

## Big Atlantic Storms Raise Fears of Irish Islanders

Dublin (U.P.)—Fierce Atlantic storms which pounded the Irish coast this winter brought renewed fears for the future of people living on islands fringing the country's western shores.

The Aran and Blasket Islands were cut off from the mainland for weeks and there was much uneasiness as the islands' stocks of food, lighting equipment, fuel and other materials dwindled dangerously low.

On Blasket Island, 27 adults

and one child were openly pessimistic about future life on the island after they were rescued. They repeated the old complaints that once the Atlantic whips itself into a fury, local fishermen often wait days occasionally weeks, before attempting to cross the waves.

**More Than Skill**  
Courageous and skilled as the fishermen are, it requires more than skill and brute strength to carry a heavy cargo of food and household equipment in the face of fierce storms. Many locals have attempted such crossings in past years. The next that was heard of them was when their bodies were found wedged in the rocks miles away.

Life on these islands is a grim business, and most of it is spent combating the Atlantic. During the warm summer months, life is pleasant enough but conditions fall into the primitive class in the winter.

Food, heat and strong clothes and boots become of paramount importance. There are no cinemas, theaters, shops, clubs, only a few cottages and blazing fires with excellent home-made meals.

There was no panic on the islands, simply gloom. On Blasket Island, a young boy, only one on the island, got no present from Santa Claus because of the storms and his plaintive questions only made the big feast day gloomier still.

Now that the storms have abated and the islanders have obtained new stocks of food and other materials, life goes on as usual.

There is increased speculation on the possibility of bringing many of the islanders to live on the mainland, where they could fish as profitably as ever, with no risk of being cut off from stocks of food and fuel.

Despite the rigors of their life, some of the islanders have become attached to the homes where they were born, and the older men and women are particularly reluctant to leave their hearthstones.

However, should the authorities decide to take firm action, it is more than likely that sentiment will have to yield to safety first and that the islands may have only seagulls as their inhabitants.

In the remote town of Malauog, Cagayan, Philippines, a widow or widower must not leave the mat where his or her spouse died until after the ninth day. The superstition is that the spirit of the dead spouse will become angry if it returns to find the bereaved mate away.



RIVER POUNDS OMAHA DIKES—Army barges bring in sandbags to bolster the levee protecting Omaha, Neb., from the flooding Missouri River. Levee workers saw what white men never had seen before—the Missouri surging past at 30.22 feet. Rain turned the area into a sea of mud.

### Forestry Dispatcher Promoted to Inspector

Homer Smets, who has been dispatcher at the State Forest Patrol headquarters on Table Rock road for the past five years, has been promoted to forest inspector, it was reported today by District Forest Warden Ted Maul.

Smets will be responsible for forest inspection in the south half of Jackson county. He succeeds Bob Stokes, who has been transferred to forest inspection in the north half of the county, succeeding Darrell Farnham, who resigned to enter private

business.

Lloyd Morris, a new employee, will assume the duties of dispatcher, Maul reported.

If you decide to use weed control before seeding, wait at least one week or until after a heavy rain has diluted the chemical in the soil. Then sow the seed.

### County Court Names Airport Zone Members

John Niedermeyer, Route 2, Medford, and Dolph Phipps, 4502 Crater Lake highway, have been appointed to the Medford municipal airport zoning board by the county court, it was announced today.

with H. D. Christensen, 29 Richmond avenue, and Chester Hubbard, 2451 Lyman avenue, who were appointed by the city. The four members will elect a fifth to serve on the board.

Purpose of the zoning board is to regulate future building in

the airport area and to prevent construction of structures which would endanger flying. The board was recently authorized by the city and by the county court, under a state law providing for airport zoning.

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