

# BOMB BLASTS RELIGIOUS COLONY

53rd Year

## MEDFORD TRIBUNE



Price 10 Cents

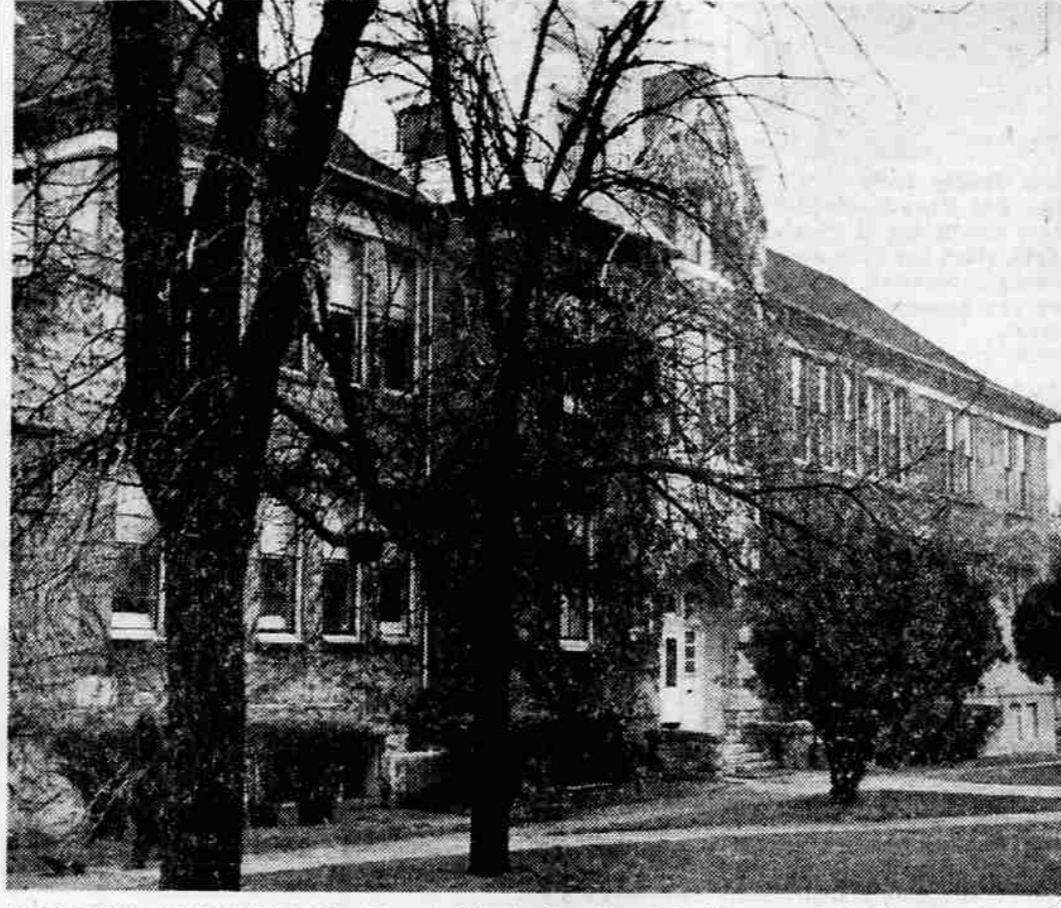
22 Pages

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1958

No. 224



**FIRE ESCAPE**—A group of parents and civic leaders in Ashland were taken on a tour of the Ashland Junior High school this week, so they could see for themselves the fire dangers that exist in the building. Part of the group, above, is shown coming down the narrow fire escape that would be used by students in evacuating the building.



**CONDEMN CLASSROOMS**—The Ashland Junior High school building, built in 1912, which has for a number of years been of concern to parents as being a "fire trap," had part of its classrooms closed this week by the state fire marshal. The condemned classrooms are on the top floor, where students would be unable to escape through windows.

