Hood Climbing Accident Kills 1, Injures 18

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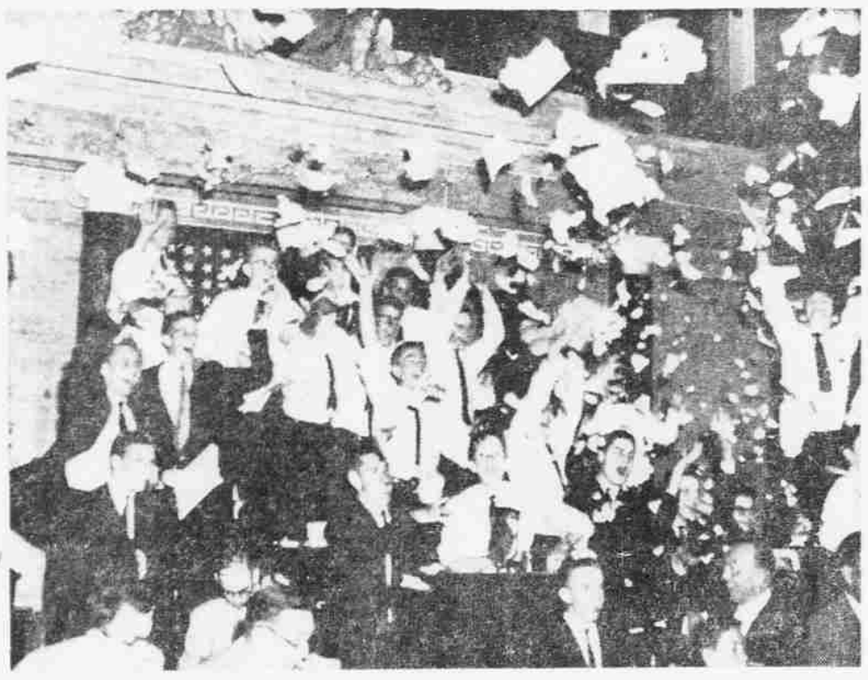

UNTIL NEXT YEAR—House page boys in Washington, D. C. show how they feel about the whole thing as they throw papers into the air as the 84th Congress adjourned sine die. The next session will convene Jan. 7, 1957.

REFINERY FIRE KILLS 19

Shifting Winds Could Endanger Oil Field Tanks

Firemen Battling Propane Fire Killed

Dumas, Tex. —(U.P.)—One tank of asphalt blazed brightly today but firemen and calm winds had subdued the main oil refinery fire that exploded a huge tank of pentane and killed 19 men in a fiery holocaust.

The white hot explosion yesterday injured 31 other persons, including an 11-year-old boy.

Should the wind spring up suddenly from the north again, the flaming asphalt tank would endanger a $75,000,000 oil field of gasoline and oil tanks.

The Weather Bureau said the wind would remain calm.

But residents in this Texas Panhandle town of 10,000 are not concerned about the monetary loss. They are heartsick because 10 firemen and nine oil field workers burned to death from the flaming fuel's intense heat.

The oil workers and firemen, who were volunteers, were fighting a fire Sunday in the vent of a 15,000 barrel tank of pentane at the Shamrock Oil and Gas company's McGee Refinery 12 miles northeast of Dumas.

15 Die Instantly

Unknown to the fire fighters, who were trying to "fog out" the blaze with foamite from about 200 yards away, liquid pentane had been leaking out of the huge tank. Pentane is a light liquid similar to butane. A liquid under pressure, it becomes a gas immediately on contact with air.

Gas-saturated air suddenly exploded with a dull boom and a great flash of light, heard and seen for miles around. The victims were caught in their tracks. Fifteen were killed almost instantly and four others died later.

Bodies were frozen in distorted positions, arms flung over their faces in a last desperate attempt to shield them from the intense heat. The knees of some were drawn up in agony. Many were charred beyond recognition.

