

# CONVICTS RIOT AT WALLA WALLA

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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50th Year 20 Pages

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1955

## Weather

FORECAST: Considerable cloudiness through Wednesday. Chance of afternoon showers in mountains. Low tonight 50. High Wednesday 75 to 78. Temp. Highest Yesterday 75. Lowest this Morning 52.

## Maximum Security Inmates Hold Eight Men as Hostages

### Harm Promised If Violence Used

Walla Walla, Wash. — (U.P.) — Thirty five dangerous convicts armed with knives and razor blades rioted in the Washington State Penitentiary here today and took a parole officer, five prison officials and two guards as hostages.

Two hours after the riot started, the convicts released one hostage, prison Capt. Al Rembolt, and told him to "spread the word" that if violence was used against the rioters, the hostages would be harmed. Rembolt was not hurt.

At the start of the riot, assistant recreational director E. W. Fain was injured in a scuffle. Fain said he didn't know exactly what happened. He added the rioters "did not want to hurt me. 'I've never been treated better in my life.'"

Fain suffered a nose cut and bruises.

Prison business manager William Connell, in charge during Warden Lawrence Delmore's absence, said the convicts had "complete control of No. 1 wing, the control room area and the kitchen."

The No. 1 wing is the maximum security cell block where the toughest inmates are confined. The control room area is where inmates are interviewed regarding parole, transfer and grievances.

The convicts demanded to meet with Connell at 3 p.m. (PST). Connell talked with one of the hostages, Theodore Bezerides, assistant superintendent for custody, who quoted the convicts as saying if violence was used against the rioters, the convicts would use violence against the hostages.

In addition to Bezerides, the rioters were holding parole officer W. S. Storey, vocational counselor Jess Bentley, Rembolt, control-room deskman Bert Jenkins, assignment officer Harold Bennis and two unidentified guards.

When the convicts began rioting at 9:45 a.m., they took Fain hostage and beat him. But they let him go.

Bezerides told Connell that he favored holding off any action until the 3 p.m. meeting.

Connell said it was against prison rules to release the names of the convicts but he admitted that one of the ring-leaders had escaped three times. "He's a rough customer," Connell said.

State patrolmen, Walla Walla County sheriff's deputies, Walla Walla policemen and off-duty guards rushed to the prison as soon as the riot started. All were armed with riot guns.

In July last year, about 1400 convicts went on a four-day hunger strike. They called off the strike after state officials indicated they would set up a prison program along the lines used in California.

Washington State was rocked by two prison riots in 1953—at the state reformatory in Monroe and the prison in Walla Walla.

## L.A. Socialite Found Strangled With Stole

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — A 33-year-old socialite was found strangled with a knit stole today in her fashionable bel air home. Police immediately issued a bulletin for a former houseboy.

The victim, Mrs. Norma T. McCauley, was found by a nursemaid, Laurie Dromtra, who said the woman's five-year-old son Kirk, had told her, "My mother's still sleeping."

## Annexation, Budget Election Polls Open Until 8 p.m. Today

Polling places for two elections in and around Medford will remain open until 8 p.m. today.

Residents in an area east, south and west of present city limits will decide whether or not more than 3,000 acres shall be annexed, while residents in Laurelhurst addition will vote on annexation of the section of Laurelhurst addition which is not now within the city.

## Public Hearings, Vote Canvass, on Agenda of Council

The Medford city council will hold public hearings on annexation proposals of South Medford and Laurelhurst addition and one on the 1955-56 city budget at its 7:30 p.m. meeting today.

Also on the agenda is the canvassing of votes on annexations of South Medford and Laurelhurst addition as well as in the city budget election. If returns are not complete, the council will canvass votes at an adjourned meeting Saturday.

A public hearing also is also scheduled on paving East Jackson st. between Hawthorne and Genesee sts., which was postponed from the last meeting. Report Due

City Manager Robert Duff will report on the city milk inspection, which is satisfactory under state Grade A standards, on considering changes in employee compensation plan rates, and using city crews to do excavation and installation of base rock on East Jackson st. between Bear Creek bridge and Genesee st.

Duff also will report on a consideration to remove a stop sign on East Main st. at Modoc ave.

Ordinances will be considered for paving Kenwood ave. from Second st. to Humphrey st., and calling for bids on paving East Jackson st. between Bear Creek bridge and Genesee st.

