

THE WEATHER HERE

CLOUDY WITH occasional showers tonight; partly cloudy, Friday, with few showers and not quite so cold. Lowest tonight, 30-32; highest Friday, 38-40.

Maximum yesterday, 38; minimum today, 28. Total 24-hour precipitation: .14; for month: 7.28; normal, 5.16. Season precipitation, 22.57; normal, 20.46. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

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HOME EDITION

Silver Thaw Turns to Slush With Light Rain

Winter's Worst Mess Makes Transit Difficult, Dangerous

By MARIAN LOWRY FISCHER "It's just a mess." That best described Salem's predicament Thursday morning as it attempted to struggle through the latest onslaught of winter—silver thaw, piled up snow and streets running with slush, power and communication lines sagging with an ice covering, shrubs and trees flattening with the weight of ice and frozen snow.

And warning came from the weather bureau the hazardous conditions may continue at least until tomorrow, especially with expected freezing temperatures tonight to glaze over the slush.

So another "mess" seemed in the offing for tonight and tomorrow morning.

The general outlook, however, seemed to indicate that the gradual moderating would see an easing in the snow and ice troubles by Friday night.

At 1 p.m. Thursday, the mercury was still at freezing, 32 degrees.

Storm Signals on Coast Forecast for tonight is for occasional showers with temperatures to be around 30 to 32 degrees, some showers and slightly warmer temperatures, Friday.

Noon report from the Seattle and Portland weather bureaus continued small craft warnings of strong winds at sea.

Their forecast is for south to southeast winds, 20 to 30 miles an hour, along the coast.

While downtown Salem was "running over" with slush when thawing and a light fall of cold rain came during the morning, some of the roads leading out of the city still were sheathed with ice.

All sections of Salem reported varying degrees of a "silver thaw" of sorts early Thursday morning, some sections being worse hit than others, although the weather bureau says the situation is not classified as a severe silver thaw.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

Highways Still Held Dangerous

The Columbia river highway and Willamette highway remained blocked today as dangerous driving conditions prevailed over most of Oregon, the state highway commission reported today.

The Columbia river route was blocked by snow between Viento and Troutdale. The Willamette highway closure was caused by fallen trees.

Driving was made difficult by the silver thaw in the Willamette valley, while packed snow and ice covered most eastern Oregon roads.

But the thaw continued in southern Oregon, where most highways are bare.

The 9:30 a.m. road report: Government Camp—3 inches new snow, chains required.

Columbia river highway—Snow sliding from Mosier to Viento, some delay; closed from Viento to Troutdale; detour via Halsey street from Troutdale to Portland.

Santiam pass—Slush, pack breaking up.

Willamette pass—Slush, pack breaking up.

Silver Thaw Forces School Holiday

Salem school teachers and pupils drew an unexpected two day holiday when the administration decided street and road conditions were a bit too tough. Decision to suspend operations came late yesterday when ice began to form. It is anticipated class work will be resumed next Monday.

Superintendent Frank B. Bennett states that the enforced holidays, now three in number, would not lengthen the 1949-50 school year. According to state statute, the holidays are declared unavoidable and lost time will be made up by working a bit harder the balance of the year.

Flood Threat On Mississippi Eased Slightly

Freezing Weather Adds to Misery of 11,000 Refugees

Charleston, Mo., Jan. 19 (AP)—The flood threat, eased slightly today along a 181-mile stretch of the rampaging Mississippi river in the Cairo district, but freezing weather added to the discomfort of refugees and rescue workers.

The flooding Mississippi, which already has forced more than 11,000 persons from lowland homes, was nearing a crest at upstream Cairo, Ill.

And the U. S. district engineer's office at Memphis said the crest might fall more than a foot short of the stage fixed for possible opening of the Birds Point-New Madrid floodway, where homes of 12,000 persons are located.

55.29 Feet at Cairo The last reading gave the river stage at Cairo as 55.29 feet. The weather bureau forecast a crest around 55.5 feet tonight.

Col. L. H. Foote, Memphis district engineer, said last night the southeastern Missouri floodway "in all probability will not be placed in operation" unless there is positive information a stage of 57 feet may be expected at Cairo.

Earlier, he had warned it might be necessary to open the front-line levee and flood the 212-square mile spillway to ease the flood pressure at Cairo and other cities along the river.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

Convict Stroble Of Child Slaying

Los Angeles, Jan. 19 (AP)—Fred Stroble was convicted today of the brutal slaying of six-year-old Linda Joyce Glucoft.

A jury of 10 women and two men, which took the case yesterday, actually deliberated about three and one-half hours.

Thus, in only a little over two months, the state had captured, tried and convicted the 68-year-old shift-eyed baker who, in a signed statement said he choked, stabbed, hacked and bludgeoned the little girl last Nov. 14 when she resisted his fondling advances.

