

MATS PLANE CRASHES IN HAWAII; 66 PERSONS DIE

MEDFORD

TRIBUNE

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No. 1

Atom Blast Rocks Nevada

Marines Conduct Simulated Landing On 'Enemy Shore'

Las Vegas Dishes, Windows Rattled

Atop Mt. Charleston, Nev.—(U.P.)—A "beachhead - buster" atomic bomb blast rocked the Nevada desert and Las Vegas "like an earthquake" today as 2,000 marines conducted a simulated landing on "enemy shores."

The predawn explosion, sixth in the Atomic Energy Commission's 1955 test series, thumped Las Vegas, 75 miles away, rattling dishes and windows and touching off calls by residents wondering if it were an earth tremor.

Although it was unofficially rated at less than half the power of the weapons that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki, its cannon-like report was heard over a 125-mile radius.

Loudest of Series

A crack like a bolt of thunder momentarily stunned the ears of unofficial observers atop the 8,900-foot peak some 45 airline miles distant.

It was the "loudest report" of the series, including that of the "granddaddy" device two weeks ago, unofficially estimated as packing twice the punch.

The report, which in nuclear fission bounces erratically off the atmosphere, was heard 350 miles away in Beverly Hills, Calif., by Bob Hill, who said it was "like a good-sized cannon four or five miles away."

Marines Near Blast

In six-foot-deep trenches less than two miles from the blast, and at concentrations elsewhere within 10 miles of the detonation point, some 2,000 Marines crouched in combat readiness to move forward in a mock invasion behind the nuclear destruction of the theoretical enemy shore positions.

Poised nearby in readiness to airlift the combat-ready Marines into the blasted area as soon as radiation monitors marked it "safe" were 30 helicopters.

Practice Invasion

Although the whirly-birds were parked on the sand and rock of Yucca Flat, in theory they were on the deck of a big carrier operating amidst an invasion fleet in a practice "approach from the sea" to an enemy position on land.

The Marines were taking part in a 36-hour maneuver, one of the longest and most complete Marine atomic maneuvers but not the first time Marines have been indoctrinated in nuclear warfare. Two years ago, 20,000 Marines participated in a smaller-scale maneuver, including helicopters.

The blast, set off right on schedule at 5:05 a.m. (PST), had a kick estimated unofficially to be the equivalent of 10,000 tons of TNT, compared to the Nagasaki-Hiroshima weapons which had a yield of 25,000 tons of TNT each.

Cloud Hangs Together

Within 15 minutes after "shot time," the familiar mushroom cloud, signature of nuclear fission, had disintegrated and spread out to form a layer-cloud some five miles wide.

