

Fire Destroys Apple Supply

Firefighters Battle
Blaze for 6 Hours

WENATCHEE, Wash.—(P)—An unexplained fire roared out of control for six hours in an apple warehouse here Thursday evening, destroying nearly 100,000 boxes of fruit and causing damage of nearly a million dollars.

The blaze started in some empty boxes in the J. M. Wade Fruit Co. warehouse in downtown Wenatchee at 3 p.m. Firemen were hampered by below freezing weather, which crusted hoses with ice and hampered movement of vehicles and men.

Four hours after the flames were first noticed, the roof of the 3-story, 125-foot brick structure caved in, further hampering the fire fighters. A furniture company adjoining the warehouse was saved. The blaze was brought under control shortly after 9 p.m.

Throughout the fire, volunteers removed boxes of apples from the rear of the building, managing to save seven carloads (approximately 5000 boxes). Meanwhile, between 95,000 and 100,000 boxes of fruit were ruined. The apples were valued at \$4 a box. Fire Chief T. A. Weaver said the building was worth at least \$200,000 and the total loss would be between \$750,000 and one million dollars.

Two firemen were overcome by smoke but quickly revived. Volunteer fire crews worked with the regular city, Chelan County and U.S. Forest Service firemen.

Dr. F. A. Elliott, Chiropractor
X-ray. 62 W. 10th. Ph. 4-4021

Dog Retrieves Meal, Anyway

CALDWELL, Idaho — (P) — Gene Odle says this happened the last day of duck hunting season.

Odle shot a teal duck while hunting along the Boise River near here. He sent his dog, a spaniel, into the water to retrieve the duck. Back came the animal in record time.

But at Odle's feet the dog laid, not a duck, but a flopping 27-inch long fish.

Higher Prices For Plywood Expected Soon

SEATTLE — (AP) — A 21 per cent drop in plywood prices in the past three months will be wiped out within the next 30 to 60 days, Thomas B. Malarkey, president of the M & M Woodworking Co., Portland, predicted here this week.

"The first indication that the tide of prices had turned came with the disclosure last Wednesday that new orders substantially have exceeded production for the first time since last March," Malarkey said.

He said the plywood buyer apparently is convinced that prices have reached rock bottom. "Plywood is no longer wearing the boom industry label," he said. "And firms in the industry are realizing more fully the need for modern sales forces and techniques."

The M & M Co. is the largest plywood producer in the Pacific Northwest and the biggest door manufacturer in the country, he said. It operates nine factories in southern Washington, Oregon and California.

Solons Check OSS Slaying in Italy

WASHINGTON — (P) — A congressional investigation has begun behind closed doors into the killing of an American secret agent in Italy in 1944, and what the Defense Department did about reports he was slain by two other U. S. agents.

Rep. Cole (R-NY) told reporters Thursday that he conducted an all-day hearing Wednesday. The witness was Michael Stern, author of an account published in True Magazine last summer of the death of Maj. William V. Holohan of the cloak-and-dagger Office of Strategic Services.

Cole is the Republican member of a two-man House armed services sub-committee named last October to look into the matter. The other member is Representative Kilday (D-Tex.)

Cole said he questioned Stern about details of his published account.

"He filled in the gaps in his

Milk Hearings Set in Medford

PORTLAND — (AP) — The State Board of Agriculture Friday granted milk producer requests for price hearings in Medford and Grants Pass.

Board members indicated they would look with favor on requests for price boosts, foreshadowing a new round of milk price increases for the southern Oregon area.

Producers said they based their requests on increased feed costs. The Medford hearing was set tentatively for Jan. 10 after the board heard of the proposal from Dick Westenburg, president, and William Auel, manager of the Milk Producers League.

story, and recounted the results of his investigation," Cole said.

One of the matters the House subcommittee is digging at is whether the Defense Department intended to keep the whole thing a secret, but changed its mind when it learned that Stern's story was to be published.

The department's first public word about it was last Aug. 15—a time when Stern's story was already in the works for publication. It issued a release then which gave this story:

Holohan, Lieut. Aldo Icardi and Sgt. Carl G. Lodolce parachuted behind the German lines in Italy in 1944 on a secret mission to determine how much American arms

should be given to Communists and non-Communists fighting in the Italian underground against the Germans.

Holohan was slain and his body thrown into a lake. The department said investigators had learned he was poisoned and shot in a plot involving Icardi and Lodolce who had quarreled with Holohan because he would not agree with them on giving arms to Communists.

The release said Lodolce had made a confession a year before the Army made the affair public. It said there had been no prosecution because neither U. S. military nor civil courts had jurisdiction.

Icardi, formerly of Pittsburgh,

was then living in New York. Lodolce's home was Rochester, N. Y.

Both men denied in statements to reporters that the Defense Department's account was true and denied any part in Holohan's death.

Since publication of the story, law officers in Italy have made preliminary moves looking toward extradition of the men to face trial in Italy.

Both Icardi and Lodolce were honorably discharged from the Army after the war.

Cole said Thursday that as far as he knows they are still in the United States.

Battery Orders Issued by OPS

WASHINGTON — (P) — The government ruled this week that only automobile storage batteries with life expectancies of at least 18 months can be manufactured after next March 1.

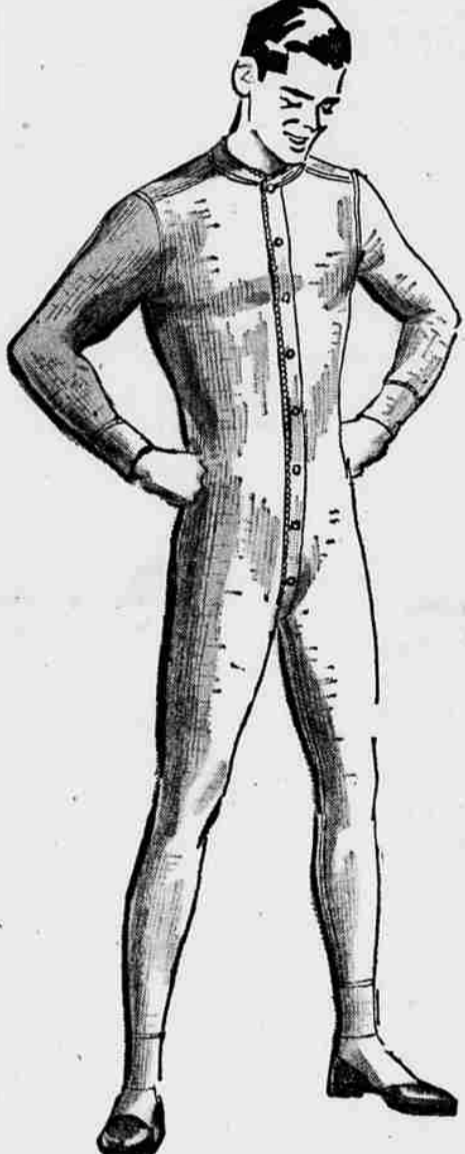
In an order designed to conserve critical supplies of lead, the National Production Authority (NPA) also prohibited the output of so-called de luxe batteries with a high ampere-hour rating.

The order will affect storage batteries for passenger automobiles, light trucks and light tractors. It does not affect industrial storage batteries and six-volt batteries for motorcycles, heavy trucks, tractors and buses.

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