Stroble also pleaded innocent by reason of insanity, and will be tried immediately on the second plea.

The jury's verdict was guilty of first degree murder, without a recommendation of leniency. This carries an automatic penalty of death in the gas chamber, but under state law must be reviewed by the supreme court.

Stroble was impassive as he was brought into court. He took the verdict calmly at first, but then sat down, put his head in his hands and burst into tears.

Four bailiffs stood over the trembling slayer.

Weather Atrocities Slow Business Down

By STEPHEN A. STONE Most businesses have been slowed, a few speeded by this spell of weather.

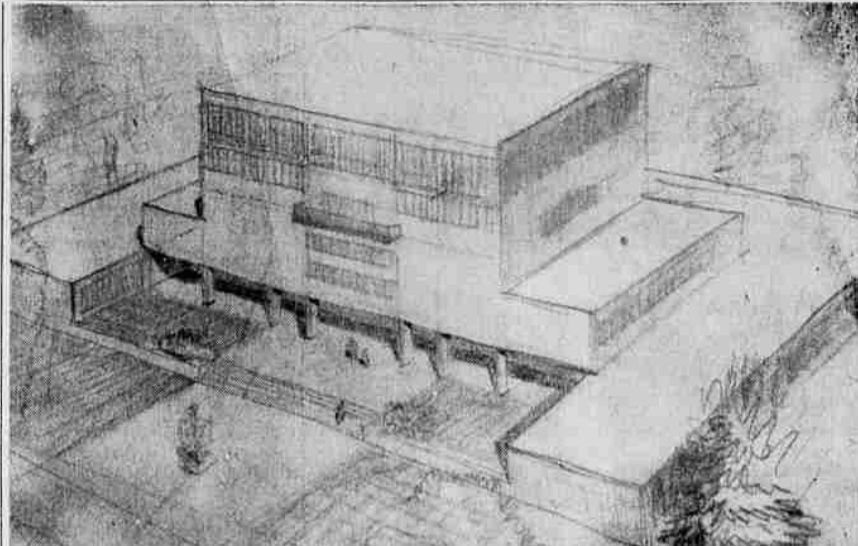
Among those suffering much inconvenience are City Transit Lines, delivery services, and possibly the general volume of most businesses. But taxicab companies can't meet the demand for calls, plumbers have to hustle, and stores are having far more than usual calls for winter footwear for both men and women.

City Transit Lines is having a hard time with street bus traffic in the hills south of the city. Runs were being omitted Thursday on Boone road, Browning avenue, Ratcliff drive, 12th street cut-off and Fairview avenue; and on the South Commercial street route on Hansen avenue, Argyle drive and Candalaria boulevard.

Buses were able to go only as far as Liberty school on Boone road and could not negotiate Browning.

With those exceptions, the company reported, it was covering all routes, but schedules were slowed.

A result of this, with the reluctance of people to venture out with their private vehicles, or to attempt walking, there has been a rush of business for taxicab companies. "More calls than we can take care of," Yellow Taxi company reported.



Senate Repeals Tax on Oleo

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—A smashing senate vote of 56 to 16 brought almost to a complete end today the long fight to repeal federal taxes on oleomargarine.

Nothing remains now except to adjust quite similar senate and house bills and for President Truman to sign the final repeal version into law.

Dairy state senators lost one point after another in their Senate battle to protect butter from what they called unfair competition by an imitation.

It was a victory for southern senators and others who said a wholesome food has too long been unjustly taxed, and that housewives should have easy access to the cheaper table spread.

The net result of the senate voting, which wound up with the 56-16 decision for repeal last night, is:

An end, effective July 1, to the tax of 10 cents a pound of yellow oleomargarine and of one-quarter cent a pound on the uncolored variety. Federal taxes on retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers, ranging from \$6 to \$600 a year, also would be wiped out.

To prevent the passing off of oleomargarine as butter, public eating places serving oleomargarine would have to so inform their customers by posters, and by labeling or serving it in a triangular shape. Also retail packages of yellow margarine would have to be in a triangular shape.

Oregon Solons Against Oleo Tax Repeal

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—The senator from Oregon today voted against the repeal of the oleomargarine tax.

Sens. Magnuson (D-Wash) and Cordon (R-Ore) voted against the repeal. Morse (R-Ore) also was against it but paired with Sen. Saltonstall (R-Mass) who was with the majority.

Final Approval Given Plans for Courthouse

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr. Exterior plans for Marion county's new courthouse were given final approval Wednesday at a meeting of the courthouse commission.

Actual construction on the five-story marble building will begin about March, 1951. Pietro Belluschi, Portland, is the architect.

Russians Stage UN Walkout

Lake Success, Jan. 19 (AP)—Russia walked out of a secret six-power atomic meeting today in continuing protest against the presence of Chinese nationalist delegates.

