

Youngster Dies In Attempt To Save Stuffed Toy in Fire

San Bernardino, Calif. — (UPI) — A 19-month-old boy lost his life Tuesday when he rushed into his burning bedroom to save his dearest possession — a toy rabbit.

Gregory Ratoff, Producer-Actor, Dies at Age 63

Solothurn, Switzerland — (UPI) — Gregory Ratoff, zany Hollywood producer-director-actor whose antics kept friends amused while his movies enthralled millions, died today at the age of 63.

The colorful Russian-born moviemaker struggled to the end against a leukemia-type illness described as a "grave bone marrow deficiency" that hospitalized him three months ago.

Kay Kendall, one of the stars of Ratoff's recent movie "Once More with Feeling," died last year of leukemia. "I'm fighting still," Ratoff told United Press International last week from his bed at the famed clinic here. "It's a tough fight but I still have hope . . . I hope to return to work some time."

Ratoff, besides acting, directing, producing and writing many movies in his long career, was a sympathetic man who helped other entertainers to stardom, including Ingrid Bergman, Linda Darnell and Susan Hayward.

Known for his heavily accented speech which was sprinkled with illogical—but amusing—grammatical constructions and the misuse of words, Ratoff loved to clown off-screen.

"I speak French, German and Russian," he once said. "I murder Italian, English, I only manslaughter."

115 Major Crimes Reported in City

Included in the list 115 major crimes reported to Medford city police during November were 22 burglaries and 86 larcenies, according to Police Chief Charles P. Champin's monthly report.

Of the major crimes, city police cleared 41 of them for a 35.7 per cent cleared average. This was higher than the 31.7 per cent average during November, 1959, when 32 of 101 reported cases were cleared.

There were no murders, manslaughters, rapes or robberies reported last month.

A total of 631 minor offenses were reported to city police, including one sex offense and two violations of narcotic drug laws. Police cleared 524 of the minor offenses for an 83 per cent cleared average.

There were 87 traffic accidents resulting in 12 injuries during November. There were no traffic fatalities. During the same month in 1959 there were 88 accidents resulting in nine injuries in the city.

Police issued a total of 391 traffic citations and 3,316 parking meter tickets last month. In November, 1959, police issued 501 traffic citations and 3,350 parking meter tickets.

Court Records

DISTRICT COURT
Michael L. Clark, obstructed vision, \$15.
Frederick H. Kanasio, disobeyed stop sign, \$15.
Benjamin E. Jarrett, failure to signal, \$15.
Ernest H. Dittmer, failure to dim lights, \$7.50.
Warren C. Bayless, failure to stop, \$15.
Ernest Poinislot, no operator's license, \$5.
Joseph V. Whipple, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Cris S. Moore, failure to stop, \$15.
Donald L. Camp, one headlight, \$5.
Larry L. McLane, overload, \$152.
Gerald L. Martin, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.
Janis K. Bateman, failure to stop, \$5.
Aubrey A. Head, no motor vehicle license, \$15.
Dora E. Dorich, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.
Kenneth D. Fisher, obstructed vision, \$10.
Robert F. Brown, failure to stop, \$15.
James H. Saylor, no safety chain, \$5.
Billy W. Loftis, no tail light, \$10.
Rudolph T. Weidman, overweight, \$15.
Monte R. Axtell, speeding, \$10.

CIRCUIT COURT
Pauline Lacy vs. Ira Ralph Lacy, divorce decree.
David W. Turner vs. Merilee Turner, divorce complaint.
Clara M. Lee vs. Dennis M. Lee, divorce complaint.

MUNICIPAL COURT
Ted Ervin Kelsey, violation of the basic rule, \$25.
Ray Hudson Branson, violation of the basic rule, \$25.
Myrna Lee Delorme, no operator's license, \$5.
Joe Louis Curto, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
Floyd Raymond Hanscom, no operator's license, \$5.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
James Richard Daniels, 3039 Bull Lane, Central Point, and Frances Laniela Watson, 6269 Chaparral St., Central Point.
Ernest Earl Palkmann, 538 Fairmount St., Medford, and Rosemary Ann Tokar, 716 1/2 West Main St., Medford.
Waymon Glenn Stanfield, Blackwell Hill rd., Gold Hill, and Dorothy Leona Springsman, also of Blackwell Hill rd., Gold Hill.



JOHN CHARLES THOMAS Succumbs to Cancer

Renowned Opera, Radio Star Dies in California

Apple Valley, Calif. — (UPI) — John Charles Thomas, 69, renowned singing star of opera and radio for nearly 50 years, died Tuesday with his wife at his side.

Death was attributed to intestinal cancer. The baritone with the rich, deep voice had undergone cancer surgery in March, 1959, and for the past six months was bedridden.