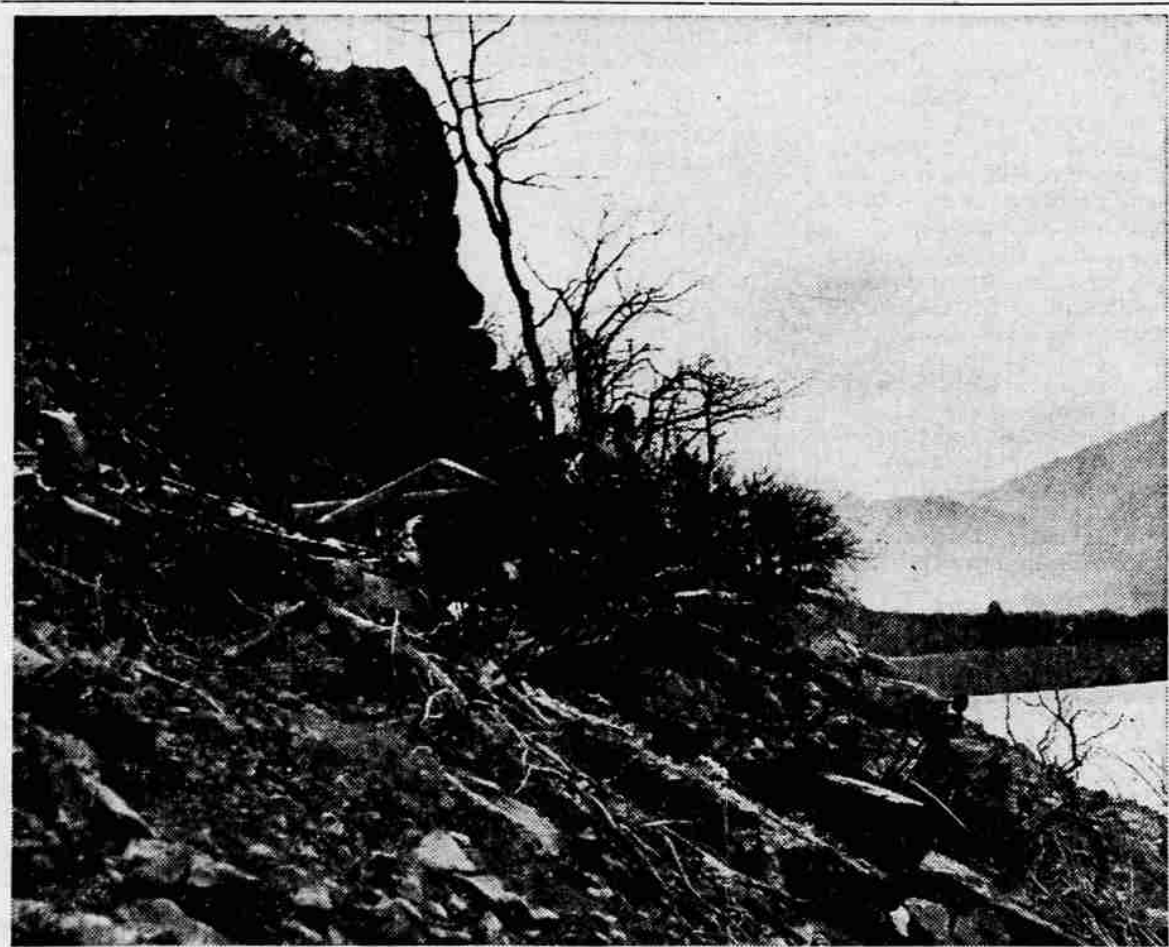
Apparently because of unusually calm upper atmosphere conditions, the cloud hung together as it moved toward Arizona, forming an extraordinarily massive layer 50 miles long instead of being torn piece-meal as with previous clouds.

The southern portion of the cloud passed over Las Vegas, 50,000 population at 6:45 a.m. Las Vegas radiation monitoring stations picked up no increase in radiation beneath the cloud.

This 37th atomic detonation at the Nevada site threw out a flash of light visible across a five-state area in California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and Utah, spanning a diameter of more than 800 miles.

And its nuclear fireball, dealing death and destruction from blast-furnace heat and radiation, boiled out over nearly a two-mile diameter for five seconds, enough to wipe out any such closely concentrated "enemy" positions.

Corvallis — (U.P.) — A record price of \$61 a thousand board feet for Siuslaw National Forest timber has been set here by Valselt Lumber Co., of Valselt, Ore.



FATAL CRASH SCENE — Shown above is the burned wreckage of the light sports plane which crashed near Emigrant lake Sunday, killing its pilot, 25-year-old Harold H. Skinner, Medford. The lake is off to the right. Scene of the crash is well above the lake,

and the ground slopes more steeply toward the water than is shown in the picture. The power line which the plane hit, causing it to crash, stretched from the top of the hill at left off to another hill to the right.

—(Charles Birchfield photo)

President Opposes George's Suggestion For Soviet Conclave

Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower reiterated to Republican congressional leaders today his opposition to a top level conference with Russia until the Soviet Union by its deeds supplies evidence of good faith.

Mr. Eisenhower's stand was reported to newsmen by Senate GOP Leader William F. Knowland after the weekly White House meeting between the President and GOP congressional leaders.

The attitude relayed by Knowland, showing that Mr. Eisenhower has not changed his often stated views toward a chiefs of state meeting with Russia, constituted the administration reply to a proposal by Sen. Walter F. George (D-Ga.).

