

Record Number of Bad Checks Passed in Salem in December

By RUSSELL HIERAUGEL
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Salem detectives ended 1956 by solving bad check cases in December involving 126 bad checks, a record number for any one month.

Eighty-three of the checks were written off in one record case, a "ring" of juveniles and youth adults which had been operating in the city for four months.

The heavy month raised the

year's total of checks cleared to 575, compared with 650 checks reported in 1955, with 633 reported. In 1955, 473 were cleared, and police department records show that this margin has been narrowing consistently over recent years.

Although monthly totals of the amount of money involved in bad checks are not kept by the police department, police estimated the December total at more than \$2,

000, with about \$1,600 credited to the youthful ring of eight persons, five of them juveniles, rounded up early in the month.

Routine Methods
The case was "cracked" by routine police methods. Armed only with meager descriptions, detectives patiently tracked down every lead without a break until the apprehension of one of the members led to the others in quick time. One youth, reading of the arrest of some of his accomplices gave himself up in the police station.

All told, 11 arrests were made in December for bad checks, raising the total for the year to 64. Seven of the December arrests resulted in convictions and the other four cases are still pending.

More Bad Checks
Noting that the number of bad checks reported to police has been gradually increasing from year to year, although not as fast as the rate which the department has been solving them, Police Chief Clyde A. Warren commented: "The number of bad checks is not going to be cut down until the merchants become more careful in getting proper identification. The fact that the check may look all right does not mean a thing if the bank returns it."

Fewer Lives Lost to Fire In 1956; Property Loss Up

BOSTON Jan. 2 (AP)—Knowing the simple rules of personal fire safety apparently saved the lives of hundreds of Americans in 1956—a year in which property loss from fire climbed to an all-time high of approximately \$14 billion dollars.

Percy Bugbee, general manager of the education, nonprofit National Fire Protection Assn., revealed along with the record property loss, today that a survey showed that 1956 fire deaths totaled approximately 10,600—a drop of about 873 from 1955.

By coincidence Canadian fire deaths also decreased in 1956, while property losses rose.

The total number of fires in the United States apparently was about the same as in 1955.

Bugbee commented that the reduction in fatalities could be attributed to a "substantial growth in the general public's awareness of and adherence to the simple rules of personal fire safety."

He said there were more "big" fires in 1955 than in any other recent year and that in dollar-loss it appeared likely that the fire in California's Malibu area might lead all the rest, with the Brooklyn pier explosion—fire loss of more than 15 million dollars second.

He said total property destruction in the United States, according to preliminary estimates, was more than 100 million dollars ahead of the 1955 record, and previous high, of \$1,140,768,000.

Bugbee said the Canadian deaths last year dropped to 560 from the 1955 figure of 569 but that Canadian property loss jumped from \$122,233,458 to about \$135 million in 1956.

Bugbee described the decrease in deaths of persons in dwelling fires as "extraordinary." Nevertheless, NFPA officials said that the 5,300 persons killed by fires in their homes still is tragic—containing pathetically large proportions of young children and old people.

Fires in buildings of all types killed an estimated 6,300 victims while automobile, airplane, boat, forest and field fires killed 4,300. Building fires cost about \$1,050,000,000 while nonbuilding fires cost 200 millions. Largest fire loss in a single fire was in the June

Ambulance of Salem Gives Aid at Mishap

Willamette Ambulance Service drivers on their way to Portland Wednesday morning with an empty ambulance chanced upon a scene in which they were able to give first aid to three persons with possibly serious injuries.

A car in which Mrs. Alvina H. Ross of Sherwood was riding with her parents had apparently flipped end over end into a field beside Salem-Portland Freeway near the Oswego turnoff, according to Jay Brown, owner of the ambulance service. The car was believed by witnesses to have gone out of control following a rear-end collision, he said.

The three occupants were scattered in the field and all had possibly serious injuries. Brown said Mrs. Ross was taken in the Willamette Service's small ambulance to a Portland hospital and another ambulance was called from Tualatin for her parents, whose names were not learned by Brown.

Brown said it was the second time in two years he has chanced upon a serious accident while driving an empty ambulance on a non-emergency call. He said he and Attendant George Flawn were on their way to a Portland hospital to transfer a sick patient to Salem.

Both 'Good, Bad', Seen in Holiday Toll

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The New Year traffic toll set a new record for that holiday, but it fell short of the total for an ordinary long weekend.

Traffic fatalities that occurred between 6 p.m. local time Friday and midnight Tuesday were raised to 409 by a trickle of late reports Wednesday.

