

THE WEATHER HERE

MOSTLY CLOUDY, occasional showers tonight; partly cloudy, scattered showers Friday; snow over mountains. Little change in temperature. Lowest tonight, 33; highest Friday, 44.

Maximum yesterday, 48; minimum today, 30. Total 24-hour precipitation: Trace; for month, 1.38; normal, 2.05. Season precipitation, 16.97; normal, 12.79. River height, 4 of a foot. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

Capital Journal

HOME EDITION

61st Year, No. 298

Entered as second class matter at Salem, Oregon

Salem, Oregon, Thursday, December 15,

(32 Pages)

Price 5c

Truman Studies Police to Use Repeal of War Excise Taxes

In Surprise Press Conference President Says 'Wait for Message'

Key West, Fla., Dec. 15 (AP)—President Truman said today that treasury and congressional staff experts are making studies to determine whether war-time excise taxes can be repealed.

In a surprise vacation news conference, the president declined to say whether he will ask new taxes of congress.

However, he said it was always his aim to balance the budget. Reminded that he had told a news conference in Washington recently that he knew of no way to wipe out a deficit other than by rising taxes, he was asked if he still felt that way.

He said the whole matter was under consideration by a treasury committee of experts and by staff experts for the house ways and means committee. He said they were working harmoniously.

Reporters in Pajamas

Walking into the press room on the navy's bachelor officers quarters here, the president suddenly went into a press conference on which he gave no advance warning. Some of the reporters were in their pajamas.

A recent statement by Secretary of Commerce Sawyer suggesting elimination of war-time excise taxes to aid business was called to his attention. Asked if he agreed with Sawyer's proposals, he said the question was under consideration by the experts.

The matter will be covered in the budget message, he said.

Under questioning on other matters, the president:

Denies Navy Revision 1. Denied revising a navy list of recommended promotions from captain to admiral to eliminate Captain Arleigh A. Burke for his opposition to some phases of the unification program. He said the list was still on his desk, that no name had been added or subtracted and that it was the only list.

2. Said he hasn't chosen successors to David E. Lillenthal as chairman of the atomic energy commission or Dr. Edwin G. Nourse as chairman of the economic advisory council. Nor was he ready to announce a successor to Clark M. Clifford, who is leaving as his special counsel. (Concluded on Page 5, Column 7)

Defiance of UN By Israeli Noted

Lake Success, Dec. 15 (AP)—France asked the U.N. trusteeship council today to note "with concern" the moving of Israeli government offices to Jerusalem in defiance of a general assembly decision to put the holy city under international rule.

Chairman Roger Garreau (France) told the council members they "are like eunuchs in a harem" in trying to deal with the internationalization problem now.

The French resolution was the first positive move before the 12-nation council, which is charged with carrying out the assembly's decision.

The council meeting, behind closed doors, got off to a slow start. An informant who came out said delegates were hesitant about advancing suggestions or plans.

There was general agreement that the Israeli moves had complicated the council's already difficult task.

The 12-nation council trusteeship council has what many delegates say publicly and many others concede privately as a hopeless task—to draft a U.N. statute for the city's rule and to name a governor to carry it out over the defiance of both Israel and Jordan.

Israel's quick conversion of Jerusalem into its operative capital hands the council another accomplished fact that complicates any internationalization scheme, which has both Vatican and Kremlin support behind it.

Bend Youths Win

Washington, Dec. 15 (AP)—Two boys and a girl have been named Oregon winners in the 9th annual production and marketing contest of the National Junior Vegetable Growers association. Awards were announced last night. Named for Oregon were Donald K. Sorenson, Rt. 1, Bend; Violet K. Klobas, Rt. 3, Bend; and Walter H. Pritchard, Jr., Rt. 3, Bend.

Police to Use Plane to Catch Lawbreakers

Salem Air Patrol Buys 2 Seated Aeronca Chief

By DOUGLAS THOMAS The services of a two-place airplane, purchased by the Salem Police Air Patrol, were placed at the disposal of the city, county and state law enforcement agencies at the capital city area today.

