



DEATH CAUSED CONFUSION - People crowded the sidewalk as the black caisson bearing the casket of President Franklin D. Roosevelt pulled up before the White House in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 1945. His death, 15 years ago today, caused international confusion. Even his political enemies in this country felt lost without him. But the war surged on to Allied victory. —(UPI Telephoto From Files)

Roosevelt's Death in Georgia 15 Years Ago Rocked the World

Editor's note: Fifteen years ago today President Franklin D. Roosevelt died. This dispatch on the anniversary was written by Merriman Smith, dean of White House correspondents, who was with the presidential press party at Warm Springs, Ga., the day FDR died.

By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter
Washington - (UPI) - Few deaths rocked the world like the passing of President Franklin D. Roosevelt 15 years ago today.

World War II was at a crucial stage with the final Allied crushing blows, including the atomic bomb, in varying stages of preparation. The United Nations was in its early organizational phases and negotiations were underway with Russia over who was to have what after the fighting ended.

For months, diplomats here had been cabling their governments secret gossip that Roosevelt was not a well man. Soviet Premier Josef V. Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill saw Roosevelt at Yalta in January, 1945, and they saw a man beginning to slip away.

Seemed Thinner
At Yalta, Roosevelt seemed thinner and shakier than ever before. He tired easily. The edge of his knife-sharp banter across a conference table was beginning to dull.

Yet, how does one, even a Churchill or a Stalin, say with any certainty, "This man is dying"? Not even his doctors could say that. In fact, they thought F.D.R. might rock along indefinitely, taking longer vacations and devoting less time to purely administrative details of the presidency.

Some members of Roosevelt's staff, however, did not share the more or less hopeful prognosis of the doctors. At least two high ranking presidential secretaries, Jonathan Daniels and William D. Hassett, even before Yalta, confided in each other the mutual fear that their boss was slipping physically and pronouncedly.

Family Had Misgivings
Members of the Roosevelt family had their misgivings, too. Mrs. Roosevelt, their sons and daughter all took turns trying to ease the President's burden, to make him get more rest.

Although he was declining in strength, and he must have known it better than anyone else, Roosevelt remained in full control of his administration. His voice thundered in world councils and political enemies bent under the lash of his ridicule.

Five days before his death, he met with three press asso-

ciation reporters who traveled with him during most of the war. The scene was his living room, a woody sort of room, in the little White House at Warm Springs, Ga.

Seemed at Ease
The early spring sun was pouring through the windows at the President's back and he sat at a card table with Manuel Quizon, then the president of the Philippines. F.D.R. seemed quite at ease, but tired. As part of the after effects of polio, his hands always had shaken a trifle, but his quivering seemed more pronounced than ever that day as he had difficulty lighting his cigarettes.

He was working then on a speech to be delivered late in April to the first session of the U.N. He was looking forward to the train trip to San Francisco for the meeting. He loved riding trains. He was the first President in office to fly, but he traveled by air no more than absolutely necessary because altitude bothered his sinuses.

He was in steady communication with American envoys, generals and admirals across the world. All sinews of the American war effort, all lines of Allied communication ended in that little Georgia cottage.

International Confusion
And suddenly, they all snapped on April 12, 1945. Sitting in the pleasant sunlight that filtered into the sitting room through the Georgia pines he loved so much, Franklin D. Roosevelt clapped his hand to his forehead, complained of a headache and slumped over unconscious, the victim of a massive cerebral hemorrhage. He died later in the afternoon, never regaining consciousness.

That day was a long time ago by the calendar, but a relatively short span in history.

His death caused international confusion. Even his political enemies in this country felt lost without him. For a brief period, most Americans forgot politics and mourned. But the war surged on to Allied victory; the new President, Harry S. Truman, took over and began to assemble his own administration, conduct his own policies.

Roosevelt's death proved what he, himself knew - that America was strong and moving onward; that no man, leader or follower, is in truth, indispensable.

Suspicious Persons Should be Reported

Medford Chief of Police Charles P. Champlin today advised Medford residents to report to police "at once," any suspicious persons seen loitering around their or their neighbors' homes.

Champlin gave the advice in connection with a number of recent house burglaries reported in the northeast section of the city.

One day recently police received reports of three house burglaries and two attempted burglaries.

