

EUGENE INCIDENTS BATTLE HIGH WATER

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

50th Year 28 Pages MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1955 Price 5c No. 233

17 Persons Killed as Airliner Crashes on Landing in Florida



HELD IN EXTORTION PLOT—William Clarence Peddicord (left), 38-year-old blind father of five children who once won national praise for his courage, confessed to Portland, Ore. police that he bombed the Meier and Frank Department store last April 15 in a \$50,000 extortion plot. He implicated his sister-in-law, Joyce Keller, 28, shown at right with Detective Del Sanders, as his "eyes." Both were booked on a charge of injury to persons and properties by explosives. Bond for each was set at \$75,000.

Plane Explodes; Bodies Charred By Gas-Fed Fire

Jacksonville, Fla. — (U.P.) — Seventeen persons were carried to sudden death early today in an Eastern Airlines Constellation that crashed and exploded almost in the back yards of residences bordering Municipal airport here. All aboard the Miami to New York plane — 12 passengers and five crew members — were charred beyond recognition by gasoline-fed flames that seared the 199-yard bulldozing path of the stricken aircraft. There was also a body on the plane being shipped to New York. The passengers were en route to Washington, New York and Boston. The plane was coming into the Jacksonville airport for a routine instrument landing. Cause of the crash was unexplained. John Ingle, local EAL manager, said that one of many rumors and reports that "undoubtedly will be checked" came from an unidentified airlines pilot who said the sound of jet planes was heard in the vicinity just before the crash. The Jacksonville control tower said it had no contact with any other planes at the time. The four-engine plane was on air coach service and an airlines official in Miami said this just happened to be a slack pre-Christmas week for north-bound flights. Any other week the plane probably would have carried up to 60 passengers. Concerning current business, the Ford company disclosed that dealers' stocks of Fords and Mercurys have increased and that "there have been reductions in production and in future production schedules." "Rapid changes in demand can occur in the industry," the company said "and plans for future production are subject to continuous review and to frequent revision upward or downward as circumstances require." The financial report covered the 10 years as required by law, through the first nine months of 1955. It disclosed that the company suffered net losses in 1946 of \$8,100,000. Thereafter, however, the company made fat profits, although there was a sag in 1951 and 1952. Output hit a record high for the firm in the first nine months of 1955. For that period the net was \$312,200,000, higher by \$84,400,000 than the profit for all of 1954, the richest previous year. (See Story on Page 9)

Pair Bound Over To Grand Jury in Meier-Frank Plot

Portland — (U.P.) — William Clarence Peddicord, 38, and Mrs. Joyce Keller, 28, yesterday were bound over to a Multnomah county grand jury, accused of the bombing of Meier and Frank Co., store here last April. The two waived preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge J. J. Quillan. Judge Quillan reduced bail from \$75,000 to \$25,000 on each of the accused.

Ford Reports Profit Of \$1,536,800,000 From 1946 To Sept. 30

Washington — (U.P.) — The Ford Motor Co., in its first public prospectus in 52 years, today reported net profits of \$1,536,800,000 from 1946 through Sept. 30. These disclosures were made in a 39-page prospectus covering Ford Foundation plans to sell 10,200,000 shares of common stock in the first public offering of Ford securities in the firm's history. The stock, biggest corporate offering ever made, is expected to go on sale some time next month for about \$75 a share. The actual time and price will be disclosed later. Par value will be \$50 a share. The Ford earnings report was made in a registration statement, a necessary corollary of the stock offering, to the Securities and Exchange commission. It showed that current earnings are at the rate of \$5.85 a share. Cumulative earnings since 1946 have been second in the auto industry only to General Motors. The company used this prospectus as a vehicle for disclosing that it plans to introduce a new line of passenger automobiles "within the next few years." It did not describe the line or say what market it will be aimed at. Concerning current business, the Ford company disclosed that dealers' stocks of Fords and Mercurys have increased and that "there have been reductions in production and in future production schedules." "Rapid changes in demand can occur in the industry," the company said "and plans for future production are subject to continuous review and to frequent revision upward or downward as circumstances require." The financial report covered the 10 years as required by law, through the first nine months of 1955. It disclosed that the company suffered net losses in 1946 of \$8,100,000. Thereafter, however, the company made fat profits, although there was a sag in 1951 and 1952. Output hit a record high for the firm in the first nine months of 1955. For that period the net was \$312,200,000, higher by \$84,400,000 than the profit for all of 1954, the richest previous year. (See Story on Page 9)

