

The Weather
Forecast: Unsettled tonight and Tuesday with occasional rain; little change in temperature.
Temperature
Highest yesterday 58
Lowest this morning 30

Find A Surprise
You are invited to turn to the Classified page this evening. Regardless of your wants you are likely to find a surprise. At least you can post yourself on the many good offers now obtainable.

Thirty-fourth Year MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY NOVEMBER 13, 1939. No. 201.

SHARP QUAKE JARS NORTHWEST AREA



Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—American sailors on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts are insisting on a congressional investigation of the federal maritime commission, accusing the agency of "cooperation, connivance and collusion" with ship owners. By coincidence, the investigation was requested a few days before the fact leaked out that the commission was ready to sanction the legal subterfuge of the United States Lines in transferring eight ships to the Panama flag to chisel on the neutrality law.

Two rival unions on the Pacific have a common grievance against the commission, one being the commission's denial of collective bargaining rights and its attempt to ignore the union hiring halls. When union members picketed a ship operated by the commission in Puget Sound, the government agency extricated itself from a tight spot by leasing the vessel to a private operator—who promptly obtained a crew from the hiring hall. Incidents like that have caused seagoing union men to distrust the commission.

Notwithstanding the Pacific coast is an important shoreline; that its harbors are visited by the ships of the seven seas, and that the vast commerce between the United States and the orient flows through its ports, the Pacific coast is not represented on the maritime commission, but Kentucky is.

COMMISSIONER Max O'Rell Truitt is son-in-law of "Dear Alben" Barkley, of Kentucky, Democratic leader of the senate. While father-in-law Barkley was urging passage of the neutrality bill to keep American ships out of the war zone, son-in-law Truitt was favoring circumventing the law by the ruse of using the Panama flag.

FAR-sighted President Roosevelt predicted chiselers three years ago in a speech at Chateau.

U. S. WILL KEEP TROOPS IN CHINA

Washington, Nov. 13.—(AP)—A state department official said today the United States did not contemplate following the example of Great Britain in withdrawing troops from North China.

Officials pointed out that Britain already had diminished her military establishments in China since the present war broke out without influencing the United States' position.

New York Has Snow.
New York, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Light snow, driven by a stiff wind, fell today—the first of the season here.

SIDE GLANCES

by TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Iva McHenry thinking someone had pushed her into the Chetco river until she noticed that the bottom of the boat was covered with salmon eggs.

Notice of the arrival of a railway expressed dog intended for Morris Fox being delivered to the wrong guy, Morry, however, setting the dog all right.

Enid Funk and the other gals of the forest service installing an extra heater to boost the office temperature to 92.5 degrees or thereabouts.

Webfoot Grad Frank Reinhart, unable to attend the homecoming game, doing the next best thing by lugging a portable radio into the grandstand at the Medford-Ashland fracas and thus enjoying both.

WALLS CRACKED, MAINS BROKEN BY MIDNIGHT SHOCK

Sharpest Tremor in 15 Years Centers in Grays Harbor Region — None Injured

Seattle, Nov. 13.—(AP)—An earthquake, sharpest in 15 years seismographic records here, was believed by University of Washington geologists today to have centered 50 to 30 miles east or west of Seattle, probably in the Grays Harbor area, on the southwest coast.

Prof. George E. Goodspeed said the most severe shock came 10 seconds after the quivering earth jarred the seismograph needles into action at 11:47 p. m. It lasted 30 to 40 seconds and was followed by lesser tremors until 12:08 a. m. He laid it to slippage in one of the state's several active fault lines. He said after-shocks were extremely unlikely.

Today officials and businessmen in Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, Vancouver, B. C., and other cities surveyed damage caused by the shock that lasted for approximately one minute.

The damage, however, is not expected to be high, consisting mostly of cracked walls in some buildings, broken water mains and broken power lines.

None Injured.
A check by state and other officials indicated no one was injured.

In Seattle a near panic was averted in one theater when patrons, alarmed as a heavy glass chandelier in the center of the ceiling began to sway, rushed toward the exits. Calm-headed patrons and others quieted the throng and they filed from the theater in orderly fashion.

Other Seattle theaters reported their patrons left the buildings quietly.

In all parts of Seattle residents rushed to the streets in their night attire and some spent the remainder of the night in auto camps.

Bank Corner Falls.

A corner section of the National Bank of Washington in Tacoma, weighing approximately 150 pounds, crashed six floors into an alley at the rear of the bank. Some plaster damage was reported in the state capitol at Olympia.