One of these occurred at 921 Reddy st., where only chewing gum was taken; another at 836 Taylor st., where a purse was opened and about \$9 in cash taken; and a third at 987 Niantic st., where nothing was reported taken.

George Cleo Brees, 342 Mary st., told police he saw two persons tampering with the rear door of his residence late Friday night, but they ran away before he could catch them. He described one of them as being between 18 and 19 years of age.

Another attempted house burglary was reported to police by Lillian Alta Exline, 812 Taylor st., who told police a screen door at the rear of her residence was tampered with while she was at work.

In all cases the burglars gained or attempted to gain entry by forcing open rear doors of the homes, Champlin said.

Retarded Children Is Meeting Topic

Karl Hayes showed slides and spoke on the work being done at the pilot school for retarded children at a recent meeting of the Southern Oregon Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and the auxiliary.

The meeting was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Milton Snow, 1208 Leland ave. Following the meeting dessert and coffee were served.

The next meeting will be a barbecue Tuesday, May 10, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Max Flowers Jr., 1055 East Pine st., Central Point.

COLLECTIVIZE FARMS

Berlin - (UPI) - The East German news service reported Monday that all farms in 12 of East Germany's 14 administrative districts now are collectivized.

Grants Pass Men Plan New Industry In Medford Area

Tentative plans have been revealed for the establishment of a \$150,000 fishing reel industry in Medford.

Bert H. Parks and John J. Shaw, both of Grants Pass, told the Medford Chamber of Commerce roundtable luncheon Monday that negotiations are presently under way with a local firm to start production of the fishing reels. The company will do business as the Savage Rapids Manufacturing Company, Inc., and hopes to start production within three or four months.

Parks told the luncheon group the reel will be entirely different from anything now on the market and will appeal to a quality, not a low-price market.

The reel, Parks said, is a complete departure from the old "star drag" reel. It features a floating disc that is pressured from both sides for drag and brake, with either thumb or fingertip control.

Chrome-Plated
Construction will be almost entirely of cast aluminum and will be chrome-plated by a new process. They will all be ball-bearing mounted and would, with a few exceptions, use Oregon - manufactured parts.

Parks said he invented the reel 13 years ago in Buffalo, N.Y., for his own use. At the advice of a friend, he said, he had the reel patented a short time later.

With the encouragement of Shaw, whom he met when he moved to Grants Pass, he has since obtained additional patents both in the U. S. and Canada and is also applying for patents in Japan, Australia, New Zealand and other fishing countries. These patents are in both Parks and Shaw's names, it was pointed out.

Medford was selected as a site for the new company Parks said, because it offers the necessary facilities for the product. He had praise of the Medford Chamber of Commerce and especially Manager Don McNeil, whom, he said, were most cooperative and helpful when they were investigating the possibilities here.

Negotiating with Firm
Shaw and Parks are presently negotiating with a Med-

ford firm to manufacture the product for them and said if the price quoted them is favorable, then they will proceed with their plans.

They would eventually manufacture seven different models of reels, which are: a small trout reel, a fly-casting steel headed reel, a king salmon and blue tarpon reel, a large custom-made reel for the black marlin waters, a large spinning reel for surf-casting and a smaller spinning reel for stream fishing.

Parks said several model reels were used by two guides on the Rogue river this last season and both they and their parties of fishermen were impressed with the performance of the reels.

The company was recently incorporated in Salem for \$150,000, Shaw said, and there will be a stock sale. Trade name of the reels will be "Rogue Reel" which has already been registered, he said.

Telephone Company Honors Two Women

Lois Kezer and Ila Stillwell were presented service emblems in recognition of a total of 25 years service to Pacific Telephone-Northwest, according to Manager J. H. Creager.

Lois Kezer, operator, received a 10-year pin. The emblem was presented by her supervisor, Mrs. Valerie Perdue, chief operator. She also received a corsage.

Ila Stillwell, service observer for the traffic department here, was awarded a 15-year emblem. M. A. Ivey, traffic results supervisor from Portland, made the presentation. Mrs. Garnet Ring, chief service observer from Portland, pinned on Miss Stillwell's corsage.

Miss Stillwell was also awarded a sterling silver charm for four years of perfect attendance. She will wear the award on a silver bracelet which she has won for perfect attendance on previous years. Cake and coffee were served during the presentation of honors.

