



Probe Air Tragedy—Water-soaked wreckage of the P-38 that collided with an Eastern Airlines plane near the National airport in Washington, D. C., is raised from the Potomac river by a barge from the naval gun factory. Investigators hope that the plane will throw some light on the cause of the crash in which 55 were killed. The pilot of the P-38 survived but suffered serious injuries. (Acme Telephoto)

\$1,599,931 Contract Let Salem Highway Building

Portland, Nov. 8 (AP)—The state highway commission today awarded a \$1,599,931 contract for construction of a five-story state highway department building in Salem. The white marble-faced structure is to go up in the capitol plaza the fourth building in the group. It will be located on the block, immediately north of the new state office building. The contract went to the Sound Construction and Engineering company, whose bid was the lowest of six submitted. The low bidder is the same firm that is now completing the new state office building in Salem, which is expected to be ready for occupancy by January 1, 1950. The commission took action on a number of road bids, then found itself in dispute with the state public utility commission. The matter arose at Gardiner in Douglas county. The PUC granted the Gardiner Lumber company authority to cross the Coast highway with a railroad track. The highway commission protested. The matter seemed headed for the courts until it was pointed out that counsel for both agencies are assigned from the attorney general's office. The highway commission thereupon decided to ask for a rehearing before the PUC. R. H. Baldoek, state highway engineer, said there was an excellent alternative route for the railroad under an existing span on the highway. The commission opposes a grade crossing as too dangerous. Bid action included: Polk county—Constructing 39 of a mile of highway roadbed and 182 feet of reinforced concrete viaduct on the Little Luckiamute river bridge section of the Kings Valley secondary highway. Low bidder, J. C. Compton company, McMinnville, \$48,750. Awarded.

Straus Neutral On CVA Plan

Portland, Ore., Nov. 8 (AP)—Michael W. Straus, commissioner of reclamation, said today he is neither for nor against the proposed Columbia valley administration. Straus on an inspection tour of reclamation work in the 17 western states, said the combined army-bureau of reclamation plan for development of the Columbia river is the only comprehensive plan yet presented. "Other plans are still only hopes," he said. "All these proposals are merely ideas for a vehicle of government. They do not present specific proposals for dams and other works. It is my opinion that the greatest development that can be secured in the Pacific northwest is through approval and authorization of the specific parts of the comprehensive army program for all resources of the Columbia, with marketing of power under present reclamation law." Straus will go to Medford, Ore., tomorrow en route to California.

Ninety-Nine Has Heaviest Traffic

Portland, Nov. 8 (AP)—Traffic on Oregon's main north-south highways showed a substantial increase this year, with highway 99 carrying most of the load. Harvey Blythe, manager of the Oregon-U.S. Highway 99 Association, said 377,902 vehicles crossed the Oregon-California boundary on highway 99 in the period from October, 1948, to October, 1949. He said this was a gain of 45,116 from the previous 12 months. The only route to show a drop was Willpass on highway 97, which had a 4 percent loss. The count by highways: highway 99, 377,902; highway 97, 284,852; highway 199 (Redwood) 218,118; and highway 101 (Coast) 175,212.

SP Surgeon Dies Portland, Nov. 8 (AP)—Dr. John S. Rankin, 71, collapsed and died in his office here yesterday. He was division surgeon for the Southern Pacific railroad.

Honolulu Strike Ends Following Short Talk

Honolulu, T. H., Nov. 8 (AP)—A sudden CIO Longshoremen's strike protesting the hiring of 18 alleged former strikebreakers ended last night after a few hours. Nearly 500 longshoremen resumed loading four ships at the Castle and Cooke terminals after conferences between union and company officials. The men had walked off the job in protest against the hiring of 18 stevedores who they said had worked during the six-months-long Hawaiian waterfront strike when the government operated the docks.

Star Prefers Rags to Riches; Britain Goes Crazy Over Tunes

London (AP)—Britons have gone crazy over one man with a zither. The zither is a musical instrument which dates back to biblical times. The Queen of Sheba played it to amuse Solomon. Ruth and her maidens entertained their men friends with it. Today, a 50-year-old Viennese cellar musician has Britons throughout the country humming his wistful tunes and talking about his zither. Anton Karas was earning a few shillings a day plucking away at his instrument in a wine cellar in Vienna when Carol Reed, producer, persuaded the shy zither player to come to Britain to play the background music for his latest film "The Third Man."

