

State Revenue Raising Program Adopted

MEDFORD

49th Year 26 Pages

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 3

No. 297

MILL FIGHT INJURIES FATAL; WORKER HELD

Eugene R. Birk Dies; Death Caused By Blows on Head

B. H. White Arrested; DA To File Charges

District Attorney Walter Nunley arrived in Medford shortly after noon today, and announced that he has requested the county clerk's office to summon the grand jury immediately concerning the death of Eugene Raymond Birk.

Eugene Raymond Birk, 32, of 215 Fourth st., Phoenix, died at Ashland hospital last night from injuries suffered when he was hit on the head in an altercation yesterday morning, according to police authorities.

Bernice Hampton White, 37, of 228 Hartley rd., Medford, was booked into the county jail last night for assault with a dangerous weapon. Filing of additional charges is being upheld pending word from District Attorney Walter Nunley, who was to return today from Salem where he went to appear in a case before the state supreme court.

Police Called
State police were called at about 11:13 a.m. yesterday, and were told there had been a fight at the Talent sawmill, and that a man had been injured and taken by ambulance to Ashland hospital. Police officers and deputies went to the mill and arrested White.

Witnesses told officers that White, a head resaw man at the mill had been arguing during the morning with Birk, a handyman and relief worker. At about 11 a.m., officers were told, men on the resaw unit were being relieved, and White and Birk resumed their argument.

The witnesses said that Birk made a motion toward White to go away, and that White then went behind Birk, picked up a two-by-four board some four feet long, and struck Birk over the head, knocking him down, then hit him again.

The mill superintendent took the board away from White, and held him in custody until officers arrived.

Birk died at about 7:45 p.m. Deputy District Attorney Gene Piazza, Sheriff Howard Gault and state police officers questioned White this morning. It is expected that a charge arising out of Birk's death will be filed in circuit court, probably today.

White is married and the father of three small children.

Leaves Wife, Parents
Birk leaves his wife, Beyle, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Birk, Phoenix, a sister, Mrs. Rita King, Medford, and a brother, Clifford, in Arizona. He was born in Gridley, Kans., and has lived in Phoenix about 19 years.

He served as an Army sergeant during World War II.

Funeral services have been arranged for Saturday, March 5, in Litwiler's Mountain View chapel, with interment to follow in the Ashland cemetery.

Work Under Way on City, County, School Budgets for '55-'56

Work has started on 1955-56 fiscal programs for Jackson county, the city of Medford, and School District 49, which includes the Medford public schools.

County Commissioners L. G. Morthland and Chester Wendt said this morning that county departments have started preparation of estimates of their budget needs for the fiscal year.

Depth of Snow Said Over Average In Goolaway Area

Snow on the ground in two areas at the head of Evans creek appears to be deeper than average, according to measurements made this week.

A Monday trek into the snow courses at Goolaway gap and mountain, by a crew using a four-wheel drive truck, resulted in measurements which show the average depth on the mountain course was 32.3 inches, and at the gap 11.2 inches.

For the seven-year period from 1939 to 1946, the last period during which the two snow courses were measured regularly, the average depth was 11 inches on the mountain and 4 inches at the gap, with March 1 measurements ranging from only a trace up to 34 inches on the mountain, and from nothing up to 14 inches at the gap.

Nearly at Top
Clem Ault, technician here with the U.S. soil conservation service, said both measurements this week were nearly as much as the greatest depths recorded during the seven-year period. The measurements Monday were made by Bill Cox, SCS technician with the Sams Valley-Beagle district, and Al Petska, engineer for both local soil districts, with equipment loaned by the California Oregon Power company.

Ault said figures as to water content of the snow this week are not available, but he added they probably would be a little higher than the seven-year average of 3 1/2 inches.

Two Children Perish As Home Destroyed

New Plymouth, Ida. — (U.P.) — Two small boys died in a fire which gutted their one-room home here Wednesday night.

The victims were identified as Donald Dawes, 11 months, and his brother, Edgar, 4.

Firemen said cause of the blaze has not been determined. The parents were outside the house doing their farm chores when the fire started about 7:30 p.m.