Injured Not Critical

The injured were taken to the Moore County hospital where they filled all the rooms. Cots were put up in the halls. The charred bodies of the dead were placed in the National Guard Armory and Guards were placed around the area to keep the curious away.

Hospital attendants said today all 31 injured had been taken off the critical list.

One of the injured was a boy, George Ochs, 11. He was in the area watching his father, volunteer fireman Herman Ochs. Six of the volunteer firemen killed were from the Dumas Fir Department, and four were from the Sunray Department. Both the Sunray fire chief, Ray Biles, 40, and the Dumas fire marshal, Pascal Pool, 31, died.

The other dead were Shamrock Oil company employees except for one man listed as a pipeline worker.

The blast ignited three other storage tanks, one containing 80,000 barrels and the other two 10,000 barrels of oil, but by late Sunday night the only tank still burning was the pentane tank. Flames flared 100 to 200 feet into the air as firemen waited nearby for it to burn out.

"Go Ahead—Don't Wait Around For Any Medals"

Thornton, Oregonian, Night Figure Named In $1,000,000 Lawsuit

Portland— (U.P.) —Multnomah County District Attorney William M. Langley filed action in U. S. district court here against Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton, charging him with deprivation of civil rights and naming James B. Elkins, Portland nightlife figure, and The Oregonian Publishing company co-defendants in a $1,000,000 suit.

Complaint Follows Charge

Langley's surprise move was made Sunday afternoon when the complaint was filed with a clerk of the federal courts. It came after a week of charges by Langley that Thornton had improperly conducted the Multnomah county grand jury investigation of vice charges, and counter-charges by Thornton that Langley was trying to wreck the probe by "desperate, last-minute maneuvers."

In filing his complaint Langley made use of federal civil rights statutes rarely if ever used in Oregon litigation, bringing action for damages for deprivation of civil rights secured by the U. S. constitution and laws of the United States.

Langley is suing for $250,000 compensatory damages and $250,000 punitive damages on each of two counts.

The first count alleges that Thornton, Elkins and The Oregonian had conspired to deprive Langley of "equal protection of the laws" by using the grand jury to send letters to Langley demanding that he waive immunity and appear as a witness in the grand jury proceedings against himself. The count sets forth further that Thornton, Elkins and The Oregonian offered unlawfully wire-tapped evidence against Langley and published this unlawful evidence with intent to obtain an indictment of Langley for attempted gambling.

Said Deprived of Rights

In the second count, Langley alleged that he had been deprived of his federal rights for a fair hearing before the grand jury and that Thornton offered "testimony known to be perjured" to the grand jury. The district attorney further charged that the defendants unlawfully intercepted telephone messages and unlawfully divulged these messages in the public press.

Langley said the defendants, who were to be served notice of the suit by the U. S. marshal today, would have 20 days to file an answer.

Thornton, advised of Langley's federal suit, said he had "no comment."

Stassen Confers With President; Nothing Revealed

Stassen Said Not Dissuaded in Advance

Gettysburg — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower today granted Harold E. Stassen a four-week leave of absence to pursue "certain political activities."

Washington—(U.P.)—Harold E. Stassen conferred with President Eisenhower today for the first time since Stassen launched his campaign to block the renomination of Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Stassen, White House disarmament adviser, flew to the President's farm at Gettysburg, Pa., for the meeting. It was scheduled at Stassen's request.

Stassen said yesterday that Mr. Eisenhower did not try to dissuade him in advance from urging Republicans to nominate Massachusetts Gov. Christian A. Herter rather than Nixon for the number two spot.

Silent on Discussion

Stassen flew back to Washington immediately after his meeting with the President. Stassen refused to tell reporters anything more about the conference or what was discussed.

Meanwhile, the Democratic vice presidential race was enlivened by the announcement of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota that he is a candidate for second place on his party's national ticket.

Humphrey said he is "willing" to have his friends "work actively" for his nomination. But he emphasized "there must be no campaign against any other aspirant."

