

Death of L. A. Banks Recalls Hectic Time in Jackson County

Memories of the most violent period of Jackson county political history were stirred Sunday with the news that Llewellyn A. Banks, 75, former Medford publisher and orchardist, had died Saturday in the Oregon state penitentiary after serving 11 years of a life imprisonment term. According to word received by county officials here, death was due to cancer. Banks was one of the major figures in the turmoil which focused national attention on Medford and Jackson county in 1933 and which ended in murder, arrests for a large group of people and sensational trials for Banks and five others.

Banks' arrest for the murder of Constable Geo. J. Prescott and the trial brought to an end the editor's bitter campaign as honorary chairman of the "Good Government Congress" to put out of office a group of public officials whom he harassed through the columns of his newspaper, the Medford Daily News.

Ran For Office

Banks entered the political picture in Jackson county in 1928 when he came here from Riverside, Calif., and purchased an orchard. In 1929 he purchased the Daily News, then a weekly, and converted it to a daily. He ran for the office of United States senator from Oregon in 1930 in opposition to the late Charles L. McNary and was overwhelmingly defeated. In his campaign he uttered outspoken indictments against national industrialists and firms which he said made up the "capitalist group" frequently referred to as Wall street.

Early in 1933 Banks allied himself with the movement to remove from office Circuit Judge H. D. Norton, District Attorney George Codding and Commissioner R. E. Nealon. At one time Banks stated at a public meeting at the county courthouse that he was ready "to take the field in revolution unless justice is restored in Jackson county."

He carried on a campaign in condemnation of Constable Prescott after Prescott had entered the newspaper office to attach newspaper in satisfaction of a judgment which had been awarded Eugene Wright, an ex-employee of the News.

Threat Issued

In his issue of Feb. 4, 1933, he stated "I serve notice on the gang. I mean business. Either you are going to destroy me physically or I am going to drive you out of Jackson county. Some one is going to pay the penalty."

He carried on a savage war of words with Leonard Hall, then editor of the Jacksonville Miner and both editors were indicted by the Jackson county grand jury on charges of criminal libel. The two men represented opposing factions into which the county became divided during the strife.

The now famous "ballot box theft case" followed the election as sheriff of Gordon L. Schermerhorn, which was contested by ex-Sheriff Ralph Jennings. The evening before a recount of the ballots, ordered by the court, was to take place, the ballot boxes were stolen from the Jackson county courthouse basement.

Arrests Made

Several officials of the "Good Government Congress" were arrested in connection with the ballot theft. This had a sobering effect on some of the members of the Congress and representative citizens of Medford organized a "committee of 100 to uphold constituted authority and put an end to the political strife disrupting the internal life of the city and county."

Boiling point in the case was reached when Constable Prescott, charged with the duty of serving papers on Banks charging the editor with complicity in the ballot theft, was shot on the steps of the Banks residence on West Main street. Shot through

the heart, he lay on the porch for an hour while police laid siege to the house.

Home Was Arsenal

Newspaper stories of the affair stated that Banks gave himself up and "smiled as he walked past the bloody form of the slain policeman." Rushed to Grants Pass by car, Banks was jailed there to avoid crowds which threatened violence here. State police, who searched the Banks' home reported that it was a "miniature arsenal" and Banks had often declared that he would never submit to arrest.

In the days which followed Banks and his wife were both charged with murder and 15 of Banks' followers, including three county officials, the sheriff, county judge and jailer, and the mayor of Rogue River, were indicted for ballot theft. Five, including Banks, were found guilty and sentenced to prison, the editor being convicted by a jury at Eugene and sentenced by Judge G. F. Skipworth. Mrs. Banks was acquitted. Others pleaded guilty and served terms.

Among those convicted of the ballot theft was County Judge Earl H. Fehl, who was removed from office by the governor and served a term in the penitentiary, from where he was later removed to the state hospital.

Livestock

Portland, Ore., Sept. 24—(U.P.)—Livestock: Cattle 2350, calves 400, grass steers steady. Medium-good loads \$16.50-17.00, common grades \$12.00-15.00, medium-good heifers \$9.50; canner-cutter cows \$8.00-8.00; fat dairy type cows to \$9.50; medium good beef cows \$10.50-12.50; few heads 13.50; sausage hogs \$9.50-10.50; beef hogs to \$12.00; good-choice calves \$13.00-15.00; few yearlings \$14.50. Hogs 150. Steady at ceilings. Barrows and gilts \$13.75; sows \$13.00; choice feeder pigs \$20.00-21.00. Sheep 800. Lambs active, steady. Good choice \$12.50; shorn lambs \$10.50. Good medium \$11.00-11.50; ewes slow, best held around \$5.00.

