

Man, His Dog Float on Log For 20 Miles

PAGE, Wash. (AP)—A thoroughly exhausted man and his dog were rescued from the Snake River near Thursday night after they floated some 20 miles down the stream on a log.

The exhausted river drifter, taken to a Walla Walla hospital, was tentatively identified as Andy Kassimer.

R. S. Larrabee, assistant chief dispatcher for the Union Pacific Railroad here, said Kassimer apparently tried to cross the river on a raft and started his night ride down the Snake when the raft broke apart.

Kassimer was first noticed clinging to the log with his dog at Ayer Junction. Railroad hands followed him down the river until the log drifted close to shore near Page.

K. C. Dereberry, a section foreman, pulled Kassimer to safety. Dereberry said the man was completely exhausted and probably would not have been able to hang onto the log until it reached Ice Harbor Dam, eight miles downstream from Page, where a rescue crew and boat were ready to get Kassimer ashore.

BUSINESS MIRROR

Americans Welcome Spring by Stepping Up Installment Debt

By SAM DAWSON
NEW YORK (AP)—Americans have welcomed spring by buying more things on time again after trimming their installment debts in the first two months of the year.

At the same time they have stepped up the total of their repayments so that new debt and payments on the old now just about balance.

And the total of charge accounts in the stores has dropped—bringing total consumer credit below its level of March 1.

These shifts in the tactics of personal budgets could be a clue to the course of consumer buying in general—and, therefore, to the continuance of the much touted gold mines.

Merchants are watching repayments particularly today. They hope that more people soon will be making that final happy payment on the big items they bought on the cuff in 1955.

The trouble is that in that day of easy terms, many bought cars with payments scattered over so many months that they'll be in hock for some time to come. With prices rising since 1955 more than the incomes of many persons, they may be tough customers to sell.

The two striking things about the course of consumer credit as charted by the Federal Reserve Board are:

1. That the extension of some 3 1/2 billion dollars of new installment credit in March barely tops repayments.
2. That the increase in total installment credit outstanding went up just 40 million dollars in the month. A year before it rose by 197 million in March, and in the exuberant month of March 1955 the gain was 477 million dollars.

The total outstanding on the cuff now is 31 1/2 billion dollars, about 2 1/2 billion more than a year ago. Total consumer credit is 40 1/2 billion dollars, up 2 1/2 billion from a year ago.

The drop in home building this year has also cut the amount of new mortgage debt being assumed.

At the same time some Americans keep adding to their savings.

As a result of this policing of personal budgets the cry for federal controls over credit has about subsided.

Boy Attempts To Set Tokyo Palace Ablaze

TOKYO (AP)—News got out today that a teen-age boy making a liquor delivery to the imperial palace two months ago tried to set the place afire.

It was the first time on record that any Japanese had sought to do harm to Emperor Hirohito's home. Police hushed the case up until now.

The boy set fire to a two-story building used for storage of furniture. A palace spokesman said the interior was badly damaged, but that the flames did not threaten the imperial residence some distance away.

Police said the boy told them he had seen a palace destroyed by flames in the Japanese movie "A Cobweb Palace" and thought a real palace fire would be "a magnificent sight." The boy is in jail awaiting trial.

Woman Tells False Charge

PORTLAND (UP)—Mrs. Donna L. McClellan, 20, Vancouver, Wash., was arrested here yesterday on a charge of making a false report to police. She was released on her own recognizance.

Police, however, continued to hold the two youths Mrs. McClellan had accused of kidnapping her. John Edward Doench, 24, and Robert Lewis Moore, 19, both of Portland, were booked on a reduced charge of disorderly conduct.

Mrs. McClellan admitted she got into the youth's car voluntarily and was not dragged into it as she first had claimed. She said she waited for them in their car when they stopped several times at taverns.

The Great Wall of China is 1,400 miles in length.

Bid to Cyprus Bishop Denied By Harriman

ALBANY, N. Y. (AP)—Gov. Averell Harriman denies that he invited Greek Archbishop Makarios to visit New York state.

"I did not invite the archbishop over here," he said at a news conference yesterday.

A letter sent by Harriman in mid-April to the exiled leader of Greek Cypriots stirred up excited controversy abroad. It said: "Along with your many friends, I want to express my joy and gratification at the news of your release. I hope that the State of New York will shortly have the opportunity of extending to you its hospitality and warm welcome."

When asked what the message was, if not an invitation, the governor replied: "The statement stands for itself."

Purcell Transferred

PORTLAND (AP)—Police Capt. Jim Purcell, former chief of the Portland force, has been transferred to the city's North Precinct.

He had been assigned to the jail since Jan. 2 when he was succeeded by Chief William Hilbruner.

Labor Editor of Oregonian Dies

PORTLAND (AP)—Fred G. Taylor, labor editor of The Oregonian, who began his newspaper career 46 years ago, died in a hospital Thursday night. He was 66.

Taylor was with The Oregonian 43 years, after previous stints with newspapers at Austin, Texas; Boise and Oregon City.

Taylor had been ailing recently with emphysema, a lung disease preventing effective absorption of oxygen. He remained on the job through last week.

Barometer Staffers Announced by Editor

CORVALLIS (AP)—Roger Widness, editor of the Oregon State College student newspaper, the Barometer, has announced staff appointments, including these persons:

Don Michael, Roseburg, and Diane Hall, Salem, news editors; Charles Heberle, Umatilla, assistant news editor.

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