

Con Claims China Birthplace, Calls For 'Repatriation'

Dupree Poe, whose prison antics have been as sensational as the cold-blooded killing that put him there two decades ago, has petitioned the State Supreme Court to send him back to his "native China" in his latest bid for freedom.

The cunning convict has fought a running legal battle with courts during all his 23 years behind bars of Oregon State Penitentiary, in the meantime building an almost legendary list of escapades. Though presently "deep in segregation," the killer of a Silverton night policeman has at times been king of the cons, and always chief troublemaker for wardens, guards and judges.

Hazy History
- Latest chapter in the Poe legend turned up this week with the filing of a motion by the convicted murderer to have the order set aside which sentenced him to life in prison back in 1932. In it Poe capitalizes on his hazy history to claim that he was born at Taliens, Kuantung Chou (now Dairen, Manchuria) and should be repatriated as a citizen of the Chinese Peoples' Republic (Red China).

Reaction among authorities, who have observed with persistent monotony the filing of writs and motions and petitions by Poe, is summed up in the statement by one that "Poe and the Communists are deserving of one another."

Geneva Agreement
- Poe asks the court to contact the ambassador of India, the nation which has acted as intermediary for U. S.-Red China relations, to begin action toward his repatriation which he says he is entitled to under terms of the agreement reached at Geneva, Switzerland, last Sept. 10 between ambassadors of the Chinese Peoples' Republic and the United States.

"He is a citizen of China by right of birth and a subject of the Chinese Peoples' Republic by right of birth and choice," the motion reads. "He desires to return to China. But he is confined in the Oregon State Penitentiary and restrained of his liberty and denied his right to be repatriated. (Rights of said citizenship can be proven by documentary and material evidence and witnesses in the Chinese Peoples' Republic.)"

1932 Murder
- Poe was tried in Marion County Circuit Court in 1932 for the gun slaying of Silverton police officer James Iverson the year before. He was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Now at 53 with a long record of escape attempts and riot activities, Poe may be on the way to serving it all unless exasperated authorities decide to put him on that slow boat for China.

No Prior Claim
- Though present police files are thin, probably as a result of the State Capitol fire in 1935 which destroyed case records, there has been no claim before Poe that he was not a U. S. citizen. It is considered likely that the grisled little convict may have visited Manchuria as a sailor.

Salem Hi-Y Voters Pick Sweethearts
(Pictures Sec. 3, Page 8)
- Salem Hi-Y voters elected Mariou Allen and Ronelle Carlisle to reign over the annual Hi-Y Sweetheart Formal Saturday night.

They were selected from six finalists, three each from North and South Salem High Schools, by the votes of Hi-Y members attending the dance at Crystal Gardens.

Miss Allen, South Salem High School senior, is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Allen, 1344 S. Liberty St. Miss Carlisle, North Salem High School senior, resides with a brother, Walter L. Carlisle, 1911 N. Front St.

Other candidates, each elected by one of the six Salem Hi-Y chapters, Carol Boesch and Betty Presley, both of North Salem High School; and Donna Meyer and Nancy Denton, both of South Salem High School.

Engineer Meets Own Locomotive Little Too Soon
- SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—Robert B. Toler, 55, Frisco Engineer, was driving his car to the railroad yards to begin his shift on switch engine No. 238 Saturday night. He met 238 a few minutes too soon—at a grade crossing.

The resulting collision sent Toler to a hospital with injuries to the chest, head, ribs and arm.

Where to Vote
- Seventeen school buildings in the Salem School District will be used as polling places when registered voters of the district cast their ballots Monday from 2 to 8 p.m. on a proposed \$2,900,000 bond issue to finance two new junior high schools.

Because a rearrangement of the school voting precincts has added many new polling places, a map showing the precinct division and a complete polling-place list is presented in Sec. 3, Page 9 of today's edition of 'The Oregon Statesman.'

Jet Age Meeting Draws Uninvited Red Air Officer

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Russian air expert looked in on the Air Force Assn.'s Jet Age Conference here without any of the conference participants being aware of his presence.

Apparently the only persons who recognized Russian Maj. V. Y. Kolentsev in his dark business suit were a few newsmen who had met him before. Kolentsev is an assistant air attaché at the Soviet embassy. James Straubel, AFA executive director, said no invitations were issued to any representatives of Iron Curtain countries although there was no objection to their attendance, since the conference dealt only with non-secret problems.

Kolentsev was wearing a conference badge. He had registered as a major but had left blank the section in which his affiliation was supposed to have been written.

For the two day conference there were only three affairs requiring tickets—two lunches and a cocktail party costing \$5 each. The Russian's card showed that he had paid \$5 for a cocktail party ticket.

Accidents Kill 7, Including 4 Teenagers

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
- Accidents claimed seven lives in Oregon Friday night. Highway crashes accounted for five deaths and two died in a fire.

An automobile plunged off a road into the Siuslaw River, and the four teen-agers occupants were drowned. (Picture, sec. 2, page 4.)
- Dead were John White, 19; Jannett May Garrett, 17; Danny Poppe, 19, and Sharon Singer, 18, all of Eugene.

