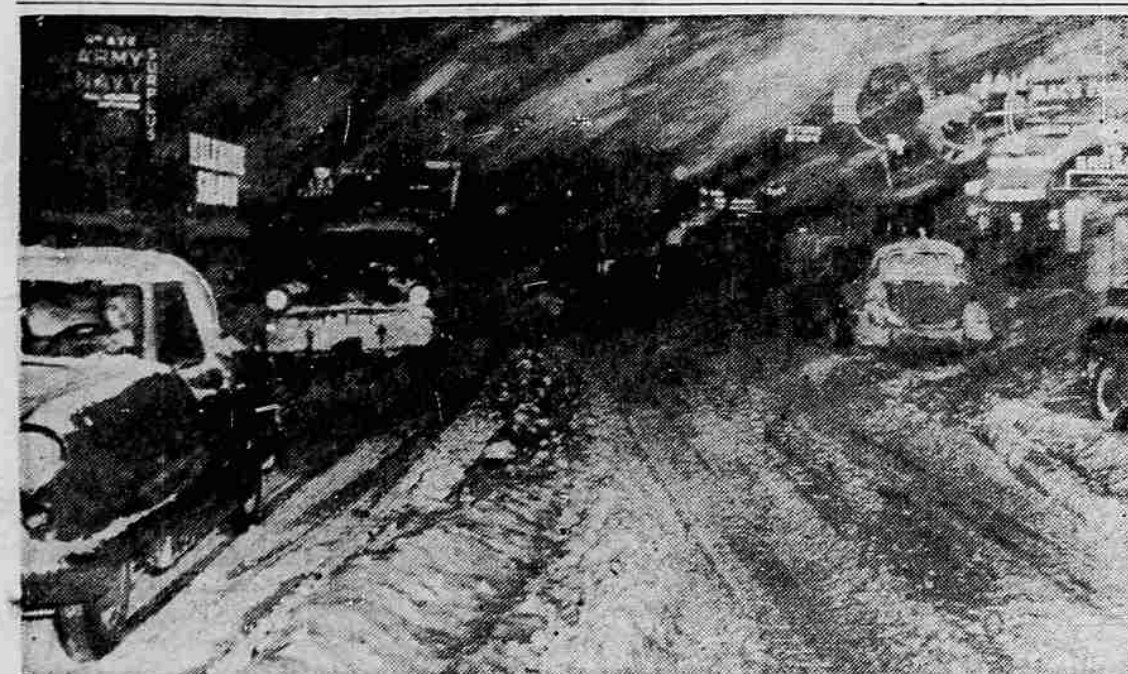


Western Oregon River Crest Warnings Issued in California



THE BEST PLACE IS HOME—Motorists in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, find it really tough sledding as the heaviest snowfall in 20 years hits the territory. Nearly four feet of snow blanketed the Anchorage region, 30 inches falling in a week. Residents were asked to remain at home until this blows over. Weatherman predicts relief in sight when the city can tackle the tough chore of digging out.

Benson To Confer With Ike To 'Firm Up' Farm Policy

Special Message To Congress Will Be Given Monday

Washington — (U.P.)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson announced today he will confer with President Eisenhower at Key West, Fla., to "firm up" the farm program Mr. Eisenhower will submit to Congress Monday.

Benson will fly to Key West tomorrow or Friday.

Benson made the disclosure after giving House Republican leaders a preview of some of the proposals expected to be included in the special message to Congress.

Benson said "nothing will be firming up" on the overall program "until I see the President tomorrow or the next day."

Payments To Farmers

One congressman said after the breakfast meeting with Benson that the new program will call, among other things, for a double-barreled "soil bank" plan for cash payment to farmers to slash production of major surplus crops.

The temporary White House in Key West announced that the President's special farm message will go to Congress Monday. It said that the President will work on it personally between now and then.

The farm problem, expected to be the top issue in the forthcoming presidential election campaign, is getting top priority attention from Mr. Eisenhower. The administration has been concerned about sliding farm prices, and Republican leaders have been frankly worried about the political impact of the farm crisis.

Another Meeting Slated

Benson outlined farm proposals to House Republican leaders and GOP members of the House Agriculture Committee at a breakfast meeting this morning. He will hold a similar meeting tomorrow with Senate GOP leaders and Republican members of the Senate Agriculture Committee before leaving for Key West.

