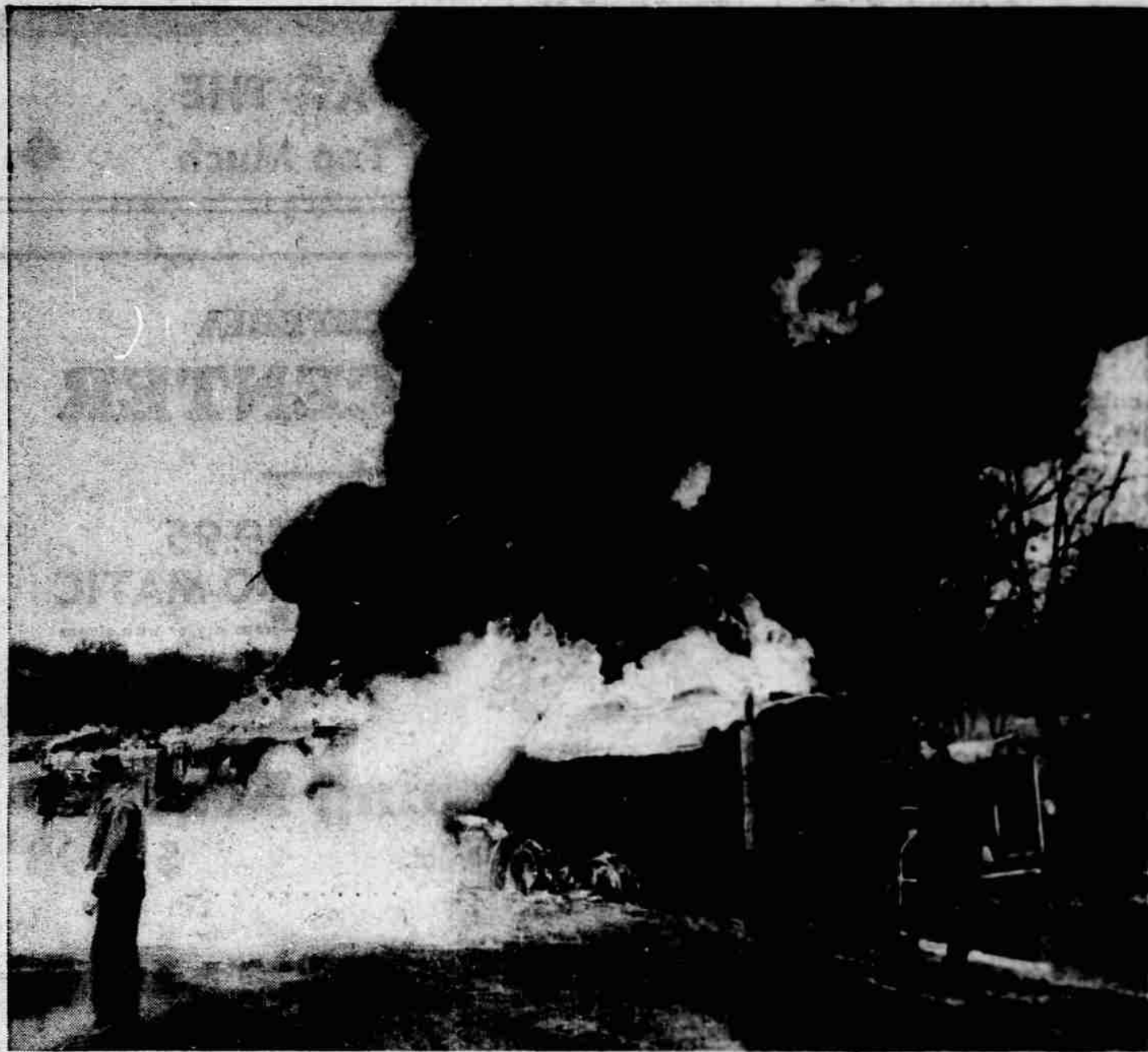




GAS TRUCK BURNS—Truck Driver Raymond A. Gabriel, Grants Pass, escaped uninjured from this holocaust Thursday morning. Gabriel leaped from the cab of the Acme gasoline truck moments before it burst into flames on Highway 99 near Tolo. The intense heat from the burning gasoline seared the pavement and closed the route to traffic until the

flames were stopped. Members of the Central Point Rural Fire Department are shown in the foreground as they fought to control the spread of the flames. State police officers fired rifle bullets into the burning tanks to prevent an explosion and to permit the gasoline to escape so it would burn faster. —(Brainerd photo)

