

FLOOD CREST REACHES SALEM

Weather

FORECAST: Partly cloudy with showers tonight and Tuesday. Morning fog. Little change in temperature.
Temp. 43
Highest Yesterday 45
Lowest this Morning 40
Prec. to 5 A. M. Today .09

MEDFORD MALL MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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Fortieth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1945.

NO. 239.

Accidental Shot Kills John Vaughan

GUN DISCHARGES AS SON REMOVING UNUSED SHELLS

City Employee Succumbs In Own Ranch Yard—Long-Time Resident

A shotgun accidentally fired by his 15-year-old son, Jackie, yesterday instantly killed John Vaughan, 64, at the family home near the Elks' picnic ground according to Deputy Coroner Carlos Morris. The tragedy occurred about 4:30 p. m. just after the youth had returned from shooting woodpeckers, Morris said, the shot striking Vaughan under the left shoulder blade from about nine feet.

Mrs. Vaughan, working at a woodpile nearby, pointed to Morris that her husband had turned toward the barn to start turning the evening farm chores when the accident occurred. As the shot struck her husband he cried out "I'm shot—my God, he's killed me," she told the deputy coroner. Mrs. Vaughan said she and Jackie rushed to the stricken man but that he died almost instantly.

12 Gauge Gun
Morris stated that Jackie was using a 12-gauge hammerless pump-type gun with No. 8 shot. The gun had two shells in it and as the boy attempted to unload them, one fired, the deputy coroner said.

The boy and his father had planned to leave in a few minutes for the home of his aunt, Mrs. Jennie Gober, Coleman Creek road, where the two were to set fox traps, the report continued.

Mrs. Vaughan summoned Morris from the home of Howard Short, about one mile distant. Morris in turn reporting the affair to state police who also investigated.

Long-Time Resident
Vaughan was well known in the valley, having lived in Eagle Point and the vicinity for about 60 years. For 15 years he had been employed as a truck driver for the city of Medford. Survivors include his wife, Anna; his son, Jackie, a stepdaughter, Mrs. Roberta Peyton, who resides at the family home; a stepson, Charles Anderson of Klamath Falls; two brothers, Stanley Vaughan of Table Rock and W. H. Vaughan of Medford, and a sister, Mrs. George Porter, Medford. Jackie is a sophomore in the Eagle Point high school.

The dead man is a native of England, having come to this country as a small child. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by the Conger-Morris funeral home.

BURNING COAL PIT WILL BE SEALED

Pineville, Ky., Dec. 31—(U.P.) State Mine Inspector Harry R. Thomas announced at noon today that the Kentucky Straight Creek coal mine, now ravaged by fire and filled with gas, would be sealed beginning Wednesday and no more effort would be made to remove the 20 bodies remaining in it.

Thomas said the concentration of gas in the mine had increased since yesterday and that further work would be dangerous. At least two of the bodies remaining in the debris at the entrance of room six-left were sighted by rescue crews Saturday night, but were not brought out.

NO PAPER TUESDAY
In accordance with past custom the Mail Tribune will not publish on January 1, New Year's day.

Rainstorm Blocks California Highway



As a near record rainfall drenched California, the Weather Bureau's forecast was for continuance of "intermittent rains," which have shot the seasonal record to within an inch of the 1922 all-time high of 14.49 inches. All four lanes of the Waldo approach (above) to the Golden Gate Bridge were blocked as a result of a tremendous slide precipitated by the steady rainfall.

Little Added by Byrnes Speech Says Morse; Must Hope for Good Faith Among Nations

Washington, Dec. 31—(U.P.)—Several democratic and republican senators today urged a wait-and-see attitude on decisions of the Big Three foreign ministers despite assurances by Secretary of State James F. Byrnes that the national aims and interests of Americans were protected at Moscow.

Some senators complained at failure to consult Gen. Douglas MacArthur, supreme allied commander, about the agreement for a four-power council to aid him in ruling Japan.

Morse Critical
Sen. Wayne Morse, R., Ore., a strong advocate of international cooperation, said Byrnes' radio speech "added almost nothing to the communiqué."

"The test will be in the application of the principles which the secretary discussed," Morse said. "If our country really wants to violate the principles, there's enough ambiguous language in the agreement to let it do it. Heretofore, the United States, Russia and Great Britain have placed different interpretations on our agreement. Let's wait and see—and hope for good faith from everyone."