Dr. Bartels Chosen President of Staff

Dr. B. Brandt Bartels was re-elected president of the staff doctors of Sacred Heart hospital at an annual banquet Monday evening at hospital dining rooms. Dr. O. R. Emig was re-elected vice-president and Dr. L. D. Inskip was re-elected secretary. Sisters of the hospital were hostesses, and physicians presented them an album of recordings. Tables were decorated with baskets of holly and poinsettias. Several physicians spoke on medicine and hospitals.

Jordan in Uneasy Truce; Christmas Curfew Lifted

Amman, Jordan — (U.P.) — Uneasy peace returned today to riot-torn Jordan and the new caretaker government lifted the Christmas week curfew in the little town of Bethlehem where Christ was born. Caretaker Premier Ibrahim Hashem soothed the populace that had risen in inflamed mobs and stormed the American and French consulates in Jerusalem yesterday and burned their flags. He promised national elections to determine whether Jordan shall join the Baghdad pact "northern tier" alliance against Communist aggression. The issue caused five days of bloody riots by anti-pact Arabs throughout the country. Lifting of the dusk to dawn curfew at Bethlehem assured Christmas services for pilgrims in the town. Planeloads of pilgrims were arriving at heavily guarded Amman, the capital of Jordan, for Christmas ceremonies. The 75-year-old Premier, appointed yesterday by young King Hussein, ordered shuttered schools to reopen. Civil servants were told to return to work. Hussein issued a royal decree formally naming Hashem as Premier and naming former Premier Fawzi El Mulki as defense and education minister.

Bulletin

Ellensburg, Wash. — (U.P.) — An airline pilot's report that he saw a fire burning in the Teanaway river country northeast of Cle Elum, Wash., spurred hope today that Sgt. J. H. Horan, a missing paratrooper might still be alive and awaiting rescue in the rugged, snow-covered Cascade mountains. Missionaries Leave For Philippine Hospital Hong Kong — (U.P.) — Dr. and Mrs. Homer Bradshaw, weak and ill after nearly five years in Communist prisons, left for a U.S. Air Force hospital in the Philippines today under the care of two doctors and a nurse.



RUSH TAPERING OFF—Crowds of Medford residents still swarmed into the Medford post office Tuesday for last-minute mailing of packages, although the height of the rush was reached Monday. Post office personnel believe this year's volume of Christmas mail will again set a new record here. —(Brainerd photo)

Local Post Office Handles Peak Load Of Christmas Mail

Workers at the Medford post office will testify that not all Christmas presents are delivered by Santa Claus and his reindeer. The local post office handled about 600 mail sacks per day full of incoming parcel post Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Total weight of packages handled each day was about 15 tons. "Splendid" Cooperation Postmaster Moore Hamilton said the department has received "splendid" cooperation from the people of Medford in early mailing of Christmas cards and packages and by dividing mail into bundles marked "local" and "out of town." Postmen recently distributed red and white labels to be fastened on bundles of Christmas cards, designating local and out of town distribution. More Cancellations The post office had 97,800 cancellations Monday, the peak day, including parcel post. Only 85,230 cancellations were made last year at the peak of the Christmas season. Incoming mail is as heavy as it was last year, Hamilton said. The post office has employed 27 persons as temporary help for distribution of Christmas mail. To make possible the delivery of parcel post packages, the post office has borrowed 13 trucks from other local government agencies. Most parcel post is processed and delivered the same day it is received in the post office.

