

THE WEATHER HERE

CLOUDY TONIGHT and Saturday with occasional freezing rain tonight and rain Saturday. Slightly warmer. Low tonight, 18; high Saturday, 35.

Maximum yesterday, 31; minimum today, 4 below zero. Total 24-hour precipitation: 0; for month: trace; normal, 31. Season precipitation, 28.69; normal, 22.26. River levels, 2.5 feet. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

Capital Journal



HOME EDITION

62nd Year, No. 29 Entered as second class matter at Salem, Oregon

Salem, Oregon, Friday, February 3, 1950

Price 5c

Rain Slated To End Oregon Cold Wave

Storm Said to Be Headed In with Mass Of Warm Air

There was welcome news from the weather bureau Friday morning with report a storm off the coast is moving in with a mass of warm air and rain for the "Aretic" northwest.

Salem, shivering with a morning minimum of four degrees below zero, Friday, was hopeful the prediction comes true this time, local citizenry reaching the "to believe or not to believe" stage after three mornings of below zero temperatures this week.

There's a little catch in the forecast, however—the apparent "break" may start with occasional freezing rain tonight, says the weather bureau, turning to rain with warmer temperatures Saturday, the general outlook being for cloudiness tonight and Saturday.

Snowfall Feared Observers were encouraged with the developing cloudiness here Friday morning—but hopeful a storm would not mean another general heavy snowfall.

Press reports received during the morning were varied and a bit confusing. One reported two snow-bearing storms converging on Oregon and Washington—one storm to pull up temperatures but to bring a general snowfall; the other to bring possibility of sleet and freezing rain—and a general prediction that any break in the intense cold wave will be comparatively slight tonight and tomorrow.

Child Victim of Cold Weather

Cold weather claimed another victim here Friday morning, tiny Bettie Rander Messengale, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. St. Elmo Messengale.

The 19-month-old child, Coroner Lester Howell said, died of suffocation from smoke from a smoldering mattress. An electric heating pad had been placed in her bed to warm it and apparently had ignited the mattress, which was found smoldering but not in flames.

The father of the child, smelling smoke early in the morning, investigated and discovered her about 8:30 o'clock. A doctor was summoned but she was found to be dead.

The Messengales came to Salem to make their home in April of 1949, when Messengale took over ownership and management of the Coca-Cola distributing plant here. Prior to living here they had been in Chicago.

Surviving besides the parents are a brother, St. Elmo Messengale III, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hodson of Atlanta, Ga.

Announcement of services will be made later by the Howell-Edwards chapel.

40,000 Fleeing Flooded Rivers

More than 25,000 persons took refuge on high ground today from flooding rivers in West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Arkansas.

Temperatures were creeping above freezing in South Dakota, increasing hopes that a warm sun might melt some of a heavy snow blanket which has isolated hundreds of persons. The mercury still hovered near the zero mark in North Dakota, however.

The coldest spot in the country at dawn today was Kellsell, Mont., with 31 below. Ellensburg, Wash., had a -26.

In Arkansas, the Red Cross reported it was caring for 19,750 persons as rivers carried off water from heavy winter rains and a melting ice sheet.

The ice, which had cut almost 100 Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma towns from communication with the outside world, was beginning to melt today.

The Sabine river also was beginning to flood in Texas as the run-off began. Tributaries of the Ohio river forced 1,800 families from their homes in Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee. Four persons were dead as result of the floods. The Ohio itself was cresting at Point Pleasant, W. Va.

Columbia Basin Program OK'd By President

Cost to Be \$2.5 Billion For 20 Year Building Plan

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—President Truman's approval of the \$2,500,000,000 Columbia river development program was completed with a strong plug for the Columbia valley administration and a few "butts."

The interior department announced late yesterday that the president's budget bureau has okayed the 20-year plan to make the Columbia river the world's greatest source of hydro-electric power. The president recommends that congress adopt the program, but he:

1. Wants reclamation bureau authorizations held "at this time" to \$200,000,000 — about half the total required for approved projects.

2. Objects to present approval of all but five features of the Mt. Home project in Idaho, pending the report of his new water policy board on how much time should be allowed for project repayments, subsidies justified, etc.

3. Vetoes certain proposed cost allocations to pollution abatement, salinity control, recreation and sediment control. Through such allocation the amount that must be replaced by water and power users can be cut down.

4. Orders the reclamation bureau not to use for project repayment the interest on its power investments except as presently authorized by reclamation law. (This stipulation was subject to several interpretations because the bureau claims it may now use power interest revenues for repayment.)