New Plymouth is just a short distance across the Snake river from Ontario, Ore.

Security Council Representative Probes Gaza Clash

Both Sides Will Give Accounts of Incident

Gaza, Egyptian-Israeli Frontier — (U.P.) — Canadian Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns completed an investigation today of the shooting incident that touched off the Egyptian-Israeli crisis and prepared to file his report to the U.N. Security Council in New York.

Burns, chief U.N. truce supervisor for Palestine, spent 25 minutes inspecting the scene of the biggest Gaza clash Monday night and 10 minutes at two other areas where smaller clashes occurred, and returned to the Israeli side of the truce demarcation line.

To Hear Both Sides
He said the Mixed Armistice Commission would meet later today in Jerusalem to hear accounts from both sides. So far, he said, each side has given conflicting reports of casualties they suffered Monday night and "I don't know what the exact casualties were."

"I came to have a look at the scenes of the incidents as I have been requested by the Security Council to submit a report," he said. "I feel it would be inappropriate for me to express an opinion now or before the Mixed Armistice Commission has met and disclosed its findings."

Goes With Escort
Burns arrived at the truce demarcation line from Israel. He was accompanied by an Israeli military escort up to a point five miles from the line, but continued without escort across the dangerous no man's land.

An Egyptian military escort awaited him to escort the Canadian general to this riot-torn desert town where Arabs have rioted for two days in a demand for arms to avenge the Israeli attack of Monday night.

Churchill Sees US In Counter-Attack

London — (U.P.) — Prime Minister Winston Churchill said today that in event of a hydrogen bomb attack on Britain "I suppose" the United States "might possibly" counter attack the aggressor without prior consultation with Britain.

Churchill carefully avoided saying whether he figured the United States would use its British-based planes to launch such a counter attack, however.

The Churchill statement developed almost incidentally during a session of parliamentary sparring between the Prime Minister and Socialist M. P. Kenneth Robinson.

Robinson wanted assurances that the United States will not get its British-based planes engaged in any fighting without first consulting Britain.

Springfield Market Loses Money Bag, Cash

Springfield — (U.P.) — Springfield police today were looking for the person who stole a money bag containing \$3017 in currency and checks from Offley's Supermarket here this morning.

Sylvester D. Offley, manager and part-owner of the market, told police he had placed the money in a bank money bag to take it to the bank. He said he laid the bag in a tray under some papers beside the cash register while he turned away for a moment to speak to a workman repairing a refrigeration unit.

When he returned the bag was gone.

Rogue River Girls Take Boys' Obligations

Rogue River — The girls at Rogue River High school this week are boys and the boys are girls.

At least that's the way Principal James Hayden described an annual event, "twirp week," in which the girls do all the polite things boys do and the boys just enjoy it.

Girls are allowed to carry boys' books, open doors, pay for dates and generally pursue the men of their choice without the usual reserve accorded by standard good manners for the weaker sex.

The week will be topped off by a dance Friday night, which is sponsored by the student council.

Some authorities on the subject state that "twirp" means "The Woman Is Requested To Pay."

China Reds Warned Not To Assume Attack Immunity

Dulles Says U. S. To Defend Islands

Taipei, Formosa — (U.P.) — Secretary of State John Foster Dulles warned Communist China today at the opening of his crucial conference with Chiang Kai-shek not to assume they were immune from American attack if they assaulted Quemoy or Matsu islands.

Dulles conferred with Chiang for four hours and then took off for Washington after warning the Peiping regime to "practice what they preach" about peace and cease their threats against Formosa.

"It is the ardent hope of the United States that the Chinese Communists will not insist on war as an instrument of its policy," he said.

"The United States and the Republic of China have no alternative but to stand firm."

Signs Defense Pact
He made the statement within hours after he and the Nationalist Foreign Minister George Yeh signed the ratification papers putting the U. S.-Nationalist China defense treaty formally into effect.

Dulles said President Eisenhower himself would make the decision what to do if the Communists attack the Nationalists' two main offshore islands.

