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The year-end round up of local news stories appears on page 5, and the year-end round up of sports news appears on page 9 of today's Mail Tribune.

28 Pages

51st Year

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No. 240

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1956

## Number of Highway Deaths Off to Slow Start on Week End

### 83 Reported Dead Early Last Night

By UNITED PRESS  
A slow rate of traffic deaths during the New Year's holiday heartened safety officials to think that their prediction of 490 fatalities for the four-day week end would be "ridiculously high."

Ned H. Dearborn, president of the National Safety Council, said he was aware that snow, freezing rain and colder temperatures in parts of the eastern half of the nation could boost the highway death rate rapidly unless motorists exercised extreme caution.

83 Highway Deaths  
A survey by the United Press at 8:30 p.m. (PST) showed 83 persons killed in highway accidents. Besides, 11 persons were killed in fires and miscellaneous accidents took the lives of 10 others to bring the overall count to 104 since it got underway at 6 p.m. Friday.

In the traffic tally by states, Pennsylvania held the lead with 11 dead Michigan and Ohio had seven fatalities apiece. Texas registered six.

The council's predicted 490 auto deaths was 83 higher than the all-time New Year's total set during a four-day holiday in 1952-53. But safety experts gambled that the record Christmas holiday slaughter of 713 traffic fatalities would "shock" motorists into traveling carefully and taking no chances.

Pleaded With Motorists  
President Eisenhower also pleaded with motorists to make this week end the "safest New Year's on record" and to follow the rules and courtesies of the road.

Meanwhile, roads became hazardous in parts of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York in the wake of a storm which mped into the Ohio Valley to the Mid-Atlantic coast. It spread from the Great Lakes to New England and southward into North Carolina.

One to four inches of snow fell over the area, creating dangerous driving conditions on the Chicago-to-New York turnpike system and on state trunk routes.

## Freight Train Cars Derailed in Mishap

Boardman — (UP) — A 116-car Union Pacific freight train broke into a bad coupling between cars late Friday night and three units were derailed 14 miles west of Hinkle, Ore.

Union Pacific spokesmen said normal traffic was resumed today but all trains were halted for several hours, including the west-bound City of Portland dome liner and the St. Louis-bound Portland Rose.

Two diesel locomotives and an oil tanker left the tracks as a result of the mishap.

## Babson's Predictions To Be Published Jan. 1

What is the World War II outlook for 1957? Will the cost of living continue to go higher? Will business continue to be good in the next year?

These and 47 other important questions are answered in Roger W. Babson's annual New Year predictions, to appear in the Mail Tribune on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Jakarta, Indonesia — (UP) — Indonesia is ripe for a bloody civil war, sources here said Saturday.



CALIFORNIA BLAZE RAGES ON — Two houses on Rambla Pacific rd. are surrounded by flames as the second of five fires swept down the hills east of Malibu and burned everything up to the houses on the highway. The houses were saved when firemen sprayed water on the roofs and surrounding yards. The first blaze, which started Dec. 26, has consumed 35,000 acres and destroyed at least 60 houses forcing 2,000 persons to flee.

## Fire Area Gets Federal Aid

### \$100,000 Allotted To Malibu Section; 8th Blaze Reported

Malibu, Calif. — (UP) — President Eisenhower declared fire-ravaged areas of Southern California a "major disaster" area Saturday as another major brush fire — the eighth in the four days since Christmas — erupted in dryness caused by a long drought.

The President ordered an initial allotment of \$100,000 in federal funds through the Civil Defense Administration to aid the stricken areas bordering Los Angeles.

The latest fire started about 30 miles north of the blackened 40,000-acre area in the Malibu movie playground. The area has been under the siege of three major blazes.

Firebug Hunted  
A firebug is being hunted in one of the Malibu neighborhoods and investigators were seeking an arsonist in the seventh blaze, which broke out Saturday morning in Palos Verdes estates south of Los Angeles but was brought under control quickly.

Mr. Eisenhower's action was in response to a plea from Gov. Goodwin J. Knight of California who already had declared a state of disaster in Los Angeles county.

Three major fires have joined into one mass with a perimeter covering nearly 100 square miles of the Santa Monica mountain area fronting on the Pacific Ocean playground of the stars.

One blaze began Wednesday in the Zuma Beach area and was followed on Thursday and Friday by fires in the Hume Canyon and Lake Sherwood regions. They have blackened more than 40,000 acres, destroyed nearly 70 homes and taken the life of one man who tried to save his home.

Los Angeles Chief Keith Klinger hoped that the Malibu sections of the fire could be brought under control this week end. However, he warned that any sudden winds could whip the fires into new fury.

A fire broke out before dawn today in the Palos Verdes Estates section and consumed 1,500 acres before it was controlled. Arson investigators held a collection of oil cans and rags believed used to construct a fire-bomb they theorized was used to start the fire.

More than 2,000 firefighters have been battling the three major blazes in an area threatening the homes of film celebrities Jane Russell, Kim Novak, Alan Ladd, Glenn Ford, Eve Arden and Bob Hope.