## Third Floor of Ashland Junior High Condemned

Ashland — The third floor of Ashland Junior High school was permanently condemned as a fire hazard Tuesday by the deputy state fire marshal. Classes were dismissed for the remainder of the week.

Deputy W. R. Robie, Grants Pass, condemned the entire third floor of the 58-year-old structure after he had been summoned to Ashland by Fire Chief Charles Davis. Davis said that a group of parents made the request.

School Superintendent Stanley Jobe said the school will be permitted to use the two lower floors of the building when classes resume Monday, Dec. 15. He explained that daily schedule will remain unchanged but will be in more cramped facilities until a new structure can be built. No double shifts will be required, he stressed.

**Inadequate Facilities**  
The third floor, containing seven classrooms and a music room, was condemned due to inadequate exit facilities, Davis said. He explained that during parts of the day nearly 200 students were on the third floor. Two metal exterior fire escapes and the inside stairway were the only exits from the area.

He explained that the building had been listed as substandard for several years and that enclosing the stairwell had been suggested. This, he added, was found not to be practical since the cost would exceed \$15,000 and the walls in the old building would act as a flu in case of fire. He explained that smoke, gas and fumes could travel quickly from the basement to the attic between the walls.

The fire marshal made his last formal inspection of the building in January, 1957, Davis said, but added that the fire marshal had conducted "drop-through" inspections three or four times during the year. Each time any corrections brought to the attention of the school authorities were immediately made, he said.

The first two floors of the building are considered safe for classes, school officials said, since both floors are partly on the ground-level. A list of corrections for the first and second floors are expected this week from the state fire marshal's office, Davis said.

**447 Students**  
A total of 447 students attend classes in the junior high school building. Superintendent Jobe said, which includes 71 sixth grade students. These students, who met in the junior high school building due to the overcrowded conditions in the elementary school, will be transferred to the Bellevue Elementary school. Temporary classrooms in the school gymnasium is being made available for the three classes.

Jobe said that cafeteria service at the junior high school will be discontinued and converted into two classrooms. Students wishing a hot lunch at noon may attend the Lincoln school approximately four blocks away. The superintendent stated that the food served at the junior high school had previously been brought to the cafeteria in hot ovens from Lincoln.

School officials said classes also will be held in the library and the faculty room. The vocal-music program, formerly held on the third floor, will be transferred to the orchestra building on the grounds.

The action by parents which resulted in the condemning of the third floor of the school came as a direct result of the Chicago school fire disaster last week.

## Campaign Hits 62 Per Cent of \$275,000 Goal

\$170,978 Reported Contributed to Fund

A total of \$170,978.93 has been solicited in the Oregon Shakespearean Festival's new building fund campaign, it was reported this noon.

The total of a little more than 62 per cent of the \$275,000 goal for the new theater in Ashland.

The new Medford total is \$54,515.50, Otto Frohnmayer, chairman of the campaign, reported. Last week, the Medford total was \$43,748.50, and goal for the Medford drive is \$100,000.

Ashland's total is now \$51,430.84, which does not include a matching fund set up by an anonymous donor. A. C. Fries, Festival association president, Ashland, predicted that Ashland may raise as much as \$70,000 toward the building. Goal for Ashland was \$50,000.

R. M. Sorenson's special gifts committee this noon reported a total of \$42,699.50, material gifts now total \$5,542, and out-of-town gifts which are chiefly mail gifts, now totals \$7,433.75.

W. J. Williams, vice president of Harry and David's Bear Creek orchards, discussed values of the Festival this noon.

Medford's final report meeting will be next Wednesday in the Red Cross building, 60 Hawthorn ave. Frohnmayer reminded volunteer workers.

Construction of a new Festival theater building and public restroom facilities is expected to start when the campaign goal has been reached. The old theater was torn down following last season's productions. It had been condemned by the state fire marshal.

## Heavy Turnout Of Voters Noted In City Election

A relatively heavy turnout of voters in today's municipal off-street parking election was indicated shortly after the polls opened at 1 p.m. In Ward IV, for example, 18 persons had voted in the first 10 minutes, with a dozen more waiting in line to cast their ballots.