"Formosa is the area today where the Chinese Communists most actively press their aggressive designs," Dulles said. "They openly threatened an armed attack against an area which the United States is committed to help to defend."

Protects Against Attack
"It is not possible at this time to state explicitly how that defense will be conducted. The treaty area regards the Republic of China, covers Formosa and the Pescadores and an armed attack directed against those islands."

"The United States continues to evaluate the words and deeds of the Chinese Communist regime to ascertain whether their military actions, preparations and concentrations in the Formosa area constitute, in fact, the first phase of an attack directed against Formosa and whether the United States must proceed on this assumption."

Defense Not Stale
"If so, it cannot be assumed that the defense would be static and confined to Formosa itself, or that the aggressor would enjoy immunity with respect to the areas from which he stages his offensive."

"Since, however, the Matsu and Quemoy islands, now in friendly hands, have relationship to the defense of Formosa such that the President may judge their protection to be appropriate in assuring the defense of Formosa and the Pescadores, our consultation covered also these coastal positions of the Republic of China."

Injunction Prevents Railroad Rate Cuts

Portland — (U.P.) — A three-judge Federal court panel today overruled the Interstate Commerce Commission and issued a permanent injunction against six railroads lowering their freight rates on petroleum products.

The decision reverses an ICC ruling which would have put the new, reduced rates into effect last Dec. 9. The court order affects rail shipments of petroleum products between Washington, Oregon, Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming.

The ICC-approved lower rail rates were protested by truckers and water carriers who claimed they would be put out of business if the railroads were allowed to reduce freight rates.

BREAKS BOTH ARMS

Janice Johnson, 9-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Johnson, 1737 Biddle road, broke both arms this morning when she fell down a stairway at Lincoln school, Community hospital attendants reported today. She was treated and released.

Eugene — (U.P.) — Jane Bergstrom of Portland has been elected president of the Associated Women Students at the University of Oregon.

Builder Unaware of Fire In 60-Year-Old Home

A 60-year-old house, still occupied by its builder, was damaged by fire early yesterday afternoon.

Fireman said that the blaze, starting from an overheated flue, did considerable damage to an upstairs room, to the attic and to one side of the roof of the Simon Hawk residence, 701 West 11th street.

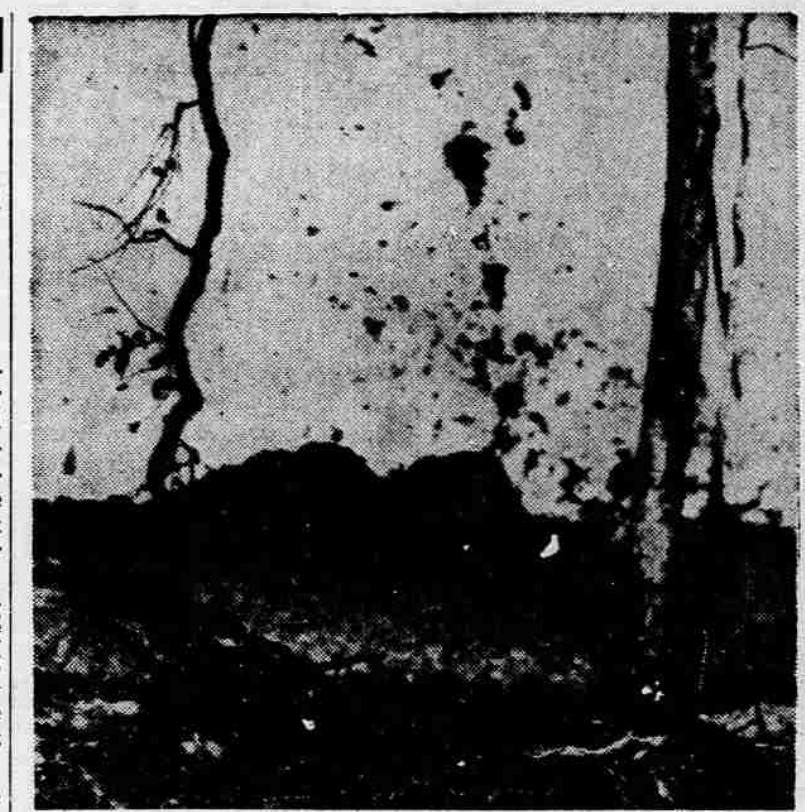
When the fire broke out, the Hawks were unaware of it, according to firemen. They said that a neighbor turned in the alarm about 1:55 p.m. Pumps from the west side and main fire stations were dispatched to the blaze.

