

Detailed weather and stock market reports are on page 13.

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MEDF

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Scouts in Local hospital

Injured Youths Are Returned by Mercy Flights Last Night

Hazy Recollection of Accident Events Told

By ROSIE BOLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
"I just don't know what happened."

That's what Bruce Blachly told the Mail Tribune from his hospital bed today. Bruce was one of two Medford Boy Scouts injured in a fall Sunday during a Troop 9 hike in the Silver creek area of the lower Illinois river.

Blachly, 13-year-old son of Mrs. Ben Blachly, 1121 Spring st., and Tom Turpin, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Turpin, 3533 Jacksonville highway, arrived at the Medford airport at 7 p.m. last night in a Mercy Flights, Inc., plane.

Injuries Listed

Bruce is suffering from two broken bones in his right ankle and a cracked and chipped right wrist. Young Turpin, who periodically lapses into unconsciousness, is suffering from a concussion and back bruises. The boys are in the same room of the second floor of Community hospital.

Bruce had only a hazy recollection of events preceding his fall.

"We had been hiking and got tired, so we sat down on a bluff to rest. . . The next thing I knew I was lying on a ledge screaming. Tommy was a little ways around the bend from me."

Bruce estimated they fell "over 100 feet." He shuddered and said, "You could tell it was at least that far just from looking at it. If it hadn't been for a bunch of rocks, we would have fallen right into the river."

"Blacked Out"
It has been theorized that after the boys sat down to rest one of them "blacked out" and started over the cliff. It was presumed that the other tried to catch him and went over the cliff with him.

Bruce said he had felt sick and was told he "looked all white" before the two sat down. He couldn't remember losing consciousness.

The boys were on the ledge for only about ten minutes, the Scout said, before their Scoutmaster, Dr. William Roberts, arrived. Dr. Roberts and the other 25 boys in the troop were a short distance from the accident scene. Two other Scouts, Mike Roberts and Roger Johnson, hiked all night to Agness, near the confluence of the Rogue and Illinois rivers. They arrived about 8:30 a.m. Monday.

A five-man ground party of forest service men left Agness for the accident scene and a private boat was also dispatched in the event the boys could not be raised up the cliff.

Parachute to Scene
Two Cave Junction smoke-jumper squad leaders, Orville



INJURED BOYS ARRIVE HOME—Tom Turpin, one of the two Boy Scouts injured in a fall from a bluff in the wilderness area of the Illinois river, is shown in the left-hand picture above just after arrival at the Medford airport in a Mercy Flights, Inc., air ambulance plane from Agness. At left is Earl Harrison, member of the Troop 9 committee who helped take



the boys to Oak flat. In background is the boy's father, V. A. Turpin, 3533 Jacksonville highway, and at right is his mother. In the picture at right the other boy, Bruce Blachly, is shown with his mother, Mrs. Ben Blachly, 1121 Spring st., and Dr. Thomas Bolton. —(Landis-Shangle photos)

Looper and Roger Newton, parachuted to the scene. Radios, litters, first aid equipment and climbing gear were dropped to them from the plane. Looper and Newton, authorized to give medical aid to accident victims in the absence of a physician, gave the boys pain-killer shots.

At 12:30 p.m., the injured boys were loaded into a skiff with a small outboard motor. Three forest service men, Willard Lucas, Charley Thornton and a man named Brock, started to pilot the boat on the 13-mile trip down the Illinois river to Agness. They had estimated the trip would take about 1 1/2 hours and the Mercy Flights, Inc., plane arrived at the Agness air strip to meet them at 2 p.m.

Weight of the two boys, their stretchers and the three forest service men was too much for the small boat, according to George Milligan, who piloted the Mercy Flights plane.

Lifted Over Rapids
Milligan said the forest service men had to lift the boys out of the boat, then lift the skiff over rapids several times. He declared the boatmen were the real heroes of the rescue.

"I don't remember much about the boat trip," Bruce said. "I woke up about five times when they lifted us out of the boat."