## Week End Arrests Higher Than Usual

Arrests over the long holiday ran slightly above normal for a week end period, according to law enforcement agencies.

The county jail roster this morning showed five arrests involving liquor charges. These included a charge of driving while drunk against David Ralph Buchanan, 48, of 321 Ashland ave., Medford. The other four were arrested on charges of drunk in public and drunk on a public highway.

City police reported arrests on liquor charges were about the same as average for a regular week end. About five men were jailed.

Three persons were arrested over the week end and are being held in the county jail on charges not involving liquor. They are Robert Read Barclay, 30, of 714 Pine st., Central Point, being held in lieu of \$2,000 bond on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, and Catherine Elizabeth Porter, 38, and David Edward Porter, 39, both of general delivery, Talent, held on charges of concealing stolen property.

Polling places in South Medford are: Precinct 1 at the home of Mrs. Blanche Powell, 1920 Barnett rd.; Precinct 2 at the Southern Oregon Heating and Air Conditioning company, 2356 South Highway 99; and Precinct 3 at the home of H. G. Warner Jr., 1798 Stewart ave.

Residents in Laurelhurst addition will vote at the home of Ray T. Osborn, 1001 Stevens st.

Medford city residents will decide whether or not the 1955-56 general fund budget shall exceed the 6 per cent limitation by \$66,510 and whether or not the city charter shall be amended to increase from 12 to 15 mills the limitation on taxes for general fund purposes.

There is no direct connection between the city budget election and annexation elections in areas adjacent to Medford.

Polling places in Medford are: Ward I, City Hall; Ward II, Medford High school; Ward III, Medford Junior High school; and Ward IV, Boy Scout building in Hawthorne park.

Registered voters in the areas proposed to be annexed, and in Medford, are qualified to cast ballots.

## Khrushchev Gives Clues for Success

Moscow — (U.P.) — Soviet "strong man" Nikita Khrushchev paid a precedent-shattering visit to the U. S. Embassy yesterday to tell the western powers that "something will come" of the Geneva Big Four conference, if the West negotiates with Russia "as an equal."

Khrushchev, first secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and six others of Russia's topmost leaders, paid their visit during the embassy's Independence Day garden party.

The Soviet leader, in a lengthy carefully prepared statement of Soviet policy, warned the West against believing that Russia would go to Geneva from weakness.

In "Solid Position" he said, "The Soviet Union," he said, "has never been in a more solid position."

His lengthy remarks, addressed to U. S. charge d'Affaires Walter N. Walmaley, were obviously directed to the governments of the United States, Britain and France.

Khrushchev told Walmaley frankly that what he had to say was "serious" and important. "If you talk with us honestly and sincerely, as equal to equal," he said, "something will come of it." It was the first time in the 22-year history of Soviet-American relations that Soviet leaders had visited the U. S. Embassy.

## Asphalt Road Work Starts Through County

County road crews started heavy asphalt work throughout the county today, according to Paul Rynning, county engineer. Work is scheduled on about 25 miles of county road, he said.

Light dust sifting work has been completed for the season. County crews also are working on a grading and bridge building project on the south fork of Little Butte creek. The road is being widened in places, and the bridge, about three miles above Lake Creek post office, is being constructed of pressure treated timber.

## UN Newsmen in Korea Refused Permission To Attend Red Delegate's Press Meeting

Panmunjom, Korea — (U.P.) — The United Nations military command today refused to allow American and other U.N. newsmen to attend a precedent-shattering press conference with Lt. Gen. Lee Sang Cho, senior Communist delegate to the Joint Military Armistice Commission.

An invitation to meet with Lee was relayed by four North Korean newsmen outside the building where the commission was meeting.

They said Lee would answer questions from the U. N. newsmen after the commission meeting. Communist correspondents also asked permission to attend the U. N. press briefing after the commission meeting, but not as a condition for the Lee press conference.

But U. S. Air Force Maj. Gen.

Harlan C. Parks, senior U. N. delegate, put his foot down.

"I do not consider it appropriate that representatives of the enemy enter my camp for a news conference and conversely I do not approve of accredited correspondents entering their camp for similar purposes."

Parks pointed out to the newsmen that, "We are still technically belligerent although the period of hostilities terminated after the signing of the armistice."

