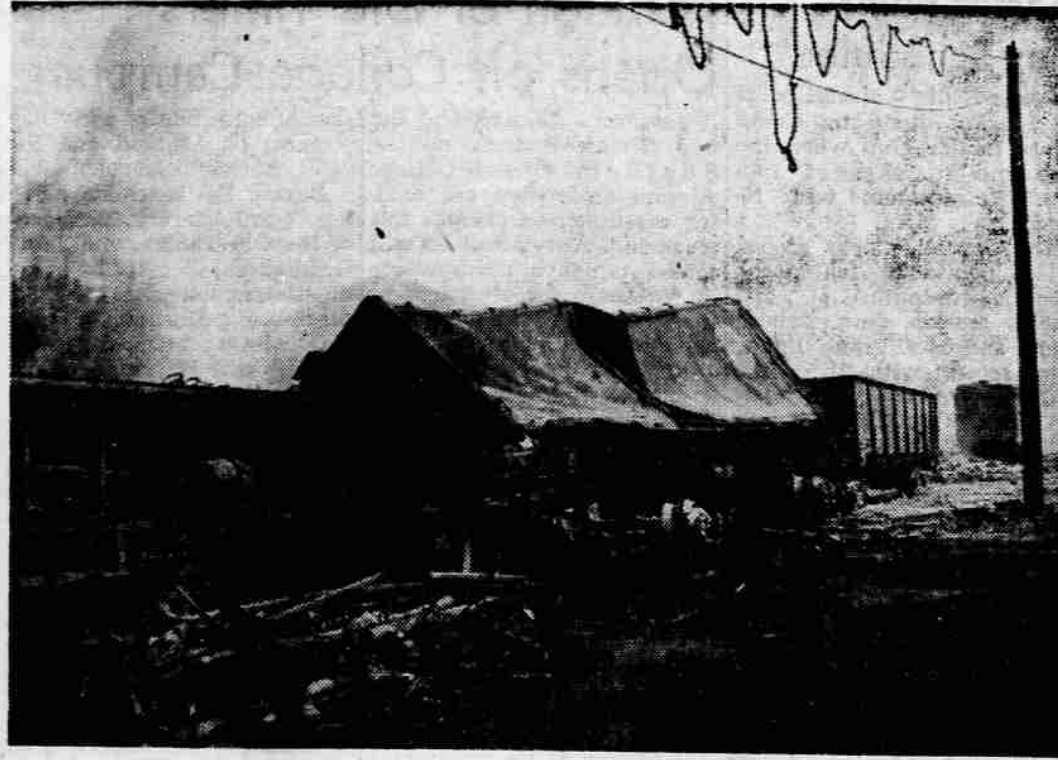




DESTRUCTION SHOWN IN DOWNTOWN ROSEBURG



BOXCARS TUMBLED LIKE CHILDREN'S TOYS



THIS CRATER IS WHERE TRUCK EXPLODED

ROSEBURG BLOCKS LEVELED

Local Persons Offer Aid to Roseburg Area

Local and state officials in the Medford area sprang to the aid of disaster-stricken Roseburg today.

Acting Gov. Walter Pearson, here for a meeting on higher education, declared a state of emergency and called out National Guard units before dawn today and then set out for the holocaust scene by state police car at 9:20 a.m.

Medford Mayor John W. Snider wired an offer of help early this morning and later flew to the scene himself by private plane.

The Jackson County Red Cross chapter prepared to assist in relaying information on the names of the dead and injured.

A Mercy Flights plane carrying three utility maintenance men and a carton of blood left early today, stopping at Grants Pass to pick

up more blood and two physicians.

The local Salvation Army disaster bus also answered the call.

Lt. Earle Tichenor of the Medford state police department was dispatched at about 3 a.m. to assist Roseburg city police. Roseburg is in the same state police district as Medford.

Medford Plate Glass company and Paul J. Selby of Selby Glass company answered a frantic call from the Douglas county sheriff's office for glass repairmen. Medford Plate Glass sent three men and a truckload of glass, while Selby went to the scene himself.