Stassen informed Mr. Eisenhower in advance before announcing his drive last week to get the party to nominate Herter rather than Nixon. He declined to say how Mr. Eisenhower received this news, but added:

Might Not Have Acted

If the President had said, "I don't think I'd make that announcement," then "I (Stassen) don't think I'd have made it."

Stassen said he thinks Mr. Eisenhower is still undecided about the vice presidency, wants an "open convention" and will wait until all the "facts are in" before making up his mind.

NY Girl, 16, Dies As Chain of Youths Falls in Crevasse

Slip Sends Group Sprawling on Glacier

Portland — (U.P.) — A human chain of 19 young persons tumbled into a deep crevasse high on the slopes of Mt. Hood yesterday, killing one and injuring 18 in the worst climbing disaster of Oregon's tallest peak.

Killed was Lynn Kaufman, 16, Larchmont, N.Y. Two other teenage girls were reported in critical condition and many others suffered broken bones. Hurt critically were Suzanne Blum, Baldwin, N.Y. and Susan Stein, Baltimore, Md.

Giant Rescue Operation

A giant nighttime rescue operation followed the tragedy which occurred as the group was descending the 11,225 foot mountain. The victims had to be removed from the bottom of a 40-foot crevasse where they had fallen, apparently after a slip by one of the group sent them sprawling on a glacier near the 10,500-foot level.

The climbers included 18 members of the American Hostel Association and were led by Carl Schnoor of Portland, Ore., a Lewis and Clark college student. They were bound together by a single 120-foot rope.

Sixteen of the injured were brought to a Portland hospital, about 50 miles from the scene of the accident, while two were treated for shock at Timberline Lodge.

Supplies Rushed to Scene

Medical personnel worked over the critically hurt as they were hauled above the lip of the crevasse, high on the mountainside. Tons of supplies were rushed up the mountain to the scene.

Planes dropped blood plasma and medical supplies at the scene last night in response to frantic pleas from rescuers. Four doctors gave the survivors emergency treatment.

First word of the accident came from a 15-year-old youth who witnessed the tragedy late Sunday afternoon.

Dennis Glasgow, of Salem, Ore., and two companions were climbing nearby when they saw the party of 19, tied together about three feet apart, start their descent of the treacherous glacier.

Tried To Grab Snow

Glasgow said the party started to slide into a snow field, the rear of the human chain whip lashing to the front. They tried to grab the snow as they plunged for more than 2,000 feet over the glacier. Two members of the chain dropped over the side of the 40 foot crevasse pulling their companions with them.

"We could hear them screaming and yelling . . . When we got there and looked over the lip, we could see them all spread over the bottom of the crater," the boy said.

Tom Pfau of Brooks, Ore., leader of another party of six climbers, said he tried to cut the youngsters free with his jackknife.

"One girl died as I cut her free," he said.

A youth pleaded with Pfau not to move him.

"Please don't move me," the youth cried. "My back's broken."

The report of the tragedy touched off a tremendous rescue operation, Sno-cats and other vehicles worked to help bring the injured down the mountainside Sunday night and early today.

List of dead and injured in the mountain climbing accident follows:

Dead: Lynn Kaufman, Larchmont, N. Y.

Injured: Suzanna Blum, Baldwin, N.Y., fractured spine, condition critical; Susan Stein, Baltimore, Md., fractured skull, condition critical; Royd Weintraube, Chicago, fractured ribs and fractured left scapula. Robert A. Brawer, Fair Lawn, N. J., fractured left ankle. Drexel O. Shaw, Exeter, N. H., fractured right leg, possible fracture, left arm. Robert H. Silin, N. Y., lacerations on left leg. Lawrence Dean McCormick, Painsville, Ohio, possible back injury. John Schloss, Cedar Hurst, Long Island, N. Y., leg injury. Sidny H. Rosenberg, Plainsfield, N. J., leg fracture.