South San Francisco, Sept. 24—(U.P.)—(USDA)—Cattle 850. Very active. Steers fully steady. Four loads medium to good 1025 lb. Oregon steers \$16.00; load medium 930 lbs. at \$15; four loads Oregon feeders steers \$13.00-13.50. Two loads medium heifers \$14.00, 14.75; load good cows \$13.00. Common dairy bred slaughter cows strong, few early \$10-11; canner and cutters strong, mostly \$9-9. Common good sausage hogs \$10-12. Calves 50. Package medium 355 lb. slaughter calves \$13.50. Hogs 100. Firm; few packages 235 lb. good to choice barrows and gilts \$13.75. Odd good hogs \$15. Sheep 2000. Highly mixed run. Good and choice lambs salable \$13.00. 13.50. Medium to good shorn lambs \$7-12.99. Common to good ewes \$2.00-5.25.

Chicago, Sept. 24—(U.P.)—WFA—Hogs: 3,000; active, fully steady; good and choice barrows and gilts 140 lbs. and up at \$14.75 ceiling; good and choice sows at \$14.00. Cattle: 20,000; calves, 1,500; fed steers and yearlings, including yearling heifers fully steady; strictly good and choice grades active, others slow; largely fed steers and yearling run; about 25 loads choice steers including yearlings \$18.00; bulk \$15.00 to \$17.75; top heifers \$17.65; bulk \$14.50 to \$17.00. Sheep: 3,500; market rather slow and not fully established, most early bids and a few early sales barely steady to 25 cents lower; good and choice native spring slaughter lambs \$14.00 bucks \$11.00 less.

Portland Produce

Portland, Sept. 24—(U.P.)—Wholesale market prices: Beans—local, green, 10-12c lb. Beans—local bunch 80-85c doz. Carrots—Oregon, 75c doz. bunches delivered. Cauliflower—No. 1 \$1.75-2.00 crate. Celery—Oregon green, \$4.50 crate; celery—Oregon green, \$4.50 crate; celery hearts \$2.75-2.85 doz. bunches. Corn—Oregon \$2-2.25 box. Cucumbers—field grown, pickling sizes \$75.10. Lettuce—No. 1 \$1.25-3.00 crate. Tomatoes—No. 1 75-85c flat. Turnips—local \$1 doz. bunches. Cantaloupes—Dillard Standard \$3.02 crate. Melons—California watermelons 2c lb.

Chicago Wheat

Chicago, Sept. 24—(U.P.)—Wheat Open High Low Close Dec. 1.70% 1.71% 1.70% 1.71% May 1.68% 1.69% 1.68% 1.68% July 1.60% 1.61% 1.60% 1.60%

S. F. DAIRY PRICES

San Francisco, Sept. 24—(U.P.)—Dairy market. Butter: 93 score 43½, 92 score 43, 90 score 42¾. Cheese: loafs 28.2, triplets

Tokyo Crowd Finds Yanks in Jeep a Curiosity



Stolidly curious about their conquerors, Japanese of Tokyo crowd around a jeep in which U. S. Coast Guard and Army men visit city's amusement section. Ravaged area shows terrible blasting given Tokyo by Uncle Sam's B-29s, which demolished vast sections of the Imperial city. Coast Guard photo transmitted on Acme TRANSCIEVER via Navy radio-telephoto from Guam.

27.2. Eggs: large grade A 55½, medium grade A 50½, small grade A 41½, large grade B 46½.

Wall Street

New York, Sept. 24—(U.P.)—Stocks developed a slight rallying tendency in the late dealings today after going through most of the session dull and irregular. Volume was curtailed as the New York elevator strike spread through many buildings in the financial district. The volume to the end of the fourth hour of 600,000 shares was the lightest for the period since August 30. Sales dropped to 890,000 shares, smallest volume since Aug. 30, and compared with 1,340,000 last Friday. Preliminary closing Dow-Jones averages, industrial 179.51, up 0.02; rail, 58.53, up 0.26; utility, 34.21, off 0.04; and 65 stocks, 66.82, up 0.07.

Today's closing prices on selected stocks: American Tel. & Tel. 183 Anaconda 36¾ Chrysler 125¾ Curtis Wright 7 General Electric 47¾ General Motors 72¾ Montgomery Ward 68¾ Penn. R. R. 39¾ Phillips Petroleum 49 J. C. Penney Unquoted Radio 15¾ Southern Pacific 51¾ Standard Oil of Calif. 41¾ Texas Gulf Sulphur 21¾ Transamerica 13¼ United Aircrafts 27 U. S. Rubber 67¾ U. S. Steel 74¾

KNIFE IN BACK 34 YEARS

Crowley, La. (U.P.)—A three-inch length of a knife's blade was removed from Adam Hank's back recently, nearly 34 years after it had been lodged there during a saloon brawl. Hank had been complaining of "stomach trouble," unaware that the blade was in his back.