The Soviet delegation and satellites are boycotting all eight United Nations organs in session so far this year.

The new walkout has added significance because the purpose of the secret talks is to iron out differences if possible between Russia and the western powers on atomic control. The other five countries — the United States, Britain, France, China and Canada — already are in complete agreement.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Jakob A. Malik led his delegation from the closed conference room after failing in an effort to oust the Chinese representative, H. R. Wei, who is January chairman.

The atomic walkout came soon after the Soviet received here that the Soviet delegation had boycotted the opening of the UN trusteeship council's winter session in Geneva.

Malik's walkout from the atomic conferees was the seventh by Russia in less than two weeks of the intensified Soviet propaganda and ouster campaign against nationalist China here.

Seek Wallace Report on China

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—Senate Republicans sought support today in the papers of the late President Roosevelt for their argument that U. S. policy on China is based on a 1944 report by Henry A. Wallace.

Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.) said the report, written after the former vice-president and cabinet officer had visited the far east, is the framework on which the administration's "bankrupt policy" in China is based.

Wallace has said Ferguson is trying to smear him and the Truman administration through the report. In it, Wallace urged this country to work for a coalition government in China and predicted that China's leaders probably would emerge in a revolution. He was critical of Chiang Kai-Shek, the nationalist leader.

Wallace is said to have sent his recommendation on China policy to Mr. Roosevelt. The document never has appeared in the official reports of that period released by the state department.

Wallace gave a summary of his report to Senator O'Connor (D-Md.) at the Maryland senator's request yesterday.

O'Connor said Wallace promptly supplied the summary when asked, and wrote that he was surprised his report had not appeared in the state department's white paper on China.

Clues Fail in Big Robbery

Boston, Jan. 19 (AP)—Another clue in Tuesday's \$1,500,000 express company robbery evaporated today.

New Jersey police discounted the story of Informant Thomas J. Hannifan, 28.

The man, who originally gave his name as Jackie Horrigan, said he drove the holdup car and asked for arrest by the Boston police. He was revealed by Newark questioners to be a former state hospital patient and mental hospital orderly.

Hannifan had been drinking and apparently hadn't been in Boston in months, a Newark police spokesman said. He had been questioned on his statement that funds seized in the robbery had been cached near the holdup scene.

From the outset, Boston police Captain John D. Ahearn had accepted the story with skepticism.

Nevertheless, overlooking no possibilities, he directed a raid on an empty house in the north end area near the scene of the crime and seized 1,000 rounds of ammunition and a pistol.

Claim Blockade Big Success

Taipei, Formosa, Jan. 19 (AP)—The Chinese nationalists declared today that the blockade of Shanghai is a big success and extended their efforts at the same time to the south China coast.

The south coast blockade, extending from the border of Indo-China east to Yang-Chiang, 150 miles southwest of Hong Kong, was not as formally stated as the Shanghai blockade, but the idea was the same.

Nationalist planes dropped 200,000 leaflets over the area, proclaiming it a danger zone henceforth, and warning peaceful craft to avoid it if they wished to avoid "heavy and continuous air assaults."

The danger zone includes the Luichow peninsula which extends out toward the nationalist controlled Hainan island.

The communists for weeks have been assembling a fleet of junks on the peninsula, presumably for an invasion of the big island.

Judge Latourette Sworn In by Lusk

Circuit Judge Earl C. Latourette of Oregon City was sworn in as associate justice of the supreme court Thursday afternoon.

The oath of office was administered by his long-time friend Chief Justice Hall S. Lusk. Governor McKay, who announced Latourette's elevation to the high court Wednesday, court officials and friends were present to witness the brief ceremony.

Dynamiting of Mine Features Soft Coal Strike

90,000 Out as Fuel Situation Grows Critical

Pittsburgh, Jan. 19 (AP)—A dynamiting today rocked a coal mine in the seven-state strike of 90,000 soft coal miners and a working digger was beaten unconscious at another pit. But this coal capital was relieved by cancellation of a scheduled electric power shutdown.

Duquesne Light company, serving the Pittsburgh area, called off plans to cut off power to 2,000 large and small factories. It said recent coal shipments are easing the fuel shortage. The plants will be able to run until early next week at least.

A company statement described the fuel situation as "still extremely critical." All the firm's mines are closed in the "no contract no work" walkout.

The coal mine dynamiting destroyed two giant power shovels, worth \$100,000, even as district officials of the UMW circulated through the coal fields in an effort to get the strikers back to work.

No One Injured The terrific explosion rocked the Gusman Brothers' strip (surface) mine in Fayette county, Pennsylvania. No one was injured.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

Ice Floes Halt Columbia Traffic

Portland, Ore., Jan. 19 (AP)—The army engineers today said ice floes in the Columbia river had stopped navigation between The Dalles and Bonneville dam.

