

Weather
Fair and continued cold to night and Saturday.
Temperature
Highest yesterday 51
Lowest this morning 37
Precipitation
Past 24 hours .

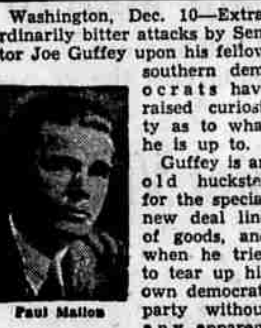
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Wind-Whipped Fires Spread Around San Francisco



One of scores of fires in the San Francisco Bay Area—this one a brush and timber fire in the Oakland, Calif., hills—threatened homes, transportation and power facilities as a 40 to 50-mile-an-hour wind struck the Pacific Coast, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage.

News Behind The News
By Paul Mallon



Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 10.—Extraordinarily bitter attacks by Senator Joe Guffey upon his fellow southern democrats have raised curiosity as to what he is up to. Guffey is an old huckster for the special new deal line of goods, and when he tries to tear up his own democratic party without any apparent cause, all politicians naturally suspect the left wing new deal boys downtown, who usually furnish his material, have decided on a new course of action.

THE personal bitterness of his attack on Senator Byrd and other southerners is known to reflect the anguish of the White House new deal crowd at their inability to get the soldier vote bill through congress.

They assumed the soldiers would vote for the commander-in-chief if the collection of ballots could be handled under federal jurisdiction. But now that it is to be handled by the states—with non-new deal democrats or republicans in control of practically all states—the blow is greater than people outside the political trade have appreciated.

But there is another reason. Coming up shortly in the senate will be the poll tax bill; an anti-lynching bill is in the offing, and a supreme court decision on the white primary in Texas is imminent.

The old war between the north and south within the democratic party, therefore, is coming up to a new series of battles, and Guffey—or rather the men

Southern California Swept By Torrential Rains, Gales

Los Angeles, Dec. 10.—Wind and rain swirled over southern California today, toppling trees, beaching boats, and flooding streets.

The weather bureau forecast scattered showers in the wake of torrential rains and winds ranging up to 70 miles an hour in Santa Barbara, where 10 oil derricks were blown down, and three fishing vessels wrecked.

Forty-mile winds howled over most of the southern coast, taking down power lines and uprooting trees. A 500-foot water-spout broke without damage on San Pedro breakwater and ships there rocked in heavy swells.

Streets Inundated
El Centro streets ran full as rains poured in from San Diego and up the Imperial valley.

A lightning bolt knocked out power to the Samuel Goldwyn studios in Hollywood and a small Los Angeles boy was stunned when a falling power line struck him. He was revived by a county rescue squad.

Snow driven by 60-mile winds lashed most of the southern California mountain area and roads were blocked by falling trees.

Ventura was swept by a wind which broke windows, blasted down signboards and trees, took down power lines, and interrupted telephone service.

Hail hammered Redondo Beach in a 35-mile wind and streets of nearby Hermosa Beach were flooded by rain.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—(U.P.) Northern California counted property damage in the millions of dollars today as the result of high winds and brush fires which burned thousands of acres, inflicted widespread damage along the shoreline, disrupted communications and left 150 persons homeless.

Weather forecasts predicted diminishing but "considerable" winds today, continuing a heavy northerly gale that ranged from 40 to 74 miles an hour in intensity yesterday.

HOGS FLOODING MIDWEST MARTS
Washington, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—An unprecedented flood of hogs to market threatened today to swamp slaughter facilities and cause heavy losses in crowded stockyards.

War food administration officials said stockyards in Chicago, Omaha, Sioux City, Indianapolis, South St. Paul and other midwestern markets were jammed and that embargoes may be necessary to bring a temporary halt to marketings.

The jam has been complicated by a shortage of manpower, and the WFA has urged farmers who can do so to accept employment in the packing plants during the next few weeks.

LITTLE MAN, NOT BANKER HOLDS G.O.P. FORTUNES

Salt Lake City, Dec. 10.—(U.P.) A Republican victory in 1944 will depend on the "little men of the country, not the bankers," Edward Tickle, chairman of the California state GOP central committee, told delegates at the opening session of an 11-western states "save America Republican" pow-wow here today.

Judge Ruth R. Richardson, state vice-chairman from Oregon, told the pow-wow that "material and constitutional rights of our nation must be restored to the people."

KING NEARLY WELL

London, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—King George VI was reported "almost" recovered from influenza.

Bulgaria Prepares to Quit Axis Despite Threats From Germany

MOBILIZATION AND CABINET SHAKE UP PRESAGE RUPTURE

Turks and Germans Exchange Shots on Closing of Border, is Report.

By United Press
The Hungarian MTI news agency reported tonight that several waves of Allied bombers raided the Bulgarian capital of Sofia at noon today and rained bombs on the city for almost two hours.

