Walker. Dave Hoss, KSLM, will be master of ceremonies, and Wendell Webb, Statesman, will call the words.

This year's spelling contest is the fifth in successive years. Nearly 4,000 pupils took part. It was open to every school with 7th or 8th grades in this area, public and parochial. No announcement has been made regarding continuance of the contest.

Woman Beaten, Youth Admits Attack Attempt

An unemployed Salem youth Wednesday night confessed to the nighttime bludgeoning of a 31-year-old woman a few hours before state police caught him walking north on U. S. 99E a few miles from town.

Charged with assault with intent to commit rape is Floyd Gene Gard, 21, 860 Marion St., who, police said, elected to type his confession of the attack he ultimately decided against.

The victim, Mrs. Beatrice Erickson, a roomer at the same address, is in "good" condition at Salem General Hospital where she was taken after passers-by encountered her walking in a daze in the 800 block of Marion Street.

She sustained minor scalp lacerations in an attack with a pipe or a wrench which, she said, began at the rooming house telephone on the first floor and ended in the house's basement, from which she escaped through a window.

Police said Gard, in his signed confession, admitted striking Mrs. Erickson, a widow, while she was using the telephone. They said the youth's account then related that he pursued her into the basement where he attempted to choke her into submission.

His account, police said, related that he lost heart at sight of her head injuries. He told police he then left the house after changing his clothes and washing up, and spent the afternoon in a downtown movie house.

Toward nightfall he started hitchhiking north and got as far as Brooks where he was apprehended by State Policeman George Simons, acting on the basis of descriptions.

Gard, who faces arraignment in district court today, was in city jail under \$5,000 bond.

Windy Night Expected Here

The possibility of fairly high winds tonight was seen by U. S. weather forecasters at McNary Field Wednesday. They predict partial cloudiness in the morning and scattered showers this afternoon and tonight.

Temperatures will be about the same as Wednesday's. The highs to be about 50 and the night's low about 40.

The state highway department warned motorists to drive carefully at higher elevations because of ice.

Father Saves Two Children, But Is Burned Critically

PORTLAND (U) — A 28-year-old father was burned critically Wednesday while saving two small daughters from a fire that destroyed the family home southeast of here.

15 Girls, 5 Boys All Set to Vie For Top Place

These 20 top spellers in The Statesman-KSLM Mid-Valley Spelling Contest for 1955 have won their way into the Grand Finals to be held at Parrish Junior High at 7:45 tonight.



Patsy Baker Buena Crest



Mary Ann Cain Turner



Colleen Crannell Amity



Betty Eder Woodburn



Carl Graffenberger Salem Academy



Eileen Hoffman Dallas J.H.



Robert Noyes Jr. Riverside



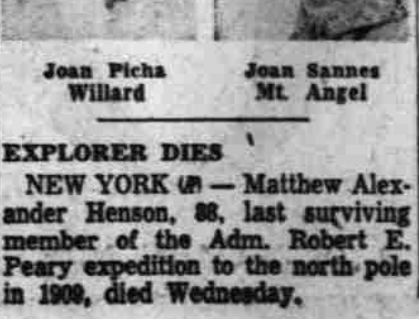
Susan Jean Hunt Broadacres



Charlene Kaubie Williams



Lonnie Kilmer Perrydale



Loret King Victor Point



Carol Marx Oak Grove

Dog Told to Quit Driving

WEST LOS ANGELES (U) — Harry Bernstein's cocker spaniel was in the doghouse Wednesday, with a stern warning to never again drive the family car. Bernstein had come out of a market March 1 and started his car when the dog jumped in, landed on the accelerator. With the car in reverse gear it crashed into two cars. Bernstein shifted into forward. The pup was still on the accelerator. The automobile shot forward and rammed three more vehicles before it finally stopped. Officer Jeanne F. Tabbs compiled the damage reports and gave the bill to Bernstein Wednesday — \$1,325.

