SKIPPER PLEADS GUILTY TO GROUNDING OF BIG MO

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

PULITZER AWARD 1934

United Press—Full Lease Wire

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44th Year | 20 Pages | MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1950 | NO. 313

WEATHER

FORECAST: Fair and continued mild tonight and Friday.

Temp.	
Highest Yesterday	71
Lowest this Morning	35

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'Strange' Sub Seen Off Coast

San Francisco, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—The navy announced today one of its patrol planes has sighted an "unidentified submarine periscope" and patrol bombers and a destroyer were dispatched to search an area off Eureka, Cal., near the California-Oregon border.

The commander of the western sea frontier said the patrol plane sighted the periscope yesterday about 2 p.m. Early today, a fishing vessel from Trinidad Harbor, near Eureka, reported to the coast guard it saw an unidentified submarine in the area.

The navy confirmed an air-sea search was underway.

The area where the subsighting occurred is approximately the same part of the California coastline where unidentified submarines were seen last January by an ex-RAF pilot.

The navy announcement said:

"Commander of western sea frontier reports that an unidentified submarine periscope was sighted yesterday about 2 p.m. by a navy patrol plane roughly 40 miles off Cape Mendocino in northern California.

"The navy is maintaining a continuous patrol in that area."

"At 1 a.m. today, a fishing vessel from Trinidad Harbor, near Eureka, reported to the Humboldt bay coast guard station the sighting of an unidentified submarine four miles south of Blunt Reef light, close inshore.

"The skipper of the fishing vessel, Ray Carpenter, is being interrogated by navy officials."

Three Cities Picked As Key Points for Air Warning System

Salem, Ore., Mar. 30—(U.P.)—The Dalles, Eugene, Pendleton and Portland have been approved as key points in Oregon's newly-activated air raid warning system.

Approval, which came from national civil defense officials in Washington, D. C., was announced here Wednesday at a joint meeting of Gov. Douglas McKay's advisory committee on civil defense and the state staff of the Oregon civil defense agency.

Louis E. Starr, Portland attorney and agency director, said personnel at the four key centers would notify adjacent industries and residents in the event of the approach of enemy aircraft.

Starr also said an effort is under way to locate a filter center in the Portland area. He said the site will be selected with consideration to availability of needed telephone facilities and the security of women volunteers. He mentioned the recent atrocity death of an 18-year-old girl who was abducted at Vancouver, Wash., as an impetus toward the latter consideration. Airforce officials from Hamilton field, Cal., are aiding in the job of finding a suitable site.

Starr said five airforce officers will be assigned to the filter center during its first "dry run" this summer. They will be withdrawn after the test, but the air force will continue in charge of the overall air defense operation in Oregon.

A skeleton force of local volunteers to man the center has been raised, but other volunteers are needed both for the center and for the scores of observation posts in all parts of the state, he said.

Starr said the activation program is "progressing very nicely and will be ready, I think, ahead of the time Washington wants it."

Budget Estimate Sessions Nearing In County, City

Estimates of how much money the city and county governments will spend during the next fiscal year may be known within the next few weeks Various governmental agencies have started collecting data from their departmental heads so that tentative budgets can be drawn up to be submitted at hearings and finally to the public through general publications.

The county rural school board is farther along in its budget work than any other group because the procedure for final approval of that budget is more lengthy than for the others. County School Superintendent C. R. Bowman said today the rural school board has already studied the first budget estimates submitted by the individual rural districts and that the first hearings to consider the board's revisions are set for April 12. Bowman said the rural school budget will have to come to a vote since it undoubtedly will exceed the six per cent limitation.

No Date Set

Though the county court has begun preliminary work on its budget, no definite date has been set for hearings or meetings of the budget committee. Department heads of the county government are due to submit their estimated cash needs soon and actual work on this year's task cannot begin until all the estimates are in. In addition to the county court, the county budget committee consists of Arnold Bohnert, Roger Rath and Thomas Wray.

City Recorder Ralph Woodford pointed out this morning that there is still ample time before the July 15 deadline for the city to begin work on its budget for the coming fiscal year. "We haven't even started on it," he said. The city will hold a series of budget committee meetings but no dates have yet been set. One new member of the committee will have to be appointed to fill the vacancvy left by the recent death of David Holmes. Final approval of the city budget may be accomplished by late May or June, Woodford said.