The airplane, purchased last week by the patrol whose membership is drawn from the regular city force, will be used to aid police work as well as to assist in emergency work.

The purchase set Salem's police department a step ahead of other law enforcement agencies of Oregon as well as all but larger cities of the nation. It became the first unit to have a plane available with the purchase of the Aeronca Chief, a side-by-side plane powered with a 50-horsepower engine.

To Serve Entire Area

Leonard Skinner, a regular patrolman who was elected commander of the patrol unit, emphasized that the plane would be ready to serve all worthy causes not only of Salem but the surrounding area as well.

"The use of an aircraft will undoubtedly aid searches of this area for escapees from state institutions as well as for aircraft which may be down in the region," Skinner explained.

"It will be placed at the disposal of the Marion county sheriff's office as well as state police. The air patrol will provide a pilot and the plane. (Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

Recall Petition Filed on Langley

Olympia, Dec. 15 (AP)—A petition for the recall of Governor Langley was filed yesterday with the secretary of state and the governor himself may have to help finance the program.

The state fund for checking recall petitions, initiatives and referendums is low, said Kenneth Gilbert, state supervisor of elections. If cash is needed to check petition signatures, the governor may be asked to provide funds from his emergency money.

The petition, charging Langley with malfeasance, misfeasance and violation of his oath of office, was signed by 15 persons. They identified themselves as members of the provisional committee for the recall of Arthur B. Langley and said they were acting for some 350 others. Names of the 350 were typed on the papers.

Alvin Warren of Seattle, committee secretary, handled the details. He said the committee had no chairman or other officers, except himself.

The petition charged that the governor aided and abetted trusts and monopolies in the timber and communications industries for personal, political and financial support in his campaign for governor. It said he was trying to force welfare recipients to buy their food at chain stores and that he was responsible for cuts in their public assistance grants.

Salem Host to at Least 5 Conventions in 1950

By STEPHEN A. STONE

Salem will entertain at least five conventions during 1950 of state-wide, Pacific northwest or coast-wide importance.

First to come will be the United States Hop Growers association, having memberships in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. The convention is dated for February 9, 10, and 11.

Headquarters will be set up at the Marion hotel and entertainment programs will be at the Crystal Gardens. Program details are yet to be arranged. The convention is expected to bring 350 or 400 persons to Salem for the three days. Gordon D. Hadley of Independence is convention chairman.

E. T. Rooney of Sacramento is president and E. L. Markell of San Francisco secretary-manager of the association.

Next organization to be Salem's guest will be the Soroptimists coming for the annual district spring conference. The dates are April 14, 15 and 16. The district covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Mrs. Glenn McCormick is president.



Salem Aerial Patrol Acquires a Plane—Aeronca Chief, first unit in Salem Aerial patrol composed of city police officers, is inspected at the airport by (from left) Gene Nordone, Clive Scott, Leonard Skinner, commander; and Bill Page. Below: Commander Skinner explains maneuvers to members of the patrol. From left: Gene Nordone, E. A. Finch, Al McRae, W. G. Esplin, Jos. J. Schuetz, Bill Page, S. A. Jenness and Commander Leonard E. Skinner. Members of the patrol not shown are: Orrin O. White, David Bain, James Stovall, Vernard Schmidt and Orrin Potter.

Wu Named to Rule Formosa

Taipei, Formosa, Dec. 15 (AP) K. C. Wu, American educated former mayor of Shanghai, was nominated governor of Formosa today by the standing committee of the Kuomintang (nationalist party) at a meeting presided over by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

The nomination, which was an obvious move to woo United States aid for nationalist China, will go to the cabinet tomorrow for confirmation. Wu would succeed Gen. Chen Cheng, at present governor of the island and military commander of the southeastern nationalist areas.

The nationalists, bidding strongly for United States aid in holding Formosa from the communists, have been redesigning their political setup. Nomination of Wu would indicate civilian leaders were replacing military men in political posts wherever possible.

