

THE WEATHER HERE

FAIR TONIGHT and Friday. Little change in temperature. Low tonight, 40; high Friday, 60.

Maximum yesterday, 56; minimum today, 41. Total 24-hour precipitation, .06; for month, 1.18; normal, 1.16. Season precipitation, 38.86; normal, 32.46. River height, 2.5 feet. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

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Crack Down on 415 Employers Looms by State

Accused of Withholding Taxes Deducted From Employees

By WILLIAM WARREN
The state has started to get tough with employers who hold out on money they've held out of employees' pay checks for the state income tax.

Warrants are being issued against employers who fail to come across after ample warning and collectors have been put into the field for personal contact, Ray Smith, head of the income tax division of the state tax commission, told the United Press today.

Distract warrants have been issued against 415 Oregon employers to get the money they've already taken out of their employees' wages for state income tax, Smith said.

\$141,155 Involved

These 415 employers have a total withholding tax liability of \$141,155.65. Of this amount, \$108,083.07 was due for 1948 withholding money, and \$33,072.58 was due for 1949.

The employers are given ample warning before distraint warrants are issued. First they are contacted to determine if they might have filed their returns under some other name. Then they are given two notices within a period of 30 to 45 days. If they haven't kicked through by that time, distraint warrants are filed with the sheriff of the counties where the employers are doing business. A distraint warrant means the sheriff can take the employer's property into possession if he doesn't pay the money due.

Employers Withheld Tax

Smith emphasized that this is not a matter of getting tough with an individual who has failed to file his own personal income tax return. It's a matter of getting tough with employers who have already taken the money—not their money—out of pay envelopes for the withholding tax.

"We are trying to put all the teeth we can into collection of taxes," Smith said, "because we feel it is not fair to the working men and others who pay their taxes honestly to have a few employers hold out on us. The burden of taxes should be borne equally by every person in the state."

Smith said some employers apparently don't realize the seriousness of the offense when they hold out money they have collected from employees and are in fact holding in trust for the state.

Seasonal Rain Breaks Record

"Fair tonight and Friday!" Believe it or not, that was the brave forecast from the weather bureau Thursday, even in the face of cloudy skies threatening most of the morning. After so many daily reports listing cloudiness and scattered showers these many weeks it almost appeared the weather bureau had fallen into a rut.

Already another weather record has been broken here this year, the rain coming down Wednesday doing the trick.

Total precipitation for the weather year (which begins September 1) is now 38.95 inches, as of 10:30 a.m. Thursday, which is more than the 56-year mean fall of 38.56. And the weather year still has four and one-half months to go! Normal fall for the period to date is listed at 32.46 inches.

Meanwhile, with the fishing season opening Saturday and the Cherrians looking for a break for Blossom day, there were many hoping the forecast for the late week holds true.

Russia and Red China Ratify Pact

Moscow, April 13 (AP)—Soviet Russia and the Chinese People's (communist) Republic today announced ratification of their 30-year mutual aid treaty.

The communist party organ Pravda said the treaty and accompanying agreements had been ratified by the presidium which acts for Russia's parliament—the supreme Soviet—when the latter is not in session.

Child Welfare Vital to Future Of Humanity

Assault of Red Russia On Free Nations Forces Issue

By JAMES D. OLSON
The present assault of communist Russia on free nations forms the principal reason why democracies must measure up to the highest degree of the benefit of the children of today and those born tomorrow.

This opinion was expressed by Dr. Martha Branscombe, director of the Elizabeth McCormick Foundation, Chicago, who made the opening address at the governor's conference on youth in the state capitol Thursday.

Russian Assault

"This Russian assault is not superficial," she declared. "It is aimed at the very heart of free nations. And our children must live in this turmoil."

The speaker held that the task of developing the children of the nation into good citizens presents a new problem of wider dimensions than ever before.

"It is a new problem because in our present world we do not know what the years ahead hold out for your children," she added.

The present two-day conference in Salem, as well as the mid-century White House conference on youth to be held next December, Dr. Branscombe said, faces as its main question citizen responsibility for the children.

Parental Responsibility

She added that it was also important to develop responsibility of individual to individual as well as individual to government.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

U. S. to Blame For Texas Blast

Houston, April 13 (AP)—A federal judge ruled today the U. S. government was at fault in the 1947 Texas City disaster which took more than 500 lives.

Federal District Judge T. M. Kennerly ruled that 8,485 parties who had sued for \$200,000,000 in damages "are entitled to judgment" as a result of explosion and disaster.

Each suit now must go before a federal judge to determine its merits—how much each plaintiff is to receive.

The ruling came only three days before the third anniversary of the waterfront explosion which killed 512, injured 3,000, and virtually wrecked the coastal city.

