

Cost of Living Up Slightly in Portland; National Cost Down

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Living costs in Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco declined in January but rose slightly in Portland, Ore., the U. S. Department of Labor reported today.

Meats averaged 1.1 per cent lower; fruits and vegetables were up 0.8 per cent.

Portland reflected a similar decline in average food prices, but showed an overall increase in housing and apparel for an 0.1 per cent cost increase from October.

Washington—(U.P.)—The cost of living dropped slightly in January, the government reported today.

The drop means a one-cent an hour cut in pay for about 1,000,000 automobile and farm equipment workers whose wages are pegged to a cost of living scale.

Their pay cut will take effect in the first pay period in March.

The slight January decline brought the cost of living to the lowest point since August.

Lower prices for food, household furnishings, clothing and automobiles accounted for the decline.

Commissioner Ewan Clague of the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted that the February index would remain stable or show another slight decline.

The bureau said that widespread food price declines, reflecting lower farm prices, were the main factor in the January drop in the overall cost of living. It was the fourth straight month of decline in food prices.

Swansea, Mass.—(U.P.)—Police Chief Arthur R. Ormsbee is a busy man. He also serves as a town constable, inspector of animals, dog officer, fence viewer, schools attendance officer, inspector of slaughtering and auctioneer.

Twin Confesses To Murder of Cub Scout

Wheeling, W. Va.—(U.P.)—Officials said today the confession of a 14-year-old twin in the bludgeoning of Cub Scout David Powell showed the killing was without "rhyme or reason."

Ohio County Prosecutor Joseph A. Gompers said the confession of Tommy Williams indicated there was "no apparent motive" for the crime.

"I have no idea why he did it," Gompers said. "There was no rhyme or reason for it."

Williams confessed slaying the nine-year-old boy to his attorney hours before he and his identical twin, Joseph, were arraigned on murder charges Thursday.

Officials said Tommy made a "full confession" to authorities Thursday night.

Gompers said Attorney William Callahan requested that the confession not be made public until the murder trial scheduled for April 2.

The confession virtually exonerated Tommy's brother.

"Joe Williams will be released as soon as I clean up several facts, provided, of course, they prove to be negative," Gompers said.

He said he would not object if Callahan asked that bond be set for Joseph.

The Powell boy was killed Feb. 9 while canvassing neighbors near his Wheeling Island home to sell tickets to a Cub Scout benefit show. His body was found the next day beneath a porch of the Williams' home. The victim's head had been split from front to rear and his throat and chest bore stab wounds.

Gompers said to his knowledge the trial would be held as scheduled. Intermediate Court Judge David A. McKee, indicated ear-

lier he would leave it up to a jury to decide Tommy's fate.

The boy could be executed if a jury finds him guilty of first degree murder. West Virginia court records show that a 14-year-old boy was tried for a slaying 20 years ago and was convicted of second degree murder.

Gompers, who said Tommy will be held without bond, shied away from questions regarding the actual commission of the crime.

"That's in the statement," he said, "and I don't intend to violate an agreement with the defense attorney (Callahan)."

E. R. Schreiber, a special investigator employed by Callahan, said Tommy told Gompers he himself had no reason for the slaying. Schreiber quoted Tommy as saying he and the Powell boy "were pals."

Weather Balloons Over Aleutians

Oppama, Japan—(U.P.)—The U. S. Navy reported today that two of its weather balloons were over the Aleutians and that plans were completed for launching the 20th and last of a series.

A Navy spokesman said one balloon messaged weather information Thursday from Shimya Island in the Aleutians. The Navy said it was traveling 70 miles an hour in a northeasterly direction.

Balloon No. 10 which was freed Thursday at Oppama was reported speeding on a northeasterly course over Kiska Island at 85 miles an hour early today.

The Navy spokesman said weather conditions would determine when the last lighter-than-air craft would be freed here with its weather equipment and automatic radio transmitter.

Several of the balloons have completed the Pacific trip and landed in the United States. One reached the Atlantic waters off Portugal.

