

Klamath Falls Man Wins Speak-Off

Joe Mercer, a member of the Modoc Toastmasters club, Klamath Falls, won the area 3 speak-off Saturday at a Toastmasters dinner at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Ted Knight, Yreka, won second place, and Lawrence McEachron, Presbyterian club, Medford, won third.

Members of the Ashland and Presbyterian clubs were hosts for the event, with Jack Nichols, Ashland, and Dr. John Brandenburg as cochairmen.

Other contestants participating in the annual area 3 speak-off of Toastmasters International, district 7, were Robert Gouley, Ashland; Dan Hull, Medford; Jerry Minifie, Grants Pass; and Bruce Nelson, Jackson club, Medford.

About 100 Toastmasters and guests attended the dinner meeting, Ben Evans, Ashland, was toastmaster, and Myron Gaston, Presbyterian club, gave the invocation. James Boyle, area governor from Klamath Falls, served as evaluator and presented the awards.

Judges Listed

Judges were Carl Franson, Yreka; Henry Galey, Ashland; Harry Marshall, Jackson club; Jed Murphy, Grants Pass; Jay Taylor, Ashland; Archie Pierce, Presbyterian; Wirt Schooley, Medford; and Gene Stratton, Klamath Falls.

Gresham Weekly Newspaper Sold

Gresham -UPI- Sale of the Gresham Outlook was announced Wednesday by Publisher Tom Purcell. The sale is effective April 1.

The weekly was purchased by Lee Irwin, assistant professor at the University of Washington School of Communications, and Walt Taylor, managing editor of the Globe News, Auburn, Wash.

Irwin formerly was editor and publisher of the Bothell Citizen in Washington, and Taylor formerly was publisher of the San Bruno, Calif., Times Herald.

Purcell did not disclose the sale price.

Timers were Dr. Earl Lawson, Presbyterian club, and Phil Selby, Ashland. Counters and tabulators of judges' ballots were Iver Iverson, Ashland; Creston McNeel, Presbyterian; and Nello V. Dotto, Ashland. Receptionists were Mr. and Mrs. William Ross, Ashland, and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Smith, Presbyterian club.

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Police Report Two Accidents Tuesday

James Arthur Van Sickle, 23, San Diego, Calif., was advised by state police Tuesday following an accident near Rogue River that a complaint would be filed against him in district court charging him with following too close, state police said.

Van Sickle's car was involved in an accident with a car driven by Wenany Balbin Dziamaga, 47, of 608 Whitman place, Medford, about 1:45 p.m. near the Rod and Reel Motel.

One person was injured in a collision between a logging truck and trailer on South Butte Creek rd. about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, state police said.

Injured was Mrs. Arthur Brown, 49, Lake Creek, who was treated at Medford Osteopathic hospital for bruises. A hospital attendant reported her in fair condition. Her husband, and driver of the car, George Paul Renaker, 48, Lake Creek, received a small cut on his head and was treated and released.

The Brown vehicle was involved in an accident with a logging truck operated by George Paul Renaker, 48, of route 3, Medford, who escaped injury, police said.

AVIATION PIONEER DIES

New York -UPI- F. William Zeller, 63, a pioneer aviation executive who helped organize the old Seversky Aircraft Corp., now the Republic Aviation Corp., died Wednesday.



YOUNGEST PARACHUTIST—Young skydiver Nick Neely, 12, of Anaheim, Calif., claims the title of youngest parachutist. He is shown here prior to making his first jump with a parachute. At left is the boy's father, Roland Neely, who wishes his son good luck before taking off. At right is Joe Parker, a friend of the family and an ex-paratrooper, who trained Nick for the last several months. Nick's first jump from 3,500 feet was a complete success.

—(UPI Telephoto)

Irish Playwright Seriously Ill

London -UPI- Irish playwright Brendan Behan was hospitalized today and friends said he was seriously ill from diabetes and cirrhosis, of the liver.

Behan, 38, was advised to cut down on his prodigious drinking last year because doctors were worried about his health.

