

All Roads From Rogue Valley Closed; Alaska Blizzard Creeps Inland

Storm Expected To Strike Valley Some Time Today

'Nasty Weather' Here Foreseen By Bureau

State police reported at 2:30 this afternoon that all highways leading from the Rogue valley were closed or were in the process of being closed. Closure signs were being posted.

A severe "blizzard" was raging in the Siskiyou and Greenup mountains areas. The closure was being placed in effect on the California side of the Siskiyou and highway 99 between Weed and Redding was closed.

Redwood highway was "out" and the Sexton mountain route was to be closed shortly, it was said. Closures were many throughout the state. Traffic at Klamath Falls was at a standstill.

The Rogue valley was ringed by severe snows and the first of the storm was beginning to strike here as The Mail Tribune went to press at 3 p.m., delayed for an hour because of lack of power due to a power line at 13th street and Riverside avenue blowing down. A number of trees were blown over in the downtown area.

Gusts of wind ranging up to 65 miles an hour were reported at the weather bureau, and heavy rain, expected to turn into snow, was flailing the valley.

A bone-chilling Canadian cold wave and an Alaskan blizzard pinched Oregon and Washington from the north and west today, and the Medford weather bureau said that the storm was due to strike southern Oregon some time this afternoon.

Snow flurries and rain showers in the Rogue valley during the morning were the first indications of what the bureau said would probably be "nasty" weather late today and tonight. High winds were expected, coupled with wet snow and rain, and colder temperatures tonight will make driving throughout this area hazardous, the bureau warned.

By United Press

Temperatures in the Pacific northwest plunged below zero in many areas today, as near-hurricane winds beached or swept out to sea a score of small craft.

The north Pacific seaboard was blanketed with up to eight inches of dry, shifting snow within a few hours.

Several coastal cities reported the blizzard was the worst in history.

The frigid front edged sluggishly out of the interior of British Columbia toward the Columbia river. At the same time, 85-mile-an-hour winds slammed the region from the west.

Weather officials said "from a standpoint of cold, this will be some of the severest weather of the winter. As far as snowfall is concerned, it may well be the worst of the season."

Aberdeen, Wash., and Astoria, Ore., were lashed by a stinging wind that dumped up to seven inches of fresh snow in a matter of a few hours.

The dry snow piled up into deep drifts, clogging highways in several coastal sections.

All schools were closed in Lewis county west of the Cascades and in Spokane county in eastern Washington. The storm also closed schools in Astoria.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 13—(U.P.) A light but persistent snow storm blew over western Oregon today and the weather bureau said more snow and lower temperatures were sweeping inland on the winds of a Pacific blow.

Two inches and more of new snow fell on Portland's east side as motorists were going to work this morning while the white blanket extended steadily into the downtown area.

The weather bureau said the snow depth in the Portland area was expected to reach about one foot by tonight with the temperature early Saturday morning around 15 degrees.

Murray, Utah, Jan. 13—(U.P.) Two little sisters drowned in the bath tub where their panicked mother put them when a small fire damaged their home, Coroner Douglas A. Miller said today.

Mrs. Kathryn Wratol told Miller that the fire broke in the rug directly under the crib where her daughters, Diane, 10 months, and Linda Ann, three, were asleep. Police Chief Lloyd Deland said the fire apparently was caused by a mislaid cigarette.

In her excitement, Mrs. Wratol grabbed the children and placed them in the tub which had been filled with water to soak the family wash.

When that failed, she jumped out the shed window, carrying the entire glass with her and

17 Injured As Bus Crashes Snow Plow On Mount Hood Road

Government Camp, Ore., Jan. 13—(U.P.) Seventeen persons were injured today when a Trailways bus, bound from Portland to Salt Lake City, crashed into the rear end of a snow plow on the Mount Hood highway four miles south of government camp.

State police said the bus, moving through a blizzard near the

Wapinitia cut-off, collided with heavy impact into the rotary snow plow which also was traveling eastward.