Lee, never before available to the Western press, waited 80 minutes for the correspondents to show up for the press conference.

Parks issued his ruling after conferring by telephone with top U. N. Command officers in Tokyo. U. N. accredited correspond-

ents enter the closely-guarded Panmunjom area in the demilitarized zone under strict armistice agreement rules and under escort of an Allied officer. Their movements inside the area are under U. N. military control and they are not permitted to enter Communist buildings.

The newsmen were invited to see Lee only a few minutes after Parks, in the commission meeting room, accused the Communists of illegally building a Russian-supplied Air Force in North Korea.

Parks said he had "irrefutable proof" of the illegal buildup of combat forces by the Red Korean Air Force. He said the protest "was the most serious... made against your side since the signing of the armistice."

## 391 Road Deaths Set New Record; Holiday Leaves 16 Lead in State

### Overall Total Recorded at 783; California Leads

#### Drivers Ignore Pleas To Break 1952 Record

By UNITED PRESS

The nation's motorists "celebrated" Independence Day with 391 traffic deaths, a new record for a three-day July Fourth week end.

Driver ignored the pleas of safety officials and broke the grim record of 356 deaths set in the three day observance in 1952.

A United Press tally from 6 p.m. Friday through midnight Monday showed 391 persons killed in traffic. The heat wave sent drownings zooming to a total of 241. Fireworks killed only one, but 13 died in plane crashes and 137 in miscellaneous accidents for a total of 783.

California led all other states with 42 traffic deaths, Michigan had 20, Illinois and Pennsylvania 18 each, and Iowa 16. Only North Dakota, Vermont and the District of Columbia reported no traffic deaths.

One American died on the highways every 15 minutes during the week end slaughter. An estimated 40,000,000 cars clogged the roads, causing one of the biggest traffic pileups in the nation's history.

Most Americans sweltered through the glorious fourth, baked by the summer's first big heat wave. Temperatures went close to the 100s in the eastern half and were well into the 90s in vast areas of the west.

#### Heat Exhaustion

The heat and the holiday resulted in record millions at New York city beaches, at least one heat prostration death in Michigan, and frayed nerves on the highways.

At Pittsfield, Mass., 37 persons suffered heat exhaustion during a two-hour parade. A Detroit man sprinkled passers-by as well as his lawn, but police let him continue saying his actions were "more thoughtful than malicious."

The holiday's greatest tragedies stemmed from an Iowa crash which virtually wiped out two families and a broken bridge at the Cherokee, N.C., Indian reservation.

#### Two Families in Collision

Near Iowa City Sunday night, the Max Williams family was on a holiday trip from Moline, Ill., and the Clarence Weichmann family was returning to Homestead, Ia., from a picnic. Their cars crashed and eight persons died — Mrs. Weichmann and her three small daughters, the Williams couple and their daughter, and a friend of the Williams family.

