

Five Die in Fall of Construction Hoist; 14 Seriously Hurt

Jacksonville, Fla. — (U.P.) — Doctors in five hospitals battled today to save the lives of 14 workmen who were injured critically when a construction hoist fell five stories, killing five of the riders.

The big hoist, operating in an open frame outside the new Duval county courthouse, hit the bottom with an explosive sound when a cable broke at the end of the work shift Tuesday.

Waring R. Barbee, who ran to the scene from his motor company across the street, said the men "couldn't talk, they couldn't scream — most of them just lay there stunned or out."

Barbee said he heard a noise "that sounded like an acetylene tank exploding" and when he arrived, "all I could see were mangled men piled on top of each other like cordwood."

Four men were killed in the hoist and another died at a hospital. All the injured were in serious condition at hospitals, where 10 underwent surgery during the night. Doctors said that they could not safely be given needed surgery.

The men had boarded the platform at the fifth floor. Others waiting on the fourth floor

watched helplessly as the cable frayed, and then snapped, dropping the men more than 100 feet.

Lawrence Knight, 62, suffering from fractures of both legs and internal injuries, said, "It all happened so quick — no warning — that nobody jumped. They didn't have time. We were falling, then we hit."

The death toll rose to five when David Atmore, a Negro, died at a hospital several hours after the accident. Those killed on the spot were Dewey Woods, 45; George Leach, 31; Glen Idol, 25; and Jack Thomasson, 24.

Among the horrified witnesses on the fourth floor was Ernest E. Thompson, who said that when he saw the cable begin to give way and then snap, "I shut my eyes and shut my ears — I knew what was going to happen."

George D. Auchter Jr., president of the George D. Auchter Co., general contractor, said that although more men boarded the hoist than usual it was "not overloaded."

A company spokesman said the hoist had been in operation for a year during latter stages of the construction and its safety devices, believed to be "foolproof," had been checked frequently.

'Human Error' Seen Blast Cause

Tacoma — (U.P.) — "Human error" may have been the cause of the explosion which blew four men to bits and obliterated the gelatin packaging plant at the Columbia Powder Works six miles south of here yesterday.

The dead were identified as Buddy Albert Coon, Tacoma; Richard Nelson and Robert D. Schultz, both of Yelm, and James Capps, Frederickson.

Each of the victims had three children except Capps, who had one.

Ed Sorge, supervisor of the safety division of the state Department of Labor and Industries conducted an investigation after the blast and said there was no evidence of carelessness on the part of the company.

Sorge said the explosion apparently was "caused by some type of human error."

As a result of the explosion and a similar blast that killed six men Jan. 12 at the Pacific said he would propose legislation that no more than two "stuffers" be permitted to work in an explosive jelly house.

Salem Area Plumbers Plan Return To Jobs

Salem — (U.P.) — Federal Mediator Clyde Deal said today that some 80 striking plumbers in the Salem area planned to return to work at 25 plumbing shops today.

Deal reported that an agreement in substance had been reached between the plumbers and management and that he hoped to have a new contract approved by Thursday or Friday. He said, however, that money matters were among the issues at dispute that were still unsettled.

Jury Selection for Cramer Trial Continues

Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — The selection of the jury for the first degree murder trial of Guy Earl (Bill) Cramer resumed here today.

Cramer is on trial for the fatal shooting of Fred Peterson, Klamath county welfare commission chairman, last Jan. 14. Eleven jurors were tentatively passed yesterday.

Briefs From the Legislature

Salem — (U.P.) — Formation of an Indian affairs interim committee has been approved here by the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee which sent the resolution to the floor with a favorable recommendation.

The committee will be charged with a study of all Indian problems in the state, working closely with congressional committees concerned with the same problem.

Salem — (U.P.) — The Senate Committee on Highways held a hearing on Senate bill 84, which would provide that signboards could not be erected closer than 500 feet to the pavement edge of a freeway. The measure was upheld by the Oregon Roadside

Council and opposed by the advertising profession in general and the outdoor advertising group in particular. No action was taken on the measure.

Salem — (U.P.) — Two election reform bills, backed by the Interim Committee on Elections, have passed the Oregon House without opposition.

House bill 338 replaces three different methods of contesting elections with one uniform procedure and also allows contest of a measure if fraud is indicated.

House bill 340 provides that all candidates for judicial office shall appear on one ballot and that slogans shall be removed

from the judicial ballot unless they are needed to clarify similarities to names.

Salem — (U.P.) — The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved a bill to allow a county to have two grand juries in operation at the same time. The measure stems from the Multnomah county vice investigation which saw regular criminal cases wait for another investigation.

Salem — (U.P.) — A second hearing on House bill 459 which would enable consumers to find out if eggs were freshly laid or from cold storage, has been scheduled for Friday.

Salem — (U.P.) — The House Highways Committee has recommended a bill increasing the authority of weighmasters to the floor of the House with a do-pass tag.

SHADY COVE-TRAIL Breakfast Slated Sunday

By EVELYN P. WATSON

Shady Cove-Trail — A sausage, pancake and egg brunch will be served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 24, at Our Lady of Fatima hall in Shady Cove.

The breakfast is being prepared and served by the ladies of the parish and everyone has been invited. Proceeds will go toward the building fund.

On Monday, Feb. 18, an inquiry class was held at the church hall with the Rev. John T. Iig in charge.

A meeting of the Shady Cove-Trail Teenagers was held March 14 at the church hall with 19 present. The advisory committee consisting of William Schultz, Tony Phelan, Mrs. Fred Morgan, Mrs. Eva Segessenman, Mrs. Arnold Winslow, Mrs. Clarence Meyers and Richard Pfeifer were present as well as parents of some of the teenagers.

