

COUNTY FOREST FIRES 'BLOW UP'

ORCHARDS HIT BY HIGH WIND; SOME LOSSES SERIOUS

A cyclonic-type windstorm Sunday blew about a two-mile-wide path through pear and peach orchards between Medford and Phoenix extensively damaging isolated orchards, according to reports from orchardists and county agents.

C. D. Cordy, county horticultural agent, said damage will be spotted, and will vary from nothing up to as much as 65 per cent of the pear crop. He said damage would range between 10 and 25 per cent in many areas and some orchards.

Serious To Some Growers

The damage, he said, is "definitely serious to growers affected," and that in some cases losses will not be made up. He added, however, that in some cases "where orchards suffered

15 to 20 per cent losses, remaining fruit will increase in size and make up some damage loss.

Bear Creek orchard officials said they suffered some loss, but no estimate of the damage had been fully determined today.

The storm apparently moved from west to east through the Phoenix area south of Medford, and little damage was reported east of Phoenix.

A spokesman for Crystal Springs orchard said there was no wind in Talent or south of Phoenix, and that there was little or no wind east of Phoenix. The storm did not affect orchards in the Eagle Point or Central Point areas, he indicated.

10 Per Cent Losses

Crystal Orchards officials said losses in two of their orchards west of Phoenix would be about 10 per cent, but anxious damage would be less than 10 per cent.

Several orchards in the area had come pears on the ground in orchards which had been picked once. Other trees lost between 20 and 25 per cent of its fruit during the storm.

Unofficial reports today listed one orchard in the general area as losing about 10,000 boxes, and another report listed one orchard as losing two-thirds of its fruit.

Paul Culbertson, who owns orchards in the west Phoenix area, said his orchards also were damaged Sunday, and a strong wind in the Jacksonville area late yesterday afternoon damaged an orchard on Old Stage rd.

Several other orchards in the Old Stage rd. area also sustained in yesterday's isolated wind, he said. Yesterday's wind blew about a third of the remaining fruit to the ground in Culbertson's orchard, he said.

Reports indicated that no pears were blown down, but some peach trees in the wind's path suffered extensive damage. Peaches in the Phoenix area were damaged Sunday.

The storm, which apparently contained no rain or hail, felled a large tree at 1894 Orchard Home dr.

The Medford fire department sent a pumper to 511 King st. Sunday to check an electric wire which had blown down and was shorting causing sparks. Fire men reported no damage.

Arson Possibility Eyed in Idaho Fires

Kellogg, Ida. — (U.P.) — Firemen studied the possibility of arson today in two blazes which caused about \$200,000 damage to a lumber yard, a warehouse and several private homes.

Fire Chief Bill Linhart said the fires yesterday were the worst in 20 years in the city. No one was injured.

The blaze in the Kellogg Lumber Company broke out about 5:30 a.m. A large number of sheds housing its lumber supply were destroyed but part of the yard was saved.

As firemen were controlling that blaze, a fire broke out in the Robinson Motor Company warehouse two blocks away from the lumber yard. Ten cars, two buses and a quantity of tires were destroyed.

Two Held in Theft Of Bonneville Wire

Portland — (U.P.) — Two ex-convicts accused of stealing six tons of copper wire from the Bonneville Power Administration here were ordered held today for federal authorities.

Walter Clyde McClure, 35, Portland, was caught red-handed Sunday as he attempted to drive out of the Bonneville yards on North Tuttle road with his specially-rebuilt truck loaded with six tons of wire.

Officers later picked up Frank Louis Brambora, 30, Portland, on suspicion that he was McClure's accomplice.

Although Brambora did not name his partner, he gave detectives an account of how he entered the yard earlier and cut and rolled the wire before it was picked up by the truck.

Salem — (U.P.) — Oregon congressman Walter Norblad has asked the Coast Guard to investigate safety regulations at the mouth of the Columbia river, where drownings occurred recently while salmon fishing derbies were in progress.

50th Year

MEDFORD



22 Pages

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TRAPPED BY SHIFTING winds, four fire fighters are killed in flaring brush fire at La Habra, Cal., near Los Angeles. Ambulance drivers prepare to remove the bodies of two victims. Eleven others were injured in blaze that blackened 700 acres. (International)

STATE ACCIDENTS KILL 20

Traffic Accounts For Seven Deaths; Five Die in Water

By UNITED PRESS

At least 20 persons met death in Oregon in a variety of violent accidents over the long Labor Day holiday week end that began at 6 p.m. Friday.

