

Steel Price Increase Declared Smaller Than Last Big Boost; Up \$7.50 Per Ton

New York —(U.P.)— The steel wage boost will cost steel companies \$45,000,000 a year, Iron Age estimated today, but it noted that "producers moved almost immediately to bring their prices into line with higher wage costs."

"The increase is smaller than the last big steel price increase of July, 1948," stated the national metalworking weekly. "At that time, steelworkers got an average increase of 13 cents an hour and steel prices went up about \$10.50 per ton."

The new steel wage pact, which runs until June 30, 1956, calls for pay hikes of slightly more than 15 cents an hour.

Subsequent Increases Included

Iron Age's estimate of \$450,000,000 includes direct wage and salary boosts, as well as subsequent increases in the cost of materials and services.

To compensate for the wage rise, producers increased prices an average of \$7.50 per ton in what amounted to virtually a uniform front by the companies.

"Steel producers also face a bout with the United Mine Workers," Iron Age observed.

"The UMW chief, John L. Lewis, will be in the market soon for a healthy wage boost for his members. Steel companies employ miners in their so-called 'captive' coal mines."

Last week end's production loss, which came on the heels of the ultra-short "strike," threw the steel market into "utter confusion," said Iron Age.

"It blasted hopes of producers for bringing deliveries into line with promises any time in the near future," the publication stated. "It also opened the door to steel speculators who reap big profits when supply is short and demand long."

"Even without the shutdowns, steel consumers knew they were in for a bad time over the balance of 1955."

"The strike also will further aggravate the mills' problem of maintenance repairs which had been delayed in the interest of holding production at a high level. From now on, mills will have a tough time keeping out-

put at the near-capacity rate they would like."

Furnace Linings Hurt

Despite all precautions taken with facilities when a steel plant is closed down, "iron and steel furnace linings are hurt," Iron Age pointed out.

"Consumer inventories are short," it added. "Since early this year, many customers have been forced to buy emergency tonnages from warehouses to tide them over until mill deliveries arrive."

"Some of these warehouse orders have been more than the warehouses could conveniently handle without slighting their regular customers."

Broken Romance Blamed in Death Of LA Socialite

Los Angeles —(U.P.)— Former UCLA law student John R. Crocker Jr., 34, confessed today a broken romance with a wealthy 33-year-old Bel Air socialite caused him to stab her five times and then strangle her with a pearl-ornamented stole.

Detectives said Crocker, a former house-boy of the victim, Mrs. Norma Thompson McCauley, broke down under marathon questioning and confessed to the crime. He was booked on suspicion of murder.

Sought by Maid

Mrs. McCauley, prominent in Los Angeles social circles, was found beaten, stabbed and strangled yesterday by a maid in the bedroom of her \$50,000 Bel Air home after one of the divorcee's three small children told the maid "Mother is still sleeping."

Crocker, a Maine-born ex-sailor, was arrested in his Los Angeles apartment several hours after the crime.

"I did it," detectives quoted him as saying.

Mrs. McCauley, clad in a red and white party dress, was found sprawled across a chaise longue. Her white lace, pearl-ornamented stole was twisted around her neck tightly and at least five stab wounds were in her body.

Sought Reconciliation

Detectives said Crocker, in a "full confession," said he murdered Mrs. McCauley in trying to affect a reconciliation of their alleged romance.

Crocker said he "fell in love" with the society matron when he worked as her houseboy last year while studying law at UCLA. He said he was not the cause of Mrs. McCauley divorcing Frank McCauley last March 3. Crocker left the McCauley household last year when the victim separated from McCauley, 38, a World War II Air Force ace.

Viet Nam Troops Kill 247 Hoa Hao Rebels

Saigon, Indochina —(U.P.)— Viet Nam troops killed 247 Hoa Hao rebels and captured 160 others in a series of "violent battles" in the rugged Seven Mountains area, the army high command announced today.

The high command said that an additional 827 of the rebel warlords forces deserted to the loyal troops.

MID Water Users Set Talk on Vote

First of a series of three meetings to discuss a proposed repayment contract between the Medford Irrigation district and the federal government will be held at 8 p.m. today at the Roxy Ann Grange hall.

An election to authorize directors of the Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation districts to negotiate a 40-year contract will be held July 15. The proposed contract is with the bureau of reclamation for rehabilitation of the canal and distribution systems of the two districts.

Tonight's meeting is for water users in the eastern and northern section of the district. At 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Phoenix Grade school gymnasium a similar meeting will be held for those in the southern section, and at 8 p.m. Friday a meeting will be held at the Oak Grove school for those in the western portion.

The board of directors of the district will attend each of the meetings.

Court Records

POLICE COURT

Cecil Opal Blake, failure to stop (light), \$5.