Some discussion was held on money raising projects. It was decided that those young people who were not able to attend the meeting who had received cards of invitation would still be eligible to attend the next meeting March 28 at the hall.

The Cub Scout Planning committee met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sackett of Shady Cove Monday, Feb. 18, to make plans for the Cub Scout meeting March 25. It was decided to sponsor the Indians through the next month. The charter review was given by Jack Holmes, Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chamberlain of Trail have returned from their vacation trip to Arizona and California. They visited several former residents of the area. In Tempe, Ariz., they visited the Winston McCleave family and Mrs. Stella Scott, former residents of Trail; in Mesa, Ariz., they visited Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shearin and family, formerly of Eagle Point, and saw Mr. and Mrs. Walt Young of Eagle Point who were visiting in Mesa, and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Williams of Shady Cove who are spending the winter in Mesa. The Williams are planning to return home soon. They also visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Horne in Red Bluff, and Mr. and Mrs. Herb Sutcliffe in Bishop, Calif.

Apartment Damaged By Fire Early Today

Considerable damage to one room resulted from a cigarette dropped on a davenport early this morning in an apartment occupied by Tod McVay at 245 North Grape st., firemen reported.

They said that much of the furniture in the room was destroyed and that heavy smoke and heat damage occurred. Firemen stated that the fire flared up some time after McVay had retired for the night. They were called out at 12:45 a.m.

Owner of the apartment house is Ray L. Burchfield, who resides there.

Nixon Leaves Africa Without Seeing Lion

En Route With Nixon — (U.P.) — Vice-President Richard M. Nixon leaves Africa without even seeing a lion or elephant.

Nixon got within about 3,000 feet of some of Africa's best game land while flying from Etelbe, Uganda, to Addis Ababa. That was how high his plane flew over the area.

The vice-president's only brush with African wildlife was a hasty look at a 12-foot python captured at the Boni hill iron mine in Liberia about a week before he visited there.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Merriman and Family of Ashland were Dinner Guests at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Greenley on St. Patrick's Day.

Considerable work has been done at the building site of the Country playhouse on Elk creek with several volunteers working last week end leveling the ground and excavating for the furnace room, and clearing the brush. At the last meeting several new members were taken into the Country playhouse. They are Mrs. Roy Porcher and son, Tommy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rogers and son, Bobby; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moorhead, Jerry Ross and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Segessenman, Mrs. Dolf Larson and Mrs. Clara Thurman were hostesses at the meeting.

Work is progressing on the new house being built by Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Spain in back of the Mobil station in Shady Cove.

A blessed event took place last Wednesday at the Eldon Grow residence when their weimaraner dog gave birth to six puppies. At last reports both mother and puppies were doing well.

Mrs. Richard Pfeifer, her son, Billy, and her father, J. W. Hammons, of Sheridan, Ore., have returned from their trip to Palos Verdes and San Fernando, Calif.

Crown Witness Tells Of Discussing Case With Another Nurse

London — (U.P.) — A crown witness admitted in court today that another prosecution witness warned her only an hour earlier not to reveal that drugs prescribed by Dr. John Bodkin Adams for a patient he is charged with murdering were kept in an unlocked drawer.

Nurse Annie Mason-Ellis reluctantly admitted under cross-examination that another nurse warned her, "Don't you say that or you will get me into trouble."

Drawn by Defense Counsel — The testimony was drawn from the nurse by chief defense counsel Geoffrey Lawrence after the witness vainly appealed to the bench for permission to ignore the question.

Lawrence did not pursue this revelation, but it was believed he established the groundwork he wanted for an attempt to prove that this might explain why Adams had to prescribe large quantities of drugs for the alleged victim, 81-year-old Mrs. Edith Alice Morrell.

Lawrence opened the third day of the trial by asking Miss Mason-Ellis about a conversation she allegedly had with two other nurses in the case while riding to London from Eastbourne this morning in the same train compartment.

All three nurses had attended Mrs. Morrell whose death in her Eastbourne mansion in 1950 is alleged by the crown to have been caused by overdoses of narcotics administered by Adams so he could benefit from her will.

Discussion Admitted — Lawrence drew from the nurses the admission they had discussed the case in the courtroom corridors although they had been warned by Detective Superintendent Herbert Hannam.

Miss Mason-Ellis said the subject of that conversation was the nurses' records of the treatment of Mrs. Morrell which the defense produced in a surprise move Tuesday. Lawrence, using the books, forced nurse Helen Stronach to admit her memory was faulty on important evidence.

Despite the warning from Hannam the nurses discussed the

case on their way home to Eastbourne Tuesday night and on their way back today.

COLORED MILK BOTTLES

Montpelier, Vt. — (U.P.) — The state agriculture department says milk in amber-colored bottles has a better flavor than that placed in clear glass bottles. The department said tests show light affects milk flavor, especially the homogenized variety, and that milk in clear bottles left in the sunlight for 20 minutes suffers serious flavor impairment.

Deaths Give Alibi In Teamster Hearing

Washington — (U.P.) — Claude O'Reilly, John J. Sweeney and Gordon Lindsay have a number of things in common.

All three were Pacific Northwest Teamster officials.

All three were referred to Tuesday by Western Teamster boss Frank W. Brewster as the men who knew the answers to Senate Rackets Committee questions about spending of certain union funds.

And all three are dead. "You've got a lot of alibis," Sen. Irving M. Ives (R-N.Y.) said. "This job kills people off." Brewster shouted. "You certainly seem to be thriving," said Committee Chairman John L. McClellan.

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