Fires took 71 lives and accidents of other kinds cost 111 to lift the over-all toll to 591.

The old traffic death record for a New Year was 407. It was established during a four-day turn-of-the-year celebration four years ago.

There are two sides of the balance sheet of the latest New Year traffic accident statistics.

The two major items on the "bad" side are:

The record list of deaths despite all the warnings.

The rise beyond the 1,000 mark for the first time of the combined Christmas and New Year tolls.

But there are many items on the "good" side.

The New Year toll was well under the total of 500 compiled in an Associated Press survey of a nonholiday weekend. That was the period of Dec. 14 to Dec. 18, the Christmas and New Year holidays it covered four days, although each time the actual counting period was 102 hours.

The New Year toll also ran below the 1956 "par." During the year fatalities averaged 107 per day. For a four-day-102-hour period the total would be just about 435.

The New Year toll was far under the 700 total for the Christmas period—a record for holiday holiday. And it failed to match the National Safety Council advance estimate of 490.

Youth's Call Saves Father

FLORENCE, Ore., Jan. 2 (AP)—When Tim McPherson, 12, of Rio Linda, Calif., woke up Sunday morning to hear his father snoring in bed, he just ran to the motel phone and called his mother in California.

She telephoned right back to the police of this Western Oregon town and they rushed William John McPherson, 49, to a hospital, where doctors found he was suffering from an overdose of insulin.

Doctors said McPherson, a diabetic, might not have lived had he not received such prompt attention.

Oregon Housewives to Ease Clerk Shortage

PORTLAND, Jan. 2 (AP)—The Oregon Civil Service Commission today announced a new policy of recruiting housewives for part-time clerical jobs.

John Martin, manager of the commission's Portland office, said the women would be allowed to set their own working hours, within limits.

Martin said the new program was necessary because of a shortage of trained office workers.

Canada Radar Line Secrets 'Told to Russ'

LABRIEVILLE, Que., Jan. 2 (AP)—Pat Walsh, secretary-treasurer of the Pan-Canadian Anti-Communist League, said today the Soviet Union may have acquired secret information about Canada's northern radar network when a U. S. professor defected to the Reds.

Walsh said he had received reliable information that Prof. Stephen Makar, formerly of St. Louis University, had access to information about top secret photogrammetric and photographic mapping—projects in the Far North, including the Distant Early Warning radar line. He did not make clear just how the information was transmitted to Makar.

Makar last month went to Russia and said he was renouncing his U. S. citizenship to take a job there.

Walsh said an informant in the Geodetic Survey of Canada had asserted that Makar was given copies of reports on all secret operations in Canada since he had been given security clearance by the U. S. Interior Department's Geodetic Survey.

At Ottawa, Geodetic Survey officials said they had no knowledge of Makar outside of news reports that the 47-year-old scientist had decided to work in Russia.

They said all the maps are available to the general public, including those dealing with the Far North. The Geodetic Survey had done no secret work, they said, with the exception of some operations on guided missiles two years ago, and results of that work were available to U. S. officials through official channels.

Death of Marine 'Self-Inflicted'

HAWTHORNE, Nev., Jan. 2 (AP)—The Marine Corps said today it believed the 45 caliber bullet wound which killed an 18-year-old Marine on his remote post New Year's morning was self-inflicted.

PFC Eugene Tonglet Petty was standing the 12 to 4 a.m. watch in an isolated area five miles from the housing area of the Naval Ammunition Depot here.

His body, shot in the head, was discovered by relief guards.

His father, Alfred Henry Petty, lives in Oklahoma City. His mother is Mrs. Flora Mae Freeman of Eugene, Ore.

Dinner for Holmes

PORTLAND, Jan. 2 (AP)—The Portland Retail Trade Bureau will give a dinner tomorrow night for Oregon Gov. elect Robert D. Holmes and Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk.

Eddie and Debbie Happy Parents



HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2—Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds appear before the camera in their real roles of happy parents as they and their young daughter, Carrie Frances Fisher, pose for their first family group picture. Carrie Frances was born Oct. 21. The young stars, appropriately, are appearing in a film titled "Bundle of Joy." (AP Wirephoto)

Salem Boat Club to Build Clubhouse on Willamette

Plans for construction of a private clubhouse were made Wednesday night by a special committee of the Salem Boat Club, fast-growing water sport organization.

Commodore Robert Hullette said the clubhouse will be a mooring point near the Salem boat-house with the structure to be of the floating variety.