Meredith S. Stebbins, Wayland, Mass., compound jaw fracture, head lacerations. Clair E. Mitchell, Rego Park, N. Y., possible fracture both ankles. Judith Hart, Queens Village, N. Y., fractured ankle. Patricia Gaffney, New York, N. Y., shock and lacerations. Barbara Platto, Brooklyn, N. Y., fractures of both legs and an elbow injury. Carl Schnoor, Portland, Ore., fractured left wrist, possible spine injuries. Roland G. Heinrich, Clear Lake, Iowa, fractured left shoulder, multiple lacerations. Bunny Rockland, New York, N. Y., shock. Louise L. Kuflick, Forest Hills, N. Y., shock.

Britain Halts Arms Shipment To Egypt After Canal Seized

London — (U.P.) — Britain halted all arms shipments to Egypt today and demanded that the Suez Canal be put under international control so no single "unfettered" nation could block its lifeline.

Prime Minister Anthony Eden announced an immediate embargo on British arms shipments to Cairo while Big Three diplomats still were hammering out an answer to Egypt's seizure of the canal last Thursday.

Informed sources said the top-level talks had the twin objectives of immediate steps to enforce free passage through the canal and longer-range measures to internationalize it.

Military Force Urged

Britain and France were reported pressing the United States to agree to the use of military force if necessary, but informed sources said no firm decision had yet been reached.

British Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd, French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau, and U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of State Robert Murphy met Sunday in the first of a series of emergency talks on the canal.

They agreed that the situation was grave and said the canal must remain open. But they turned over to a subcommittee of experts the task of drawing up any three-power "battle plan."

Besides the military and naval talks, other subcommittees worked on economic policy toward Egypt, possible appeals to the United Nations and the World Court and technical details of canal shipping.

Officials refused to disclose the identity of the members of the individual groups, but Britons attached significance to the fact Murphy was accompanied here by Adm. Walter Boone, commander of the U. S. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fleet.

Implied Warning Given

Boone's Mediterranean force, the U. S. 6th Fleet, is the largest striking force in the vicinity of the Middle East trouble areas.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles already has given an implied warnings to Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser with the movement of ships through the canal.

"This would be a matter of deep concern to the United States as one of the maritime nations," he said Sunday.

Governor Schedules Visit to Medford, Ashland This Week

Governor and Mrs. Elmo Smith will arrive in Medford tomorrow afternoon for a two day visit in southern Oregon.

Activities planned for the governor start with a dinner at 6:30 p.m. where he will meet Republican leaders of this area and the executive committee of the county central committee. The governor will appear on a television program over KBES-TV at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday morning, two separate breakfasts are scheduled for the couple.

Governor Smith will attend a no-host breakfast at the Top Notch restaurant, 27 South Fir st. from about 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to is invited to "drop in" during the breakfast.

Mrs. Smith will be the guest at a breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Carl Wimberly, 30 South Barneburg ave. The county Republican Women's organization is sponsoring the affair.

In the afternoon, the governor and his wife will be escorted on a trip to Ashland by Lloyd Selby, chairman of the Smith campaign in Ashland. They will visit several groups and places of business there.

The couple will be guests of honor Wednesday night at the opening night banquet and play of the Oregon Shakespearean festival at Ashland.

County Crews Prepare For Dead Indian Work

Jackson county road crews have moved rock crushing equipment from Mule Hill on the Applegate to Dead Indian rd., and are preparing rock for paving work in that area, Paul Rynning, county engineer, reported today.

The rock crusher may be returned to the Applegate area this fall, Rynning added.

Paving crews have finished work on Evans Creek rd., near Wimer and have moved to Savage Creek rd. Central Heating company is also paving 2½ miles of Table Rock rd. from Merriman rd. to Four Corners, Rynning reported. The project is expected to be finished Wednesday.

