

Try To Save Boy Trapped in Well Abandoned

Storm Belt Hit Again

Flooding Follows
Deadly Tornadoes
In Southwest Area

Wyoming, Denver
Dig Out of Snow

By UNITED PRESS

Floods followed an outbreak of deadly tornadoes in the southwestern storm belt today, bringing new distress to portions of Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

In New England, widespread frost was reported with record low temperatures for this late in the spring.

A United Press count showed at least 29 persons killed in the violent weather during the last two days. Twenty were killed in the tornado at Silverton, Tex.

Oklahoma reported eight storm deaths and Kansas one drowning.

Flood Conditions Ripe

At Wichita, Kan., the weather bureau warned that conditions along the Little Arkansas river were ripe for a repetition of the disastrous floods of 1951.

Some residents of North Wichita already were moving their furniture and belongings to higher ground. Homes were flooded by the overflow from storm sewers and from shallow Chisholm creek.

Gov. George Docking ordered National Guard units on a standby basis at Wichita, El Dorado, Newton and Eureka, Kan.

Workers were busy sandbagging the levees along the Little Arkansas, and firemen readied boats for evacuation duty.

Eight Dead in Oklahoma
In Oklahoma, eight persons were dead and more than 500 had been driven from their homes by the Cimarron river, on its worst rampage in history.

New rains of up to eight inches fell today and flood waters closed more than 40 major highway routes. Practically every bridge on the Cimarron was heavily damaged or washed out.

Enid and Dover, Okla., looked like "one big lake" from the air Thursday, with floodwaters ranging up to eight and 10 feet deep. The floods hit on the heels of a 13½ inch rainfall.

Cheyenne, Wyo., dug out from a snowstorm that left seven inches of snow on the ground early today. Two inches of snow blanketed Laramie, Wyo., and one inch was reported at Denver.

Up to 14 inches of snow buried sections of southeast Wyoming.

Police Arrest Three California Men

Three California men are being held in the Jackson county jail pending word from authorities in Oakland, Calif., where they reportedly are wanted to face burglary charges.

They are Everett Becraft, 35, Los Angeles; George Edward Marino, 31, Sacramento; and Peter Mascio, 34, Hollywood. They were arrested Thursday by two Medford police officers at East Main and Almond sts.

Officers stopped the three on suspicion after they appeared to be "casing" a building. Police said an investigation revealed the car they were driving recently was stolen from Las Vegas, Nev.

The car contained eight suitcases with more than 40 articles valued at hundreds of dollars, police said. They said they believed the articles were stolen.

Eugene Firm Submits Low Bid for Crater Lake Job

Coast Construction and Excavation company of Eugene was awarded a contract for construction of water and sewer facilities for a new residential area near headquarters at Crater Lake National Park, Superintendent Tom Williams announced today.

The Eugene firm bid was \$36,360.70. A total of 13 bids were received.

The project, part of the park service's Mission 66 program, calls for construction of 3,800 feet of water lines, 3,900 feet of sewer lines, a 20,000 gallon septic tank and related disposal field.

New Development

The new residential development will be in the Munson valley headquarters area, and will provide modern living facilities for permanent park employees. Park service personnel now live in cabins built several years ago and intended for summer use only.

Williams said funds are now

City to Ask PUC For Hearing on Speed of Trains

The Public Utilities commissioner will be asked to hold a public hearing in Medford on the maximum speed limits of Southern Pacific trains at railway crossings in Medford.

The Medford city council last night authorized Mayor John Snider to file a petition with the PUC requesting an investigation and hearing on train speeds.

Present maximum speed limits designated by the PUC for trains operating within the city at Southern Pacific crossings are 35 miles per hour except at Main and Sixth sts., where the speed limit is 10 mph.

Population Growth

The council's resolution noted population growth, increased traffic volume, accident records, signalization difficulties and other conditions at the crossings indicate the present SP speed limits are excessive.

The council also directed City Manager Robert Duff to compile and prepare evidence on railway speeds at crossings for presentation to the PUC hearing officer.

Further restriction on the speed of trains was suggested by the death last week of a 28-year-old Medford woman and her unborn child.

The city has no direct authority to regulate railway speeds. State statutes vest that power exclusively in the state for cities with less than 100,000 population.

Mayor Snider read letters from the Medford Safety council and Medford Ministerial association and a petition signed by 67 Medford residents protesting the lack of safety practices by trains in Medford.

