

# Neglected Cigarette Blamed in Hotel Fire; One Room Is Damaged

A cigarette left burning in an ash tray Friday evening touched off a fire in Room 417 of the Medford hotel, resulting in a general alarm that brought four fire trucks, 32 regular and vol-

unteer firemen and hundreds of spectators to the scene.

The blaze was controlled by firemen before it spread out of the room where it started. The room's interior was scorched and charred, and the chair on which the ashtray had been left, and which was set ablaze by the cigarette, was destroyed.

### Heat Intense

The heat generated by the blaze was intense—hot enough to blister paint on the opposite wall, 14 or 16 feet away.

Occupants of the room, Lakeview band members here for the Southern Oregon Music festival, were not around during or after the fire.

Hotel Manager Harry Watson was bemoaning the blaze, not so much for the cost of redecorating the room as because of the "bad publicity" from the fire, fourth which has hit the hotel within the past year. Others were due to wiring defects, but according to Fire Chief Gordon Barker this one was clearly the responsibility of the occupant of the room. The hotel was checked for fire hazards earlier in the week by Fire Marshall Truman Nelson and given a clean bill of health.

### Alarm During Meeting

The alarm, which was given because of smoke which filled corridors and rooms of the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, was sounded at 8:27 p. m. during a meeting of firemen from all three stations at the main station.

The fire was extinguished by the first fireman at the scene with a hotel fire hose.

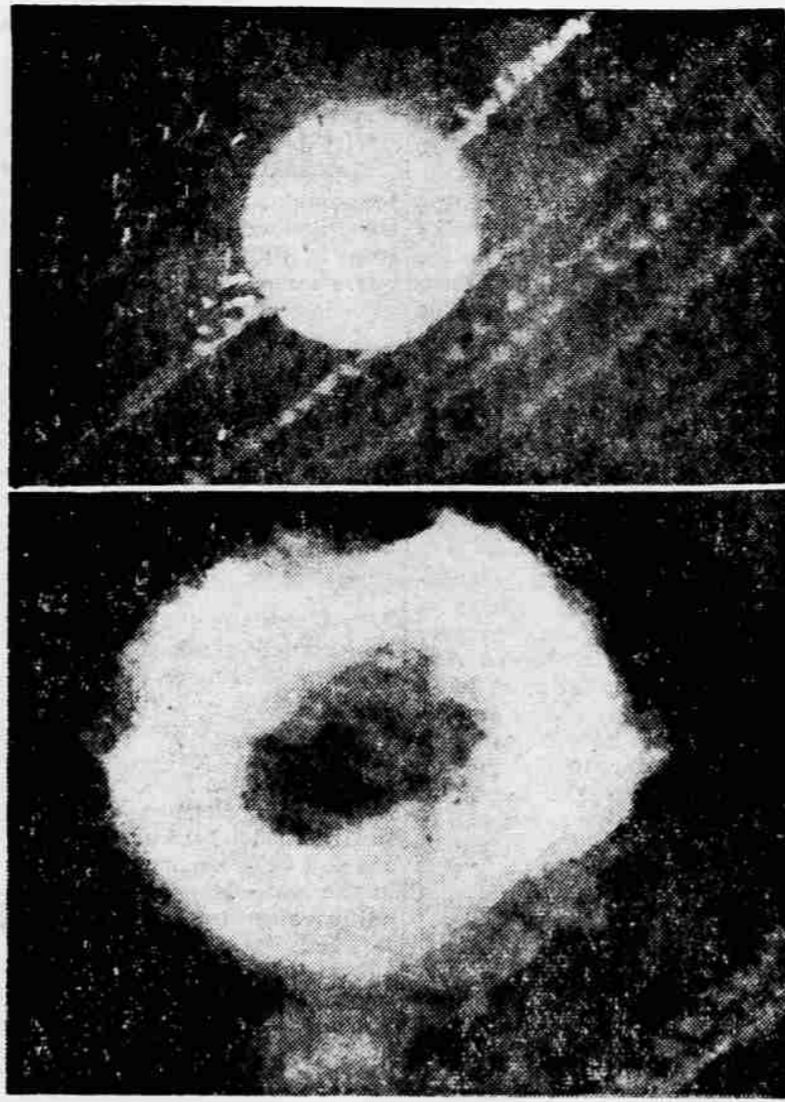
Friday at 1:20 p. m. the rural pumper responded to an alarm at 2076 Table Rock rd., where a mattress in a vacant house was discovered on fire. It was extinguished without other loss.

