

TRUCKERS FORM ORGANIZATION TO HELP IN DEFENSE

Southern Oregon National Truck Defense Committee To Aid in Mobilization.

In order to efficiently mobilize trucks in southern Oregon upon possible call by the Fourth Army headquarters at San Francisco, an organization has been formed to be known as the Southern Oregon National Truck Defense Committee and headed by a five-man executive group.

Two recent meetings of southern Oregon truck owners appointed the following men for the executive committee: A. C. Pierce, Medford, chairman; F. M. Gritch, Medford, vice chairman; I. R. Perry, Grants Pass, secretary; W. D. Whittle, Ashland; F. P. King, Medford.

Glen Johnson of Medford was appointed superintendent of transportation with J. T. Davis as assistant at last night's meeting in the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce building, and the following were appointed to serve as chairmen of their respective committees:

Contact division, F. M. Gritch; fuel division, L. T. Nygaard; tire division, Sam Jennings; maintenance division, H. S. Amsbury; loading division, M. S. Hamaker, Ashland; towing division, Clifford Wheelock; communication division, Ira Smith, Medford.

First aid and food supply equipment will be furnished on

call by the Jackson county civil defense committees headed by Dr. L. D. Inskip and J. C. Collins, respectively.

A complete census of all available trucks, large and small, will be completed in a few days, according to the truckmen's spokesman, and it was urged that all truck owners register their equipment at the chamber of commerce.

FIND AGED MINER VICTIM OF STROKE

Suffering a stroke either Friday night or Saturday morning and lying helpless under the bed in his small cabin above Copper until he was discovered by a neighbor yesterday afternoon, Fred Smith, 77-year-old miner, was confined in Community hospital today. His condition was described by his attending physicians as "serious."

The aged man, according to George Davis, driver of Perl's ambulance, was in a terribly weakened condition when taken to the hospital. So far as known, his only relative is a sister in Los Angeles, who has been notified. He lived alone in his cabin.

An unidentified neighbor, for whom Smith had been doing some work, discovered the helpless man when he didn't show up for work Monday, Davis stated.

ALASKA BOYS IN NAVY
Sitka, Alaska, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Large numbers of Alaska youths coming to the naval air station for enlistment here may result in this base becoming an all-Alaska post, Comdr. J. R. Tate, station commander, said yesterday.

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BRITISH COLUMNS RACE TO CUT OFF TRIPOLI RETREAT

Germans and Italians Expected To Be Forced Into Fight in Bengasi Region.

Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 23.—(AP)—British speed columns have reached the coastal plain south of the Gulf of Sirte, far behind Bengasi, and other such forces are slashing freely into the areas through which Germans and Italians must retreat if they are to reach Tripoli safely, the British said today.

(The remnants of the axis armies probably will attempt a final stand in the region of Bengasi because German General Erwin Rommel "cannot help it," said an authoritative military commentator in London.

(The number of British columns operating south of Bengasi would appear to make a wholesale withdrawal into Tripolitania impossible, he said. Thus the Germans and Italians have no choice but to fight).

One column carried out a destructive raid on an advanced axis landing ground at Agadabia, 100 miles south of Bengasi, two nights ago and wiped out no fewer than 37 planes parked on the field, said a communique.

Planes Destroyed
These swift operations threatening and nipping at the axis line of retreat followed the announcement yesterday that another such column had swooped upon a newly established air field 150 miles inside Tripolitania, far to the west, and destroyed at least 24 planes.

Meanwhile, hurriedly reinforced troops were said in the communique to be steadily increasing their pressure on Bengasi. The Italian forces still east of that second most important axis base in North Africa were said to be only rearwards.

The communique said the relentlessly grinding British pursuit of routed Germans and Italians had left in its wake a great mass of wrecked war ma-

terial—tanks, planes, trucks, and guns—which was found scattered far and wide over the countryside all the way from the inland stronghold of Me-kili to Bengasi.

HALLIE WRIGHT OF PHOENIX PASSES

Hallie E. Wright, 41, a resident of southern Oregon practically his whole life, passed away suddenly at the family home in Phoenix, Monday at 4:45 p. m. from a heart attack.

Mr. Wright was born near Yreka, Calif., January 19, 1900. He came to Phoenix with his parents when he was six months old and has lived there continuously since. He was an orchardist by occupation and was well known by a host of friends.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Wright, and two children, June and Glen, all at home, his parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wright of Phoenix, one brother, Vernon Wright, also of Phoenix.

Funeral services will be conducted from the Perl funeral home on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Fraternal Order of Eagles officiating. Interment will take place in the Phoenix cemetery.

HEAD INJURED BY TUMBLE IN FAINT

W. B. Penniston, 62, of Route 2, Ashland was confined in Community hospital today with a head injury he suffered when he fainted and fell off a stool in a North Bartlett street cafe shortly before 6:45 p. m. Monday. His attending physician said the injured man was in "good condition," but that x-ray pictures would be taken today to definitely determine the extent of his injuries.

Penniston received a severe bump on the head when he struck the floor, and was knocked unconscious for a time, according to George Davis, driver for Perl's ambulance which removed the injured man to the hospital.

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SACRED HEART TO MARK NATIVITY IN SERIES OF MASSES

The nativity of our Divine Lord will be commemorated in Sacred Heart Catholic church Christmas day with five masses at 6, 7, 8, 9:30 and 10:30 a. m.