His wife of 36 years, Dorothy, said he was in a coma for about the last 30 hours of his life. Up until he entered the coma Monday, he had been able to receive guests at his desert ranch home in this resort area about 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Funeral services will be held Friday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

Appeared in Movies
For years Thomas was a star at New York's Metropolitan Opera Co. and also featured singer on the Bell Telephone Hour radio show.

He appeared in several movies and on radio up until the last few years when he took over as managing director of radio station KAVR.

A native of Meyersdale, Pa., Thomas gave up his early desire to be a medical doctor and left the Mount Street College of Homeopathy in Baltimore to study under a scholarship at Peabody Conservatory of Music.

He made his professional debut in Canada in October, 1912, singing the part of Parsifal in the Savage Opera.

Counties Association Expected To Support Change in Tax Plan

The Association of Oregon Counties is expected to support a proposed amendment to the Oregon constitution to permit computation of the tax base on "the last three years in which a tax was levied" instead of the three "immediately preceding" years.

The proposal is of interest to Jackson County because it voted out its tax base in 1956. Members of the Jackson county court said there was no opposition to the proposal when it was discussed at last week's meeting of the counties in the southwest Oregon district of the association. The district includes Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Coos and Curry counties.

Reason for the proposal is that taxing units presently lose their tax base if they fail to levy for three successive years. This may increase the property tax burden unnecessarily where non-property revenue can be utilized to cover expenditures, if levying bodies adopt a "use it or lose it" philosophy, the court noted.

Legislative permission to use this procedure would make it possible for counties to do more local improvement work at no cost to the general property taxpayer.

Other Legislation
Other permissive legislation proposed would authorize counties to license businesses located or operated in unincorporated areas. The counties feel that reasonable regulation of business is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, safety and morals through licensing.

The Jackson county court has felt for some time that the present law requiring counties to levy at least \$10 per census child (\$35 in Jackson county) and turn it over to the school does not permit the local taxpayer to see the true total costs of his schools.

Kenneth Tollenaar, executive secretary of the AOC, explained to the group at Roseburg that the association is requesting more permissive legislation so the counties can

act on certain matters in a way they determine will be best for them.

Another of the more important "home rule" proposals to the legislature is to amend Oregon Revised Statutes to permit counties to use Bancroft bond procedure for financing local improvements.

At least two of the seven members of the state public welfare commission should be county judges or commissioners, and at least one should be an appointive member of a county public welfare commission, the AOC is proposing.

Counties pay 30 per cent of the state local share of welfare programs, and their representation on the body making decisions as to the use of this money should be nearly in proportion to their share of the cost, the AOC feels.

Two revenue measures proposed by the counties are provision of gas tax refunds to counties on the same basis as cities, and allocating 10 per cent of the net revenues of the Oregon liquor control commission to counties.

Counties now receive tax refunds only on gas used in road construction or maintenance. They should be treated the same as cities, and receive tax refunds on all gasoline used in county operations, the AOC feels.

The association also thinks that since counties are responsible for general law enforcement outside cities they should share on the same basis as the cities in distribution of state liquor revenues. Cost of policing for liquor violations in unincorporated areas is substantial.

Many of the southwestern Oregon counties seemed opposed to proposals for a retirement system to cover elective county officials. Since many of the county officials, particularly county court members, are retired they feel this may be an unnecessary proposal. However, the official AOC position is that an adequate retirement system might encourage able persons to seek county office.

The AOC would repeal laws requiring counties to publish a detailed list of expenditures each month.

Another requested repeal is that counties must employ a certified appraiser for each \$30,000,000 true cash value of locally assessed property. This law, the AOC feels, ignores differences in types of property among counties and contains other inequities.

Among other proposals is one to permit counties to employ a county attorney to handle the civil work of the county government. This is a proposal strongly urged by County Judge Earl Miller before the Jackson county home rule committee.

Among other proposals would be to permit counties, by local action, to adopt the board of county commissioners form of organization when the county judge has no judicial functions; ask Congress to implement programs of public range land rehabilitation and improvement as set forth in the long range program of the national forests in the bureau of land management's "Project Twenty-Two" report; and require appraisal of farm land at agricultural values, regardless of usage or potential usage of adjacent properties.

Twelve" report; and require appraisal of farm land at agricultural values, regardless of usage or potential usage of adjacent properties.

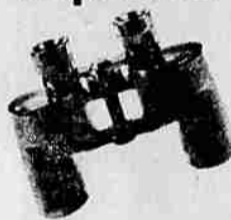
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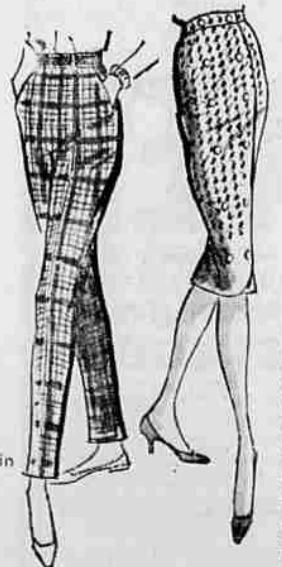
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