Medford Fire Chief Gordon Barker was another local official who left for Roseburg to offer aid.

Two plane loads of Medford policemen flew up as well.

Acting Gov. Pearson, Democratic president of the state senate, was in Medford for a meeting this week end of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Gov. Mark Hatfield is attending a governor's conference in Puerto Rico.

George Milligan flew the Mercy Flights, Inc., plane from Medford to Roseburg early today. The three maintenance men, from California-Pacific Utilities, were needed to repair damaged gas connections.

Milligan said he was told no more blood was needed for the injured as residents were turning out "en masse" to donate. The two doctors returned with the plane, Milligan said, as they were reported not needed either. The local pilot said he was impressed with emergency organization of medical facilities. He described the town's view from the air as a "holocaust."

The flight to Roseburg was the first trip for the new Mercy Flights plane since it was put into service last week.

The local Salvation Army disaster bus was requested by Roseburg early today. Norman Bandy drove the bus, accompanied by Mrs. William Ricken, senior captain of the local corps. Captain Ricken, commanding officer who left this morning for Barton, Ore., was being contacted.

The local gas utilities company has also sent 18 cars and trucks, emergency supplies and about 11 men from Medford, 5 from Grants Pass, 2, Ashland, and 4 from Klamath Falls.

Company officials here reported that every meter in Roseburg would have to be checked and that work on the main lines would be required. The Medford office is operating today with a minimum crew, officials said.

The California Oregon Power and the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph companies reported that no local crews have been sent to Roseburg. Copco reported construction crews were in the Roseburg area prior to the explosion.

City Described By Eye Witness As in Shambles

By ERIC W. ALLEN JR., Managing Editor, Mail Tribune

Roseburg - The downtown area of this city is a shambles. Blocks away from the site of last night's devastating blast, the streets are strewn with shattered glass and rubble. Merchants are busy sweeping the sidewalks and streets, and putting up sheets of plywood on the fronts of their stores.

The Umpqua hotel, the Post Office, the junior high school, the courthouse - none of them in the immediate blast vicinity - stand windowless.

Mercy hospital, blocks away and across the river, lost all the windows on the east side of the building.

The destruction is unbelievable.

From the air, the blast area shows up like a charred scar in the middle of the city. But on the ground, one can more accurately assess the damage. For block after block, houses stand, some tilted crazy, their chimneys blown off, their fronts shattered.

No accurate estimate of the dollar damage can yet be made. It may take weeks to assess it.

But W. P. Roble, Grants Pass, deputy state fire marshal, first shrugged his shoulders, then said: "Well, take the assessed valuation of the entire city of Roseburg, then take one-third of it. That's about what the damage will come to."

The blast was in a high-value, downtown area, of industrial firms and warehouses. Big Southern Pacific boxcars lie tumbled like children's toys. The explosion was only about a half-block from the tracks.

The axle of a truck - perhaps the one where the explosion originated - sticks out from the wall of a mortuary building several blocks away.

(Continued on Page 10)

54th Year

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Price 10 Cents

20 Pages MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1959 No. 114

Roseburg People Start Process of Cleaning Up City

By JAMES DOYLE, United Press International

Roseburg - (UPI) - The sturdy people of Roseburg have begun the long process of cleaning up after a disastrous explosion and fire that devastated a part of this city of some 13,000.

Although the city was in a state of emergency, it's not in a state of shock.

The people have taken their loss and misfortune in stride. Much of the town's business district was closed to all but those persons carrying police permits. Most of the buildings have been damaged, and few have windows left.

Gas lines as far as six blocks from the blast center were leaking and some areas were closed to all persons because of the leaking fumes.

No smoking bans have been placed on much of the disaster area.

But still the people steadily continue their monumental cleanup task.

C. H. Patchett, owner of Pat's Tavern, one of the few businesses operating in Roseburg today pointed to deep pock marks on the hard top of his bar made by flying glass and softly exclaimed, "It's unbelievable!"

"It happened real quick," Patchett said. "It was like being under a jet blasting off."

"We have a lot fine people in this town, and they're all working real hard to get it going again," he said.