County D.A. Won't Seek Re-Election

District Attorney Kenneth E. Brown, announced Wednesday he would not be a candidate for re-election to the Marion County post next year.

Brown, a Republican from Silverton, said he would return to full-time practice in Silverton after his tour of service is completed Jan. 7, 1957. He has maintained a part-time office in Silverton since his election to the four-year term in November 1952.

The young county prosecutor cited the low pay of the post for his decision to step out of the running for the job. He said it was impractical to maintain a private practice and continue public office at the same time.

Under regulations the district attorney is permitted to continue private practice, but devotes a major portion of his time to the public office. The pay for the post is \$5,800 annually.

Brown said he feels the district attorney job should be full-time and added that the county should get full-time pay \$10,000 to get a good full-time prosecutor.

Hotel Worker Questioned In Girl's Death

HELENA, Mont. (U) — A 28-year-old hotel worker, described as a "friend of the family" was held without charge Wednesday night as police pressed their investigation of the death of an attractive Helena high school girl.

Sheriff-Coroner Dave Middlemas of Lewis and Clark County, said "there is every indication that the girl, Renee Marlene McCarty, was murdered."

The 18-year-old victim was found dead in a downtown Helena apartment by an aunt Tuesday afternoon.

Middlemas said the girl apparently was strangled, but said he has not been able to find a motive. He added there were no signs of a sex attack.

Helena Chief of Police John Fred said that his department was questioning several persons, including the hotel worker, whose stories "don't jibe." He declined to give names.

Train Strikes Car in Salem

Two Salem persons were shaken up shortly after midnight today when the car in which they were riding was struck by a Southern Pacific freight train at Union and Liberty streets.

They are Mrs. Stella Ott, 390 McNary Ave., the driver, who suffered a slight head cut and sore neck, and A. C. Wood, 146 Water St., whose hand was cut. Mrs. Lorene Ouellette, another passenger in the small sedan, appeared to be uninjured.

The front end of the car was struck by the locomotive, which shoved it clear of the tracks. The branchline train, whose engineer was T. N. Kelso, Portland, was en route to Salem from McMinnville.

SALEM PRECIPITATION Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1 This Year Last Year Normal

Solons Approve Harlan

10-4 Vote Backs Nominee for Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (U) — The nomination of Circuit Judge John Marshall Harlan for a seat on the Supreme Court was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday.

A 10-4 vote, with one member abstaining, ended a drawn-out controversy within the committee over President Eisenhower's nominee to replace the late Justice Robert H. Jackson on the nation's highest court.

Chairman Kilgore (D-WV) said he hoped to get the nomination up on the Senate floor quickly, but acknowledged it would take several days. Odds appeared to favor confirmation of the tall, gray-haired 55-year-old grandson of a Supreme Court justice, although not without challenge.

Sen. Dirksen (R-Ill.) foresaw "a bit of a floor fight." Dirksen voted for Harlan in committee.

The Senate confirmed Harlan more than a year ago as a judge of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. Voting against his promotion Wednesday were Sens. Eastland (D-Miss.), Olin Johnson (D-SC), Langer (R-ND) and Welker (R-Idaho).

Views Criticized Kilgore said Sen. McClelland (D-Ark.) merely voted "present." The controversy over Harlan raged mainly over his views on world government. Critics raised the question whether he would hold treaties paramount to the constitution and domestic law. They noted he was a member of the National Advisory Council of Atlantic Union.

Harlan said he hadn't been active in Atlantic Union, an organization which says it opposes world government but favors studying the desirability of a closer working arrangement among North Atlantic Treaty nations.

Harlan also said he was no "one-worlder" and opposed any surrender of American sovereignty.

Quakes Jolt Hawaii Area Each Minute

PAHOA, Hawaii (U) — Earthquakes jolted the volcano-devastated Puna District Wednesday at the rate of one a minute.