Shortly after 6 p.m., the skiff arrived in Agness and the boys were transported in a forest service truck five miles to the air strip.

"I woke up when they put us on the plane," Bruce commented. "Someone was taking pictures and woke me up."

To keep down weight in the plane, no one was allowed to make the trip to Medford other than the boys and Milligan, the



READY FOR HOSPITAL TRIP—Dr. Bolton and Earl Harrison are shown getting the injured boys ready for their trip to the hospital. The boys are lying on stretchers at the left. In the background is Terry McGriff of Medford Ambulance service, and Mrs. Blachly is in the right background. The Mercy

plane which brought them from Agness arrived at the airport at about 7 p.m. after a long delay at Agness while the youths were being brought down the river by boat, a long and arduous trip for the men manning the craft, who had to portage at least three times around high-water riffles.

—(Landis-Shangle photo)

pilot. They took off from Agness at 6:30 p.m., an hour and 15 minutes after they were originally scheduled to arrive in Medford.

Anxious Waiting

Meanwhile, at the Medford airport, anxious parents and friends, totaling approximately 15, became concerned over the delay and feared the Mercy Flights plane might have met with an accident.

At 5:30 p.m., Bill Rosenbalm and John Childers took off from Medford in another Mercy Flight plane and circled over the Agness airstrip where Milligan's plane was waiting for the boys. They made radio contact with Milligan and reported back to Medford that all was well.

"The plane trip to Medford was pretty smooth after the take-off," Bruce said. "At least I guess it was—I slept most of the way."

Milligan, who interrupted vacation time to join in the rescue, said the air was turbulent and made the flight difficult. He said Tommy was somewhat restless at first, but the trip was otherwise uneventful. Tom woke up just over Gold Hill and asked for water, he remarked. "I told him he'd have to wait a few minutes and he didn't seem to mind."

Ambulances Waiting

The plane landed at 7 p.m. at the Medford airport, where physicians, parents and ambulances were waiting. The injured Scouts were taken to the hospital where casts were placed on Bruce's arm and leg last night. Both are reported to be making

satisfactory progress and have been resting comfortably. Tommy slept through the entire in-hospital morning.

The other members of the troop camped at the accident scene yesterday and were scheduled to arrive in Agness today. The older members of the troop will continue the trip to Gold Beach, reports stated, and the younger ones will be brought home by car.

The troop left early Saturday morning from Oak flat on the Illinois river. They planned to travel down the Illinois and the Rogue, with Gold Beach as their destination. They were scheduled to return to Medford on June 16, according to Cliff Hanson, Scout executive for the Crater area council.

Eager To Finish

Hansen said all the parents, including parents of the injured boys, were eager for the rest of the troop to complete the hike. "I want them to go ahead, too," Bruce said. "Only I wanted to go with them." The heavy casts on his arm and leg apparently didn't make much difference to him. "I couldn't walk, but I could have taken for the boat trip," he argued.

Bruce, whose father died last November, is a former Mail Tribune carrier.

Astoria — (U.P.)—John L. Farley, national director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been named admiral of the 36th annual Astoria regatta, to be held here Aug. 30 and 31 and Sept. 1 and 2.

Approval of Area Projects Seen As 'Almost Certainty'

Senate Committee Approves Works Bill

Final approval of funds for two major Jackson county projects is "almost a certainty," Congressman Harris Ellsworth said today.

The sums are \$2,400,000 for initial construction on the Talent irrigation and reclamation project, and \$208,000 for construction of fish screens at Savage Rapids dam.

The public works bill, approving these amounts, which has already passed the house, has been approved by the Senate appropriations committee without any change being made on either of the two appropriations for the local jobs, Ellsworth said in a telegram to the Mail Tribune.

The approval, he said, "makes almost a certainty their final approval, in view of budget recommendation and previous approval by the house." He pointed out that the Savage Rapids fish screen item also received committee approval, "justifying the expectation of final approval, since the House originated the item and approved it."

