

# Authenticity of Alleged Art Masterpieces Challenged

Hayden, Ariz., had agreed in advance to accept the decision in Utah.

## Oregon Mercury Readings Higher; More Rain Seen

By United Press International  
Mild temperatures and at least a temporary halt to heavy rain highlighted Oregon's weather picture today.

A new Pacific front was expected to bring more rain to the northwest part of the state Tuesday.

Astoria got 1.85 inches of rain during the 24-hour period ending at 4.30 a.m. and Newport had 1.68. Inland Portland had 76 and Salem .56. The brunt of the latest storm hit in western Washington where slides, bridge washouts and high water was reported.

**No Major Roads Closed**  
State police said no major road closures were reported in Oregon.

The weather bureau predicted slight to moderate rises in the lower reaches of principal Willamette river tributaries today. The Santiam river at Jefferson rose 4.5 feet in 25 hours and was about a foot and half under flood stage this morning.

The weather man said at 9 a.m., today a high pressure ridge should force the storm track north of Oregon for 36 to 48 hours. However, the air mass remaining over the state is so moist that any substantial clearing during the night would be followed by fog in a few hours.

## 2 Reporters Join Mail Tribune Staff

Two reporters have joined the Mail Tribune's news staff in recent days.

Greg Nokes has been assigned to the city hall "beat," covering city of Medford affairs, as well as other assignments of a general news nature. He succeeds Eric Wentworth in the post. Wentworth is now a reporter for the Portland Oregonian.

Robert Walters, who joined the staff this week, has been assigned to supervise and edit the news from the area of the Mail Tribune's coverage outside of Medford.

Nokes is a 1959 graduate of Willamette university in Salem. He is married and the father of a baby daughter.

Walters has worked previously for the Eureka, Calif., newspapers, and an English-language publication in Tokyo, Japan. He is unmarried.

## SLAKES FOR IRELAND

Washington - Officials of the Washington Zoo admit they don't know what St. Patrick would think of their latest project. The Washington Zoo has a surplus of snakes, and is shipping the extra reptiles to the Dublin, Ireland, zoo.

## MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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## Electronics Pace Firm Stock Market

New York - Strength in leading electronics paced a firm and moderately active stock market today.

Zenith featured in its group with a gain of nearly 5. IBM and Motorola added more than 2 each, and Varian tacked on more than a point. Ampex lost more than 4 on profit taking after a 12-point run-up Friday. Texas Instruments lost around 2.

Universal Controls, listed on the American Stock Exchange, rose 1/2 to 21 3/4.

The steels, which rose and fell as hope of a steel settlement waxed or waned last week, continued to labor under the steel uncertainty. Bethlehem and U.S. Steel while Youngstown eased.

Thiokol rocket fuel was strong in its section rising more than 2 points. Minnesota Mining, a feature last week, advanced more than 3. Ritter dropped more than 2 and Revlon more than 1.

The autos were mixed.

## Mother Held on Charge of Murder

Oregon City - A young mother of three children was held on a first degree murder charge in connection with the fatal shooting early today of her husband, Sheriff Joe Shobe reported.

The victim was Travis Barnett, 24. Being held in the county jail here was Charlotte Barnett, also 24.

Shobe said Barnett had been shot once through the neck with a hunting rifle. He said the sheriff's office got the call about 1:45 a.m. after the woman had called authorities in Portland to report the shooting. He said she blamed marital difficulties.

The couple's three small children were taken to the women's protective division in Portland.

The couple lived near Portland, just over the Clackamas county line.



**CLAIMS CRUELTY**—Mike Zimmerman, 21, of San Diego claims he was beaten severely by Mexican police while being held in the Tijuana, Mexico jail. The junior college student was arrested last weekend along with Delores Mary Cavallaro, 23, daughter of bandleader Carmen Cavallaro. They were picked up on a narcotics charge.

## Paintings Found In California Said Merely Copies

Naples, Italy - A priest-archaeologist claimed today that one of 10 alleged pictorial masterpieces discovered in the home of an Italian emigrant in California was merely a copy of a painting in a Naples gallery.

Rev. Antonio Bellucci, a member of the pontifical Roman Archaeological Academy, said the copy was what Prof. Alexander Zlatoff-Mirsky of the Chicago Art Museum had described as the "lost masterpiece" of Michaelangelo da Caravaggio with an estimated value of \$1.5 million.

**Believed Merely Copy**  
Father Bellucci said after seeing photographs of the California painting that he believed it was merely a copy of a painting which has been in the gallery of the Jeroalmine Friars in Naples for 300 years. Even the original, he said, is not by Caravaggio.

The painting whose authenticity Father Bellucci challenged was one of 10 found in the home of TV repairman Alfonso Folio in Pasadena.

The paintings were described in Hollywood reports as ancient Italian masterpieces worth anywhere from \$8 to \$10 million. Zlatoff-Mirsky said one of them was "Maddalena" (Mary Magdalen), Caravaggio's "lost masterpiece," and was worth \$1.5 million.

**Only Restored Paintings**  
Zlatoff-Mirsky said however that he had only restored the paintings and that the identification was made by Prof. Amadore Porcella of Rome.

Porcella told United Press International in Rome last Friday that he had positively identified only seven of the 10 paintings as "genuine masterpieces." These, he said, included Caravaggio's "Maddalena."

Today, Father Bellucci said the painting in California was only a copy of a "Maddalena" which has been in the Naples gallery since the second half of the 17th century.

He said the original is attributed "on the basis of safe elements, through tests and comparisons," to Gian Battista Caracciolo, surnamed "Battistello," a Neapolitan painter who was born in 1570 and died in 1637.

Battistello was a contemporary of Caravaggio, who was born in 1569 and died in 1609. The Neapolitan painter is far less famed than Caravaggio.

**Identification Questioned**  
The identification of all 10 paintings discovered in California has been strongly questioned by Italian, and American experts.

In Rome, Porcella, when informed of Father Bellucci's statement, told United Press International that things were the other way around.

"The 'Maddalena' found in California is the original and the painting in Naples is a copy," Porcella said.

He also reiterated that there was no doubt in his mind that the painting in Pasadena was a work of Caravaggio.

"The existence of copies, including the one in Naples, was known," Porcella said. "The very fact that copies were made proves that it is an important painting."

**Knows Work Well**  
Porcella said the painting in California was "absolutely" by Caravaggio, but suggested that the Naples copy could conceivably have been done by Battistello from Caravaggio's original.

"I know Battistello's work well," Porcella said. "In fact, some time ago I recognized him as the author of a 'St. Joseph With Child' in the gallery of Lausanne, Switzerland, which until then had been attributed to Caravaggio."

## Afghan Airliner Crash Fatal to 24

Beirut, Lebanon - An Afghan airliner crashed in flames onto a hilltop near Beirut Saturday night, killing 24 persons including two Americans. Three passengers survived.

The Americans were reported employed in Afghanistan. Their hometowns were not immediately available.

Most of the passengers were from Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan and India.

## Steel Workers Return to Jobs at Utah's Kennecott Corp. Under Terms of New Contract

Salt Lake City - The first of about 2,000 steel workers of the Kennecott Copper Corp. returned to the plant today following ratification of a new two-year con-

tract. Acceptance of the company offer by the five Utah locals was by a "practically unanimous" standing vote.

The back-to-work procession was expected to be completed by the end of the week.

The company package was estimated at about 22.3 cents an hour over the two-year length of the contract. It includes an across the board raise of seven cents an hour for each of the two years.

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