One jewelry store owner said he lost diamonds valued at \$25,000 to \$30,000. The diamonds and diamond rings were blown out into the street from window - how cases and mixed with shattered glass.

Roseburg - (UPI) - The Veterans Administration hospital on the outskirts of Roseburg escaped damage in today's blast and offered its facilities to care for the injured.

Satellite Hurlled Into Space

Economic Data On Rogue Study To Be Presented

A meeting of the Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources association will be held Thursday, Aug. 13, at 8 p.m. in the circuit court room at Grants Pass, according to William Jess, president.

Henry Stewart, Portland office of U. S. Corps of army engineers, will give the economic data for all structures in the engineers' Rogue Basin study. At previous meeting Stewart has given the people of the area three proposals for tributary structures. In these discussions the corps gave only the physical data on the suggested reservoirs, but until now all of the economic data has not been released.

Following the Grants Pass meeting and publication of the economic data, the corps will schedule a public hearing in the Medford armory about mid-September, it was reported. At that time all interested groups and individuals will have an opportunity to make a statement in respect to the corps' findings.

The public hearing, which will start at 9:30 a.m. is expected to continue the entire day and into the evening.

"Well, There We Were In This Model Kitchen, And -"



Wagon Train Camps Near Columbia River

Quinton, Ore. - (UPI) - The Oregon Centennial wagon train camped near here Thursday night between the Union Pacific railroad and the Columbia river on property owned by Roy Phillip of Quinton.

The campsite was surrounded on two sides by archeological diggings.

Today the wagon train moves 19 miles to a campsite one mile west of Biggs between the Union Pacific railroad and Highway 30.

The 20th century pioneers are slated to arrive in the Dalles Saturday morning at which time an all-aluminum key to the city, manufactured by the Harvey Aluminum company of The Dalles will be presented to Wagonmaster Tex Serpa.

Ceremonies re-enacting a meeting 100 years ago between Wasco Indians and a wagon train will be conducted Saturday morning.

An Indian style dinner will be given to the Oregon cavalcade Saturday evening, with Laura Thompson, wife of the late Wy-an chief Tommy Thompson, serving the 59ers.

Queen Elizabeth Expecting Baby

Buckingham Palace announced today that Queen Elizabeth expects a baby early next year. The expected child will be the third for the Queen and Prince Philip.

The story of the announcement appears on page 10 of today's Mail Tribune.

Evergreen Bus Lines Given Approval To Resume Service for 10 Years Within Medford City Limits

A 10-year franchise with Evergreen Bus Lines marking the renewal of bus service within the city limits of Medford was approved last night by unanimous vote of the city council.

L. R. Pilcher, Evergreen manager, has stated he intends to begin operations, with one bus at first linking the east and west sides with the downtown area, on Aug. 17.

But the franchise provides that fares, routes and schedules must be approved by the city council. No such action was taken last night, and the next regular council meeting is slated for Aug. 20.

The council in approving the franchise itself last night also passed an amendment offered by Councilman Don Hansen, Ward II, providing that the company carry minimum liability coverage of \$100,000.

The Woodrow lane water main project was accepted by the council as being satisfactorily completed by R. A. Heintz Construction company, Portland. An assessment rate of \$3.03 per front foot was approved, the total assessment being \$8,110.64.

Another project accepted by the council was the taxiway resurfacing at Medford airport, the total cost being \$12,045.01 with the federal government paying 55.92 per cent.

A contract was awarded for repainting the airport terminal building. It went to Baker Paint and Decorating company, in the amount of \$3,021.35. This project includes the lobby, rest rooms, exterior walls and other areas.

In other airport business, the council approved a property lease for Steve Wilson and Max Terzenback, who reportedly plan to erect six "T" hangars in the northwest hanger area.

A public hearing was called for Aug. 20 on the requested rezoning of property along the south side of East Jackson st. between Genesee and Stark sts. from single and two family residential to limited commercial. This request represents an appeal from the planning commission, which previously turned it down.