The Boat Club, active in promotion of the Willamette River Days Festival and other water events, at present has no permanent clubhouse. The organization has a membership of almost 100 persons.

Hullette said the clubhouse will be two stories. Willard Taylor has been named chairman of a committee to build a float for the structure.

Final details of the project, including approximate cost, will be worked out at a special executive board meeting next Wednesday night at the chapel at Salem Memorial Hospital.

Hullette said financing of the clubhouse will come mainly through pledges.

It also was announced that Dudley Henderson has been named chairman of the club's constitution and by-laws committee, which is to meet Friday night at the home of Vice Commodore Ray Morrow.

The organization will open the spring boating season with a marathon race featuring all types of boats, Hullette said.

MANAMA, Bahrain, Jan. 2 (AP)—A sudden storm wrecked a 14-million-dollar offshore drilling rig and left 20 Arab workers dead or missing, oilmen reported today.

The loss may end the long search by Shell Oil Co. for oil under the Persian Gulf.

The storm smashed the 1,200-ton steel floating tower last Thursday night in the shallow waters of the Gulf off the island of Bahrain. The 250 men aboard dived and jumped into the heavy seas and most of them reached nearby rigs.

A check at dawn showed one Arab worker was known to be dead and 19 were missing and believed dead. Forty were injured.

A spokesman for Shell, which had invested more than 25 million dollars in Persian Gulf oil explorations over a period of four years, said:

"Although the platform is still standing, it is doubtful whether it can be salvaged. An examination is being made by experts from abroad."

Oilmen expressed belief it would take two years to get steel for a new platform and that this might influence Shell to give up offshore drilling in this area. Most of the Western technicians connected with the operation have been sent home.

Russian Vessels To Pass Through Panama Canal

PANAMA, Jan. 2 (AP)—Two Russian ships approached the entrance to the Panama Canal today. They are the first of 15 Soviet fishing boats expected to transit the waterway within the next month.

It was not known when the first arrivals would sail through the canal after being checked by quarantine inspectors and security officials.

The vessels are being rerouted because of the closing of the Suez Canal. No Soviet vessel has been through the Panama Canal since last Jan. 22.

U.S. Engineers To Study Canal For Columbia

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (AP)—Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) today reported he has been assigned that the proposed 27-foot Columbia River ship channel from Vancouver, Wash., to Brinnville Dam will get "careful consideration" when the Corps of Engineers prepares its budget for 1958.

Neuberger said the assurance came in a letter from Col. J. L. Person, acting assistant chief of engineers.

Appointment Forecast

PORTLAND, Jan. 2 (AP)—The Oregonian said in a special dispatch from Washington today that President Eisenhower will appoint Dorothy McCullough Lee, former mayor of Portland, as chairman of the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Integration Leader Hits Halt of Buses

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Jan. 2 (AP)—Commuters used alternate methods of transportation today during a city bus suspension which an integration leader protested as "unwise and unfair."

The Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Negro Inter Civic Council, said Gov. Leroy Collins' action in ordering a temporary halt of bus service would be discussed at a council mass meeting tonight.

Steele charged the suspension "was playing into the hands of the White Citizens Council" and would prove a hardship to whites and Negroes who had no other means of transportation.

Collins used his emergency powers yesterday to suspend bus service after a white youth hurled rocks through windows of Steele's home and a Negro grocery store was blasted with shotgun fire.

The governor gave no indication today when he would permit resumption of bus service. His office said the suspension was on a "day-to-day" basis and that Collins would be guided by community feeling in deciding when to lift it.

There were a few reports of difficulties being encountered by early shift workers who were caught by surprise by the sudden suspension order. But most regular riders got to work by walking, catching rides and using taxis.

100-Year-Old Press Bound For Museum

RATHDRUM, Idaho (AP)—The Rathdrum Tribune, one of the few remaining weekly newspapers which is set entirely by hand, is giving up its 100-year-old press to a museum.

Charles W. Kulp, 77, and his brother, J. R. M. Kulp, 76, who have been co-publishers of the paper for 54 years, said Wednesday the press will become a museum piece at the University of Idaho.

E. L. Ernsberger of Rockville, Md., a former Rathdrum resident, and University of Idaho graduate, paid the Kulp \$100 for the press to reserve it for the school.

The press will stay at the Tribune as long as the Kulp want it there, then will be moved to the university at Moscow. The weekly Tribune has another press and uses the old one only in emergencies.

The Kulp, assisted in their plant by their sister, Jennie Kulp, and the 14 Washington press was in the building when they took over operations in 1902.

