Roseburg Explosion Top State News Story for 1959; Centennial Celebration No. 2; Siamese Twins Third

Portland – (UPI) – The Aug. 7 Roseburg explosion and fire was Oregon's biggest 1959 news story, a survey of United Press International editors throughout the state showed today.

Nearly every editor voting picked the Douglas county disaster as the top news event. Oregon's Centennial celebration and related events was second.

The top stories of 1959:

1. Roseburg disaster.
2. Centennial.
3. Stubblefield Siamese twins.
4. Discovery of Martin girls' bodies.
5. Cranberries.
6. Legislature.
7. Portland newspaper strike.
8. Political stumping for 1960 primary.
9. Mt. Hood jet collision and rescue.
10. Highway and hunting accidental death tolls.

Roseburg, a city of 12,200, is still recovering from that August disaster which claimed 13 lives and caused an estimated $10 million in property damage. The disaster was touched off when a truck laden with 6½ tons of explosives blew up near the heart of the downtown section. The truck had been parked near a warehouse and blew up after a fire of undetermined origin spread to the vehicle.

100th Birthday

The year was Oregon's 100th anniversary as a state. The 2000-mile trip of a modern-day covered wagon train from Independence, Mo., to Independence, Ore., brought national publicity to the event. A 100-day exposition and trade fair was held in Portland. An Ohio great-grandmother, Mrs. Emma Gatewood, hiked on foot all the way to Portland.

Denett and Jeanett Stubblefield, born at Nyssa, Ore., June 29, were successfully separated by surgery in Portland Oct. 10. Just this month Denett was able to go home to Parma. Idaho, with her parents. Jeanett remains in a Portland hospital.

One of 1958's biggest mysteries was at least partially cleared up May 3 and 4 when the bodies of Sue and Virginia Martin were found in the Columbia river. The girls, their parents, and another sister, Barbara, vanished Dec. 7 of last year while on an outing to gather Christmas trees.

The cranberry furor, touched off when the government announced that a chemical used on berries had produced cancer in rats, drew down fifth place. Oregon is a leading cranberry producing state and the industry was hard hit by the announcement.

Tax Referred

The 1959 legislative session, which produced an income tax which was referred to the people, drew down sixth place. Just behind it was the continuing Portland newspaper strike which started Nov. 10.

Political stumping for the 1960 primary, a collision of two jet planes over Mt. Hood Oct. 22 and the subsequent rescue of the four airmen involved, and the state's tragic accidental death toll on highways and in the woods rounded out the top 10.

Other stories ranking near the top included the capture of Richard Allen Hunt who had kidnaped the Harrisburg police chief and wounded the Brownsville police chief March 24; the dedication of The Dalles dam with Vice President Nixon attending, a B-52 crash near Burns June 23 which killed five Boeing employees, the continuing Morse-Neuberger feud, the Oregon Dunes national seashore controversy and the slaying Oct. 8 of Ronald Kilby, a Hermiston policeman.

Pile Driver Strike Voted

Also getting votes were the pile drivers strike which slowed down heavy construction, the controversy over newspaper puzzles, the death of former Interior Secretary and Governor Douglas McKay July 22, the dispute over Gov. Hatfield's right to name his own secretary of state, the $93 million purchase of Booth Kelly by Georgia Pacific, Hatfield's first year in office and his mention as a possible vice-presidential candidate, the crash of a patrol bomber southwest of Astoria Sept. 27 in which the 10 airmen were rescued, the state's economic recovery and the death of Judge Robert Sawyer, former Bend publisher.

Ocean Deaths

And there were the continuing number of ocean deaths, the kidnaping of an Oswego couple Nov. 18 by a murder suspect on Highway 30, plywood plant fires including a million dollar blaze near Albany, a big forest fire near Chiloquin, the Prineville malpractice trial, the dispute between Oregon and OSC over liberal arts, and the successful search for a lost minister and his wife west of Bend.

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Dividend Payments Expected To Set Another Record in 1960

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York –(UPI)– Dividend payments are setting a new high for 1959 and will be still higher at another new top for 1960.


Elmer Walzer

The 1959 total of dividends, despite the fact that the overall total touched a new record high, fell short of best hopes in Wall Street.

But the Street as always looks ahead rather than back for everything it anticipates. New highs in 1959 are past history. New highs for 1960 are new hopes for the stock market.

Standard & Poor's had anticipated a rise of around 9 per cent in dividends for 1959. Now that agency has revised its totals to a level where the gain over a year ago is around 6 per cent.

Prosperous Year Seen

"Barring another steel strike," Standard says, "1960 promises to be the most prosperous year in history, buttressed in part by a carry-over of sales and profits that normally would have been realized in the final half of 1959."

