

THE WEATHER
PARTLY CLOUDY tonight,
Wednesday. Little change in
temperature. Low tonight, 32;
high Wednesday, 50.

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HOME
EDITION

Forest Fires Losses in '53 Record Low

**Reports May Establish
National Mark in
Big Timber States**

By JAMES D. OLSON

Oregon had the lowest forest fire damage during 1953 in nearly a half century, according to a report made public yesterday by the State Board of Forestry.

Fire losses on the 13 million acres of timberland protected by the state board and its cooperating private patrol agencies were the lowest since 1911, the report stated. A total of 1,507 acres were burned over, and when all reports are tallied it may set a national record for low fire damage among the big timber states.

Only 792 forest fires occurred during the 1953 fire season, the report states. Lighting started 353 of these and 369 were man-caused, and could have been prevented. Percentage wise, only 47 per cent of the blazes were man-caused, an outstanding improvement over previous years and well below the national average of nearly 90 per cent.

Most favorable fire record, the report points out, was made by 38,000 loggers who worked in 12,000 logging operations, and were charged with only 49 fires.

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Pearl Favors Partnership Power Plants

**New Bonneville Chief
Calls Policy Benefit
To Northwest**

Seattle (AP)—The new Bonneville Power administrator describes the Eisenhower administration's proposed "partnership" policy for public and private development of power sites as "a happy medium."

Dr. William A. Pearl, selected by Secretary of the Interior McKay to succeed Dr. Paul J. Raver in the \$14,800-a-year Bonneville post, said the policy should be of "benefit to the Pacific Northwest," to which he said he is dedicated.

The soft-spoken, mild-mannered director of the Institute of Technology at Washington State College expressed his views in a hurried interview Tuesday. He said the conferences are in connection with his WSC post; the conferences on Bonneville affairs will come later. The first shot from an official critic of his appointment appeared to wound the new appointee sharply.

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FIREMEN BATTLE FLAMES NEAR MT. WILSON



Los Angeles, Dec. 29.—County Firemen Carroll Thompson and George Hull spray a brush fire creeping up side of a canyon near Mt. Wilson in the San Gabriel mountains where two forest fires are being fought by 1,000 men. The flames were reported less than a quarter of a mile from the observatory and television towers on Mt. Wilson, but high winds which have fanned the blazes have abated. (AP Wirephoto)

Manpower Policy Sketched

Augusta, Ga. (AP)—President Eisenhower Tuesday outlined a federal manpower policy designed to channel more defense contracts into areas "where there has been a large amount of unemployment."

Eisenhower said in a statement that the policy recently was set forth in a memorandum which Arthur S. Fleming, director of the Office of Defense Mobilization, sent to key government agencies handling defense purchasing.

The President voiced "full agreement" with the policy, which James C. Hagerty, Eisenhower's press secretary, told newsmen was being made public for the first time so far as he knows.

The policy set up standards for channeling more defense work to unemployment areas and provides for rapid tax amortization capital investment in defense work in those areas.

Labor Leader Slams at Pearl

Portland (AP)—William Way, president-elect of the Portland Central Labor Council, said Monday night at a brief council session that Dr. William A. Pearl, newly appointed Bonneville administrator, "is not a friend of labor and what it stands for."

He also was critical of Interior Secretary McKay, saying McKay had sold the West short.

He did not elaborate and most of his remarks were concerned with unemployment in Oregon and elsewhere. He said the outlook is clouded by "the growing spectre of unemployment."

Some Headway Made in Fighting Forest Fires

Los Angeles, (AP)—Weary federal Forestry Service spokesmen said. But he expressed fears that anticipated high winds Tuesday night may wipe out gains made in 48 hours of rugged work.

The two big blazes have burned over 13,000 acres of valuable timber and watershed land and the denuded slopes now pose a flood threat when much needed rains arrive.