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Klamath Potato Growers Unhappy Over Price Boost

Redmond, Ore. — (U.P.) — Ben Davidson, administrator for the Oregon potato commission, said Friday that Central Oregon and Klamath basin potato growers were "very unhappy" about being left out of ceiling price boosts announced by the Office of Price Stabilization.

Agrees With Action
Davidson said, however, he agreed with the OPS action permitting Malheur, Baker, Union and Willamette counties an increase of 40 cents a hundredweight and thus placing their prices on the same basis as Idaho's.

"But," he said, "we're now 40 cents below Idaho over here on FOB prices and we're very unhappy in Central Oregon and the Klamath basin about it. We feel we're being discriminated against."

To Seek Other Channels
He said these two areas, plus Northern California, Washington and the Willamette valley, "have historical records of prices that exceed the prices in Idaho by 19 cents a hundredweight on FOB shipments over the last five-year period."

Davidson said his commission would not at present continue its representations before the OPS but would "go through other channels."

(See story on Page 10.)

Former California Congressman Passes

Fresno, Calif. — (U.P.) — Former Democratic Congressman Denver S. Church, 90, of Fresno, died at his home Thursday night after a long illness.

Known for his opposition to the United States entering World War I, Church served four terms in congress.

Westerners Say Desalting Of Sea Water Too Costly

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Far Westerners Friday viewed a newly announced method of converting sea water to fresh water as a "noble and impractical experiment" that simply would "cost too much," at least for use hereabouts.

"It might work elsewhere, but not out here," was the predominant opinion of the "tonic process" announced Thursday in Boston.

It's Simple Arithmetic

In the eyes of Southern California water experts, the simple arithmetic of the technique proposed by Dr. Edwin R. Gilliland of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was that it would be too expensive.

So long as semi-arid Southern

WEDDED PAROLEE BACK IN PRISON

Salem, Ore. — (U.P.) — A paroled convict who married the warden's secretary without the state parole board's consent has been returned to Oregon state penitentiary.

The board revoked the parole of Jewel C. Close, 39, who married the secretary to Warden Virgil O'Malley on January 29, just 18 days after he was released from prison here.

Sympathy Expressed

H. M. Randall, executive di-

rector of the parole board, expressed a "deep sympathy" for the bride, the former Anne M. Carthy.

Randall said Close not only was guilty of marrying "within 24 hours after being instructed not to do so," but also was cited for drinking intoxicating liquor on numerous occasions and driving an automobile without permission.

Mrs. Close, 38, accompanied her husband here late Thursday after the hearing in Portland. She has resigned her position at the prison effective March 1.

Just Fell in Love

"I just fell in love with him while he was in prison," Mrs. Close said. "We thought it would be all right to get married because we were sure the board would approve."

Close was sent to prison in December, 1950, to serve concurrent three-year sentences for forgery, his first penitentiary offense.

Building Program At Prison Progresses

Salem — (U.P.) — A \$1,750,000 building program at Oregon state prison is well under way and William C. Ryan, supervisor of state institutions, said Friday the new space is expected to eliminate much of the trouble occurring at the penitentiary in recent months.

One of his suggestions, which was adopted, included construction of an isolation building, 40 by 130 feet, with 90 cells to house troublesome prisoners. This takes the place of the "bull pen" now in the basement of the oldest cell block in the prison yard.

