

Strike Continues To Pile Up Dead In San Francisco

San Francisco — (U.P.) — San Francisco, city of the unburied dead, counted Friday more than 640 bodies awaiting burial in 11 cemeteries closed by a 52-day strike and lockout.

The city Health Department reported scarce storage space in mortuaries is rapidly being used up at a rate of 10 new additions a day.

Negotiations in the protracted dispute resumed today with both sides hopeful a settlement might not be far off. The cemetery negotiators were studying a union proposal for a 27-cent hourly wage increase in a two-year contract.

It was the first time the union budged from its insistence on a one-year contract, with a 15-cent hourly raise retroactive to March 1. The union previously rejected an employer offer for a three-year contract with a total of 22½ cents an hour in raises. Grounds Unkept

Proprietors of the struck cemeteries, all located in suburban Colma outside the city limits, reported the grounds are scenes of desolation and waste. Lawns are uncut and full of weeds. Scattered throughout are decayed flowers and the rusted wire remains of funeral wreaths abandoned when members of the Cemetery Workers Union walked out in April.

In San Francisco itself, mortuaries were faced not only with the problem of storage space for bodies, but a strike and lockout involving the embalmers union. That dispute is now in its 36th day.

United Effort
Mortuary owners met the problem by uniting to help each other meet all embalming needs—an unusual situation in a highly competitive field. Most mortuary owners are licensed embalmers.

Each mortuary owner posted a \$5,000 bond which would have to be forfeited to their association if he gave into the union.

The union has asked a pay raise, but the chief issue in dispute is its insistence that only members of the Embalmers union be allowed to handle funeral details, such as telephone arrangements, reception of bodies and office problems.

Flames Destroy Milwaukie Plant

Milwaukie, Ore.—(U.P.)—Flames swept through the Milwaukie Box and Veneer plant here Thursday night, blocking highway and trolley traffic and causing damage at \$50,000.

One man was injured in the spectacular blaze, which saw all off-duty firemen called to the scene. Charles Thomas, 35, a Clackamas county deputy sheriff, suffered cuts and bruises when he fell through a fire-weakened floor.

Glen Fisher, a night boiler fireman, discovered the fire lapping from a dry kiln at 6:40 p.m. In a few minutes flames were leaping 75 to 100 feet above the roof. Most of the damage was confined to the front part of the building.

In a matter of minutes traffic on highway 99-E was lined up for blocks and lines laid across the Portland-Oregon City trolley tracks delayed traffic several hours.

The loss was covered by insurance, according to R. G. Cuffall Jr., general manager. The plant employs 75 people and has been manufacturing seasonal vegetable box tops and bottoms.

Cuffall said work will start Monday on rebuilding, and he expects the firm to be back in full operation within a month.

The conquest in 1953 of the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, broke the spell that had guarded other giants of the Himalayas. Italians in 1954 climbed K-2, second-highest mountain. Kanchenjunga (28,166 feet) and Makalu (27,790 feet) yielded in 1955.

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