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Salem, Oregon

Thursday, July 13, 1939

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Weather

Unsettled tonight and Friday,
thunder storms locally, showers on
coast; changeable wind. Wednesday:
Max. 91, min. 56. No rain. River
-2.7 ft. North wind. Clear.

13,000 WPA Workers Removed Today

Bridges Accused in \$100,000 Libel Suit

Behind-Curtain Scene Described By John Leech

Witness Thinks Defendant May Have Attended New York Meeting

San Francisco, July 13 (P)—Testimony that Harry Bridges "could have been" hidden behind stage curtains during a meeting of the communist party at New York in 1936 was given today at the CIO labor leader's deportation hearing by John L. Leech, Los Angeles, former organizer of the communist party.

Leech previously testified Bridges, Australian born, had been elected to the communist central committee at the meeting in the Manhattan opera house.

"Back of the curtains on the stage were assembled representatives of the communist party from Mexico, Spain, France, the Soviet Union and so on," Leech said.

"They did not mingle with and were not visible to the general delegation out in the auditorium. Bridges could have been back of that curtain."

Lumber Workers Sue
Bridges was served with a \$100,000 libel complaint just before the hearing opened. In it the Oregon-Washington council of the lumber and sawmill workers of America, AFL, sought \$50,000 general and \$50,000 punitive damages from Bridges, John L. Lewis, head of the CIO, and other officials and their wives.

The complaint charged a publication in the "Timber Worker," organ of the CIO group of lumber workers, sought "to destroy, defame and disrupt the Oregon-Washington council."

Bridges accepted the complaint with the remark, "It's just one of those things. No comment."

Referring to the New York meeting, Leech said one of those behind the curtains was an instructor from Lenin Institute of Moscow, known in U. S. communist circles as "Bob," who had taught in a workers' school attended by Leech at Los Angeles.

State headquarters of the communist party here issued a statement today saying in 1936 on "suspicion of being a police spy" and under suspicion of being a provocateur for attempting to provoke a general maritime strike in San Pedro."

The name of Stanley M. (Larry) Doyle was brought up in examination of Leech by Thomas Shoemaker, chief government counsel.

Leech said Doyle, identified as a "special agent," had assured him "the immigration service would protect me and my family if I gave an affidavit against Bridges."

The witness said Doyle gave him \$100 in cash for the Leech family expenses on a trip to Portland, Ore., to sign an affidavit against Bridges on August 30, 1937, and offered to buy him a second hand car if necessary.

Bridges' attorneys have asked that Doyle be subpoenaed and the government said it had discovered the defense must furnish money for his expenses. Richard Gladstein, attorney for Bridges, stated the defense would willingly furnish expenses for bringing Doyle to the hearing.

Aircraft Manufacturers Decide To Remove Aliens from Payrolls

Washington, July 13 (P)—To safeguard secrets of new warplanes designed for the expanding army and navy air forces, aircraft manufacturers are quietly weeding out aliens from their employes. At the direction of the war and navy departments, several score foreign technicians have been discharged recently or transferred to other than military work.

Others hold their jobs only through short term official permits, issued after a close tab has been made of their reliability.

Officials made the disclosure today, without divulging the number of persons affected, following an announcement by a Hartford, Conn., firearms plant that all aliens



Masquerade Ends — Minerva Phipps (above), 46, was being held in Los Angeles on suspicion of false impersonation after a minor traffic violation arrest disclosed that she had posed as James W. Phipps, chauffeur for 23 years, and had married two women during that time, according to Samuel Bailey, Los Angeles vice squad officer. — Associated Press Photo.

Silverton Road Job Starts Soon

County Commissioner Smith was notified this morning that the contractors expect to start work very soon on the federal improvement of the Silverton highway from the city limits to a point about three miles east, the improvement to stretch to the second road east of the Middlegrove school. The Northwest Warren company which is now engaged in making a similar improvement on the North River road also holds the contract on the Silverton road.

Two major corner cutting improvements are involved on the job, one at the road which was paved as a detour to the Pacific highway when the railroad underpass was installed and the other just west of the Middlegrove school where the greater portion of a sharp corner will be smoothed out.