Ashes Come Home



(Acme Telephoto) Major Stanley J. Reilly, San Francisco, Army chaplain interned in Narumi prisoner of war camp, holds small boxes containing ashes of two American boys who died while prisoners. He brought them home for burial in America.

1,666,808 IN LEGION

Chicago (U.P.)—Nation wide membership in the American Legion reached an all-time high of 1,666,808 on Aug. 1. This was a 240,000 increase over last year.

Arthur E. Canty, commander of the department of Illinois, announced that Legion posts have increased to 12,445, compared with 12,060 for 1944. First passenger railroad train in the United States, the horse-drawn Baltimore and Ohio, was opened to traffic in 1828.

COMICE PEAR HARVEST STARTS IN SOME AREAS

Harvesting of the Comice pear crop, largely used in Christmas gift boxes started today in many orchards. This week will see the last of the D'Anjou and Bosc picked. Then will come the Winter Nellis and the apples. The season will last until the last of October. Digging of the valley onion crop is underway in the Central Point and Table Rock areas, the county agent reported. It was an average crop of good quality, though retarded somewhat by the May rains. Potato and corn crops also are being harvested.

PASADENA PIANIST IN CONCERT HERE OCT. 1

Harlow Mills, pianist from Pasadena, Calif., will present a concert in Medford the evening of Oct. 1, according to an announcement today by the Medford Musical society. The concert will be held at Parucker's in the recital hall and is open to society members and invited guests.

P-T. A. Activities

Prospect P.T.A. Prospect Parent-Teacher association will hold its first meeting of the year Thursday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Anyone interested in the program of the association is cordially invited to attend.

ARCHDUKE SPEAKS HERE TOMORROW

First gathering of the newly organized Knife and Fork club of Medford takes place tomorrow night when the club will hear Archduke Felix of Austria, who will speak on the "Reconstruction of Europe." The archduke is arriving in Medford this afternoon from Portland and speaks tomorrow at 8 p. m. at the senior high school auditorium. Members of the club are anticipating with interest the Austrian's appearance here. The archduke, who has an excellent command of English, is said to be proving a most outstanding success as a speaker during recent tours of this country. He goes to Klamath Falls from Medford. Officers of the club state that since this meeting of the club is at the auditorium, members may bring members of their immediate families and business or house guests who would be interested in hearing Archduke Felix speak.

THE GRANGE

Eagle Point Grange Unemployment insurance was thoroughly explained by Mr. Newland at the regular meeting of the Eagle Point grange held Sept. 18, with Master G. E. Osterhout presiding. Newland explained how the insurance works, where the funds come from and who is eligible, stating that each state has a considerable accumulated fund to draw from. "Back to school" was the general theme of the lecture hour and was made interesting by various members relating instances of their own school days. The annual fall carnival was announced for Nov. 3 and members were urged to cooperate and make this project successful. Serving committee for next Grange meeting, Oct. 2, will be Mr. and Mrs. C. McIntyre and Mr. and Mrs. M. Andrews.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

Journal Publisher Home From Japan Lauds MacArthur

Portland, Ore., Sept. 24—(U.P.)—Publisher P. J. Jackson of the Portland, Oregon Journal, returned from covering the surrender of Japan, today praised Gen. Douglas MacArthur as knowing "a great deal more about Japan than anybody in this country." Jackson was inferentially hitting at critics of MacArthur on his handling of the Japanese occupation, and added: "I'm very sorry when senators and congressmen and other public officials sound off on the Japs." Jackson was with a group of publishers touring the Pacific war theater and was aboard the USS Missouri for the official surrender signing. He visited Japan's main cities before flying home.

ALL COUNTY SCHOOLS NOW IN OPERATION

Last of the Jackson county schools, outside of Medford, opened school terms today. They were Jacksonville, Phoenix, Ruch-Sterling, Applegate and Eagle Point. Medford Junior high and grade schools opened last Monday. The senior high school will open next Monday, postponed from Sept. 17 to permit students to work in the fruit harvest. No official figures will be available until Nov. 1, but all signs indicate an attendance increase in both city and country districts. In 1814 British soldiers captured Washington, D. C., and burned the Capitol and White House.

BIRTHS

BLACKBURN—To Mr. and Mrs. H. E., Route 4, Box 37, Sept. 20, 1945, a girl, 7½ lbs., at Osteopathic Clinic.

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