Clinton Nelson Stiger, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Raymond McLean, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Carl Clifford Northern, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Gilbert Wayne Cooper, failure to yield right of way (pedestrian), \$10.

David Nolan Lovejoy, violation of basic rule, \$10.

John Forrest White, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Robert Orville Barton, failure to stop, (light), \$5.

Frederick G. Luper, violation of basic rule, \$5.

DISTRICT COURT

George A. Taylor, no operator's license, \$5.

Clinton F. Ayres, overload, \$50, over-length load, \$10.

Jerry Lee Neitzel, violation of basic rule, \$10.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

David Leroy Starr, 23, El Monte, Calif., and Ellen Lee Strowbridge, 19, of 818 Catherine st., Medford.

Melvin L. Mitchell, 29, of 346 Apple st., Medford, and Myrtle J. Bishop, 27, of Box 1108, Eagle Point.

Robert Lindsay Watkins, 33, of 1182 Court st., Medford, and Barbara Jean Thomas, 27, of 413 North Central ave., Medford.

CIRCUIT COURT

Anita I. Lucas vs. Clarence J. Lucas, divorce complaint.

In And Around Gold Hill

Gold Hill—Jeddah Brothers Swede Mills company of Gold Hill began the manufacturing of 24 and 28 inch gang saws last week, after completion of their building on the railroad siding site. The building is constructed of metal and wood with 5,760 square feet of floor space. The firm formerly operated a mill on Galls creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lester and family spent the holidays at their summer cabin at Diamond lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowen and two children, Peg and David, left Friday, July 1 for Portland where they visited Sunday with their daughter, Linda, at the Shrine hospital.

Linda seems to be adjusting herself to the routine of the hospital and is looking forward to the leg brace that is being made for her. The Bownes also will visit with their newly married daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Corky Lentz, who make their home at Sweet Home. They will stop at Powers, Ore., on their return trip to visit Mrs. Bowen's parents and leave their daughter Peg for a vacation with her grandparents.

Paul Throne is assisting his wife with the cooking at Lake O' Woods for the Boy Scout camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Mulkey and son Richard of Willow Ranch, Calif., have purchased the Healy home north of Gold Hill.

The Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Gear and daughter have left Gold Hill. They will serve two churches, Odell and Pinegrove, near Hood River, Ore. He had been minister at the Gold Hill Community Methodist church for the past year, coming here from Texas. He was also scout master for the Gold Hill Boy Scouts. Arriving here from Portland to take his place are the Rev. and Mrs. George Hatch.

Visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morrow and family are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Morrow from New London, Ia., also his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Don Byers, of Newton, Ia., and a niece, Joan Kaye Fye, Mt. Union, Ia.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shontz and three children of Davis, Calif., are visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Shontz, Highway 99 N.

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Weimer, San Diego, Calif., visited recently with Mrs. W. J. Riedy of the Pine Tree motel. From here

they went to Yellowstone National park.

A party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harrison, honoring their son Albert Jr., on his 12th birthday, July 4. Those who helped him celebrate were Howard Misner, David Courtland, Richard Jones, Jack Jones, Marilyn McCoy, Arlin White, Marilyn Harrison, Connie Morris, Vickie Lester, James Kendall, Davis Kendall, Charles Johnson and Frank Balch, all Gold Hill, and Jackie, Barbara and Ray Salter, Rogue River.

Youth Confesses To Smuggling Saws

Dallas, Ore. —(U.P.)— Sheriff Tony Neufeldt said today that James Eugene Smith, a 19-year-old trusty at the county jail here, had admitted smuggling hacksaw blades to three prisoners who escaped last Friday night.

Neufeldt said Smith told him he was promised a sum of money to be paid later. The sheriff said the young trusty told him he got the blades from the county courthouse basement.

Meanwhile, the three escapees who were captured in western Lane county, were bound over to a grand jury in Eugene on armed robbery charges. District Judge Kenneth Poole set bail at \$5000 apiece. One of the escapees, Alfred Peterson, asked for a preliminary hearing. The other escapees were Burton LeRoy Bryson, 20, Junction City, and Raymond Lowe, Everett, Wash.

1,000 Persons Perish In China Earthquake

Taipei, Formosa —(U.P.)— A serious earthquake which hit northwest China May 31 claimed more than 1,000 lives in the eastern part of Shensi Province, the Nationalist Chinatown News Agency reported today. The belated dispatch said the quake was one of the worst since the Chinese Communists took over the mainland more than five years ago.

SOVIETS END CONGRESS

London —(U.P.)— The Soviet Union and its European satellites concluded an "atoms for peace" congress in Moscow Tuesday. Moscow Radio quoted Soviet scientists as saying the congress has been "very informative."

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