Construction will begin soon on the new bridges at Willow creek, Kanes creek, Snider creek and Dry creek. The county court recently awarded the contract for the work to R and M Construction company of Central Point. The new bridges are scheduled to be finished by March. R and M Construction company is also building the McKee bridge on the Applegate.

Work on Projects Starts in City Today

Work was started on one sanitary sewer and two excavation projects in Medford districts this morning, according to Vern Thorpe, public works director.

Central Heating company of Eugene started installation of a sanitary sewer in the Capitol Hill area between Valley View ave., Sunrise ave. and Capitol ave.

Austin King Construction company of Medford began excavation work on Melrose ave. from Grape st. to the railroad tracks. The company also started excavation work on South Fir st. from Melrose ave. to Monroe ave.

Southern Pacific has announced it will construct a spur track at the 11th st. railroad crossing, according to Thorpe. The street will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, he said.

Two Teenagers Fined For Taking Hubcaps

Two Portland teenagers were fined $75 apiece by United States Commissioner Frank J. Van Dyke Sunday for stealing hubcaps in the parking area at Crater Lake National Park.

The boys were Donn Wane Everton, 18, and a 16-year-old, both of Portland.

Van Dyke said they were apprehended by park rangers in the act of stealing a hubcap off a car in the lodge parking lot at the lake. A hearing for them was held Sunday with Van Dyke presiding at the park offices.

Britain Counts 12 Killed in Storm

London — (U.P.) — Britain counted at least 12 persons dead today in one of the worst storms to hit the English Channel this century.

The sudden gale struck the channel Sunday, catching hundreds of "Sunday sailors" in small pleasure boats by surprise, along with more experienced crews of commercial vessels. Several yachts and a large sailing ship capsized and sank. A British steamer also heeled over, tossing its crew into the raging waters.

Winds of 90 miles an hour whipped up mountainous waves and battered the English coast, toppling trees and power lines.

Six of the known dead were drowned at sea. Five others were motorists whose cars were crushed by falling trees. A shipyard worker was blown off a vessel in drydock and fell to his death.

Bids Asked for Work At Willow Creek Dam

Bids for placing rock rip-rap on the Willow creek dam will be received by the Medford water commissioner at the office in the city hall until 10 a.m. Aug. 13, Robert L. Lee, superintendent, has announced.

Rip-rap work will be reinforced on the dam at the full water line, Lee said. The reinforcement will add to the original two feet of rip-rap on the dam, which has been damaged by wave action, he said.

The lake is about 40 miles northeast of Medford. The contract will include quarrying about 2,700 cubic yards of rock from the city's site and hauling and placing the rock.

Specifications may be obtained at the water commission office.

Pear Crop Progressing Well; Harvest Nears

Rogue valley pear harvest is still scheduled to begin on August 9, C. B. Cordy, county agent for horticulture, reported today.

Cordy said the crop is progressing well and recent hot weather has had no detrimental effect on pears.

1955 Miss America Not To Wed DiMaggio

New York — (U.P.) — Lee Ann Meriwether, Miss America of 1955, denied today a columnist's report that she planned to marry Joe DiMaggio, former New York Yankees' baseball star and divorced husband of actress Marilyn Monroe.

Weather

FORECAST: Fair through Tuesday with little temperature change. Low tonight 53. High Tuesday 90.

	Temp.
Highest yesterday	87
Lowest this morning	51

Our Skies Tonight

The sun rises	5:01 a.m.
The sun sets	7:34 p.m.

The unseen stars in its background are now those of Cancer. The moon, at last quarter ..... 11:31 a.m.

Moon rises	11:13 p.m.

PROMINENT CONSTELLATION

Sagittarius, in the south—10:11 p.m.—has about 30 stars that can be seen on a clear moonless night.

Defense Request Rejected In McKeon Court Martial

Parris Island, S.C. —(U.P.)— A defense request to drop the major charges against S/Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon was denied today by the law officer of his court martial.