Extent of the injuries was not disclosed immediately but fragmentary information from the scene of the accident said some of the casualties were "in pretty bad shape."

Although the bus was not traveling fast, the collision impact was "hard," according to witnesses.

A Trailways company doctor was taken to government camp in a relief bus, escorted by Portland and state police. The injured were taken to Mountain View and Darr's resort for emergency treatment. All the 17 injured were bus passengers.

San Francisco, Jan. 13—(U.P.) J. R. Robertson, co-defendant with CIO longshore leader Harry Bridges, today was mentioned as a communist for the first time by the 13th government witness at a Friday-the-13th session of the Bridges perjury-conspiracy trial.

Robertson has been seated at the defense table with the other two defendants during the first two months of the trial while each prosecution witness failed to identify him with the case.

Present at Meetings

But today, George H. Wilson, Los Angeles newspaperman and professed ex-communist, told the federal court that he was present at several communist meetings which were attended by Robertson. He also said he attended meetings at which Bridges and the third defendant, Henry Schmidt, also were present.

Wilson, an employee of the Los Angeles Daily News, was vague about dates in answering the questions of Prosecutor F. Joseph Donohue, but positive in his statement that he knew the defendants as communists.

Saw Bridges

The 48-year-old newspaperman mentioned several communist meetings in 1944 or 1945 at a North Beach (San Francisco) apartment at which he had seen Robertson. He said he joined the party in 1940 or 1941 and stayed in until the spring of 1945. He also recalled a communist meeting in the Governor hotel some time in 1942 or 1944 at which he saw Bridges.

Federal Judge George B. Harris yesterday denied the defense's fourth motion for a mistrial and cited Defense Attorney Vincent Hallinan for misconduct for the 40th time.

Washington, Jan. 13—(U.P.) Sen. Robert A. Taft's 1950 political stock is booming today on the latest news from Ohio.

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Gov. Frank J. Lausche long since said he would run for governor again this year. Mayor Thomas A. Burke of Cleveland announced yesterday that he was not a candidate for the senate.

With those two democratic threats out of the way, many political observers here and in Ohio believe Taft will win easily.

Chairman William M. Boyle Jr., of the democratic national committee, however, was reported to President Truman that Ohio democrats will elect a senator this year. Mr. Truman told news conference yesterday he was glad to hear that. But neither Boyle nor the president has indicated who the democratic candidate may be.

FIREMEN CALLED

Firemen were called out three times in the midst of stormy weather early this afternoon. The first call was to Lincoln and West Main streets where a fire was reported. A second fire was reported at 225 Cottage street where about 30 minutes later, at 1:45 p.m., a third fire was sent to check on a power line blown down at the rear of the Central motel.

tearing off her bedroom slippers. Running barefoot through six inches of snow and with her dress freezing to her body, Mrs. Wratol ran to a neighbor's home and screamed:

"The house is on fire. My babies are trapped."

As the neighbor, C. K. Wiseman, called firemen, Mrs. Wratol returned to the burning house.

Using a claw hammer, she broke a foot-square hole in the composition wall but fainted before she could get through to the girls.

Firemen from this Salt Lake City suburb arrived in a few minutes, extinguished the flames burning the rug and floor, then nulled the two girls from the tub.

Ambulance crews tried unsuccessfully for two hours to revive them.

Their father, Sterling Wratol, arrived home shortly afterwards. It was the first time he had worked overtime at his job as a trucking company office worker since the family moved here from California five weeks ago. They had lived at Arcadia and Sacramento, Cal.

Co-Defendant Of Bridges Mentioned As Communist

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

44th Year 16 Pages MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1950 NO. 248

Son Of Pioneer Photographer In Jacksonville Dies

Emil Britt Passes At Old Family Mansion

Jacksonville, Jan. 13 — Emil Britt, one of southern Oregon's best-known personalities and son of the area's first photographer, died in the house in which he was born here early today. He would have celebrated his 88th birthday on March 22, 1930.