Limousine Service Has New Vehicle

The Medford Airport Limousine Service put a second station wagon into service this morning, company officials reported. Formerly one station wagon had served airport customers.

The service, which started in February, recently received permission from the city to pick up passengers at the airport and take them to residential areas in Medford. For outgoing travelers the service is available only from tourist accommodations in the area to the airport.

Both vehicles will be alike with one equipped with mobile telephone, it was reported. New driver for the service is Burt Cooper. The other driver is Clarence Jones.

FIRE ROUTS GUESTS

New York - (UPI) - Hundreds of guests left their rooms at the midtown Park Sheraton hotel Monday night when a fire broke out near a ballroom on the 26th floor. Traffic was detoured around the hotel until an hour after the blaze was brought under control. One fireman and a switchboard operator were treated for smoke poisoning.

BED FOR DE GAULLE

San Francisco - (UPI) - Carpenters at the Mark Hopkins hotel have completed an eight-foot-long bed for French President Charles de Gaulle. The 6-foot, 4-inch French chief of state will visit San Francisco April 27.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.

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Warsaw - (UPI) - A man identified as Zygmunt Zzamborski was sentenced by an army court to ten years in prison Monday on charges he supplied defense information to agents of the United States.

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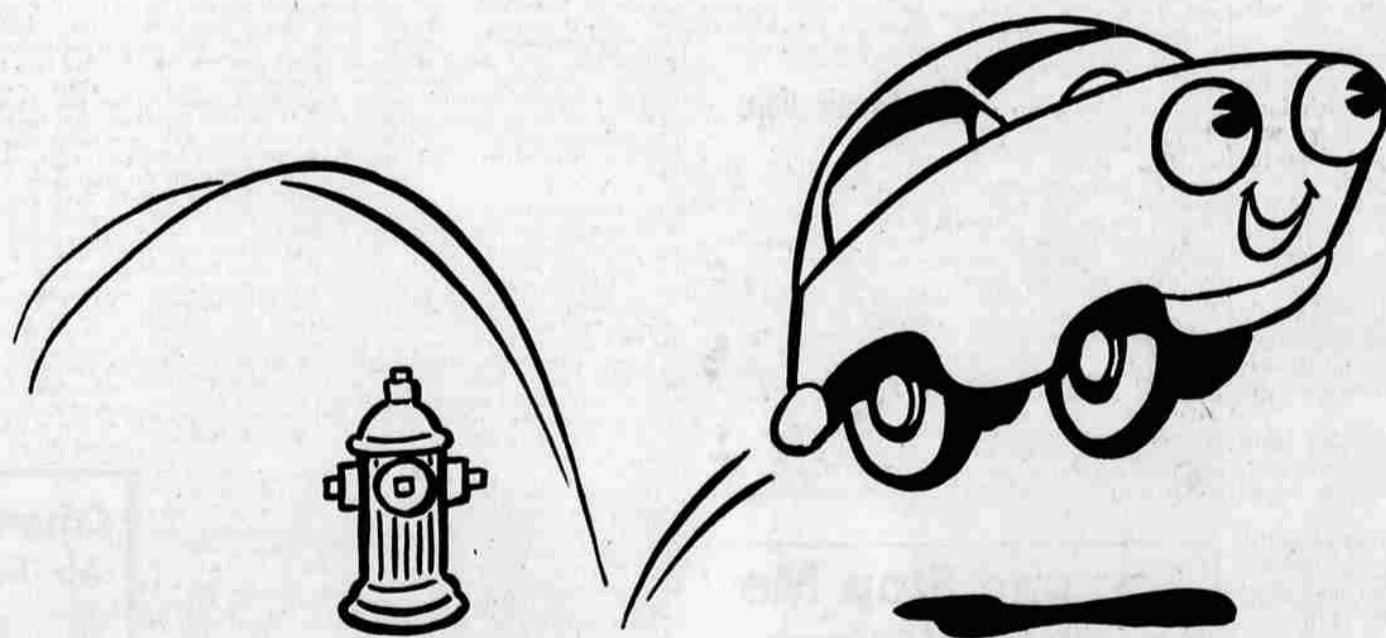
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