Jennie serves as a reporter on the paper and is swift at setting the body type for the story by hand. The Tribune has never had a linotype machine.

Young Skaters On Rooftop Chill Police Officers

ELIZABETH, N.J., Jan. 2 (AP)—Police chilled at the sight of four boys skating on a rooftop here today.

The boys, from 12 to 16 years old, were trying their blades atop the New Jersey Bell Telephone office building where an "ice surface" inch thick had formed.

They used a tree to climb to the airy playground.

They climbed down before officers could get to them but were soon caught in a nearby garage hiding place.

Now they have a date at the Police Juvenile Aid Bureau.

Furniture Returned With Party Evidence

EUGENE, Jan. 2 (AP)—Someone ran off with three benches and two studio couches last weekend from the Moose Club rifle range here.

Yesterday they were returned. In the couches was a large quantity of confetti, apparently the remains of a New Year's eve party.

In 1902 more than half the motor vehicles in New York state were driven by steam.

The Weather

	Max.	Min.	Rain
Astoria	47	38	13
Baker	36	27	10
Medford	36	27	10
North Bend	47	35	00
Portland	43	34	00
SALEM	48	35	02
Chicago	23	5	00
Denver	50	23	00
Fort Worth	46	38	00
Miami	77	51	00
New York	26	13	00
San Francisco	54	33	00
Seattle	43	38	00
Spokane	32	24	02
Washington, D. C.	31	17	00

Today's forecast (from U. S. Weather Bureau, 8:30 a.m. field, 10:00 a.m. office): Partly cloudy Thursday and Friday with a few scattered showers Thursday afternoon; little change in temperature, the high today near 47, low tonight near 35.

Willamette River: 6.9 feet. Temperature 12:01 a.m. today 30.

Salem Precipitation Since start of weather year Sept. 1 To date Last Year Normal 1.61 9.97 16.68

Red Soldier Joins With Refugees

VIENNA, Austria, Jan. 2 (AP)—A Russian soldier on guard duty over Hungarian soldier prisoners joined them in becoming refugees in Austria today.

Three Hungarian soldiers said their regiment had been dissolved and the troops interned. The Russian soldier was set to guard them, but when they made a getaway he decided to join them instead of stopping them.

The Hungarians said "many more" Hungarian and Russian soldiers in Hungary were intensely dissatisfied with their lot and wanted to escape to the West.

The three Hungarians and the Russian were among 1,760 refugees who fled across the border into Austria in the last 48 hours.

The stream of refugees, which has increased since Christmas and New Year's because many remained for a last holiday season with families, has now poured 157,391 persons into Austria.

Of these 20,242 have left for new homes in the United States. The present limit of 21,500 will be reached in the next day or two, but officials expect this limit to be raised.

FBI Traps Washington State Convict

MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 2 (AP)—The FBI today arrested a convict who escaped from the Washington state prison at Walla Walla where he was serving 5 to 20 years for rape.

C. E. Weeks, Miami FBI agent, said the prisoner was Walter Leon Daniels, 26. He was held in bond for removal to Washington. Weeks said his identity was discovered after North Miami Beach police fingerprinted him and sent the fingerprints to the FBI as routine procedure.

The FBI charged him with fleeing to avoid confinement. Conviction on the charge would add up to 10 more years to his sentence. He and another prisoner escaped from the state prison Sept. 25.

Egypt Releases Body of British Officer to U.N.

EL BALLAH, Egypt, Jan. 2 (AP)—Egyptian authorities today handed over the body of the British Lieutenant, Anthony Moorhouse, to a Swedish U.N. battalion in Port Said.

Maj. Gen. E. M. Burns, U.N. commander, told newsmen the body would be put in a coffin and sent to Abu Suwir, U.N. headquarters, and flown from there to Naples to be handed over to the British.

Egyptian commandos kidnapped the young British officer in Port Said on Dec. 11, shortly before British-French invasion forces withdrew.

Today's statement by Burns was the first official word that Moorhouse's body had been found.

Freedom Fighter From Hungary Has Eugene Job

EUGENE, Jan. 2 (AP)—Tibor Kepes, a 22-year-old "Freedom Fighter" who battled Communists in the streets of Budapest less than two months ago, today started a new job in Eugene.

The young refugee is an electrician in the equipment firm of his sponsor, Stephen Batori, who also was born in Hungary.

Oregon Dairymen To Meet at Corvallis

CORVALLIS, Jan. 2 (AP)—The Oregon Dairymen's Assn. will hold its 63rd annual meeting here beginning Jan. 8.

