

Recommended

Feature stories on the election scheduled Friday by Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation districts, and on the opening of the YMCA summer camp at Diamond lake, appear on Page 12 of today's issue of The Mail Tribune.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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WEATHER

FORECAST: Fairly cloudy and cool Sunday; increasing clouds and heavy rain Monday and Tuesday; high today 75; low tonight 54; high Monday about 75.

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FURNITURE FIRM FIRE DAMAGE TOPS \$100,000

Speech by President Expected To Outline U.S. Aims at Geneva

Washington (U.P.)—President Eisenhower will voice his hope for accomplishment toward world peace at the Big Four Conference in an address to the nation Friday night shortly before leaving for Geneva.

Mayor Disappointed By Defeat of Two Measures by Voters

Mayor Earl Miller said Saturday he was "very disappointed" residents in about 3,000 acres east, south and west of Medford rejected Medford's invitation of annexation, and was "disturbed and shocked" that Medford residents defeated a proposed city budget \$66,510 over the 6 per cent limitation.

hopes and yet warn the Reds against expecting appeasement. After Paris Session The speech will be made after Secretary of State John Foster Dulles meets in Paris earlier the same day with British Foreign Secretary Harold MacMillan and French Foreign Minister Antoine Pinay.

The President will talk from 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. (PST) over all television and radio networks and then will take off for Geneva at 10:30 p.m. (EDT) aboard the Presidential plane, the Columbine. He will arrive there at about 4 p.m. (EDT) Saturday.

In announcing the broadcast, the White House said Saturday the President "will indicate some of the world problems he expects to come under discussion in the conference and describing his hopes for accomplishment there."



NEAR END OF BLAZE—By 7 p.m. Friday, the Medford Furniture store fire was mostly under control. A small portion of the huge crowd is shown above, as well as the some thousands of feet of hose which were in use. At right, the aerial ladder truck is shown pouring water on the fire from above. At one time 12 streams of water were in play on the blaze, creating a big volume of water on the upper floor, some of which can be seen cascading out the front door of the store, creating a gutter-high pool.—(Brainard photo).

SECOND FLOOR OF BUILDING GUTTED

A spectacular fire gutted the second floor of the Medford Furniture store building Friday evening, causing damage unofficially estimated at well in excess of \$100,000.

The blaze, which was reported at 4:24 p.m., caused one of the worst traffic snarls in Medford's history as rush-hour traffic was tied up.

All Firemen Out Every available fireman was called out, and off-duty police officers were summoned to help control the traffic and the crowds of onlookers, totalling in the thousands.

Two firemen were overcome by smoke early during the two-hour blaze. Both returned to the job as soon as they had recovered. A volunteer fireman, Frank Lear, was taken to a hospital to have stitches taken in a cut on his hand.

Dense clouds of acrid black and yellow smoke billowed up from the fire, at the corner of Bartlett and Sixth sts., for almost two hours. It was visible for miles, and residents of the Old Military rd. west of here said the rising flames could be seen from there.

Businessmen in the block, including John Moffat, principal owner and manager of Mann's Department store, spent the two hours of the fire on the roofs of their establishments, stamping out sparks and wetting them down with garden hoses.

At the height of the fire, as many as 12 separate streams of high-pressure water were counted pouring in to the building, creating a tremendous weight of water on the second floor which "almost miraculously" held up. The street was gutter-high in water at one time.

Damage to the downstairs portion was confined to water and smoke damage, except in one small area where mattresses were burned. Much of the furniture was moved before the fire gained headway. The Wakefield Drapery shop, on the second floor, was a total loss. Younger Appliance company next door sustained some smoke and water damage, but was untouched by flames. Newberry's was protected by a firewall and no damage there was reported.

Most of the clerks in the stores of the block were evacuated because of the smoke which swirled around the area.

Two or more air lines planes circled the business district several times during the blaze, apparently to allow their passengers to get a "bird's eye view" of the fire.

The worst of the blaze was out by 7 p.m., leaving scattered small flames and embers to be mopped up during the night by firemen. On-duty men stayed throughout the night, while off-duty men were sent back to get some sleep. Theirs was the job Saturday of cleaning up equipment, drying hoses and completing inventories.

Thirteen on-duty firemen, 19 off-duty men, 11 volunteers and the fire chief and fire marshal were at the blaze. A number of non-firemen assisted in hauling hoses and other tasks. Three or four men from the water department and several from other city departments also assisted, Chief Barker said.