## Peron Raps Rumor Mongers; Calls for Political Truce

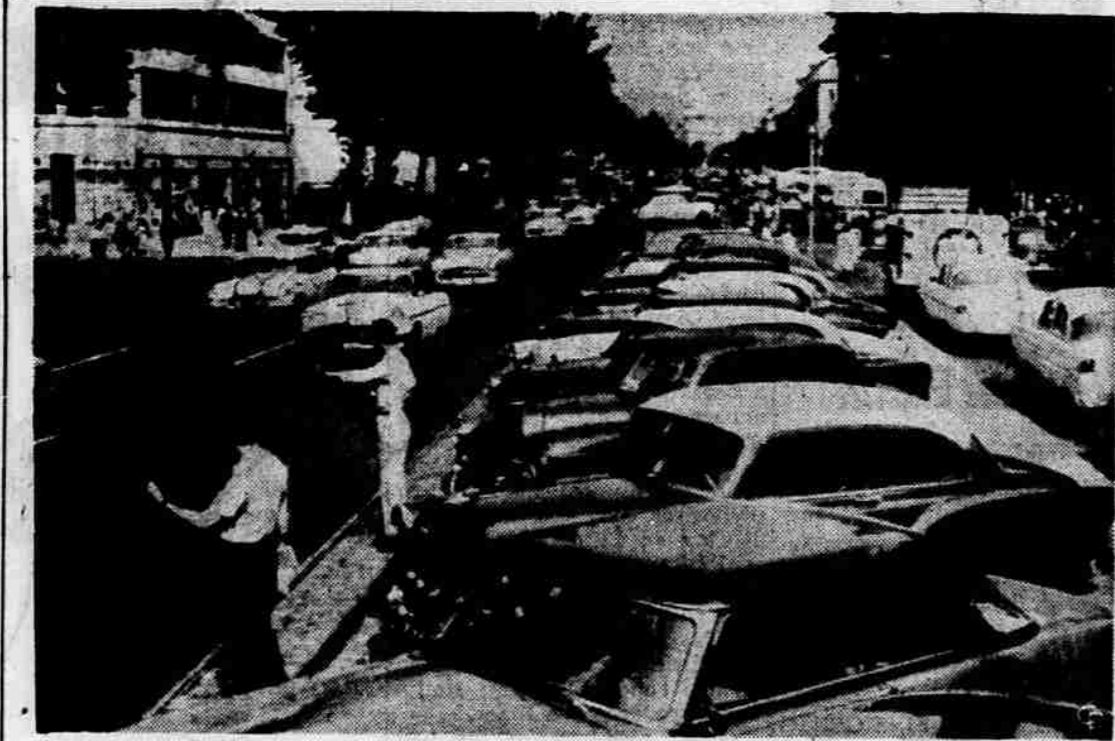
Buenos Aires — (U.P.) — President Juan D. Peron called upon his enemies for a political truce today.

His call for a truce and an end to what he called "fighting psychosis" coincided with reports from Vatican City that Argentina had communicated to the Vatican through "normal diplomatic channels" word that two expelled prelates would be permitted to return to Buenos Aires.

The two, Msgrs. Manuel Toto and Ramon Carlos Novoa, now are en route to Rio De Janeiro from Rome to attend the International Eucharistic Congress.

Their expulsion marked the high point of Peron's battle with the Roman Catholic church and resulted in the excommunication of Peron and all others connected with the incident.

However, not once today did Peron refer to the church-state controversy.



PARALYZING TRANSIT STRIKE provides easy parking for Washington, D. C. residents on street car tracks while thumbs replace fare tokens as travelers seek rides. (International)

## Assessed Valuation In County Somewhat Increased This Year

Jackson county's assessed valuation, excluding corporations, totals \$68,552,392, according to figures released today by County Assessor R. G. Fowler. This compared with a total of \$61,754,115.32 for last year.

Figures on corporations within the county are prepared by state assessors, and are expected to be ready by about the 15th of this month.

In addition, another \$2,000,000 could be added to the county's assessed valuation if the state tax commission's order for assessment of orchard trees in

## Shakespeare Festival Box Office Open Here

Shakespearean festival box office was opened in the lobby of the First National bank here today. It will operate until the festival season ends Aug. 31, according to William Patton, festival general manager.

The box office will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily except Sunday. Memberships in the festival association and reserved seat tickets for the play will be on sale.

Patton said that good seats are still available for most performances this August, but added that the best seats are available for mid-week performances. Advance sales have been excellent, he said. The Ashland box office reports a 30 per cent increase in sales over last year at this date.

In charge of the Medford box office will be Roberta Nelson and Josephine Maillard.

## Six Believed Killed In Car-Train Crash

Dairen, Wis. — (U.P.) — A train struck a car at a crossing near here today and first reports indicated that at least six persons, most of them children, were killed.

## Bulletin

Washington — (U.P.) — The Senate today approved a \$1,377,571,000 public works money bill, including funds for the controversial Dixon-Yate project.

The appropriation bill passed by the Senate today was the one in which the Talent project is set down for \$500,000 in initial construction funds.

## Oil Leases Nearing Necessary Number For Exploration

Sams Valley — Oil leases necessary for exploration of some 12,000 or more acres of land in the Sams Valley, Beagle, Ramsey Canyon and Meadows districts are almost complete, Ralph A. James, chairman of a Landowners committee, has announced.

James said about three-fourths of the necessary leases have been signed. He said enough are expected by July 10 to have Natural Resources association of San Jose, Calif., start contacting oil companies.

The brokerage association, in an agreement with landowners of northern Jackson county, required leases on 12,000 acres of land to interest a company in exploration of oil in the area.