Traffic mishaps led the holiday death parade, claiming seven lives. Five persons died by drowning; two in fires; four in logging accidents; one in a fall and one in a train mishap.

The latest highway victim was Jackie Eugene Fenimore, 22, Klamath Falls. He was killed instantly last night and three of his teen-aged riders were injured when his car careened wildly off the road 15 miles east of Klamath Falls.

A swimming accident claimed the life of Forest De Hart, 23, of Tillamook.

Martin Joseph Hilburn, 25, of

By UNITED PRESS

A final United Press tabulation today showed that 443 persons, lost their lives in Labor Day week end traffic accidents, 43 more than predicted by the National Safety Council. The worst highway carnage was in California where 44 were killed. In addition to the traffic deaths, United Press counted 73 deaths by drowning, 10 in plane crashes and 66 from a variety of accidents for an overall holiday toll of 592. (Sleece)

Barkdale, Ore., was killed near Grants Pass when his car went into a ditch after skidding 150 feet along the highway shoulder.

Yesterday afternoon, Donald Westover, 21, of Springfield, was believed drowned while water skiing in Fern Ridge lake.

Other late week end fatalities involved woods accidents. Two men, Ed Wilkie, about 38, and Todd Deffenbacher, 38, were killed yesterday when a tree fell on the pickup truck in which they were sitting.

Snag Kills Boy

Ten-year-old Robert Hughley was killed when a 40-foot snag his father was felling toppled on him on the Burgoyne ranch about three miles from Riddle.

A brush and timber fire near Seneca in northeastern Oregon took the life of 38-year-old Elwood Jackson of Baker.

Killed in highway accidents were Donald Hovgaard, 25, Cascade Locks; John C. Hopkins, 21, Portland; James P. Twohy, 43, Portland; Ambrose Hopkins, 63, Marcola, and Frank Leo Popham, Portland.

Killed in other drownings were Jimmy Bones, 18 months, Turner; Uno Edobolom, 40, Tienan, Ore., and Arthur Brawand, 23, Portland.

Charles R. Scott, 70, Portland, who was rescued from an apartment fire which killed his wife, died Sunday at Good Samaritan hospital of burns suffered in the blaze. His wife, Marian, 40, was dead when firemen broke into their locked and burning apartment early Saturday.

Patricia Ann Trute, 24, Portland, was killed when she fell from a cliff at the Oregon coast Saturday.

Raymond Hatch, 39, Springfield, was killed when he was struck by a train at Springfield.

Red China Releases 9 American Citizens

Geneva — (U.P.) — Communist China announced today it has granted exit permits to nine Americans "who may now depart" for their homeland, and is ready to free two others when they ask to leave.

A 12th American will be permitted to leave in two or three months when his business affairs are cleaned up.

The Reds also announced that three other persons, one believed to be a Dutchman, will be allowed to leave the China mainland immediately.

Release Demanded

Chinese Ambassador to Poland Wang Ping-ming made the disclosure when he met this morning to discuss with U. S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia U. Alexis Johnson the exchange of nationals of each other's country.

The Americans to be freed are part of a group of 41 known to

be in Communist hands and whose release has been demanded by the U. S. government.

To Meet Saturday

A communique issued after Wang and Johnson met for two and a half hours and then adjourned until next Saturday said the nine Americans had applied for and been granted exit permits.

It said two other Americans, identified as Bishop James Edward Walsh and Mrs. Peter Hui-zer, had not yet applied for permits but could have them upon request.

The communique also said that another American, identified as Charles Sydney Miner, could leave Red China "when the affairs of the company with which he is connected are cleared up."

Chinese officials listed the Americans to be freed as:

Miss Emma Angelina Barry, Ralph Sharples Boyd, Mrs. Juanita Byrd Hwang, Robert Howard Parker, Howard Lischke Ricks, Miss Eva Stella Dugay (Sister Theresa), Mrs. Nadeshda M. Romanoff, Miss Irene N. Romanoff.

Burglary Series Believed Solved

A series of burglaries in Jackson, Klamath and Siskiyou counties was believed solved today by the arrest of two midland, Ore., men, according to state police here.

Arrested were Donald Neil Chinn, 25, and Charles Edgar Howell, 31, both of Midland, which is south of Klamath Falls.

State police said the pair have admitted seven burglaries committed at various places on Highway 66, between Ashland and Klamath Falls, and six in Siskiyou county. Loot taken in the 13 burglaries included guns, money, and household furnishings, and was valued at about \$2,500.

Local officers were to meet with Siskiyou county authorities today in Klamath Falls in an effort to recover some of the loot.