5. Does not want any funds sought for the Crooked river project until the dam site is finally selected.

6. Says approval of the Canyon project, in an area with 42 inches of national rainfall, does not constitute a precedent for projects in other humid or high rainfall areas.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

Navy to Conduct Anti-Sub Games

Tokyo, Feb. 3 (AP)—The U.S. navy will conduct "hunter-killer" anti-submarine exercises this year in the Pacific, where Russia's submarine program is expanding.

The announcement came today after the visiting U.S. joint chiefs of staff had more Pacific strategy conferences with General MacArthur and his top aides.

Adm. Forrest P. Sherman, chief of naval operations, said the escort aircraft carrier Sicily and six destroyers were being sent to the Pacific to conduct the exercises.

Reports from Washington say the 12,000-ton Sicily will move to the Pacific in mid-April. The destroyers will be transferred before September.

Four Perish in Fire At Klamath Falls

Klamath Falls, Feb. 3 (AP)—The death toll in this morning's disastrous Main street fire rose to four shortly before noon when Jimmy Speirs, 42, died at Klamath Valley hospital. He had been horribly burned.

The other dead are George Redmond, 71, and Mike Shepherd, 73, and a third man still unidentified.

Searchers prowling through the ruins of the building have been able to search it completely and as nearly as police can determine the list of injured and dead coincides with the number of persons known to have been in the building.

At least one roomer is reported to have been out of town. The three bodies found in the building were badly burned. Redmond was identified by an artificial leg and Shepherd by papers in a charred suitcase. He and Redmond roomed together.

Twelve persons were taken to the hospital, including two firefighters overcome by smoke and a state policeman whose ears were frozen.

Speirs, who was burned most critically, ran from the rooming house with clothing ablaze and collapsed on the sidewalk. Still unconscious, he begged a man who ran to his aid:



Willamette Ice Forms for Pleasure or Trouble—Top, Willard Taylor and Loren Lattis inspect ice at the Cove, a two-acre pond directly across the river from the business center of West Salem, and find it thick enough to sustain their weight and perhaps suitable for skating. Last year good skating was available at the Cove for days. Lower: Taylor offered his tug boat to take the Capital Journal photographer upstream about two miles to the old river. Here the expanse of ice is extensive and thick. Under certain weather conditions a break-up of Willamette ice could create a jam in the river at Salem such as occurred in December, 1924, when the stream was frozen from bank to bank by great chunks of jammed ice.

Soviet Tightens Berlin Blockade

Berlin, Feb. 3 (AP)—The Russians tightened their "baby blockade" of Berlin today despite an American threat to revive the airlift and take counter-measures against Soviet-controlled eastern Germany.

German police at the Helmsstedt checkpoint on the super highway to Berlin said the backlog of Berlin-bound trucks increased from 80 during the night to 170 just before noon (8 a.m. EST).

Traffic from Berlin to western Germany also was slowed causing a backlog of 50 trucks by noon, police said.

The warning that the airlift would be re-installed was issued by a state department spokesman in Washington last night.

U. S. air force officials here said planes that could form a nucleus of a new airlift were prepared to fly "almost immediately."

Russian border guards ignored all American statements and continued to hamstring Berlin truck traffic by slowing down their check of papers, inspection of loads and similar operations.

The average rate of flow since the slowdown has been about five per hour, as compared with the pre-slowdown rate of about 20.

Dr. T. C. Holy of OSU To Survey Oregon Schools

By JAMES D. OLSON Agreement on terms of a contract with Dr. T. C. Holy, of Ohio State university, to direct a survey of Oregon schools was reached Friday by members of a legislative interim committee on education.

Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction was authorized by the committee to draft the contract, which must be approved by the state board of education. The board is scheduled to meet within two weeks.

Under the contract Dr. Holy will assume directorship of a study of public elementary and secondary education particularly to determine "just what the people are deriving from the educational program of the state."

The study is to be completed by September 1, 1950, with Dr. Holy to spend the greater part of his time in Oregon from the present time until the survey has been completed and a report prepared.

In addition, it was agreed that Dr. Holy would be available during the entire legislative session in 1951 for the purpose of consultation in the best interest of the survey report.

Biggest item in the welfare bill was the old age and blind pension item. It cost \$214,086,177—as compared with a cost of \$138,210,466 in 1948.

Of the 1949 total, the state of California paid \$128,666,930 and the federal government paid \$85,491,247. Counties did not have to contribute anything because full pension responsibility was placed in the state by proposition No. 4, which was passed in 1948, but repealed in 1949.

