

The Weather

Forecast: Rain tonight, Wednesday showers follow but clearing and warmer tonight.

MEDFORD

Full Associated Press



TRIBUNE

Full United Press

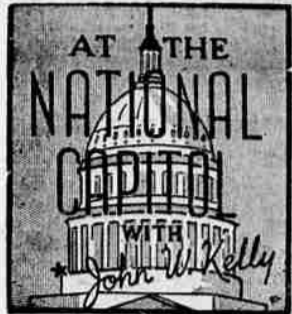
Need the Room? Would some extra Christmas money come in handy? Here's an easy way to get it...

Thirty-fourth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1944

No. 232.

NAZI LUXURY LINER SUNK BY CREW



Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Legislation proposed for the relief of the lumber industry of the Pacific Northwest is opposed by the United States Maritime Commission.

Under the law, the maritime commission can, in effect, provide a subsidy which would permit lumber to be exported in competition with British Columbia.

THE commission made a long study and arrived at the conclusion that it doesn't like the proposal, although Admiral Land, chairman of the commission, is friendly to the idea.

Truitt, by the way, is occupying the place on the commission which was intended and promised to the west coast—which has no representative on that body.

WHILE at his mother's estate at Hyde Park over the week-end, President Roosevelt has been working on ideas for assisting in financing national defense on a partly "pay-as-you-go" plan.

Finns Aid Homefolks McMinnville, Ore., Dec. 19.—(P)—Yamhill county's Finnish residents subscribed \$450 and forwarded it today to Hjalmar J. Procopo, Finland's minister to the United States, for relief of their countrymen abroad.

SIDE GLANCES

Ben (Always Late) Early wearing a sprig of mistletoe on his hat while making deliveries but none of the grocery men offering to embrace him.

Bob Brewer feeling a trifle tucked out after an evening of gayety.

Vernita Adler agreeing with another rassin fan that the front seats are a dangerous place to sit during team bouts, because one risks the chance of getting four large and terrifying brutes in one's lap.

Edith O'Connor not concealing the fact that she is busier than a dozen bees.

Betty Vilm worried that a lot of little Toastmistresses will show up at a meeting Wednesday which has been postponed.

AMERICAN CRUISER TAKING SURVIVORS TO ATLANTIC PORT

Navy Department Announcement Says No Evidence of Battle Seen By Rescuers.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(P)—The American cruiser Tuscaloosa, the White House announced today, discovered the German luxury liner Columbus sinking outside the American neutrality zone more than 400 miles off the coast between Norfolk and New York.

Navy department information furnished the White House, said the Tuscaloosa found a British man-of-war in the vicinity of the sinking ship but there had been no evidence of a fight.

The Tuscaloosa picked up survivors from the big liner and is bringing them into an American port.

No Battle Signs. Stephen T. Early, White House press secretary said that so far as this government knows the fact there had been no naval action or evidence of it and this indicates the Germans may have scuttled their own ship to escape capture.

The British, Early added, may have been trailing the Columbus, waiting to get beyond the American neutrality zone. He said there was no violation of the zone because the sinking took place beyond the 300-mile zone limit, he added, it also "seems reasonable" the Columbus may have been scuttled.

The Tuscaloosa will take the survivors either to Norfolk or New York, depending upon the wish of American Immigration officers.

The navy's information did not name the British ship, but it was believed to be a cruiser.

The important point we want to stress," Early told reporters, "is that when the Tuscaloosa arrived at the scene during routine neutrality patrol she found the Columbus sinking.

"Nearby was a British man-of-war. So far as this government knows there had been no naval action between the British ship and the Columbus."

The Columbus, third largest in the Nazi merchant marine, slipped out of Vera Cruz last Thursday with clearance papers which showed her destination as Oslo, Norway.

She was heavily laden with oil and had food supplies for a 50-day voyage.

Built in 1922 at Danzig the 32,581-ton liner was one of the most luxurious ships afloat. Recently renovated for the West Indies cruise trade, she was known to thousands of Americans.

Schiaparelli Sees Return Of Sanity In Hat Designing

New York, Dec. 19.—(P)—Cheer up, men. Your wife's spring hat may not be "funny looking."

At least that's the opinion of Schiaparelli, the Parisian designer, who once popularized a hat shaped a bit like a shoe.

"I don't believe there will be any extremely short skirts or funny looking hats," she said today as she left on the Dixie Clipper for Europe after a two weeks' visit.

Any other style extremes evolving from the war? "In times like this we may be very quiet or very mad," she replied. "I can't tell, but I don't think so."

MAN WHO STOLE NIECE SENTENCED TO SERVE 7 TO 10 YEARS IN PEN

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 19.—(U.P.) Otis Vincent Miner, 56-year-old confessed child stealer, was sentenced today to serve from seven to ten years in the state prison for the abduction in 1929 of 12-year-old Alice Vestal.

