

# THE WEATHER

CONTINUING MOSTLY clear tonight, Thursday except for patches of fog in morning. Low tonight, 25; high Thursday, 54.

# Capital Journal

68th Year, No. 284

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2 SECTIONS

28 Pages

## So. Salem City Move 'Gaining'

Petitions Put Out; Response Said 'Wonderful'

By DOUGLAS SEYMOUR  
Capital Journal Writer

Response "has been wonderful" to petitions being circulated in the area south of Salem asking the Marion county court to call an election to form a new city, according to Howard Gardner, 4085 Dakota Rd., who is coordinating the distribution of the petitions.

Proposal to incorporate the large area south of Salem into a city to be called Salem Heights, was made public at a meeting of the South Salem Chamber of Commerce a week ago when it was endorsed by that body.

At a meeting Tuesday night the board declared that its intention was not to compete with the city of Salem, but rather to work for the betterment of the greater Salem area.

The board also voted to continue its study of details concerning the proposed city and to contact the League of Oregon Cities for information "as to the means of bettering the community where we live."

The city, as envisioned at the Chamber meeting, would be bounded on the north by the present Salem city limits, on the south by Boone road, on the west by Belcrest cemetery and a line extending south to Boone road, on the east by Fairview home, the Southern Pacific right of way cutting west to 12th street near Oak Hill avenue.

The area would encompass the present Salem Heights, Morning-side and Vista water districts and part of the Salem Heights Fire district.

Proponents of the new city estimate that if it is formed, it will have a population of 8,000. (Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

## 12 Witnesses To Appear at Blast Hearing

A dozen or more witnesses will be called at a public hearing Wednesday afternoon to investigate the blast that destroyed the Dennis Howarth home, 785 North 20th St., last Wednesday.

The hearing is to start at 2 o'clock in the council chamber at City Hall, and will continue into Wednesday night if necessary to conclude it today.

The City of Salem, the Howarth family, insurance companies, Portland Gas & Coke Co. and any other interested parties, will be privileged to have attorneys present, but all the questioning of witnesses will be done by members of the mayor's special investigating committee which has called the hearing.

The gas blast which utterly destroyed the house burned and injured Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Howarth and their daughter, Deanna, 5 years old, all still in Salem General hospital, but all are reported in satisfactory condition.

Robert DeArmond, chairman of the special committee, said eight or 10 witnesses would be called from among the neighbors of the Howarths.

Representatives of Portland Gas & Coke Company, the U. S. Equipment Co. which installed the furnace, and Sears Roebuck & Co. from whom the furnace was purchased, will be permitted to offer statements and may be questioned by members of the committee.

## State Float Entered for Rose Parade

The state of Oregon will have an official float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade on New Year's day to match the appearance of Oregon State college in the Rose bowl.

Gov. Elmo Smith announced today that the float will be sponsored by the Oregon Development Commission whose executives director, Foye Trout, was named by the governor as chairman of the Oregon Tournament of Roses Float Committee.

Earlier, Pasadena parade directors informed Oregon State College that a parade spot had been reserved before entries closed for the states or colleges represented in the Bowl game.

Gov. Leo Hoeg of Iowa announced several days ago that Iowa would have an official state float. The University of Iowa is Oregon State's opponent.

## Weather Details

Maximum yesterday, 45; minimum today, 26. Total 24-hour precipitation: 0.1. For month: 1.02. Normal: 3.2. Season precipitation: 4.8. Normal: 18.72. River height: 2.0. (Report by U. S. Weather Bureau.)

## 'Foolish' Act, Say Confessed Bank Robbers

Bandit and Helper Shifted to Jail In Portland

By VICTOR B. FRYER  
Capital Journal Writer

The marriage-bound confessed Eugene bank bandit and his partner, arrested near Salem Tuesday by Oregon State police, were taken to Portland Wednesday where they were jailed by federal authorities under \$10,000 bail. They are charged with violation of federal bank robbery statutes.

Charles Edward Simmons, 40-year-old logger of Springfield, who admitted taking \$2,000 at gunpoint from a young woman bank teller Monday at Eugene and Donald Otto Howard, 23, of Eugene, admitted driver of the getaway car, both agreed they were "foolish" to attempt the robbery.

Arrested on 'Hunch' Simmons was nabbed Tuesday morning when police Lt. Farley Morgan decided to have a Springfield cab he saw driving on the freeway stopped on a "hunch."

The hunch proved correct. Simmons was in the cab and had nine \$20 bills taken in the robbery on him. With Simmons at the time was his bride-to-be Maudie Honeyman, 25, and Miss Honeyman's 17-year-old niece.

