

Population Center Leaves Cornfield For Dairy Farms

Louisville, Ill. — (UPI) — The population center of the United States sat today somewhere between James Fleener's sows and Clee Bible's pasture. No one was quite sure of the exact spot.

"Someone probably will erect a marker on the site — when we find it," Louisville Mayor George Montgomery said.

The U. S. Census Bureau announced Friday that the admission of Alaska had shifted the population center 17 miles southwest of Carl Snider's Olney, Ill., farm, the former center, to a point three miles northeast of this southern Illinois town.

Snider felt he had lost a distinction and gained a corn crop. Tourists had been trampling his cornfield ever since he became the man in the middle, he said.

Louisville — the Clay county seat and a town of 1,000 population — was unaware of the switch until newsmen told them. They put a ruler on a wall map and measured three miles northeast of town.

The ruler pointed to somewhere between the dairy farms of Fleener and Bible.

Liberia is about the size of Pennsylvania or Ohio.

Davidson Attacks Resources Policy

Denver — (UPI) — A former assistant secretary of the interior said yesterday the Eisenhower administration has failed to meet the challenge of Russia's resources development.

C. C. Davidson, national Democratic committee man from Oregon, made the charge in a talk before the Western States Democratic conference in session here.

Davidson urged additional development and exploitation of western resources which he said had long been neglected by the Republican administration, an administration he described as one of "do nothing for the people."

Davidson also agreed with Gov. Steve McNichols of Colorado who, in a keynote address Friday night, accused the Eisenhower administration of being too occupied with international affairs to devote adequate time and energy to domestic problems.

The conference heard committee reports from George Rock of Denver, chairman of the committee on small business activities, and Joe Walton, national committeeman from Arizona who reported for the transportation committee.

Walton said the federal government must help to develop maximum transportation facilities in the west, particularly between the new states of Hawaii and Alaska.

He said the time was not now "economically or politically appropriate" for the Democrats to enter the field of rate making, and that broad legislative developments in transportation systems should be made first.

Bag Suffocation Deaths' Solution Seen in Education

San Diego, Calif. — (UPI) — Education of the public was hailed yesterday as the answer to the increasing problem of children suffocating while playing with plastic clothing bags.

The seven-member California State Board of Dry Cleaners met here Friday with 25 representatives of the cleaning industry and plastic manufacturers to try to solve the problem which so far has claimed at least 20 lives.

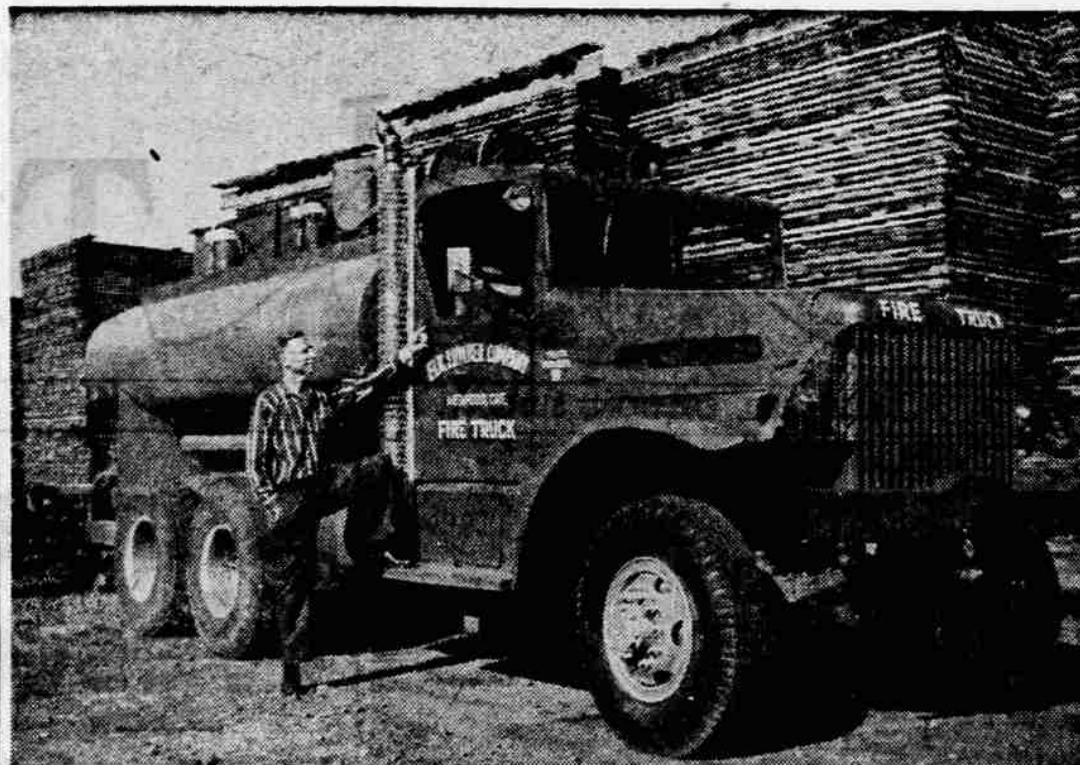
"I believe the plastic bag problem is one education will cure," said Board President Harold G. Lord. "The answer is not to discontinue use of plastic bags because only 10 per cent of the bags in use today are from the dry cleaning industry."