Sentence was pronounced by Superior Judge Arthur T. La Prade.

Miner ran off with Alice, a Phoenix schoolgirl, in 1929, following an argument with the girl's father. He married her in 1932 when she was 15. The couple have three children.

No word of the girl's whereabouts was known until two months ago when she left Miner at Picher, Okla., and went to the home of her parents in Ashland, Ore.

Monday Air Fight Record For Size Berlin, Dec. 19.—(P)—The great battle between British and German warplanes over German Bay (Heligoland Bight) yesterday was the biggest air fight in history, the German official news agency DNB said today.

The German high command, repeating that only two German planes had been lost, raised from 44 to 52 the number of British planes reported in the engagement.

British losses were raised from 34 to 36 by DNB, which said it was established an additional bomber had been shot down and another plane had made an emergency landing.

The British air ministry said only seven British craft were missing, and that 12 German planes had been shot down. Authoritative British sources agreed, however, with earlier German statements that the battle was the biggest air clash of the present war.

Dies Commended Portland, Dec. 19.—(P)—The Portland Americanization council commended the Dies committee for exposing un-American activities and adopted a resolution today favoring its continuance.

FINN AIR FORCE CARRIES WAR TO RUSS TERRITORY

Supply Columns and Forces Bombed — Four Russian Airplanes Shot Down.

London, Dec. 19.—(P)—A Reuters (British News Agency) dispatch from Helsinki tonight said it was reported without confirmation that the Russian 23,256-ton battleship Oksyabrskaya-Revolyutsia (October Revolution) had been sunk by Finnish coastal batteries.

Helsinki, Dec. 19.—(P)—The Finnish air force was reported officially today to have carried the war into enemy territory, striking at Russian units on both sides of the boundary.

Finnish warplanes, said the army communique, made "successful attacks on enemy forces on the march, supply columns and enemy forces in camp and at rest."

Four Russian planes were shot down "and possibly this number will be revised upward," the communique continued, describing Finnish defense against Russian raids.

Helsinki, for the first time since the opening days of the war, again was raided. About 20 planes dropped 32 bombs in the capital area, some of 800 pounds, others of 400.

Copenhagen, Dec. 19.—(P)—A motorized Soviet Russian army rolled south along Finland's arctic highway, it was reported today, on the heels of retreating Finnish forces.

Advices reaching Copenhagen were that the Finns lost a battle yesterday near Pitkajarvi, about 53 miles southwest of the arctic port, Petsamo, on the Pasvik river separating northernmost Finland from a narrow neck of Norwegian territory.

An official Moscow report that Pitkajarvi itself had been captured had not been confirmed by Finnish sources, but observers at Norwegian border points said the Finns were burning buildings, apparently in preparation for abandoning the town.

A more serious threat to the Finns was seen in an unconfirmed report in Stockholm that the Red Army had broken through the Juolajarvi front in central Finland and reached Kemijarvi, which is linked by rail to Tornio on the gulf of Bothnia.

Should the Russian army reach Rovaniemi, 50 miles to the east where highways and connecting railways run to the Swedish border, Helsinki's land communications with Sweden would be cut off.

Some reports from Helsinki said the Russians had thrown a half-million men into the invasion, with 200,000 of these added in the last few days.

Dahack's Estate Left To Brother The last will and testament of Zera Edward Dahack, slain in a gun battle with state police on December 4, after the seizure of illegal deer meat at his cabin in the Lake Creek district, was filed for probate yesterday.

End of Graf Spee From Airplane



Taken from an airplane and sent from Buenos Aires to New York by radio, this picture shows the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee as she burned and sank off Montevideo, Uruguay harbor. The vessel was destroyed by her own crew on orders of Adolf Hitler.

URUGUAY PLACES NAZI SUPPLY SHIP UNDER DETENTION

By Harold K. Mills Montevideo, Dec. 19.—(P)—The Uruguayan government today took a step toward internment of the German supply ship Tacoma, which carried oil supplies intended for the ill-fated battleship Admiral Graf Spee before a battle with three British cruisers sent her to her doom.

Government vessels escorted the Tacoma from an outer harbor anchorage into the inner basin where she must pass between two narrow breakwaters and under the guns of a Uruguayan warship to reach the sea.

Officials said detention of the vessel was not final internment for duration of the war, but was "a step in that direction."

Captain Arrested The Tacoma's captain is under technical arrest for violating a rule against movement of merchant ships when the Graf Spee sailed out to be scuttled.

A great plume of black smoke continued to rise from the burning bulk of the Nazi battleship. A naval inspector said she probably would continue to burn for 48 hours more.

Naval sources intimated the Graf Spee's encounter with the British cruisers was no accident, but really a trap that had the British-sold fuel oil as the bait.

These sources said a German freighter attempted to buy oil from a British concern at an undisclosed Brazilian port 10 days before the engagement of last Wednesday. At first it was refused, but later was supplied on instructions from headquarters.