Fears mounted that the Eastern trip of Hawaii Island would explode in a new outbreak of gushing eruptions. Steam and fumes still rise from rifts and craters which last week flooded rich cane lanes with molten rock.

Seismologist Jerry Eaton said the quakes were "bigger in size" than Tuesday's and at least five times threw the needle off the recording equipment.

He said the quakes appeared centered south of here. Civil defense officials continued to plan for evacuation of this village if eruptions start up again.

The Puna District east and southeast of here was evacuated last week during volcanic eruptions which caused more than three million dollars damage.

Maj. Gen. Fred Mackinney, territorial director of civil defense, said a survey was made for possible evacuation of the village only as a "precautionary measure."

NEW YORK (U) — The Air Force broke the speed record for Los Angeles to New York Wednesday with three jet planes making the flight non-stop in less than four hours.

The pilots said they could have done it faster except for slow and obsolete mid-air refueling tanker planes.

Lt. Col. Robert R. Scott, 34, of Des Moines, Iowa, flying a Republic F4U Thunderbolt, turned in the fastest time—3 hours 46 minutes and 33 seconds. He averaged about 649 miles an hour.

Effects of Income Tax Rise Plans on Taxpayers Shown

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE City Editor, The Statesman

Like it or not, the state income tax will be expected to produce most of the new revenue needed by the Oregon Legislature to balance the state budget.

This is now conceded by most of the legislators who are wrestling with the finance problem, but the method of boosting income taxes is far from decided. Eight or ten proposals are on record.

How any of these would hit the individual taxpayer is now under study by the House taxation committee, along with how much revenue any plan would net.

To show "who is hit how," the State Tax Commission research section has prepared charts after analyzing most of the income tax plans for the legislative committee.

New revenue ranges from \$20 to \$55 million a biennium as goal of the various plans.

House Tax-Chairman Loran Stewart predicts his committee will have to "find" at least \$55 million after the ways and means committee has recommended appropriations, and not more than \$16 million of this will be found in revenue measures outside the general income tax, sales tax or property levy.

Income Tax Likely Source of Rise

Since strong resistance to enacting a sales tax or falling back of a state property tax is felt in the Legislature, the tax committee is going after the income tax for the \$39 million needed the next two years.

Now, just how would Mr. Taxpayer make out, plan by plan? The Statesman presents here a digest from the tax commission analysis. Basic comparison of present with proposed rates is figured at various income levels for a joint return for husband, wife and one child.

GOVERNOR'S PLAN, eliminating the federal income tax offset, estimated to raise an added \$30 million: On \$4,000 total income, tax would be \$10 more; on \$5,000, tax would be \$21 more; on \$10,000, tax would be \$86 more. No effect under \$3,000 income.

Tax increased by 1/4 to 1/2 on incomes \$3,000 to \$10,000, and by increasing percentages up to 124 per cent on \$100,000. Single taxpayer would pay 30 to 40 per cent more tax on incomes between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

DEMOCRAT PLAN, placing a 30 per cent surtax on present income tax: On \$4,000 income, tax is \$12 more; on \$5,000, is \$20 more; on \$10,000 is \$74 more.

LABOR-FARM PLAN, recommending percentage increase in tax brackets: (This plan didn't specify the amount of increase, but Tax Commission computed the following by adding 1 per cent to the tax rate in each bracket.)

On \$4,000 income, tax is \$17 more; on \$5,000, is \$24 more; on \$10,000, is \$83 more. On \$3,000 income, the increase is \$9 which amounts to about 50 per cent. Range otherwise is 25 to 40 per cent higher tax on \$4,000 to \$10,000 incomes; 14 to 18 per cent on higher incomes. Single taxpayers would mostly pay 20 to 30 per cent more.

ELIMINATING EXEMPTIONS: (As one of several variations, this plan is based on doing away with the \$600 personal exemptions, but retaining dependency credits of \$600 for each dependent, except spouse.)