George Johnson, a rancher who lives across the river, noticed headlights shining through 32 feet of chill water and this led to discovery of the tragedy. One girl's wrist watch had stopped at 10:45 p.m., and police believe that is when the accident happened.

W. T. Moon, Florence police chief, said the automobile veered into a ditch, hit a power pole, then hurtled across the highway into the river.

The burning headlights helped in recovery of the car and bodies at the accident scene near the town of Mapleton, 80 miles west of here.

Moon said the four were traveling toward Florence after attending a dance north of Eugene.

Portland recorded its sixth traffic death of the year when Mrs. Jessyca Moore Bryant was killed in the crash of a car into a traffic light station on Harbor Drive. Her husband, James R. Bryant, 60, who was driving, was hospitalized with injuries.

A man and his wife, both of whom had been ill, died in a fire which swept through their small house south of Roseburg. The victims were Forrest M. Ream, 62, and Marie Ream, 63.

Coroner L. L. Powers said Ream apparently tried to help his wife escape, but both were overcome by smoke. The bodies were on the charred floor of the bedroom when a neighbor and a passing truck driver discovered the fire. Cause was not determined immediately.

TV Comic Berle Hurt During Show
- BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Comic Milton Berle suffered a painful leg injury today while rehearsing for a guest appearance on Jimmy Durante's NBC television show Saturday night.

A heavy wooden camera platform bumped against Berle and a five-inch splinter gashed his right leg.

Snow Drifts Nine Feet High in Texas Freezing Storms Kill 126 in Europe

Battle of Wind Over Atlantic May End Cold

(Picture on Wirephoto Page)
- LONDON (AP)—A possible break in Europe's worst cold spell of the 20th Century depended on the outcome of a gusty battle of two rival winds over the Atlantic Saturday night.

At least 126 persons were known dead in a giant freeze-up stretching even into the normally sunshine spots of Southern Italy and the French Riviera.

Water was at a premium for hundreds of thousands of British householders whose pipes froze. Fuel shortages threatened bitter hardship in the satellite countries of Poland and Hungary.

Knife-like gales scattered coastal shipping. Ice and snow made roads perilous and snarled rail transport. Shepherds skated to work on Holland's canals.

Bitter Air
- Bitter east winds from Siberia which brought on the cold spell five days ago, have run head-on into warmer air streams spreading from the west over the Atlantic.

The British meteorologist office predicted the winner would dominate Europe's weather for the next three weeks.

Cuts in gas supplies forced cold meals for many people in Hesse, West Germany. In Frankfurt, deliveries of bottled milk were stopped because the milk froze and burst the bottles. Bonn and other cities had streetlamp blackouts from gas failures.

Deaths by Countries
- Death tolls from exposure, fire, storm and crashes attributable to the weather by country: France 35; Britain 26; Italy 16; Denmark 11; Germany, the Saar and Turkey 10 each; Austria 5; Holland and Switzerland 4 each; Yugoslavia 2; Spain 2 and Belgium 1.

Peasant families in Southern Italy shivered in houses with no means for heating because their winter normally is mild. Snow spread over the sunshine playground of the French Riviera and frosted blackened fields of spring flowers worth millions of dollars.

Worst Since 1891
- Sunny Spain had its worst cold wave since 1891. Rome's spectacular fountains froze over. The canals of Venice kept free of ice—but only because 75-mile-an-hour gales lashed them into waves.

Holland called off Saturday school sessions—so the kids could go skating on the ice canals. Dutch children can skate as soon as they can walk.

Rain Breaks Area Freeze

A light freezing rain fell on the Salem area Saturday night but changed to drizzle and fog before ice reached a danger stage.

Temperature at midnight had risen three degrees in four hours and was due to continue rising, McNary Field weathermen said.

Midnight temperature was 34. A "silver thaw" was reported from Portland to Hubbard, Marion County sheriff's deputies said.

United Air Lines operations at McNary Field were closed during the freezing rain and had not reopened at midnight. Air traffic was being routed to Seattle.

Warm weather was predicted to continue through tonight, with a low of 32 predicted, and possible rain Monday would hold the temperatures up, weathermen said.

State Operators Channel Flood of Calls



One of the busiest telephone switchboards in Oregon is the board at the state capitol in Salem (shown above) which handles the daily flood of incoming calls for hundreds of state officers. Operators shown at work at the board located in the old state office building are (from left) Jennie Madison, Cleo Surprenant, Peg Ritchie, Peral Pack and their supervisor Mrs. Irene Cross. Swinging files above their heads holds names and extension numbers of some 4,800 state employees. (Statesman photo.)

Capitol Switchboard Girls Keep Tab on Pulse of State's Affairs

By CONRAD PRANGE
Staff Writer, The Statesman
- Talk about weaving conversation!
- That's exactly what the busy women operating the state Capitol switchboard do. The hundreds of daily incoming calls from all over Oregon and the nation are funneled to various state offices via a twist-

ed network of wires, lights, buttons and dials.
- Telephone people say the Capitol switchboard is the second busiest in the state. The busiest is in the Meier & Frank store building in Portland.
- "If we lost our sense of humor on this job we'd be sunk," says Mrs. Irene Cross, a stunning brunette who has an unshakable sense of humor. She is supervisor of the four operators.
Few Routine Calls
- Because few of the calls are "routine," the operators have to be on their mental toes. They have to keep up on current events—state, seasonal and otherwise. They must have an intimate knowledge of who does what at the 700 office extensions the board serves in a half-dozen state buildings.