Explosion Causes Loss By Fire at Silverton

Silverton, Feb. 3 — Gasoline stores in a tank in a garage at the C. A. Reed place on Monson road exploded Thursday night. Resultant loss by fire is placed around \$500. There was no automobile in the garage at the time. Although firemen were hampered by a water shortage they prevented the fire from spreading to the adjacent home.

Appleton had laid a fire in the wood kitchen range before retiring Monday night, and he touched a match to it about 8:30 o'clock the next morning. While he was warming himself by the pleasant glow from the range, a frozen waterpipe coil in the range exploded, lifting the lids from the stove. One struck the ceiling and bounced back, nearly striking the man on the head. Smoke and soot were scattered over the room.

A nail, probably in the kindling wood, stuck in the ceiling. Appleton's wife and baby were not in the room at the time of the mishap.

U. S. Liner Damaged Southampton, England, Feb. 3 (AP)—The United States liner Washington was damaged slightly when a powerful gust of wind blew her against the quay wall as she was docking today

Cut in Excise Tax Held to \$600 Million

Snyder Outlines Program—New Tax Looms on Television

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—Secretary of the Treasury Snyder told congress today that "excise tax reduction must be limited to about \$600,000,000."

Spelling out details that had been sketched broadly by President Truman on Jan. 23, Snyder outlined the administration's excise (sales) tax reduction program at the opening of house committee tax hearings:

A new 10 per cent tax to be levied upon television sets at the manufacturer's level is expected to yield \$40,000,000 extra revenue.

This would partly offset total planned reductions in excise taxes of \$695,000,000. In his text, however, Snyder used the round figure of \$600,000,000.

These excise tax reductions were outlined: Cutting the four 20 per cent retail levies—on furs, luggage and women's handbags, jewelry and toilet preparations—to 10 per cent.

Cutting long distance telephone and telegraph tax charges from 25 to 15 per cent; the tax on rail, bus, airline and ship passenger tickets from 15 to 10 per cent, and repealing outright the three per cent freight haul tax.

The administration plan called for flat exemption of "baby oils, powders and lotions" from the tax on toilet preparations. The "baby oil" tax has provoked especially strong objections.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

Welfare Costs Quarter Billion

Sacramento, Calif., Feb. 3 (AP)—Social welfare in California—including aged and blind pensions, needy child aid and home relief—last year cost more than a quarter of a billion dollars.

The total cost actually was \$275,893,170 — or \$96,286,209 more than what the same items cost in 1948.

These figures, provided by the state social welfare department, represent the money paid out to the recipients of the public assistance programs by the state, federal and county governments.

Not included in the totals, however, are administrative costs involved in handling the programs.

Biggest item in the welfare bill was the old age and blind pension item. It cost \$214,086,177—as compared with a cost of \$138,210,466 in 1948.

Frozen Water Coil Explodes in Stove

Dallas, Feb. 3 — An unusual accident at the Earl Appleton residence, 224 1/2 Jefferson street, Tuesday, was directly attributable to the cold weather. It caused considerable consternation but fortunately no one was injured.

Appleton had laid a fire in the wood kitchen range before retiring Monday night, and he touched a match to it about 8:30 o'clock the next morning. While he was warming himself by the pleasant glow from the range, a frozen waterpipe coil in the range exploded, lifting the lids from the stove. One struck the ceiling and bounced back, nearly striking the man on the head. Smoke and soot were scattered over the room.

A nail, probably in the kindling wood, stuck in the ceiling. Appleton's wife and baby were not in the room at the time of the mishap.

U. S. Liner Damaged Southampton, England, Feb. 3 (AP)—The United States liner Washington was damaged slightly when a powerful gust of wind blew her against the quay wall as she was docking today

Chief of Army Engineers OK's Salem Bridge

The proposed highway department bridge for Salem over the Willamette river at Marion street has received the approval of the chief of army engineers in Washington, D.C.

Word of the approval was received by the Chamber of Commerce Friday in a telegram from Congressman Walter Norblad. Final approval by the Secretary of the Army is expected Monday, Norblad indicated.

The bridge is part of the state highway department program drawn up last year to improve Salem traffic conditions.

Hirohito Trial Soviet Cover-up

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—The United States charged today that Russia's demand for trial of Emperor Hirohito as a war criminal is an effort to cover up "Soviet failure" to explain the fate of more than 370,000 Japanese war prisoners.

A state department statement made clear that the Russian demand to put the emperor on trial in an international military court will be rejected by this country.

Officials also indicated that the Soviet proposal to try four high-ranking wartime Japanese generals likewise will be turned down.

