

## THE WEATHER

CONTINUED FOGGY through Sunday, slight afternoon lifting. Low tonight, 25; high Sunday, 32.

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## Randall Kester Named to High Court Bench

**Portland Attorney to Fill Vacancy Caused by Death Of Walter L. Tooze**

By JAMES D. OLSON  
Capital Journal Writer

Randall B. Kester, 40-year old Portland attorney, was named associate justice of the state supreme court Saturday by Governor Elmo Smith.

He will fill the vacancy on the supreme court caused by the death of the late Walter L. Tooze who died December 21. His appointment becomes effective on Jan. 3.

The new justice has been a partner in the Portland law firm of Maguire, Shields, Morrison and Bailey since 1940. He has been an active member of the Oregon bar in general practice and trial work and is just completing a term as president of the Multnomah bar association.

### 'Competent Attorney'

Governor Smith said the state is fortunate in obtaining the services of such a competent and well-rounded attorney to succeed Justice Tooze.

"In seeking a replacement for this position, I looked for a relatively young man of unimpeachable character who is held in high esteem by his legal associates and respected by the public as well as members of the bar."

### Appointment Sure

The appointment came as a distinct surprise to capital observers and members of the bench and bar. Kester's name had not been mentioned as one of the possible appointees and while Kester is given by many of the state officials and administrators, he is not a man whose name has figured in the news to any extent.

At 40 years, Kester is believed to be one of the youngest, if not the youngest associate justices to serve on the Oregon supreme court.

### Born in Vale

Kester was born in Vale, Oregon, October 20, 1916 and spent his early life there before moving to Ontario where he went through the 8th grade and three years of high school before moving to Bloomington, Wis., in 1932.

He was graduated from Bloomington high school and returned to Oregon in 1933. He graduated from Willamette University in 1937 and from Columbia law school in 1940. Upon graduation he joined his present law firm.

### Professional Scout

In addition to being president of the Multnomah bar association, he has been chairman for the past three years of the committee on continuing legal education for the state bar association and a member of the American Law Institute.

He has taken a prominent part in mountain skiing and other outdoor activities and has been vice president and a member of the executive board of the Portland area council, Boy Scouts of America.

### Production Declines

The government press reported, meantime, that production in the mines declined again this week. On Dec. 27, the first work day after the Christmas holidays, 3,800 fewer miners went down into the nation's pits than on Dec. 21. They produced only 21,650 tons, about one fourth of the nation's daily requirement.

Absenteeism during the holidays and heavy snowfall increased the difficulties at the mines.

Adding to the gloom was the police action doing away with any prospect of a public celebration on New Year's Eve.

The government made a conscripted gesture to the people by lifting the military curfew for Christmas Eve but refused to take similar action for New Year's.

The authorities advised that restaurants and cafes could remain open until 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

William C. Perry, newly elected chief justice of the supreme court had this to say about the appointment of Kester:

"I have known Randall Kester for a number of years and think he has a very fine legal mind with a great deal of experience in the active practice of law."

"He is known among his associates as a very industrious worker and with combination of industry and a fine mind, I am sure he will contribute a great deal to the court and will be of great service to the people of Oregon."

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Chief Justice Perry was elected Friday by the six justices of the supreme court. He will serve a two-year term.

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The latest research and potential

## Road Deaths Beneath Rate At Christmas

By The Associated Press  
Traffic deaths for the New Year holiday period were running well under the record Christmas rate Saturday. They also were falling short of advance estimates.

The trend—though subject to change—was regarded with cautious optimism by the National Safety Council, and it evoked a keep-up-the-good-work plea to motorists.

By midday fatalities numbered 36 in traffic, 6 in fires and 4 in accidents of other kinds for a total of 66.

At about the same time on the Saturday of the Christmas weekend motor vehicle fatalities totaled 113.

By HARRY BOYLE  
United Press Staff Correspondent

MALIBU, Calif. (UPI)—A youthful arsonist driving a yellow convertible was sought today in connection with the latest in a series of major brush fires that have erupted daily since Christmas in drought-stricken Southern California areas dotted with movie stars homes.

The latest blaze, which broke out before dawn today in foothills near palatial homes at the Palos Verdes Estates, was controlled by 12 engine companies after consuming 1,500 acres. Approximately 20 miles to the north three other fires still were out of control in the Malibu movie colony area.

A box of oil cans and rags, found at the scene of the Palos Verdes fire was held by sheriff's arson investigators. Two suspects were held briefly for questioning and released. Officers told residents a youth wearing a leather jacket was seen driving from the area in a yellow convertible at about the time the fire started.

Asst. County Fire Chief Harvey Crutchfield told United Press reporter John Kendall a container "like a Karo syrup can" with a wick in it apparently was rolled down into the brush from a hilltop.

However, a local police chief was noncommittal on the possibility of arson, saying only that "it was being investigated."

The new fire added to the list of major brush fires that have plagued the region. Dog-tired fire fighters battalions for control of three other major brush fires as temperatures remained in the 80s and humidity was at a dangerous low.

More than 1,500 homes within the 100-mile perimeter of the fire have been threatened and a tribute to the heroic fire crews, regulars and volunteers, was the fact that less than 4 per cent of the homes have been lost to the roaring flames.

Police officials bolstered their guard of detectives in movie theaters and other public places, which have served as the bomber's targets. The apparent psychopath has deposited at least 32 lethal calling cards since 1940, causing injury to 15 persons.

A suspect picked up in the wake of the "bomber's" latest strike fled dead while being questioned Friday. Police said the victim, George Cernac, 63, of Bethlehem, Pa., was acting suspiciously in Grand Central Station shortly after a fake bomb was found in the terminal.

Cernac, police said, was carrying some wool and nylon socks, similar to those in which the mad bomber had wrapped some of his weapons. They were sent to the police laboratory for examination.

Stepping up of the search was ordered after tests of the maniac's latest two bombs—discovered before their detonation—showed both to be capable of killing persons nearby.

The devices, discovered at the New York Public Library and the Paramount Theater, were detonated Friday by police and Army ordnance experts on the beach at Fort Tilden in Queens.

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In the wake of the bombers' latest bomb plant Thursday night at the Paramount Theater, bomb scares and telephone hoaxes reached epidemic proportions. Four fake bombs were found, including one at crowded Madison Square Garden Friday night, and at least 35 "scare" calls were received.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OREGON—Nancy Lee Crane and Richard E. Harrel were married here Friday shortly before being transported to Salem to begin serving terms in the state penitentiary.

Miss Crane, formerly of San Francisco, recently was sentenced to a 60-year term under the habitual criminal law. Harrel, of Twin Falls, Idaho, was convicted of forgery.

Two guests at the civil ceremony were Sheriff Paul Kearney and District Attorney T. E. Brownhill.

Production Declines

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The latest research and potential

## Hunt for Arsonist Started

### Three California Fires Remain Uncontrolled

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## Attacks of Snipers Runs of Busses in Montgomery

### Icy Fog Blanket Covers Willamette Valley



## President to Make Tour of Drought Areas

### Ike to Visit 6 States In Southwest, Midwest Tour

AUGUSTA, Ga. (UPI)—President Eisenhower's inspection tour of drought-hit areas of the Midwest and Southwest will take him into six states Jan. 13-15, his headquarters announced Saturday.