## Klamath Milk Industry Okays Additional Fund

Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — Increased voluntary assessments for additional advertising and promotion of the milk industry had the approval Saturday of the Klamath Basin Grade A Producers Association.

The group started an advertising campaign at the area level three years ago and reported a steady increase in milk consumption.

Members tax themselves 10 cents per hundredweight on milk produced to support a \$10,000 advertising and promotion budget each year. In May and June they will add an extra one cent to go to support of the Oregon Dairy Products Commission and another cent to go to the American Dairy Association's national program.



**KING SIZE SMOKE RING**—The fireball (top) over Nevada testing ground at Yucca Flat as seen from the official control point about 10 miles away. It was dropped from a B-36 and detonated at an altitude of over 30,000 feet. Its cloud (bottom) takes on the shape of a giant donut. Smoke trails were made by jets.

## Anderson Disagrees With His Attorney About Appeal

Klamath Falls — (U.P.)—James Quinton Anderson, who conducted two hunger strikes in the county jail here this week, Saturday was reported in disagreement with his attorney over carrying out an appeal to his second degree murder conviction, which is before the Oregon Supreme Court.

Klamath County Sheriff Murray Britton said Herbert Welch, Burns attorney, rushed here Friday when informed that Anderson, who had vowed he would rather die than go to prison again, planned to drop his appeal and begin his sentence at the state prison at Salem.

The defense attorney, who conferred with Anderson in his cell Friday, said he hoped to convince his client to let the appeal stand.

Attorney Welch said troubles were plaguing Anderson. His client's wife, 19-year-old Marcia, planned to file for a divorce, and Anderson had complained of a numbness on the side of his head.

Anderson went on a 43-hour hunger strike, which ended Wednesday morning, because he was refused permission to pass notes from his first floor isolation cell to his wife, serving a 60-day drunk term on the second floor.

Starts Again

The hunger strike was started again Friday, according to jailer Fred Calfee, who said Anderson told him he was accepting prison food and then throwing it down the toilet in his cell.

Anderson was convicted last February of the slaying of Richard David Miller, wealthy Beatty show horse breeder. The killing occurred in November, several months after Anderson was discharged from the penitentiary on an armed assault sentence.

King of Portland Gypsies Succumbs

Portland — (U.P.)—Miller Ristick, 70-year-old uncrowned king of Portland's gypsies, died at Physicians and Surgeons Hospital here Friday.

More than 150 persons waited outside the hospital after Ristick was taken there about noon Friday. Police were called to disperse the gypsies because of the commotion and waiting they caused when told of their leader's death.

## State Democratic Chairman To Be Master of Ceremonies At Roosevelt Dinner Here

Howard Morgan, Monmouth, chairman of the State Democratic Central committee, will be master of ceremonies at the fifth annual Roosevelt Memorial dinner to be held here Saturday, April 23, according to Bob Boyer, chairman of the Jackson County Democratic committee.

The gathering will be in the Medford Junior High school boys' gymnasium, and Stephen A. Mitchell, Chicago, former national Democratic chairman, will be the speaker. Mrs. Mitchell will be with him.

National Democratic Committeeman Monroe Sweetland and Charles O. Porter, Eugene, 1954 Democratic nominee as congressman for this district, also plan to attend. Others yet to be heard from are State Vice-Chairman Edna Scales, State Rep. Maurine Neuberger, State Sen. Joseph K. Carson, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton and other state Democratic leaders who have been invited.