Work on the river road improvement is progressing rapidly, the commission said today, forms being made for two bridges and excavation and fill going ahead near McNary corners.

Flying Boat Hops Off For Felixstowe

Botwood, Newfoundland, July 13 (Canadian Press)—A 15-ton flying boat built in California for the British Royal Air Force left here at 8:30 a. m. (EST) today for Felixstowe, England. Aboard were Russell Rogers as pilot and a crew of three.

The big bomber arrived here late yesterday afternoon from Buffalo, N. Y., where it had landed for refueling enroute to San Diego, Calif. Rogers planned to follow the route of the trans-Atlantic clippers and expected to reach Felixstowe, 2400 miles away, early tomorrow morning.

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Reserves Called To Colors by Great Britain

12,000 on Retired List Summoned for Service With English Fleet

London, July 13 (P)—Prime Minister Chamberlain announced today 12,000 of the nation's 70,000 naval reservists would be called to the colors for fleet maneuvers — part of a program to make Britain ready for any eventuality during the anxious period of August and September. About 130 ships will take part.

He told the house of commons 12,000 retired officers and other reservists would report for duty July 31 and remain active until the end of September, taking part in combined naval and air force war games.

Informed quarters regarded it as significant the maneuvers would be in progress at the time of the next party congress which opens September 2 at Nuernberg. Many European observers have picked that as a danger period.

Germany Calm Observer

In Berlin, the statement was made in informed quarters. Britain's action represented "nothing impressive for Germany." One German source said "We, too, are exercising our reserves."

Britain's move marks the first time since the Czechoslovak crisis of last September that naval reservists have been called up.

The reserves will take part in a vast naval demonstration August 9. King George VI will review the fleet at Weymouth, where about 130 ships of all sizes will be concentrated.

The naval move came as the air ministry was engaged in a series of mass bomber flights over southern France designed to give Royal Air Force pilots practice in long-range flying and at the same time to demonstrate Britain's air power.

Defense Grows Rapidly

It also coincided with the allocation of 40,000,000 pounds (about \$187,200,000) more for the air force, making a total for 1939-40 of about \$1,216,800,000.

By the time of the Nuernberg congress, Britain's land army will have approached the three-quarter million mark as a result of the growing territorial force and the new conscript army, which will be launched this week-end when the first conscripts report for duty.

About 34,000 men—all in their 21st year—will report during the next few days. Huge army maneuvers are scheduled to be held in September.

Chamberlain also announced warships now in reserve would take part in the combined fleet and air exercises.

Golfer in Select Group

Worcester, Mass., July 13 (P)—They chalked up E. T. Hanson's name today with a tiny, select group of golfers. He holed his tee shot on the 166-yard sixth at Lincoln Country club yesterday and repeated a few minutes later on the 135-yard ninth.

Burglar Advertises For Different Trade

Buffalo, N. Y., July 13 (P)—This advertisement appeared in the "jobs wanted" classification of a local newspaper today:

"Young man, burglar by trade, would like to get some different kind of work. Too much competition and too high a penalty is reason for giving up my trade."

The advertiser said he had "just got out of Dannemora, was 27 years old, and had spent 10 years of that in a cell."

Timber Fire Fought, Officers Hold Harris

Klamath Falls, Ore., July 13 (P)—Eighty-five fire fighters fought a 300-acre blaze in virgin timber on Saddle mountain today while Indian Officer John Arkell held Frank Harris in jail in connection with the start of the blaze.

The men were aided by mechanical fighting equipment but the blaze was not completely controlled.

Squalus Breaks From Grapplers At Portsmouth

Boat Lifted from Ocean Floor in Hardest Salvage Job Ever Attempted

Portsmouth, N. H., July 13 (P)—The ill-starred submarine Squalus, which carried 26 of her crew to death in a plunge to the bottom last May 23, broke loose from a navy salvage crew late today and plummeted back to the ocean floor after being lifted part way to the surface.

Portsmouth, N. H., July 13 (P)—Apparently conquering the tremendous weight of the water-filled stern of the sunken submarine Squalus, after a fight lasting four hours, a navy salvage crew lifted to the surface today the two topmost pontoons attached to the tail of the craft.

