



As West Germany Went to the Polls—Voters mark their ballots in a Frankfurt polling bureau as the West German Republic held its first elections. The conservative Christian Democratic Union Party topped the voting. (AP Wirephoto)

LOSS CUT IN HALF

Birth Increase in Europe Rapidly Offsets War Deaths

Geneva (AP)—A "remarkable" rise in Europe's post-war birth rate has gone nearly half way to make up for the loss of 15,000,000 Europeans killed during the war, according to a United Nations population study.

The study reveals that Europe's population outside Russia fell from 392,000,000 in 1938 to 371,900,000 at the end of 1945.

War losses accounted for over 15,000,000 of these, of whom the greater part, more than 9,000,000, were civilians.

By the end of 1947, Europe's population outside Russia had risen to 383,800,000, the study revealed.

"The increase of 8,000,000 during these two years in the total population of the European countries covered by the analysis, in which the substantial excess of births over deaths amounted to almost one half of the decline in the European population during the war," the report said.

During the years, 1946-47, according to the survey, a rise in births, which began during the war, continued, accompanied by a decrease in deaths. There were nearly 16,000,000 births in those years compared with 9,500,000 deaths—an excess of births over deaths of 6,500,000.

In France and Belgium the excess of births over deaths was about equal to direct war losses. In Italy and the Netherlands "the excess of births over deaths in a single post-war year was more than sufficient to offset total war losses."

The report said that on the other hand, heavy war losses suffered by Germany, Poland and Yugoslavia cannot be compensated within a few years. In the case of Germany, however, the influx of Germans expelled from neighboring countries has greatly exceeded its total war losses and resulted in a "substantial net increase" in population.

In a section on population shifts during and after the war, the report said 16,300,000 people left their countries between 1938 and 1945 as the result of war. Of these, 8,000,000, including war prisoners, returned.

The "most striking" movement was from east to west, much of which was accounted for by the expulsion of Germans from eastern Europe. The influx of Volksdeutsche and other

Woman, 67, Saves Youngster in Well

Dustin, Okla., Aug. 17 (AP)—Mrs. W. J. Bricker, 67, said today "the Lord really helped me" when she leaped into a well and saved her seven-year-old grandson's life even though she could not swim.

Mrs. Bricker and the boy, Clarence Wesley Eden, were trying to catch a chicken in a cornfield when he fell into the abandoned well containing 10 feet of water.

"I forgot I'd never learned to swim," she said. "I simply jumped in after him."

Virgil Bricker, another grandson, had noticed the accident. He ran for help. When he returned with Mrs. Bricker's son, Buster, the elderly lady was churning the water with her hands and legs, barely keeping herself and Clarence afloat.

Buster Bricker lowered a flexible washing machine exhaust line into the well for his mother to cling to, then hauled Clarence out with a cornstalk.

Neighbors summoned by Virgil brought a ladder and rope and helped Mrs. Bricker out of the well.

Alcoholism On Increase

Philadelphia, Aug. 17 (AP)—Women alcoholics and habitual drunkards in the United States have increased to an all time high of 800,000, an officer of the Woman's Christian Temperance union said today.

Mary B. Ervin, vice president at large of the WCTU, told the organization's executive committee the current increase in women drink victims is at the rate of 120,000 a year.

The executive committee met prior to the opening of the group's 75th annual convention tomorrow.

Miss Ervin said the number of women alcoholics and drunkards is shown by projection of the percentage of women alcoholics committed to mental institutions and psychopathic wards of general hospitals into the 4,000,000 alcoholics and drunkards in the country.

"Census bureau reports issued last year," she said, "show that one of every four of the 37,303 alcoholics admitted to the institutions were women. Projection of the same ratio into the 4,000,000, plus verifying information, places women alcoholics at 800,000 as compared to 680,000 the year previously."