Council Schedules Hearing On Proposed Parking Program Here

A public hearing will be held by the Medford city council at its Jan. 17 meeting to sound out public sentiment toward a municipal off-street parking program. John G. Crawford, chairman of the citizens off-street parking committee, told the council last night there are three proposed sources of revenue to pay for such a plan. The first would be assessments against property owners' down town, based on benefits from off-street parking. Increased Fees He said other merchants would contribute their share through increased business license fees, adjusted on a "more equitable" basis, which would compensate for parking meter revenue used for a public off-street parking area. The third source, Crawford said, would be the money from parking meters in the municipal lots. Councilman Donald Hansen, chairman of the council's off-street parking committee, noted that the committee did not favor private enterprise, in establishing additional parking facilities because of the expense, and the possibility that such areas might be devoted to other private purposes. Initial Cost Hansen noted that the initial cost of such a proposal probably would require a bond issue, either general obligation or revenue. Repayment of the bonds would be from parking meter revenues. Charter changes would be necessary to permit such financing, he said. Hansen pointed out that, according to City Manager Robert Duff bonding necessary for such a project would not jeopardize the city's bonding capacity, whether general obligation or improvement bonds were issued. Crawford explained the plan calls for a 10-year program and that expenses are figured on that basis. He said the committee considered several possibilities, and that additional programs might be suggested at a public hearing. Mayor Earl Miller said the council should ascertain if proposed.

Streets Covered; Flood Conditions Warning Issued

Highway 99 Covered Near Cottage Grove By UNITED PRESS Eugene area residents today battled high water from more than our inches of rain in 24 hours and the weather bureau warned Willamette valley residents, to prepare for flood conditions. A total of 4.02 inches of rain was measured in Eugene during the 24 hours ending at 4:30 a.m. today. The river forecast issued in Portland called for "substantial rises in all streams of northwest Oregon and southwest Washington with considerable flooding in the Willamette valley." Families Leave Home The Lane county sheriff's office said several families temporarily left their homes in the Westward Ho section about three miles northeast of Eugene because of surface water and the rising McKenzie river. The McKenzie was expected to go to 14 feet, three feet over flood stage at the Coburg bridge by afternoon. Many crosstown Eugene streets were barricaded because of curb to curb surface water this morning. Amazon creek was over its banks. Police and firemen reported dozens of calls about flooded basements. A foot of water was reported over Highway 126 at Renzie's landing about five miles east of Springfield near the McKenzie. State police reported six inches of water over Highway 99 at Walker airport six miles north of Cottage Grove. Warm temperatures and heavy rain sent streams up. The Santiam at Jefferson was nearly two feet over flood stage at 8 a.m. The Willamette at Albany was up to 17.1 feet, 2.9 feet under flood stage. North Bend also received heavy rain, 2.73 inches in 26 hours. Astoria got 1.71 and Roseburg 1.30. Other rainfall measurements included 1.01 at Bend, .85 at Portland, .71 at Salem and .28 at The Dalles. Forecast called for wind and intermittent rain with locally heavy amounts through Thursday in western Oregon with coastal winds reaching gusts of 50 miles per hour. Occasional showers were expected east of the mountains. Roseburg police reported that an evacuation had begun along Curry road in the lower Garden Valley area west of Roseburg where the Umpqua river threatened to spill over its banks. Flooding Around Winston There was local flooding the south fork of the stream and its tributaries around Winston. Crest forecast for Winston at 10 p.m. today was for 26 feet, one foot over flood stage and just three feet short of the all-time high of 29 feet reported in 1950. The Dry Creek road 10 miles above Steamboat was under 2 1/2 feet above water this morning and there was an inch of water on the Tiller Trail road. Two slides, one east of Reedsport and one at Wells Creek ranger station, closed Highway 38 between Drain and Reedsport. Schools in Lebanon were closed at noon today until after the holidays because high waters hampered transportation. Most rural schools had already closed.

Action Withheld On Japan's UN Bid

United Nation, N.Y. — (U.P.) — The Security Council withheld action today on a recommendation for Japan's admission to the United Nations after Russia made it clear that it would veto it. British delegate Sir Pierson Dixon suggested that the council postpone action on Japan. He said he hoped to hear "through other channels" that Russia soon would be ready to consider the Japanese application favorably. Soviet delegate Arkady A. Sobolev sought to tie Communist Outer Mongolia to Japan in a council recommendation to the General Assembly to admit the two countries "soon." After Russia had used its veto three times in three days against Japan last week, Britain presented a resolution declaring that the council "takes note that Japan is fully qualified for membership of the United Nations and expresses the hope that Japan will soon be admitted to the United Nations."