Sen. Pat McCarran, D., Nev., said Byrnes' speech failed to change his criticism of the original communiqué.

Sugar Coated Pill
"In the usual effluent Byrnes manner, he sugar-coated the pill nicely," McCarran said. Byrnes told his radio listeners that the agreements reached in Moscow "should bring hope to the war-weary people of many lands."

Byrnes analyzed point by point the various portions of the communiqué issued last Thursday following the conclusion of the conference. In measured tones he explained how in his opinion American views were safeguarded in each case and international accord furthered.

There was satisfaction in his voice when he said that he, British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin and Soviet Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov had "reached understanding on all important items placed on our agenda" except Iran.

Achievement Seen
There was a sense of achievement when he said gravely that "conflicting views among nations can be reconciled only by frank discussion and better understanding," adding that "the meeting in Moscow did serve to bring about better understanding."

It was a different man from the Byrnes who was forced to report at the end of the five-power foreign ministers council in London last October: "The first session of the council of foreign ministers closed in a stalemate."

In going over the new Moscow arrangements Byrnes sought to ally already-voiced criticism and criticism yet to come by declaring: 1. That the new control set-up for Japan will not in any way impair the "efficient administration" of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. 2. That no atomic secrets will be divulged before world safeguards are established. 3. That the agreement on European peace treaties meets U. S. insistence that all nations participating in the war have a say in the writing of the peace. 4. That allied aims in Korea are to hasten the day of that long-enslaved nation's independence and that the trusteeship proposed in the Moscow communiqué may not be needed. 5. That no secret agreements were made at Moscow.

Not A Contest
Byrnes said the Moscow meet-

ing was not a contest of diplomatic skills to see which of the three nations could get the most out of the others.

"We must realize," he said, "that international conferences are not intended to give individual statesmen the opportunity to achieve diplomatic successes. They are intended to be useful in the adjustment of delicate social and human relations between states with many common interests and many divergent interests."

Frederick stated that prospects are favorable for business in general, with the county and city both growing in population daily. He believes that real estate and holding will be especially active for at least another year, and stated that the United States National bank is preparing to handle the greatly increased volume of installment business which will inevitably follow the return of automobiles and similar products to the retail market.

Banking Growth
He pointed out that banking business in the valley had substantially increased last year in spite of the shortage of materials and consumer goods, and called attention to the fact that county residents purchased two and one-half million dollars worth of "E" bonds, those sold only to individuals, and that sales of other bonds had run more than five million dollars.

In addition to this, savings deposits have increased substantially, Frey stated.

Both banks have had many young men return to the staff in recent weeks after service in the army and navy. Donald W. Wright and Robert C. Wright have returned to the United States National staff and Dan W. Hull is expected to resume his duties in the near future.

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Highway Open
State police obtained word at 9 a. m. that highway 99 was open to Portland. Both eastern and western routes are clear. A Greyhound bus dispatcher here said buses are now coming through on schedule.

According to Paul B. Rynning, county engineer, the Applegate, Table Rock and Elk creek county roads are passable. Washes leave the Applegate route rough in spots and some water is still over the Table Rock road at Bybee bridge.

Kirtland road remains blocked as work on the bridge near the Camp White line will not be completed for several days. The Ramsey canyon slide will take some time to clear and two bridges at the forks near the head of Evans creek will take a while to reconstruct. Other portions of the Evans creek road are roughened by washes.

A slide at the south fork of Little Butte creek above the Lake Creek store may be removed today, Rynning said. The Preston and Ed Taylor private bridges in the Applegate area were washed out.

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BUSY, PROSPEROUS YEAR AHEAD, SAY CITY'S BANKERS

Bright Prospects For Agriculture, Business, Lumber, Real Estate, Building

Medford banks are preparing for what it is believed will be one of the busiest years in banking history for the valley, with prospects bright for both agriculture and business, particularly for business dealing with lumber, real estate and building and the automotive industry. Both George Frey, manager of the Medford branch of the United States National bank, and Eugene Thorndike, manager of the First National bank's Medford branch, declare that in spite of the fact that bank deposits are now the highest in history, preparations are being made for increased business in 1946.

Thorndike is particularly optimistic about real estate and building, pointing out that Medford and the immediate vicinity needs at least 300 additional homes and stating that if materials and labor are available, the valley will experience the largest building boom in history. He is of the opinion that both the lumber and fruit industries will have prosperous years.