The 8:00 o'clock mass will be a solemn high mass, with Father Francis W. Black as celebrant. The men's choir will sing the harmonized "Missa Dominicalis," by Albert Lohmann. The following will sing Christmas hymns before the mass and will render the traditionally beautiful parts of the mass in three voices: first tenors, Leo Miksche, Richard Manning, George Perry; second tenors, Norbert Miksche, Paul Kavanaugh, John Compagnoni; basses, Herman Nigl, Roy Martin, Harvey Dutson, Joseph Runtz; boy sopranos, Arlen Kavanaugh, Billy Neely and Bobby Martin. Organist will be Miss Martha De Souza.

The last mass will be at 10:30. The St. Mary's grade and high school will sing the many beautiful and traditional carols and hymns before and during the mass. Benediction of the blessed sacrament will be given after the 10:30 mass.

The Christmas crib, a replica of the traditional nativity scene at Bethlehem, has been erected in the transept of the church, to remain during the Christmas season. An invitation is extended to friends to visit the church and see the Christmas crib.

Mrs. Hanby Receives Interesting Letter From British Friend

What air raid warden shelters look like and a discussion of food comprised the contents of an interesting letter Mrs. A. J. Hanby, 435 North Holly street received from a friend in England last week. The letter was mailed Nov. 17 and arrived in Medford last Thursday a little over a month en route from its destination.

Mrs. Hanby said that her friend lived about 60 miles from London in the country near a small village called Herts. Their country home has become a refuge for evacuees from the metropolitan areas. The air raid warden shelters throughout the English country are eight feet square and made of sandbags and house a small stool and oil heater. They are camouflaged from the air.

Each person is rationed 25 cents worth of meat per week and there is one pound of sausage per six persons each week. Such rations of meat are usually padded out with vegetables and cereals in order that they will go farther. Englishmen are allowed fish twice a week. Interesting is the report however that the "meat eating Englishman" is managing well on a diet lacking in their favorite dish—meat. Mrs. Hanby's friend said, "all are getting by."

Six More Transports Are Sent to Bottom Mediterranean Sea

London, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The admiralty announced today that British submarines had destroyed six more axis transports or supply ships in the Mediterranean.

One of the ships was a large supply ship which had already been seriously damaged by a torpedo from a submarine, the admiralty communique said.

The ship had been beached and axis sailors were trying to carry out salvage operations when she was hit again by a torpedo and "this time destroyed," the admiralty said.

Another submarine attacked a convoy of two large supply ships or transports with a destroyer escort. Both the supply ships were listed as sunk.

TWO GIVEN FINES ON AUTO COUNTS

Stephen O. Wilson of Sams Valley, charged with failure to stop and avoid an accident was fined \$1.50 and costs in justice court yesterday. Wilson collided with the rear end of a policeman's car. Beside the court cost, he agreed to pay for the damage to the other car amounting to about \$40.

Isabelle R. Whitaker route 4 was assessed \$1.50 and costs for having no operator's license. William H. McGuire paid \$1 and costs for having no windshield wiper.

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YULE PROGRAM IN COUNTY HOSPITAL GIVEN BY KIWANIS

Members of the Kiwanis club held a Christmas party at the Jackson county hospital last evening. A program, singing of carols and gifts comprised the entertainment with Raymond R. Reter master of ceremonies. In cooperation with the Jackson county court the Kiwanis club presented a piano to the hospital. The club members also renewed subscriptions to four magazines and presented other gifts to the residents.

Arrangements for the program were in charge of Everett G. Trowbridge; Adjutant Charles Cox led the invocation after which Mrs. C. H. Paske, accompanied by Mrs. C. M. Hurd at the piano, led singing of Christmas carols. Dr. O. J. Halboth and L. E. "Bing" Francis presented a skit entitled "The Martins and the McCoys." Mr. and Mrs. Everett Faber showed four animated sound cartoons after which the Roguettes, Melody Maids, Victory Boys, students of accordion teacher Sebastian Apollo presented solos and closed their number with "Silent Night." Participating were Dorothy Hansen, Phoebe and Nancy Swem, Elaine and Marian Sutherland, Betty Negles, Barbara Earle, Conrad Holzgang and Marshall Ferg. This part of the program was arranged by Mrs. H. O. Purker.

Frank Perl acting as Santa Claus, presented the gifts to the hospital.

IDENTICAL TWINS
Douglas, Ga. (UP)—Folks around these parts all know the Burch twins, Spencer and Archibald. They are identical twins and they will celebrate their 81st birthday soon. Neighbors say they can't tell one from the other.

"COW SENSE"
Davis, Cal. (UP)—W. H. Allison, University of California agricultural expert, declares California cows are

developing an "I.Q." that would justify the substitution of the expression "cow sense" for "horse sense." He has found on California dairy farms that cows, which called either by their name or number, step right up to the milker.

DRIVES CAB
Chehalis, Wash. (UP)—Veteran taxi driver Lizzie Keller is going to take a vacation after 25 years behind the wheel. Mrs. Keller in that time has

driven 90,000 miles and worn out 16 automobiles. She has never had an accident but has been held up and robbed five times.

RAID DRILLS TO MUSIC
New York (UP)—Air raid drills are set to music by the Hunter college elementary school children, who sing such songs as "Jingle Bells" and "Way Down Upon the Swannee River," while sitting on the floor of the bomb-proof corridors in the 16-story college building.



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Our lines are carrying a tremendous volume of traffic—in the last few days they have been the busiest in Pacific Coast history. It is necessary, of course, that in all instances, our lines be readily available for telephone calls important to Defense.

Your considerate thoughtfulness in not making other than the most urgent calls is an inspiration to all of us who are earnestly endeavoring to uphold the finest traditions of telephone service.

May we also ask you to lend us a hand over the Holiday Season by not sending greetings by Long Distance.

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