Eisenhower Opposed

George, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has urged that Mr. Eisenhower initiate steps toward a Big Four meeting this spring or summer.

Knowland's report to newsmen confirmed that the President has no immediate intention of returning to the personal diplomacy of the last President Roosevelt.

Knowland told reporters George's proposal was discussed at length at the White House.

L. M. Matheny Named Postmaster at J'ville

Jacksonville — Leon M. Matheny, acting postmaster here since May 6, 1953, has received a permanent appointment to that job, he reported today.

Matheny was advised of his appointment in a letter from Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

Jacksonville has had no permanent postmaster in almost four years. Prior to Matheny's temporary appointment, Mrs. Lloyd (Jean) Whitney was acting postmaster.

Polio Vaccine Program Discussions Scheduled

Two more meetings with parents of first and second grade pupils, to explain the plans for distribution of the Salk polio vaccine if it is proven effective, have been set up by the county health department.

They are: Jacksonville school, Wednesday, March 23, at 1 p.m., and Ruch school, Thursday, March 24, at 10 a.m.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York — (U.P.) — Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 404.47 up 2.07; 20 railroads 146.34 up 0.96; 15 utilities 63.77 up 0.39, and 65 stocks 151.02 up 0.86. Sales today were about 1,910,000 shares compared with 2,020,000 shares traded yesterday.

meeting. There has been no change at present in administration policy, the California Republican said.

He pointed out that Mr. Eisenhower had listed previously as "deeds" requisite to a Big Four meeting:

1. Russian signature of the Austrian peace treaty.
2. Agreement on free elections for unification of Germany.
3. Agreement on a free and united Korea.

Knowland said there is no evidence that the Soviet Union is prepared to go ahead on these points.

He also pointed out that it is the firm policy of the government that any conference prior to final ratification of the Paris agreements would be undesirable premature.

Gasoline Tax Hike OK With Humphrey

Washington — (U.P.) — Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey said today he "would not object" if congress raises the federal gasoline tax to help finance President Eisenhower's \$101,000,000 highway program.

Humphrey told a Senate Public Roads Subcommittee "there is no doubt in my mind that this program should be handled on as close to a pay as you go basis as possible."

If not then the borrowing should be based on specific taxes against highway users rather than on the government's general tax revenues.

The federal gasoline tax is two cents a gallon. It currently yields about \$915,000,000 a year in revenue. The gasoline tax is one of the excise taxes scheduled to drop to one and one half cents April 1 unless extended by Congress.

The House last week passed without debate a bill sponsored by Rep. Engle (D-Calif.) which would open up to mining claims 3,500,000 acres of national forest land and 3,500,000 acres of other public lands in the West. These 7,000,000 acres have been reserved for years as power sites and thereby restricted from the usual mining claim that is allowed on most public land. Mining on power site land has been allowed only if specifically approved by the Federal Power Commission.

The Eisenhower administration sent Congress a favorable report on the bill, and it was quickly reported favorably by the House Interior Committee and approved by the House on the calendar of minor bills brought up last week.

No action has been taken, however, on legislation pending before the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee designed to protect valuable national forestland from exploitation by those who file mining claims to cut the timber rather than get any minerals that may be present. It is sponsored by the senior members of the committee, Reps. Cooley (D-N.C.) and

Funeral Arranged At 2:30 Tomorrow For Harold Skinner

Funeral services for Harold H. Skinner, 25, who was killed in the crash of his light plane near Emigrant lake Sunday afternoon, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Conger-Morris chapel. The Rev. D. Kirkland West, minister of the First Presbyterian church, will officiate.

Burial will follow in the Medford IOOF cemetery.

Mr. Skinner was a member of a prominent Medford family, and was born Dec. 15, 1929. He was a member of the Elks lodge, and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Two Children

He was married to the former Constance Stokes on Feb. 9, 1951. Their children are Mike and Bobby. Also surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Skinner, and a brother, Lon, all Medford.