Central Point Stands By As most of the Medford equipment was in service, a call to Central Point brought equipment from there which stood by at the main fire station. In addition, hose was loaned by the Central Point department.

California Oregon Power company men arrived shortly after firemen to cut off power from live wires which dropped from the building.

As the fire came under control, firemen were served with coffee through the cooperation of downtown business people, including Snider's dairy across the street.

Traffic, heavy at that hour, was snarled as fire equipment came to the scene, and was tied up further as traffic lights went off temporarily as switches were cut. All available policemen, deputy sheriffs and some state officers cooperated in setting up traffic by-passes which got the flow going again.

Manager and part owner of the store is Robert Rector, 200 Valley View dr. The firm is one of the largest of Medford's retail establishments.

It was understood Saturday that plans are being made to rebuild the 33-year-old building, which is owned by William Hansen.

Three Turncoats Reach Hong Kong In Good Spirits

Hong Kong, Sunday (U.P.)—Three American turncoat GI's returned to the free world today after a disillusioning year-and-one-half in Communist China.

The dishonorably discharged soldiers crossed the border into this British crown colony at 2:12 p.m.

In China 18 Months The three former prisoners of war had gone behind the Bamboo Curtain at the end of the Korean War rather than return home. After 18 months they said they had had enough and asked permission to leave, even though they face possible prison sentences in the United States for collaborating with the enemy during the war.

The three are William A. Cowart, 22, of Dalton, Ga., Otho G. Bell, 24, of Hillsboro, Miss., and Olympia, Wash., and Lewis W. Griggs of Neches, Tex.

They were met at the border by Immigration department officers who took them to Hong Kong.

The men seemed happy as they crossed the border from Red China.

The three, who had been given permission by the Communist Chinese to leave, all were smiling when they arrived.

Three Cross Border Bell was the first across the border. He wore a cheap foreign suit. Cowart came next, wearing black boots, white trousers and a white shirt with no tie. Then came Griggs, carrying a small bundle on his shoulder.

British officials immediately informed the three that they could not stay in Hong Kong indefinitely.

American officials are expected to issue one-way passports to the men, allowing them to proceed only to the United States. (See Story on Page 6)



DESTRUCTION SHOWN—The picture above, Friday afternoon fire. The picture was taken from the roof of the next-door Newberry's store. (Other fire pictures on Page 13). —(Brainard photo)

Fisherman Admits Sending Out Series of Fake SOS Messages

Mineola, N. Y. (U.P.)—A 21-year-old fisherman said Saturday he was "showing off a little too much" when he became a 20th century "boy who cried wolf" by sending out a fake SOS that launched a \$50,000, 30-hour air and sea search for a nonexistent sinking boat carrying 21 imaginary men.

A government spokesman charged the hoax could have resulted in "a great many deaths."

Thomas Maldona, admitted he sent a series of dramatic messages calling for help but blamed it all on too many beers.

His skills as a radio operator brought out five boats, three airplanes and 150 men on a 4,000-square-mile Atlantic ocean goose chase.

"Sure I knew what I was doing," Maldona said. "I want to show my pal a radio. I guess I was showing off a little too much."

"We had a couple of beers. That's what did it."

Later in the day, another possible hoax sent air and sea units searching a 1,200 mile area in the Atlantic off Savannah, Ga., for a "tug" that allegedly sent a distress signal. The Coast Guard called off the search for the tug "Betsy Lee" four hours later "for lack of further information."

Picked Up Message Marine operators in South Carolina and Florida picked up the "Betsy Lee's" distress message at 11 a.m. Nothing else was heard from the ship and no evidence was found of a sinking at sea. Also, no tug named the Betsy Lee was known to be operating in the area.

Celebration of Centennial May Be 'Little World Fair'

Portland (U.P.)—Oregon's 1959 Centennial celebration may take the form of a regional "Little World's Fair" at Portland if recommendations released Saturday by Stanford Research Institute are followed.

The institute said in its report to Gov. Paul Patterson and the 40-member Centennial committee that a regional fair would cost about \$15,000,000 and should draw 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 visitors in its 120 to 150 days of life.

The research group estimated that fair crowds would spend at least \$20,000,000 on the grounds and another \$40,000,000 in Portland and other Oregon cities.