Disarmament Talks Enter Second Week

United Nations, N.Y. — (U.P.) — The West today begins the second week of disarmament talks with Russia with little hope that the Soviets will give a definite answer to President Eisenhower's military inspection plan.

The five-nation United Nations disarmament subcommittee resumes secret discussions after a four-day holiday week end.

President Eisenhower's plan for aerial and ground inspection coupled with an exchange of detailed military information between the United States and Russia, was expected to get detailed discussion.

Huge Blaze Rages On Klamath River North From Yreka

More Men Needed To Combat Fires

Yreka — A 20,000 to 30,000 acre forest fire was burning out of control in the Humboldt creek area, about 20 miles northwest of here today.

The blaze was so big that Klamath National forest officials could not accurately estimate its size.

More Men Needed

Some 800 men, including San Quentin prison convicts, were fighting the fire, and more were urgently needed. Klamath National forest officials this morning said "We definitely need more men." "Any man able to work and who owns a pair of boots" was being asked to report to U. S. Forest service's warehouse just south of Yreka.

The blaze, which is being called the "Haystack fire," jumped the Klamath river yesterday afternoon, starting at about Riverside school. This morning, the smoke was so dense that lookouts were reporting a zero visibility.

Protect Buildings

Tankers from state and U. S. forest protective agencies and from the city of Yreka were standing by to protect all major buildings. Many cabins, a good share of them unoccupied, already have burned, and people are being warned to evacuate their homes as soon as possible throughout the fire area.

Five major fires were burning in Siskiyou county today. Forest officials said it is impossible to estimate how many men are working the blazes. Two helicopters have been called in to help direct fire fighting operations.

Lymond Posts Bail; CAA To Get Report

William George Lymond, 31, of Seattle, Wash., posted \$30 bail Sunday morning and was charged in district court today with being drunk on public highway. He is to appear tomorrow and enter a plea.

Lymond was arrested last Saturday night by state police on Highway 99 south of Talent. Lymond had wandered to the highway after a light plane he was piloting crashed on a small hill south and west of Talent.

The plane was only slightly damaged, and Lymond was uninjured. State police said Lymond apparently was on a flight from Seattle to Redding, Calif. The plane was reported missing earlier Saturday night.

Civil Aeronautics administration safety agent Carl Christensen of Medford said he has investigated the case, and will file a report with the regional office in Seattle. Action by the CAA could result in loss of license in addition to a civil penalty.

Smog, Sticky Heat Bother Los Angeles

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Smothering smog combined with sticky heat today to provide the city with one of its worst weather blows in history.

At least 60 deaths during the seven-day heat wave were blamed by the coroner's office either directly or indirectly on the high temperatures.

The temperatures hit at least 100 degrees in the city for the seventh straight day today at 1:20 p.m. when 100 was recorded. Top mark in the heat wave was the 110 degrees, an all-time high, last Thursday.

The smog reached the first level alert stage in the county and authorities banned all backyard burning. Industries were urged to stop their burning activities voluntarily.

Much of the committee's work will involve a study of the present Oregon Corrupt Practices act, particularly as it deals with reporting expenditures by candidates for public office and political committees.

Two bills providing for reporting financial contributions and expenditures both before and after election were introduced in the 1955 session but each died in committee. A resolution providing for an interim study of the entire subject of Oregon's election laws was passed.

10,000 Acres Hit As Flames Sweep Over Timberland Heat, Drought Create Explosive Situation

One of the most explosive forest fire situations in the history of Jackson and Siskiyou counties "blew up" yesterday.

More than 50 fires, some of them driven by gale force winds, had roared over nearly 10,000 acres of timberland by this morning in Jackson county alone. An estimated 1,000 men were fighting the fires, and more were being called in from other sections of the state.

In Siskiyou county, officials of Klamath National forest, estimated that raging fires by this morning had covered 30,000 to 40,000 acres of first class timberland.

Several Hundred Men Fight Fire

Largest fire in Jackson county is on the Sykes creek drainage north of Rogue River, where several hundred men are battling a 4,500 acre blaze.

Ted Maul, district forester for the State Forest department, said this morning that the Sykes creek fire "is nowhere near being controlled." Shortly after noon, however, crews reportedly were

The Medford area went into its sixth consecutive day of near-100 degree temperatures today, with only slight relief in sight. The five-day forecast is for little or no rain in western Oregon.

