

World's Largest Cavern Discovered in Kentucky

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE
Associated Press
Science Reporter

ATLANTA (AP) — Explorers Tuesday announced discovery of the world's largest cave—a 32-mile maze of passageways and cavernous rooms—near Cave City, Ky., 100 miles south of Louisville.

It may actually prove to be 60 miles in total length when all passageways are mapped. Until now, the largest known cave system was the 24-mile Holloch Cave in Switzerland.

The announcement was made by the National Speleological Society.

The king-sized cave is the Floyd Collins Crystal Cave, now found to be the nucleus of a great system of inter-connecting caves.

It was in one of its narrow passageways nearly 30 years ago, that Floyd Collins, a daring explorer, became pinned by debris. His life ebbed away before rescuers could reach him.

The 32-mile of passages and rooms criss-cross, with the deepest of them being no more than 200 feet deep, said Brother G. Nicholas, FSC, Cumberland, Md., vice-presi-

dent of research of the NSS. He has been one of 100 members of the society who have been exploring and mapping the cave system.

Some passages are so narrow the explorers had to crawl for a quarter mile on their stomachs. At other points, the cave opens up into chambers 50 feet high and 100 feet wide, said Nicholas. The cave system was all formed by water eroding away limestone.

Blind fish, beetles, bats and cave rats have been found in the caves. Brother Nicholas said.

New Income Tax Forms Simpler, But Not Simplest

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (AP)—A brand new set of income tax forms are in the mail and "We think they are more understandable than any we have produced in recent years," Russell C. Harrington, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, said Tuesday in a speech.

But Harrington said his office doesn't claim these are the ultimate in simplicity. He suggested that would be a four-line job like this:

1. How much money did you make last year?
2. How much did you spend?
3. How much do you have left?
4. Mail it to the Internal Revenue Service.

Floods Ease; Toll Rises

State to Tally Flood Damage

State Civil Defense Director Arthur M. Sheets was asked by Gov. Paul Patterson Tuesday to make surveys of flood damage to bridges, sewers and water systems. Oregon deaths attributed to the floods climbed to 12.

When the surveys are completed, the federal emergency restoration fund will be asked for money to make repairs.

Gov. Patterson Tuesday stressed, however, that applications for grants should be deferred until a complete survey has been made.

Gov. Patterson said heaviest damage from the floods probably occurred in Coos and Douglas Counties.

Reports Tuesday indicated that the flood situation is improving.

Flood waters in Oregon have involved about 1,430 families and 157 business organizations, according to a state civil defense commission report being compiled. (Additional Oregon flood story, Sec. 2, Page 1).

Known Dead in 2 States 46; 19 to 35 Lost

(Pictures, Sec. 2, Page 5)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The known death toll from California's tragic week of floods mounted Tuesday to 34 as the swirling waters dropped sharply and further danger diminished.

Five new victims were added to the California death list Tuesday, raising the Pacific Coast total—California 34, Oregon 12—to 46.

How many more dead will be found as searchers and reconstruction crews continue the gigantic task of cleaning up the debris is extremely uncertain with populations scattered. Some towns were virtually destroyed. Estimates of missing who could be presumed dead ranged from 19 to 35 or more.

Establishment of Can Plant One Step Closer

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE
City Editor, The Statesman

Passage of a new city law Tuesday night brought one step closer the proposed establishment of an American Can Co. manufacturing plant in North Salem.

The City Council at its regular business meeting in City Hall accepted from Cascade Meats, Inc., a 60-foot strip of land, dedicated to the industrial land north of the Cascade Meat plant and east of the Southern Pacific tracks.

Last Hand



BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Contract bridge expert Ely Culbertson died Tuesday after a heart attack.

Culbertson, Noted Bridge Expert, Dies

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP) — Ely Culbertson, 64, internationally famous bridge authority, died Tuesday after a short illness.

Culbertson had been suffering for years with a lung congestion condition that resulted in a shortness of breath. Death was ascribed to heart failure due to insufficient oxygen.

In addition to developing his contract bridge system, Culbertson added to his fame and wealth by his books and lectures, and also was renowned as a crusader for peace.

At the peak of the popularity of his bridge system, which he guided with his first wife, the gross income was some \$500,000 a year.

In 1942, he founded World Federation Inc., to promote his plan to achieve freedom.

Tax Bureau Relents, Will Fill Out Forms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service has relented and will, after all, fill out tax forms for anyone who wants such help.