The epicenter covered an area from the Portland district north through Longview, Centralia, the Grays Harbor cities, Olympia, Everett, Bellingham, Victoria and as far north as

43 Die in Train Crash

Oppeln, Germany, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Forty-three persons were known today to have been killed and 60 injured in a collision between two passenger trains last night between Langleben and Rosengrund. The accident was believed to have been caused by negligence of a switchman who ran the two trains onto the same track.

Saw 17 Murdered in Asylum Is Claim of Former Inmate

Sacramento, Nov. 13.—(AP)—A letter from a former inmate of the Stockton state hospital for the insane, who was recently judged sane and released, advised the governor's office today that the writer had seen 17 persons murdered in the institution.

The letter was signed Eugene Higgenbotham, 301 Channel street, Stockton, and copies were sent to District Attorney F. G. Cloudsley of Stockton and Dr. Aaron Rosanoff, director of state institutions.

Cloudsley wrote the governor that while the story was weird and unbelievable, yet he could not take the responsibility for pigeon-holing it, and suggested the matter by inquired into without necessarily conducting a formal investigation.

Higgenbotham's letter said he expected to be sentenced to San Quentin soon and having been released from the hospital he felt free to divulge the facts concerning "one of the greatest wholesale murder scandals in history of this state."

He said one of the custodians would place the mouth of a large bottle down the throats of patients. "At first I thought it was just an aid to old men who were dying." Later, he said, he observed the patients would be dead the following day and "the boys in the yard" would remark, "Well, another man got the black bottle."

"I saw seventeen men murdered," he wrote.

The governor's office discounted the man's narrative, but in view of the fact he was recently dismissed as sane, said that the letter would be referred to the director of institutions.

Portlanders Think Jarring Caused by Burglars In Home

Portland, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Thousands of Portland residents have been wondering for years what it would be like to experience an earthquake, but when it came, many of the midnights know what it was.

Scores of persons, roused from deep sleep, telephoned the police bureau that "burglars were in the house." Police radio and prowler car operators didn't know much about quakes either and for a frantic few minutes sirens screamed all over the city as the bluecoats chased down "burglar" alarms.

GOV. OLSON BACKS \$50 PENSION FOR OLD CALIFORNIANS

Sacramento, Calif., Nov. 13.—(AP)—A proposal to pay \$50 a month or more to citizens over 60 years was Governor Culbert L. Olson's direct reply today to the clamor in California for increased old age pensions.

Olson, threatened with recall action by supporters of the twice-rejected "ham and eggs" scrip pension plan, declared California must "take the lead" in efforts to persuade the national government to lower the pension age from 65 to 60 and raise the payments to \$60 a month.

To Offer Plan Soon
In the meantime, the governor announced in a radio address last night, he will submit the \$50-at-60 pension program to a special session of the state legislature expected to meet shortly. California now pays a maximum of \$35 monthly to needy aged 65.

Olson's proposal immediately was denounced by Dr. Francis E. Townsend, the California promoter of the \$200-a-month Townsend old age plan. Interviewers in Nashville, Tenn., the elderly pension leader termed it "futile," "unfair," "just a waste of public money."

U. S. Senator Sheridan Downey of California, speaking in Los Angeles, urged sponsors of an Olson recall movement to "forget" their grievances against the governor for opposing the "ham and eggs" proposition.

Italy Calls Second Draft Within Week

Rome, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Italy began calling 5000 non-commissioned career officers and 18,000 volunteer specialists today to strengthen her already large standing army.

The expansion, ordered by Premier Mussolini, was the second decreed within a week. Last Monday Il Duce directed 1500 officers and a similar number of non-commissioned officers be added to the army.

(The Italian army has been estimated at about 1,300,000 men.)

POPE SPEAKS TO U. S. IN BROADCAST

Vatican City, Nov. 13.—(AP via Radio)—Pope Pius XII, speaking today by radio to the people of the United States, said "the Christian education" of youth was never "more vital or important than it is today."

The pontiff spoke on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., from his private studio. He talked approximately seven minutes.

His address was directed particularly to the gathering of prelates, priests and distinguished laymen at the university, and he told them of his "pride in the great work you have accomplished for the glory of God and the welfare of your country."

What to Do

Seattle, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Right at the height of the near-panic following last night's earthquake one caller yelled above the hubbub in the Olympic hotel's jammed lobby:

"I'm from Los Angeles! Everybody stand in the doorway!"