The judge ruled specifically in the suits of Elizabeth H. Dalehite for \$50,000 and of Henry Dalehite Jr., for \$15,000.

But the ruling was extended to cover the huge mass of suits—510 suing on death claims, 588 for personal injury and 5,987 for property damage.

The plaintiffs had maintained that the horrible blast was due to the negligence of the U. S. government in enforcement of safety regulations at the Texas City docks, where ammonium nitrate was being loaded.

Chickens and Turkeys Lose Price Supports

Washington, April 13 (AP)—The government narrowed the field of its farm price support operations today by announcing that it will no longer maintain a floor under the market for chickens and turkeys.

The department previously had dropped dry peas and American-Egyptian cotton from the government price support list. Commodities on which a support decision for 1950 production still is to be made include soy beans, rye, oats, barley and grain sorghums.

The commitment to support hogs expired March 31, but Secretary Brannan has said a new commitment will be made when and if congress approves an administration request for an additional \$2,000,000,000 in price support funds. The government already has about \$4,000,000,000 invested in surpluses under support programs.

At the present time, eggs and dairy products are the only livestock products being supported. Dropping of supports for chickens and turkeys came at a time when farmers are increasing production. The department said its action was



Battle It Out On Basin Bill

Washington, April 13 (AP)—Senators from Columbia Basin states decided at a conference today to fight out on the floor of the senate an amendment authorizing \$413,000,000 in irrigation projects and creating a Columbia Basin account.

Senator Magnuson (D., Wash.) and others are seeking to add the amendments to the pending \$1,800,000,000 flood control and rivers-harbors bill.

Magnuson said after the conference the debate on the proposal will continue and the senate will be asked to "vote it up or down."

Senator Cordon (R., Ore.) said he would continue to oppose the amendment. He said he might offer as a substitute, an amendment which merely would authorize the 13 irrigation projects.

As the senate convened, rumors went around the capital that President Truman had asked democratic senators to support the proposal to set up a Columbia Basin account.

The account would handle all finances of reclamation bureau and army engineer projects in the basin. Interest on army engineer dams now paid into the treasury would be devoted, under the proposal, to pay for construction of irrigation projects that cannot be financed by water users.

New Cold Blast Strikes at East

Washington, April 13 (AP)—April, already acting more like January, today packaged a new blast of winter weather to strike freezing temperatures at blossoming spring flowers throughout the east and southeast.

The U. S. weather bureau forecast sub-freezing temperatures as far south as the Carolinas and Tennessee, threatening early budding fruit trees in parts of Dixie. For the east there was falling snow and temperatures ranging as low as 15 to 20 degrees in the lower Great Lakes region.

Thus far western weather has been acting more normally while April, a month of warm sunshine and showers, has been playing winter capers in the east.

Russians Pilot Planes in China?

Taipei, Formosa, April 13 (AP)—Are Russians piloting communist China's warplanes?

The Chinese nationalists say they captured the pilot of one Russian-built fighter, and are taking him to Chushan island for questioning.

But they didn't disclose his identity. Previously, nationalist officials said Russians are flying some at least of the Russian built planes used by the communists' new air force.

Dispatches from Chushan, off the south China coast, said a gunboat shot down the pilot Monday while he was strafing nationalist guerrillas south of Shanghai. The pilot parachuted and was taken prisoner.

Another Russian type fighter plane escaped.

Acting swiftly after collapse of negotiations to evacuate foreigners from Red Shanghai by sea, the nationalists reported their planes had mined the last open channel to the sea.

Nationalist officials charged the Chinese Reds deliberately had stalled over evacuation the past month to keep the channel open until they were ready to invade Chushan.

Red Chrome Shipments
Washington, April 13 (AP)—Russia resumed shipping vital chrome and manganese ore to the United States in February after a one-month lapse, the commerce department said today.

Apartment's Brief Claims Needed Area

Petitioners for a zone change to permit a \$1,500,000 apartment house project at the southwest corner of Kearney and South High filed a brief today claiming a majority of several hundred square feet of affected property in favor of the project.

The brief was to be filed Thursday afternoon with the city planning and zoning commission which held a special hearing on the petition last week, after which it recommended the project to the city council on a majority margin of 40 square feet. Later the area was cast into doubt, and the commission Monday afternoon rescinded its action and passed it to the council without recommendation.

Petitioners were given the privilege of filing a brief. Both the petitioners and the remonstrants have been claiming a majority this week.

In a meeting and computation by both sides in the city engineer's office last Saturday a total area of affected property was calculated at 202,181 square feet. The petition showed 100,374 square feet, or 716 short of a majority.

In that calculation the east-west measurement of the Uppjohn property was figured at 158 feet and the east-west line of the Homer Smith, the Walter Kirk and the E. C. Bahlburg property at 128 feet. This calculation showed the total area of the Uppjohn property at 47,400 square feet. Petitioners in their brief claim the true area of the Uppjohn property is 48,300 square feet, or a difference of 900 square feet, which gives the petition 183,5 square feet more than the required 50 percent of affected property.