Flames flared within 200 yards of observatory structures Monday night. Battalion Chief William A. Sherrill reported lots of ash was falling on buildings atop the 5,800-ft. mountain but "no hot stuff."

Winds were light Tuesday, but the Weather Bureau forecast strong gusts off the desert late Tuesday night or early Wednesday with gusts up to 50 m.p.h. Firemen say there is no hope of controlling the Mt. Wilson fire during the night.

Approximately 2,500 persons were evacuated at the height of the fire, but the Forestry Service said danger to homes now is only slight.

To Discontinue Piston Bombers

Washington (AP)—The aircraft industry probably will deliver its last piston engine bomber next year, says Dewitt C. Ramsey, head of the Aircraft Industries Assn.

Ramsey, in a year-end review issued Monday night, said the U. S. aircraft industry during 1953 for the first time produced more jet-powered military airplanes than the piston engine variety.

During the year, the industry delivered its last piston engine fighter, he said. All fighter craft now in production are of the speedier jet engine type.

"At least four new jet fighter models will reach volume production during the coming year and deliveries of jet bombers will continue to increase," Ramsey said.

"Production of jet aircraft by year's end may comprise 75 per cent of the monthly military aircraft output.

"In all probability the last piston engine bomber will be delivered during 1954."

Board Created for Rail Strike

Augusta, Ga. (AP)—President Eisenhower today created an emergency board to head off a threatened strike of more than a million railroad workers represented by 15 non-operating unions.

The union members all are track employees as clerks and track walkers who don't work on the moving trains. The dispute affects 150 railroads operating throughout the country.

Creation of the three-man emergency board means that under terms of the Railway Labor Act the 15 unions are barred from striking for a 60-day period.

Eisenhower's vacation headquarters here said the members of the board will be named in a few days.

During the 60-day no-strike period the board will hold hearings and recommend settlement terms.

Andrews to Succeed Lynch

Portland (AP)—Frank E. Andrews, assistant division engineer, will become acting division engineer of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads with headquarters in Portland Jan. 1, W. H. Lynch, the present division engineer, announced today.

Lynch will retire Dec. 31.

Andrews has been with the Bureau of Public Roads since end of World War I. He had charge of construction of a section of the Mt. Hood Loop highway near Zig Zag, Ore., and in 1921 was placed in charge of the Missoula, Mont., office of the bureau. Since 1933 he has been principal assistant to the division engineer in Portland.

Most Wanted Man Captured

New York (AP)—One of the FBI's most wanted men, an armed robber who has spent all but a fraction of the last 18 years behind bars, was arrested early Tuesday on a tip from an alert citizen.

The FBI here and in Washington announced the capture of Charles E. Johnson, 46, at Central Islip, N. Y., in Long Island's Suffolk county. He was brought here and held for arraignment in Brooklyn on a charge of violating the federal bank robbery statute.

Johnson, on the 10 most wanted fugitives list since last Nov. 12, was picked up at Central Islip by FBI agents accompanied by local authorities.

No further details were disclosed by the FBI.

West Germany Leads in Output

Paris (AP)—The 18-nation Organization for European Economic Cooperation OEEC reported today West Germany led Western Europe during 1953 in economic improvement and production.

The organization's year-end review of European economic trends said West German recovery had been "considerable" and its output increases were "clearly superior to that of other large countries."

Britain's economic situation also improved in a "striking manner," the report said, and Italian industrial production gained about 7 per cent.

OEEC said that West Germany not only increased her overall production but also raised the level of her investments and her public and private consumption.

As to Britain, OEEC reported that after two years of relative stagnation, production is increasing and unemployment is on the downgrade.

Near Freezing Temperatures

Near freezing temperatures but some sunshine during the day was the mid-week weather picture, while new snow is piled in the high Cascades.

Tuesday morning's minimum was 34 in Salem with prospect it would be lower, at the freezing mark of 32 tonight.

Five-day outlook calls for near normal temperatures with light to moderate precipitation toward the end of the week.