Former Wife Kills Klamath Falls Man

Creswell — (U.P.) — A Klamath Falls man was killed here last night when his ex-wife fired a .25 caliber bullet into his heart as he tried to force his way into her home. Lane County District Attorney Eugene Venn said Mrs. Aileen Belle Hamilton was not arrested because of her three children. Mrs. Hamilton, 31, admitted shooting Clarence Louis Hamilton, 25, because she feared for the safety of her three children, aged one to eight. Venn said Mrs. Hamilton would appear before a special grand jury Friday. She said Hamilton had beat her in the past and that at one time she was hospitalized for her injuries. Hamilton was under a court order to refrain from molesting his ex-wife. DOW-JONES AVERAGES New York — (U.P.) — Dow-Jones final stock averages; 30 industrials 485.49 up 3.65, 20 railroads 162.57 up 1.51, 15 utilities 64.52 up 0.21, 65 stocks 172.10 up 1.27. Sales today were about 2,540,000 shares compared with 2,280,000 yesterday.

Weather

FORECAST: Rain through Thursday. Gusty southerly winds tonight. Continued mild. Low tonight 45. High Thursday 55. Temp. Highest Yesterday 53. Lowest this Morning 47. Prec. to 4:30 a.m. Today .29

Oregon Court Rules On School Bus Law

Salem — (U.P.) — A school child crossing a city street for a purpose other than boarding or leaving a school bus is not within the protection of the statute requiring cars to stop when a school bus is loading or unloading, the Oregon Supreme Court said today. And the child's action therefore, the high court said in an opinion by Justice William C. Perry, was subject to a city ordinance making it unlawful to cross streets except at defined pedestrian crossings. Gerald M. Burke attempted to run across a street in Cottage Grove when he saw his mother on the opposite side from where he was waiting to board a school bus, and was hit by a car driven by Norris A. Olson. The boy, through Virgil I. Burke, brought suit, but a jury in the Lane county Circuit Court of Judge William G. East returned a verdict in favor of Olson. And in affirming the judgment, the Supreme Court said the school bus statute refers only to school children who are crossing a street or highway either to board or leave the bus to attend school or reach their home.

Oil Switch Explosion Damages Redmond Plant

Redmond, Ore. — (U.P.) — Explosion of an oil switch in the Pacific Power and light substation here early today caused several thousand dollars damage to equipment and interrupted electrical service for about 50 minutes to a large part of the central Oregon area. R. L. Clark, PP&L service man at Redmond, was shaken up and bruised by the blast that occurred when he closed an automatic circuit breaker that opened following interruption on a 2400-volt line serving downtown Redmond.

Shopping Days Left

Help Fight TB Buy Christmas Seals

County Fund Established For Salk Vaccine Expenses

Establishment of a \$1,000 county fund for administrative expenses of federally distributed Salk polio vaccine was announced today by County Treasurer Karl Janouch. It was transferred from the county emergency fund. The money, which will be used between Dec. 1 and June 30, is for expenses for additional secretarial help and other expenses incurred. The fund will be reimbursed by the federal government. Dr. A. E. Merkel, county health officer, said \$30,000,000 worth of vaccine was made available by Congress for distribution to "hardship families with children under 19 years." Congress also appropriated \$4,500,000 for administration. The appropriation will cover less than 25 per cent of that age group, he said, and it will be necessary for the majority to get the vaccine through their family physicians. Through a policy set up by the Jackson County Medical society, private physicians are administering the three doses for a nominal fee, according to Dr. Merkel. Some public law vaccine also has been made available to private physicians, who will administer it to hardship cases and charge only for services. Since extensive records are kept on the public law vaccine, Dr. Merkel said Jackson county will actually be eligible for \$1,900 during the six-month period.

Medford Stores Will Remain Open for Shopping Until 9 o'clock Tonight