The state department made public along with its statement on the Russian demand, the key paragraphs of the 22-page Russian note which Soviet Ambassador Panyushkin handed to Secretary of State Acheson Wednesday.

This disclosed officially for the first time precisely what the Russians want to do. The note said that last December a Soviet military court at Khabarovsk had found 12 Japanese army officers guilty of plotting and using bacteriological warfare.

It charged that the B. W. units were created by a decree of the emperor and that high ranking Japanese staff officers were responsible also for the operation.

Decision Near On PP&L Sale

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—The securities and exchange commission today took under advisement and probably will act almost at once on two bids for 500,000 shares of common stock of the Pacific Power & Light company.

Chairman Harry T. McDonald and Commissioners Paul R. Owen and Edward T. McCormick heard oral testimony from attorneys for both bidders and such interested third parties as Pacific Power & Light itself, the state of Washington, and two groups of preferred stockholders.

It was the intention of the commission, because of the time element involved, to render a decision on the bids "today, if possible," a spokesman said.

The commission was informed by counsel for American Power & Light company which seeks to sell the stock, that American considers the best bid to be that submitted by A. C. Allyn & Co., and Bear, Stearns & Co., and their associates.

It also was entered on the records that the second group, headed by Allen & Co., "intends to make an immediate public offering of the stock" should its bid be accepted.

End Tax on Baby Oils Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—President Truman proposed today that the 20 per cent excise tax on baby oils, powders and lotions, be ended.

British Arrest Scientist as Atomic Spy

Dr. Karl Fuchs Accused of Assisting Russia in Know How

Washington, Feb. 3 (AP)—Officials said today that a British scientist charged with espionage in London knew this country's "most vital" A-bomb secrets and may have given them to Russia.

If he did, they may have contributed to the surprising speed with which Russia developed atomic explosives. The scientist, Dr. Karl Fuchs who worked in this country's wartime A-bomb project, was arrested in London on information supplied by the FBI.

Groves to Testify The joint congressional atomic committee put atomic energy commissioners and officials in the witness box at a closed hearing shortly after learning of Fuchs's arrest. It then scheduled another hearing for tomorrow at which Lt. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, chief of the A-bomb project during the war, will testify about Fuchs.

The charges against Fuchs created a sensation in the highest levels of this government. President Truman, who learned of them shortly after making his historic H-bomb announcement on Tuesday, discussed the case with his cabinet.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

Fuchs Held on American Tip

London, Feb. 3 (AP)—A top British atomic scientist who was trusted with some of America's biggest A-bomb secrets was charged today with giving unidentified agents information "useful to an enemy."

Unofficial sources indicated the information went to Russia. The scientist, German-born Dr. Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs, 38, was arrested by Scotland Yard agents yesterday on a tip from American FBI agents investigating Russian espionage.

He was accused specifically of giving "information relating to atomic research to an unknown person in the United States in February 1945 and to an unknown persons at an unspecified place 'on a day in 1947.'"

Arraigned in Bow street police court, Fuchs was ordered held until Friday for a hearing to determine whether he should be tried.

Fuchs faces a possible maximum sentence under the official secrets act of 14 years in prison. Only last July, he was appointed senior principal scientific officer to the British ministry of supply. He has been working at the great Harwell atomic research center, biggest atomic center in Europe. Its huge cyclotron recently put through its first tests.

Fuchs had access to America's biggest atomic secrets during the two periods he allegedly gave away information which, in the words of the official charge, "was calculated to be, or might be directly or indirectly useful to an enemy."

McKay Urges More Money for Colleges

Portland, Feb. 3 (AP)—Governor McKay intends to get more money for Oregon's colleges.

He told the Mothers' club of the University of Oregon and Oregon State college here yesterday that he would campaign for funds to take care of higher education as the population increases.

"There will be more students in our colleges in 1960 than today," he said.

Patient Admits Setting Mercy Hospital Fire

Davenport, Ia., Feb. 3 (AP)—A mental ward patient readily admitted setting a fire which snuffed out the lives of 41 women, Mercy hospital employees testified at a coroner's inquest.

The employees told a coroner's jury yesterday that Mrs. Elnora Epperly, 22, of Rock Island, Ill., told them she set the fire in her room Jan. 7.

While 24 witnesses testified at the inquest yesterday, a sanity commission at Rock Island adjudged Mrs. Epperly insane and she was committed to an East Moline, Ill., state hospital.



Educator Engaged to Conduct School Survey—Left to right, Frank C. Schiro, chairman, legislative interim committee on education and Dr. T. C. Holy of Ohio State university who will direct Oregon school survey.