Miss Ervin listed as one of the reasons for increased drinking of liquor among women as "liquor, wine and beer advertising that depicts drinking by women as socially smart and glamorous."

She gave as other reasons: congestion of bars and liquor stores in residential neighborhood shopping streets; alcoholic beverage departments in grocery and drug stores and kitchen and basement barroom drinking in the home.

Reduced killing of seals cut Uruguay's seal-oil output to 5,000 pounds last year.

"I won 1st prize at a cake contest with my cake from Cinch Cake Mix."

—says Mrs. R. C. Schwab, Jr., Eugene, Oregon

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Summers Tells How He Killed Couple for Robbery

Tacoma, Aug. 17 (AP)—John E. Summers related here that he shot Mr. and Mrs. Howard Easley in their outlying home after lying in wait to rob them.

The 32-year-old prisoner repeated an hours-long narrative to Croft said he had signed a 16,000-word confession of the July 16 crime.

Lines Tighten Against Thefts

Since the Salem Retail Trade bureau, a week ago, launched war against shoplifters there has been a marked decline in the number of thefts from Salem stores.

This was reported Tuesday at a meeting of the bureau officers at the Chamber of Commerce when plans were made to draw the lines still tighter against both adult and juvenile offenders.

One detail of the scheme of protection is to be a record of all offenses, with place where the offense occurs, kind of articles taken, and the person guilty if apprehended. This record will be kept both by the merchants and at police headquarters.

The merchants were led to take action by the growing number of thefts which amounted to several hundred dollars weekly. Police Chief Clyde Warren reported that his office be notified immediately, and that the merchants not let the culprits off with a mere rebuke.

Lines Tighten Against Thefts

When he was picked up by the F.B.I. in San Francisco, after the elderly couple's bodies were found on a side road near Chinook Pass, he insisted the shooting was accidental in an altercation over a suit of clothes.

Prosecutor Patrick Steele said today Summers probably will be arraigned on a first degree murder charge tomorrow. He said the trial will be in September or October. Steele said he would ask for the death penalty.

Summers said he gave up his attempt to "go straight" about two months after his parole from the state prison.

"About 2 o'clock that Saturday afternoon, I pried open the back door of the Easley's home with a small knife," he related in a matter-of-fact manner. "I had been in the house the Tuesday before looking for money, but found none."

"I had remembered seeing two rifles there. I was going to take them and pawn them, so I could buy a revolver and start robbing."

He told of returning home, then coming back to the Easley's and waiting for more than an hour. His intentions, he said, were to tie them up and put them in a clothes closet. He said he didn't intend to hurt them.

"Easley got out of the car and came in through the back door. Mrs. Easley went into the backyard to feed their rabbits. Easley sat down at the kitchen table. It was a table just like this one," and he pounded the round table in the jail.

Summers came out of hiding and told Easley to sit still.

"Mr. Easley jumped up, whirled about and faced me," Summers related. "I was going to tell him the rifle was loaded and not to make trouble. But he threw the whiskey bottle and jumped at me. My reaction was to pull the trigger. He fell to the floor. At the same time Mrs. Easley came in the door. I turned the gun toward her and told her to stay still."

"Instead she jumped back and screamed. Of course, I shot. She fell over."

Summers said he "felt kind of weak." He could tell Mrs. Easley was dead but he wasn't sure about her husband so "I shot him once again, while I sat there. I had gone that far, so I went all the way."

Peppermint Harvest Held Below Normal

Unionvale—The cooperatively operated peppermint still belonging to Dale L. Fowler, R. T. Kidd and Howard Steingrube, located on the Dale L. Fowler farm in the Grand Island district is receiving the annual reconditioning preparatory to starting this season's harvest by the last of this week, R. T. Kidd of Unionvale announced.

The crop average on the three farms in pre-harvest estimates yield is below average, because of hard winter and insect damage, Kidd said.

Some fields are fair, others are poor and that is reported from other localities, he said.

