

Air Force Captain Hailed as 'Man Who Saved Marysville'

MARYSVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Capt. George Sperry, commander of Company C, 857th Engineers Air Bn., Beale Air Force Base, is the hero of Marysville today.

One citizen said "he could be mayor if he wanted to be."

Sperry is credited with leading the desperate fight late Friday night which kept the rampaging Feather and Yuba rivers from breaching the city's dikes. Yuba City, across the Feather, wasn't as lucky.

When the waters broke through the dikes at the D Street bridge on Marysville's southern tip many of the workers turned to run in

panic. Sperry, a brawny officer with a crew cut, yelled for everyone to stay in his place "to stop this thing."

The hole was plugged and many citizens credit him for saving the city.

Capt. Sperry was introduced by Mayor Walter Burke to Federal Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson as "the man who saved Marysville."

"I didn't do it," he replied. "The airman did it and I had a good bunch of non-coms." Beale AF base is located near Marysville.

The break occurred about 11

p.m. Friday. The workers were on top of the levee when water worked its way through the center of it and spurted out below and behind them in a stream that shot 30 feet into the air.

A quick-thinking truck driver dumped his entire load of sand in the hole and Sperry and his airmen and other volunteers closed it off with sand bags. In two or three hours the water had slowed to a trickle.

During the crisis Sperry urged his men from the top of the dike: "Don't worry about a little water. It just makes you work harder."

Highway 101 May Open for Traffic Today

Coast Highway 101, still covered by three feet of water Tuesday from Coquille to Bandon, may be opened to emergency traffic today, E. A. Collier, State Highway Department maintenance engineer, said Tuesday night.

California Highway Department officials also request emergency traffic only in the Eureka area on Highway 101, he said.

The Roseburg-Coos Bay highway was opened to emergency traffic Tuesday, he said, adding that one-way traffic will be the rule in most sections as well as on the flooded portion of the Coast Highway, and that slides were still a threat in the mountains.

Other highways were open to at least one-way traffic, he said.

Chains were required in most Cascade Range passes due to continuing light snow. Six inches were reported Tuesday in Santiam Pass, 30 inches in Willamette.

SNOWMAN STOLEN

Theft of a white plastic snowman valued at \$25 from his front door was reported to city police by Ward Shryock, 2680 Doughton St.

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Boy Survives Landslide



ROSEBURG, Ore.—Billy Neal, 6, one of three children of Mr. and Mrs. Marion E. Neal, who survived a landslide that crushed their house near Roseburg Monday. The parents and three other children were killed. (AP Wirephoto)

5th Slide Victim Found; Floods in Oregon Ease

(Story also on page one)

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP)—A crew probing through mud Tuesday found the body of the fifth victim who died when a slide crashed down on a farm home here Monday.

It was the worst single incident of nearly a week of storms and floods in Southwest Oregon.

The death toll now is 12 with three others missing and presumed drowned.

Canyon Washed Out

The mud slide washed out of a canyon about 4:30 a.m. near the town of Roseburg, 40 miles southwest of Roseburg. It tore apart the home of Marion E. Neal, 42, and his wife Alerena, 38. Also killed were their children, Mary, 15, Tom, 17, and Becky, 2.

Three other children somehow survived the slide which carried the wreckage of the house nearly 100 yards. Margaret Elaine, 13, was found buried to her neck in the mud with the family's refrigerator pressed hard against the back of her neck.

Two other children, Alvis, 8, and Billy, 6, were caught in the wreckage of the rafters. The three children, trapped for five hours in cold rain, were pulled free by a neighbor.

The slide snapped the power line, and the neighbor, John Cawse, was out looking for the

break when he came upon the children.

Meanwhile, floods, which have plagued the state for a week, eased off again Tuesday as rain diminished and colder weather moved into Oregon.

The known death toll was 11 with four others missing and presumed drowned.

Hard rains caused new slides and sent rivers rising, especially in Southwest Oregon, again Monday, but the danger appeared to be over Tuesday.

Coquille River Up

In the flare-up, though, the Coquille River went up to 26.7 feet, seven feet above flood stage, isolating Coquille and Myrtle Point. Slides closed the Roseburg-Coos Bay highway, and the Southern Pacific line between Portland and San Francisco was blocked again as six slides between Grants Pass and Roseburg hit the Siskiyou Route tracks. The main line over the Cascade Range was blocked last week. It is not expected to be reopened for some time yet.

The Willamette River dropped enough for two paper mills at Oregon City to resume full production. Portland newspapers had to cut back on the size of their editions when the mills' production was reduced earlier.