Revenue Commissioner Russell C. Harrington disclosed the change in attitude Tuesday.

(Word of the change had not been received Tuesday at the Internal Revenue Service office in Salem, agents said.)

This reversed orders which went to all Revenue Service field offices on Oct. 17, before Harrington succeeded T. Coleman Andrews as commissioner.

The original orders directed revenue offices to discontinue the practice of actual preparation of tax returns for any but persons who are illiterate, those unable to read English and persons physically unable to prepare their own returns.

Additionally, the new orders directed all revenue offices to help taxpayers on any day they come in for help.

Lumber Salvaged From Wrecked Span



Marion County bridge crewmen are shown Tuesday shortly after noon rebuilding a flood-damaged bridge in the Mission Bottom area north of Salem. Two crewmen, Virgil Fahey, left, and Bob Martin, are shown in foreground salvaging planking from wrecked span's deck to be placed back on original undamaged pilings (at left). When bridge was opened marooned families streamed over. (Statesman photo).

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

Yesterday I discussed the action of United Nations in admitting 16 nations as members, raising the total to 76, and pointed out some of the implications of this expansion of membership. Today, I want to summarize other actions of the Tenth General Assembly which concluded its sessions a few days before Christmas.

This was the year when the question of a Charter review conference was due for consideration. The Assembly took steps to authorize such a conference but conveniently left the date blank. The major powers are not disposed to favor any early session of such a body, and the USSR frankly opposed the action that was taken. Since Charter amendments first must clear the Security Council where the five permanent members have right of veto, there is not much point in holding a conference to revise the Charter in the present mood of the great powers.

For one thing, this session of the Assembly was attended with much less vituperation than previous gatherings. The "spirit of Geneva" held till pretty nearly the end. At the last, however, wrangling broke out over admission of new members, especially when Soboleff of the USSR blamed the United States for China's veto of (Continued on editorial page, 4.)

Industrial Expansion

Another industrial expansion reflected in last night's Council session is the recently announced new building for Blue Lake Cannery in West Salem. The Council completed legislation to vacate an unused part of Lister Street which already is lined by Blue Lake installations.

The City Council also made into law the acceptance from Southern Pacific Railroad of easement to a strip of property along 12th Street which will permit the widening and extension of that street in a long-pending project to improve traffic safety along the SP mainline.

(Additional Council news Sec. 1, Page 2.)

Tugboat Loses Pilothouse to Draw Bridge

PORTLAND (AP) — A tugboat lost a bout with a swinging draw bridge over the Willamette River Tuesday.

The boat's pilothouse went flying into the river, but the skipper, Loren McRae, and his deckhand, Roy Wilkins, leaped to safety just in time.

Managers of the two contenders had differing versions of how it happened. McRae said the swinging span did not open far enough. The brigatender blamed a cross-current of the swollen Willamette River for carrying the tug against the Morrison Street span.

McRae and Wilkins leaped to the bow just before the pilothouse was sheared off and knocked into the river. Disabled, the tug drifted downstream until its anchor caught. A harbor patrol boat later towed the 60-foot tug, the Dix III, to a seawall berth, and another harbor patrol boat retrieved the pilothouse.

Curtice Named 'Man of Year'

NEW YORK (AP) — Time Magazine has chosen Harlow Curtice, president of General Motors, as its 1953 "man of the year."

Curtice, "in a job that required it, assumed the responsibility of leadership for American business," the magazine says in its Jan. 2 issue, out Wednesday.

Officer Finds Occupation Perilous One

Motorists are really keeping one state policeman on the jump.

Pete Nicholas D'Alfonso, 41, Eugene, was fined \$25 and costs in Marion County District Court Tuesday after Patrolman Arthur Jinks reported that D'Alfonso ran through a series of warning signals and forced him to jump to the safety of a bank to keep from being run down.

This occurred last Thursday after a rock slide near Ilabece on 90E. Jinks reported D'Alfonso said he was listening to the car radio and did not notice a slow sign, four flare pots, two red lights and the officer's red and white flashlights.

Five minutes after citing D'Alfonso, Jinks arrested another driver on the same charge, same circumstances, after narrowly escaping being hit. Joe Rose Strunk, Albany, is yet to appear in court on the charge.

Longest U.S. Marriage Ends

SAGLE, Idaho (AP) — The 80-year marriage of Ben and Druella Hartley, regarded as the nation's longest, ended in his death Monday night.