Polls will remain open until 8 p.m. All registered voters in the city are eligible to cast ballots.

Polling places are, for Ward I, Hedrick Junior High school; Ward II, girls' gym at Medford High school; Ward III, McLaughlin Junior High school, and Ward IV, Girl Scout house in Hawthorne park.

## Ike Refuses To Refute Russian Missile Reports

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But he took a highly guarded view of a number of reports of startling Russian progress in the development of scientific weapons. He said that in the case of the atomic plane there was absolutely no reliable evidence of any kind that the Soviets had flown such an aircraft.

(Continued on Page 5)

## DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York — Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 564.98, up 6.85; 20 railroads 155.64, up 1.70; 15 utilities 97.95, up 0.50, and 65 stocks 196.73, up 2.10. Sales today were about 4,340,000 shares compared with 3,790,000 shares Tuesday.

## Becken, Jewett to Speak at Meeting

Elliott Becken, assistant superintendent of Medford schools, and H. P. Jewett, superintendent of schools in district 6C, will discuss their respective districts at a public meeting of patrons in Howard school district tomorrow night.

The meeting was called by the Howard School Reorganization Information committee, of which Nick Gier is chairman, and will be held in the Howard school gymnasium starting at 8 o'clock.

Questions regarding future plans of the Medford and 6C districts, construction of additional facilities, and changes in the academic programs are expected to be discussed by Becken and Jewett.

The Jackson County Reorganization committee has recommended that Howard district be consolidated with district 6C, which now includes Central Point, Gold Hill and Sams Valley.

## Applegate Valley Flu Fire Report Involves Ranger Station, Dancers

Applegate Valley — A flu fire at the William Roby residence, and a particular set of circumstances recently, started a chain reaction which had most of the Applegate valley residents driving around searching for a fire and alerted the Jacksonville fire department.

Mrs. Roby discovered the house near the flu burning. She called her husband from a nearby service station, and the Medford telephone operator to notify proper authorities.

The telephone operator apparently called the Star Ranger Station. Since everyone was at a farewell party for Ranger Vern Taylor and not available at the moment, Miss Carolyn Matteson of Grant Pass, baby-sitter for Byron Peffley, office clerk at the ranger station, answered the telephone.

## AT LEAST NINE CULTISTS DIE

### BODY OF 'MESSIAH' DISCOVERED IN DEBRIS

Chatsworth, Calif. — (UPI) — An exploding bomb ripped through a religious colony today, killing barefoot "messiah" Krishna Vanta and at least eight other persons, including an 11-month-old boy.

FBI agents threw a cordon about the charred debris of the main monastery building of the Fountain of the World Cult and began a search for more bodies, possibly including that of a maniac who touched off the bomb.

Ventura County Sheriff's Lieutenant Ralph M. Hollis said the colony listed only eight persons as missing and that portions of another body were found. "It is our opinion now" that it is that of the bomber, Hollis said.

Vanta's body was one of the charred bodies found in the smoldering wreckage of the building. He was identified by dental work—an upper plate.

The blast caved in one wall of the building, setting it on fire and spreading debris several hundred feet in Box canyon, some 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles in the Santa Susana mountains.

The flaming wreckage touched off a brush fire that roared out of control through the tinder dry watershed. Some 250 men were on the fire lines.

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## Work on Recreation Facilities Planned

Work on some of the recreation area facilities at Howard Prairie reservoir will start during the next construction season, James Callan, project engineer for the Talent project, told the county court yesterday afternoon.

Work on the recreation facilities proposed for Emigrant reservoir will start "a year from now," Callan added. About \$140,000 will be available for planning and construction for facilities for both reservoirs, Callan said.

Members of the county court said they should be ready to grant concessions on Howard Prairie reservoir late next year.

Gordon Whitaker, chief of lands branch, regional office of the bureau of reclamation, Boise, Idaho, assured the county court and officials of the Medford, Talent and Rogue River Valley irrigation districts yesterday that recommended changes would be made in the contract for development and administration of the recreation sites and it would be returned "in the next two or three days."