The letters criticized SP's audio-visual warning devices where signals continue to sound at crossings when no train is near. They also protested SP's practice of "flying switching."

The petition urged the council to request the PUC for 10 mph limits at all railway crossings in Medford and guard rails at all crossings as well as underpasses and overpasses.

City Attorney E. R. Bashaw said according to PUC representatives in Salem the maximum railroad speed limits at Medford crossings are in line with those of other cities similar in size to Medford.

The mayor read a telegram from L. R. Smith, SP division superintendent, stating the railroad informally agreed with Mayor Earl Miller in 1956 that the SP would reduce train speeds in accordance with those proposed by the council in February, 1956.

Smith indicated in the telegram that the instructions issued to engineers have been followed. Former Mayor Miller said today he had never made any "individual agreement" on the matter. He added that a mayor has no authority to act without council consent.

Maximum speeds at crossings proposed by the council in February, 1956, were 25 miles per hour except 15 at 11th, Fourth and Third sts. and 10 at Main and Sixth sts.

According to city records no acknowledgment of the council's proposed schedule of speeds was ever received from the Southern Pacific.

Only objection to the council action last night came from Councilman Robert Van Sickle. Van Sickle said slower speeds would add to the congestion of traffic in Medford and that the recent accidents involving the SP in which two people have died, "aren't accidents in which the SP should be held solely responsible."

Voters Turn Down Annexation at Eugene

Eugene—A move to annex two large suburban areas to Eugene was an apparent failure today, on the basis of still incomplete returns.

Eugene voters balloted overwhelmingly in favor of annexation of River Road and Oakway-Wilkenzie districts but residents in those fringe areas gave equally heavy margins against the proposal.

Other bids were received from Bessonet Construction company, Medford, \$37,757.61; Brostherous Construction company, Klamath Falls, \$40,918.29; Deller Construction company, Eugene, \$49,449.29; Harold W. Salter, Rogue River, \$46,982.95; Ausland Construction company, Grants Pass, \$41,430; Graham Brothers, Ltd., Klamath Falls, \$50,898.40; P. J. Bush and sons, Cottage Grove, \$42,748; R and M Construction company, Central Point, \$48,374.95; M. C. Lininger and sons, Medford, \$41,562.12; W. H. Conrad company, Inc., Medford, \$52,516.30; Riverside Construction company, Portland, \$43,789; and G. C. Motley, Inc., Klamath Falls, \$51,698.85.

Six Grants Pass Students Injured On Blackwell Hill

Car Hits Rear of Cement Truck Today

Six Grants Pass High school students were hospitalized in Medford this morning after the car in which they were riding struck the rear of a cement truck on Highway 99 on the north slope of Blackwell hill, north of Central Point.

Condition of the six girls, five from Grants Pass and one from Rogue River, was believed serious.

The accident victims were identified by police as Yvonne Erickson, 17, of 1248 Schroder lane, Virginia Spliethof, 16, of 200 Lewis ave., Sharon Plantz, 16, of 225 Lincoln rd., Charlene Palmer, 16, route 2, box 328-B, and Dixie Lee Turk, 17, of 1417 East Park st., all of Grants Pass, and Jo Ann Wood, 17, route 1, box 103, Rogue River.

State police said identification was taken from contents of purses and billfolds.

Senior 'Skip Day'

According to police, the accident occurred about 9:57 a.m., while the youths were en route to Jackson Hot Springs for a senior class "skip day." They were traveling south on the highway when their car apparently struck the rear of the cement truck, also southbound on the highway.

Officers said the cement truck, which was knocked about 119 feet up the hill by the impact of the crash, was traveling at an estimated speed of 17 miles per hour. The car, operated by Miss Plantz, traveled more than 200 feet along the highway shoulder before hitting the truck, police said.

Lester Dusenberry, 704 Palm st., Medford, was driver of the truck.

Two ambulances were summoned to the scene. Two of the injured girls were taken to Rogue Valley hospital and four were taken to Sacred Heart hospital. Officers are still attempting to learn details of the accident.

Council Approves Mutual Assistance

The Medford city council last night approved participation by the fire department in a mutual assistance agreement with 13 organized fire districts and municipalities in Jackson county.

A similar mutual assistance agreement has been effect in Jackson county since 1950, according to Fire Chief Gordon Barker. The new agreement protects districts participating in the agreement from liability, Barker said.

Purpose of the agreement is for a unified fire service for the county, Barker said. No community could provide enough fire equipment in case of a major fire. Districts will now have access to fire equipment of other areas.