Few in State Observe Washington's Birthday

Portland — (U.P.) — Washington's birthday was observed in Oregon Friday with only a few official persons taking a holiday.

State, county and city executives, state liquor stores, the bureau of internal revenue, circuit, district and municipal courts were among those taking the day off, but banks, federal courts and business establishments generally remained open.

Electrical Energy Used

Gilliland's new technique was announced at the annual meeting of the American Research and Development corporation. It takes the salt out of sea water by use of electrical energy in conjunction with new synthetic membranes.

(See story on Page 12)

European Army Under Eisenhower Gets Final Okay

Lisbon — (U.P.) — The council of ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization gave final approval Friday to the creation of a continental European army composed of French, German, Italian, Belgian, Netherlands and Luxembourg troops.

The European army will serve under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower along with separate commands of United States, British and Canadian troops, as well as those to be provided by Turkey and Greece for the joint Democratic defense against Communist aggression.

30-Division Army Aim

As final approval of the ministers was given, it was learned that the NATO will try to build a 30-division army and a 3,500-plane air force by the end of this year.

It was made known also that Eisenhower plans to visit Greece next month to discuss the number of divisions that country will contribute to his forces. He is expected to visit Turkey for similar discussions.

Before the final approval of the continental European army plan, NATO defense and finance ministers reached "almost full agreement on the problem of financing the construction of Allied air base and communications networks in western Europe."

The twin goals of 30 divisions and 3,500 planes for Eisenhower by Dec. 31 were set by a three-man committee of experts headed by United States Mutual Security Administrator W. Averell Harriman.

It is expected that under the agreement air bases and communications the total amount to be spent will be about \$30,000,000 of which the United States will provide about 48 per cent.

Road Conditions

State police reported early this afternoon that chains were needed by motor vehicles traveling over Greenup, Shikima, Benton and Oregon mountain highway passes out of the valley. On highway 89 a hard snowfall was reported from Shikima pass to Denman, Calif. There was some possibility that the snow storm might break up by evening on Benton pass on highway 89 north.

Vancouver Island Has Third Earthquake

Victoria, B.C. — (U.P.) — Southern Vancouver island recorded its third minor earthquake of the week early Friday.

The tremor, which was felt in Victoria at 1:40 a.m., awakened residents and rattled windows. No damage was reported.

BULLETIN

Salem — (U.P.) — Walter M. Pierce, former governor of Oregon and congressman from the eastern Oregon district, was reported in very poor condition at Salem Memorial hospital Friday. He is 69 years old.

PUSAN RIOT FATAL TO 70

Huge Sum Claimed Wasted on Bases In North Africa

Materials Said Wasted, Stolen

Washington — (U.P.) — House investigators charged Friday that up to \$50,000,000 has been "poured down the drain" in building U.S. Air Force bases in North Africa and that at least \$2,000,000 worth of materials have been stolen.

Calling the program a "fiasco," they said it will cost more than \$500,000,000 — double the amount Congress appropriated — if present conditions are allowed to continue.

Charges Made in Letter

Chairman Porter Hardy Jr. of a House expenditures subcommittee, which made an on-the-spot investigation of the bases, made the charges in a letter to Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, D-Tex., whose Senate preparedness subcommittee is holding hearings on the matter.

Hardy said his investigators can tell Johnson's subcommittee "not only that at least \$2,000,000 worth of materials have been stolen in the course of unloading and storage but will relate in detail the wholly insufficient protective measures which have made such a loss possible."

Fast Construction Urged

The investigators were also told that the Air Force urged fast construction of North African bomber fields last year because it thought it might need them more desperately than it needed bases in World War II.

Assistant Air Force Secretary Edwin V. Higgins told the Senate preparedness subcommittee the Air Force wanted minimum operational facilities ready six months after the first construction equipment landed in Morocco.

"There was no question about the urgency," Higgins said. "We were in an urgent program where it was thought we might need it even worse than in World War II. Certainly we wanted the facilities as soon as we could get them."