On \$4,000 income, tax is \$45 more; on \$5,000, is \$48 more; on \$10,000, is \$72 more. Biggest increase comes in lower incomes, being \$29 compared with present \$2 tax on \$2,000 income and \$53 compared with present \$18 on \$3,000. Tax increase amount to 29 per cent on \$10,000 income and 3 to 11 per cent on incomes over \$20,000. Single persons with \$4,000 to \$10,000 income would face tax increases of 10 to 25 per cent.)

PLANS WOULD REVISE EXEMPTIONS

TAX CREDITS PLAN: Different variations have been suggested for doing away with present personal exemptions and dependency credits as deductions from income and replacing the same with stated tax credits which would be deducted from finally computed tax. In this connection, the Tax Commission has compiled effects of removing both personal and dependency exemptions from taxable income. This would be the highest income tax increase of the many plans analyzed for comparison purposes, and would raise an estimated \$26 million in additional taxes each year.

Tax would be doubled or tripled for incomes under \$6,000 and would increase 44 to 83 per cent on incomes up to \$10,000.

Portland Blaze Kills 5

6 Unaccounted For in Hotel Fire; Smoker Held

PORTLAND (U) — At least five men died as fire blazed on a cigarette, swept through an old hotel early Wednesday.

Fire Marshal Dale Gilman said late in the day that six persons on the register were unaccounted for but may have gone to other hotels nearby on the waterfront fringe of the business district. These were being checked.

C. W. Stickney, assistant fire marshal, said the blaze started from a smoldering blanket in a second-floor hallway. Stickney quoted Russell Uren, 42, a tenant, as saying a cigarette he was smoking set fire to a blanket. Uren told Stickney he poured water on the blanket and believing the blaze was out, threw it into the hallway in front of his room.

Charges of involuntary manslaughter were filed against Uren and another tenant who escaped the fire with him, Ann Alexander, 46.

A huge rubble heap from the collapse of the roof and floors of the three-story structure was being sifted for possible other victims. This, Gilman said, would take "a long time."

The hotel, the Lind, was occupied mostly by permanent guests, many of them elderly. The known dead included men 63 to 78 years old.

Early Morning The alarm for the fire was sounded shortly after 1 a.m. Before dawn four bodies had been recovered and a fifth was found in the first checking of the ashes.

The hotel occupied the second and third floors of the building. Gilman said that as a guest, loss was around \$200,000. Shops occupied the first floor.

The guests fled down corridors and fire escapes in night clothing. Firemen, checking rooms, ran into heavy smoke and at one time seven of them were stretched out on the sidewalk receiving oxygen. Four firemen and six guests went to a hospital, but there were no critical hurts and hospital attendants said only one was burned. The others were treated for inhaling smoke and for shock.

Sat in Water Among those treated were Uren and a woman who had jumped into a lightwell where they sat in water nearly two hours while the building burned around them. Tomo Saito, the proprietor, said his father-in-law, George Nunotani, 78, died because he wouldn't leave until he was dressed. Saito, his wife, their seven children and his parents got out.

The other dead were George Nadenhoff, 69; Jack Boyesen, 63; Robert Edward Roden and Bill Covington.

Church Burns At Silverton

SILVERTON—The old C. M. Wray house, converted into a church by the Latter Day Saints, was gutted Wednesday noon by a fire which firemen said caused "several thousand dollars" damage.

Until the structure, located at Oak and Second streets, is rebuilt, LDS services will be held at the Knights of Pythias Hall.

Firemen saved the exterior of the large frame house and prevented the fire from spreading to a house nearby. The piano and other furnishings were saved.

Cause of the blaze is not known. Members of the church said there was no fire in its furnace. The property, they said, is insured through the parent church at Salt Lake City.

PLANE OVERDUE HILLA AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (U) — Officials at this northern Utah air base said a B25 carrying a crew of three was overdue on a flight from Hilla to March Air Force Base in California Wednesday night.

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