School Work Begun

Mrs. Rebecca Jensen, clerk of school district 49, said she has started to work out the preliminary details of the budget for Medford schools but her work has not progressed to the point where any definite figures can yet be submitted to the board.

All the budgets must be completed and approved by July 15.

Vancouver, Wash., Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Pinball machines were on their way out today following approval of an anti-pinball machine ordinance by the city council.

Fair Weather Spurs Search for Airplane

Portland, Ore., Mar. 30—(U.P.) Pilots took advantage of fair weather in north central Oregon today and began combing the mountains for a missing yellow Beechcraft biplane missing nine days with four persons aboard on a flight from Lakeview, Ore., to Portland.

George Blakkolb, brother of the missing pilot, Lee Blakkolb, requested pilots who flew yellow biplanes in one of two areas on March 21 to report to the CAA in order to simplify search operations. Blakkolb listed the areas as:

1. Crooked Rriver Bridge-Terrebone-Madras, between 2:30 and 3:10 p.m.; or

2. Hood River-Cascade locks in the Columbia river gorge, between 4 and 5 p.m.

Blakkolb said a number of witnesses reported seeing a yellow plane at those times in those areas, but that he wanted to know if any planes other than his brother's also were in the two areas.

Blakkolb said a $1,000 reward had been posted for the person finding the missing plane within one week's time, ending midnight, April 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Blakkolb and Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lundstrom were aboard the ship Search planes have been operating out of Portland, Hood River, The Dalles, Redmond and Lakeview.

Bartlett Pear Order Reactivated

Sacramento, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—The state department of agriculture today announced the reactivation of a marketing order for fresh bartlett pears and a new amended order for canning and freezing asparagus.

The department said 96 per cent of the producers and handlers voting in a referendum on the bartlett pear order favored reactivation. The order has not been in active operation since 1942. It provides for establishment of minimum grade or size regulations of bartlett pears sold for fresh consumption in California.

Nine Patients Die By Dense Smoke in Mental Hospital

Violent Inmates Saved by Rescuers

Philadelphia, Mar. 30—(U.P.) Nicholas Verna, 26, a convicted arsonist, confessed today that he set the fire which killed nine mental patients at a private sanatorium, state-police reported.

Sgt. Charles Taylor, arson-investigation expert for the state police, said that Verna made his confession at Valley Forge General hospital in nearby Phoenixville, where he was taken with 13 other patients following the fire at the sanatorium.

Philadelphia, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Nine men, mental patients, tugging in terror at the chains which bound them to concrete slabs, died today in a fire in a private sanitarium.

The dense smoke which killed them, pouring into their barred cells from a basement fire, felled two other patients in the ward. They were in critical condition at Montgomery hospital in Norristown, Pa.

Nurse Saves Lives

A male nurse, George Lewis, 51, saved the lives of the four other inmates of the violent section. He groped through the smoke and unlocked the leather-bound chains which shackled either by the wrist or ankle to an iron ring in their concrete "beds."

The cuts and bruises on the bodies of the dead told the story of how they struggled futilely to break the shackles that held them.

About 30 other persons, including firemen and attendants, were overcome or sickened by the dense smoke from a rubbish fire.

Amid the confusion of smoke, the rescuing of 75 terror-stricken inmates and firemen battering at cell doors, there was heroism.

Mrs. Theresa Shaw, a 38-year-old nurse from New York, crawled on her stomach through the smoke to lead firemen to the locked doors of bedridden patients.

Spectators Aid

Heroic firemen carried other patients, naked or clad in night clothes or underwear, to safety down ladders in the chill early morning hours. Spectators, drawn to the scene by smoke and fire sirens, aided in the rescue work.

Mrs. Shaw had just returned to work at the Belle Vista sanatorium in the exclusive Chestnut Hill section when the flames broke out.

"A half hour later, I heard the alarm," she said. "I don't know who gave it."

Immediately, Mrs. Shaw went to help her patients.

Confined to Basement

"There was no way and no time to get the ward records, so we could first rescue the most feeble," she said. "I just called on memory to aid me. As each patient was led or carried to safety, I called her by name and assured her that everything was all right and that everyone would get out all right."