Changes were recommended at a meeting of representatives of the three irrigation districts yesterday afternoon. It should be made clearer in the contract that primary purposes of both reservoirs is for providing irrigation waters, irrigation district officials said. That the irrigation districts have the right to run the water levels of the reservoirs up and down as needed should also be clearly stated in the contract, officials suggested.

**Water Level Lowered**  
The water level in Hatt reservoir will be lowered in 1960 when Howard Prairie and Emigrant reservoirs are both in operation, it was reported yesterday. It will be possible then to clear many of the snags from the lake. The lake should be poisoned for clearing trash fish in 1960, it was suggested.

Whitaker said probably the bulk of the money allowed for development of recreation facilities would go to Howard Prairie reservoir. What proportion is allotted for each of the two reservoirs will depend on estimates made on construction of facilities, Whitaker said. All engineering on the project will be done this winter, he added.

Recreation developments on Howard Prairie will include a boat basin with docks and ramp, swimming area, motor court, trailer park and picnic areas. Plans have yet to be made for recreation facilities on the Emigrant reservoir, Callan said.

Classes at Hoover started this school year. Open house and dedication of Wilson school, which opened for classes last month, tentatively is planned in February, school board members were told. Construction crews are putting the finishing touches on Wilson school.

Board members reviewed plans for purchasing sites for junior high schools, but any action has been delayed until after plans of the Jackson County Reorganization committee are completed.

The board approved a schedule for preparing and considering the 1959 school budget, including a salary schedule. A study of the proposed budget will be completed next May, school officials said.

Also discussed was the possibility of changes in accounting procedures of the district. School administrators have recommended that machine accounting be used as an economy measure. A study of the possible change has been under way for sometime by school officials.

## Copco Wins Suit Brought by State

Circuit Judge Orval J. Millard, Grants Pass, late yesterday ruled in favor of the California Oregon Power company in a suit brought against the company by the state as a result of a forest fire.

The state sought to recover \$40,682.40 which is claimed to have spent in extinguishing a forest fire in the Sykes creek area of Jackson county. The fire started on Labor Day, 1955.

Judge Millard's ruling yesterday ended the week-long trial. He ruled that Copco was not negligent in the origin of the fire and that it was neither an owner, operator nor person in possession of the land where the fire started.

The state claimed the company had possession of the premises where the fire started, and that it was the company's duty, as possessor, to clear the area of the right of way and adjacent land of trees dangerous to power lines.

**Charges Negligence**  
The state charged that Copco was negligent in failing to fight the fire or in preventing it from spreading.

Judge Millard said it was his opinion that the owner does not require the owner of a right of way to fight fires which start on or spread across the land.

Testimony during the trial brought out that a pine tree was topped by a strong, twisting wind which blew the tree top into an electrical distribution line, causing the line to break, and starting the fire.

Attorneys appearing for the power company at the trial were Roberts, Kellington and Branchfield. The state was represented by Thomas C. Stacer and Nicholas D. Zafiratos, assistant attorneys general, both of Salem.

## Procedure For Trees Changed

A change in the procedure under which individuals may secure permits to cut Shasta fir Christmas trees for home use on Rogue River National forest lands, has been announced by S. T. Moore, acting forest supervisor.

Moore said that two men in the Prospect ranger district have been authorized to receive cash payments and to issue permits for trees at \$1 each. He mentioned that a separate permit will be issued for each Shasta fir tree.

The permits may be obtained at the Prospect ranger station on week days. The permits will authorize cutting in a limited area above Union Creek. On week ends the permits may be secured at the forest service log scaling station one mile north of Prospect.

Moore stressed that no trees may be cut on the national forest without a permit. Free permits for cutting Douglas fir and white fir trees for personal use from marked areas may also be obtained at the same offices as the Shasta fir permits.