Anti-Picket Order Issued in SF Strike

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Superior Judge Albert C. Wollenberg Friday issued a temporary restraining order preventing striking AFL carmen from further picketing of the municipal railway.

The AFL carmen's union has said the men would stop picketing if the judge ordered it but this did not necessarily mean the men would go back to work. Removal of the picket line would enable CIO carmen to go back to their jobs. The railway employees' union membership is about evenly split between the two unions.

Mayor Elmer Robinson had sought the injunction in an effort to end the three-day old municipal railway strike which has left some 250,000 San Franciscans without their normal bus and street car service.

Man Takes Stand Against Progress

King of Prussia, Pa. — (U.P.) — Edward R. Mack, 43, made himself comfortable with a sleeping bag, an electric heater and a deer rifle and announced Friday he was prepared to fight any move to demolish his service station-restaurant for a road-widening project.

Taking up a vigil with his German shepherd dog, Teddy, Mack declared: "I can't stop bulldozers with my bare hands, but when the first piece of equipment moves onto my property I'll stop it with everything at my command."

No Clear Answer To Pennsylvania Sinking

Seattle — (U.P.) — The Coast Guard said Friday that no clear answer to causes of the sinking of the freighter Pennsylvania, which went down in the North Pacific January 9, had been found at the conclusion of hearings into the disaster.

A Coast Guard board of inquiry ended five days of hearings in Seattle and Portland Thursday and Capt. A. L. Dickert, who headed the investigating board, said "heavy storms in the North Pacific no doubt sealed the fate of the States Steamship company freighter and her 46 crewmen."

Weather

FORECAST: Cloudy tonight and tomorrow with intermittent rain and snow tonight and tomorrow. Low tonight, 29-31. High Saturday, 32-34. Lowest this morning, 29.

Taft, Eisenhower Supporter Tangle On Video Program

New York — (U.P.) — Sen. Robert A. Taft accused Tex McCrary, an Eisenhower campaigner, of

noisy that moderator Faye Emerson pleaded with the two men to calm down.

Taft, Republican presidential aspirant, was appearing on the Dumont television network's program, "The Author Meets The Critics," for a discussion of his book, "A Foreign Policy for America."

Senator Needled

The program had been in progress only two minutes when McCrary, chairman of the Eisenhower-for-president movement, began needling the Ohio senator about his previously futile attempts to win the GOP nomination.

"I thought this was a criticism of the book, Mr. McCrary, not of me," Taft said.

McCrary, a former New York newspaper editor and now a television commentator, then charged that "because Senator Taft is desperate and because he wants to be president, he has been careless with the truth in this book."

The drawling Texan said Taft was trying to "make you believe that he is an expert on foreign affairs."

Record of Speech Played

Then McCrary played a recording of a Taft speech in which the senator said he did not claim to be an "expert on the subject."

At this point, George E. Sokolsky, a newspaper columnist, took exception to McCrary's criticism.

"I resent very much anyone giving the impression that Senator Taft is a liar, and if I were Senator Taft I would rise now and leave this program," Sokolsky said. "He, however, has better manners than I have, and I'm sure he won't."

Withdrawal Asked

"You have called me a liar," Taft said to McCrary. "And I want you to withdraw that statement."

McCrary denied it but he refused to retract his statement that the senator had been "careless with the truth."

The uproar from the audience caused Miss Emerson to bang her gavel repeatedly.

ROK Forces Repel Red Invasion Try

8th Army Headquarters, Korea — (U.P.) — South Korean marines have smashed an attempt by nearly 1,000 Communist troops to capture Allied-held Yang island off the Korean east coast, only 150 miles south of the Soviet border, it was announced Friday.

The South Koreans, commanded by a United States Marine officer, sank 13 of the 20 Communist invasion sampans, drowned 70 Reds, killed 7 others and captured 6 in a 34-hour battle ending at 11 a. m. Thursday.

The Marine defenders numbered only about 200 men.