Destruction Unjustified Capt. Hans Langsdorff, commander of the German pocket battleship, said he was cruising off the coast of Brazil in search of a rendezvous with the supply ship Tacoma when he sighted the British cruiser Exeter.

The Uruguayan foreign ministry said there was no "possible" justification for the Germans blowing up their ship, rather than go out to face the waiting British warships again.

British Chase German Tanker Into Safety of Florida Seaport

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Dec. 19.—(P)—A German oil tanker, fleeing from a British cruiser, took refuge today in the quiet harbor of Port Everglades.

Flying the Nazi swastika, the vessel anchored within sight of the oceanfront. Port officials were taken aboard and by mid-afternoon the tanker turned her nose once more toward shore.

She was identified by the coast guard as the Arauca, out of Tampico.

The naval vessel was a cruiser of the 10,000-ton class, but her name could not be seen. She flew the British flag.

The two vessels rushed toward the port from the south. Some reports said the cruiser fired across the bows of the tanker.

Officials said the German vessel, being of the merchant class, could remain in port as long as she wished, without fear of internment.

Appearance of the two vessels here followed closely reports that British warships were off the Florida coast waiting to pounce on the 32,565-ton German liner Columbus.

The Columbus left Vera Cruz, Mexico, last week on an attempted dash home. The war caught it on a cruise in the Caribbean.

NINE CARS CRASH AT INTERSECTION Wilmington, Cal., Dec. 19.—(P)—A nine-car collision in the fog today, at an intersection where five persons recently were killed, seriously injured three motorists. One had his legs amputated.

Police said an automobile struck the rear of a machine driven by William B. Ashley, 59, which was halted at a boulevard stop, and knocked the Ashley car into the intersection.

CITY WATER RATE WILL BE REDUCED TO METER USERS

Approximate 25 Per Cent Reduction Starts Jan. 1—Will Mean \$4,729 Saving.

Minimum rates on water meters within the city limits will be reduced approximately 25 per cent beginning January 1, it was announced today by Robert A. Duff, superintendent of the water department.

The reduction was voted at a meeting of the board of water commissioners yesterday afternoon. The annual saving to water consumers was estimated at \$4,729.80.

The reduction does not affect consumers on a flat rate service or meter service outside the city. Mr. Duff estimated, however, that about 10 per cent of flat rate residential consumers would change to meters. The water department furnishes the meters. He said that it would be cheaper for families in small homes without yards or gardens to change to the meter service. The flat rate is \$2.35 a month.

Sewage Fee Continues The usual monthly charge of 15 cents for sewage disposal will continue to be collected by the water department and thus will be included in the water bills for both meter and flat rate services, Mr. Duff pointed out.

Most of the patrons on meter service are commercial consumers. A few apartment houses also use the meter service. This is the second reduction in minimum rates since 1935, Mr. Duff pointed out. A general reduction was made in 1935, the flat rate being cut from \$2.50 monthly to \$2.35.

Equalize Rates. The board felt that to make the rates more equitable there should be a reduction in the minimum meter charges, Mr. Duff explained, adding that naturally the financial condition of the water department permitted such a reduction.

The minimum water rate reductions were ordered as follows: meter size 5-8 by 3-4 inch, from \$2.35 to \$1.75; size 1 inch, from \$2.85 to \$2.10; 1 1/2 inches, from \$3.35 to \$2.50; 2 inches, from \$4.35 to \$3.25; 3 inches, from \$7.85 to \$5.85; 4 inches, from \$10.85 to \$8.10; six inches, from \$13.85 to \$10.35.

Water consumption permitted for the minimum rates on meters up to and including the 3-inch size is 5,000 gallons. On the 4 and 6-inch meters, consumption of 10,000 gallons is allowed.

Aids Small User. In saying that small households would find it advantageous to change from the flat rate to meter service, Mr. Duff pointed to the new minimum rate of \$1.75 for the smallest size meter in contrast to the flat rate of \$2.35.

Mr. Duff said there were 334 meters in service within the city. In computing figures on which the meter rate reductions were based, Mr. Duff estimated total water department revenue for 1939 at \$141,700.78 and for 1940 at \$137,070.88.

Roundup Date Set Pendleton, Dec. 19.—(P)—The Pendleton roundup board announced today the 1940 show would be held September 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Radio Highlights By Associated Press. (Pacific Standard Time.) Tonight: Europe — WABC-CBS 5:55, 8; MBS 8; WFAP-NBC-East 8. WABC-CBS 7:45, Sec. M. H. Woodring on "National Defense." MBS 8:15, Pres. Birthday committee. Wednesday: Pre-Christmas—WJZ-NBC, 2 p. m. Greetings by children of foreign diplomats. Europe—NBC 5 a. m.; WABC-CBS 5 a. m., 3:30 p. m.