On top of this the brief mentions the triangle at the southeast corner of Mission and South High which the city engineer figured at 1981 square feet and allotted it to the Lottick and the Wulf properties.

"This," said Attorney Allan Carson for the petitioners today, "was in spite of the fact that the plat supplied by the title company showed question marks as to the ownership of the triangle and gave no dimensions, and admittedly was drawn free hand by the abstractor."

"Our position is that the 1981 square feet should be deducted from the affected area."

The same situation exists, Carson said, relative to a triangle on the south side of Mission, which was credited to the Walter Smith and the Wulf properties.

"This again," he said, "was plainly marked with question marks on the plat."

"The net result of our position is that we have several hundred square feet over the required 50 percent."

Liquor Taxes Given County and Salem

When the secretary of state's office divided liquor privilege tax money among cities and counties of Oregon Wednesday, Marion county got a total sum of \$11,456.84, and the city of Salem came in for a \$1,551.48 share.

Of the amount given to Marion county, \$9,840.06 came from liquor privilege taxes representing revenues for the first three months of 1950. The other \$1,616.78 came from special liquor privilege taxes.

All of the Salem apportionment came from special liquor taxes.

Silverton and Woodburn were also included in the special tax hand-out. Silverton got \$146.83 while Woodburn pocketed \$110.43.

Fear Missing Plane Crashed In Baltic Sea

Fail to Find Trace Of Airship Fired On By Russians

Copenhagen, Denmark, April 13 (AP)—Searchers feared tonight that a missing U. S. navy Privateer plane carrying 10 men crashed and sank in the Baltic sea without a trace Saturday after being fired on by Soviet fighters.

A German ship's report today that it sighted airplane wreckage Monday 90 miles northeast of Bornholm island proved to be just another false alarm, search officials reported after rescue planes thoroughly criss-crossed the area for six hours.

Searchers Recalled

Air Force Capt. M. F. Ognisty, New York, deputy commander of search operations, said at Wiesbaden, Germany, that the searchers decided the area was a dumping ground for surface vessels and contained no debris identifiable as remains of an aircraft.

The search planes assigned to cover the area have been recalled to Copenhagen, Ognisty said. But the general search went on.

The official Moscow newspaper Pravda said the missing navy Privateer was the four-engine military plane which Soviet fighters intercepted Saturday 13 miles inside Soviet Latvia.

Plane Was Unarmed

The Soviets contended their fighters fired on the American plane only after it fired first. They said the plane flew out over the Baltic. American authorities said the Privateer was unarmed.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

Taught Lesson Brags Pravda

Moscow, April 13 (AP)—Pravda declared today the United States is trying to cover up the fact that the U. S. navy patrol plane missing in the Baltic is the same one that the Russians say flew over Latvia Saturday.

Pravda said "spies" in the plane "got a proper lesson."

There is no doubt that the Russians look upon the missing plane as the one they charge exchanged fire with a Soviet plane before disappearing over the Baltic. Pravda said the plane violated Soviet territory and "engaged in a pursuit of knowledge over Soviet territory."

(Until today no Russian statements had connected the incidents of the missing plane and the reported exchange of fire south of Lepaya, Latvia. The original Soviet protest was issued three days after the alleged shooting took place, and two days after a widely publicized search began for the missing plane. The sequence naturally led to speculation in the west whether the Russians before they issued their Tuesday protest had some inkling of what had happened to the missing plane.)

(American officials have expressed the fear that the navy plane, which they said was unarmed, was disabled by gunfire and crashed in the Baltic.)

Search planes resumed their sweep over the Baltic today with U. S. officials still hopeful they may find the 10 crewmen alive.)



Anniversary—Deeply tanned from his recent Florida vacation and apparently in tip-top shape, President Truman presents this smiling picture as he begins his sixth year in the White House. The President will celebrate his 66th birthday on May 8. (AP Wirephoto)

Impossible to Libel McCarthy

Washington, April 13 (AP)—In a new blast at Senator McCarthy, President Truman today questioned whether it is possible to libel the Wisconsin republican.

Mr. Truman's remarks came at a news conference when he was asked about a recent statement by Senator Taft (R., Ohio).

Taft had said the president libeled McCarthy by cracking at Key West, Fla., recently that McCarthy was the Kremlin's biggest asset in the United States.

"Do you think that's possible?" Mr. Truman fired back at his questioner.

And he said it was all right to use direct quotations.

Mr. Truman went on to say he hadn't read all that Taft had said; that he doesn't read all the political columns of all the people running for re-election.