Mr. Britt and his sister, Mollie, who survives, were children of the late Peter Britt, Swiss immigrant painter and photographer, who moved to Jacksonville in 1851, bringing with him the first camera ever used in southern Oregon. He died in 1905. Emil and Mollie have lived in the famous old Britt mansion here ever since.

50-Year Mason

The deceased has been a member of the Warren Masonic lodge in Jacksonville for more than 50 years. He was a past high priest of the Royal Arch Masons, a past potentate of the Shrine, and a member of the Scottish Rite.

Until about a year ago, Mr. Britt was an enthusiastic volunteer weather observer. In 1947, he was cited by the weather bureau for 36 years of continuous service in this field. He was at that time one of nine men who had served the bureau for 35 years or more, and was rated among the top four of 5,000 people in the weather reporting service. He was forced to give up this work due to failing health, although he was vigorous up until about 10 days ago when he was confined to bed.

In his younger years, the old gentleman was an avid gardener and horticulturalist. The garden surrounding the Britt home was in itself a show place, and has been written up in a number of northwest periodicals.

Tree Planted

A feature of the garden is a giant sequoia redwood, which Peter Britt planted on the day Emil was born. It is now more than 120 feet tall.

The best known feature of the Britt home is the old photographic studio, which Emil and his sister had maintained as a museum since the death of their father. Collected there is an extensive and priceless exhibit of early-day photographs of southern Oregon, among them the first picture ever taken of Crater lake. In addition, many old cameras have been on display.

The museum was kept open for many years, and even recently the brother and sister welcomed parties of visitors who wished to see the collections.

Settled Here

Peter Britt, a native of Switzerland, came to this country in 1844, and it was in the spring of 1851 that he bought a Colts revolver, and a double-barreled half rifle-half shotgun, and with three other men came west. Eventually settling in Jacksonville, he cut logs for a cabin and put up a sign "Gallery" in the first photographic shop west of the Rockies.

In 1880, he sent for his former sweetheart in the old country, and they were married. Emil was born two years later. The cabin and studio were enlarged into the frame house, topped by a tower, which stands today.

The same year Emil was born, additions to the house brought it to a total of 14 rooms.

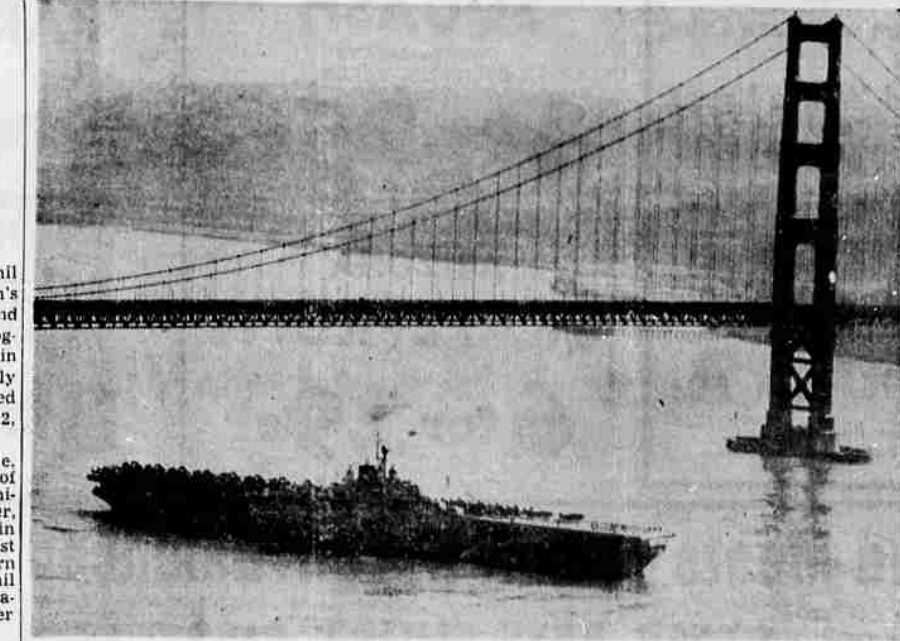
It was in this home that Emil and his sister have spent their lives.