Lord said the industry "happens to be one of the first singled out."

Citing a National Safety Council report, listing 20 deaths due to suffocation in plastic bags, Lord said he felt the board was obligated to take some form of action.

The cause of suffocation in most cases was that static electricity made the bags cling to the noses and mouths of the victims, shutting off air.

Operators of cleaning establishments said consumers wanted the plastic bags to continue in use. Methods of making the bags less dangerous were discussed.



NEW TRUCK — George Flanagan of Elk Lumber company is shown with a new 2,000-gallon fire truck, which can go almost anywhere a jeep can go. The truck, a former tank retriever of World War II, is a 10-wheel drive vehicle. It also carries 200 feet

Hatfield Announces Eight Appointments

Salem — (UPI) — Gov. Mark Hatfield made eight appointments to state agencies yesterday. They were:

William P. Grimes, Klamath Falls, to the hydroelectric commission replacing Frank C. Dillard, who resigned.

James W. Morrell, Portland, to the hydroelectric commis-

sion, filling a vacancy occasioned by the death of George Joseph.

Mrs. Michael Mulick, Moro, to the Sherman county public welfare commission, replacing L. P. Haven, who resigned.

Lee Nelson, Coos Bay, to the board of forestry for a term ending Dec. 31, 1959, succeeding Eliot Jenkins, who resigned.

Dr. Richard Sullivan, Portland, to the surplus property agency, reappointment to a term ending in 1961.

Dr. Harry Dillon, McMinnville, surplus property agency, replacing Paul Waldschmidt, whose term expired.

Orville Corbett, Burns, to the state board of health for a term ending March 1, 1963, succeeding Ralph Robertson, whose term expired March 1, 1959. This appointment was subject to Senate confirmation. Corbett was also named to the state board of pharmacy to succeed Marvill M. Donell, whose term expired.

George H. Corey, Pendleton, to the water resources board for a term ending Aug. 28, 1960. He succeeds Robert H. Foley, Bend, who resigned to become a circuit judge, also subject to Senate approval.

Engineers Union, Contractors Feud Hits Defense Job

Bremerton — (UPI) — The dispute between the Operating Engineers union and the Associated General Contractors hit the Navy's super drydock construction job here yesterday and each side blamed the other for halting work on a defense project.

Melvin Hord, an AGC official from Seattle, said the union was to blame for the shutdown here because of its action in calling a strike against several AGC members. The contractors' group maintains that "a strike against one is a strike against all."

