

THE WEATHER

INTERMITTENT RAIN tonight and Thursday. Continued mild. Low tonight, 42; high Thursday, 54.

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Streams Spill Over Banks in Willamette Region

17 Die as Luxury Airliner Crashes in Jacksonville

Ship Hits Tree Near Port Edge 12 Passengers, 5 Crew Members Victims

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — An Eastern Air Lines Constellation, bound from Miami to Boston, crashed and burned on a landing approach here early Wednesday, killing 17 persons aboard. The big, four-engine luxury airliner was only a quarter of a mile from the end of the runway at the Jacksonville airport when it apparently came in too low, hit the top of a tree in the pre-dawn darkness and plunged to the ground. Visibility at the time was one-half mile and the ceiling 300 feet, airport officials said. Five of the dead were crew members, and 12 were passengers. Also aboard the plane was the body of C. B. Thrift of Miami, an employee of the airline, being sent to Washington, D. C., for burial. Thrift, 47, had died of a heart attack Saturday. The crash was the third aerial disaster in Florida in three days. Monday, two Air Force bombers crashed over the outskirts of Tampa, killing eight men. A few hours later an Air Force jet and a bomber collided over Port St. Joe, 200 miles up the Gulf Coast, killing three men and leaving three missing. (Continued on page 9, col. 2)



Plane Wreckage Grazes Home

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.—The wheels of an Eastern Airlines Constellation which crashed and burned here today narrowly missed this house. Seventeen persons died in the crash. (AP Photofax)

Ford Co. Discloses Earnings

\$1.5 Billion Net Profit Reported Since 1946

WASHINGTON (UP)—The Ford Motor Co. in its first public accounting in 52 years today reported net profits of \$1,536,000,000 from 1946 through Sept. 30, 1955. These disclosures were made in a 39-page prospectus covering Ford Foundation plans to sell 10,200,000 shares of common stock in the first public offering of Ford securities in the firm's history. The stock, biggest corporate offering ever made, is expected to go on sale some time next month for about \$75 a share. The actual time and price will be disclosed later. Par value will be \$50 a share. Earnings Reported The Ford earnings report was made in a registration statement, a necessary corollary of the stock offering, to the Securities and Exchange Commission. It showed that current earnings are at the rate of \$5.85 a share. Cumulative earnings since 1946 have been second in the auto industry only to General Motors. The company used this prospectus as a vehicle for disclosing that it plans to introduce a new line of passenger automobiles "within the next few years." It did not describe the line or say what market it will be aimed at. Concerning current business, the Ford Company disclosed that dealers' stocks of Fords and Mercurys have increased and that "there have been reductions in production and in future production schedules."

Flooding Threatens Homes on Silverton Road



There was no lawn mower sharpening today as the home of Frank Corn, 3560 Silverton road, had the yard inundated and rapidly rising surface water may soon enter the house itself unless last night's and today's downpour ceases soon.

Residents Evacuated In Floods

Schools Close in Eugene Section; Roads Cut

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Western Oregon streams went out of their banks Wednesday, families were evacuated from their threatened homes, schools closed, slides cut highways and rain still came down. The McKenzie, the Umpqua, and the Siuslaw were raging torrents. The Willamette, a damaging river near Eugene in years past, was still being held in check by Lookout Point Dam whose reservoir was going up a foot an hour. Mountain snows melted, adding fresh torrents. At mid-morning the Siuslaw River at Mapleton, a dozen miles from the coast due west of Eugene, was four feet above flood stage and still rising. A score of houses near the river were marooned and water was inching up to the floors. All woods crews in the Mapleton area quit work and the U. S. Plywood Corp. mill closed down. Schools were being dismissed. Since Saturday night Mapleton had measured six inches of rain. The Lane County sheriff's office evacuated seven families by boat from their homes in the Westward Ho residential section north of Eugene and a half dozen more families were told to be ready to leave that lowland area which is crisscrossed by the channels of flood. Amazon Creek spread out and surrounded the Eugene High School, which closed. A junior high there also closed because water flooded out the boilers and there was no heat. Several schools north of Eugene planned to close at noon so children could get to their homes before rising water cut their paths. Glenwood, low-lying community southeast of Eugene, which used to expect annual flooding from the Willamette, apparently was in no danger as Lookout Point Dam reservoir held the river to 3 1/2 feet below flood stage at Eugene. But the North Umpqua River was threatening the Garren Valley area west of Roseburg and the Weather Bureau warned residents to prepare to leave. Continued rise of the river was expected. The South Umpqua was riding too hot at early morning was still four feet below flood stage at Winston. West of Sweet Home, Ames Creek, near the Santiam river, undercut the tracks of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad. (Continued on page 9, col. 4)