Shouted another: "I'm from Chicago. What the devil should I do?"

Finns Break Off Moscow Negotiations; Reds Open 'Press Pressure' Campaign

RUSSIAN DEMANDS FOR NAVAL BASE STUMBLING BLOCK

Helsinki, Nov. 13.—(AP)—The Finnish foreign office announced today that its delegation in Moscow would leave for home tonight, suspending the lengthy negotiations by which Russia has been seeking concessions from Finland.

Previously Foreign Minister Eljas Erko had said that only "last minute" modification of soviet demands for territorial concessions could prevent recall of the Finns from Moscow.

The negotiations were initiated October 7 after Russia had won concessions from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, strengthening her military position in the west and north.

Finance Minister Vaino Tanner early this afternoon advised the foreign office of the decision to return.

Little Hope

"There are no indications that further progress through negotiations is possible," Erko said in an interview. "There is a last minute chance, but we have come so far it is difficult."

The foreign minister did not specify the points on which the negotiations were stalled. Observers expressed belief, however, stumbling blocks were Russia's demands for a naval base on Finnish territory at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland and revision of the southern border between the two countries on the Karelian Isthmus.

Erko hinted at this interpretation when he said to an American newspaperman:

"I believe there is a place called Sandy Hook outside New York harbor. How would you like to hand that over to some one?"

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Soviet newspapers printed a long official news agency dispatch from Helsinki painting a gloomy picture of conditions there and predicting that the Finnish government would reject Russian "offers."

The dispatch alleged there had been frequent conflict between the men of the regular Finnish army and reservists because the reservists favored agreement with Moscow.

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Britain showed no sign of hope a peace-making Germany would step through the door technically left ajar by the king's response.

A caustic speech by Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, just a few hours after the king replied, showed how slender the present chances for peace were considered. The press again recited Britain's broadly stated aims and called attention to a more specific proviso in French President Albert Lebrun's answer to Queen Wilhelmina and King Leopold—that Germany should repair "the injustices which force has imposed on Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland."

Their answers to the proposal of King Leopold and Queen Wilhelmina just one week ago that they help the embattled powers find a way to peace were made yesterday by King George and President Lebrun.

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Inspired press comment in both Britain and France during the past two days forecast clearly, these sources said, what the reply would be—namely a further indication of the will to war.

\$1 Watch Killer

Following the warning, sounded at 4:20 a. m., (10:20 p. m. Sunday, E.S.T.) and in effect for an hour, there was anti-aircraft gunfire this afternoon, beginning at 3:20 p. m. (9:20 a. m. E. S. T.)

The guns, which ring Paris, fired intermittently for 20 minutes, but no alarm was sounded in Paris.

London, Nov. 13.—(AP)—The admiralty announced tonight German aircraft made two attacks on the Shetland islands today but "were driven off by anti-aircraft gunfire."

"The bombs dropped did no damage," the communique said.

CLAMATH NEGRO HELD IN SLAYING

Klamath Falls, Nov. 13.—(AP) Earl Williams, 44, colored, was held in the county jail today after the gunshot death of his wife, Zeola, Saturday at their roadside hotel near here. No charge had been filed.

According to officers, Williams said the woman was fatally injured as she dragged a shotgun from the dwelling which had caught fire. He hailed a passing car to take her to a hospital where she died.

The couple's home, a timber-lined cave dug in a dirt bank, was burning when investigators arrived, but Dr. George Adler, coroner, said an autopsy indicated the charge that killed Mrs. Williams had been fired from a distance of several yards.

Ensign Brantley, Washington, Nov. 13.—(AP)—The navy announced selection today of 42 officers for flight training in a school beginning about March 31, 1940. Among them was Ensign William E. Brantley of Ashland, Ore., now assigned to the U.S.S. Salt Lake City.

FOOTBALL INJURY IS FATAL FOR FRESHMAN

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Dr. Harry R. Ehmes, Niagara county coroner, said death was due to shock and a ruptured kidney.

Netherland's Premier Denies Nation's Neutrality Periled

The Hague, The Netherlands, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Premier Dirk Jan de Geer told The Netherlands today "there is not a single ground for uneasiness" in the nation or empire despite "many rumors causing alarm" in the past few days.

Making his first radio speech since he became minister last summer, de Geer said the fear of imminent dangers for The Netherlands was caused by reports circulated abroad and by "certain measures of our government."

