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## Radio Operators Threaten Strike

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — CIO day. The contract with the ship radio operators on Pacific Maritime Assn. ships have given strike notice effective Feb. 1.  
The threatened walkout is over terms of a contract pension provision, Philip O'Rourke, vice president of the radiomen's American Radio Assn., said Saturday.

## Soft Voice, Hard Tail Needed for Congo

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Want to travel to the Congo? Covering the long and short of it, from 4-foot pygmies chasing a buck to 7-foot Watutsi dancers, Charles Mercer found that darkest Africa is neither as dark nor as mysterious as you might believe. But it's a fascinating place to visit.

By CHARLES MERCER  
Of The Associated Press

STANLEYVILLE, Belgian Congo (AP) — If you're willing to spend a little time, effort and about \$3,000 you, too, can be called "b'wana."

Although no one ever uses that respectful title in the Belgian Congo, it will be bandied widely when you return home to the states. As you press your last picture of "Me and the pygmies" on your last friend, he's sure to moan, "I've seen it, b'wana, I've seen it."

"B'wana" is a Swahili term of respect meaning "chief." The point is that practically anyone—given the time and money—can visit darkest Africa and so become the most celebrated raconteur or the biggest bore in his community.

### THREE FACTS

If honest, he'll have to admit three facts: (1) Africa no longer is the dark continent of the imagi-

nation, (2) travel here is not as difficult as Ernest Hemingway and his imitators would have you believe, (3) travel here is much rougher than the travel agencies would have you believe.

After traveling more than 20,000 miles by plane, auto and boat, we cheerfully admit when you twist an arm only slightly that the best equipment for safari in Central Africa is a soft voice and hard tail.

The easier way to travel in Africa is by air. The only trouble is that you see little of the country and nothing of the people. But air is the only means of getting from New York to the Congo in 36 hours.

### ENTER BUSH BY CAR

If you're really going to earn the title "b'wana," however, you'll have to take to the bush by car. The roads, cutting through barely penetrable jungle and over jagged mountains, are engineering masterpieces. But by American touring standards they range from poor to terrible. In rain they become slippery as soap; in dry weather they raise a choking dust.

The African driver of the American-made car you'll rent will be well-trained—but fast. It's his intention to shake as much weight as possible off you. The only words of Swahili you need to know are, "poli, poli!" meaning, "slow down!" These words have no effect on the driver, but it varies the monotony to bounce along shouting, "poli, poli!"

### GUEST HOUSES VARY

The country inns—called guest-houses—where you spend the nights, range from excellent to just passable. In a just passable guest house the water runs a color dirtier than you are, the toilet doesn't flush and the lights go out sporadically. An excellent guest house compares favorably with a good motel in the states. If you plan your trip carefully you can spend nearly every night in one.

Food is adequate, though often monotonous. The Belgians are hearty eaters and any meal of less than four courses is merely a snack to them. Lunch and dinner always begin with the same soup—a greenish thing so universal it might well come from a pipeline system. Menus offer little choice outside the large cities.

Only bottled water is safe to drink. There's no reason to wear a sun helmet unless you plan to write a book and want a picture of the helmeted author for the dust jacket. A knowledge of French is helpful, though most Belgians speak some English.

To an inveterate traveler none of these facts presents any real difficulties, however. The true traveler will feel amply compensated by the strange and beautiful country, the interesting life of the Africans.

## Building Total Record for Area

PORTLAND (AP) — Construction in the Pacific Northwest during 1954 reached an all-time high dollarwise, according to incomplete figures compiled by Equitable Savings and Loan Assn. from building permits of 47 cities.

Permit valuations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia were \$336,422,597, the partial compilation showed. This is nearly two and one half million dollars above the 1950 record. The association said the major boom was in the state of Washington.

Nineteen reporting municipalities in Oregon reported \$5,449,974, which is 44 per cent better than last year.

## Child Released From Hospital

PORTLAND (AP) — A child, whose father is charged with assault with intent to kill in connection with his beating, was released from a hospital Friday and sent to a nursery.

The child, Willis L. Russell Jr., 18 months, is under court jurisdiction. His father admitted when arrested that he beat him in a fit of anger.

## Union Delays Transit Strike

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Less than two hours before a midnight deadline, transport workers postponed for a week a threatened strike of Philadelphia's far-flung transit system to consider a last minute company offer.