New BLM Access Road Damaged By Storms

A recently completed bureau of land management access road west of Galice in Josephine county suffered an estimated \$75,000 damage in recent heavy storms. E. K. Peterson, BLM district forester said today.

The access road was completed last fall and fresh cuts and fills had not yet settled when heavy rains caused washouts and slides, Peterson said.

Another major access road west of Glendale, constructed by the Robert Dollar company, also suffered heavy damage. Access over the road is given to BLM customers and the BLM is obligated to pay part of repair costs, Peterson stated. No accurate estimate of the damage is available.

New York — (U.P.)—Singer Julius La Rosa, 26, has announced that he soon would wed Rosemary "Rory" Meyer, 24, a secretary in Perry Como's office.

Road Conditions

Highway 99, Siskiyou—Packed snow, chains required; snowing hard.

Highway 99, North—Open, pavement bare; raining.

Highway 66, Green Springs—Packed snow, chains required; snowing hard.

Highway 62, Prospect—Pavement bare.

Highway 62, Crater Lake National park—South and west entrances open, chains advised; Annie Springs to rim closed; snowing hard; skiing poor.

Highway 97, north of Klamath Falls—Chains required, snowing hard.

Highway 97, California—Chains required over Mount Hebron; snowing hard; Weed-Dunsmuir area, chains advised, probably required later.

Highway 199, California—Traffic delay six miles north-east of Patrick's Creek.

Highway 101—Open Oregon line to Scotia; open from south to Laytonville; emergency traffic only between Laytonville and Scotia.

Happy Camp road—Open to emergency traffic only with special written permit from Yreka division of Highways.

Mayor Appoints 12 Committeemen; Council Approves

Reappointments of 12 city committeemen made by Mayor Earl Miller were approved by the Medford city council last night.

Miller commended committeemen for their work and said he would be pleased to see them serve for another term.

Mark Goldy and Allan Perry were reappointed to four year terms on the city planning commission. Jack Creager, who filled the unexpired term of A. A. Lausmann, and Mrs. Marina Gates were reappointed to three year terms on the citizen budget committee.

Rynning Reappointed

Paul Rynning, chairman of the Medford water commission, was reappointed to a five year term. Eric Allen Jr., chairman of the Medford library board, was reappointed to a four year term.

All present members of the athletic commission, George Porter, chairman; E. J. Jerome, Dr. W. G. Bishop, Rudy Sleight, L. C. Taylor, and Josep Fliegel were reappointed for one year terms.

Miller said that George Witter, citizen budget committee member whose term is expiring, does not wish to serve another term. An appointment to fill the vacancy will be made at a later date.

(See Council Story Page 5)

Congressmen Work In Committee Groups

Washington — (U.P.)—Congress began work in committee sessions with an election-year rush today, giving urgent attention to the farm problem.

Less than 24 hours after convening for its new session Tuesday, Democratic-controlled committees plunged into public hearings or closed-door meetings on several matters.

Hoffbuhr Chosen Manager of TID; Others Elected

Walter Hoffbuhr, 507 South Holly st., Medford, was elected secretary-manager of the Talent Irrigation district yesterday. He succeeds R. M. Kent, who was retained on a consulting basis for six months.

Homer Moore was reelected president of the TID board of directors, and Henry Owen was elected vice-president. The other board member is Dave Holmes who was elected last November.

Hoffbuhr is a brother of Jack Hoffbuhr, secretary-manager of the Medford Irrigation district. Walter has been employed in recent months by MID in supervising rehabilitation program, as a ditch rider supervisor, and in other capacities.

Hoffbuhr is a graduate of the University of Idaho agricultural engineering school, and has considerable experience in irrigation districts.

The board also discussed progress of the Talent project contract negotiations, and has received for study what they hope is the final draft of the proposed contract with the bureau of reclamation for the \$22,000,000 project.

The contract has to be approved by voters of the district in an election, which the board hopes will be held early this year.

Other Elections

In other irrigation district elections yesterday, Otto Bohner, Central Point, was reelected president of the Rogue River Valley Irrigation district. C. H. Taylor of Central Point was reelected vice-president, and Harold Sexton was reelected secretary-manager. Leonard Freeman is the other board member.