(By United Press)
The British radio announced that Prime Minister Winston Churchill conferred with King Peter of Yugoslavia and with the Mir of Iraq in Cairo today.

London, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—Bulgaria has ordered general mobilization and is shaking up her cabinet in an attempt to quit the axis orbit despite a German threat of countermeasures. European dispatches said today, and one report predicted a showdown within 48 hours.

Balkan sources in Cairo said the closing of Turkish-Bulgarian border was accompanied by an exchange of shots between Turkish and German troops, but added without elaboration that "there was no confirmation of a number of casualties on both sides."

Nazi Warning
A Swedish press report from Bucharest said Marshal Fevzi Chakmak, Turkish chief of staff, who accompanied President Ismet Inonu to the conference at Cairo with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, had offered to resign because of his opposition to Turkey's entry into the war on the side of the Allies.

A Nazi warning to Bulgaria not to change her course was reported by the Stockholm newspaper Tidningen in a Bern dispatch which said Herbert von Riechhofen, German minister at Sofia, presented a note to Premier Dobri Bozilov at a two-hour meeting yesterday.

"In case Bulgaria, from opportunism, should change her course without consulting her German ally, this would be considered an unfriendly step which would cause counterattacks," the note was quoted as saying.

Bridgehead Possible
Allied sources in Cairo said that if Bulgaria could be extricated from the Axis grip, she would provide a bridgehead into the Balkans, especially should Turkey enter the war. Cairo quarters, however, doubted that such developments could be expected immediately, though the Allied diplomatic "blitz" to wean the Balkans from Germany gained momentum with the Cairo and Tehran conferences.

(The German DNB agency said that persons spreading rumors would be ordered to leave Sofia.)

Jugoslavs Occupy Port of Biograd

London, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—Jugoslav partisan troops broke through German lines along the Adriatic coast and occupied the port of Biograd today, while radio Berlin announced that Nazi planes again were in action in Yugoslavia in an apparent effort to crush all partisan resistance.

A Yugoslav partisan communiqué gave no details of the capture of Biograd, a coastal harbor 20 miles south of the big port of Zara.

HOUSE AUTHORIZES BIG EXPENDITURE FOR NAVY

Washington, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—The house today passed and sent to the senate a bill authorizing the navy to undertake a \$235,000,000 public works program, including construction and development of naval facilities on both coasts.

The bill included a \$27,000,000 authorization for increasing naval aviation facilities, particularly for the naval air transport service near Alameda, Cal.

MUSTER OUT PAY OF \$200 TO \$500 GIVEN APPROVAL

Major Sum Would Go to Those With More Than 18 Months Overseas Service.

Washington, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—The senate military affairs committee today unanimously approved a bill providing mustering out pay ranging from \$200 to \$500 for servicemen returning to civilian life.

Before a house committee considering the same subject a 21-year-old soldier whose leg was blown off by a tank mine in Tunisia said the boys in the foxholes "wonder what they're fighting for and whether it's worth it."

Training Asked
The witness, Tech. Sgt. Lemuel Hendricks, Council Bluffs, Ia., who enlisted in Jan. 20, 1941, asked for adequate vocational training and assurance of jobs for returning servicemen.

Under the senate bill, pay would go to all servicemen with the rank of army colonel or navy commander and below who are discharged or relieved of active duty under honorable conditions. The scale of pay would be:

\$500 for those having more than 18 months overseas service.
\$400 for those having more than 12 months but less than 18 months overseas service.
\$300 for those with less than 12 months overseas service or more than 12 months service in the continental limits of the United States.
\$200 for those with less than 12 months service within this country.

Cost Not Estimated
No estimate has been made on how much the program will cost, but under the Barkley formula the estimated cost was approximately \$3,000,000,000. Bridges said the substitute formula would be more expensive.

Approximately 600,000 servicemen already discharged would be eligible for payments immediately. The war department estimated that the cost to pay that number would be approximately \$250,000,000.

MILD INFLUENZA NOW MAY PROVE BENEFIT LATER

Chicago, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—Medical authorities said today that the mild form of influenza sweeping the country may prevent a serious epidemic such as caused thousands of deaths during the first World War.

Only a few deaths have been reported, and the worst results have been a few days lost from jobs or classrooms, health officials in various cities reported.

Dr. Morrish Fishbein, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, said the milder form of influenza would probably immunize a large number of persons against the more serious forms of the disease.

Severe flu epidemics, Fishbein said, recur in cycles of 25 years, and a recurrence was due this winter. However, he said, the mild respiratory infection now will tend to build up temporary immunity against the disease sufficient to prevent an outbreak of the more serious forms.

"The current disease," Fishbein said, "certainly is not the devastating type we had in 1918. This is a mild form, an upper respiratory infection characterized by a high percentage of gastro-intestinal complications and there is absolutely no reason to anticipate that the worse form will eventuate out of this."

