

### Merrifield Goes on Trial On Drunk Driving Charge

SALMON — State Sen. John Merrifield of Portland went on trial Wednesday on a charge of drunken driving and his attorney indicated the whole thing stemmed from violent actions of a passenger hospitalized for the state mental hospital.

Defense attorney Peery Buren said he will attempt to prove that Merrifield was transporting a drunken woman to the Oregon State Hospital, committing and her violent actions caused his car to swerve.

Merrifield was arrested June 18 on Highway 99E near Gervais by state police.

The trial, in Marion County district court, is before Judge E. O. Stadter, Jr. A jury of six is hearing the case.

Buren said the woman was a virtual stranger to Merrifield and that he was committing her at her request.

He added that Merrifield had had only one cocktail to drink and that even if he hadn't been sober the "nightmare" trip from Portland would have left him so.

The first witness called by Marion County Asst. Dist. Atty. Hal Adams was Floyd Morrill, the state policeman who arrested Merrifield.

Morrill testified that Merrifield pulled his Cadillac to the side of the highway and stopped without the siren being blown. He said that Merrifield had answered "yes, probably too much," when asked if he had been drinking, adding that he was glad the police had come along, because he didn't want to drive any more.

**Grants Received**  
PORTLAND — The University of Oregon Medical School has received \$33,000 in grants and gifts in recent weeks, Dr. David W. E. Baird, dean, said Wednesday. Included is \$25,000 from the Atomic Energy Commission to continue research on the effect of radioactive materials on the blood.

### 2 Policemen Deny Kicking Harvest Hand

HOOD RIVER — Two Hood River police officers Thursday flatly denied the death bed statements of a fatally injured harvest worker that they had kicked him a few hours before he died in a The Dalles hospital.

The denials came on the heels of a report from the Hood River County grand jury criticizing police treatment of Robert Easley, a transient field hand who was beaten and fatally injured in a fight with other transients. The grand jury returned a manslaughter indictment against Ross Matchen in connection with Easley's death.

Jurors also were critical of admittance policies of the Hood River Hospital where Easley was examined by a nurse and a University of Oregon medical student but not treated.

Glenn Howell, supervisor of the hospital, said the nurse and intern examined Easley when he was taken to the hospital by two police officers, Robert Schultz and Donald Stichter. Howell said the attendants had assumed Easley, 48-year-old father of two, from Klamath Falls, would be held quietly in jail until he could be examined more carefully.

Instead, according to the grand jury report, Easley was taken to the edge of town and told to "get going." It was at that point, Easley told state police officers, that the two officers kicked him for not moving fast enough.

The man died later of the effects of a punctured lung and rib fractures after being picked up by a passing motorist and taken to The Dalles.

The Soo Canal between Lake Superior and Lake Huron was built in 1855.

### Bill Would Increase Retired Officers' Pay

WASHINGTON — A bill raising to \$10,000 the combined pension and government pay which retired officers may draw has been approved by the Senate Finance Committee.

Under present law, a retired officer who works for the government must choose between his pension and his salary if together they exceed \$3,000. The bill increasing the ceiling to \$10,000 already has been passed by the House.

### Zinc Ore Unloaded

PORTLAND — The first shipment of zinc ore to pass through the Port of Portland was unloaded here Wednesday.

William E. Morris, Portland agent for Burchard & Basken, said the new shipping trade was expected to continue. He said two new gantry cranes equipped with the dock commission, opened up the trade. The 2,000 tons of zinc concentrate were shipped from Callao, Peru, and will be shipped by rail gondola cars to an Idaho smelter.

### Air Conditioner Breaks Into Sweat

Tuesday's warm weather provided too much work for an air conditioning unit in the Laraway Building, 980 Willamette St., Eugene firemen reported.

After working strenuously all day to keep out the heat, the unit suddenly began belching out clouds of smoke instead of cool air. Firemen, who were called at 4:27 p.m., traced the trouble to a short-circuit in the unit's motor. No damage was reported.

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### Admits Burglaries

PORTLAND — A 40-year-old man being held in Seattle has signed a statement admitting some 42 home burglaries in east Portland within a month, Detective Captain William Browne said Wednesday.

Browne said he had sent two detectives to talk to Joseph James Lazar, who received the title "hungry burglar" because in almost every case food was either taken or consumed at the scene.

Lazar was linked to Portland when officers in Seattle found a credit card in his effects belonging to a Portland man whose home had been burglarized.

### Logger Killed

ROSEBURG — A 27-year-old logger died Wednesday of injuries received when he was struck by a large piece of a falling tree near Tiller, about 50 miles southeast of here.

He was Elby Glenn Mitchell, a veteran of the Korean War who loved to Tiller from Chehalis, Wash., about three weeks ago.

It was Douglas County's seventh logging fatality of the year and the second this month.

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