

**PARK IS PINT-SIZED**

Somerville, Mass.—(U.P.)—This city's Paul Revere Park is believed to be the smallest recognized park in the world. Only 25 feet long, it is 12 feet wide at one side and five feet wide at the other.

Hollywood, May 17—(U.P.)—Actress Agnes Moorhead has filed suit for divorce from her husband of almost 20 years, Actor Jack G. Lee.

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**Superintendent Tells Water Department's Financial Condition**

A number of requests concerning the financial set-up of the city water department have been made in recent weeks, according to Robert A. Duff, superintendent, and he today issued a statement setting forth answers to these questions.

Many of the queries were in connection with the proposed \$2,800,000 bond issue for water department development, expansion and improvement, on which Medford voters will decide at the election Friday, Duff said.

**Pay From Rentals**

He stated that the bond issue will be entirely repaid from monies obtained from water rentals. As an example of the department's ability to make these payments, Duff cited revenue and expenditure estimates for the year 1949-50.

The collections estimated would be \$296,255. Operation and maintenance costs, including capital improvements budgeted, were \$129,579. This would leave a balance of \$166,676 for the payment of bond interest and repayment of bond principal.

The surplus above this requirement is accumulated in sinking funds to defray the cost of major distribution system en-

largements, the purchase of supplies and for the retirement of bonds ahead of schedule on callable dates.

**Debts Paid Off**

By such procedure, the city's water indebtedness in 1927, in the amount of \$1,281,000, has been paid off until only \$66,000 remain. This amount will be retired Mar. 15, 1952, four years ahead of the original bond payment schedule.

The financial position of the department is excellent, Duff said. On Apr. 30, 1950, an abbreviated balance sheet listed the assets and liabilities as follows:

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and investments, all funds	\$ 129,281.94
Supplies and accounts receivable	64,186.85
Big Butte pipe line, real estate, equipment, distribution system, all physical assets, less depreciation	1,444,427.93
Suspense accounts	6,606.29
	\$1,644,503.01
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Warrants outstanding, users deposits, material interest	8,514.59
Bonds outstanding	66,000.00
Water rental in advance, money collected for other funds, etc.	11,468.24
Proprietary account, (net worth)	1,558,520.18
	\$1,644,503.01

Duff stated that the water department accounts are public records, audited each year by certified public accountants. He further stated that anyone desiring a more complete financial statement could obtain it by calling at the commission office at the city hall.

Portland, Ore., May 17—(U.P.)—Howard R. Dahn, 30-year-old insurance salesman, apparently killed himself by turning on gas in a kitchen stove late yesterday, police reported.



**FLOOD RESCUE**—Neil Shane (arrow), 12, watches as Fireman William MacMillan rows Kenneth Gobel and Peter Roth, both 13, to safety after all three of the youths were trapped in a wooded area near Chicago when the north branch of the Chicago River flooded suddenly. Shane was rescued a short time later from his tree-trunk perch.

**Fliers Glad To Be Back on American Soil After Being Captives of Reds**

Honolulu, T. H., May 17—(U.P.)—Two American fliers, on U. S. said again after 19 months captivity in communist China, patiently accepted delaying G.I. red tape today as their happy wives nervously awaited their arrival on the mainland.

Although appearing nervous and tired, William C. Smith and Elmer W. Bender were visibly moved as they stepped from a navy privateer bomber last night. The big plane landed as the sun was setting over the island of Oahu.

**Glad To Be Back**

Rear Adm. John E. Gingrich, chief of staff for the commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, greeted the smiling men. After a brief pause for photographers, they were hustled into a waiting automobile as a tight cordon of navy shore police held back reporters.

Their only statement was that they were "glad to be back on American soil."

Smith and Bender were taken to the Tripler General hospital from where they had planned to telephone their wives.

However, they cancelled those plans because reporters were "hovering around."

"They don't want to talk to a radio audience which it what it would have been last night," explained Cmdr. Merle MacBain who accompanied the fliers on the return flight.

MacBain denied any knowledge of whether the men signed confessions that they were spies during their imprisonment as was earlier reported. He said he had no knowledge of their experiences and had not questioned them since he joined them during their rendezvous with the destroyer Parks May 10.

The two men are expected to leave for the mainland late today or early tomorrow. A marine plane will carry them to Long Beach, Cal., where Smith lives, and Bender will continue on to his home in Cincinnati, O.

But first they will undergo thorough medical checkups at Tripler hospital, receive their pay and be issued new clothing.

A navy spokesman said they may be treated for anemia and minor exhaustion as they have lived primarily on a rice diet since their capture in October, 1948.

**Oklahoma Outscores Kansas For Tornado Championship**

Washington, May 17—(U.P.)—Oklahoma beat Kansas 58 to 56 for the 1949 tornado championship, the weather bureau said today.

Missouri was third with 23 and Texas fourth with 22.

For 1916-49, however, Kansas still leads with an average of 16 a year. Iowa is second with 15, Texas third with 13, and Oklahoma fourth with 10.

**Big Wind Performance**

Oklahoma's surge in 1949 was just one of the Sooner state's big wind performances of recent years. M. O. Asp of the Oklahoma City weather bureau office writes about them in the Weather Review published monthly by the weather bureau here.

Though 1949's 58 tornadoes were by far the largest number for any one year in Oklahoma, several other years produced whirlwinds that took more lives or did more damage.

In 1942, for example, 15 tornadoes killed 144 Oklahomans. That toll was nearly 100 greater than the 16 persons killed by last year's record number of twisters.

Last year's winds did property damage of \$4,035,060. But in 1948 one-third as many tornadoes, 19, destroyed \$17,506,000 worth of property.

**General Rule Violated**

Most of 1948's damage was done in March when two tornadoes hit Tinker field five days apart, violating the general rule (often observed in the breach) that twisters seldom hit the same place twice.

From 1875 through 1949 Oklahoma has had 489 tornadoes which took 924 lives, injured 4,106 persons, and did \$51,400,000 damage.

As the state grew in population and wealth, it became more

liable to disaster. In 1896 a tornado ripped along a six-mile path without hurting anybody.

If a twister should cut through the same area now, "it would be difficult to imagine the death and damage that would result," Asp said, because the storm would hit Oklahoma City's finest residential section.

**Move Northeastward**

Asp's study shows that tornadoes usually move northeastward along a straight line. Usually, that is. Sometimes they make a complete circle.

Usually tornado paths are less than 10 miles long. But a storm in April, 1947, swept 221 miles Texas, through northwestern Oklahoma into Kansas.

Twisters usually are less than 440 yards wide—but some have cut a swath more than two miles wide.

**NOMINATE Delroy "Del" ALDERSHOF DEMOCRAT — FOR SHERIFF**



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**Military Ball to Mark Armed Forces Day**

A military ball at the armory Saturday night and open house at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, 42 North Front street, Friday evening and all day Saturday will be among events rounding out National Security week observance in Medford.

George Ketchum, chairman for both activities, said that open house at the VFW hall will commence at 8 p.m. Friday. On Saturday the hall will be headquarters for Armed Forces day observance.

The Saturday dance will commence at 9 p.m. It is sponsored by the Marine Corps league and will be open to the public. Proceeds from the ball will be used to maintain historical monuments in the county, for a municipal band and to provide uniforms for a marine drill team.

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**SQUEALS SMOTHERED**  
Manila, P. I.—(U.P.)—Burglars stole Luis Villacorta's four-month-old pig after chloroforming the animal to keep it from squealing.

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