The council approved executing an agreement with Southern Pacific railroad, whereby the city must pay an estimated \$6,110 as its share of the cost of installing flashing signals at the Fourth st. grade crossing. This installation is in compliance with a public utilities commission order. Had the Clark st. grade crossing been closed, the railroad would have borne the full cost of installing these signals.

An easement for two California Oregon Power company poles on the Barneburg hill standpoint was another item approved last night.

Among steps taken in various improvement projects were: approving plans and specifications for paving Mira Mar ave. from Nieto way to Skyline dr., Nieto way itself, and Shannon dr. from Nieto to Mira Mar; and for a sanitary sewer on Shannon for Rogue Valley Manor.

Other steps included adopting plans and specifications for a storm sewer along Groveland ave., Woodlawn dr. and Highland dr., and calling for bids on this project; calling for bids on curb, gutter and paving work for the Eighth st. extension across Bear creek; and authorizing the preparation of plans and specifications for a Rogue Valley Estates sanitary sewer.

Ammonium Blast Rips Downtown Area Early Today

Roseburg, Ore. - (UPI) - A truck loaded with six tons of explosive chemicals and dynamite blew up here early today, devastating about eight full blocks and damaging nearly every building in the downtown part of this city of 13,000.

Police Chief Vernon Murdock said there were 11 dead. The coroner, Dr. C. H. Babbitt, said nine bodies had been counted and that the death toll probably would be twice that.

At least 50 persons were injured.

The truck belonged to the Pacific Powder company of Seattle. Officials there said it contained four tons of solid ammonium nitrate fertilizer and two tons of dynamite.

Property loss was expected to run into the millions of dollars.

Roseburg - (UPI) - The following is the list of injured in the Roseburg blast and fire requiring hospitalization: At Mercy hospital: Flossy Van Blaricon, Harold Bailey, Martha Vergold, Marshall Bailey, Lyle Westcott, Sandra Simmons, Cleo Hiatt, Vera Washington, Pat Sullivan and Sonia Patton.

Chief Murdock said a four-block area from Douglas to Lane sts., running north and south, and two blocks, from Stephens to Parrott sts., running east and west, was the hardest hit.

"That was pretty well leveled and what was left standing was gutted by fire."

Murdock said many business establishments were destroyed. Seven or eight houses near the blast scene also were lost and at least 30 damaged severely, he said.

"I would say the entire downtown area has damage to buildings," the chief added.

Truck Parked for Night

The truck was parked for the night near a building supply company. It blew up after a fire broke out in the supply firm.

The truck driver, George Rutherford, 47, Chehalis, Wash., was reported to have been injured by flying glass while staying at a nearby hotel. State Police Lt. Howard Benningshoff said Rutherford had received permission from the Gerritsen Building Supply company to park his truck near their warehouse and had checked the truck at midnight.

The fire alarm was turned in at 1:15 a.m.

One of the victims was identified as Assistant Fire Chief Roy McFarland. Another was a man named Harry Carmichael. A police officer, Donald Desues, about 34, was reported missing.

Another victim, identified shortly before noon, was Dennis Tandy, about 18, Roseburg.

The blast tore a hole 50 feet across and 10 to 15 feet deep. The hole was filled with three or four feet of water from broken mains.

Murdock said an area of three blocks by three blocks was burned out by the fire.

Like Bombed Out Area

The police chief said the destroyed businesses included three or four automobile agencies, service stations, garages, a soft drink plant, the Gerritsen Supply company, the Farmers Cooperative Building and others.

Firemen managed to keep two propane tanks located near the disaster area from exploding. They had ordered a seven-square block area evacuated as a precaution.

The area near the center of the blast looked as if it had been bombed out. The explosion occurred about three blocks west of the main downtown business section as firemen and police arrived to answer the alarm.

Dave Coron, news editor of radio station KRXL, rushed to the scene and saw two persons lying in the street. "Both were still alive but were bleeding badly," he said. "There were hot wires down all over the place."

The blast broke windows up to at least a mile away.

State of Emergency

Business in this southwest Oregon lumber center was at a standstill today. The National Guard was called out and a state of emergency declared.

Fire departments from Eugene and Springfield, 75 miles to the north, were called to help. The fires finally were contained after a pre-dawn battle that lasted until after daybreak.

