

Medford Man Bound Over to Grand Jury

Larry Howard Kell, 21, of 520 North Bartlett st., was bound over to the grand jury in district court Thursday on a charge of forgery. His case had been continued earlier this week with preliminary hearing scheduled yesterday.

Kell, who is being held on \$1,500 bail, is charged with forging a property bond Dec. 18 to be used for Mrs. Kelly Ann Kell, 18, who was charged with uttering and publishing a false check.

Mrs. Kell, 520 North Bartlett st., had waived the right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over to the grand jury. She was released on \$1,000 cash bail Wednesday afternoon.

State's Farm Prices Up While U.S. Prices Drop

Corvallis - Oregon farm prices averaged slightly lower during November, while national farm prices dropped more sharply, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

Prices received by the state's farmers for their products slipped one-half of one per cent last month as small rises in prices for farm crops failed to offset sharp drops in prices for livestock products, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture. They are still nearly 3 per cent higher than a year earlier, however.

Beef cattle, calves, hogs, lambs, and wool all brought lower prices to Oregon farm-

ers last month, Mrs. Horrell said. Sheep was the only item in the meat-animal class to show an upturn. As a result, meat-animal prices fell as much as 7 per cent during last month and now stand 12 per cent under meat-animal prices in the state a year ago.

Feed Grains Drop

Prices paid for farm crops in the state last month continued upward for the second straight month, with increases reported on all crops except feed grains, Mrs. Horrell added. Prices on feed grains dipped as lower barley prices more than offset higher prices paid for corn and oats.

Nationally, farm prices dropped 2 per cent during November with meat animals, cotton, and oranges carrying most of the responsibility for the drop. Biggest upturns came in milk, potatoes, wheat, turkeys, and soybeans, Mrs. Horrell said, but these weren't enough to stem the lower price trend.

As a result, national farm prices now stand 7 per cent below a year ago and the lowest since March 1947.

While prices received by the nation's farmers tumbled, prices paid by the farmers crept up another notch—one third of one per cent. But this was enough to push the government's yardstick for measuring farm costs one per cent about a year ago and within one per cent of the all-time high.

With prices farmers receive down, and prices they pay up, farm-product purchasing power lost ground last month, Mrs. Horrell pointed out. The parity ratio—the government's yardstick for measuring the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers—dropped to 77 in November, 2 points below a month earlier and 5 points below a year ago.

This is the lowest parity ratio since August 1940, Mrs. Horrell pointed out.

When all accounts are added up this year, USDA economists say national net farm income may fall below last year by as much as 15 per cent. Biggest reasons for the drop, the economists say are lowered cash receipts, caused by heavier supplies and lower prices; elimination of the acreage reserve; and a higher farm operating bill, pushed up by higher prices on industrial goods and higher overhead costs.

The USDA experts expect an even further drop in the farm income in 1960, Mrs. Horrell said, although this should be only about half as sharp as this year's drop.

Construction Hits Record High, Should Go Higher in '60

Washington - Construction boomed to a record breaking \$73 billion level this year and will climb by another three billion in 1960, an authoritative industry group has reported.

The Associated General Contractors of America reported the dollar volume increased in 1959 the greatest in a decade. It consisted of \$54 billion in new construction and an estimated \$19 billion in maintenance and repairs.

For 1960, the association predicted that \$56 billion will be spent for new construction; another \$20 billion for maintenance and repairs. The forecast was based, however, on the assumption there will be no major stoppages, such as the steel strike, and that construction investment will not be hamstrung by a tight money market.

Tight Credit Situation

For the year ahead, the survey said the tightening credit situation "will be the major damper on the volume of construction that could be undertaken."

The steel stoppage has had no great impact on construction yet, the report said.

It summarized 1960 this way: there will be a decline in housing, a sharp increase in industrial building, a continuing increase in commercial construction, and a high level of state and local public works.

By categories, the survey made these predictions:

Residential: There will be a 4 per cent decrease to \$21.4 billion, with about 1.2 million new starts compared to an estimated 1.35 million this year. However, apartment construction will continue to increase.

Commercial Building Up

Commercial: An increase of more than 15 per cent to about \$4.5 billion.

Religious: For the first time construction in this field is expected to reach the billion-dollar mark.

Public Utilities: An upward climb is expected, led by increases in construction spending by telephone, telegraph and gas companies.

Industry: A 2-year slump will end. Industrial building should expand 30 per cent to more than \$2.5 billion.

Decline on Farms

Farm: A decline of more than 10 per cent is predicted. This is in contrast to a moderate rise this year.

Highways and streets: Activity will remain near the record-setting mark of this year's \$5.8 billion while some momentum in the highway program will be lost, carry-over projects delayed because of the steel strike will make up the difference.

Schools: There will be a mild recovery from a 1959 decline with spending reaching \$2.8 billion. Construction of public class rooms should exceed 70,000 compared with 68,500 this year.



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LaGrande Girl Wins National Forestry Trip

LaGrande - (Special) - Young fellows who hope to become Oregon's future foresters had best look to their laurels—there's a feminine invasion of the field underway.