Benjamin J. Hartley, 96, who married his childhood sweetheart in Tennessee when both were 16, had been in failing health since he fell on his son's farm near here last July 11.

He is survived by three sons, 15 grandchildren, 51 great-grandchildren and 51 great-great-grandchildren, plus his wife.

Temperatures in Mid-20s Forecast

Temperatures in the mid-20s were forecast for tonight by McNary Field weathermen, but the outlook was comparatively dry.

Less than a .10 of an inch of rain fell Tuesday and only a few scattered showers and snow flurries were expected today, they said. Patches of ice were reported Tuesday morning and more are expected as the weather turns colder.

A county highway crew was called out about midnight by the sheriff's office to sand icy spots, starting in the Lake Labish area of the Mt. Angel-Woodburn highway.

Police Take Dim View of Restroom Living by Woman

A Salem woman, who city police said made her home for two days in the restroom of the Greyhound Bus Depot, was charged Tuesday with vagrancy.

She was sentenced in municipal court to five days in jail, but later released by order of Judge Douglas L. Hay. She said she had decided to leave her husband and was awaiting money from a sister in Texas, police said.

UNION FIGURE DIES

LONDON (AP) — Arthur E. (Jock) Tiffin, 60, leader of Britain's biggest trade union, died Tuesday. He was elected general secretary of the 1,300,000 strong Transport and General Workers Union six months ago after the death of Arthur Deakin.

Choice of Motor Bureau Chief Due in January

A State Motor Vehicle Director will be appointed next month, Gov. Paul Patterson said Tuesday.

The new office, created by the 1953 legislature, will become effective next July 1. The office now is under the Secretary of State, but will be transferred to the Governor.

Tom Collins Drink Originator Dies

ST. LOUIS (AP) — "I'll have a drink like that one you make for Tom."

John Dittrich, a bartender at the Old Flanters Hotel in the early 1900s, knew this meant gin, lime, sugar and lemon. Members of the Dittrich family say Dittrich named the drink for the customer who habitually ordered it—Tom Collins.

St. Louis newspapers Tuesday, in reporting Dittrich's death of a heart attack Christmas eve at 63, credited him with originating the drink.

Dionne Parents Claim Quints Ignored Them at Christmas; Girls Issue Denial

NORTH BAY, Ont. (AP) — The parents of the Dionne quintuplets said Tuesday the four surviving girls ignored them at Christmas and didn't send so much as a greeting card.

But in Montreal, Yvonne, one of the four sisters, denied there is a family rift. She told a reporter the quintas had sent Christmas greetings.

"We did send one," she said. "Can we help it if they didn't get it?"

Olivia Dionne, their father, blamed unidentified "outsiders" for the girl's drift from home ties, especially after each came into almost \$250,000 on reaching 21 last May.

Yvonne was interviewed in the hospital nursing residence where she is in training. Her biggest emotional outburst came when a newsman read a dispatch quoting her father as saying the girls' attitude changed after receiving their money.

"Don't believe it, it's not true," she burst out, and ran crying into another room.

Dionne had made no effort to hide his grief when he said: "We didn't even receive a card from them. They didn't write, they didn't phone. They did nothing to tell us where or how they planned to spend Christmas."

Asked why she didn't telephone her parents, Yvonne exclaimed: "We were on duty. It's not easy, this job."

Yvonne said, "Marie and Annette are supposed to be going home for New Year's. Cecile and I will be working."

In speaking of his disappointment, Dionne said: "All our other children (eight) either came home or called us on Christmas Day. But not the quintas. They didn't even send Christmas greetings to their brothers and sisters."

"It's not something that just happened at this Christmas. We have seen it growing for a long time now. We suspected that outsiders were trying to influence the Quintas some years ago, and we were sure of it by the way they acted after they left home, and then more so when they reached their 21st birthday and came into their money."



OLIVIA DIONNE
No Word From 4 Girls

Bridge Repair Crew Reunites Mission Bottom With 'Outside'

By CONRAD PRANGE
Staff Writer, The Statesman

A dozen or so Mission Bottom families whose farms were marooned by Willamette River flood waters for four days, were reunited with the outside world Tuesday noon.

Marion County bridge crews worked non-stop Monday afternoon and night to repair a bridge washed away last Thursday night. The 300-foot bridge spans a slough on the north edge of Clear Lake in bottomland lying between Clear Lake road and the river about eight miles north of Salem.