The Senate committee cut a few items in the house-approved bill, but added funds for various other northwest projects. The Talent and Savage Rapids items were untouched. The bill still needs approval by the full Senate, and adjustment of the House and Senate versions of the bill by a conference committee, final approval by both houses, and the signature of the President.

The bureau of reclamation, which will supervise the Talent project construction, has already set bid calls for a number of the first construction jobs. When completed in four or five years, the project will have cost about \$20 million.

Contained in the same bill are funds for various bureau of reclamation jobs, not listed individually, which include additional work on the rehabilitation of the canal systems of the Medford and Rogue River Valley irrigation districts.

Labor Camp Messhall Extensively Damaged

Fire extensively damaged the interior of the mess hall at the Fruit Growers League labor camp on Table Rock rd. yesterday afternoon.

The Medford fire department sent a rural pumper to the camp about 3:40 p.m., and the Central Point Rural Fire department sent four trucks and a tanker after the fire was first reported as being in their district.

According to the Fruit Growers League, which leases the camp from the city, the buildings were being prepared for occupation by fruit workers during the coming season.

The fire department was investigating the cause of the fire today.

Ike Signs Papers, Holds Conferences In Hospital Room

Washington — (U.P.)— President Eisenhower today signed his first official documents since his operation, held several conferences, and all in all gave the impression he "feels very good."

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty was the authority for the quotation about how the President felt.

New Flag Approved
The three documents were: A executive order approving a new flag for the Army, authorization of an emergency allocation of \$50,000 for flood relief in Colorado, and an international wheat agreement for 1956.

A medical bulletin timed at 12:45 p.m. (EDT) disclosed that

Mr. Eisenhower walked around his room this morning about 80 feet, or twice as far as Monday. He sat in an easy chair for about 30 minutes before returning to bed.

"The President's condition continues to progress satisfactorily," the bulletin said. "His pulse, blood pressure, temperature and respiration continue to be essentially normal. . . his spirits continued high throughout the morning."

Comfortable Night
Before the President signed the documents, a medical bulletin said that Monday night was the "most comfortable" one the President has had since his operation early Saturday for an intestinal obstruction. The doctors said "his spirits are high, his morale is good."

In addition to signing the three documents, the President directed his personal attention to the congressional drive to slash his \$4,900,000 foreign aid program.

Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams reported to him on a conference he and other administration leaders held at the White House today with Senate leaders. The purpose was to try to persuade the Senate to reauthorize at least \$600,000,000 of the \$1,100,000,000 which the House cut from the aid bill Monday.

Decision Not Made

Hagerty said there still has not been a decision on what to do about three previously scheduled events on the President's agenda, the current visit in Washington by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, a July meeting with Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and a meeting with Latin American leaders in Panama later this month.

Late News Briefs

PLANS DEFERRED

Washington — (U.P.)—Construction of a new base in the Portland area has been deferred by the Air Force for at least a year, it was disclosed today in testimony taken in secret last month and released by the House Appropriations committee.

It also was disclosed that the Air Force has abandoned plans to acquire more land for the Klamath Falls air base, at least for the present.

FRENCH RUSH TROOPS

Algiers — (U.P.)—French reinforcements today rushed by Air and land to new trouble spots in the sprawling Sahara desert, hitherto free of rebel Algerian activity.

WAR ORPHANS ARRIVE

Los Angeles — (U.P.)—Seventeen Korean war orphans, ranging in age from one to six, arrived here aboard a Pan American Airways plane today en route to their new homes in the United States.

Plan Traffic Counter

On Roxy Ann Road

City crews will install a traffic counter to check the number of visitors to Prescott park soon, according to Vern Thorpe, director of public works.

The present traffic counter at Prescott park was recently destroyed by vandals, Thorpe said. Because of poor weather conditions, Thorpe said, an accurate record had not been tabulated of the visitors to Prescott park. When the new traffic counter is installed records will be kept of all visitors to the park on Saturday and Monday, he said.

City crews completed grading of Roxy Ann rd. last Friday, Thorpe said.