Taft made his statement about Mr. Truman, McCarthy and libel in a column he distributes to Ohio newspapers.

Taft is up for re-election this year, Mr. Truman noted. He added that he thinks the Ohio senator is interested in something else a couple of years from now.

The Ohio senator is frequently mentioned as a possible GOP presidential candidate in 1952.

Scouts' Statues Of Liberty Hit

New York, April 13 (AP)—The National Sculpture society is offended at the artistic quality of the reproductions of the Statue of Liberty being placed throughout the country by the Boy Scouts of America.

The society's council yesterday approved a statement condemning the scouts' activity "in the hope of arresting further use of these bad imitations of the great piece of sculpture which is our symbol of freedom."

The scout goal is 2500 statues. The reproductions are eight feet tall on a six-foot base and are made in Chicago. Sixty of them have been placed in 22 states and 100 more are on order.

Carl H. Gruppe, president of the Sculpture society, said the statues had been "cheaply executed" and were inadequate. He said that the St. Louis Municipal Art commission last month rejected one intended for Forest park in St. Louis.

Baker Confesses to 11 Salem Burglaries

By DOUGLAS THOMAS

Edward A. Baker, 19-year-old suspect in dozens of Salem house burglaries, was taken before district court early Thursday afternoon where he entered a plea of guilty to a burglary charge.

Baker, who lives at 1430 McCoy street, was taken into custody at 9 p.m. Wednesday night by Salem detectives when he was spotted leaving a downtown pool hall. His arrest was made on a warrant issued Wednesday afternoon.

In entering his plea, Baker stood before Judge Felton and in a clear voice stated, "I am guilty as charged. I want to get this thing over with and take my medicine."

The suspect was questioned until 1:30 a.m. Thursday by detectives. He signed two separate statements, one a detailed confession of a burglary presumed to be the case upon which the warrant had been issued. That

burglary occurred in March, 1949.

The second confession listed ten separate burglaries in Baker's neighborhood. The first was dated January 9, 1949, and the most recent was an attempted burglary this month.

Baker's arrest climaxed more than a year of effort by the Salem police department to solve a series of house burglaries in the northern section of the city. (Concluded on Page 5, Column 3)

United States In Fine Shape Says Truman

President Takes the Credit for 5 Years Of Prosperity

Washington, April 13 (AP)—Harry S. Truman in a review of his first five years as president said today that the country is in fine shape and that he deserves the credit.

The president told reporters that employment, business and agricultural conditions are better than they have been in a long time.

And looking to the future, he said he is hopeful for continued improvement in international relations.

As of now, Mr. Truman said, he can see nothing seriously the matter with this country.

Five Tumultuous Years

Yesterday marked the start of Mr. Truman's sixth year as chief executive. Today, at his 222nd news conference, the president said his first five years had been rather difficult but that the country still is on its feet.

The president spoke slowly and deliberately as he thought back over the tumultuous years since the death of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 12, 1945.

There is some unemployment, the president said, but more people are at work in this country than in any other country at any time in history.

Best in History

He said that if reports from Wall street may be believed, business conditions are also the best in history. And, he added, the position of the farmer is excellent, surpassed only by the all-time peak year of 1948.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

Crime Problem Held Nationwide

Washington, April 13 (AP)—President Truman said today the crime problem is nationwide and not restricted to Kansas City.

He said it extends also to places like St. Louis and even to Washington.

Mr. Truman said that he himself had ordered a grand jury investigation of the crime situation in Kansas City and proposed one in St. Louis.

The jury probe in Kansas City has been under way for some time.

He said other grand juries were operating elsewhere as part of an inquiry that is nationwide in scope.

The senate also is considering an investigation of crime and gambling but a controversy has arisen over how it will be handled.

The crime discussion came up at the president's news conference as a result of questions built around the murder of Charles Binaggio, Kansas City political figure, and a lieutenant last Thursday.

A reporter noted that the two murdered men had been witnesses before the grand jury in Kansas City that was probing racketeers. He said Attorney General McGrath apparently has not found legal authority for bringing the FBI into the case although Governor Smith of Missouri has asked all possible assistance.

Mr. Truman was asked whether he considers this a federal matter and whether he will ask McGrath to send the FBI into the Kansas City inquiry.

No Peace Progress In Valseltz Strike

Dallas, April 13—No progress toward settlement of a strike at the Western Logging company, Valseltz, was the report of Bill Bess, business agent, local union 5-27, IWA-CIO, Wednesday.

"The next move is up to the company," he said.

A 3½-hour meeting between a Western Logging company committee and union representatives Monday resulted only in a continued deadlock, Bess said.

About 200 men are idle and the logging operations completely halted over a dispute that pertains to rate of pay for Saturday work. The employees are asking for time and a half on Saturdays, but the company has been paying only straight time in specific instances, Bess states.