Industries Coming
The First National manager believes that one of the bright spots will be opening of new, small industries in Medford and this area and declared that in his opinion, these will be of great value and should be encouraged in every way possible.

Commenting on the valley's growth in population, Thorndike stated that during one morning's business at the bank, nine new accounts were opened by persons coming here from other states, each newcomer having arrived from a different state.

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MacArthur Bans Propagandized School Studies

Tokyo, Dec. 31—(U.P.)—General MacArthur today ordered the teaching of Japanese history, geography and morals suspended in all educational institutions in Japan.

The order was issued, MacArthur said, "inasmuch as the Japanese government has used education to inculcate militaristic and ultra-nationalist ideologies which have been inextricably interwoven into certain textbooks imposed upon students."

Text books and teachers' manuals on those subjects will be collected and destroyed and the pulp will be used to make new textbooks along democratic lines, headquarters announced.

LUMBER STRIKERS TO VOTE FRIDAY ON SETTLEMENT

Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local 2715, A. F. of L. will meet Friday at 7:30 p. m. at the Eagles' hall to vote on strike settlement terms agreed upon Friday at Klamath Falls by Klamath Basin union officials and the Pine Industry Relations committee Thomas Gray, president of the local, stated today. Yesterday representatives of the local and of the Medford company met and discussed the proposed terms, he said.

At the Klamath meeting it was agreed that the striking lumber workers would accept a 15-cent an hour increase straight across the board with several considerations, details of which were not elaborated upon, Gray said. The matter of the union shop will be decided upon by each local, representatives of the unions at the meeting not having been empowered to negotiate upon that subject, the president said.

If the proposal is accepted, the three-months strike in this area would be ended for the Medford corporation. It is pointed out that each local union and company affected by the Klamath Basin conference must vote upon the settlement terms. In the beginning the union men had asked for an increase of 22½ cents and the employees had made a counter offer of 12½ cents, and various other demands were also involved.

22 DIE IN FLOOD
Jerusalem, Dec. 31—(U.P.)—At least 22 persons were killed when a flash flood swept through the coastal city of Gaza early today.

Radio Highlights

Broadcasting lineup for the New Year's Day Bowl football games:
Rose Bowl—Alabama vs. U.S.C. 2 p. m. PST. CBS.
Sugar Bowl—Oklahoma A & M vs. St. Mary's. 12 p. m. PST. ABC.Orange Bowl—Holy Cross vs. Miami. 11 a. m. PST. CBS.
Cotton Bowl—Texas vs. Missouri. 11 a. m. PST. Mutual.

Pacific Commanders Warned Adequately, Stark Declares

Washington, Dec. 31—(U.P.)—Admiral Harold R. Stark insisted today he sent "adequate" warnings to Pacific commanders before Pearl Harbor to alert them against a Japanese attack.

Stark said he had felt that the United States was already at war in the Atlantic, and that President Roosevelt ordered a task force assembled to seize the Azores six months before Pearl Harbor. The order was later cancelled.

The former chief of naval operations defended himself before congress' Pearl Harbor investigating committee against navy board charges of "faults of omission" in connection with the Hawaiian disaster.

On the basis of the navy board findings Stark and Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, then commander of the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, have been barred from holding navy posts which require superior judgment.

Stark told the committee that: 1. Letters and dispatches he sent Pacific commanders prior to Dec. 7, 1941, were "sufficient to keep them informed on important military and political developments in the Pacific as we knew them." 2. "They had received adequate information and directives to be on guard." 3. "The danger of war with Japan and a possible surprise attack on Pearl Harbor" was well known to navy officers, including Kimmel, and "methods of meeting it had been fully considered."

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CHIANG ACCEPTS REDS' PROPOSAL TO CEASE FIRE

Nationalists Ask Representatives of Both Sides Consult With Gen. Marshall

Chungking, Dec. 31—(U.P.)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's government today announced conditional acceptance of a communist-proposed "cease fire" order in China's civil war.

The nationalists proposed that both sides appoint a representative to consult with Gen. George C. Marshall, President Truman's special envoy, concerning the best procedure of carrying out the cessation of hostilities.

In Unity Meet
Chiang's proposal was announced at a "unity" meeting of nationalist and communist leaders. It was the first time the two party leaders had met since the communists asked for a cessation of hostilities last week.