Officials said that unauthorized cutting in commercial quantities in the Blue Rock and Four Mile Lake areas has been reported and is under investigation by the forest service and the federal bureau of investigation.

## 18 Prizes To Be Awarded in Contest

A total of 18 prizes valued at more than \$450 will be awarded in the Medford Jaycees residential Christmas lighting contest, Del Landing, contest chairman announced.

Sweepstakes prize is a four-speed hi-fi portable phonograph, he said, and added that the prizes are on display at the Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan association.

Entry blanks for the contest are available by contacting the Medford Jaycees, post office box 251, or from several downtown stores. He said the blanks also are available from Jaycees members.

All entries in the lighting contest are eligible for prizes regardless of size, Landing said. He explained that the organization was encouraging residents to start new displays even though they may be small.

Salem — (UPI) — All Oregon highways are clear of snow.

## Snow Continues To Fall On Paralyzed N.Y. Town

By United Press International  
A blinding storm dumped another 12 inches of snow today on Oswego, N.Y., already virtually paralyzed by a five-foot blanket, but some relief was promised for the snow in Oswego and across the nation from biting cold.

**End Said Coming**  
The Weather Bureau in Syracuse, N.Y., said an end to Oswego's seemingly endless snow was finally in sight. The forecasters said about six more inches could be expected today and "then it should be all over with."

In Oswego, sharp gusts of wind piled snow into deep drifts. The city's 23,000 residents have been virtually cut off from the outside world since Sunday. Schools, factories, and most businesses remained closed for the third straight day.

**Trapped in Homes**  
Police and Red Cross teams using skis and snowshoes, delivered food to many snow-bound residents, many trapped in their homes, despite scores of plows thrown into the battle against the towering snow mounds.

Washington — (UPI) — The Defense Department called for 9,000 draftees for the Army during February, the same total as for January.

## WEATHER

**FORECAST:** Valley fog and low cloudiness tonight and Thursday. Thickening cloudiness above the fog Thursday with chance of showers late in day. Continued mild. Low tonight 45. High Friday 50.

Highest Yesterday — 50  
Lowest This Morning — 45  
Prec. to 10 a.m. Today, Trace.

**Our Skies Tonight**  
Sunset today — 4:39 p.m.  
Sunrise tomorrow — 7:39 a.m.  
New Moon today — 9:23 a.m.  
Moonset today — 5:11 p.m.

**VISIBLE PLANETS**  
(their approximate distances from the Earth tonight)  
Mars — 35 million miles  
Jupiter — 582 million miles  
(They are now equal in brilliance.)

## "I Don't Know Why Everything Has To Keep Changing. When I Was A Young Man—"



HERB LOCK  
WITH THE WASHINGTON POST

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Miss Matteson thought of calling Upper Applegate store at McKee bridge. But she found no store under the name "McKee" in the directory, and called Leonard McKee of Jacksonville.

His understanding was that the house from which the baby-sitter was calling at the station was on fire, so he tried to telephone neighbors in the area, who apparently were at a Grange square dance.

McKee finally contacted Mrs. Jim Wittingham, who roused her husband from bed to drive 12 miles up the valley looking for a fire. The Wittinghams found everything quiet, but spread the alarm at the square dance. It was about 10 p.m., and the dance

quickly broke up since many of those attending had left children at home. Meantime, men at Star Ranger Station had been told that the fire was "across from the blue swimming pool at the James Miller ranch."

Ben Twiss and Bob Sorber went to the J. B. Sanford home across the river. Mrs. Sanford had received a call from Elba Graham, Jacksonville fireman, who believed Sanford's house to be on fire. He told Mrs. Sanford the Jacksonville firemen were at a meeting and would be standing by if they received directions.

The flu fire was about a mile from the Sanford's. Soon after Mrs. Roby reported the fire to the Medford telephone operator, Roby had extinguished it with a bucket of water meant for his horse.

Open house and dedication ceremonies at Hoover school, one of two new elementary schools in Medford, will be held Jan. 20, school administrators reported to the Medford school board last night.

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