Paul Culbertson was reelected president of the Medford Irrigation district, and J. G. Cameron was reelected vice-president. Jack Hoffbuhr was reelected secretary-manager. Albert Huener is the other board member.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York — (U.P.)—Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 484.00 off 1.78; 20 railroads 160.91 off 1.30; 15 utilities 63.52 off 0.21; 65 stocks 170.86 off 0.84. Sales today were about 2,290,000 shares compared with 2,390,000 yesterday.

Editor Tells of 'Mistake' In Joining Commie Paper

Washington — (U.P.)—James Glaser, former managing editor of the Communist Daily Worker, testified today he was a big "chump" and "lunkhead" when he quit the New York Times in 1934 to join the Communist newspaper staff.

Glaser said he willingly took a \$25 a week pay cut to become managing editor of the Communist newspaper because he believed in socialism and at that time thought the Communist party did, too.

He said he later found out that the Communist faith is

Gale-Driven Storm Threatens Floods In Southland

Workers Battle Gap In Yuba Levee

By UNITED PRESS

A gale-driven storm threatened new floods in California today.

Elsewhere, a sub-zero cold wave knifed into the Midwest and a New York City ferry boat was lost for five hours in dense fog.

The new Western storm, packing warm rains and gale-force winds, prompted Army Engineers to issue crest warnings for all rivers in the California area ravaged by Christmas week floods.

California weathermen did not think the rains would be as severe as those which sent killer floods raging through a three-state area.

But heavy rains for the next 48 hours were forecast and flood dangers mounted in the Sacramento Valley. At Yuba City, where the old floods killed 32, 100 Army Engineers were rushed into the job of closing a 500-foot gap in the levee.

In the Northern Midlands, a new blast of cold air pushed the temperature to 6 below zero at the Minnesota cities of Bemidji and International Falls.

Snow in Michigan

Cold weather drove as far south as Northern Indiana and Illinois and snow spread across parts of Michigan.

Snow also continued in New York state and Iowa.

In New York's Long Island Sound, a 100-foot ferry boat with one passenger and six crewmen aboard lost its way in the fog during a 14-minute run from Hart Island to City Island.

The boat anchored at City Island while police launched a frantic search. When the boat was located five hours later, crew members indignantly denied that they had been lost. But they admitted they couldn't find their docking slip and were waiting until the fog cleared.

The letter was signed this morning by County Judge Rodney Keating and County Commissioner L. G. Morthland, and was approved by telephone by Commission Members H. D. Christensen, Medford, and Mrs. A. P. Klonhaus, Rogue River, who were too sign it later today. The other three commission members were out of the city and unavailable.

The letter continued: "The local commission has always felt that Mrs. Lyman was an able

Area Rivers Rise; Little Danger Seen

Jackson county streams were rising slightly today, but no extensive flood as during Christmas week was anticipated, the Medford weather bureau station said rivers were up, but to "no surprising heights."

Jackson County Water master David Hendrix said he also saw little danger from rising streams unless continued warm, wet weather should melt snow in the upper levels.

Heavy rainfall was recorded yesterday and this morning along the Oregon coast and over the Willamette valley but headwaters of the Rogue and Umpqua rivers were outside the zone of heavy precipitation during the night, according to the weather bureau.

Medford and vicinity had .35 of an inch of rain in the 24 hours up until 10 a.m. today while Roseburg had .94. At Newport, however, 3.86 inches fell in the same period. Salem recorded 2.86 and Portland 2.49.

Showers are predicted for this vicinity tonight and Thursday.

Along the northern California coast storm warnings were out for southerly winds between 25 and 40 miles per hour between Half Moon bay and Point Arena and winds 30 to 50 miles per hour from Point Arena northward today and tonight.

South Auditorium Site Selected in Portland

Portland — (U.P.)—The South Auditorium site near downtown Portland was picked today for Portland's \$8,000,000 exposition-recreation center.

COMMISSIONERS DEFEND OUSTED ADMINISTRATOR

Four names of the Jackson county welfare commission today came to the defense of Mrs. Blanche Lyman, administrator of the local welfare department whose discharge was announced yesterday by the state welfare commission.

In a letter to the state commission, the four commissioners said the stated reasons for Mrs. Lyman's discharge might "be interpreted by implication to reflect upon the honesty and integrity of Mrs. Lyman."