The blaze, confined to the basement, was discovered at 10:45 p. m. yesterday by four patients lounging in bathrobes while watching a television show.

Elgin Air Force Base, Fla., Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. in Arlington national cemetery in Washington for Brig. Gen. Dale V. Gaffney, deputy commanding general of the air force proving ground here.

PAIR SUSPECTED IN GIRL'S DEATH

(Acme Telephoto)

'LIVING BUDDHA' PRAYS FOR LATTIMORE — The "Living Buddha" offers prayers at his home in Baltimore, Md., in behalf of Owen Lattimore, expert on Far Eastern affairs who has been called Russia's top agent in America by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy. The Prince of the Mongolian Buddhist Church, Dilowa Hitukhtu, said he is sure Lattimore, his long-time friend, was innocent of the charge made against him—and was praying for him.

Leon Blum, Famed Frenchman, Passes

Paris, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Leon Blum, president of the French socialist party and three times premier of France, died today just 10 days before his 78th birthday anniversary.

The elder statesman who weathered the rigors of two world wars and gave France its "new deal" in the middle '30s, died at his country home, Jouy en Josas, near Versailles.

Blum died of a heart attack. He had suffered for some years from phlebitis, an inflammatory ailment of the views, but showed some improvement after an operation last year.

Blum's famous role in French politics was his premiership of the popular front government in 1936. The socialists of whom he was the dean had joined forces with the communists after the bloody rioting between left and right in 1934.

A wave of sit-down strikes, the first prominent use of that labor weapon, greeted Blum's arrival to power. He refused to clear the men from factories by force and the strikes finally were settled without violence.

Blum put through a series of labor reforms which included the 40-hour week and a minimum wage. His administration became known as "France's new deal."

As a leading socialist and Jew, Blum was arrested soon after the Vichy regime was established in 1940. His defense of the popular front was one of the features of the Riom trials in 1942. Vichy sought to prove that Blum and his associates were responsible for the war. The trial finally was called off by the Germans.

Blum and other French leaders were taken to Germany. He was welcomed wholeheartedly by his party when he returned to France in the summer of 1945.

Mickey Rooney's Dad Dies of Heart Attack

Hollywood, Mar. 30 — (U.P.) — Joe Yule, 58, father of Actor Mickey Rooney and old-time vaudeville actor, died today of a heart attack.

His pint-sized son reached his father about the time he died, and as an inhalator squad tried to save his life.

WARRANTS ISSUED FOR 2 BROTHERS

Vancouver, Wash., Mar. 30—(UP)—Prosecutor Dewitt Jones today issued first degree murder and kidnaping warrants against Turman Wilson, 20, a convicted rapist, and his brother, Utah E. Wilson, 25, for the abduction-slaying of 18-year-old JoAnn Dewey.

An all-points bulletin was broadcast for arrest of the two brothers, who, according to Jones have fled the state of Washington.

Turman was released from Oregon state prison after serving a sentence for raping a 17-year-old Portland Ore., girl and for escape.

Capt. William Brown, chief of the Portland police detective bureau, said two abandoned automobiles believed to have been used in the abduction have been found and impounded in Portland. A Pontiac was recovered early today and a Buick was driven to Portland from Camas by Vancouver police.

Both the cars were registered to Grant Wilson, one of five Wilson brothers. Grant Wilson has no police record.

Articles Found by Police in Automobile

Capt. Brown said either a tooth or a small piece of bone, labels off several beer bottles, human hair, blood and a button assertedly from Miss Dewey's coat were found in the Pontiac.

Portland police fingerprint experts examined a beer bottle found at the scene of Joann's abduction and announced that one of the fingerprints on it was that of Utah Wilson.

Miss Dewey, a plump, attractive Portland, Ore., hospital worker, was kidnaped by two men from a Vancouver street Sunday night, March 19. One week later her battered body was found on a gravel bar in the Wind river, Skamania county.

Car Gas Fatal

An autopsy showed that the primary cause of death was acute asphyxiation resulting from inhalation of carbon monoxide gas.

"Through the tireless efforts of the Vancouver police department we have developed what I believe to be a very strong prima facie case against Terman and Utah Wilson," Jones said.