Italian State Employes Out

Rome, Dec. 15 (AP)—Italian state employes went on 24-hour strike today for higher pay.

The government employes more than a million workers, but it was not known in the strike's early hours how many stayed off the job.

Anti-communist and communist union leaders banded together in ordering the strike.

A spokesman for the Communist-dominated general Confederation of Labor (CGLI) said it was too early to comment on the strike's effectiveness.

"Inasmuch as all confederations (unions) are compact in this strike," he said, "however, it can be assumed that it will be 95 to 100 percent effective."

All but vital public services and railroads were scheduled to be affected.

Rome's central and subsidiary post offices were shut down. There was no mail delivery in the city.

The interurban telephone service was interrupted.

Bridge Hearing Here Dated for January 4

Application of the state highway commission for authority to construct a bridge across the Willamette river at Marion street will be considered by the Portland district, corps of army engineers, at a public hearing in the conference room of the Oregon State Library building at 10:30 a.m., January 4.

Col. Donald S. Burns, Portland district engineer, said the plans submitted by the highway commission show a bridge with three navigation spans providing a vertical clearance of 67.4 feet above low water for the east span, a minimum horizontal clearance between piers of 200 feet and a horizontal clearance to the low water of 190 feet above low water.

For the center span the minimum vertical clearance will be 69.4 feet and minimum horizontal clearance 240 feet. Clearances for the west span are not shown.

All persons interested are invited to be present in person or to be represented to express their opinions on the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the plans relative to navigation and flood control, and to suggest any changes considered desirable.

Oral statements will be heard, but for accuracy of record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing, in quadruplicate, as the record of the hearing will be forwarded for consideration by the department of the army.

\$60,000 Spent By PGE Here

Approximately 350 residences and commercial establishments in southwest Salem will be benefited by electric service improvements just completed by Portland General Electric company at a cost of nearly \$60,000, Fred G. Starrett, Willamette valley division manager for PGE has announced.

Working in the area since October, line crews have increased the voltage on the main distribution line from the Salem Heights sub-station from 2400 volts to 12,500 volts, and changed the line so that it now distributes power from PGE's newly enlarged sub-station on Liberty road.

These changes will provide PGE customers in the Croisan creek, Roberts and Halls Ferry area and adjacent side roads with more uniform voltage and adequate capacity to handle all present requirements as well as estimated future electrical needs of the growing area, Starrett explained.

Construction work on the higher voltage line was done over existing lines in some cases, and some unavoidable service interruptions were necessary in the course of the project, Starrett said.

Cabin Cruiser Destroyed

Portland, Ore., Dec. 15 (AP)—Fire destroyed a floating boat-house and a 33-foot cabin cruiser at the Portland Yacht club here last night. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.

Austria Peace Pact Delayed

New York, Dec. 15 (AP)—The Big Four deputy foreign ministers decided yesterday to halt temporarily their attempts to write an Austrian independence treaty.

They will meet again in London Jan. 9, at which time, a British spokesman said, there is "every possibility of success."

He quoted the Russian representative, Georgi N. Zarubin, as believing all obstacles to the treaty would be removed by then.

An American source said the adjournment came after the Russians claimed they could not continue with the treaty writing until direct talks, now under way in Vienna between Russia and Austria, are completed.

Prime purpose of the treaty would be to get troops of the Big Four—the U.S., Britain, France and Russia—out of Austria and let the country go along on its own.

Find Girl

Lost Ruth Aberle Alive 12 Miles From Search Area

Find 18 Bodies In Blast Ruins Of Swift Plant

(Pictures on Page 10) Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 15 (AP)—Amid a scene of ruin "Just like the place had been bombed," workmen and machines today dug through rubble where at least 18 persons perished in a violent explosion yesterday.

As sorrowing families of the 18 identified dead went about funeral preparations the search at the Swift & Co. packing plant continued for two persons still missing.

Nine of some 90 other persons injured remained in critical conditions at hospitals. Leaking gas which had hampered search operations was stopped last night.