Kidd said he has 45 acres of mint in the Unionvale district that are good.

Polk Pheasants Given Release

Dallas—Chinese pheasants raised by Polk county 4-H club members in the pheasant project were released, states R. M. Ohling, Polk county extension agent.

The Oregon State game commission furnished the club members with the pheasant eggs last spring which they hatched. The club members then raised the pheasants until they were ten weeks of age. The game commission then took the pheasants for release and paid the club member \$1 for each pheasant in good condition.

J. C. Negley, district agent, Oregon State game commission, accepted 152 pheasants from Polk county club members for release. Club members who successfully raised pheasants were: Carrol Gardner, Sheridan, 14 birds; James Gardner, Sheridan, 14 birds; Brendan Herber, Sheridan, 17 birds; Keith Sawyer, Dallas, 66 birds; Donald, Robert, and Lonnie Baller, Sheridan, 20 birds; Jimmy Byers, Salem, 22 birds.

All birds raised in Polk county were released by Negley in the county where suitable habitat was found.

Polk County Given Acreage for Wheat

Independence—Polk county's 1950 wheat allotment is 9,020 acres. This represents Polk county's proportionate share of the national wheat acreage allotment of 68.9 acres for the crop that will be harvested next year, W. Frank Crawford, committee vice-chairman explains.

The national allotment is the

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Gable Lauds Late Authoress

Hollywood, Aug. 17 (AP)—Actor Clark Gable said today he felt a "very deep personal loss" in the death of Margaret Mitchell, authoress of "Gone With the Wind."

Gable played the part of Rhett Butler in filming "Gone With the Wind."

"In the tragic death of Margaret Mitchell, I feel a very deep personal loss," the actor said. "She was a woman of great literary gift, gentle, warm with genuine human understanding. I shall ever be obligated to her for the finest role I ever played, and I am sure 'Gone With the Wind' will endure as a classic to stand as a monument to her memory."

Navy Cancels Byrd Expedition

Washington, Aug. 17 (AP)—An Antarctic expedition that was to have been led by Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd this fall was called off by the navy today for "compelling reasons of economy."

Plans for the expedition have been underway for more than a year. It had been given the code name of "operation high jump 11." It was to be the second phase of the expedition which took navy explorers and scientists to the south polar region in 1946.

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More Tourists Than Last Year

Although the 1949 official travel survey was just placed underway last week at ports of entry throughout Oregon to determine vacation traffic volume, mid-season reports received thus far by the Oregon state highway commission travel information department indicates substantially heavier out-of-state traffic than in 1948.

Results of the survey, carried on by trained men at ports of entry, will, when completed, offer information providing an all-around picture for 1949.

In the meantime, current figures from several official sources point toward a general travel increase.

As an example, Crater Lake National park reports an overall gain of 3 per cent for the park travel year beginning October 1. June 1949 showed an increase of 12.7 per cent over June 1948. July 1949 is leading July 1948 by a gain of 10.4 per cent.

Oregon Caves National Monument reports July of this year is ahead of July 1948 by 21.9 per cent. Out of state travel is led by California, Washington and Illinois.

Figures from Bonneville dam reveal 13.1 per cent increase for

More Tourists Than Last Year

July 1949 over July a year ago, or 14,466 more visitors. The 1949 total until the end of July is ahead by 3.2 per cent over July 1947. The latter year is generally considered as representing the post-war travel peak.

Further indicative of 1949 motor travel is the July report showing an 11 per cent gain in the Astoria-Megler ferry volume over July 1948. Gasoline tax receipts for June, before new taxes took effect, revealed an appreciable increase over the same month 1948.

Supporting mid-season evidences of 1949 travel gains are figures from the California border quarantine stations, checks of which reveal traffic volume on highways from Oregon into California. Reports from these sources say traffic movement is 12.3 per cent heavier in July 1949 than in July 1948, which indicates similarly heavier traffic on Oregon highways.

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