The coastguard cutter Balsam was reported on its way to break a channel through the floes which extended from shore to shore.

The engineers said ice had backed up behind The Dalles-Celilo canal to a height of 30 feet.



Admiral Louis E. Denfeld

Adm. Denfeld Asks to Retire

Boston, Jan. 19 (AP)—Admiral Louis E. Denfeld, fired as chief of naval operations last October when he backed the "navy rebels" in the unification controversy, submitted his application for retirement from the service today.

The 58-year-old admiral asked with "regret" to be retired effective March 1 and explained he felt his action was the best thing for the navy and national defense "under the present circumstances."

Denfeld, a navy man for 41 years, refused to elaborate on the reasons for his action or to comment on the controversy resulting from his ouster as chief of naval operations.

He told a news conference he had received many civilian job offers but had not yet decided which to accept.

Denfeld announced his decision to retire a day after the senate refused confirmation of Admiral Forrest P. Sherman to succeed him as chief of naval operations a month after he himself rejected a high overseas command.

Denfeld said he expected Matthews to approve his request for retirement as a "mere formality."

Tydings to Give Facts on Row

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—Senator Tydings (D., Md.) sought today to quell a heated new senate flareup over the ouster of Adm. Louis E. Denfeld with a promise of all the facts—no matter where they hit.

The chairman of the senate armed services committee offered that pledge after Senator McCarthy (R., Wis.) disputed the legality of Denfeld's removal as chief of naval operations.

In a blistering 4,500-word senate speech late yesterday, McCarthy sharply criticized Secretary of the Navy Matthews for testifying that Denfeld was fired by President Truman before he had been legally commissioned for his second term as top uniformed officer in the navy.

The Wisconsin senator waved before the senators a photograph which he said was a copy of Denfeld's commission—signed by "Francis P. Matthews and Harry S. Truman" and good until 1951. He expressed doubt that there is a vacancy in Denfeld's old job.

Tydings then withdrew his request for prompt senate action on the nomination of Adm. Forrest P. Sherman to succeed Denfeld.

No Emergency In Coal Strike, Says Truman

President Says Denham Acted on His Own in Court Appeal

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—President Truman said today that Robert Denham acted on his own in seeking a court order to stop the short work week and on-again-off-again strikes in coal mining.

Asked at a news conference whether the NLRB counsel acted with his blessing, Mr. Truman said that Denham worked for the National Labor Relations board and that it was not his business to bless or unbless him.

Mr. Truman added that Denham had consulted the White House before proceeding. Denham said yesterday that he had kept the White House informed.

No Intervention Looms The president told the reporters that he still feels there is as yet no national emergency warranting his intervention in the coal situation.

Some congress members have been insisting that Mr. Truman ought to go ahead and act without regard to the court proceedings brought by Denham.

They said Denham's move promised no immediate relief from a growing coal shortage.

Federal Judge Richmond B. Keach has set Denham's injunction plea for a hearing on Jan. 26.

Meantime, with his miners free to work or strike next week, Lewis kept his plans to himself.

Arnold Buried At Arlington

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—General of the Air Force Henry H. Arnold, whose long career spanned the creation of American airpower, came to his final resting place today in Arlington national cemetery.

President Truman headed the list of national leaders expressing America's respects, and sorrow.

The air force, which Arnold commanded in World War II, called in more than 100 of its fighters and bombers to pay an airman's farewell to the dead chief.

Arnold will have another man who wore five stars for a near neighbor at Arlington. Close by on the knoll is the grave of General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

Arnold, 63 years old, died last Sunday of an ailment that started plaguing him during the strenuous war years and finally impelled his retirement in 1946—a heart ailment. Death occurred Sunday at his Sonoma, Calif., ranch home. His body was flown here in an air force plane for a burial ceremony reserved for the nation's great.

To the funeral ceremony (3 p.m. EST) in Arlington's amphitheater were asked, in addition to the president, Vice President Barkley, the cabinet, the justices of the supreme court, the diplomatic corps of ambassadors, and leaders of congress with whom Arnold worked to build the United States army air force into its mighty wartime power.

'Byrnes Can Do as He Damn Pleases'

Washington, Jan. 19 (AP)—President Truman said today James F. Byrnes is a free agent to do as he damn pleases about running for office.

Byrnes, Mr. Truman's former secretary of state, has sharply criticized some of the Truman "Fair Deal" program in a series of speeches.

When a reporter asked Mr. Truman for his reaction to Byrnes' announcement of his candidacy, the president answered: "Mr. Byrnes is a free agent to do as he damn pleases. That ended the questioning."



'Government Case Weak'—After the government suddenly and abruptly rested its case against him, Harry Bridges (center) tells reporters that "This case is weaker than any of the others in which the government sought to deport me." Longshore Leader Bridges is on trial in San Francisco on perjury and conspiracy. (Acme Telephoto)