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Britt are under charge of the Perl Funeral home, and details will be announced later.

Pilots Lose Lives In Crash Landings

Long Beach, Cal., Jan. 13—(U.P.) Two air force reservists gave their lives piloting their crippled training plane to a crash landing to avoid smashing into north Long Beach homes.

Three other crew members on the twin-engine AT-11 Beechcraft suffered shock and minor injuries as the plane grazed a house top before ramming into a street and exploding into flame.



BOUND FOR FAR EAST—The aircraft carrier Boxer, carrying 90 planes and a crew of 3,000, steams under San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge to rendezvous at sea with two destroyers and proceed to China waters. The Boxer will reinforce the 7th task fleet in the Far East.

Nationalist Bombers Attack Red Fleets

Hong Kong, Jan. 13—(U.P.) Nationalist long-range bombers today smashed communist invasion fleets and supply depots being massed on the Chinese mainland for expected assaults on the islands of Hainan and Formosa.

At the same time nationalist gunboats tightened their naval blockade of the south China coast to halt communist trade and communication in the region.

The bombers, with fighter cover, hit coastal shipping all the way from Shanghai south to the Luichow peninsula, southeast China stepping-stone to Hainan.

In Shanghai, which was hit for the second day in succession, a number of small craft were sunk or disabled.

Other planes hit Foochow, Amoy and Swatow, where the communists are massing supplies for their anticipated spring landings on Formosa.

Landings Reported

The nationalist Overseas Daily News reported under a Hailow, Hainan, dateline, that communist regulars had landed on southwestern Hainan after crossing the Gulf of Tonkin from the vicinity of Pakhoi, a distance of 150 miles.

Reports from Taipei, nationalist refugee capital, officially denied reports of the Hainan landings.

Rossellini Requests Marriage Annulment

Turin, Italy, Jan. 13—(U.P.) Italian Motion Picture Director Roberto Rossellini asked the Turin court of appeals today to annul his marriage to his wife Marcella on grounds he was under the influence of drugs when he married her.

The request was made so that Rossellini could obtain Italian approval of his Austrian divorce, which would clear the way for him to marry actress Ingrid Bergman in Italy.

Gino Solis, attorney for the director, told the court during a two-hour hearing that Rossellini was "under the influence of a drug and incapable of will and understanding when the marriage was celebrated."

The divorce which Rossellini seeks to have recognized in Italy is the one dissolving his marriage to the former Marcella de Marchis, November 3, at Civitavecchia, near Rome, in 1936. It was obtained on the same grounds—that he was under the influence of drugs.

NLRB Officer To Set Labor Election Date

A field examiner from the Portland office of the national labor relations board will hold a conference here Monday, January 16, with officials of Southern Oregon Sales corporation, Bear Creek orchards and Teamsters, Cannery and Fruit Packing Workers, Local 962A, to set a date and work out details of the bargaining election that has been ordered for the two fruit packing firms.

The conference will be held in the offices of the Industry Council of Southern Oregon in the Holland hotel building at 10 a. m. Monday.

Ohio And Wabash Rivers Rising In Illinois, Indiana

Chicago, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—The rain-swollen Ohio and Wabash rivers today pushed higher in southern Illinois and Indiana, driving bottomland dwellers to higher ground and threatening to send the Mississippi river on a rampage.

The danger zone on the Wabash shifted southward from the Terre Haute-Vincennes, Ind., area to the river's lower reaches near its junction with the Ohio.

Mount Vernon, Ind., in the notch where the two rivers meet, was alerted to receive up to 100 refugee families today. U. S. army troops and "ducks" stood ready to evacuate families in rural areas today, and the national guard unit was on an alert ordered by Gov. Henry Schickler.

The town itself was "high and dry," but thousands of acres of surrounding farmland in the Wabash and Ohio bottoms were flooded as the two streams rolled into one.

Police, national guardsmen and Red Cross prepared to care for evacuees in the city coliseum.