City Pumps in Action to Cope With Flooding

Drains, Sewers Clogged And Some Basements Water-Logged

Overflowing drains, sewers and flooded basements kept the office of City Engineer J. H. Davis swamped with telephone calls from distressed residents Wednesday. Quick response was made by crews from the engineering department, but prospects were not good for immediate relief—depending, of course, on the weather. Davis said that all of the city's emergency pumps, seven in number, are working, and in scattered parts of the city. Most of the trouble is in the north part of the city, but there is constant call for help from West Salem and other quarters of the city. Davis said a total of about 20 men from the department has been at work since early in the day. Flooded basements, overflowing storm drains, and backed up sanitary sewers are the main emergencies inside the city. Only a few calls came in last night, but early Wednesday they suddenly spurted. What the situation Wednesday night will be is problematical. "If the rain should let up," said Davis, "we'll get along all right, and probably the crews will have a rest. But if it keeps on raining it's going to be tough." Downtown Salem is in good shape. Among places where the pumps have been spotted are the Hollywood-Myrtle street district, 18th and Kay and West Salem. The understatement of the day was undoubtedly the one made by Ted Kuenzi, assistant Marion county engineer when he said "we have a lot of water," during the customary session of the county court Wednesday morning. "I have seen conditions worse than they now are," he added. The engineering department as well as individual members of the court have been receiving telephone calls hourly from persons who complained that ditches

Safeway Soon To Start Work At Northgate

Building early in 1956 of a Safeway supermarket between Northgate avenue and Wayside terrace, near the north Salem city limits, seems certain after a request to the State Highway commission in Portland Tuesday for access rights to the highway. The commission took the request under consideration and Safeway asked for a decision by December 31. O. R. Blair, real estate manager for Safeway, said the firm wants to go ahead with the project as soon as possible. The location is on property owned by Safeway for the last two years. Roy Harland, Salem attorney appearing for Safeway, put in the request for two access drives, each 50 feet wide, from Highway 99E into the Safeway property. The commission was shown a general plan for the building and car parking lot area. A year or so ago a street was platted parallel to the four-acre frontage and the highway, and it was then vacated by the city. It was thought this would provide the needed access, but it didn't conform to a policy of controlled access adopted by the highway commission when it acquired property to widen Highway 99E some years ago.

YMCA Wing Okayed By Salem Planners

By DOUGLAS SEYMOUR Members of the Salem Planning Commission reversed their ruling of a week ago Tuesday night as they approved construction of the new YMCA youth wing after Y officials presented off-street parking plans. Bids on the new wing are to be opened at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The commission also delayed until their next meeting action on the request of the Central Assembly of God Church to move its building from Cottage and Hood Streets to Church and Norway Streets, which is in a residential zone. The new location would have less than the required amount of off-street parking. The decision on the YMCA variance application came after Roy Harland, Y president, presented a contract with the First Presbyterian Church for parking spaces for Y employees and a letter declaring the YMCA's intention to continue negotiation to acquire parking space for 20 other cars. Harland also pointed out that parking space for four cars would be provided in the new wing. He also explained that YMCA officials had also circulated petitions for a change of zone for the area, and that if the planning commission wished them presented, he was ready to do so. The commissioners, however, voted to allow the building construction under the variance procedure so that the zone change will not be necessary. The commission's decision to grant the variance to the YMCA was opposed only by T. W. Lowry, chairman of the variance committee which had turned in the report a week ago recommending the variance not be granted. In explaining his opposition Lowry declared he was sympathetic with the YMCA's problem but that he believed the commission should stand by the city's off-street parking requirements and the exceptions, when made, should be made by the city council. (Continued on page 9, col. 2)