The leases will be held for safekeeping until a company interested in development signs them.

James said the Sams Valley Grange will be open between 4 and 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday this week so property owners may have land descriptions typed and have leases notarized.

Leases under the committee agreement must be in by July 10, James said, and any leases signed after that will be on an individual basis.

## Child Said Kidnaped By Bear Found Safe

Libby, Mont. — (U.P.) — The mother of 2-year-old Ida Mae Curtis insisted today that a bear kidnaped the little girl, found unharmed near a lumber camp in the wild Kootenai National Forest by a search party.

The searchers found Ida Mae Monday in a small hole only 300 yards from the camp where Mrs. Curtis said the bear — possibly a grizzly — grabbed the baby Saturday night.

The child was taken to Libby Hospital. A physician said she suffered only minor cuts and bruises after her 21-hour exposure in wilds of northwest Montana.

Some of the 350 men who took part in the nightlong search for Ida Mae expressed skepticism that she really had been carried off by a bear.

## Local Contractor Wins California Contract

Sacramento — Peter Kiewit Sons Co., Medford, has been awarded a contract to grade and surface 25.2 miles of highways in northern California, according to the department of public works. The contract is for \$272,879.

The work is on U.S. Highways 99 and 97 between Weed and the California-Oregon border.

## Traffic Accidents In Oregon Account For Six Fatalities

#### Ashland Couple Die In Crash of Airplane

By UN-TED PRESS

At least 16 persons were killed in Oregon during the long Fourth of July holiday week end.

Six died in traffic accidents; three drowned; three were killed in plane crashes; one burned to death; a carnival performer suffered fatal injuries in a "ride of death"; an unidentified man was run over by a train, and an infant fell from its mother's arms under the wheels of a rolling car.

The carnival fatality occurred last night at the Happy Days celebration at Hillsboro during a performance of "Mike Kelly and his Ride of Death." Kelly, whose real name was Dean Henry LeRoy Fletcher, performed an act in which he rode a motorcycle down a 200-foot ramp through a flaming hoop and a plate glass window and over two parked cars onto another ramp.

#### Bike Hits Car

In his final show last night, Fletcher's bike hit the top of the second car and flipped him to the ground. He died of a broken neck and fractured skull.

The six killed in traffic mishaps were Lillian Louise Ekrist, 25, Astoria; Donald O. Martin, 23, Dufur; Daniel Webster Sossaman, 31, and Allen Willis Morris, 23, Sweet Home; Sahorn Mary McKay, Foster, and Victor E. Kuhn, 30, Portland.

Light plane crashed claimed the lives of Donald Creighton Linn, 28, Ashland, and his wife, Edith, 20, and James Estes, 53, Glendale. The Linn plane crashed at Fossil. Linn was killed outright and Mrs. Linn died en route to Heppner hospital. Estes' plane crashed near Glendale.

#### Drowning Victims Listed

Drowning victims included Walter B. Hunsucker, 50, Portland; Joanne Warneke, 15, Portland; and Garry Wyatt, 10, Glendale.

Leslie F. Stoll, 33, Baker blind war veteran, died in a fire at Baker.

The body of the unidentified man was found on the railroad tracks at N.E. 52nd ave., and Irving St., in Portland about 11 p.m. Monday. Police said he had been run over by about 20 cars before railroad personnel discovered the body.

Trudy Whitney, eight-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Whitney, Klamath Falls, was killed under the wheels of the family car after she fell from her mother's arms.

Portland — (U.P.) — The 23rd annual racing season of the Multnomah Kennel Club will open officially here Friday in Multnomah Stadium.

## Six Babies Arrive On Independence Day

Six babies, four girls and two boys, were born in Medford's three hospitals on a sunny 1955 Fourth of July. Four were credited to Medford, and one each to Jacksonville and Ashland.

Parents of the Independence day arrivals: Mr. and Mrs. William H. Wright, 1128 West 11th st. (a girl), Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hawkins, 503 Kenwood ave. (a boy), Mr. and Mrs. William Florey, 32 North Orange st. (a girl), Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schuchard, 101 Geneva ave. (a girl) Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Wolff, Jacksonville (a boy) and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Jimenez, 822 Garden Way, Ashland (a girl).

Footnote: The boys outweighed girls on the average. 7 pounds, 4 ounces to 6 pounds 3 ounces.