A union spokesman, however, accused the AGC of a "lockout" on the Bremerton job. He said the Operating Engineers did not want the strike to affect any defense projects.

Meantime, the union and employers' group were awaiting a National Labor Relations board ruling on the legality of union demands in the strike, which has halted major construction projects in western Washington and parts of eastern Washington.

The AGC has filed a brief charging that the Operating Engineers had called an illegal strike.

The main issue in the dispute is the matter of hiring halls, which the AGC contends would be illegal under the Taft-Hartley Act. The AGC also asked for a court order to restrain further strike action by the union.

Plymouth Dealers Indicted for Pricing

San Francisco — (UPI) — A federal jury yesterday found the Plymouth Dealers association of Northern California guilty of violating anti-trust laws by fixing prices of new automobiles above those suggested by the manufacturers.

Sixty-seven Plymouth dealers in six bay area counties were affected by the action. The association faces a fine of up to \$50,000.

The trial before Federal Judge Willis Ritter was a test case. Facing similar action are Ford and Chevrolet dealers in the same area.

Charges that the dealers conspired to advertise "fictitious high discounts and trade-ins" which "grossly misled" prospective buyers were also brought out during the trial.

The association unsuccessfully argued that the collective action did not suppress competition. On the contrary, defense attorneys said, automobile selling is among the most competitive of businesses.

Lyle Jones, head of the anti-trust division here, said the suits brought against the dealers last year were designed to "restore price competition by striking down arbitrarily imposed restraints designed to maintain prices at artificially high levels."

The U. S. Department of Agriculture was established as a separate federal government agency in 1862.

Steel Negotiators Prepare Arguments

New York — (UPI) — Steel wage negotiators, under Washington pressure to come up with a peaceful, non-inflationary pact, yesterday began some serious home-work on basic contract issues.

The negotiators — four from each side — recessed their joint bargaining talks until Tuesday to give them time to prepare arguments and counter-arguments.

The "brass tacks" bargaining talks which began on Monday have produced no apparent progress on a new contract covering 500,000 steelworkers. The present three-year agreement expires at midnight June 30.

Neither side has given an inch on the stands they took prior to the start of the joint talks. The industry wants a one-year contract extension as a means of halting inflation. The union wants substantial increases in wages and fringes and says the industry can afford to grant these demands without resorting to a price hike.

Man Sentenced For Theft of Dies

Portland — (UPI) — A Longview, Wash., man, Donovan Arnds, 26, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for burglary Friday in connection with a theft of pioneer era coin dies valued at over \$250,000 from the Oregon Historical museum Feb. 28.

His companions, Kenneth Leroy Schmitz, 25, of Sandy, and Harvey Wayne Culver, 27, of Portland, have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentence.

The trio broke into the museum and took part of a system of dies used to make \$5 and \$10 gold coins over a century ago. The dies are considered irreplaceable.

Miss Pendleton Crowned Friday

Pendleton — (UPI) — Loretta Liefeld, 20, of Pilot Rock, was chosen Friday night as Miss Pendleton over nine other contestants. Miss Liefeld is a Pendleton radio personality.

The Pendleton JC's, the group which sponsored the contest, awarded her a \$400 scholarship plus a trophy and two scholarships to modeling schools.

She will represent Pendleton in the Miss Oregon pageant at Seaside June 4.

Food Poisoning Outbreak in Seattle

Seattle — (UPI) — A major outbreak of a highly contagious form of food poisoning has hit one section of Seattle, the Seattle-King County health department reported yesterday.

The technical name for the outbreak is bacillary dysentery.

Dr. R. T. Revenholt of the health department said "several hundred" persons are or have been ill. He added that it was likely the disease would continue to spread.

The outbreak originated at a potluck church dinner attended by 350 persons on May 2, Revenholt said. The illness has stricken at least half the persons who attended the dinner.

The guitar is the second most popular instrument among amateur musicians in the U.S. The piano is first.

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