Salem Woman Succumbs to Auto Injuries

A driving rain storm, shopping trip and holiday traffic combined to bring Salem's seventh traffic fatality of the year Tuesday. Eighty-year-old Mrs. Nellie A. Yana, 835 Gaines Street, was fatally injured when struck by a car as she crossed the street in the 1200 block of North Capitol Tuesday afternoon. She died about an hour after the accident at a Salem hospital. Driver of the car, Ronald Leonard Wilmut, Portland, told police that Mrs. Yana started across the street, shielding herself against the rain with an umbrella in such a way that she couldn't see the car. He was unable to stop in time, he said. Police said Mrs. Yana apparently had been shopping at a grocery store in the block and was on her way home when she started to cross the street in the middle of the block. Funeral services for Mrs. Yana have been set for Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Howell-Edwards Funeral home. Rev. Paul Gunther (Continued on page 9, col. 5)

21-Foot Crest Due As Heavy Rains Continue

By MARIAN LOWRY FISCHER The Willamette river at Salem is due to flood late Thursday, a crest of 21 feet called for by midnight in the wake of steady rain falling through the valley. Flood stage at Salem is 20 feet. It will be the first time since January 21, 1953, that the Willamette has spilled over its banks here, the river then measuring 26.7 feet, and it will be the first flooding since the new highway and bridge approach were opened in September of 1953 on the West Salem side of the river. Substantial rise in all valley rivers are listed and are to continue through the next 24 hours, and forecasts may change with rain continuing to pour down. At Jefferson, the Santiam already was over its banks, Wednesday morning, and a crest of 20 to 21 feet is due there between 4 and 6 p.m. Flood stage there is 13 feet. In that area there is considerable bad washing along bordering pastures and fields, but no other major damage. At Salem, the Willamette was up to 15.6 feet by 10:30 a.m. Wednesday and is due to hit 19.5 Thursday morning, rising (Continued on page 9, col. 1)

Meyer to Shut Store; Eyes Supermart Site

Fred Meyer will close his Salem store on January 15, he announced Wednesday, and in the same announcement said he would construct a modern shopping center as soon as he finds a suitable site. "Due to lack of space and inability of the firm to acquire additional space at the present location, the Fred Meyer store in Salem will be closed January 15," the announcement said. Negotiations have been under way for several months, Meyer said, to locate a suitable site and he expressed hope that he would be able to close a deal in the near future and to follow immediately with the construction of a modern shopping center in size, service and facility, comparable to his Portland centers. "In the small space that we have in the Salem store," Meyer continued, "we are very limited in the lines of merchandise we can handle. We have heard much complaint that many of the items advertised for our Portland stores are not available in the Salem store." Meyer said they were seeking a site that would provide off-street parking and sufficient stores to carry all the lines of merchandise now carried in the Portland centers. No details were given by the Portland headquarters as to the present status of negotiations, but it is understood that what the firm desires is a site outside the business district and several acres in size. Salerno has had a Fred Meyer store for the past 24 years, starting with a small unit and expanding with added lines in the present location. Prior to the closing of the Salem store, Meyer said, announcement will be made of a close-out sale for the disposal of all merchandise on hand in the store.

Woman Hurt, Suspects Held In Purse Grab

A Salem woman lost her purse and suffered minor injuries when attacked by a purse snatcher near her home Tuesday night, she reported to city police. A few hours later Eugene police arrested three young men in an attempted robbery of a motel there and found in their car a store charge plate made out to the woman's husband. Names listed by Eugene police for the three, now suspected here, are Leonard Daniel Clark, 22, Willie Coleman, 26, and Jack Taylor, alias James Johnson, 26. No home towns were given but they are not believed to be Oregon residents. Mrs. Mary Nixon, 415 Division street, was walking home about 10 o'clock when she was suddenly struck from behind and knocked down, she said. Her purse was then taken by a young man who ran to a car about a half-block away where another man waited behind the wheel, she said. She said the man appeared to be in his twenties and described the car as having a blue bottom and light colored top. An early morning teletype from Eugene said police there had picked up three men in a car answering the description given by Mrs. Nixon after an attempted robbery. (Continued on Page 3, Column 5)