Upstream, the Wabash at Mount Carmel, Ill., had reached its predicted crest of 27 feet early today and was still rising.

Authorities said that, in view of continuing rains, they could not say how high the river might go before it crests.

Twenty-six families were sheltered in boxcars at Mount Carmel, and many others were housed with relatives or friends.

The situation appeared to be easing farther upstream as the Wabash crested at Russellville, Ill., with a weakened levee still holding, and approached its crest at Vincennes, Ind.

Vincennes, Ind., Jan. 13—(U.P.) Sewer gas compressed by backwaters from the flooding Wabash river may have caused a housing project explosion that killed two mothers and their three children, officials said today.

Indiana State Fire Marshal Alex Hoagland came here to direct personally an investigation to determine the cause of the blast.

The explosion wrecked a two-family unit in the project just two blocks from where 1,000 soldiers were fighting to hold a levee against raging flood waters lapping 18 inches from the top.

The unit's concrete block walls tumbled like dominoes as the blast rocked the entire town. Witnesses said the building was knocked "flat as a table top."

The explosion ripped the units of the Bowman Terrace Housing project shortly before 4 p. m. yesterday.

Bodies Found

In the ruins, rescue workers found the bodies of Mrs. Wanda Cooper, 23, and her two children, Charles, 5, and Barbara, 3, and Mrs. Rose Overell and her daughter, Vickie June, 18 months.

Authorities said the exact cause of the explosion was not known.

Mrs. Overell's husband, William, told police he had "smelled gas" for weeks in his home.

Interior Flooded After Collision With Tank Ship

Thames Estuary Scene Of Night-Time Accident

London, Jan. 13—(U.P.)—Fifty-two men still missing from the wrecked submarine Truculent were given up for dead by the admiralty tonight.

This raised the death toll to 61, with nine bodies recovered. Seventy-six were aboard the sub when a tank ship smashed into her in the Thames estuary last night and there were 15 survivors.

Compartment Flooded

The admiralty announced that "no hope can be entertained" for the missing men after a "frogman" swam into the submarine 50 feet below the surface and found all her compartments flooded.

Shortly after 6 p.m. (10 a.m. PST) the admiralty announced: "The board of admiralty regrets to announce that no hope can be entertained that there will be any further survivors from the HMS submarine Truculent."

"The next of kin of those who have lost their lives are being informed."

"The board extend their very deep sympathy to the relatives of the officers, ratings and dockyard employees who in the performance of their duty have lost their lives as a result of this tragic occurrence."

No Response To Signals

First indication that the 52 men believed trapped inside the submarine perished within minutes of its sinking, when deep sea divers reported no response to signals they hammered onto the hull.

Then Naval "Frogman" James Hodges, wearing a fin-fitted rubber suit and an oxygen tank, swam down through the open conning tower and found the interior flooded.

"It would have been impossible for anything but fish to live in the bulk of that submarine," he said.

His report, along with that of a diver who found a hole forward of the gun turret, meant that at least three of the submarine's four compartments were flooded, submarine experts said. They believed that the fourth compartment was flooded too.

This was borne out by 10 of the 15 survivors. They escaped from the engine room through a hatch with Davis breathing apparatus as the submarine sank toward the bottom. They said the rest of the submarine flooded almost immediately.

The other five survivors were washed off the bridge as the vessel sank.

The 1,000-ton patrol submarine was rammed and sunk by the Swedish tanker Divina last night about 17 miles northwest of Margate.

Radio Highlights

Radio station KYJC (1230 kc) will broadcast the Paddy Young-Tuao Portuguese boxing match from Madison Square Garden, New York, starting at 7 o'clock tonight.

At 8 p. m. KWIN (1400 kc) will air the Oregon-Oregon State basketball game from Corvallis and at 9:30 p. m. by delayed broadcast, will carry the Medford-Central Point game.

Saturday at 8:15 p. m. KWIN will broadcast the Medford-Grants Pass game from Medford high school gymnasium.

Sewer Gas Seen Cause of Blast Killing Five Persons

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