High navy officials immediately reported this appeared to mean success of the first step in the delicate salvage operation, inasmuch as the bow pontoons had been straining toward the surface since 10:05 a. m.

Shortly before 2 p. m. the two stern pontoons came up suddenly, rising with such force they shot clear out of the water. Despite fears the lifting devices had broken loose from their moorings, it later appeared they were still connected.

The 20 feet of the bow vanished almost as suddenly as it appeared, and from the surface it seemed the entire forward part of the Squalus had broken away from at least one, and possibly both of its lifting pontoons.

Two pontoons burst out of the water just as the bow appeared, and one of them floated bottom side up, as if it had sheared its moorings. The other remained partially submerged, giving the salvage crew hope that it still supported the bow of the Squalus.

This sudden surge, which had no place in the navy's salvage plans, occurred shortly before 3:30 p. m. about an hour and a half after the two topmost stern pontoons had broken the surface. This had indicated to navy men the water-filled stern of the Squalus had been lifted 85 feet off the ocean floor, as planned.

Crew of Boat Saved from Sea

San Diego, Calif., July 13 (P)—Coast guardsmen, police, deputy sheriffs and firemen today joined forces to rescue approximately 15 persons aboard the fishing barge Glenn Mayne, being pounded to pieces in the surf near Carlsbad, 35 miles north of here.

A coast guard plane piloted by Lieutenant E. W. Sinton took off from the local base and sped to the scene.

Several persons jumped overboard and were rescued by swimmers; it was reported. Firemen from nearby Oceanside, equipped with an inflatable, worked over the exhausted victims.

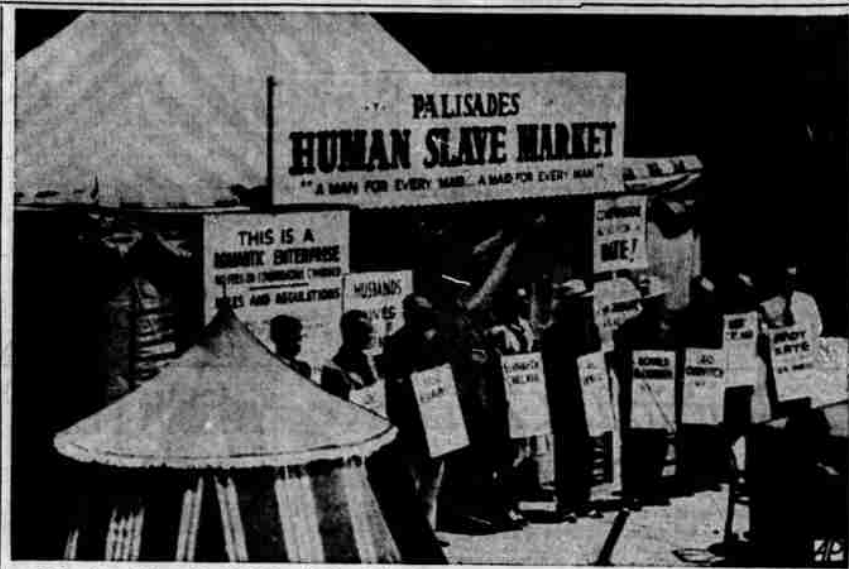
George Steelhammer Ill in New York

Silverton, July 13—George Steelhammer, Jr., a member of a youth tour sponsored by the Portland YMCA, was taken suddenly ill in New York City yesterday and his father was called. Steelhammer took a night plane out of Portland arriving at New York City this morning. Young Steelhammer was given an emergency operation and is reported in a serious condition. Cause is believed to be a sinus infection. The tour party is spending six weeks traveling and will go through Canada before returning home.

Spark From Tool Cause of Explosion

Norfolk, Va., July 13 (P)—Rear Admiral M. H. Simons, commandant of the Norfolk navy yard, said today an explosion and fire which damaged the exterior of the aircraft carrier Ranger amidship yesterday was caused by a welder's spark igniting a "pocket" of gasoline.