Honorary pall bearers for the services will be Donald Wright, Donald Lue, William Singler, William Wall, Robert Stokes and Ronald Lamb.

Active pallbearers will be Charles Sams, Winn Carl, Van Purdy, Delbert Berg, Richard Runyard and Lee Niedermeyer.

Bulletin

Salem — (U.P.) — The Senate Judiciary Committee today passed out favorably a measure to permit 18-year-olds to vote.

Jennings Outstanding Salesman at Ashland

Ashland, Ore. — (U.P.) — Jerry Jennings, 26, sales manager for a motor firm here, last night was named Ashland's outstanding salesman for 1954.

The honor was announced at the 6th annual Junior Chamber of Commerce salesmanship banquet.

Weather

FORECAST: Considerable cloudiness with scattered rain showers tonight, becoming partly cloudy Wednesday. Low tonight 28-30; high Wednesday 48-50. Temp. Highest yesterday 54. Lowest this morning 39. Prec. to 4:30 a.m. today, Trace.

Finnish Tanker Turns Around for Return To Romania

Owners Stop Ship In Indian Ocean

Helsinki, Finland — (U.P.) — The Finnish tanker Aruba has turned back from its trip to Red China with 13,000 tons of jet fuel for the Communist Air Force, the Finnish Seaman's Union said today.

The crew of the big tanker rebelled last week against running the Chinese Nationalist blockade and demanded the captain put into the port of Colombo, Ceylon. He refused and ordered the ship to sail eastward as long as the men would work.

Radio Contact Maintained

The crew members, keeping in touch with their parent union in Helsinki by radio, then announced they would sail only as far as the Nicobar Islands at the mouth of the Malacca Strait leading to Singapore.

The owners of the ship notified Communist China of the action and asked for further instructions — should the Aruba put into a neutral port for transshipment of the cargo or could the Communists load it aboard another ship on the high seas.

Ordered Back To Romania

Peiping did not answer and the Aruba's owners stopped the ship in the Indian Ocean and ordered it back to Constanza in Red Romania where the kerosene was first taken aboard.

The announcement by the Seaman's Union ended a wave of speculation throughout the world as to the shipping company's next move and a Communist China's next step.

The weather in the area was generally good with occasional clouds and light rains.

Marine Pfc. Joseph T. Price, Carlsbad, N.M., who was standing guard at the ammunition depot, said he saw the plane come roaring over the depot at an altitude of 500 to 600 feet. He said it barely missed hitting a 700 foot radio antenna.

At that point the pilot turned on the plane's landing lights and apparently saw the ridge ahead. The pilot banked a sharp right, Price said, but it was too late to avoid smashing into the mountain.

Garage, Automobile Damaged by Flames

A garage at 612 South Ivy st., and a car parked inside it were considerably damaged by fire this morning, firemen reported.

The alarm, which was sounded at 10:12 a.m., apparently was given after the fire got a good start, for flames were coming out of the roof when firemen arrived. They managed to pull the car from the garage, and the gasoline tank did not explode. Exterior paint was badly scorched, however, they said.

The garage was extinguished but was badly charred. Smoke from roofing was visible in many parts of town.

Firemen said the car was owned by the occupant of the house, Alfred L. Randless.

Pumpers from the main and west side stations answered the alarm. The fire apparently started in a storage shed next to the garage.

Rogue River School Attendance Hit by Flu

Rogue River — Rogue River school attendance has been hit by a siege of influenza during the past week, according to James Hayden, high school principal.

About half of the senior class at the high school missed classes for almost a week because of illness, Hayden said.

Fire in Fire Hall Too Much for Firemen

Eugene — (U.P.) — The faces of Veneta volunteer fire department members were as red as their trucks today. Finding a blaze in their own fire hall too much for them, they were forced to call on the Western Lane fire patrol for help.

Firemen of the two crews finally doused the fire, which occurred Sunday, but not until it had caused an estimated \$2000 damage to the upstairs of the building located near Veneta, some 11 miles west of Eugene.

The fire was thought to have started from a defective chimney.