Workers who labored throughout the night under floodlights used blow torches to melt away twisted girders. 1000 in Building

The searchers were able to discard their gas masks after ammonia fumes from the plant's shattered refrigeration system were cut off at their source.

The blast rocked the building shortly before the noon hour yesterday. There were about 1,000 persons in the building. (Concluded on Page 5, Column 7)

13 Rescued As Dutch Ship Sinks

Miami, Fla., Dec. 15 (AP)—Planes and ships hunted the burning derelict of the Dutch motorship Doros today but the craft was believed to have sunk during the night with 10 of 11 victims.

Thirteen survivors are safe, eight in a Miami hospital and five aboard a rescue ship, the Texas oil tanker Williamsburg, en route to Philadelphia.

Those brought to Miami were snatched from a wallowing lifeboat 300 miles off Florida by the Richfield oil tanker Sparrows Point.

One man is known to be dead. He was the cook, Bruyn Van Rosenberg, who died of burns aboard a lifeboat and was buried by his shipmates at sea.

An engine room or galley explosion was believed responsible for the tragedy which struck without warning Monday.

Claim Britain Made A Bomb

London, Dec. 15 (AP)—The Daily Mirror gave its readers the impression today that Britain has produced an atomic bomb.

The mass circulation tabloid said in an unattributed, undated article by its atomic affairs writer, Ronald Bedford:

"Britain's atomic weapon, which our scientists have been developing for more than two years, will not be tried out of the forthcoming test of American super-atom bombs."

There was no confirmation from any other source of the inference that Britain already has an atomic weapon.

Government ministers, questioned frequently on the subject in the house of commons, have refused consistently to give any hint as to whether British researchers have succeeded in making atomic weapons.

Bedford noted that Defense Minister A. V. Alexander, in May, 1948, said atomic weapons were "being developed" here.

Bedford wrote that the United States, Britain and Canada at a recent Washington conference on atomic energy decided against testing the purported British weapon during the forthcoming test of American weapons at Eniwetok atoll in the Pacific.

Albania Ordered to Pay Britain \$2 Billion

The Hague, Dec. 15 (AP)—The international court of justice today ordered communist Albania to pay Britain £843,957 (\$2,363,101.60) for the mining of two British destroyers on Corfu channel three years ago which cost the lives of 44 British sailors.

Britain had asked that amount to compensate the families of the sailors and pay for damages to the warships in the Adriatic sea incident of October, 1948.



Ruth Aberle

16-Year-Old Girl Missing Since Last Sunday

Kelso, Wash., Dec. 15 (AP)—Ruth Aberle, missing since Sunday, was found alive today, in the forested region northeast of here, sheriff's deputy Ted House said.

He said details were not clear, but the girl was found on the upper Coweeman river some 12 miles from the search area.

Mrs. W. W. Ridling, a civil deputy in the sheriff's office, said that the girl had apparently walked into a house in the upper Coweeman river country under her own power.

Mrs. Ridling said she received a telephone call from a Mrs. Smith, saying the girl had walked into her home. Sheriff C. W. Reynolds left immediately for the area, about 12 miles from the search base.

There was no report on her condition. It was the end of the biggest hunt in this region's history.

Ruth, 16-year-old Girl Scout, left a group of nine others about noon Sunday while engaged in hunting Christmas trees. A search was started immediately.

Volunteers combing the rugged area swelled to more than 600 yesterday and 200 more were sought today as Sheriff C. W. Reynolds and his aides refused to give up in the face of dwindling hope.

The first night after her disappearance there was snow and sub-freezing temperatures. Since then there has been intermittent rain in near-freezing weather. (Concluded on Page 5, Column 8)



Hunt for Missing Girl—Searchers pause for coffee served by Salvation Army workers as they continue hunt for 16-year-old Ruth Aberle who disappeared while seeking Christmas trees in a wooded area near Kelso, Wash. Snow and rain dampened hopes that the girl will be found alive. (AP Wire-photo)