Barker said a central dispatch system probably will be set up at the Medford station for contacting other districts.

Fire departments participating in the agreement are Medford, Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Jacksonville, Eagle Point, Central Point, Gold Hill, Rogue River, Rogue River Rural Fire department, Central Point Rural, Shady Cove Rural, and the Camp White Fire department.

Salem—Sen. G. D. Gleason, Portland Democrat, today became the first/formal candidate for president of the 1959 Senate.

Ordinance Adopted On Liquor Control

A new municipal liquor control ordinance was adopted by the Medford city council last night.

Most significant section of the new ordinance pertains to the purchase or possession of liquor by a minor, according to City Attorney E. R. Bashaw. Violators can now be tried in municipal court instead of district or circuit court, Bashaw said.

He noted that the new ordinance, in general matters pertaining to liquor control enforcement, will give the city of Medford more authority. The ordinance also reenacts and incorporates all state laws on liquor control, he said.

The ordinance, patterned after a model ordinance prepared by the League of Oregon Cities, provides for various phases of liquor control to be all under one ordinance. Previously, Medford liquor control regulations have been scattered in several different ordinances.

Damages Awarded in Mitchell Flash Flood

Fossil—A \$15,000 judgment has been awarded Lena Sigrit for damages done to her property in the disastrous Mitchell flood of July, 1956.

It was the first of 10 cases to come to court against the State Highway Commission as a result of the flash flood which swept down Mitchell's main street, washing out roads and destroying buildings.

Measure To Increase Basic School Support Clears House



PRESENTED PIN—Jim Murray, right, shop foreman at the Mail Tribune, was presented a 40-year membership pin Thursday by the Medford Typographical union No. 559. The presentation was made by Clark E. Anderson, president of the Oregon Typographical

conference. He also represented the local union. Murray has worked for the Mail Tribune since 1916. Others present when the pin was awarded were shop employees of the Mail Tribune. —(Kenn Knackstedt photo)

City Decides Not to Assume Indebtedness Of Water Districts

The city of Medford will not assume bonded indebtedness of the Midway and Elk City water districts if the Berrydale area is annexed to Medford.

The city council last night took action on the matter after hearing a report by Robert Lee, city water superintendent. The city water commission recommended the city not assume the indebtedness of the two areas.

Bonded indebtedness of the Midway district is \$74,000 and the Elk City district \$187,000. Seventy per cent of the assessed valuation of the Midway district and 40 per cent of the Elk City district assessed valuation are included in the proposed annexation area.

Indebtedness Listed
The Berrydale area is responsible for repayment of about 70 per cent, or \$52,000, of the \$74,000 Midway district debt and about 40 per cent, or \$75,000, of the \$187,000 Elk City district debt.

Millage rate in the Midway water district is 1.4, and in the Elk City district it is 9.3.

Lee said three reasons motivated the commission's recommendation:

1. There is no statutory requirement that the debt be assumed as was the case in the annexation of the Kenwood-Grandview area.

2. While the commission can absorb a \$5,200 per year loss in revenue and additional maintenance and operations costs as a result of the Berrydale annexation, assuming water district debts would require a second water rate increase within the city equal in magnitude to the recent rate increase caused by the Kenwood-Grandview annexation.

3. The water district debt in Berrydale was incurred primarily to finance the cost of lateral water mains and should be assessed against benefitting property owners.

Lee said in his report if Medford assumed Berrydale's water district debts, the city as a whole would relieve Berrydale property owners from paying lateral main assessments and the entire assessment procedure "would be open to question."

The water superintendent pointed out the taxes to be paid to the water districts by the Berrydale property owners are simply assessments for lateral water mains paid over an 18 to 25-year period.

Berrydale residents will vote on annexation May 22. Last week the city council, representing Medford voters, approved the proposal following a public hearing.

(See Council Story Page 8)

Plans Authorized for Sewer in Northeast

City Manager Robert Duff last night was authorized by the Medford city council to prepare plans and specifications for a sanitary sewer for about 1,370 acres in the Kenwood-Grandview area.

The area in Kenwood-Grandview for which the sewer is planned is bounded by Delta Waters rd. on the north, Springbrook rd. on the east, Saline ave. on the south, and Biddle rd. and Crater Lake highway on the west.

Studies are now being made to determine cost of the sewer project and to work out problems involving areas in Kenwood-Grandview that are sparsely settled where sewer assessments would be "exorbitant," according to Vern Thorpe, public works director.