Pretty Jean Wick, 17-year-old high school girl in LaGrande, has been named one of 12 national winners in the annual 4-H forestry contest sponsored by the nation's forest industries through American Forest Products Industries. AFPI is giving her an all-expense-paid trip to the 38th National 4-H Congress in Chicago which ends Dec. 3.

Last year another Oregon girl, Gail Briner of Yoncalla, won similar honors.

Jean is a junior leader of the Blue Mountain Forestry Club in LaGrande. She has completed six major forestry projects, the last one of which was a mounted collection of 60 trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

LaGrande's "feminine forester" says she acquired much of her enthusiasm for forestry from her father, John Wick, who is a district ranger for the U. S. Forest Service and the leader of her club. Wick's devotion to working with youngsters in forestry has produced national 4-H forestry winners before—four of them from the forestry club he previously led at Mackay, Idaho.

James R. Huber, 4-H extension agent for Union County at LaGrande, said Jean's club under her father's leadership has gone out frequently on tree-planting expeditions. Members also collect Christmas trees for sale in the winter, and harvest fence posts which they treat with preservative and sell to raise money for their club treasury.

Jean thanked Huber for his guidance, and said her 4-H forestry experiences have been valuable in teaching cooperation with people as well as the techniques of good forestry.

Dairymen Helped By Beef Council

Recovery value from dairy animals sent to slaughter is a factor that affects the net income of the producing dairyman.

Any program of promotion and consumer education that will increase the consumption of beef will have a healthy effect on producer prices for all grades of cattle marketed.

Dairy members of the Oregon Beef Council point out that one cent per pound increase would return \$10 per animal. Voluntary contributions asked for in support of the Beef Council are 10¢ per head. A hypothetical situation like the above would mean a 1,000 per cent return on the dime invested.

On or about Jan. 1, producers will be given the opportunity to signify their approval of beef promotion on transportation certificates, brand inspection and drive in slips when they sell their cattle.

Active implementation of the Oregon Beef Council program of promotion and consumer education will follow expected support of the voluntary program by dairy and beef cattlemen alike.

Winter Calf Care Suggestions Told

Corvallis - Winter months are critical periods for baby calves, but losses can be kept at a minimum with a few simple management practices, says Don E. Anderson, extension dairy specialist at Oregon State College.

Individual pens in a permanent calf barn, or temporary or portable pens help prevent and control calf diseases. Anderson recommends plenty of dry bedding at all times as the most important single practice.

Other tips include plenty of light and ventilation and freedom from drafts. Open sheds with outdoor exercise runs and individual pens offer possibilities if the shelter area is dry, well-bedded and free of drafts.

Collision Kills Four in Family

Nashville, Tenn. - (UPI) - There was no Christmas for the Luster family of Ridgeway, Tenn., today—four members were killed in an auto wreck on Christmas eve.

The accident occurred as they were on their way to a relative's house to exchange presents and have dinner.

The victims were Mrs. Jeanette Luster, 39; her daughters Wilma, Janice, 15, and Jeanette, 5, and her father, W. L. Read, 79.

State Patrolman A. W. Grisham said the car in which they were riding came out of a side road, was rammed by a big tractor-trailer truck and hurled into a brick house at the intersection.

Grisham said bodies and Christmas gifts were strewn over the highway.

The trooper said it was difficult to tell who was driving but said Read owned the car. He said the family was on the way to visit Mrs. Luster's sister.

Read's wife had died last week and he was spending the holidays with his children. He was from Bowling Green, Ky.

Home Presented As Christmas Gift

New York - (UPI) - A young mother who was pushed into a burning furnace by a would-be rapist last Oct. 8 was given a home for Christmas Tuesday by the city.

The Housing Authority said it had found a four-room apartment in one of its projects for Mrs. Helga Koch and her husband and two children. The city's hospital department earlier had returned to the Kochs \$1,700 paid for nursing care.

Mrs. Koch still is undergoing extensive skin grafts. Her husband and children have been living with relatives.

Man Found Beaten Along Highway

Winston-Salem, N. C. - (UPI) - Junior James McNeely of Shelby, N. C., staggered along the side of a highway between Greenboro and Winston-Salem Christmas Eve.

A kindly motorist stopped and took McNeely to a local hospital. McNeely told Forsyth county deputies he stopped to let a hitchhiker out of his car when two Negroes dragged them from the vehicle and beat them.

He said they took his wallet containing \$220 and then roared off in his automobile.

Approximately 75 per cent of all Americans living in urban areas are now covered by health insurance, compared with 58 per cent of those living in rural areas.

From all of us comes a very sincere Christmas wish for your happiness.

Walt Young's MEDFORD STATIONERY will be closed Saturday following Christmas which has been our tradition these past 19 years.

This day allows a complete rest for all of our loyal employees. They will be fresh and ready to serve you Monday, December 28. We sincerely hope this day does not inconvenience any of our fine customers.

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