"There was no evidence that these men were seeking this particular girl. It is believed that they were waiting for nurses to come out of the (St. Joseph's) hospital that night. This girl happened to be a victim because she came along at the time they were seeking a victim, we believe," Jones said.

Seattle, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—An 18-year-old girl forced into a car early today by two young men, was choked and then raped, she told police.

The girl told officers the youths seized her at a bus stop about midnight.

While she was being driven around the city, one of the men, about 19, attacked her. Four hours later they released her near her North End home.

McCarthy Repeats Lattimer Charges

Washington, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R., Wis.) said today Owen Lattimore "is a Soviet agent and is or has been a member of the communist party."

McCarthy said he can produce a witness who will testify under oath that Lattimore has been a member of the communist party "for many years."

Lattimore, a frequent consultant of this government on far eastern affairs, is director of the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations at Johns Hopkins university in Baltimore. He is flying home now from Afghanistan where he had been on a mission for the United Nations. He has described McCarthy's previous similar charges as "moonshine" and "hogwash."

McCarthy repeated and elaborated on his previous charges against Lattimore during a long speech on the senate floor. He promised to tick off specific details on his charges that the state department is loaded with pro-communists.

Lighted 'Balls' Seen In Portland Skies

Portland, Ore., Mar. 30—(U.P.) Four Portland women were wondering today what was floating around southwest city skies last night.

Mrs. Francis Wehlitz, and Mrs. Mildred Walker, her mother, Mrs. Eva Hicks, and her sister Lucille Hicks reported seeing lighted "balls" move west across southwest Portland and disappear over the 1,000-foot high west hills.

Mrs. Wehlitz said the two objects had a yellow flickering light and seemed to be circling over the hills. She said an airplane buzzed the objects as if trying to find out what they were.

Several air force planes from the Portland air base were sent up after the objects were reported to the air base by the civil aeronautics administration office. Pilots were unable to find the objects.

Mrs. Walker said the balls had a humming sound as they moved due west some 2½ miles south of Portland's Sellwood bridge.

SOIL MEETINGS TONIGHT

The Sams Valley schoolhouse will be the scene of a meeting at 8 p.m. today that may mark the beginning of another campaign for a soil conservation district in the county. Though a proposed district that would have covered most of the county was defeated at a referendum election last week, residents in the Sams Valley area are interested in reviving the issue for the rural communities of Sams Valley, Beagle, The Meadows and Table Rock. They will attempt to draw tentative boundaries tonight.

Captain Assumes Full Responsibility On Three Charges

Court Martial Drops Original Counts

Norfolk, Va., Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Capt. W. D. Brown, former skipper of the battleship Missouri, pleaded guilty today at a navy court martial to charges that he was responsible for grounding the ship in Hampton Roads January 17.

Brown pleaded guilty specifically to charges of suffering a ship of the navy to be stranded, suffering a vessel of the navy to be hazarded and neglect of duty.

Three Counts Dropped

The court martial agreed to drop three counts originally charged against Brown, who was skippering the Missouri when it grounded during its first cruise under his command.

"To each of three charges and four specifications Brown answered guilty."

Then he read a statement to the court:

"I trust that by my pleas of today and by my statement of a month ago, which became a matter of public record, my position has been made unmistakably clear. I am not concerned with the legal technicalities of my position. I recognize that I was responsible for the safe navigation of the ship. My orders put the ship aground. Therefore, any culpability involved in the grounding is mine. That is my position."

End Of Road

Brown's counsel stepped before the stern gold-braid court after Brown had read his statement.

"The pleas of guilty which were sincerely made a few minutes ago," Capt. C. C. Wood said, "marked the end of a long and difficult stretch of road which Captain Brown has had to tread since 8:22 on the morning of January 17.

"He feels that the court cannot impose any sentence which will be greater in effect than the self-inflicted punishment which has already resulted from this tragic occurrence.

"Needless to say," Wood told the court, "the scars of this punishment will long outlive any action taken by this court."

Attempted Rape Trial Goes to Jury Here Today

A circuit court jury retired early this afternoon to decide whether Rex Joseph Coy, 839 Wabash avenue, assaulted an 11-year-old Medford girl with intent to commit rape, as has been charged in a grand jury indictment.