No cases of hardship were reported from the cut-off families who spent Christmas on their water-logged farms. A boat was available for those who had to travel and the damaged bridge supported foot traffic.

"I knew the water was rising," said Floyd Herrold who has farmed there for 30 years, "so I went into town Thursday and stocked up. I just stayed put. No trouble at all."

Herrold said this was the first time the bridge has flooded out, although it is not the first time the area has been visited by high water. In 1943, he recalls, water rose to within several inches of his floor.

Yule Plans Changed

"There were cars on both sides of the bridge," said Jack R. Chapin, another farmer-resident of the area. "By pooling transportation we made out nicely. Some Christmas plans were changed, though. Families who anticipated travel left their cars on the safe side of the bridge."

Neighbors helped Dean Wall, a dairy farmer, haul milk out on foot over the wrecked bridge during the isolation period. Praise was expressed for the speedy efforts of county crews in repairing the bridge.

Ordinarily families in that area use another exit road in time of flood—over the bridge which spans the lower end of Clear Lake near the old Lakebrook ranch. But that bridge is impassable now because it is under new construction.

By Early May

Private contractor Tom Lillebo expects to have it completed by early May, according to County Engineer John A. Anderson.

The other bridge was wrecked Thursday when backed up river water lifted the plank deck from its piling and dumped it along-side. When the waters receded Anderson and Assistant Engineer Ted Kuenzi and Bridge Foreman Joe Robl brought in a crew of 16 and began work at about 2 p.m. Monday.

Using the old planking they repaired the bridge temporarily by Tuesday noon. Anderson said eventually a new bridge would be built.

Floodwaters have caused considerable damage to other roads in the county, Anderson said, especially in river bottomland. Ankeny Bottom and Stayton area roads were pitted with sections washed away.

High water continues to close roads near the Buena Vista ferry south of Salem, he said.

Walla Walla Cons' Tunnel Discovered

WALLA WALLA (AP) — A new plot of unidentified state prison inmates to join the outside world in a Happy New Year was nipped in the early tunneling stage Tuesday.

Prison officials reported discovery of the scheme and the plugging of a 2-foot deep hole under the orchestra pit of the prison auditorium.

Warden Lawrence Delmore Jr. said the attempt appeared to be similar to the one that carried 10 men to brief freedom Nov. 3 after a long tunneling effort.

The latest escape effort apparently was carried on during rehearsals in the auditorium for a Dec. 28 show for the public.

Bob Rhy, associate warden in charge of custody, said the orchestra pit, normally below the stage, had been moved to the side for the Christmas musical program. The old pit was covered with cotton, fir trees and other decorations.

Bars to the pit were cut to gain access to an unfinished basement under the stage and auditorium.

The prison officials said fresh dirt had been found in the basement. Stage tools and props may have been used in the digging. The officials said they believe the bars were cut Monday night.

The auditorium is on the east side of the walled prison grounds. At least 50 feet of digging would have been required to reach the outside of the wall.

Oregon Lands Yield Over Million Christmas Trees

More than 1,250,000 Christmas trees were harvested this year on state timberlands, Charles H. Ladd, state farm forester, said Tuesday.

These trees were valued at \$1,500,000, and were sold by commercial harvesters. The sale was the largest in several years.

He said that few trees were unsold.

Cartoonist Ham Fisher Dead, Victim of Suicide

NEW YORK (AP) — Ham Fisher, creator of Joe Palooka, a comic strip favorite for 25 years, was found dead in a friend's studio Tuesday night. Police called it apparent suicide.

Fisher left a pathetic note which said his eyesight was failing and he had diabetes. He wrote that he had swallowed some pills.

Fisher, 54, was found dead at the studio of a friend, Moe Liff. Fisher had telephoned his mother early in the afternoon. An only child, he spoke to her sentimentally and at some length.

Fisher, a self-taught artist, began his career on his hometown newspaper, the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Record. He soon emigrated to New York and in 1930 he started his "Joe Palooka" comic strip with the McNaught syndicate.

At the time of his death the strip was syndicated in some 800 newspapers.

Hammond Edward Fisher also gained wealth and fame from his creation.

He became a vice president of the Lancaster & Chester Railroad



HAM FISHER
Leaves suicide note



"It's a big carcass all right—but not very tasty."

Today's Statesman

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