Roosevelt Pays Malta Visit After Historic Conference; Praises Valorous Islanders

By Frederick Hudson
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Valletta, Malta, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt paid a flying visit to this most-bombed island in the world Wednesday and told its people that he and Prime Minister Churchill believed that they had just "struck strong blows for the future of the human race," it can be revealed today.

The president presented to Malta, on behalf of the people of the United States, an illuminated scroll containing a presidential citation for valorous service "under repeated fire from the skies . . . far above and beyond the call of duty."

Aboard Douglas
Mr. Roosevelt, accompanied by an impressive array of high American army and naval officers, arrived aboard a four-engine Douglas transport, escorted by 14 Lightning and four Spitfire fighters, and landed at the island's heaviest bombed airfield.

Only two days earlier, he had completed the third of a round of historic conferences at Cairo and Tehran involving, besides Churchill, Premier Stalin of Russia, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek of China and President Ismet Inonu of Turkey.

Inspects Guard
A British delegation headed by British Lord Gort, governor of Malta, greeted the guests at the airfield. Mr. Roosevelt inspected the guard of honor in a jeep while the Stars and Stripes were unfurled and the Royal Malta artillery band played the Star Spangled Banner.

After a two-hour tour of the island, during which he saw the destruction wrought by German and Italian bombers in their all-out attempts to conquer the island, Mr. Roosevelt and his party left for parts unknown.

DEBT LIQUIDATION PLAN IS ADVANCED FOR NATION
New York, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—In a program designed to liquidate the nation's huge indebtedness over the next 100 years, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the Government Finance Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers, suggested today a federal government post-war budget of \$21,000,000,000 a year on a strictly balanced basis to assure a lasting peacetime economy.

JAP RADIO SINKS U. S. NAVY GIANT

San Francisco, Dec. 9.—(U.P.) The hard-pressed Tokyo radio dreamed up a whizzer today.

Quoting a "reliable neutral source," Tokyo asserted that the "first" 45,000-ton battleship U. S. Wisconsin was sunk recently off Bougainville.

"The United States decided to camouflage its loss by attaching the name Wisconsin to a newly built battleship and launching it with ostentatious publicity at Philadelphia Dec. 7," the story continued.

DRAFT SERVICE NOW IN HERSHEY'S HANDS

Washington, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—The White House announced today that President Roosevelt has signed legislation which gives sole authority over the selective service system to Director Lewis B. Hershey, taking from War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt all control of the system.

Convalescents Eager for News



Eager to hear about other battles being fought on other fronts, these officer patients at a South Pacific hospital rang up to read the hospital newspaper.

BAZOOKA ROCKETS SMASH PILLBOXES ON MT. SAN NUCRO

American, Canadian Successes Hint Nazi Abandonment of Line in Italy.

Allied Headquarters, Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—American capture of heights north of the main road to Rome and a successful storming of the Moro river by Canadian troops accelerated the allied offensive in Italy today amid signs the Germans may be abandoning their tattered winter line.

Smashing German pillboxes with Bazooka rocket guns, American forces of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army swept the Germans from 3,000-foot peaks on Mount San Nucro across the road from the conquered Camino-Maggiore summits.

Moves Completed
This thrust completed the moves to dominate the road from Mignano into the Liri river valley, while Clark's British troops moving into the flat plains cleared the south bank of the Garigliano river near its junction with the Liri.

Fighting hand-to-hand amid cloud-covered rock masses, the Americans pushed out southwest of Venafro to win heights overlooking the villages of San Pietro and San Vittore along Mignano gap. They firmly controlled Mignano, although they had not formally taken the town.

It appeared Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army push threatening to pocket more and more of the central Italy defenses along with the Fifth's drive was making the German line useless.

FARWELL KENLY DIES OF WOUNDS IN SO. PACIFIC

Mr. and Mrs. F. Corning Kenly of Route 1, received word today of the death as the result of wounds, of their eldest son, Lieut. Farwell Kenly, at a naval hospital in the South Pacific on November 11. The advice came through the Seattle headquarters of the United States coast guard.

Lieut. Kenly had been serving aboard ships in the South Pacific for nearly a year.

He graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London where he was commissioned an ensign, and some months ago was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

He attended the Medford high school and graduated from Hobart college, Geneva, New York, in 1936. He was 30 years old. He has one brother in the navy, Lieut. F. Corning Kenly, Jr., now stationed at Oakland, and another brother, Lieut. Granger F. Kenly, in the army air corps now stationed at the army air field at Smyrna, Tenn.

Substitute Carrier Accused of Thefts

Salem, Ore., Dec. 10.—(U.P.)—James J. Noles, substitute Salem mail carrier, today was under arrest on a charge of theft of money from the mails.

Noles was taken to Portland for a hearing before the U. S. commissioner. Paul L. Dunham and F. A. Wood, postal inspectors, said Noles was charged with taking money from incoming and outgoing letters containing currency or coins.

Medford district Community Chest subscriptions up to last night were:

\$37,749.12
Quota is \$43,719.40.