He urged Holland not to court danger by nervousness and thus risk losing "the blessings which God has given us—the vocation of stimulating peace and thus serving others."

It was this vocation, de Geer declared, which led Queen Wilhelmina and King Leopold of Belgium to make their peace mediation offer. (Britain and France answered the offer yesterday by saying the issue was up to Germany.)

"Should these endeavors again fail," he added, "we and the governments of other countries for which peace is preserved, will at a later date be able to take new steps in the same direction."

KUHNS LOVE WIRES READ TO JURORS IN FUND THEFT HEARING

New York, Nov. 13.—(AP)—A note of romance entered the trial of Fritz Kuhn, German-American bund fuhrer, today when the jury heard several telegrams sending "love and kisses" to a woman friend.

Telegraph company employees identified the messages as having been charged to the account of the bund newspaper.

The heavily built leader who is charged with stealing \$5,641 from his own organization, smiled and blushed as he was pictured as the writer of the messages to Mrs. Florence Camp, whom Kuhn has termed a "casual friend."

The state charges that of the funds allegedly misappropriated, Kuhn used \$716 to pay for the transportation of Mrs. Camp's furniture from New York to California and thence to Cleveland.

Assistant District Attorney Herman J. McCarthy did not read the signature on the telegrams but earlier, through the testimony of telegraph company employees and an officer of the bund newspaper, he attempted to establish they were sent by Kuhn.

YOUTH IS MAULED BY WOUNDED BEAR NEAR BLUE LEDGE

John Wall of Medford Has Narrow Escape While Cutting Yule Tree in Wilds

Attacked by an enraged black bear which he thought he had killed with a bullet from his 25-35 calibre rifle, John Wall, 21-year-old son of Mrs. A. M. Wall of McAndrews road, miraculously escaped serious injury yesterday afternoon.

John, with his brother, Albert and a friend, Bill Milhoan of the Four Corners road, were cutting Christmas trees at the Blue Ledge mine in the upper Applegate country, about 40 miles from Medford, when John spotted the bear on a ledge about 75 yards distant.

Hoisting his gun to his shoulder and taking careful aim, John fired. The bear, a medium-sized brute, dropped to the ground, apparently struck in a vital spot.

Thought Bear Dead
"I thought sure I had killed him," John related today. "It appeared the bullet had hit him squarely in the head, and after I saw him drop I ran to the spot."

"He was lying on his side when I reached him, and just as I got there he raised up on his hind legs and whacked me across the face with one of his big paws. The bullet had only crossed his skull, and he was fighting mad."

The terrific blow knocked John unconscious, inflicted numerous lacerations, deep gashes on his face and gave him a black eye. The impact of the blow turned the youth over in a complete flip-flop and he landed on his right side on a sharp rock, bruising his ribs.

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"Just before the bear socked me I yelled," John explained, "and Al and Bill wasted no time in getting there, they told me afterward."

"Al threw his axe at the bear but missed and the axe was broken against a rock. They yelled at the top of their lungs and the bear ran off through the brush."

Today, John's only reminders of his narrow escape are some sore ribs, a well-sliced face and the black eye. He is mighty thankful Al and Bill were on hand for the occasion, for they told him that the bear was preparing for another attack just before it took off through the brush.

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EIGHTY ALLIED PLANES DOWNED IS NAZI CLAIM

Berlin, Nov. 13.—(AP)—German army statisticians asserted today that 80 British and French planes had been destroyed from the beginning of the war to November 10, a period during which the Germans said they lost only 17. The Germans said the French had lost 84 planes and the British 16.

COUNTY WARRANT DEBT AT RECORD LOW MARK

General county warrants uncalled up to November 10 amount to \$4,346.38, according to County Treasurer Ralph Sweeney. This is the lowest mark in many years.

Total net debt of the county, including bonds, warrants and all other purposes, is \$48,772.34, as of November 10.

S. F. Turkey Prices

San Francisco, Nov. 13.—(AP) Net prices paid producers for live poultry delivered San Francisco, Turkeys, young toms, under 18 lbs., 17-17½; 18 lbs. and over, 17-17½; young hens

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Radio Highlights

By the Associated Press.
Tonight: Europe—WABC-FS 5:35, 8; MBS 6, 6:15; WEFB-NBC-East 8.
Tuesday: Europe—NBC-Chains 5 a. m.; WABC-CBS 5 a. m., 3:30 p. m.