Simmons confessed after questioning and implicated Howard. Police arrested Howard at the home of relatives near Hopewell. Howard at first denied his part in the crime, but later confessed. Capt. Ray Howard of the state police, said. The two men are not related.

Bride Most Disappointed Probably the most openly disappointed at the turn of events was Miss Honeyman, who was virtually left at the altar. She and Simmons had made the round of bars and taverns in Springfield and Eugene following the robbery and had decided to drive to Vancouver, Wash. and be married.

She and her niece and the cab driver, who were not believed involved, were released by police Tuesday afternoon.

Planned for Some Time Questioned Wednesday morning in Marion county jail, Simmons said he had planned the holdup for some time to "pay off some bum checks I had written."

Simmons said he had written several "bad checks" in Eugene while on probation for a similar charge and was afraid his probation would be lifted.

"I needed money all right, but not this bad," the tall, dark timber feller said as he looked at bars in his cell this morning.

Driver Howard, who drove the robbery car, said he had never been in trouble more serious than traffic tickets. He blamed drunkenness on his actions.

Approximately \$1700 of the stolen money has been accounted for, Capt. Howard said.

Scared During Holdup Simmons said he was "plumb scared" when he handed bank teller Mary Laharty, 20, a note Monday afternoon in Eugene which read, "This is a holdup. Give me \$2,000."

"She had said no, I think I would have turned and run," he said. He told police both he and Howard had been drinking but he was not drunk.

Miss Laharty said she didn't become scared until after the hold-up man had left. "I was too shocked," she said. The money was taken from the West Eugene branch of First National bank.

In addition to state police the FBI had also been working on the case.

Woman Found Dead in Home WOODBURN (Special) — Mrs. Wilma Hoover, about 50 years old, was found dead in her home at 809 N. Second St., Wednesday morning, by neighbors who investigated her failure to make her usual morning appearance about the place.

Coroner Lester Howell and sheriff's deputies opened an investigation to establish the cause of death. The body was to be taken to the Ringo-Cornwell Funeral Chapel.

Friends reported that Mrs. Hoover had been in ill health for about a year. She is reported to have a daughter living in Beaverton.

## All Is Not Roses



This little dog has a right to look mournful as he wanders what he did to be chained up and left without food or shelter by his owners. Neighbors said the owners moved out, "took stock and barrel," from their home south of Pringle school last Wednesday and left the dog behind. He was found chained behind the house Tuesday. (Capital Journal Photo)

## Rail Ruins Explosion Kills Two

7 Hurt as Salvage Crew Works at Wreck Site

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. (U. S. —)

Two train wreck crew members were killed Wednesday by an explosion in the wreckage of a crossing crash that had already killed two trainmen and a gasoline truck driver Tuesday evening.

Seven other workers were injured, one critically, by Wednesday's explosion. A third member of the train crew was burned Tuesday in a rescue attempt just after the crash of the truck into the side of the Chesapeake & Ohio freight train.

Touched Off By Torch State police said Wednesday's explosion apparently was touched off by an acetylene torch burning into the diesel fuel line of the wrecked locomotive, which had been burning all night.

The two torch operators, reported unhurt, were trying to cut into the engine to get the bodies of the two trainmen killed in the crash.

Killed Wednesday as the explosion blew the bottom of the wrecked engine 40 feet over Otto Keen, 48, Wanahtah, Ind., and George Marquardt, 56, LaCrosse, Ind.

The trainmen trapped and killed in the burning locomotive of the 65-car freight train Tuesday were Ray Powers, 55, engineer, and Robert H. Johnson, 38, fireman, both of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The gasoline truck driver was Charlie Wilson, 50, Mishawaka, Ind.

New Autos Burn Wreckage of the truck, two locomotives and 10 derailed freight cars blocked the C. & O. line. Five of the derailed cars burned with the locomotives and truck. One burned car contained new automobiles. The train, bound from Grand Rapids to Chicago, was carrying mostly auto parts, scrap and salt.

Over 300 Men Fight 2 Coast Forest Fires Two Oregon blazes covering approximately 2,200 acres are being battled Wednesday by crews numbering between 310 and 360 men, the fire fighters including state forestry department men, loggers and mill men.

Largest of the blazes is one covering about 2,000 acres approximately 70 miles from Nehalem in the Tillamook burn area which has been burning out of control since Thanksgiving.

The second blaze, about 200 acres in size, is on the Trask river and started Tuesday night from an unknown source. There are 60 men, two caterpillar tractors and two tankers on that blaze.

