

Boy, 11, Killed In Sliding Earth

Spokane—(UPI)—Steven Joe Wright, 11, Spokane, was killed Monday afternoon when a hillside gave way and he was trapped in the wet, sliding dirt.

Police said the boy and his brother, David, 9, were playing on the hill, which is an old sand and gravel pit covered with earth, when the dirt began moving and Steven fell some 15 feet down the embankment. Officers said the boy was buried up to his neck and the pressure of the dirt on his chest apparently prevented him from breathing.

Firemen managed to get the boy out of the dirt and gave him mouth-to-mouth respiration until an inhalator arrived. Inhalator crews worked on the boy for nearly 20 minutes and a cardiac injection was given by a doctor at the scene, but all efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

HAPPY 'BOWLING'

Austin, Tex.—(UPI)—A sign in the window of Crockett English's bookstore near the University of Texas reads: "Merry Christmas and a happy Cotton Bowl."

New Librarian Reviews Part Library Plays in Community

One of the needs most essential to a strong democracy is an informed people, and a library with its vast store of information is one of the institutions that can best meet this need, according to Omar Bacon, head librarian of the Medford and Jackson county library.

Bacon addressed the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce roundtable luncheon Monday at the Jackson hotel. He spoke on the "place of a library in the community."

In a democracy decisions are made by the people and people can make wise decisions only if they are an informed people, Bacon said. One of the essential functions of a library in any community is to gather information, organize it, and make it easily available to the public, Bacon said.

Being Acquainted

Another purpose of a library is to make itself acquainted with the special issues and problems of a community and to attempt to provide as much information as possible on these subjects so that the community will have

a source of information readily accessible for its particular wants.

He also pointed out that a library can contribute to the community by concentrating on information about the particular economic forces on which a community's livelihood depends. For instance, in Medford, the library might have special information on logging, the fruit industry, and dairying, to name a few, he said.

By taking advantage of the books and information a library offers, every activity a person chooses to undertake can be made more enjoyable and better understood, if the person will bother to seek out this material, he said.

Additional Editions

If a person should request a book or information that is not available at the city library, the library can still obtain it for him, if possible, by sending to the state library in Salem, or to the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic center at the University of Washington. This latter source, he said, has listings of all the books in libraries in the Pacific Northwest.

Bacon came to Medford less than a month ago from Wenatchee, Wash., where he was employed in a regional library project, and before that,

as head librarian of the Huntington, W. Va., libraries.

Since his arrival, the library has initiated several new innovations and has plans for several more if conditions warrant them.

One of these innovations, already in use, is a stock of paperback books which are loaned out like any other

book. This service will be greatly extended in the future, he pointed out, so that paperbacks, not readily accessible on Medford book stands, may be obtained at the library.

Suggestion Box

Another new item is a suggestion box for the public, Bacon said. This box is for the

purpose of letting the library know what books and services the public would like.

Charges for reserve books have been eliminated. Before Bacon came, the library was charging a nominal fee for books that had to be ordered. This has been stopped, he said, in hopes that more people will take advantage of this service, now that it is free.

There is also what Bacon calls a give-away table in the library on which there are numerous pamphlets and brochures of public interest free for the taking.

Among the innovations proposed for the future, Bacon said, is a curb book-drop, to be located on the sidewalk in front of the library. This is used at libraries in many other cities, Bacon pointed out, and is beneficial to the public, in that they can return books to this drop without having to get out of their cars.

Free Mailing Service

Another service they hope to provide, according to Bacon, is a free mailing service, so that people in areas not readily accessible to libraries can ask for and receive books by mail. This will also be of particular advantage to elderly persons, he added.

The library is planning to have a public meeting and conference room in the li-

brary. The room is already available, Bacon said, but lacks the necessary furnishings and facilities. If the idea materializes, he said, there would be seating room for 50 to 75 persons.

There is also a need to improve the seven branches of the library, by providing more books, better facilities, and larger staffs, he pointed out.

Recognize Value

Libraries throughout the country are beginning to recognize the value of other media as sources of information, and are making use of these media in many different ways, Bacon said.

A great variety of subjects are now on records and tape, and it is possible the Medford library could take on a stock of these recordings for public use, according to Bacon. In addition, he said, a microfilm library of local newspapers and other publications is possible.

These ideas are all tentative he emphasized, but with the proper assistance and funds they may some day materialize.

There will be no luncheon next Monday, Ken Baker, chairman of the roundtable group announced, due to the Christmas holidays. The next meeting will be held Jan. 4.



MANEUVERS OBSERVED—Nicknamed the "Flying Carcass," this aerial platform built for the Army by Curtiss-Wright goes through maneuvers for military observers at Fort Ord. Officially it is a VTOL aircraft VZ-TAP, designed to fly low following ground contours so as to be hidden from the enemy. It's four rotors are spun by a jet turbine and can carry a variety of payloads. —(UPI Telephoto)

Rawalpindi, India—(UPI)—New York—(UPI)—Austin, E. Fourteen persons were killed and 11 others injured when a passenger bus skidded off a mountain road and fell 200 feet to smash against a boulder on a river bank Monday.

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