McKeon's defense lawyer had petitioned for dismissal of charges of manslaughter, oppression of troops and drinking in the presence of a recruit, leaving only one charge remaining against the 31-year-old drill instructor who led his platoon on a "death march."

But the law officer, Navy Capt. Irving N. Klein, denied the three motions at the opening of the defense case in the tenth day of the court martial trial.

To Testify Himself

McKeon, who led a platoon of raw recruits into a tidal creek last April 8 to "teach them discipline" was ready to take the stand as his own star witness. He may testify Tuesday about the march in which six men were drowned.

Arguing the three motions chief defense counsel Emile Zola Berman said McKeon could not have been culpably negligent—as the manslaughter charge accuses him of being—because he did not show gross and wanton disregard of his men's welfare. Berman said the fact that he led them eliminated culpability.

He added that the troops never felt they were being oppressed and that the charge of drinking in the presence of a recruit had not been sufficiently proved.

Some Were Slapped

Arguing against the motion, Marine Maj. Charles B. Seivier, the trial counsel, pointed out that there had been testimony that McKeon slapped three recruits. He said he wondered if the six men who drowned on the march thought they were being oppressed "as they went down."

He said some of them were "non-swimmers," that some were over their heads in the water, that they sank in the clinging mud, and that McKeon had marched them into the creek over terrain unfamiliar to him.

'One Party' Administration Attacked By Holmes at County Democratic Picnic

Robert D. Holmes, state senator from Astoria and Democratic candidate for governor, told a group of about 300 Sunday that the present governor and Republican "one party" administration are to blame for the "tragic educational crisis now facing this state."

Holmes spoke at the annual Jackson county Democratic picnic at TouVelle state park. Charles O. Porter, Eugene attorney and Democratic nominee for congress from the fourth district, also spoke.

Pointing out that Oregon has had Republican governors and Republican legislatures for 22 years, Holmes attacked what he called the growth of "a kind of Monarchial system" in to which the Republican rule has steered the state government.

"The present governor," Holmes said, "promised in a campaign speech to see that the recently passed sur tax law is repealed. Yet, in the 1955 session, neither the governor nor his party would settle for anything less."

Holmes also charged the present governor said he would give some of the surplus to education, yet let his party starve higher education in the 1955 session and refused to face up to the needs of Oregon's schools.

The Democratic candidate, operator of a radio station in Astoria, made three basic promises. He said if elected he would get the surtax off the books, initiate a thorough study of Oregon's tax needs and resources and be aggressive about Oregon's natural resources while exerting leadership to stop the "giveaway" at the state level.

Porter, in his address to the group, called on his opponent, Harris Ellsworth, to join him in a request to the secretary of interior for a fifth assay of the 15 disputed Al Serena claims in the Rogue River National Forest. He said three unimpeachable and mutually consistent assays proved these claims are phoney."

"The fourth, much different from the first three and made under highly suspicious circumstances, was never checked," he stated.

Master of ceremonies at the picnic was Thomas Reeder, Medford attorney and Democratic nominee for district attorney. Reeder and Mrs. George Brown were co-chairmen of the event. Clyde Fichtner, president of the Jackson County Democratic club, was program and game chairman and Judge Frank DeSouza was crowned "King for a Day" in honor of his past services to the party.

Candidates introduced were Attorneys Robert B. Duncan and Robert Boyer, Democratic nominees for the legislature; Karl Janouch, nominee for re-election as county treasurer; Ray Schumacher, nominee for county assessor; Ralph O. James, nominee for county commissioner; and L. Peers Wilmeth, candidate for the non-partisan office of justice of the peace in the Ashland district.

Need Emphasized for Blood Replacement Here

Red Cross officials today emphasized the need for more blood to replace that used for victims of recent car accidents in this area.

The Bloodmobile will be in Medford Aug. 8 between 1 and 5 p.m. at the Elks temple. Appointments for blood donations will be received starting Wednesday. Appointments may be made by phoning 3-3813.