



AIR AMBULANCE SHIP AFTER CHRISTENING—Pictured above is "Rogue's Wings O' Mercy," the air ambulance ship purchased recently by non-profit Mercy Flights, Inc., for service to Jackson county emergency patients at cost. The picture was taken recently after the plane was christened by Mrs. Monte Muir, who suggested the name. Standing in front of the plane are members of the board of directors of Mercy Flights. From left to right, they are Dr. L. Paul Walker, Frank Perl, R. A. Skinner, Harold Frye, Vern Smith, George Milligan, chairman and originator of the air ambulance plan; the Rev. Harry Hansen, Miss Jeanette Thatcher, Mrs. Stephen G. Nye, Mayor Diamond Flynn and Sheriff Howard Gault.

Cooperation Refusal Denied By Packers; NLRB Election Slated

Officials of Bear Creek orchards and Southern Oregon Sales, Inc., yesterday "emphatically denied" statements published in the Oregon Teamster to the effect that local employers "have indicated that they would flatly refuse to cooperate with the national labor relations board in a scheduled representation election."

David Holmes, representing the management of Bear Creek orchards, said the employers are cooperating fully in the bargaining agent election to be held here Thursday for employees of the two firms.

Honest Criticism
"However," Holmes stated, "the employers have an honest criticism of the NLRB decision to deprive seasonal workers of the right to vote."

In a statement issued to the Mail Tribune Saturday afternoon, Holmes said, "the local 982-A which petitioned for this election, both at Bear Creek orchards and Southern Oregon Sales, Inc., requested the NLRB election for all year-round maintenance workers only. The employers argued that all workers in those plants should be entitled to take part in the election. The NLRB ordered the election for so-called non-seasonal workers. We still do not see any justice in discriminating between seasonal and non-seasonal employees."

The Oregon Teamster, a union organ published in Portland, Thursday quoted Alfred "Pat" Blair of the Industry Council of Southern Oregon as telling the NLRB "the employers would refuse to take any part in the election, would not furnish the NLRB with a list of eligible employees, and would otherwise ignore NLRB procedures."

Election Thursday
Non-seasonal employees of the two firms will be handed ballots Thursday by the national labor relations board asking, "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by Teamsters, Cannery and Fruit Packing workers, Local 982-A, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, AFL?"

The NLRB supervised election, to be held in the courthouse auditorium Thursday will determine the status of the union in the two voting units. Those eligible to vote are all non-seasonal employees at the two plants who were employed during the payroll period immediately preceding December 29, 1949. Excluded are all seasonal workers, all office and clerical employees, guards, professional employees, and all supervisors. They may cast their ballots from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday only.

Long Campaign
The election is the culmination of a long campaign on the part of the union which began nearly a year ago with a drive to secure employees' signatures on bargaining cards. After the union was organized it began to seek official recognition by petitioning the national labor relations board for a bargaining agent election, involving only two of the 15 employers represented by the fruit unit of the

Industry Council of Southern Oregon. A hearing, consolidating the cases of Southern Oregon Sales and Bear Creek orchards, was held in Medford last August and testimony taken as a basis for an NLRB decision. In reporting its findings, the board said it had determined there are approximately 300 employees hired during the peak or "plateau" season at the SOS plant. During the height of the seasonal operations at Bear Creek orchards, 700 to 800 workers are employed, the board said. There are approximately 78 year-round employees of whom 12 are full-time supervisors. Thirteen do supervisory work during a portion of the year and 53 are non-seasonal, non-supervisory employees. About 45 of the latter are employed principally in preparing the containers and other materials for use in gift shipments rather than the fruit packing itself.

There are five non-seasonal employees at SOS who operate refrigeration machinery, serving as maintenance men and receivers. Two of these five act as supervisors during the two-month peak pack season.

"Part of Unit"
Regarding the employees serving in both supervisory and non-supervisory capacities during the course of their year's employment, the board said, "We believe that to the extent that these employees are engaged as non-supervisory workers, subject

to the same conditions of employment as the non-supervisory year-round employees, they are properly a part of the unit (involved) and we shall include them in the unit for the period in which they are engaged in a non-supervisory capacity."

But the board stipulated that "only those part-time supervisors who spend 50 per cent or more of their time working as rank-and-file employees have a sufficiently substantial interest in the outcome of the election to entitle them to vote in it."

The employers' representatives testifying at the hearing contended that the only appropriate election unit is one which consists of employees of all 15 members of the fruit unit of the industry council and that seasonal as well as non-seasonal employees should be included. The NLRB discounted both contentions.

At the Thursday election, each of the interested parties may designate an equal number of observers. They will act as checkers at the voting place and at the counting of ballots, assist in the identification of voters, challenge voters and ballots, and otherwise assist the regional director or his agent.

Caution On Highways Urged By Safety Men

Salem, Ore., Jan. 21—(U.P.)—Although rain bared many Oregon highways today, slippery road surfaces made skidding danger acute on others, the state traffic safety division cautioned today.

The division observed that hard-packed snow and underlying ice caused more trouble than newly fallen snow. It advised continued use of chains were such conditions were encountered.

Drivers were asked to make sure windshield wipers and defrosters function properly and to switch to headlights whenever storms or early darkness reduce visibility to 500 feet or less.

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Farm Credit, Loan Groups Meet At Annual Session

The two agencies of the farm credit administration—the Southern Oregon Production Credit association and the Southern Oregon National Farm Loan association, held their annual meeting jointly at the Central Point Grange hall Thursday with 213 members and guests in attendance.

A luncheon was served at noon by the social club of Nevada chapter of the Eastern Star. Entertainment was furnished by Charles Bennett of the Southern Oregon Distributors, Inc., Medford, with a performance of magic.

A report was submitted to the stockholders of the Production Credit association by Arthur M. Boner, secretary-treasurer, and a similar report was submitted to the stockholders of the Farm Loan association by Earl A. Lintz, secretary-treasurer. Credit is Topic

H. L. DeLaney, district supervisor from the Federal Land bank, Spokane, Wash., spoke on long-term credit financing. Otto Allgaier, who was to be the speaker for the Production Credit association, was unable to attend due to a delay in the train schedules. Ben Tucker, Jackson county agent, spoke on "Prospectors in 1949 Compared to Prospectors in 1949," the main theme being seed production in Jackson county.

J. W. Bigham, Eagle Point, and Lester Adams, Applegate, were re-elected directors of the farm loan group. Holdover directors include A. E. Stevens, Medford, president; Ben Hilton, Grants Pass, vice-president, and Fred W. Richards, Williams.

It was announced that a cash dividend of 4 per cent would be paid later in the month to the stockholders of the National Farm Loan association. Earl A. Lintz, secretary-treasurer, reported that the farm loan organization closed new loans in excess of \$161,000 during the past year.

Ralph L. Cook, Medford, was re-elected to serve as vice-president on the board of directors of the Production Credit association for a term of three years, with J. E. Young, Roseburg, president, and Lester Adams, Lawrence, Luy, Medford, and Wesley Chappell, Bandon.

SOLDIERS' BONUS ASKED—Olympia, Wash., Jan. 21—(U.P.)—Nearly a third of Washington state's 230,000 World War II veterans had applied for their share of the state's \$80,000,000 soldiers bonus.

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