The state and the defense both rested their cases yesterday afternoon and closing statements to the jury were completed at noon today. District Attorney George Neilson and his deputy, Paul Haviland, had called 17 witnesses in their attempt to prove that the 28-year-old Medford man, who city police arrested shortly after the crime was committed, is guilty as the young victim has testified.

Defense Argument

Two court-appointed attorneys, Manville Heisel and Stanley C. Jones Jr., who are defending Coy, implied in statements to the jury this morning that the three young girls who testified against the defendant were incompetent witnesses because of emotion and suggestion.

One of the last witnesses called by the prosecution was Dr. Howard Richardson from the state crime detection laboratory in Portland. He had analyzed Coy's clothing and other articles at the request of Medford police. He testifed that he had found soil samples on the knee of Coy's trousers that were similar to soil samples taken from the scene of the crime.

If he is convicted, Coy could be sentenced to life in the state pententiary or he could be given a set term of from 1 to 20 years.

Foreign Ministers Will Invite Germany To Council of Europe

Strasbourg, France, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Western European foreign ministers voted unanimously today to invite Germany and the Saar to join the council of Europe as associate members.

The council representing 13 western European nations, met with Germany's admission topping their agenda.

State Gas Station On State Street To Serve State Autos

Salem, Ore., Mar. 30—(U.P.) A state-owned gesoline station to service state-owned cars will open here Monday on State street near the state highway shops.

Under the present setup, the state buys its gasoline from privately-owned stations. Officials said the new system will save the state 3.9 cents a gallon on gas and 3.5 cents a gallon on oil. The station also will handle tires, tubes, antifreeze, tire chains, jacks and other auto accessories.

Reasons for Water Development Cited

Reasons which motivated the Medford water commission to propose a bond issue for the construction of a new city pipeline from Big Butte springs were listed today by Robert A. Duff, superintendent of the water department here.

They include:

1. The fact that the bond issue can be liquidated without any increase in taxes or water rates to city users.

2. The fact that present water supplies are becoming increasingly inadequate due to population increases within the city limits.

3. The fact that a single water line presents a considerable hazard in case of fire.

4. The fact that the present pipeline is beginning to show signs of age and repairs will have to be made upon it with increasing frequency.

5. The fact that all demands for water in the foreseeable future, both within and without the city limits, will be met with the addition of the proposed new line.

Details Given

In giving additional details supporting these reasons, Duff cited the emergency water supply conditions confronting the city, especially during the summer months. Last year it was necessary to restrict the use of water for lawn sprinkling, but even then water consumed each day was as much as the total capacity of the old pipe.

Had a serious fire occurred and the pipe broken at the same time, property loss and suffering could have been severe, Duff said. Reservoir facilities could not meet peak demands for more than a few hours, and if the situation continues, fire insurance rates could be increased sharply.

Made Studies

Taking these factors into consideration, the board of water commissioners began studies many months ago to determine the most practical method of increasing supplies. Briefly, the resulting plans call for the "total development" of the Big Butte springs area, the construction of a dam on Willow creek for supplemental storage, and the construction of an additional pipeline of 20-cubic-feet-per-second capacity.

Duff explained that the city's water rights to the water are coextent with an equal right of the Eagle Point irrigation district. Withdrawals are in the ratio of 100 cubic feet per second to the district, and 30 cfs to the city. With increased usage of water by the city, it would be necessary under the water rights to furnish additional water to the irrigation district.

Foresee Dam Use

This can be done, Duff said, by a dam on Willow creek to store run-off water for the district.

Completion of the development would more than double the present water supply available to the city—now 17 cubic feet per second, or 10,986,000 gallons per day. Surplus water made available by the development, Duff said, can be sold to water districts organized by nearby communities without cost to Medford, thus reducing costs to city consumers. Any water sold to users outside the city, Duff added, would be sold only on the basis of availability over and above the city's requirements.

Plan Bond Election

Costs of the development, under the plan, would be met by a bond issue of $2,800,000, which will probably be presented to city voters at a special election held in conjunction with the primary election May 19. The bonds, Duff emphasized, would be retired over a 30-year period without tax or water rate increases in the city. This can be done, Duff explained, because the improvements would be completed during the summer of 1951 and existing bonding indebtedness will be paid off by March, 1952. After that date present revenues, plus revenues from sale of water outside the city, will be sufficient to operate the water department and amortize the bonds.