The Timberline area reported a foot of new snow this morning and all motorists traveling to Mt. Hood are advised to carry chains. Chains also are advised for most of the mountain regions.

The highway report also stated the Alsea-Deadwood highway is closed by a slide 17 miles north of Deadwood.

Below freezing temperatures were reported Tuesday morning at all Eastern Oregon points except The Dalles.

Queen Gives Awards To New Zealanders

Auckland, New Zealand (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II presented honors and awards Tuesday to 60 New Zealanders for services to the nation and to the British Commonwealth.

The investiture ceremony was held in Auckland town hall. The young monarch, now visiting New Zealand on her world commonwealth tour, used a gold sword and a dubbing-stool brought from London.

Baby Townsend Plan Opposed

Washington (AP)—The United States Chamber of Commerce today found its proposal to qualify five million more older citizens for social security pensions attacked in an economists' debate as a "Baby Townsend Plan."

The proposal, part of the Chamber's plan to put social security on a pay-as-you-go basis and halt federal aid for direct relief of the aged, was argued before two of the 10 economic societies in session here.

All the speakers—including W. Campbell, research economist of the Chamber—agreed that the social security tax should be allowed to rise to 2 per cent as scheduled on Saturday.

President Eisenhower last session asked congress to freeze the contribution at 1½ per cent each on workers and employers. Congress did not act.

Some have speculated he might again ask for a freeze, retroactive to New Year's Day, after Congress reconvenes.

Cliff Lewis Named as Assessor for County

Clifford A. Lewis was appointed county assessor by unanimous vote of the Marion County Court Tuesday morning and was immediately sworn into office by County Judge Rex Hartley.

Lewis was chief deputy for 10 years under the late Tad Shelton who died suddenly last week. He had been associated with the assessor's office for 17½ years during Shelton's regime. Shelton was known to have held Lewis in high esteem and confided in him during recent years.

The new assessor is a native born Oregonian, the grandson of Reuben Lewis, one of the men who took part in the Champeog balloting which re-

Rhee Calls on Allies to Join In Driving Reds from Korea

Dulles Hints Retaliation On Indochina

Washington (AP)—Secretary of State Dulles hinted Tuesday that U.S. sea and air forces will retaliate directly if communist China openly intervenes in Indochina or renews the fighting in Korea.

In a news conference discussion of President Eisenhower's decision to pull two divisions out of Korea, Dulles emphasized that this government might meet renewed aggression in Korea or open intervention in Indochina by striking at the aggressor forces in places outside of Korea and Indochina.

He said that while American power in terms of foot soldiers in Korea is on the decline, its power in terms of other elements, obviously new weapons, is being increased.

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Exchange of Refugees to Start March 7

Tokyo (AP)—The U. N. and Communist commands agreed Tuesday to begin exchanging civilian refugees next March 1 at Panmunjom.

Most of the displaced persons are Koreans wanting to go north or south, a number believed to run into the thousands. Only a few foreigners are expected to ask for exchange. These may number a few missionaries and Chinese traders caught in Korea when the war started.

A U. N. command announcement said agreement on the plan was worked out Tuesday at a short meeting of the joint committee for assisting the return of displaced civilians.

Indict Shoulders Perjury Charge

Kansas City (AP)—An indictment charging perjury was returned late Tuesday against Louis Shoulders, former St. Louis police lieutenant, by the federal grand jury investigating the disappearance of half of the Greenlee kidnapping ransom money.

A 12-page indictment was delivered to Judge Richard M. Duncan.

It charges Shoulders on October 28 gave false testimony while under oath to the grand jury which then was investigating the kidnap-slaying of 6-year-old Bobby Greenlee.

"The testimony of Louis Shoulders," the indictment stated, "as he then and there well knew and believed, was untrue and false in that the suitcases containing the ransom money were not taken in to the police station at the time and in the manner alleged in the testimony by Shoulders."