Forest Patrol Sights Small Holdover Fire

State department of forestry personnel controlled a small holdover fire from last week's lightning storm about 6:30 p.m. yesterday.

The fire started near Tenley Rock at the head of Lake creek, district officials said.

With forests drying out fast, the patrol now has 10 men in Jackson county lookouts. Four were put up yesterday, at Soda mountain, Buck Rock, Fredenburg Butte, and Roundtop. The district plans to have two more up before the end of the week.

Search Under Way For Butte Falls Boy

Donny Ash, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Britt H. Ash of Butte Falls, was reported by his father as missing from home since 1 or 2 p.m. Monday, according to the Jackson county sheriff's office. Ash is the U.S. forest service district ranger at Butte Falls.

Sheriff's officers, forest service men, and volunteers from the Butte Falls area were still searching for the boy early this afternoon.

Planners Recommend Park for East Side

The Medford planning commission last night recommended to the city council that city owned property south of the IOOF cemetery and west of Highland ave. be dedicated as a city park.

The site is around the new East Side Fire station, and includes about 22 acres.

Planning commission members noted the need for park development in the city, and indicated that the east side site includes an area which might be developed into a playground.

Approves Payment

The commission also approved payment of \$800 from the 1955-56 budget for an aerial mapping survey which was made earlier this year.

City Manager Robert Duff said it will be valuable to the city because of the accuracy of the survey, which covered about 40 square miles, including the area from about Foothills rd. on the east to about Lozier lane on the west, and from north of Central Point to Phoenix.

Various types of maps will be made from the survey, Duff said, and will assist planners in the arterial street program, park development, zoning, and other city projects.

Hearing Continued

The commission continued a hearing on a zone change for

Nine Candidates File for School Board Vacancies

Nine candidates have filed petitions to fill school board vacancies in four first class school districts in Medford, Central Point, Phoenix and Ashland. Deadline for filing petitions for nominations was yesterday.

A petition has been filed nominating Edward Branchfield for reelection to the Medford school board in the annual school election June 18.

Branchfield's term expires this year. He is currently chairman. No other petitions were filed for the Medford school board position.

Polling Place

Voting will be in the girls' gymnasium at Medford High school. Anyone who has lived in the district for six months and became a registered voter at least 30 days before the election is eligible to vote, school officials pointed out.

Residents of Kenwood, Oak Grove and West Side districts will not be able to vote in the election because the recent decision to consolidate is not yet in effect.

Two petitions have been filed to fill a vacancy in the District 8C, Central point, school board, nominating William Askwith and Donald Patterson.

A petition nominating Jack Hoffbuhr for the Phoenix school board also has been filed.

Ralph W. Sikes, Robert V. Hardy, Dr. Christian P. Hald, Carroll W. Smith and Charles H. Coffin have filed petitions for nomination for the one vacancy on the Ashland school board.

Rural Board

Five candidates have filed petitions for nomination for four vacancies on rural and non high school boards.

Paul A. Gasparath has filed a petition for nomination for the zone three, Lone Pine and Howard area, school board vacancy. H. F. Padgham Jr., incumbent, will not seek reelection.

Incumbent Glenn W. Smith is seeking reelection for the zone four school board in the Buch Applegate, Jacksonville and Griffin Creek area.

John Spangler has filed a petition for nomination to the zone five school board in the Talent and Pinehurst area. Mrs. M. O. Grove, incumbent, was declared ineligible because of a change in classification of districts.

Incumbent D. H. Barber will seek reelection for the zone two non high school board in the Trail and Shady Cove area.

Weather

FORECAST: Fair and warm through Wednesday. Low tonight 48, high Wednesday 58.

Highest Yesterday 78

Lowest this Morning 46

Our Skies Tonight

Sunrise 4:34 a.m.

Sunset 7:49 p.m.

The Moon sets 10:53 p.m.

Above it are Jupiter and Regulus

First quarter Friday a.m.

Venus sets 8:25 p.m.

It is now setting more than six minutes earlier each night and will be seen only a few more evenings.

"To The Hills, Men — The Dam Has Bust"