Philadelphians rode to work on their regular buses, trolleys and subways Saturday after having prepared to hoof it or pool autos in the strike emergency.

The postponement will give rank and file members of the CIO Transport Workers an opportunity to accept or reject a Philadelphia Transportation Co.'s offer, which included a 7-cent-an-hour wage increase on a two-year step-up plan. The company employs 8,900 operating and maintenance workers.

The TWU's Executive Board voted to accept the offer shortly before Friday night's deadline. But the union will not agree to a settlement until a secret ballot by members Wednesday.

## ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT

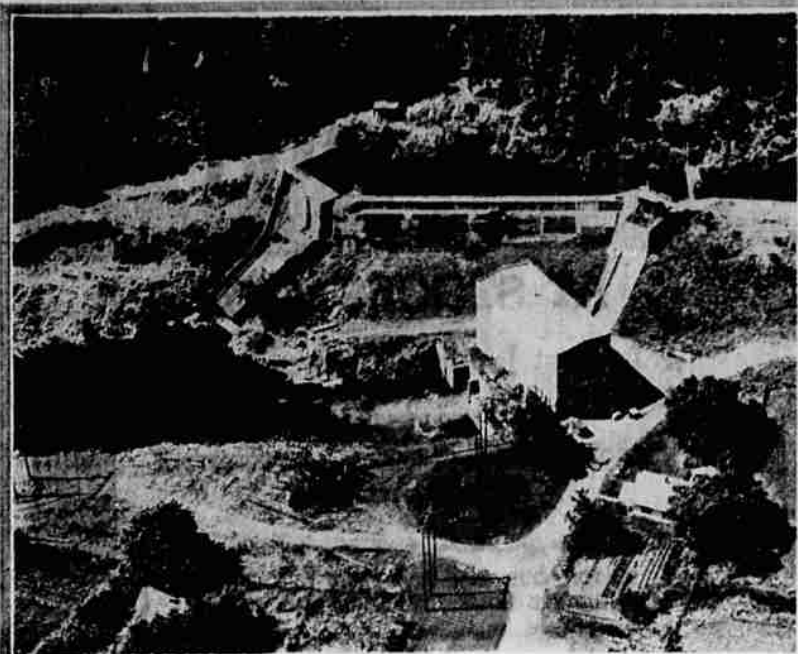
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SEE PAGE 4-D FOR ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT

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(WALTHERVILLE POWER PLANT)

## Your Municipal Electric System

If you live in the city of Eugene, you own a share of the property shown in this aerial photograph. . . . The Eugene Water and Electric Board's hydroelectric plant near Waltherville, about 14 miles east of Eugene.

The Waltherville plant provides 9,000 kilowatts of power to your municipal electric system. It operates on water diverted from the McKenzie River through a four mile canal and the generator operates on a base load or "around the clock" basis, helping to provide the extremely low cost energy which forms the backbone of the EWEB generating system.

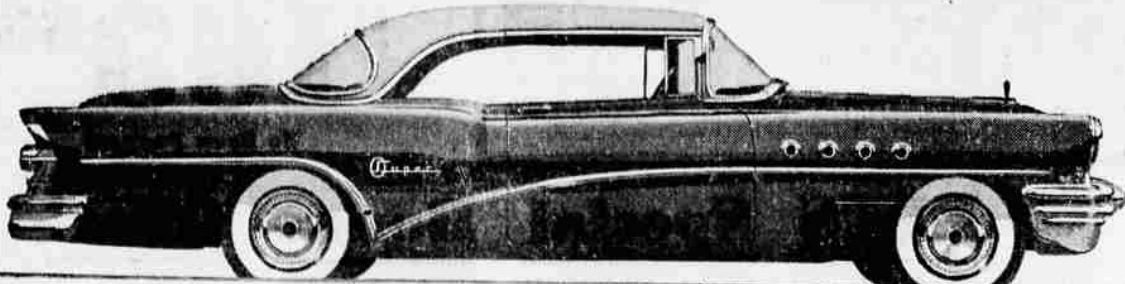
The present Waltherville station was completed in 1949 on the site of the original municipal power plant, constructed in 1911. The original plant was constructed primarily to furnish power to operate pumps for the city water system and had a capacity of about 1400 kilowatts. Later, the plant was expanded and power was used to light the city streets. Surplus power was sold to residents of the city. In 1916, the city purchased the line of the private company which had been serving the city. Since then, the people of Eugene have owned their electric system.



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