"Callers often know what they want but they don't know who to talk to," says Mrs. Cross. "During the Christmas season people call to ask where to get tree harvest permits. During the summer months visitors ask about Capitol tours. Right now we get a lot of calls on income taxes."

Costume Suggestion

"Once, during State Fair time, a lady called to ask us what she should wear to the Fair. Last week a man wanted to know how long the Capitol flag would fly at half-staff. We often have to question callers in order to help them. And a lot of them resent it. They think we're just being nosy."

Most active time for the switchboard is in the eight-year tenure of Mrs. Cross came when former Gov. Douglas McKay was appointed Secretary of Interior. On that day calls to the governor's office piled up 16 and 20 deep.
Monday Heavy Day
- In general though Legislative sessions cause most work for the board, Monday is the heaviest day of the week. And on most days the hours just before noon and just before 5 p.m. are busiest. The girls call these "bread and butter calls" because many of them are "wives calling to tell husbands to bring home a pound of butter or a loaf of bread."

Because it keeps its collective ear on the "pulse of things" the switchboard often knows, before anyone else, when a big political move is in the winds. Example: For several days before Robert Johnson was announced as the new director of the state finance department his office received an unusually large number of calls.

Two Boards
- Actually there are two Capitol switchboards. The main one on the first floor of the old state office building is operated by Mrs. Cross and Peral Pack, Peg Ritchie, Cleo Surprenant and Jennie Madison, most with prior telephone company experience.

The other board is "gilded" by Ruby Halter. It is located at the state forestry office on East State street and handles messages to the forestry office, prison, state hospital and some state highway shops.

More Calls
- The state highway department, by the way, receives more calls per day than any other state department, Mrs. Cross estimates.

So fast has the state's phone system grown (100 additional extensions during the past two years) that soon, probably before the next

Legislature, the system will use four-digit extension numbers because the three-digit list is being exhausted.

"Speed and accuracy are our watchwords," says Mrs. Cross. Anyone who watches the girls at work though, might be tempted to add "cheerfulness," and "zeal for job."

Hardest Hit
- Plainview and Hereford, both with two feet or more of snowfall, were hardest hit by the blizzard which blew through the Panhandle. The snow continued falling Saturday.

The new snow was heaviest in the area from the Canadian River, which cuts across the Panhandle, and south into the Lubbock area.

Most Panhandle and Plains schools closed Thursday and Friday for the weekend and it now appeared likely some would be unable to reopen Monday.

36 Cars Rescued
- National guardsmen in heavy trucks broke a path to rescue occupants of about 30 cars and one bus stalled in drifts south of Plainview. Tractors reached loaded buses stranded in drifts between Hereford and Bovina in the Panhandle and highway patrol cars evacuated occupants of a stalled bus near Vega on U.S. Highway 66.

The storm caused near blizzard conditions and drifting snow in Eastern New Mexico.

PLAN 'SUCCESSFUL'
- BERLIN (AP)—Communist East Germany said Saturday its first five-year plan has been "successful" by ended, but acknowledged that vital targets were not reached.

The Weather
- These and other measures will be discussed in detail at three-power talks beginning here in a few days among U. S., British and French officials. France accepted an Eisenhower-Eden bid to participate and is expected to share their views.

Alabama U. Paraders Protest Negro Student
- TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Resentment over presence of the first Negro student at the University of Alabama exploded Saturday in a shouting demonstration of 1,000 men students during which a car occupied by Negroes was damaged.

The excited students burned a cross on the university campus and then about 500 marched two miles to downtown Tuscaloosa, singing "Dixie" as they paraded. Some shouted "Keep Bama white. To hell with Authrine"—the Negro enrollment.

The demonstration went on for nearly three hours.

All off-duty city police were called out to help control the crowd, but the students forced their way past a blockade of police cars to reach the flagpole in the heart of the city.

"The university news bureau said that initial leadership of the rally came from "a few inebriated fraternity men." The bureau said fraternity officers helped keep "the general situation from becoming more difficult."

A student who addressed the crowd at the flagpole said, "The

Blizzard Sets 50-Year Mark In Panhandle

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Most inter-city buses quit running after a number were stranded

ed and passengers had to be rescued by tractor.

Many stores closed and some main streets were blocked in Plainview, Hereford, Amarillo, Canyon and Borger. Amarillo and Lubbock City buses had quit running Friday.

The snow piled up in broad areas where farmers had been receiving federal drought aid because of prolonged drought. The heavy snow held out promise of restoring long-depleted sub-soil moisture.

The storm also came as Texas Baptists, in accordance with plans made last month, prepared to pray together next Saturday and Sunday for an end to the drought. The prayers will be offered up on schedule. Much of Texas still needs moisture and one blizzard won't end the drought.

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