### Committeemen Named

Among local committee members working on plans for this year's event are Mrs. Edward C. Kelly, general chairman; William Deatherage, ticket chairman, assisted by Marcus Norton, Doris Boothby, L. Peers Wilmethe, Robert Duncan, Sidney Ainsworth, Dr. Arthur Kreisman, Alvin York, Larry Sheehan and Mrs. Albert Straus.

James M. Main and Mrs. Moore Hamilton are co-chairmen for arrangements, assisted by Tom Reeder, Arthur Lusk, Bill Rozzell, Cecil Norris and Mrs. William Deatherage; Mrs. Neva I. Clark is decorations chairman,

assisted by John E. Gribble, Mrs. Albert Johnson, Mrs. Robert Boyer, and Mrs. Harlan Bosworth; Mrs. Thomas Higgins and Frank DeSouza, reception co-chairmen assisted by Larry Sheehan, Robert Boyer, Mrs. Harvey Nichols; Mrs. W. G. Werner, foods committee chairman, assisted by Mrs. George Watson, Mrs. W. H. McGuire, Mrs. Scott Hamilton, Mrs. Jess Wagner, Mrs. Frank Parke, Mrs. John Bowdish and Mrs. H. W. Crocker.

## Two Portland Firms Tell Merger Plans

Portland — (U.P.) — Plans were disclosed Saturday for combination of two major Portland retail firms, Pacific Department Store and Powers Furniture Company. The joint operation will be called Pacific-Powers.

The plan leaves the two companies as separate corporate entities but with co-ordinated operations under one roof.

The present Pacific store building is expected to be a casualty of the new Morrison street bridge approaches.

George R. Walker, president of Powers, and Harry Pederson, vice-president of Pacific, made the announcement. Walker will continue as manager of furniture operations and Pederson of apparel and related merchandise.

The plan calls for Pacific to use the basement, main and second floors and half the third floor of the main Powers building.

## Elementary Music Fete Plans Readied

Ashland — Plans are shaping up for the Jackson County Elementary School Music Festival to be held at Southern Oregon college on Wednesday, April 27.

Assistant Professor of Music Helen Robinson said that tape recordings of six of the most difficult songs to be sung in the festival have been prepared by the college and are ready for distribution to schools that request them.

"Singing Time," the series of musical radio programs to help the children prepare songs for the music festival will continue to be broadcast by KMED each Tuesday at 9:45 a.m. until after the festival is over.

Registrations have already been reported from several schools, Miss Robinson said. The deadline for registrations is April 16. The school with the largest number of entrants registered to date is Griffin Creek with 150 children. Gold Hill has entered the second largest group, with 100.

## Driver Hospitalized After One-Car Crash

Clarence Betz, Camp Baker rd., was hospitalized early Saturday after the car he was driving left Highway 99 near the Evershady Auto court, Phoenix, and struck a telephone pole, according to state police and Medford Ambulance service drivers.

He was taken to Community hospital for treatment of hip injuries.

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## New Law on Prison Hostages Awaiting Governor's Okay

Salem — (U.P.) — A new crime will be put on Oregon's statute books if the governor signs a senate-passed bill approved Friday by the House.

Despite a move by Rep. Pat Dooley (D-Portland) challenging the ruling of the speaker, the House approved the measure setting up penalties for the crime of taking, holding or killing of a hostage by convicts in the state penitentiary.

### Separate Code

Dooley objected to the bill because it would set up a separate criminal code applying only to persons in the penitentiary and would duplicate the law for crimes committed on the outside.

He cited rules of the House in his claim that the bill was not properly before the House. He said the House Judiciary Committee had once passed the bill out with an adverse report and that it was then taken back to committee from the clerk's duty without motion of the House.

### Rules No Violation

Speaker Ed Gary ruled that the procedure was not a violation of the rules because all the committee members agreed to take the bill back for reconsideration and that the adverse report had not been read to the House. Dooley appealed from the speaker's ruling and was defeated by a voice vote.

The House was adjourned Saturday for the Easter week end.

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