

Lottery Replaces Buggy Race In West's Modern Land Rush

WASHINGTON—(AP)—With all the fanfare but none of the buggy-busting competition of pioneer days, there'll be a land rush in a goldfish bowl come Wednesday in Oregon.

The stakes will be 86 small farms on the Klamath Basin irrigation project.

The Reclamation Bureau said Monday the winners will be drawn from a well-stirred bowl containing the names of 1305 World War II veterans.

Only slightly reminiscent of the colorful Cimarron and Dodge City rushes of bygone days, the ceremony at Klamath Falls will mark the inauguration of a government plan to open 300,000 acres of public land to veterans by 1951.

The candidates for the 7527 acres in the Klamath project's Tule Lake Division were selected from 2029 veterans who applied before a Sept. 15 deadline.



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Highway Crash Takes 8 Lives

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Margaret Kilvein, Rt. 5, Eugene, bruised, cut lip, Gabriel Kilvein, cut lip, Pearl Brookford, Portland, cut lip, and Steve Wiltse, Oregon City, cut head and nose. Mrs. Kilvein remained at the hospital Tuesday for treatment of her eye and bruises. Also at the hospital was Haycraft.

Haycraft told officers he was driving about 40 miles per hour down the highway in a heavy rain. At a distance of 200 feet ahead of the bus, he saw the northbound sedan cross the yellow line into his traffic lane and head straight for the bus. The car did not alter its course, he reported, and the passenger car driver apparently made no attempt to cut back into the proper lane. Haycraft said he applied the brakes and attempted to swerve to the left side of the highway to miss the car. The two vehicles collided almost head-on.

The whole area open to settlement has been estimated to be worth \$2,000,000—with individual farms valued around \$15,000 each—but you can't fairly place an estimate on them," a bureau spokesman said.

"Of the 7527 acres, 1300 were farmed under WRA (War Relocation Authority) and last year one man bid \$76 an acre and invested \$4500 in a lease for one year. The average 1944 crop output per acre of an adjoining project was \$181.68."

Mired in Mud
The bus careened to the left side of the highway about 42 feet from the point of impact and 23 feet from the highway, and mired down in the soft mud. The Buick was thrown 72 feet from the point of impact, and was turned around on the east side of the highway so that it headed south.

Haycraft said he immediately checked his bus passengers and opened the escape door in the rear of the bus. Despite his injuries, he stayed at the wheel until he was certain that the passengers were secure.

Seven Dead
He then jumped from the bus and attempted to aid the eight passengers in the Buick. Seven were dead. He pulled one woman from the car and felt her pulse; it was still beating faintly.

State Police Officer Eugene Hewitt, off duty, passed the scene of the wreck at about this time and stopped. He reported that the woman lived only a few minutes. One victim had been thrown from the car by the impact, while the others remained inside.

Front Ruined
The Buick was a twisted mass of wreckage up to the front seat compartment, but the rear seat area was not badly damaged. It was assumed that the force of impact killed most of the occupants at once, as two had broken necks.

Damages to the bus were to the right front, which was smashed in in the region of the driver's seat. The door was torn completely off. A relief bus was sent from Eugene to pick up the passengers.

Witnesses on the bus described the tragedy to state police officers. **Sees Car**
Margaret Kilvein, Rt. 5, Eugene, who was sitting behind the driver, said she saw the car weaving across the highway into the wrong traffic lane. She reported the driver attempted to miss the oncoming vehicle, but that a smash was inevitable. The bus driver, she said, was not going faster than 40 miles an hour, and had been driving carefully.

Another witness, Wayne Powell, 12, of Twin Cedar Trailer Camp, Eugene, substantiated this statement, and mentioned especially that the driver had been careful during the time he had been in the bus.

Third Witness
The third witness, Gabriel Kilvein, Twin Cedar Trailer Camp, said he also saw the car coming toward the bus, described the driver's attempt to avoid a crash, and pointed out that Haycraft had been driving carefully and at a normal rate of speed.

After the crash, investigating officers and the county coroner reported a strong smell of liquor in the wrecked Buick. A broken whiskey bottle and a beer bottle were found in the front seat, and a fifth of whiskey was found in the rear seat of the car. Ironically, this

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Retiring Forester Refutes Claim Against Federal Timber Holding

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Instead of decreasing its forest holdings, as is often suggested, the federal government could advantageously acquire an additional 75,000,000 acres, says Leon F. Kneipp, assistant chief forester.

Kneipp is retiring from government service at the end of this year after 47 years of continuous service, during the last 20 of which he has been in charge of land purchases for the forest service.

He challenges the view that timber land purchases have seriously depleted local tax revenues. The government has acquired through purchase, trade or donation, about 22,000,000 acres.

"Major circumstances," he told a reporter, "indicate that the forest lands now in private ownership, approximately 133,000,000 acres should be acquired by public agencies; 8,000,000 acres by municipalities, 50,000,000 acres by the states and 75,000,000 acres for national forests."

"All federal acquisitions by purchase and exchange," Kneipp told a reporter, "have been through agreement with the land owners, hence it can be assumed that the land could be realized and represented the full worth of the property. The values were the highest at the time they were acquired."

"On that premise, the total value withdrawn from taxation through federal acquisition has been \$88,467,398."

"But it is a matter of record that much of the land was assessed at much lower values and it is a matter of fact that, if much of it had not been acquired by the United States, it would have been allowed to revert through tax delinquency."

"Erroneous Idea"
The prevailing idea, he said, seems to be that, if the lands were relinquished they would at once be devoted to productive uses by private enterprise, would become taxable and would contribute their equitable share to the costs of local government.

He described that premise as "distinctly vulnerable."

In the western states, he said, there are 154,000,000 acres on which the annual precipitation is

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ly will run about 1500 square feet in the private judgment of two top-ranking housing officials. Under the former \$10,000 ceiling, the average house contained only 800 to 1000 square feet.

Store, factory and other non-housing construction which competes with housing for materials soon will be increased, housing officials said. Some of them forecast that the present limit of \$35,000,000 a week over the country will be shopped up to perhaps \$50,000,000 as of Jan. 1, a jump of more than 40 per cent.

Furthermore, he added, "a lot of land under federal ownership lies in 12 western states above 8000 or 9000 feet elevation, where its productive capacity is 'negligible.'"

Business May Get 40% Building Hike
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Into housing—and anyone who wants to build a home for his own occupancy may do so by getting a simple government permit. This will limit the floor area but will set no ceiling price and require no inspection or building standards.

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