Fire Near Astoria  
Brought Under Control  
Astoria — (UP) — Fire fighters brought under control Saturday a blaze which broke out Friday in a forest over land 15 miles east of here.

A decrease in the east wind which had fanned the blaze earlier, led fire fighters to predict the danger was past, barring an upsurge of the wind again.

Washington — (UP) — President Eisenhower is not considering sending an ambassador to the Vatican, administration officials have reported.

# SUEZ CLEARING STARTS

## Portland Attorney Named Justice of Oregon High Court

### Randall Kester May Be Youngest to Serve

Salem — (UP) — Randall B. Kester, 40-year-old Portland attorney, was named Saturday as an associate justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to succeed the late Walter L. Toozee who died Dec. 21. Kester's appointment is effective Jan. 3.

Gov. Elmo Smith said the new justice has been a partner in the Portland law firm of Maguire, Shields, Morrison and Bailey since 1940. He has been an active member of the Oregon Bar in general practice and trial work and is just completing a term as president of the Multnomah Bar Association.

May Be Youngest  
At 40, Kester is believed by Capitol observers to be one of the youngest, if not the youngest, associate justices to serve on the State Supreme Court.

The governor said of his appointment: "In seeking a replacement for this position, I was looking for a relatively young man of unimpeachable character who is held in high esteem by his legal associates for his professional ability and who is respected by the public as well as by members of the Bar."

Kester was born in Vale, Ore., Oct. 20, 1916, and spent his early life there before moving to Ontario. He went through grade school in Ontario and moved to Bloomington, Wis., while a high school student.

He was graduated from Bloomington High school and returned to Oregon in 1933. His legal education was obtained at Willamette university here and from the Columbia university law school. He joined his present law firm in 1940.

Other Organizations  
In addition to being president of the Multnomah Bar association, he has been chairman for the past three years of the committee on continuing legal education for the State Bar association and a member of the American Law Institute.

Salem — (UP) — Justice William C. Perry was chosen as chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court by his fellow justices Friday.

Perry, who has served four years on the Supreme Court, will succeed Chief Justice Harold J. Warner Jan. 7 and will serve two years. The post of chief justice is rotated among members of the high court.

Justice Walter L. Toozee had been elected Oregon's chief justice by his fellow jurists.

## Christmas Trees To Be Picked Up Today

A county-wide Christmas tree pickup, to benefit the March of Dimes, will be held today. The project is sponsored by the Medford Moose Lodge.

Those desiring to have trees picked up have been asked to place them in the front yard and to attach a contribution, in an envelope, for the March of Dimes. Boy Scouts will assist in the pickup, Moose planners said.

The trees will be taken to a site on Agate rd., just east of the Crater Lake highway in the Camp White area, where they will be burned about 7 p.m. today. The public has been invited to the burning.

"Good To See You, Old Boy"



## Fog May Usher in New Year in Medford Area

Medford area residents will probably celebrate a chilly New Year's eve under a blanket of fog, weather bureau officials said Saturday.

They indicated that fog, which has been in the area for several days, might lift Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. However, it is expected to return Monday night and remain at least through Tuesday. Temperatures are expected to remain below freezing.

Sun Shines  
The sun broke through the week-old fog shortly after 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the Medford area.

The Medford weather bureau said it may break up Sunday, and that a low-pressure "trough" is moving this way. On Saturday, meteorologists reported, it was only about 600 feet thick in Medford.

However, there was a cloud-seeding attempt just a few moments before the fog broke open Saturday. A crew of Mercy Flights, Inc., pilots drove to Ashland where one of the non-profit corporation's planes had been located since a flight to San Francisco earlier in the week when it could not return to Medford.

They took about 100 pounds of dry ice shreds, and scattered it on top of the fog over the airport. They reported that they could see resulting turbulence and that visibility rose to landing minimums within a few minutes more. They landed at noon. The entire Medford area had partially cleared by early afternoon.

## Christmas Trees To Be Picked Up Today

Law enforcement agencies expressed hope that fog, heavy holiday traffic and drinking drivers would not combine to spoil Oregon's comparatively good traffic record since the holiday season started last week end.

While the national traffic death toll reached more than 700 for the four-day Christmas period against 609 for the three-day 1955 holiday, Oregon's fatalities dropped from seven to four for the same extended week end.

A repeat of last year's New Year's holiday in Oregon would mean four people would be killed celebrating the arrival of 1957 and festivities would be marred by nearly 700 accidents, according to the traffic safety commission. All available state police officers will be on duty in an effort to curb drunk driving and other violations, officials said.

## Business Firms Increase 6.6 Per Cent in Medford

The number of business firms in Medford increased 6.6 per cent over those in 1955, according to J. Harry White, district manager of Dun and Bradstreet Inc., Portland.

The increase is an information compiled by Dun and Bradstreet in the November, 1956, Reference Book in 1955. Dun and Bradstreet listed 710 businesses here, compared to 757 now in Medford.