Among topics to be discussed are the proposed milk usage audit law and proposed changes in the auction market law.

Net Farm Income Hike Seen in State for 1957

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Net farm income in Oregon is expected to be a little higher in 1957 than it was in 1956, according to agricultural economists. A small increase in farm earnings in 1956 marked the first improvement since 1951, and 1957 should see still more improvement.

Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at the state college, says that changes in farm income depend mainly upon four forces: supply, demand, marketing costs and the government programs. Mrs. Horrell Wednesday gave a brief summary of how these forces affected farm income in the last few years, and the effect she thinks they will have in the coming year.

Surpluses Caused Drop

Surplus supplies of many farm products were a major cause of the drop in farm income from 1951 through 1953. This problem is now being attacked by the Soil Bank program, passed by Congress in 1956, which aims at removing some acreages from the production of surplus crops. A large and successful Soil Bank could bring a turning point in the supply picture by bringing about a reduction in total agricultural output next year.

On the demand side, domestic use of farm products has been strong and rising throughout most of the period since 1953. The number of people in the nation—the number of consumers—has risen and is still rising. Employment and income are high, and consumers continue to spend about one-fourth of their take-home pay for food.

1957 Outlook Good
Agricultural exports may reach an all-time high for the 1956 crop year, and the export outlook for 1957 is favorable although it may be difficult to maintain the present rate of exports for many more years.

Rising marketing costs were a factor in the drop in farm income from 1951 through 1953. These marketing costs, due in part to services such as extra food processing and packaging, continued to creep upward in 1956. And they will probably rise somewhat more in 1957.

Government programs have cushioned the fall in farm prices over the past few years. They were a decisive factor in the slight rise in farm income in 1956. The Soil

Bank added a quarter-of-a-billion dollars directly to farm income, and there has been a substantial decrease in stocks of surplus products through disposal programs. With a greatly expanded Soil Bank program next year, government payments will be increased and prices of some farm products should be strengthened somewhat by reduced output.

Canadian Firm Hikes Price Of Newsprint

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (AP)—Abitibi Power & Paper Co., Ltd. of Toronto today boosted the price of newsprint \$4 a ton, effective March 1, possibly heading a general increase in the industry.

Abitibi, one of Canada's largest manufacturers, said its new price would be \$134 a ton, delivered in New York. It was the first announcement of a price increase by any producer since the last general rise one year ago.

These developments quickly followed:

1. The American Newspaper Publishers Assn. warned the increase could result in "serious consequences" for daily newspapers faced with "increasing economic pressures." As U.S. newspapers consume around seven million tons of newsprint a year, a general increase of \$4 would add at least 28 million dollars to their annual operating costs.

2. The head of another big Canadian newsprint firm said he was surprised the increase was "so low." M. J. Foley, president of Powell River Co., Vancouver, British Columbia, declared a boost of \$4 to \$10 a ton "would be more realistic," and promised a price announcement by his company "within the next four or five days."

3. The Federal Trade Commission in Washington, already studying recent rises in the costs of newsprint, said it is very "interested" in the Abitibi increase.

With the exception of Powell River, newsprint producers generally maintained silence on their plans. In the past, however, an increase by one company usually has been followed by an increase by all within a short time. Many of the firms have tie-in contracts, which permit boosts only when the industry leaders go up.

76 Present For Extension Classes Here

Seventy-six persons, termed "a very good number for the day after New Year," started state extension courses in Salem Wednesday night.

Seven courses started Wednesday and 13 others will get going Monday and Tuesday. Each meets weekly for 10 weeks and all carry college credits. The non-credit public school adult classes also start next week. Both credit and non-credit courses are administered by Salem Public Schools adult education office.

"The classes attracting the largest enrollments Wednesday were history of world civilization, with 19 registering, and public administration, with 17. George Porter, supervisor of adult education, said most members of the public administration class are state employees and that the course was requested by the Civil Service Commission.

Registration will remain open for two weeks and bulletins are still available at the School Administration Building, he said.

Purcell Acts to Halt Indictment

PORTLAND, Jan. 2 (AP)—Capt. Jim Purcell of the Portland police department today filed a motion in circuit court here to have dismissed the indictment charging him with malfeasance.

Purcell, chief of police here until his resignation Dec. 31, was indicted by a vice probing grand jury last summer on charges of failing to uphold the law.

He said in the motion that the only penalty for conviction would be his removal from office. His resignation Monday forestalled this, he said.

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