Temperatures at the Medford weather bureau since the first of the month have been 88 degrees on Sept. 1 and 2, 102 on Sept. 3, a record breaking 107 on Sept. 4, and 101 yesterday. (The previous record highs for early September were in 1923 and 1934, when 104 degrees was registered on the 6th and 2nd of the month, respectively. Other early-September highs of over 100 were registered in 1931, 1935, 1938, 1943, 1944 and 1948, ranging from 101 to 103 between the 2nd to the 16th of the month.)

High for today was forecast at 95, and tomorrow's high was expected to be between 95 and 98 degrees.

Medford weather bureau officials said this morning that more thunderstorms are expected this afternoon, mostly in the higher mountains. There will be gusty winds in the vicinity of the storms.

The base of the few clouds which have formed in this area during the past few days has been at from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, the weather bureau said. Because the air between the ground and the base of the clouds has been extremely dry, any rain which falls evaporates before hitting the ground.

Low humidities in Jackson county have ranged from 18 to 20 since Sunday, according to the weather bureau. Any reading of 20 or below is considered to be critical for forest fires. Continued low afternoon humidities are expected for the next few days, the weather bureau said.

gaining ground in the battle. The blaze started from a sawdust pile and spread rapidly before a high wind. "I've never seen anything as explosive," Maul said.

Sixty volunteers responded to a radio request for aid this morning and were sent to the Sykes creek fire by county Civil Defense officials. The county disaster car was standing by, and the Jackson county Red Cross planned to send a mobile canteen unit to the fire this afternoon.

The Medford Civil Air patrol unit has several men in the Sykes creek area, and has an observer plane standing by waiting for any improvement in visibility over the fire.

No Homes Destroyed

County Commissioner L. G. (Shy) Morthland telephoned from Wimer shortly after noon today to report on the Sykes creek fire battle. Food supplies are not yet a problem in the area, he said. No homes have been destroyed. Civil defense personnel are assisting the fire fighters of whom there are between 400 and 500 at work.

He said the principal difficulty is sightseers, who are clogging the roads. While the road is open, he said it would be dangerous to go beyond Wimer, where the road is narrow and equipment is at work clearing fire debris.

The situation on a fire on Blackwell hill, which covered about 1,500 acres, was termed "not too bad" this morning. The fire was started yesterday at about 3 p.m. when high winds blew down a tree, which fell across power lines.

Families Evacuated

The fire forced evacuation of families from their homes on both sides of the Rogue river, and state police and officials of Central Point rural fire district said this morning that five houses were believed to have burned. Names of the owners were not available.

Medford city fire department dispatched a rural pumper to the Blackwell hill fire at about 7:45 p.m. Monday at the request of Dick Krupp, chief of the Central Point rural department, which was in service throughout the night. The truck was released from the fire shortly after 3 a.m. today.

Trucks, pickups and trailers from all parts of the valley responded to a state police request for vehicles to aid in the evacuation.

Consolidated Freightways in Medford sent 10 trucks, and many other trucking firms and private parties aided. State police officers stood by to aid in the evacuation and to prevent looting.

Sheriff's deputies and state police blocked off roads leading into the fire area, but large numbers of sightseers hampered the evacuation workers and fire fighters throughout the early hours of the blaze.

Station Closes Down

Television station KBES-TV went off the air when its transmitter atop Blackwell hill became so filled with smoke that the technician could no longer work.

The station was planning to return to the air at the regular time today. It was off from mid-evening on Monday, after fire surrounded the transmitter and burned two buildings, the pump house and tank building, and put an overload on the air conditioning equipment.

One of the power poles carrying electricity to the transmitter partially burned last night, and the station was taken off the air because of the danger of losing transmitting equipment. Chief Technician Bill Smith, Technician Donald Berch, and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Faber were at the transmitter when fire surrounded it, and all were cut off from the outside for about 45 minutes.

Faber, vice-president of the TV firm, said the technical crew worked most of the night getting the equipment back in shape.

Timber Mountain Fire

A third large fire is in the vicinity of Timber mountain, west of Jacksonville, and near the Jacksonville reservoir. By this morning it had burned over 2,500 acres. Some 200 men, with eight bulldozers and several pumping units, hoped to trail the fire by noon today, but Maul said "whether we can hold it is problematical."

A garage belonging to E. C. (Jerry) Jerome on the Old Stage rd. burned last night. Cause of the fire was unknown, but it may have been from burning embers blown in from the Timber mountain blaze. It was a complete loss, reports indicated. Jerome lost another garage just 11 months ago.

A fire on Nugget butte, about half mile north of Gold Hill, which was believed under control Saturday night, blew out in a high wind yesterday and covered some 100 acres. It was controlled this morning, but here again, there was a question as to whether it could be held in check.

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