Standard estimates corporate earnings for 1959 will show a gain of about 15 per cent in aggregate net after taxes to $27.2 billion.

"Equally important," says Standard "in appraising dividend - paying possibilities is the steady increase in non-cash charges.

"Depreciation, the major item of this nature, has risen to the point where it is almost equal to profits after taxes.

Put Another Way

"Stated another way, whereas corporations in 1948 set aside 30 cents for depreciation for each dollar of net profits, they currently are earmarking 87 cents for this purpose."

Standard notes that directors are strongly influenced by the cash flow of a company. The ratio of cash flow, it is said, hovers around 30 per cent while the payout of reported profits has ranged from 35 per cent to 66 per cent, the latter in 1958.

The service believes that depreciation in the next year will continue to rise. This, it is held, will provide additional rise in net profits.

Dividends Up

Standard estimates that dividend payments will be increased by more than 12 per cent.

The various companies which have held off increasing dividends will boost them once they are convinced that the economy will not again be upset by labor disturbances.

Higher dividends have been a boon for the stock market for any time. The market responds to increases or extras in many ways. The usual procedure is to rise on the declaration of an increased or extra dividend and then level off.

Then, if Wall Street feels that the company is aiming for still higher payments the stock will be bid up further and further.

Looks To Future

The market always looks for something to happen in the future. It is particularly sensitive to reports on higher dividends ahead for this or that company.

Naturally when the actual dividends are declared the particular stocks decline on the good news.

A big bath of dividend increases or extras can often put the market into new high ground. Market men incidentally are looking for big things from the market once the dividends begin to look up in a big way all around.

And if earnings continue to rise as they have in the recent past, this time will not be far off.

Kids Learn Reading Before First Grade

New York – (Science Service) – Some children can learn to read before they enter first grade and schools that do not encourage earlier reading instruction, sometimes by older children, are overlooking opportunities.

Prof. Dolores Durkin of Teachers college, Columbia university, in a study has found that today's 4- and 5-year-olds are becoming more and more sophisticated in their understanding of words and reading. Some children should be given reading instruction at the kindergarten level, she suggests.

AUTOMOBILES STALLED–A line of automobiles are stopped on U.S. Highway 81 south of Salina, Kan., as the slick pavement caused a number of accidents as men from Schilling Air Force base tried to get to work Monday. The central Kansas section was caught in a snow storm which piled up four foot drifts on the highways.
–(UPI Telephoto)

Optimistic View Taken by Douglas Fir Men for 1960

Portland – Douglas fir millmen are taking an optimistic view of business for 1960, reports H. V. Simpson, executive vice president of the West Coast Lumbermen's association.

Tight money and increased interest charges for home mortgages pose some real problems, the veteran lumberman observed, and may cut new home starts from the high 1,350,000 figure of 1959 by as much as 5 per cent.

Demand for west coast lumber, Simpson forecast, will be high in 1960, despite the tight money situation. He listed a pent - up demand for housing, increasing population, stepped - up industrial expansion, and the continuing construction of schools, churches and commercial structures as good market prospects for west coast lumber..

End of Recession

Production, orders and shipments of lumber from western Oregon and western Washington was up in 1959, Simpson said, marking the end of a two-year recession.

Production for the Douglas fir section of western Oregon and Washington in 1959 was 8,400,000,000 board feet compared to 8,042,982,000 in 1958 and 7,791,485,000 in 1957. Orders in 1959 totaled 8,400,000,000 compared to 8,193,469,000 in 1958 and 7,741,408,000 feet in 1957. Shipments maintained the same relative ratio, amounting to 8,320,000,000 in 1959, 8,069,067,000 in 1958 and 7,873,549,000 in 1957.

New homes are needed, Simpson said, for new families being created as the war baby crop comes of age, and where there is demand, the ingenuity of American people will find a way to meet such obstacles as financing.

Most economists admit that 1960 will start a decade of boom times in the U.S. and when economic conditions are bright, west coast sawmills will share in this prosperity.

Iran, in southwest Asia, was called Persia until 1935.

Better Like Algae If Going to Mars

Washington – (UPI) – If you are planning a trip to Mars, better get used to eating algae.

That's a plant that grows in water and is a member of the seaweed family.

"Planes," official publication of Aerospace Industries association, reports that scientists believe algae has the best chance of being the sole item on the "space menu" of the future.

On a 516-day round trip between the earth and Mars, a man would need more than two tons of food. To make such a cargo unnecessary he could instead take his meals from a culture of algae, which grows so fast it doubles itself every day.

The outlook for space dining is not necessarily one of bleak monotony, according to the magazine. Algae can be treated so it tastes like many different foods, including steak, fish, coffee and tea.

COLOR BLINDNESS

Five times more boys than girls are color blind.