California-Bound Craft Slams Into Side of Mountain

Radio Trouble Forces Plane To Turn Back

Honolulu — (U.P.) — A four-engine Military Air Transport Service plane en route from Hawaii to California slammed into the side of a mountain today and the Navy said all 66 persons aboard perished.

It was the worst aviation disaster in the history of Hawaii.

The big Navy DC6, forced to return to Hickam Field after it developed radio trouble, crashed and burned on a ridge inside the Navy's top secret Lualei Ammunition Depot about 20 miles northwest of here at about 2:15 a.m. (HST).

The plane carried 57 passengers and nine crewmen.

Rescue crews dispatched from the Air-Sea Rescue Coordination Center here reported from the scene of the crash that there were no survivors.

The 57 passengers included 17 Air Force, four Navy, 12 Marine and 22 Army personnel, in addition to a civilian woman and her baby daughter.

The plane, attached to Air Transport Squadron Three at Moffett Field, Calif., about 40 miles south of San Francisco, was enroute to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., about 50 miles northeast of San Francisco.

A military spokesman said the plane took off from Hickam Field at 7:16 p.m. (HST) yesterday and reported at 10:32 p.m. that it had developed radio trouble and would have to return. The plane was expected to land back at Hickam at 1:40 a.m.

Weather Was Good

Authorities were unable to offer any explanation for the crash immediately other than the pilot apparently wandered off his approach pattern somehow.

The weather in the area was generally good with occasional clouds and light rains.

Marine Pfc. Joseph T. Price, Carlsbad, N.M., who was standing guard at the ammunition depot, said he saw the plane come roaring over the depot at an altitude of 500 to 600 feet. He said it barely missed hitting a 700 foot radio antenna.

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Churchill's Remark Fails To Quiet Talk On Retirement Plans

London — (U.P.) — Prime Minister Winston Churchill jovially told Parliament today to avoid being "led away by all the chatter in the papers" about his rumored retirement.

Churchill's jocular comment, however, did not still a widely held belief that his retirement is imminent.

The aging Prime Minister's remark was made in an exchange with former Socialist

Defense Minister Emanuel Shinwell. Shinwell intervened during a question on whether Churchill would follow the American lead and appoint a disarmament minister.

Yalta Discussion

A moment later Churchill was serious.

He said he did not think "it would be a good plan" to appoint a British disarmament minister as a counterpart to Harold E. Stassen.

And to Socialist questioners he said he had been informed by Washington on March 11 that the United States agreed with the British stand against publishing the Yalta papers.

However, he was informed four days later that the U. S. State Department had changed its mind because of pressure which could not be resisted any longer.

It was in the exchange over appointment of a British disarmament minister that the question of the 80-year-old Churchill's retirement came up.

Would Tell Queen

The narrow, oak-paneled House Chamber was filled for Churchill's first appearance since reports started last week about his retirement and probable replacement by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden next month.

Nobody really expected Churchill to break the retirement news in Commons. He must tell the Queen first of all.

On the other question, whether he would appoint a British counterpart to Stassen, Churchill said, "no."

He said he was satisfied with Britain's present arrangement for approaching disarmament.

Four Persons Make Court Appearances

Two men appeared in circuit court this morning before Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna.

John Lindsay, 22, of 38 North Front st., received a suspended two-year sentence on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses. He pleaded guilty to the charge on March 17.

Darwin Coda Powers, 20, O'Brien, pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny in a dwelling and his case was continued pending receipt of FBI records. Power was arrested Saturday by state and city police.

Two persons appeared in district court yesterday and were fined by District Judge Rawles Moore. They were Rodney Samuel Thompson, 22, route 3, box 232, Medford, who was fined \$75 and costs after pleading guilty to a charge of reckless driving, and Helen Marie Hinks, 49, of 2108 Table Rock road, Medford, who was fined \$10 and costs after pleading guilty to a charge of petty larceny. Thompson's driver's license was suspended for 30 days.

Public Warned on Cheap Uranium Stock

Washington — (U.P.) — The chairman of the Securities and Exchange commission warned the public today about buying cheap uranium stocks.