Hawks, now 93, constructed the house.

Weather

FORECAST: Clear and colder tonight. Partly cloudy and continued cool Friday. Possibility of occasional light snow Friday night. Low to night 24. High Friday 40-46.

Highest Yesterday 46
Lowest This Morning 38
Prec. to 4:30 a.m. Today .02



GIVES SCIENTISTS JITTERS—Molten lava and rocks spurt from a fiery fissure of the Puulena cinder cone, a remote rift of famed Kilauea Volcano 25 miles away on the island of Hawaii. The tremor was strong enough to "dismantle" the seismograph at the volcano observatory "and give scientists the jitters." Three hundred families evacuated the village of Kapoho. No casualties were reported.

Flaming Lava Nears Hawaiian Village as Volcano Erupts Anew

Hilo, Hawaii — (U.P.) — Flaming lava surged to within one mile of the village of Kapoho today when the east rift of famed Kilauea Volcano on the island of Hawaii erupted with new fury after a 24-hour rest.

Police reported they had received an unconfirmed report that three houses on the outskirts of the village were crushed this morning under the flaming lava flow moving on the town.

Explosion Reported
Police also reported that one of the officers in the field reported two big explosions rocked the eruption area before dawn. He said that the explosions were believed to be "right in the line of flow" but he was not able to tell for sure.

Early today a group of 30 Kapoho residents commandeered 14 trucks in Pahoa village and drove through a police blockade to salvage belongings from their homes.

They had to drive over narrow, bumpy roads through the cane fields because the main road into Kapoho was cut off by fissures, some as much as eight feet wide and apparently bottomless. At one point, the convoy passed within 200 feet of the lava flow.

Villagers Help Each Other
Once at their homes, the villagers helped each other remove their belongings, passing beds, chairs, pots and pans from hand to hand in bucket brigade fashion.

The 335 residents of Kapoho were evacuated to safer areas again on Wednesday when the volcano exploded in a far more dangerous eruption than Monday. It was the first time the volcano had been active in 115 years.

A gaping fissure one mile long and as much as 500 feet wide spouted lava 30 to 50 feet in the air along the entire length, and poured forth red hot matter at the rate of 350 feet an hour directly toward Kapoho and the ocean.

A new outbreak late Wednesday night blasted apart an old cinder cone and stretched the lava flow.

Senate Expected To Defeat Tax Cut

Washington — (U.P.) — Preliminary nose counting by Senate leaders indicated today the Senate will reject the House approved income tax cut by five to 20 votes.

The outlook could change if some new tax-cut formula is devised.

As of now, however, the Senate Democratic leadership has only a faint hope of getting the Senate to go along with the House provision to reduce income taxes \$20 a year for each taxpayer and dependent. President Eisenhower is fighting the plan.

This appraisal applies whether the effective date of the tax cut is Jan. 1 as the House voted or July 1, 1956, as some Senate Democrats have proposed. The Finance Committee rejected both proposals by a 9 to 6 vote Tuesday.

Police Benefit Fund Created By Officers of Department

A Police Benefit fund was established last night at a regular general meeting of officers of the Medford police force.

Purpose of the fund will be to aid department members in event of serious illness, home fires, deaths in the family, and other similar difficulties.

Officer Jack McMillan was named chairman of a committee which will be in charge of the fund. Others on the group are Officer Berle Stephens, secretary-treasurer, and Officers De-

House Taxation Committee Views Possible Sources

Liquor Price Boost, Phone Surtax Studied

Salem — (U.P.) — A tentative revenue raising program including a boost in liquor prices, a 5 per cent surtax on phone bills and a 2 1/2 per cent tax on all insurance policies, was adopted by the House Taxation Committee today.