To make the fair financially feasible, the report warned, it should be tied into the new \$8,000,000 Portland exposition-recreation center and should be heavily supported by city, county and state interests.

Tree Assessment Meeting Monday

Members of the Jackson county board of equalization will go to Salem Monday to confer with state tax commission officials concerning assessment of orchard and shade trees.

The board was to have met with the commission Friday but the conference was postponed by the state group.

Board members including County Judge Rodney Keating, Ralph Cook and Arnold Bohnert are to leave by plane for Salem Monday morning.

Discussion will concern the recent commission order instructing the board to assess trees in the county and have them on the tax rolls by Aug. 15.

Saigon, Indochina (U.P.)—Counter-attacking Laotian paratroops Saturday reported they had recaptured "many" positions seized by the Communists in the eastern jungles of the Southeast Asian Kingdom.

White Trial Set To Start Monday

The trial of Bernice Hampton (Tex) White, 37, of 228 Harley rd., is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow in circuit court. White is charged of first degree murder in the death of Eugene Raymond Birk, 32, Phoenix.

Birk died in an Ashland hospital last March from head injuries. White is charged with striking Birk with a two-by-four piece of lumber.

The trial has been delayed pending rulings on various defense motions and because White was hospitalized following an emergency appendectomy shortly after he was jailed.

Six Persons Drowned In San Joaquin River

Modesto, Calif. (U.P.)—Six persons—including two infants—were swept to their deaths Saturday beneath the swollen waters of the San Joaquin river in a tragic human chain.

Sheriff's deputies at the scene some 12 miles west of here said the victims, members of two Decoto, Calif., families, were pulled under the swift, muddy waters at an isolated bathing area when the children lost their footing.

The victims were identified as Trino Hernandez Ramirez, 26; his two children, Peter, 3, and Mary, 2; and three sisters, Gloria Villa, 7, Henrietta Villa, 15, and Santos Villa, 18.

By midafternoon only two of the bodies had not been recovered, those of Peter and Santos.

Polio Foundation Foe Fined on Mail Charge

Miami, Fla. (U.P.)—A long-time foe of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has been fined \$1000 in federal court here for sending scurrilous matter through the mail.

Duon H. Miller attacked the foundation by mailing out matter under his Polio Prevention Inc. The organization was fined an additional \$250 fine.

Judge Emmett C. Choate placed Miller on probation for two years and barred him from mailing out material dealing with medical questions.

Siskiyou County Suffers Worst Drought in Years

Yreka, Calif. (U.P.)—Siskiyou county is suffering its worst drought in 55 years, county farm adviser M. V. Maxwell said Saturday.

Letter by Einstein Warns World of A-Weapon Danger

London (U.P.)—Albert Einstein joined posthumously with seven other scientists Saturday to warn that the human race stands "in imminent danger of perishing agonizingly" unless peaceful means are found for settling all world disputes.

The warning was disclosed at a press conference held by Bertrand Russell, world-famed philosopher and long-time friend of Einstein.

The statement said it was not enough merely to outlaw nuclear weapons, but that war itself must be renounced if the world is to survive.

Letter by Einstein Warns World of A-Weapon Danger

was one of Einstein's last acts. Einstein's theory of relatively unlocked the secret that opened the way to manufacture of the atomic bomb.

Before his death at Princeton, N. J., last April 18, he frequently had voiced his regret that a discovery of his had led to one of the most fearful of all weapons of mass destruction.

Must Renounce War The statement said it was not enough merely to outlaw nuclear weapons, but that war itself must be renounced if the world is to survive.

Five of the statement's signers were Nobel prize winners. Signing of the plea for world peace

Sports Bulletin

Washington Cheney Studs dumped the Medford Cheney Studs 9 to 2 here last night. The Washington nine collected only four hits but three were for extra bases and they combined them with errors, walks, sacrifices, a wild pitch and stolen bases for runs.

Jack Cooney tripled for Medford in the fifth frame and scored on a wild pitch. He got on base on an error in the ninth and tallied on Derald Wooton's safety. Terry Maddox socked the only other Medford hit off Pitcher Ron Geiger who struck out 14.

Moscow (U.P.)—Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin Saturday promised a speedy reply to Britain's proposal to give the Soviets guarantees against aggression to ally Russian fears of a free and united Germany.