But Behan has appeared drunk in public many times

GIVE BUSINESS LECTURES

Belgrade, Yugoslavia -UPI- An eight-man delegation of the U. S. national executive sales team today began a five-day round of giving lectures on business in this Communist city. The group, headed by Elmer R. Krueger of Indianapolis, Ind., is here as guests of the Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce Association.

COACH'S FATHER DIES

Minneapolis -UPI- Charles Wilkinson, 75, father of University of Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson, died Wednesday.

12-Year-Old Boy Makes Successful Parachute Jump

Anaheim, Calif. -UPI- Twelve-year-old Nick Neely, all 70 pounds of him, was trembling with fright.

The sixth-grader was standing on the wing of a Cessna 172 plane as it flew over nearby Skylark Airport at 3,500 feet.

"Look at me," shouted Nick, a brave smile on his face. "I'm scared to death."

Then above the sound of the rushing wind a man in the plane screamed "Go!" and little Nick without a moment's hesitation jumped into space Tuesday to become what is believed the world's youngest parachutist.

His arms out wide in a perfect spread eagle, Nick plunged earthward for a second before a static line grew taut and released a parachute.

"It's open!" cried Nick's parents as they anxiously watched from the ground.

The 24-foot canopy blossomed and Nick's tiny figure slowly swung beneath it. He manipulated the guide lines and came down within 28 yards of his predetermined landing spot at the southern California field.

The Parachute Club of America said the youngest jumper on its records before Nick was 14.

Nick had prepared for the jump for the past year, learning how to pack his own chute, how to jump, how to

land and roll over without injuring himself.

Father a Skyliner

It started when his dad, Roland, an aircraft worker, took up the sport of parachuting known as skydiving. From his dad and ex-paratrooper Joe Parker, who accompanied him on the jump, Nick learned the art of jumping.

His mother, Betty, with slight misgivings, went along with Nick's desire. She made him a light-blue jumpsuit embroidered in yellow across the chest the name: Nick Neely.

Nick also wore a crash helmet and a parachute he packed himself when he made his jump.

"The kid trembled all the way up, but he went out without a bit of hesitation," said Parker, who jumped about a minute after Nick.

"If this is what he wants, I won't try to stop him," said his mother.

"I won't either," said his father, "now that the worst is over."

Washington -UPI- Chairman A. S. Mike Monroney (D-Ore.) announced Wednesday his Senate aviation subcommittee will open three days of hearings Monday on eight aviation bills, most of which deal with administrative improvements in federal agencies.



BRIDGE BATTERED—Pressure of ice and S. D., today as the Big Sioux river went on rising water took out a steel span on the a rampage. Rock Island Railroad bridge at Sioux Falls.

Inmate Escapes At Walla Walla

Walla Walla -UPI- A one-armed ex-wrestler, who was shot off the wall of Washington state prison in a previous escape attempt, made his second bid for freedom successful.

Verdis Barrett, 33, Tacoma, who lost his left arm at the shoulder in the first escape attempt three years ago, sneaked away from a prison work gang late Wednesday afternoon.

Barrett, committed originally from Tacoma, Wash., where he was convicted of robbery, may attempt to cross into Oregon, prison officials said.

Brooklyn Man Bound Over to Grand Jury

Daniel Louis Minerva, Brooklyn, N.Y., was bound over to the grand jury yesterday in district court on charges with using a motor vehicle without permission of the owner.

Robert Dickey, Medford, acting as Minerva's attorney, waived a preliminary hearing. Minerva is being held in jail in lieu of \$500 bail.

JUST SUPPLIES FOOD

London -UPI- After he cancelled a parliamentary lunch to boost the sale of frozen foods, member of Parliament James Prior was asked if he had any connection with frozen food firms. "None at all. I'm a farmer," he said.

Polk Discontinues Welfare Program

Dallas, Ore. -UPI- The welfare work relief program of Polk county, first of its kind in the state, has been discontinued and pronounced a success.

Reason for the discontinuance is that enough calls have been received from employers and all employables that had been under the program are now working, according to Administrator Earl Loewen. Under the relief plan, which began Jan. 4, the county employed those of welfare status in county work as a means of earning the welfare money.

Loewen said the program probably will be started up

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