State Education Dean Suffers Heart Attack

Bend, Ore. — (U.P.) — Dr. John F. Cramer, 52, Portland, dean and director of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, was in a local hospital Friday following a heart attack.

Dr. Cramer came here Wednesday to confer with leaders of the Central Oregon Community college. He suffered the heart attack Thursday as he and his wife prepared for a trip to Burns to visit their son.

Corvallis — (U.P.) — Dr. Peter Rozendal, Benton county health officer, said Friday he had ordered closure of Corvallis high school because of a near-epidemic of influenza.

Gen. Vandenberg's Future With Air Force in Doubt

Washington — (U.P.) — The Pentagon was buzzing Friday with rumors about the military future of Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force chief of staff, whose appointment expires April 30.

The only certain statement anyone cared to make was that Vandenberg's reappointment was by no means certain.

Communist-Led Action Designed To Prevent Quiz

American Security Forces Attacked

Pusan, Korea — (U.P.) — An American soldier and 69 Korean civilians were killed and 23 Americans and 142 Koreans wounded in a Communist-led riot in a prisoner compound on Koje island off the south coast of Japan Monday, it was announced Friday.

"Severe fighting" resulted when some 1,500 civilian internees suddenly attacked U. S. security forces with sticks, clubs, tent pegs, horseshoes and other improvised weapons, the Army said. No prisoners of war were involved.

Situation Under Control

The Army announced that the remainder of the inmates totaling about 3,500 did not join the disturbance.

"The situation is quiet and under control and the unrest has not spread to other compounds," the Army said.

The attack began when guards entered the civilian internee compound to keep order while UN officials questioned civilians on whether they wanted to be repatriated to North Korea or released in South Korea.

To Prevent Questioning

The Army announcement said apparently the Communist leaders wanted to prevent the questioning and disrupt the screening.

"Careful organization and planning were evident in the collection of weapons manufactured for this assault," the Army said. "Steel pickets, spiked wooden clubs, barbed wire flails, blackjacks, metal tent pole spikes and sections of iron pipe were freely employed in addition to rocks and knives."

The clash was the largest in the history of the 170,000 man "city" of Communist war prisoners and civilian internees.

Stern of Tanker Reaches Safety

Newport, R. I. — (U.P.) — The broken stern half of the tanker Fort Mercer reached a safe anchorage off this port Friday, and some of the 13 heroic seamen who stuck with the hulk through two northeast storms said they would stick aboard until it is towed to New York.

The crew, whose vessel broke in half off Cape Cod during a northeaster Monday, spoke to newsmen aboard the storm-torn hulk as it was nudged by a tug toward a Navy anchorage off Jamestown, a short distance across Narragansett Bay from Newport.

As the stern section glided toward its anchorage, a Newport physician examined the men. Five were reported ill, but only two seriously.

Morse May Be Candidate To Republican Conclave

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Wayne Morse said Friday he will "probably" file as a candidate for delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention.

The Oregon Republican is a supporter of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower who was entered in the state's May 16 primary Thursday.

Morse said friends in Oregon have urged him to become a candidate for convention delegate and "that is probably what I will do."

Portland Records 10th Traffic Death

Portland — (U.P.) — Portland's 10th traffic death of 1952 was reported Friday.

The coroner's office said Clarence E. Frampton, 80, died from injuries suffered Tuesday when struck by a car.

Gen. Vandenberg's Future With Air Force in Doubt

Washington — (U.P.) — The Pentagon was buzzing Friday with rumors about the military future of Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force chief of staff, whose appointment expires April 30.

The only certain statement anyone cared to make was that Vandenberg's reappointment was by no means certain.

President Truman told his news conference Wednesday that the matter of renominating Vandenberg or choosing a successor was not yet before him for action. The nomination, made from a list submitted by Air Force Secretary Thomas K. Finletter, will require Senate confirmation.

There were vague reports that Finletter and Vandenberg were on the outs, possibly because Vandenberg privately disagreed with the "calculated risk" of delaying completion of a modern,