"It is our belief," they continued, "that seldom are the qualities of honesty and integrity found in the high degree possessed by Mrs. Blanche Lyman. During the long years of service which she has given to Jackson county... we have at all times found her cooperative, helpful, in explaining the oftentimes complicated problems connected with her work, and possessed of honesty, integrity and concern for less fortunate fellow beings to a degree seldom found in public employees. It is our desire to publicly attest thereto."

The letter went on to question the entire organization of the state welfare system, saying the local commission has never "felt more keenly that it is neither fish nor fowl," with responsibility but without adequate authority, and suggested that more responsibility be assumed by the Portland office.

"It is our opinion that to a large extent local administrators are from necessity forced to act autonomously, since the responsible authority is in Portland," the letter said, adding that had the state commission "acted in a closer advisory and supervisory capacity, these difficulties would in all likelihood have never occurred."

The state commission's letter discharging Mrs. Lyman as of Jan. 13 accused her of failing to fulfill administrative responsibility, lacking loyalty, and hindering performance of the state welfare department's functions. The charges arose during a field audit investigation of the department after a former employee, Harley Heubner, was convicted of a bad check charge.

Mrs. Lyman, who would have retired in a few more years,

said Tuesday she does not care to comment in detail on her dismissal, but she declared she has done nothing dishonest of which she is ashamed, or that merited her discharge.

"Perhaps I made an error in judgment," she said, "and it is for this that the state commission apparently feels I should be dismissed. It would serve no purpose to discuss each of the points listed in the letter of dismissal, for they are largely based on the fact that I tried to do what little I could to help a department employee solve personal difficulties."

"The allegations made by the commission point out that I did not keep them informed on all personnel problems in a department of 23 people. If that were to be done, there would be no time for nothing else."

Disloyalty Charge

"The charge of disloyalty is the one that hurts the most. In the 21 years I have worked with the commission in Jackson county, I have had a number of opportunities to take jobs with fewer responsibilities, shorter hours and considerably more pay. But I felt I owed something to Jackson county. I do not feel I have ever been disloyal, and to hear it said is distressing."

"The commission, I believe, acted according to its best judgment on the basis of information available to it. But I cannot truthfully say that I am not bitter over this action of theirs, which seems to me to be an excessively drastic action to what amounts to a charge of placing trust in one of the department's employees," she concluded.



FLAMING CHRISTMAS TREES—Flames, fanned by strong winds, are shown rising from a pile of approximately 1,500 Christmas trees burned last night at the site of the Rogue Valley Memorial hospital on Barnett rd. The trees were gathered from throughout the county as a kick-off for the March of Dimes drive by members of the Moose lodge, assisted by Boy Scouts. The trees, stacked Sunday, had

settled under the weight of heavy rains and failed to make as spectacular a fire as the one last year near Camp White. A considerable amount of gasoline was used to get the fire started and a small number of spectators, attracted to the burning ceremony, lined Barnett rd. during the height of the fire.

—(Brainerd photo)

Mysterious Device On Airliner Studied

Pittsburgh — (U.P.)—The Civil Aeronautics Authority asked the FBI today to help determine whether an "incendiary device" found aboard a Trans World Airlines passenger plane last night was meant to sabotage the aircraft.

Louis Reinbold, supervisor of the CAA district office here, said Federal explosives experts still were running tests on the small cylindrical object taken from the plane when it landed at Ohio County airport at Wheeling, W. Va., last night with 32 passengers.

"If the object is found to be an explosive, we will assume an attempt at sabotage and formally request the FBI to take over the investigation," Reinbold said.

Oregon Democratic Committeemen Called

Portland — (U.P.)—Chairman Howard Morgan today called a meeting of the Oregon Democratic Central Committee for Sunday, Feb. 12. He said it would be an "all-day work session."

Morgan said the meeting agenda would include new election and registration laws, party finances, and plan for coordinating county efforts to elect a Democratic house of representatives in the state legislature.

Mayor Proposes 1956 Project for Medford

Mayor Earl Miller told the city council last night he would ask a committee of citizens to act as an advisory group on the need for parking facilities and arterial streets in Medford.

The mayor, who prefaced the first council meeting of 1956 with a "state of the city" message, named the need for parking space and arterial streets as the most serious problems facing Medford during the new year.

He also said it was imperative that the city build an east side fire station, and suggested that the outcome of the Jan. 16 annexation elections might be a determining factor in its location.

He expressed hope that a revised budget in June would enable the city to renew its program for better street lighting. He commended its program of sanitary and storm sewer lines and added that continued work on city sewers was essential.