Beck's Relative Uses 5th Amendment

Washington—The Senate Labor Rackets committee charged today that a relative of Dave Beck simultaneously got \$50,000 from the Teamsters Union payroll and \$51,000 from a company selling goods to the union.

The relative, Norman Gessert, invoked the Fifth Amendment to this and all other questions the committee shot at him as he began public testimony. He refused to answer four questions in the first 10 minutes.

Gessert, a trim, gray-haired man with a stolid, gruff face, refused even to say that he knew his own attorney, Edward L. Carey, who sat beside him.

Sand Covers One Exposed Hand; All Efforts Defied

Rescuers Call for Derrick and Bucket

Manorville, N. Y. — Rescuers abandoned efforts to tunnel through to 7-year-old Benny Hooper today and sent for a derrick and bucket to break through to the 21-foot well shaft in which he has been trapped for more than 19 hours.

Hope for the imprisoned youngster had been virtually abandoned as shifting sand covered his one exposed hand in the 10-inch shaft and defied all efforts to shore a tunnel to him from an emergency parallel shaft.

Last Rites Administered
Shortly after 10 a.m. (p.s.t.) Deputy Sheriff Phillip Corso announced: "This is a lost cause. We're going to have to change the whole operation."

Corso said a derrick and bucket had been sent for and an attempt will be made with them to break through and "dig the boy out quickly."

The last rites of the Roman Catholic Church had been administered to the child a few hours earlier.

Vacuum Pump Used
In a desperate last effort to maintain life, if the child was still alive in his 10-inch prison, a vacuum pump which had earlier been regarded as too dangerous for use was set up to clear the sifting sand from above his head.

His hand, cramped above his head and the only part of him visible from above, disappeared under the falling sand at 9 a.m. Almost all hope for his life went with it.

At about the same time, the sand bogged down rescue workers in a parallel hole as they attempted to tunnel through the 15 feet separating them from the boy. They worked frantically to break through.

Parents Not Present
The boy's parents were not present when the priest administered the last rites. Friends say Benny has been a regular attendant at a Methodist Church Sunday school.

A Roman Catholic Church spokesman said that in cases where a priest comes upon an accident scene he may administer "conditional absolution," a form of final rite designed for situations in which the faith of a dying person is not known.

Appointments Made To Plumbing Board

Appointments of two plumbers and a city official to the Medford board of plumbing examiners were approved by the city council last night.

They are L. C. McLaughlin, master plumber; D. C. Endicott, journeyman; and H. E. Mackie, city building inspector, was re-appointed city plumbing inspector. He has served on the board about nine years. Terms of the other two board members are one year.

Purpose of the plumbing board is to hold examinations for plumbers applying for a master plumber rating.

Weather

FORECAST: Occasional light rain through Saturday. Low tonight 48. High Saturday near 70.

Highest Yesterday 78
Lowest This Morning 58

Our Skies Tonight

Sunrise 4:48 a.m.
Sunset 8:28 p.m.
Moonrise 10:36 p.m.
Last Quarter May 21

PROMINENT STAR
Capella, low in northwest

VISIBLE PLANETS
Jupiter, high in south

Saturn, rises 8:01 p.m.
Mars, sets 10:12 p.m.

Signing of County Budget Delayed; Opinion Received

Signing of the 1957-58 Jackson county budget, originally scheduled for Thursday afternoon, has been delayed.

Officials said the delay was caused by inability to contact all members of the budget committee yesterday. Last signature was expected to be obtained today.

Opinion Received
An opinion from the attorney general concerning two items on the budget was received late yesterday. The attorney general held that retaining \$12,500 for operation and maintenance of the juvenile detention home before construction is completed is legal as long as the funds are labeled for that purpose.

He held the same was true concerning the proposed \$104,000 sinking fund for purchase of a new agronomy research station. It was explained that it is illegal to hold funds for an unspecified purpose in the county budget. However, the attorney general said money may be held for future use as long as the intended use is named in the budget.

Detention Home
The detention home operation and maintenance fund would not be used until sometime after September when completion of the building is expected. Property near Jacksonville for agronomy research will be purchased over a period of years rather than in a lump sum.

Hearing on the proposed \$2,980,446.72 county budget has been scheduled for June 17. County Clerk Bereth P. Hopkins has indicated she will present a proposed salary schedule for all county employees at the hearing. The schedule is expected to be similar to one used for civil service employees.