Col. Liles Convicted of Aiding Reds While PW; Gets Leniency

FT. LEWIS, Wash. (AP)—Lt. Col. Paul V. Liles was found guilty Wednesday of aiding the enemy by making propaganda recordings while he was a prisoner of war in North Korea in 1950-53, but he won leniency from the 19-man military court. He was reprimanded by being suspended in rank for two years. Army attorneys said the court meant he will retain his present rank as a lieutenant colonel, but will be put two years behind all officers in the line of promotion to higher rank. Liles was acquitted of the other charges against him. He was the 12th soldier to be tried on collaboration charges since the end of the Korean war. Two other officers and six enlisted men were convicted; two officers and one enlisted man were acquitted. Liles was the first West Point graduate to be tried on collaboration charges. The possible maximum sentence for conviction could have been life imprisonment, dismissal from the service and loss of all pay and allowances. The 39-year-old officer from Birmingham, Ala., was found innocent of two other charges embracing several counts. They were accusations that he was loyal to the United States; led Red indoctrination classes, became a member of a so-called Prisoners' Peace Committee under Communist sponsorship, signed surrender appeals to United Nations troops and refused to take charge of American prisoners when he was the senior officer present. The defense lawyer, Lt. Col. Leslie E. Dixon of Monterey, Cal., said the case will be appealed "all the way to the Court of Military Appeals. I feel confident the decision will be reversed," Dixon said.

Murder Charged Against Bailey

TILLAMOOK (AP)—A first degree murder charge was filed Tuesday against Grant Bailey, 33, who police said has admitted the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peccard here Sunday. Bailey said he shot the Peccards in self defense after a fight developed when he ordered the Warm Springs Indian couple to leave his home.

Adlai's Son Hurt, 2 Pals Die in Crash

GOSHEN, Ind. (UP)—Adlai Stevenson's son, John, 19, was seriously injured in a car-truck collision today which killed two Harvard University classmates riding in his car. The dead were William S. North III, 19, Lake Forest, Ill., and William C. Boyden, Jr., 19, Chicago. The son of the presidential candidate was taken to Goshen General hospital in serious condition. He suffered a broken knee cap, cuts and bruises. Also injured was another classmate, James Gilligan, 19, Nebraska City, Neb. Police said a truck driven by Fred Gill, 29, Detroit, collided head-on with the westbound Stevenson car. Gill's truck was attempting to pass another truck and was in the wrong lane when it struck the youths' auto, police said. The Harvard students were on their way home from school Christmas vacation. The car was loaded with ski equipment.

McKay Says Hawaii Booming, Champions Statehood Cause

By JAMES D. OLSON Hawaii is in a better shape economically today for statehood than ever in its history. Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay declared Wednesday in Salem upon his return from a 10-day visit to the Islands. Mrs. McKay and Miss Alene Phillips, his personal secretary, accompanied the secretary on the trip. "The building development on the islands is amazing," McKay said, "and business is at the highest point in the history of the islands." McKay said that he told the people of Hawaii that the Republican party will continue to fight for statehood for the Islands. A light which he said was lost in the 1954 Congress when the Democrats tied Alaska into the Hawaiian bill. McKay said the Islands are a melting pot of races, with Americans, Englishmen, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and Hawaiians. "Yet there is no racial or religious discrimination here," he said. People of different nationalities gather together, intermarry and all work together for the good of the territory. The Secretary and Mrs. McKay were guests at the home of Governor Samuel Wilcox King, the only man with Hawaiian blood to be appointed governor when more than 3000 persons were greeted during a two and one-half hour standing ovation. The line of people he said led from the door into the street at most times, McKay said. Although there are 1000 islands on the Hawaiian chain, McKay said that there is danger that the Pearl Harbor ground-water may be shrinking at 100,000 gallons a day. "Some 600 billion gallons of water are drawn annually from this body of water and another

Ex-Wife Kills Door-Crashing Creswell Man

EUGENE (AP)—Clarence Lewis Hamilton, 26, of Klamath Falls, was shot and killed Tuesday night as he forced his way through a barricaded door at his divorced wife's house in Creswell, 14 miles south of Eugene. Dist. Atty. Eugene Venn said Hamilton's ex-wife, Mrs. Aileen Belle Hamilton, 31, said she had fired two shots at her former husband in self defense. "I shot at his legs and missed," she said. "He kept coming, so I shot again." No charge has been filed. Venn said he will call a special session of the grand jury to decide what charges, if any, should be filed. The 25 caliber bullet penetrated Hamilton's heart. Mrs. Hamilton said her former husband had broken into her home several times. He had driven from Klamath Falls to Creswell earlier Tuesday with two companions. Three children were asleep in the house at the time of the shooting. Mrs. Hamilton's eight-year-old daughter by a previous marriage, who had been given instructions on what to do if Hamilton tried to break into the house, reported the shooting to the sheriff's office.

Today's Index Section One

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