The nationalists proposed: 1. That all hostilities cease and railway communications be restored. 2. That both sides appoint a representative to see Marshall concerning procedure for carrying out the cessation of hostilities and restoration of railway communications. Their report would be submitted to the government for action. 3. That the standing committee of the people's political council elect five impartial observers to form a military inspection mission to inspect the military and communications situation in areas of the conflict. The mission would submit a factual report to the government.

Cease Fire Proposed
The communists had proposed an immediate, unconditional "cease fire."

The nationalists' counter-proposal was announced only a few hours after Chiang, in a New Year's eve message to the Chinese people, expressed his willingness to form a coalition government and urged a "real unity through complete frankness and sincerity."

Stranded Vets Desperate For Ride To Homes

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 31—(U.P.)—Stranded war veterans—now 15,000 strong here with 20,000 more coming—are trying to buy trucks, hitch hike or ride the rods to get back to mid-west and eastern separation centers.

Army officials, in announcing today that the men are seeking permission to obtain individual means of transportation, said that a group of 20 soldiers had advertised for a truck to take them to Fort Meade, Md., while another soldier spokesman said, "We would be willing to ride home in box cars and take a chance on the cold weather over the mountains."

Electrum is gold ore which contains over 20 per cent of silver.

39 DEATHS LISTED ON HOLIDAY EVE

Holiday accidents claimed at least 93 lives today as the nation prepared to celebrate its first peacetime New Year's eve since 1940.

Forty-two persons have died in traffic accidents since midnight Saturday.

The Chicago Motor club warned that old cars and slippery roads would bring added driving hazards and suggested that "the best toast that motorists can offer to the future is to refrain from drinking while driving."

CONDUCTOR LEFT
Amey, Wis., Dec. 31—(U.P.)—A veteran Soo Line conductor was poorer today because he missed his train. While Henry Perault was in the Amery depot checking in, his train sped down the track without him. The frantic conductor hired a taxicab and overtook the train at Turdo Lake. Cab fare: \$10.

ROARING WATER INUNDATES VAST LOWLAND AREA

Full Fury Expected In Portland, Oregon City Region; Floods Ebb At Eugene

Portland, Ore., Dec. 31—(U.P.)—Oregon's most disastrous flood in 50 years today beset the state's two principal cities, Portland and Salem, after claiming at least three lives, with four other persons missing, and damaging property worth millions of dollars.

The roaring flood swept at its crest into Salem, Oregon's capital, inundating thousands of acres of rich bottom land and hop fields and washing out processing plants.

Families Moved
Red Cross workers and army volunteers evacuated families directly in the path of the swirling waters.

Two persons were known to have drowned in the Coos Bay area. Police said the victims were Neil J. Barnes, a retired Baptist minister, and Harold B. Lyons, a farm hand. They died in an effort to save the minister's younger son from drowning after their rowboat capsized. The boy was rescued by neighbors.

The third death was that of Raymond H. Hill, 26, whose body was recovered Sunday night from Elk Creek four miles west of Drain, Ore., on the Drain-Reedsport highway. Hill's car had plunged from the highway, fracturing his neck. His body was found in the car.

Evacuation was doubly difficult in the cities of Albany and Corvallis as raging flood waters washed out power transmission lines, darkening the two cities and nearby hamlets.

Army engineers said that many bridges over the turbulent Willamette river endangered by debris rushing downstream from the ravaged lower Willamette valley.

Motorists were warned to "cease all unnecessary travel in the flooded areas." The Willamette current was estimated at nearly 15 miles an hour above Salem.

The flood was expected to reach its full fury near the densely populated Portland and Oregon City areas. Precautions were taken along the Portland waterfront to protect docks and moored vessels.

Area Patrolled
Coast guard and army engineer detachments patrolled the entire length of the inundated area between Corvallis, Albany, Salem, Portland and Eugene.

Coast guard boats and planes brought in supplies and evacuated marooned families who failed to heed early warnings.

Conditions were somewhat improved south of Salem. At Eugene, where 1,000 families were homeless, the flood waters were receding.

Hundreds of communities still were isolated as swollen streams and land slides blocked highways of Western Oregon, forcing bus and rail lines either to cancel all schedules or change routes.

Two of Oregon's principal cities, Hood River and Astoria, were on short water rations after slides cut main water lines to city reservoirs.

Forecast of more rain for the flooded valleys added peril to the critical flood situation.

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