From 250 to 300 men are fighting the fire near Nehalem, which started from controlled burning on Oregon American Co. land and has burned mostly on state land, with some burning on state land. Controlled burning had been going on in slash for some time, but east winds fanned it out of control and the state moved in with help the day after Thanksgiving.

The mail, administrative assistant in the protection division of the forestry department office in Salem, said Wednesday green timber was not involved in the Nehalem blaze and about half of the area was slash that would have been burned over in controlled burning. There are some scattered reproduction losses in the area, he said.

Two caterpillar tractors had been used on the blaze Tuesday, but one of those was lost in the fire Tuesday night and because of the difficult terrain the men battling the blaze have had to resort to hand fighting of the fire.

Mail said that from this late in the season were not unheard of, for there had been some as late as December, but they were rather unusual. Fern fires, however, occur in mid-winter.

## Neighbors To Rescue

Pup Left Chained As Family Moves

A dog chained out in the cold and left foodless by a family that moved out on it has brought a new nomination in the "meanest man" category from residents south of Pringle school.

Neighbors said the little black and white dog of uncertain breed apparently didn't have much to give thanks for on Thanksgiving day after his owners moved out the day before and left him chained in a bracket in the ground behind a house on a rural lane.

In fact, he didn't have much to give thanks for for several foodless days and unsheltered nights. Tuesday friends of one of the families in the area noticed the dog.

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WASHINGTON (U. S. —)

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It disclosed the American ambassador has expressed to Syria this government's concern over continuing Soviet weapons deliveries.

A department spokesman said, "We know of substantial shipments of Soviet arms of various types and weights to Syria in recent months. We understand that since the Middle East crisis further shipments have been made."

Types Not Specified He did not say what specific types and quantities of Soviet weapons had gone to Syria. But informed officials said more than 20 million dollars worth of such Communist military equipment has been delivered, including light tanks, armored cars and troop carriers, machine guns, some artillery and other light weapons.

White said he did not know whether this government has protested to the Soviet government against the recent Russian arms shipments.

American Ambassador James S. Moose Jr., has discussed the Soviet arms problem in Damascus with the Syrian government, he said.

U.S. Might Help Iraq Asked to comment on the sharp verbal exchanges in recent days between Syria and neighboring Iraq, White said, "tensions in this area are not coming from Iraq."

While added in reply to other questions that nothing he said ruled out possible deliveries of American weapons to Iraq, Iraq last Monday formally requested jet planes and anti-aircraft guns from the United States.

BEIRUT, Lebanon (U. S. —) The drumbeat tension between Syria and Iraq mounted today. The feeling grew that some sort of break — either in Damascus or Baghdad — might come within days.

Open Coup Likely Informed circles saw the likelihood of an open coup by the army clique that has taken control of Syria in recent weeks. The army faction, pro-Soviet although non-Communist, is led by Col. Abdul Hamid Sarraf.

There were increasing signs of unrest. A Baghdad dispatch quoted an unnamed source as saying two civilians were killed and a number of policemen and civilians hurt in a demonstration at Najaf, a Moslem holy city in southwest Iraq. It did not say what set off the trouble.

Damascus dispatches quoted an Iraqi who claimed to be a refugee as saying Iraqi army officers had attempted a "mutiny" against the present regime in Baghdad. He said this occurred 12 days ago in protest against permitting British planes to refuel at Habbaniya air base near Baghdad. The refugee claimed demonstrations flared in Baghdad and other cities when the people learned the officers were arrested, and that "dozens" of people were killed and wounded.

The Syrian-Iraqi crisis built up in a continuing exchange of bitter charges. Jordan's decision to cut its ties with Britain and consider closer relations with Russia underlining the possibility of deeper Soviet penetration into the fermenting Middle East.

Iraq accuses Syria of conducting a subversive campaign against the government of Iraq Premier Nuri Said, an opponent of Soviet moves to extend its middle east influence. Syria charges Iraq with seeking to overthrow the government.

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A farmer found the safe along a county road early today. It had been blown open and all its contents removed.

Post office inspectors said they had no idea how much money was in the safe that was taken sometime between 9:30 p.m. yesterday and 7:30 a.m. today.

## HUNDREDS LOST AT SEA

46 Yanks Safe as Gales Batter Asia

MANILA (U. S. —)

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Johore police said between 200 and 300 men "maybe more or less" were believed missing. Small police boats battled mountainous waves through the night to pick up seven more survivors, bringing the total saved to 114.

Chou Arrives In Delhi for Nehru Parley NEW DELHI, India (U. S. —) Chou En-lai, premier and foreign minister of Red China, arrived here Wednesday for a 12-day good will visit and talks on world politics with Prime Minister Nehru.

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