Each January Dun and Bradstreet requests business concerns throughout the United States to submit financial statements. Dun and Bradstreet requests this year total about \$,000,000.

White pointed out the Reference Book lists only manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and several service companies such as laundries and gasoline service stations. For that reason the total number of businesses in Medford and Jackson county would be higher than the figures quoted.

White said during the past year 520 changes were made in Reference Book listings of Medford businesses. The changes resulted from adding new businesses, deleting discontinued ones and accounting for changes in ownership, trade names and credit ratings.

## May Take Year to Get Canal Into Full Operations

### Crew Dismantling Egyptian Frigate

Cairo — (UP) — The job of clearing the wreck-filled Suez Canal got underway Saturday.

At 2:15 a.m. (PST), a Dutch diver went down at the southern end of the canal to start work on dismantling the 1,200-ton frigate Athir which blocked the channel.

The task of reopening the vital waterway to world shipping was begun by a United Nations salvage force directed by retired U. S. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler.

Estimates Long Time  
Estimates of how long it will take to raise the 50 ships and to repair and replace \$40 to \$50 million worth of wrecked canal installations ranged from two months to a year.

It was announced Wednesday that a clearing agreement had been reached in talks in New York between Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi and U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. The next day Wheeler's work would start Friday. But work never reached Egyptian local officials at Suez, and the task was delayed until yesterday.

The Dutch salvage vessel Tyne and the Danish ship Protector had been in position at Suez for days. Egyptian divers already had started cutting up the freighter Zamack which was blocking the entrance to Suez harbor.

Wheeler did not make any public estimate about how long it would take to clear the canal. But informed sources in some who helped survey the damage said it will take a long time.

Clear Channel  
The sources estimated that 15 Wheeler's men can proceed quickly, they probably can clear a 25-foot channel for the smallest ship within two or three months.

They estimated it would take four to six months to clear the full 36-foot channel. But, noting that the canal workshops are wrecked, its big cranes are down, the lighting system at Ismailia is destroyed and only one tug remains to help ships through the canal, they said, it would be at least a year before full operations are restored.

## Two Are Killed in Oregon Accidents

By UNITED PRESS

Two persons were killed the first night of the New Year's week end in Oregon. Fatal collisions in Portland and Silverton already accounted for half as many deaths recorded during the Christmas week end when four died.

Eleven-year-old Keith O'Rourke, Portland, was killed just outside Portland city limits Friday night when the motor scooter he and his 16-year-old brother were riding on struck from the rear by a car driven by Carroll Conrad Haase, also of Portland. Police cited Haase for negligent homicide.

Another youth, 18-year-old Tommy Eugene Johnson of Astoria, was killed near Silverton when the car in which he was riding collided with a logging truck, and a parked car, Robert Lee Swanson of Silverton, driver of the car and truck driver Carl Skirvin of Silverton were not injured.

## Sports Bulletins

Prospect — Prospect High school defeated Butte Falls, 62-53, here last night in a non-league basketball game. Prospect led at halftime 36-17.

Oregon 57, Tulsa 53, Southern Cal. 58, San Francisco 52 (consolation). Western Classic.

Denny Moyer, Portland, won a unanimous decision over Johnny Green, Roseburg, in the 147-pound bout and Clyde Williams, Portland Pal club, took a split decision over Larry Lewis, Medford, Pal club in the 115-pound match of the double main event amateur boxing card at Hedrick Junior High school last night.

## Phoenix Post Office Will Observe Its 100th Anniversary Thursday, Jan. 3

Phoenix — Thursday, Jan. 3 will mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Phoenix post office, according to confirmation received from the National Archives and Records service in Washington D.C. by Phoenix postmaster Mrs. Marie Furry.

The small post office was established soon after the end of the Rogue Indian wars, when the first mail route was set up between Portland and Sacramento. Samuel H. Miller was the first postmaster.

It is one of three early day post offices established in Jackson county that are still in existence today. Jacksonville was the first in 1834, and Ashland, the second in 1835. Three others, Dardanelles in 1852, Man-

senes in 1853, and Gold River in 1855, were discontinued within 10 years.

Lacks Name  
The story goes that postmaster Miller, lacking a name for the newly established post office, hung an insurance sign in the window which read "Phoenix." The sign may have had some bearing on the town receiving that name a generation or so later.

## Weather

FORECAST: Continued foggy in the valley through Monday; partial afternoon clearing from Medford south. High cloudiness at higher elevations. Sunday, clearing. Monday, lows 26-35, highs 36-35 in fog, 39-55 elsewhere.

TEMPERATURES:  
Highest Yesterday: 21  
Lowest Yesterday: 11

## Our Skies Tonight

Sunrise: 7:31 a.m.  
Sunset: 4:48 p.m.  
Moonrise: Monday, 7:11 a.m.  
New Moon: Monday night  
Mars continues to move eastward among the stars of Pices. A line drawn from this planet to the North Star now passes through the center of the constellation, Cassiopeia.