The commandant's statement was made while a board of inquiry headed by Captain L. A. Davidson of the U. S. S. Omaha, convened aboard the 735 foot vessel to investigate the fire variously estimated to have caused damage from \$1,000 to \$50,000.



Police Close "Slave Market;" Arrest Five—Police in Hackensack, N. J., closed the "slave market" in a nearby amusement park and arrested five persons. Advance publicity on the place said 22 men and women would go on the auction block, "offering themselves in matrimony." Among those arrested were Elizabeth Carlton (wearing name card, above), of Chicago, who was first on the "auction block." — Associated Press Photo.

Hughes in Airship Looks Over Salem

Howard Hughes, millionaire aviator, and his new Boeing stratoliner, passed over Salem today and circled the city. The big airship, specially equipped, made an unusually spectacular appearance as viewed from the ground. Hughes was en route from Seattle to Los Angeles. Some observers believed it was the Lindbergh plane, since Lindbergh has been in the northwest recently.

Portland, July 13 (P)—Howard Hughes landed a specially-equipped Boeing stratoliner plane at the new Portland-Columbia airport at 9:40 a. m. today.

The famous pilot, en route to Los Angeles, used the new super-airport, still under construction, because of a 15 to 20 mile-an-hour wind at the Swan Island field in the Willamette river.

Seattle, July 13 (P)—Howard Hughes took off from Boeing field in his specially-equipped Boeing stratoliner plane at 8:45 a. m. today, flying south to Portland and then to Los Angeles to begin an extensive program of experimental flight work. Boeing field aides said he might spend an hour at the Portland airport.

Edmund T. (Eddie) Allen, chief Boeing test pilot, was at the main controls and Hughes, millionaire moving picture producer and holder of the around-the-world flight speed record, was in the co-pilot's seat.

The others aboard were John Butler, Boeing flight engineer; F. B. Collins, Boeing sales manager; Glenn E. Odekirk, chief engineer of the Hughes Aircraft company, Los Angeles; Richard Stoddard, radio officer; Earl Martin, mechanic, and David Evans, electrical engineer, the last three also Hughes' employees.

Special radio and navigation equipment had been installed in the plane at Hughes' direction since his arrival here a week ago. An additional gas tank had also been installed, which would increase the plane's normal cruising radius of about 2000 miles.

Senate Rejects \$30 Pension Bill

Washington, July 13 (P)—The senate rejected today on a voice vote a proposal to give the needy aged a federal pension of \$30 a month.

The federal outlays would have been in addition to any state payments.

The proposal, offered by Senator Bilbo (D., Miss.), during consideration of amendments to the social security act, was opposed by Chairman Harrison (D., Miss.), of the senate finance committee.

Bilbo argued that "the old people might hold the balance of power in the next election, and if we don't serve them they will find some one who will."

He told republican senators they would "be on the spot" in 1940 if they failed to vote for the proposal.

Milk Indictment Bills Quashed

Chicago, July 13 (P)—Indictments accusing 43 individuals and 14 corporations and groups in the milk industry of violating the anti-monopoly law were dismissed today in federal court.

Leo F. Tierney, special assistant to the attorney general, announced the government would appeal the ruling directly to the United States supreme court.

The dismissal was embodied in Federal Judge Charles E. Woodward's sustaining of defense demurrers to the indictments.

Threat of Serious Strike Here Vanishes

Salem and Marion county's participation in the proposed state-wide WPA strike, which moved with alarming speed yesterday, was stopped down to a walk this morning with prospects of a serious tie-up washed away.

The "crucial" meeting staged in the torrid courtroom of the court-house last night attracted from the list of 1,300 WPA workers in Salem but 108 persons, with indications that not more than 20 per cent of whom were members of the Workers' Alliance which called the state-wide strike. The move is in protest to the federal order increasing the monthly work hours.

The results of the meeting are: 1—Decision to postpone any action on a walkout until after the mass meeting called for Marion park, Sunday.

2—Petition to Congress asking establishment of a wage scale of 60¢ cents per hour for a 130 hour month.

3—Remonstrance to congress protesting the passage of the Woodrum bill.

4—Drafting of petitions to recall Senator Charles L. McNary, Senator Rufus Holmes and Representative Mott and Angell.