Rep. Loran L. Stewart (R-Cottage Grove), chairman, said the program may be changed, but it was projected so that the committee could have something to work on in outlining its revenue raising program.

The program is estimated to raise \$16,000,000 a year in addition to an increase in personal income taxes, toward meeting an anticipated deficit of \$55,000,000 if the proposed state building program is adopted.

In addition to an increase in personal income tax, the committee is considering a possible increase in corporate income taxes.

Before the committee outlined this program, Cecil Posey, executive secretary of the Oregon Education Association, presented a program he said would raise \$64,000,000 during the biennium. Would Lower Exemptions

His proposals included lowering the exemptions on personal income tax from \$600 to \$500; a 4-cent tax on cigarettes; removal of the skyscraper clause which exempts office buildings; increase in liquor prices, and a 2 per cent withholding on salaries for personal income tax instead of the present 1 per cent. He estimated the added one per cent would raise \$3,700,000.

Rep. Walter J. Pearson (D-Portland), former state treasurer, retorted that such an increase in withholding would net little, if any increase in income, but would merely result in more refunds to the taxpayers.

Frills Said Unneeded
Pearson asked of Posey, as representing the OEA: "Why can't the schools live within their budgets and quit building palaces? We want good, ample, fireproof buildings, but we don't need all the frills. We should get back to the three R's and cut out the fancy stuff."

He added the observation that three administrators in the Portland school system draw higher salaries than the governor of Oregon.

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Cincinnati Streets Covered by Water

By UNITED PRESS
Flood waters rolled through the Ohio River Valley today and covered some Cincinnati streets with as much as 10 inches of water.

The swollen river was still rising in Ohio, closing parts of 15 highways in southern and southeastern counties, and flood waters from the White secondary roads in Indiana.

Farther back up the valley, the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers were falling at Pittsburgh after cresting at 22.1 feet, well below the 25-foot flood stage. However, temperatures varied as much as 71 degrees in different parts of the nation and about 200 "marooned" skiers were having the time of their lives in snowbound Utah mountain lodges.

Postponement Sought In Hank Death Trial

Portland — (U.P.) — A postponement of the trial of Wey Him Fong and his wife, Sherry, charged with first degree murder in connection with the death last year of 16-year-old Diane Hank, was sought today by Defense Attorney Irvin Goodman.

The trial is scheduled to start March 28. Goodman, in asking for the delay, said the Fongs were indicted last May for contributing to the delinquency of a minor but that case has not been set down for trial. He pointed out the Fongs were indicted on the murder charge only in January. Arguments on the motion are scheduled next Tuesday.

'Most Valuable Student' Awards Listed By Elks; Medford, Crater Students Win

Michael DeVore, a student at Medford High school and son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Ronald DeVore, 806 East Jackson st., has been named first place winner in the annual "most valuable student" contest of the Medford Elks lodge.

The announcement was made by Frank Hussong, exalted ruler of the Elks here.

Second place winner, who also won first place among girls, is Verity Day, Crater High school, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Day, Sam valley.

The two will compete for regional honors which will be awarded at Bend on March 6. They will be guests of the Elks

at the Bend meeting.

Young DeVore wins \$40 in scholarship funds, and Miss Day will receive \$25. Third place winner is Nancy Hammers, Phoenix High school, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hammers, 4069 South Pacific highway, Phoenix, \$20, and honorable mention was given to Elaine Sorum, Medford High, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Sorum, Delta Waters rd., and to Donald von Buskirk, Crater High, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl von Buskirk, Central Point, \$10 each.

The contest is separate from the leadership and activities awards, winners of which also were announced by the Elks

lodge this week. Judging in the "most valuable student" contest is based on scholarship, 50 per cent; and extra curricular and out-of-school activities, personality and leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness, general worthiness and citizenship, and need, 10 per cent each.

Last year Richard Johnson, then a senior at Medford high school, went on to win the sixth place award in the nation. He is now a premedical student at the University of Oregon.

State award winners will receive \$600 scholarships each for the top boy and girl, with \$1,200 to the over-all state winner. Nationally, \$28,000 in prizes will be awarded.