

River's Crest Passes St. Louis

ST. LOUIS — (AP) — The muddy Mississippi River appeared to have reached its crest here Wednesday after smashing four main levees Tuesday and routing thousands of persons from their homes in nearby Illinois communities.

The river remained stationary at 40.3, a 103-year high, and Harry F. Wahlgren, U. S. meteorologist, said it was expected to start falling before dark.

While the worst of the flood ap-

peared past for the St. Louis area, the situation southward as far as Cairo, Ill., remained critical.

A levee break in Jackson County, Ill., 100 miles south of here, flooded the town of Grand Tower and several unincorporated areas.

Walter Whitehead, county disaster chairman for the Red Cross, estimated 320 families fled their homes in Grand Tower and the surrounding area and said up to 40,000 acres of crops had been lost in the county.

Grand Tower had been virtually isolated Tuesday by an upstream levee break which sent flood-

491 New Laws Take Effect

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

mills in special property taxes if they need the money for public welfare.

Here is a summary of other important new laws becoming effective Saturday:

Welfare — A \$42,700,000 public welfare program for the next two years, which already has resulted in some curtailment of the old age pension program.

Forestry — Levies a tax of 5 cents a thousand feet on timber to promote research.

Utilities — Requiring peoples utility district elections to be held at the same time as general elections.

Highways — Permitting construction of throughways, allowing bigger trucks to use the highways, increasing truck taxes, giving counties and cities more revenue from highway fund.

Counties — Permitting counties to zone territory outside cities and increase county officers' salaries.

Labor — Increased unemployment compensation and industrial accident benefits.

State Affairs — Fair employment law to discourage state, counties and cities from discriminating when hiring employees because of their race, religion, sex or union membership; giving authority to attorney general over all attorneys for state departments; increased salaries for state officials and employees.

Sports — Making it illegal to bribe participants in athletic contests. Allowing harness race meets at racing tracks.

Fish — Gives fish commission broad authority over fixing commercial fishing seasons.

AIR FIESTA — ASTORIA — The first annual Clatsop County Air Fiesta starts here Thursday and will continue for three days. Over 300 private fliers have indicated they will attend.

Americans eat ten times as much shrimp as lobster.

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HARBOR SCENE—A busy tugboat churns up a rolling wake as it crosses New York bay, with the skyscrapers of lower Manhattan silhouetted in the background.

State Cigaret Tax Effective Saturday If Referendum Fails

SALEM — (AP) — The State Tax Commission said Wednesday that provisions have been made to make refunds if a referendum is filed against the cigarette tax act which becomes effective July 5.

The act provides that a tax of two cents per pack is effective after midnight Friday, and each package must bear a tax stamp. The commission is prepared to refund the purchase price of the stamps if the threatened referendum is declared valid.

Stamps are now available at the Utility Division of the State Tax Commission here and will be issued to dealers upon payment of face value of the stamps less three per cent, the amount allowed by law to dealers for affixing the stamps on the packages, Carl

Chambers, commissioner in charge of administering the act, said.

He said a few dealers have placed orders for stamps. "Acting upon an opinion from the attorney general, the commission ordered and has on hand 11,000,000 stamps so as to be ready to start collection if the referendum petition fails," Chambers said.

Deadline for filing a completed referendum against any measure enacted by the 1947 legislature is 5 p.m. Friday, July 4, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature. The cigarette tax act becomes effective at 1201 a. m. Saturday.

The commission has established procedure that will provide for administration of the act in case the referendum cannot be certified by the secretary of state.

Dealers will be requested not to affix the stamps until the effective date.

Petitions for a referendum against the measure are being circulated by wholesale tobacco dealers who claim the law does not allow adequate compensation for stamping the packages.

Police FM System Gets Federal Okay

Eugene Police Department Wednesday had its permit from the Federal Communications Commission for operation of its proposed FM station, to start about Sept. 1.

FCC approved a 250-watt FM transmitter and the change from AM to FM. Contractor Waldo Skinner is building a structure on Skinner's Butte to house the transmitter, and receiving sets for police cars are on order.

The new FM system will provide a four-way tie-up between the Eugene and Springfield police departments, Eugene Fire Department and the sheriff's office.

Cost to the city of Eugene will total about \$6500; Springfield will pay about \$1000 and the sheriff's office about \$1300. The program calls for six FM receivers in city police cars, three in fire department trucks, three for the sheriff and two for Springfield. The new equipment will replace nine-year-old receivers in city police cars.

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EASTON, Md. — (AP) — State police reported that two small bombs fell Wednesday from an unidentified plane and that one of them exploded in a boat yard at the nearby small fishing village of Wittman.

It is estimated that between fifty and a hundred million people died of smallpox alone in the 17th century.

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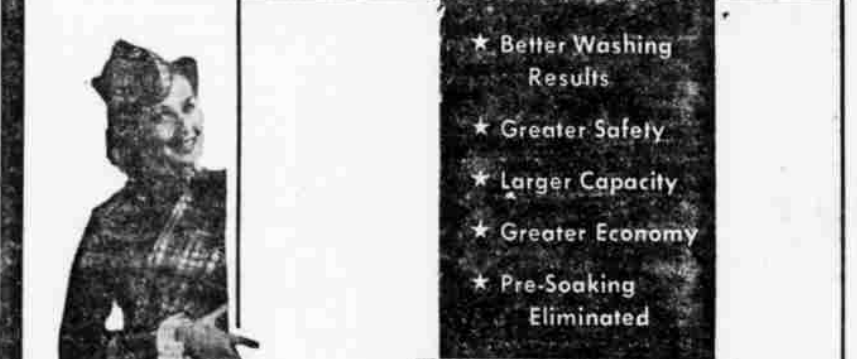
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We should be thankful that we live in a country where freedom of speech and freedom of living is a rare privilege—where life is what we make it.

It is our sincere hope that it may always be our country, our flag and our people.

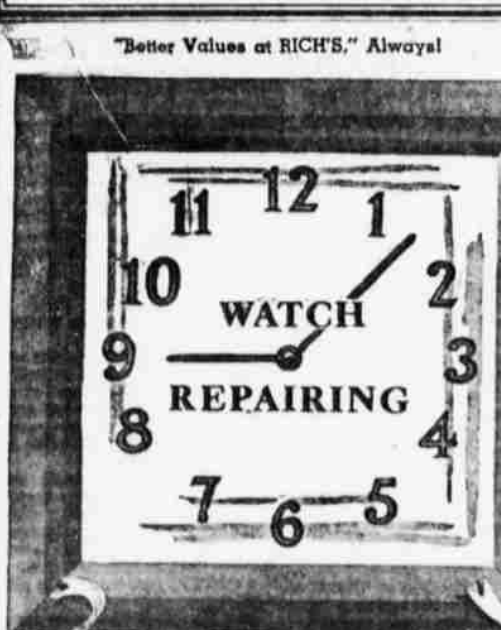
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