Ralph H. Demmler, whose agency watch-dogs the stock market, said prospective buyers "run the risk of suffering a loss" if they don't pay attention to legally required information about the uranium stocks that they buy.

Demmler sounded his warning in testimony before the Senate Banking committee, which is conducting a "friendly" study of the current stock market boom.

Ex-Reed Professor Compiled Yalta Paper

Washington — (U.P.) — A former Reed college professor from Portland was the man chiefly responsible for compiling for publication the controversial documents of the Yalta conference.

He is Dr. G. Bernard Noble, who is now chief of the historical division of the department of state. For 20 years Dr. Noble was professor of international politics at the Portland college.

"I came here to do a pure research job," the doctor told The Oregonian, "but instead of an ivory tower, I found myself sitting on a volcano."

That was about the only comment on the political aspects of the papers Dr. Noble would make.

Four Men Fined \$55 For Dynamiting Fish

Four men were fined \$55 each in district court yesterday on charges of dynamiting steelhead fish in Evans creek, according to court records.

The men, who pleaded guilty, were Henry D. Booth, 32, route 1, box 319, Central Point, and Delbert Woodrow Howell, 41, Homer Hood Howell, 19, and Royal Herman Howard, 23, all of route 1, box 71A, Rogue River.

The fish were confiscated and turned over to the Salvation Army.

Forest Protection Not Yet Included in Mine Measure

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — Congress is moving swiftly to open up additional millions of acres of national forest land to mining claims, but has yet to move in the direction of protecting federal forests from encroachment by those who stake claims primarily to cut timber instead of mining the earth.

The House last week passed without debate a bill sponsored by Rep. Engle (D-Calif.) which would open up to mining claims 3,500,000 acres of national forest land and 3,500,000 acres of other public lands in the West. These 7,000,000 acres have been reserved for years as power sites and thereby restricted from the usual mining claim that is allowed on most public land. Mining on power site land has been allowed only if specifically approved by the Federal Power Commission.

The Eisenhower administration sent Congress a favorable report on the bill, and it was quickly reported favorably by the House Interior Committee and approved by the House on the calendar of minor bills brought up last week.

No action has been taken, however, on legislation pending before the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee designed to protect valuable national forestland from exploitation by those who file mining claims to cut the timber rather than get any minerals that may be present. It is sponsored by the senior members of the committee, Reps. Cooley (D-N.C.) and

Hope (R-Kan.) Action on the bill has been delayed because the administration has not yet disclosed its views on the proposal, although the Forest Service is known to favor such legislation.

Existing mining laws permit any mining claimant to get title to forestland by paying \$5 per acre and showing he has invested at least \$500 per 20-acre claim for improvements to tap the minerals in the claim. With title goes ownership of the timber which is often worth many times his investment in the property.

This law was enacted in 1872 when timber values were negligible. The Forest Service has estimated timber worth \$100,000,000 has been tied up by such claims in the three Pacific Coast states alone.

Under the Cooley-Hope bills, title for mineral development would not be affected but timber rights would go to the claimant only if he paid the going price of timber in that area as established by the Forest Service. Otherwise, it would remain under federal jurisdiction.

The only timber the miner could use freely would be that deemed "necessary in the development and operation of his mine" for such uses as shoring up tunnels and building structures on the property. And even this timber would have to be logged "in accordance with sound principles of forest management as defined by the national forest rules and regulations."

Indicating the position of the Forest Service, Edward C. Kraft, assistant chief forester, told the public lands panel of the American Mining Congress that the Forest Service is finding it practically impossible to contest invalid mining claims because of inadequate funds and manpower. He estimated it would cost \$20,000,000 to contest the 84,000 claims currently outstanding and \$4,000,000 annually to examine each of the 16,000 new locations filed each year.

The Mining Congress in the past has mustered opposition to similar bills to help block their passage. In the last Congress, the Interior Department also opposed this legislation, while the Forest Service favored it. Congress failed to write the bill into law.

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