Oregon Employment Drops in January

Salem—(U.P.)—Oregon employment fell off seasonally in January, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported. But with 449,100 non-farm jobs reported, the level continued about 10,000 higher than last winter's low.

Marked declines occurred in lumbering, construction, food processing and trade following the holidays but with the exception of sawmills and logging most lines remained well above recent comparable periods, the bureau reported. Ship repairing reported 4,100 at work, a new high for recent years, while machinery manufacturing also gained 100 to reach a new top of 5,500.

Around Winter Peak
Meanwhile, unemployment was staying around the winter-time peak with about 30,000 insured workers asking compensation each week.

Because of the new benefit schedule, payments were expected to be close to 3,000,000 this month, the second highest February in the last five years. Average weekly checks are running around \$29 compared with \$22 under the old scale. But from 12 to 15 per cent of mostly seasonal claimants now are unable to qualify for benefits. Minimum base year earnings of \$700 over a sustained period now are required.

Lumbering Drops
More than two-thirds of the unemployed were coming from seasonal pursuits in lumbering, construction and food processing, the report revealed. Logging and sawmills reported 52,000 working last month with from 10,000 to 15,000 filing for benefits each week while the weather continued cold and wet. A year ago, 56,700 employees were busy in these groups.

Plywood mills, construction and food plants dropped off in January but were well above a year ago. About 8,000 clerks were laid off at year-end by retail trade but here too, employment was higher than last January. Government also dropped 3,200 workers after the holidays. Most other lines continued on an even keel.

Searchers Find Lost Corvallis Hiker
Corvallis—(U.P.)—Leonard Stayton, 25, Corvallis, missing overnight on snowy Mary's peak, was found safe shortly after 6 a.m. today by a search party.

The search party, headed by Deputy Sheriff Jess Gates, radioed police here that Stayton was "all right."

Stayton had hiked into deep snow on the tall Coast range peak yesterday to bring down a tractor which had been used on road repair. Search started when he failed to return as scheduled yesterday evening.

Grange
Eagle Point Grange opened with seating drill Feb. 21. The office of cere was filled by Mrs. Lawrence Messal. W. E. Davis and G. E. Cowden served on the executive committee.

The demits of Charlie and Elsie Hoover were accepted. New members Victor and Rose Bartholomew were voted into membership.

W. E. Davies gave a report for the agriculture committee. Reporting for the Educational Comm. was Mrs. Augusta Perry. Her subject was on family fire drills. The legislative commission report was given by Paul Olsen. He told of a number of bills now before congress. Mrs. Harry DeVore gave a report for the health and safety committee.

Dolls filled the HEC display table. There was a doll in warrior costume from South Africa, and dolls from Germany, in native dress, as well as others. The next H.E.C. meeting will be held February 29 at the home of Mrs. Lenn Hickman. The serving committee for the next Grange meeting, March 6, is to be Mr. and Mrs. John Huffman and Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Carroll.

Election was held for lecturer and Charlie Hoover was elected. Attendance pins were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Harry DeVore, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Messal.

Grange closed in regular form. Refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. Otis Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Harry DeVore.

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Laughs of the Day . . .

New York—(U.P.)—Detectives rounding up four men accused of looting the apartment of jazz trumpet player Dizzy Gillespie spent two hours opening four locks on the door of Walter Jackson, 40.

When police finally gained entrance to Jackson's apartment, with the aid of a locksmith, Jackson greeted them with a smile and said: "Is somebody looking for me?"

Detroit—(U.P.)—The Board of Fire Commissioners rejected a request that it refuse to accept \$15,000 worth of new uniforms for firemen.

The commissioners did not accept the protests of fire fighters

that the uniforms look like "maturity frocks."

London—(U.P.)—Student Patrick Huggins was fined one pound (\$2.80) for "wantonly discharging a missile, to wit a snowball, to the damage or danger of persons in Kensington Court."

The target was a policeman.

Milwaukee, Wis.—(U.P.)—Frederick W. Gagnon, 53-year-old self-professed deaf mute, had no trouble understanding when he was sentenced to 30 days for disorderly conduct.

"I didn't know this town was so tough on panhandlers," he commented after sentence was passed.

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