5—Launching of drive to obtain "at least 10 per cent" of the WPA workers on the membership rolls of the Workers' Alliance.

While officials of the Workers' Alliance in Portland stoutly maintained their estimate of 10,000 strikers was conservative, but two of the 1,600 workers in Marion county left their jobs at strike time yesterday. The walkout, slated for 11 a. m. yesterday found projects being worked as usual.

The two men who left their work (Continued on page 12, column 6)

McNary Stands With Taxpayers

Senator Charles L. McNary stands with the Marion County Taxpayers' association in opposition to the pending bill in congress to create a department of education. The senator's stand was stated in a telegram received from him today by O. K. DeWitt, secretary of the association.

The association has found from authentic figures that over a period of six years the bill, if passed, would cost the state of Oregon \$7,500,000 and of this only \$1,900,000 would be spent in the state, making a net loss of \$5,600,000. This would be in addition to the regular cost of operating the schools. Figures indicate the bill is intended primarily for the benefit of the southern states.

Senator McNary's telegram said: "Letter and resolution opposing senate bill 1305 received. You may be assured that I shall not support the bill in its present form, and may be further advised that in my opinion the bill will not come up for consideration at this session of congress."

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5-Day Rule Used By Harrington as Strike Penalty

Labor Federation Estimates 77,000 Have Walked Out of Jobs

Washington, July 13 (U.P.)—Works progress administration officials dismissed more than 13,000 WPA workers today for striking against abolition of the new prevailing wage scale for skilled laborers on relief.

Reports from strike areas showed that 13,307 persons already have received discharge slips for violating WPA Commissioner F. C. Harrington's order that no WPA worker shall remain away from his job for more than five days.

Survey Made by States

A survey of states affected by the strike showed: Minnesota—State administrator announced 6,000 had been dismissed.

New York—3,397 dismissed with "more" slips to go in mail today.

Illinois—Notices given to 1,350. State Administrator Charles E. Miner estimated 24,480 were still on strike.

California—Officials said approximately 400 had been "separated" from jobs.

Montana—40 have been discharged.

Pennsylvania—103 fired, including 101 in Pittsburgh.

Figures on the number of workers still on strike varied. There were no official figures for all areas, but Monday Harrington announced that more than 77,000 had stopped work. Union and Workers' Alliance leaders placed the total at more than 150,000.

Green Pledges AFL

Meanwhile, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, which dominates the building trades affected in the protest, met with a special committee of AFL leaders to plan action for persuading congress to restore the prevailing wage under which skilled WPA workers were paid wages comparable to those received in private industry. Congress substituted a security wage under which skilled laborers must work 130 hours a month for the same pay they formerly received for as little as 85 hours.

Green pledged the AFL to a "fight to the finish" special committee to carry out the meeting's instructions. It was learned that a special AFL committee would discuss the possibility of pushing for a resolution to discharge a house appropriations sub-committee from further consideration of a bill by Rep. Adolph J. Sabath, (D., Ill.), to restore the prevailing wage.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor announced that he will ask President Roosevelt tomorrow to restore prevailing wage rates for skilled relief workers.

Mr. Roosevelt has indicated that the new WPA policy, written into law by congress in the new relief act, had his support.

Green to Head Committee

Green will head a committee which will call on the president. It was appointed at an emergency conference of all AFL union presidents here yesterday. Its visit to the White House will be the opening of a united labor front fight for restoring hourly wage rates in effect prior to July 1 on WPA projects.

The decision to appeal first directly to the president was reached at a strategy conference of the committee in Green's office this morning. Later, the group will see Speaker William B. Bankhead and Vice-President John N. Garner.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations, headed by John L. Lewis, will cooperate in the campaign, CIO officials said.

Had Ample Proof Husband Was Dead

Miami, Fla., July 13 (P)—When a negro woman claimed a \$675 check made payable to her late husband for an electric rate refund a Florida Power & Light company clerk demanded proof of the payee's death.

"I shot him and I've got papers here to prove it. Was the astounding rejoinder. She produced a corner's certificate which stated the man was "shot by wife." The finding was justifiable homicide.

The clerk handed over the check.