Cars parked near the blast site were nothing but pieces of twisted metal.

The Red Cross set up emergency facilities at the National Guard Armory and at the Douglas County Fairgrounds across the Umpqua river from the disaster area.

Out of Bed

Bill Brubacker, announcer at radio station KRXL, said he lived about five blocks away and the explosion knocked him out of bed.

"I looked up and saw a mushrooming flame. I ran down to the fire. There was debris scattered all over the street. I saw one body - a boy of about 18 or 19. He must have been dead."

Fire departments from the neighboring communities of Myrtle Creek, Sutherlin and Winston also were called in. In addition to National Guardsmen, state and city police and sheriff's deputies patrolled the streets.

At the height of the fire flames lighted the skies for miles around.

(Continued on Page 10)

Paddlewheel Now In Long Orbit Around the Earth

Cape Canaveral, Fla. - (UPI) - A Paddlewheel satellite was hurled into orbit around the earth today in an effort to find answers to the problems facing proposed shots to Venus and Mars.

The satellite, Explorer Six, was propelled into the skies at 7:23 a.m. in the nose of a huge Thor Able III rocket. Almost three hours later the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced in Washington that an orbit had been achieved.

Paddle-shaped Fins

The satellite, containing paddle-shaped fins that are filled with solar cells to recharge its chemical batteries, went into a long orbit that brought it within 140 miles of the earth every 11 hours. Its most distant point from the earth was 23,000 miles.

During its 11-hour flight around the earth, Explorer Six was to reach its maximum altitude at 1 p.m. over South America and its closest point at 7:30 p.m.

The 142-pound satellite was crammed with instruments for 15 major scientific experiments.

"Additional information on the progress of the experiment will be reported after the date from the tracking stations are analyzed," NASA said.

Solar Cells Are Used

It said all further information on remaining phases of the tests would come from NASA headquarters in Washington.

The aluminum-covered artificial moon, nicknamed the Paddlewheel because of four paddle-shaped vanes projecting from it, was the most comprehensive scientific package the U.S. has devised a powered to hurl into orbit around the earth.

Attached to the four vanes were 8,000 solar cells to recharge the satellite's chemical batteries during its earth-circling journey. If this method of keeping batteries alive proves successful, it will mean crude pictures of the earth's supply for maintaining communications with space probe taking months to reach Venus and Mars.

(Continued on Page 10)

Wagon Train Camps Near Columbia River

Quinton, Ore. - (UPI) - The Oregon Centennial wagon train camped near here Thursday night between the Union Pacific railroad and the Columbia river on property owned by Roy Phillip of Quinton.

The campsite was surrounded on two sides by archeological diggings.

Today the wagon train moves 19 miles to a campsite one mile west of Biggs between the Union Pacific railroad and Highway 30.

The 20th century pioneers are slated to arrive in the Dalles Saturday morning at which time an all-aluminum key to the city, manufactured by the Harvey Aluminum company of The Dalles will be presented to Wagonmaster Tex Serpa.

Ceremonies re-enacting a meeting 100 years ago between Wasco Indians and a wagon train will be conducted Saturday morning.

An Indian style dinner will be given to the Oregon cavalcade Saturday evening, with Laura Thompson, wife of the late Wy-an chief Tommy Thompson, serving the 59ers.

Queen Elizabeth Expecting Baby

Buckingham Palace announced today that Queen Elizabeth expects a baby early next year. The expected child will be the third for the Queen and Prince Philip.

The story of the announcement appears on page 10 of today's Mail Tribune.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Fair, hot and dry through Saturday. Windy afternoons with low humidities. Thunderheads over mountains Saturday afternoon. Low tonight 57. High Saturday 81.

Highest Yesterday	Temp.	100
Lowest This Morning		56

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today	7:25 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	5:10 a.m.
Moonset tonight	9:04 p.m.
First Quarter	AUG. 11

At moonset tonight the triangle of Vega, Deneb and Altair and will be high in the east and the Milky Way will be stretched across the sky from Cassiopeia to Sagittarius and Scorpio.