Mayor Miller congratulated members of the council on work accomplished during the past year. He said the city was in good financial shape and that councilmen had done all possible within budget limitations.

City Manager Form

He commented that this marked the end of the first year of the city manager form of government in Medford and thanked City Manager Robert Duff for a "job well done."

He also expressed thanks to the police, fire departments and water department and to Verne Thorpe, public works director. The councilmen expressed their appreciation for the work John Snider, councilman from ward one, had done as council president and passed a motion renaming him to that position in 1956.

(See Council Story Page 8)

Medco Workers Sign Wage Increase Pact

Butte Falls — A graduated wage increase averaging 8 1/2 cents an hour was accepted here today by the local union of the International Woodworkers of America from Medford corporation.

The increase is retroactive to Dec. 16, 1955, and affects about 150 woods employees of Medco.

Under the terms of the agreement, contractual issues are closed until June 1, 1957, and wage issues are closed until April 1, 1957, with provision for an interim opening.

Medco's plant employees accepted a similar increase Dec. 19.

Numerous Earth Slides Reported In Portland Area

'Extensive Flooding' By Smaller Streams

By UNITED PRESS

Four homes were evacuated in the Portland Heights today as drenching rains caused damaging earth slides and sent western Oregon streams rising again.

Foundations of the homes were threatened by slides. Tons of earth and brush fell away from the back foundation of one house and slammed against two others below. Mud was piled up to the eaves against the back wall of one home.

Drenching rains sent western Oregon streams rising again today and caused numerous earth slides in the Portland area.

Flood-weary Oregonians hoped that a forecast of decreasing rain would forestall flood conditions like those of late last month. But the weather bureau predicted "extensive flooding" for several smaller streams.

For the second day in a row rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 4:30 a.m. today measured more than an inch in some areas and Newport had slightly over six inches in a 48-hour period. Portland had 1.54 inches in the 24 hours ending at 4:30 a.m. and an estimated .97 of an inch in the four hours after 4:30 a.m.

Extensive Flooding Expected

River Forecaster Elmer Fisher warned that extensive flooding was expected in Marys, Luckiamute, Pudding, Molalla, South Yamhill and Tualatin rivers as well as smaller streams in the Portland, Oregon City and Beaverton areas.

The Willamette was expected to rise "substantially" in the middle and lower areas, but it was nearly six feet under flood stage at Corvallis this morning.

"Moderate" flooding was forecast for the lower Santiam and Clackamas rivers.

Oregon City, at 9 a.m., measured 2.21 inches of rain in 24 hours, heaviest on record according to A. G. Volpp, Willamette water recorder. Slides were reported in Clackamas county and one family was evacuated at Linn Mill in the Beavercreek area by the Clackamas county rescue boat.

At Coquille, where damaging floods were reported last week, state police prepared to start taking readings of the swift Coquille river again today. There was no immediate danger but police said if the rains continued the stream would "come bouncing back up."

Slides Hit Portland

Slides blocked several routes in the Portland area. The sheriff's office said the Old Columbia river highway was blocked just east of the lower Sandy river bridge and just east of the upper bridge at Troutdale. Northwest Skyline boulevard was blocked as were two northbound lanes of North Greeley ave. Many other slides were reported.

The weather forecast called for decreasing activity in western Oregon tonight but the outlook through Sunday called for more precipitation.

In the 24 hours ending at 4:30 a.m. today, Corvallis had 2.21 inches of rain; Albany 2.18; Salem 2.45; Portland 1.54; Newport 2.82; Astoria 1.56; Roseburg .69; Medford .26; Eugene .88; and The Dalles .45. And it rained even harder in some areas after 4:30 a.m.

Faure Asks Broad Truce in France

Paris — (U.P.)—Premier Edgar Faure called today for a broad truce between the feuding French parties of the center "to save the republic" from the Communists and the forces of anti-tax leader Pierre Miquel.

But he frankly admitted he had little hope himself of leading any new coalition as France's next Premier, since his government now has only a caretaker status and will resign formally when the new National Assembly convenes Jan. 19.

Weather

FORECAST: Mostly cloudy with showers tonight and Thursday. Low tonight 40. High Thursday 45.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Yesterday 42

Lowest this Morning 30

PRECIPITATION

To 10 a.m. Today .35