For six weeks the tall, bespectacled musician lived in a world of dreams. He earned £125 sterling a week instead of 125 shillings. His weird, soulful tunes gripped Director Reed and his stars, Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten and Valli, the beautiful Italian star, and became the life of the film. Three weeks ago the film was shown for the first time in Britain. Since that date, thousands of people have crowded music shops to buy records of the zither tunes and copies of Karas' music. About every fourth song on the radio is "The Harry Lyme Theme Song," the song of the film. But the Viennese musician has taken his zither and his haunting tunes back to Vienna. Worth a fortune to any enter-

prising night club owner, Karas prefers a few shillings a day and his wine cellar, described by friends as "an upholstered sewer," to a life of plenty.

Choir Reorganized Hopewell—The re-organized choir at the United Brethren church is as follows and meets at the church each Wednesday evening for practice: Mrs. Edgar Kolln is director and pianist; Mrs. Gilbert Reed, Misses Dorothy Brown, Beverly Brown, Ann Janzen, Ila Taskinen, Ellen Taskinen and Helen Ojua.



Sea-Going Velvet—Barbara Freking of Hollywood, Calif., wears velvet swim suit treated to repel water.

Grounded Ship Is Slowly Breaking Up

Seattle, Nov. 8 (AP)—The 7,700-ton Panamanian freighter Andalusia, beset by increasing winds and heavy seas on a rocky reef near Cape Flattery, may begin to break up today, the coast

guard reported shortly after daybreak. Coast guard motor lifeboats from the nearby Neah Bay station removing some of the freighter's crew and captain who were still aboard. The vessel was driven aground last Friday after an engine room fire. The ruby and sapphire are similar in chemical composition.

Growers Give Data on Nuts

County Extension Agent D. L. Rasmussen urges all nut growers to furnish information for a special survey of walnut and filbert trees, acreages, and varieties in Oregon and Washington. Nut growers will be contacted by mail next week by the office of Niels I. Nielsen, agricultural statistician for the federal crop reporting service in Portland. M. D. Thomas, OSC extension agricultural economist, is cooperating in the survey. Grower reports will be used solely for the preparation of county and state totals. Findings will be published as soon as possible and used to make plans for marketing future nut crops. The survey will be the first tree-nut survey held during the past 15 years. Since acreages have expanded rapidly during this period, the cooperation of every nut grower is necessary to make the survey complete. Northwest walnut and filbert industry survey report forms will be mailed to growers on November 17.

High Court Upholds Vote Fraud Conviction

Washington, Nov. 8 (AP)—The supreme court Monday in effect upheld the vote fraud convictions of two election workers in the 1948 Missouri democratic primary—the contest in which President Truman successfully fought the renomination bid of Rep. Roger C. Slaughter. Today's court action consisted

of an order refusing to review the cases of Morris Klein a democratic precinct captain in Kansas City, and by Harry Burke, former captain who was displaced by Klein. They were convicted on charges of returning illegal votes in the election. Mr. Truman urged the nomination of Enos Axtell for the congressional seat held by Slaughter. Axtell won, but was defeated in the general election by Albert L. Reeves, Jr., republican.

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Shift in Navy Brass Proves Real Boss Is the Secretary

By CLARKE BEACH
Washington—The recent change in the Navy's top command serves to point up one fact: The Navy's real boss is the secretary. No man in uniform can overrule him once he has made up his mind. When a man is made chief of naval operations, he becomes the highest ranking active officer in the Navy. He has command of the fleet and has the responsibility for keeping them ready for war. But the secretary always has command of him. The job of chief of naval operations is a relatively new one. It wasn't created until 1915. Before then the secretary personally exercised control over all the fleets and bureaus of the Navy Department.

The office of secretary was created in 1798. The bureaus were established in 1842. When the office of the Chief of Naval Operations was created, by law, this country was following the British pattern. At the head of the British navy is a civilian, the first lord of the Admiralty. Under him is a professional sailor who manages the navy for him. His title is first sea lord. The powers of our chief of naval operations (CNO) were at first rather vague. The law said that he should, "under the direction of the secretary of the Navy, be charged with the operations of the fleet, and with the preparation and plans for its use in war." But the CNO was not clearly in command of the Navy. To correct this, during World War II the CNO was made commander-in-chief of the U.S. fleet. Fleet Adm. Ernest J. King held the dual position.

Shortly after the war was over, President Truman abolished the office of the commander-in-chief of the U.S. fleet and in an executive order gave a new, clearer definition of the powers of the CNO. The order flatly stated that the secretary of the Navy was the commander of the Navy, under the president, but that the CNO "shall have command of the operating forces comprising the several fleets, sea-going forces, sea frontier forces, district and other forces, and the related shore establishments of the Navy, and shall be responsible to the secretary of the Navy for their use in war and for plans and preparations for their readiness in war." Most of the orders to the vari-

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