Death Claims Harry Rickard

Harry Rickard, 79, of 456 Belmont St., died Tuesday afternoon of a heart attack at his home, where he was recuperating from a cold.

A Salem resident since retiring from farming in North Dakota 17 years ago, he was a public school custodial employee and more recently has worked for Heider's Television Center.

He was born March 4, 1876, at Beardstown, Ill. He and Annie Wood were married Feb. 9, 1899, at Paris, Mo.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter Mrs. Pauline Byer, Salem; two grandchildren, Mrs. Marjorie Ackley, Portland and Bev K. Byer, Coos Bay; two great-grandchildren; five brothers, Elmer Rickard, Hope, N. D.; Charles Rickard, Perry, Mo.; John Rickard, Stouffville, Mo.; James Rickard, Dodge City, Kan.; and William Rickard, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Arrangements are pending at Virgil T. Golden mortuary.

High Water Blocks Search For Lost Man

Statesman News Service

INDEPENDENCE — High water continued to block search efforts for Lee Pope, 70-year-old Independence area farmer, who is feared to be a victim of the flood.

A neighbor found Pope's partially submerged tractor Sunday, raising speculation that he may have been thrown off while driving it to town for supplies.

Marion County Sheriff Denver Young said water was still too high in the area of Pope's home on the east side of the Willamette River to search Tuesday. Search will resume today, Young said.

Pope's brother was burned to death several years ago in a house fire in the same neighborhood, Sheriff Young recalled Tuesday.

Mother of Eight Adopted Children Backed for Honor

PORTLAND (AP)—Mrs. Harry Holt of Creswell was proposed by Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) Tuesday as American Mother of the Year.

He sent her name to the Mothers Committee of the Golden Rule Foundation in New York, which makes the annual selection.

The mother of six children, she and her husband recently adopted eight Korean orphans.

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"BREAK TO FREEDOM" at 8:45
HOLLYWOOD
"MY SISTER EILEEN" at 7:00 and 10:28
"STRANGER ON HORSEBACK" at 9:18

W. Riddell Jr. Funeral Due

Statesman News Service

MONMOUTH — Funeral services for William Riddell Jr., retired farmer who died Friday at the age of 81 at his home, 162 N. Broad St., following a long illness, will be held 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Christian Church. Rev. Richard Owen and Rev. Lynnton H. Elwell officiating. Burial will be in Fir Crest Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to the Elizabeth Riddell Student Loan Fund at Oregon College of Education.

Born March 7, 1874, at Albany, Riddell was a Monmouth area resident for more than 76 years.

He leaves two sons, Percy O. Riddell, San Mateo, Calif., and Elton E. Riddell, Monmouth; brother, Leslie Riddell, Dublin, Texas; and six grandchildren.

Smith-Krueger Mortuary, Independence, is in charge of arrangements.

Crash Victim's Rites Planned

Funeral services for Harry Edwin Conklin, Salem Route 2, Box 404, who died at the age of 69 Sunday in an auto collision on Highway 99E at Chemawa road, will be 11 a.m. Friday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Rev. George H. Swift officiating. Burial will be in Belcrest Memorial Park.

A retired Great Northern railroad machinist who lived in Salem 10 years, he leaves his widow, Mrs. Ann E. Conklin, and son, Glenn G. Conklin, both of Salem, and four grandchildren.

Clough-Barriek mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

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G. H. Mull's Services Set

Statesman News Service

MONMOUTH — Funeral services for Gurney Harrison Mull, 602 S. College St., who died Monday in a Monmouth nursing home at the age of 67, will be 2 p.m. Friday in Smith-Krueger Mortuary, Independence. Rev. Brooks H. Moore officiating. Burial will be in Belcrest Memorial Park.

Mull, a farmer was a resident of the Monmouth community about 20 years. He was born June 17, 1888, in Harrison County, Mo.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Estelle Mull, Monmouth; six sons, Elton, Cameron, and Jack D. Mull, all of Salem, and Volney, Guane and Darrell Mull, all of Monmouth; three daughters, Mrs. Elaine Schilling and Mrs. Lavone Irving, both of Salem, and Mrs. Merle Mrs. John Zurawski, Salem, and Mrs. Fern Bachar, Ft. Morgan, Colo.; and 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Car Hits Span On Icy Street

Ten feet of wooden bridge railing was broken Tuesday morning by an auto that skidded on ice in the 500 block of South High street, city police said.

The car was driven by Emmons E. Whitaker, 1775 S. High St., officers added. He appeared uninjured, they said.

Police stayed on the scene to slow traffic until a city crew arrived to apply salt to the heavy coating of ice.

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