Decisive War Held Eventual And Inevitable

Seoul (AP)—South Korean President Syngman Rhee today called on the Allies to halt "futile discussions with the Communists" and join his nation in "the last great battle to annihilate the Red forces that seek destruction of the free world."

The fiery Korean patriot, in a new year's message to his people that echoed his previous threats to unify Korea by force, asserted a decisive war with communism is "eventual and inevitable."

A few hours earlier the aged leader pledged to North Koreans in a new year's greeting, "We will come to your rescue just as soon as we can."

He told the people of the Communist-ruled North "never do we forget, even in the nightmare dreams that haunt us in sleep, the terrible plight in which you are caught."

The strong statement appeared to give new life to his repeated threats in the last stages of the war last spring that South Korea would drive—alone if necessary—to the Yalu River boundary.

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Fear Filibuster On Statehood

Washington (AP)—Sen. Knowland (R., Calif.) indicated Tuesday he would urge continuous sessions of the Senate if necessary to break up any filibuster that developed on the Hawaii statehood bill.

The Senate Republican floor leader told reporters he hopes a filibuster will not develop on the administration-backed statehood bill when it reaches the Senate floor next session. The measure already had passed the House.

Sen. Eastland (D., Miss.), an opponent of Hawaii statehood, said last week it might be necessary for Southern senators to speak "at length" against the bill.

Knowland said he thinks the bill is "a controversial piece of legislation that will have and should have adequate consideration and debate."

Prospects Fine For Libby Dam

Washington, (AP)—Rep. Metcalf (D., Mont.) said Monday he believes prospects for construction of Libby Dam on the Kootenai River in Montana are "brighter than ever before."

Progress of the proposed \$63 million dollar multipurpose project, however, apparently is stymied until a new report is filed by Army Engineers and a check Monday could turn up no indication of when this might come.

Libby Dam, intended for flood control and power generation, was authorized by the flood control act of 1950 as a unit in a master control plan for the Columbia River Basin.

Since the Kootenai flows through both the United States and Canada, the project was submitted to the International Joint Commission which has jurisdiction over water resources involving the two countries.

Eugene Police Chief Fires Night Jailer

Eugene (AP)—Police Chief Ted Brown fired his night jailer Monday after the first break-out from the 26-month-old Eugene jail.

Brown said he was dismissing F. W. Stephens because of failure to shake down the cell of George Townsend, 18, and so discover a spoon and an iron bar Townsend used in burrowing from the cell. Townsend was captured within hours, and Tuesday was sentenced by Circuit Judge G. F. Shipworth to four years in prison for burglary.

Petitions Aimed at One-way Street Grid

Less than 100 names had been signed at noon Tuesday to petitions aimed against Salem's one-way grid system.

The petitions appeared Monday afternoon. They were placed at eight places in the downtown business district where they may be signed by anyone who doesn't like one-way traffic.

The places where the petitions have been left and the number who had signed them shortly before noon Tuesday were:

Stevenson & Mefford service station, 619 Court Street, 35 signers.

St. Clair's Associated Station, 290 N. High, no signers.

Walter H. Zosel Company, Chemekele and North High, 10 signers.

H. L. Stiff Furniture Com-

pany on Court Street, 11 signers.

Burrigh Cleaners & Dyers, 198 South Church, 10 signers.

Wiles Drug Store, 195 North High, 10 signers.

Gagle's Union Station at Church and State, 3 signers.

The petitions are intended to bring pressure on the City Council for repeal of the one-way grid system. They are not aimed, it is explained, at the one-way couplets on state highway routes that had been set up before the one-way grid was established.

They are not initiative petitions. To have a measure placed on the ballot would require over 2300 names.

The petitions now offered to signers list the following grievances against the system:

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Weather Details
Maximum yesterday, 51; minimum today, 32. Total 24-hour precipitation: 0.0. Snowfall: 0.0. Humidity: 65. Wind: 13.5. Direction: S. E. (Report by U.S. Weather Service.)