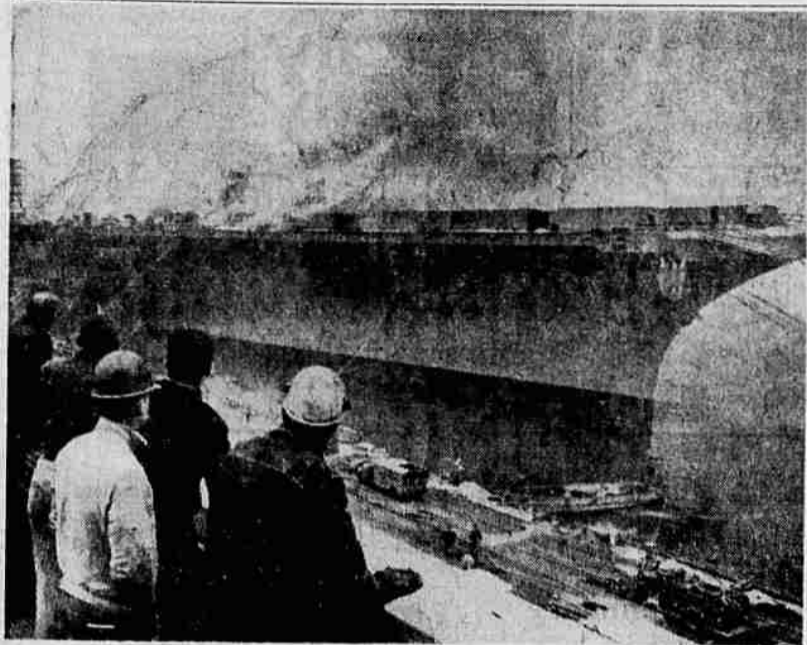


20 KNOWN DEAD IN FIRE ON NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Project Mercury Test Over Atlantic Successful



CARRIER BLAZES—Workmen look on as fire sweeps the aircraft carrier Constellation at the Brooklyn Navy Yard today. Police report that at least 20 persons were killed in the fire. (See story in column 9.) (UPI Telephoto)

Report Expected On Howard Prairie Area Operation

A report on operational proposals for the Howard Prairie reservoir area will be presented to the county court soon, according to City-Country Parks and Recreation Director Robert Haworth.

A discussion between Haworth and the county court this morning indicated the court is faced with these alternatives: to spend tax money for the operation of the reservoir recreation area, or finance it through fees charged users of the area.

Robert Johnston, of Johnston Stores, Medford, Howard Prairie concessionaire, has asked the commission to consider three suggestions: no fees, with the county taking over maintenance of the area completely; some free services provided by the concessionaire with fees charged for other services; or a fee system to cover costs of operating the improved recreation area completely.

Haworth said this morning that the commission seems to "lean toward" the partial fee plan. This would funnel recreation traffic through the improved area where recreationists would be required to use fireplaces for cooking. This would tend to eliminate the fire hazard problem caused by "helter skelter" fires around the reservoir and most of the garbage collection problem.

Johnston has asked the commission to consider the possibility of terminating his present contract and putting the concession up for bid. He would then hope he could be the winning bidder and get the concession on a long term basis. His present contract ends Dec. 31, 1961. Haworth said this morning that it would be difficult to base next year's operation on the demand for services last summer. "We expect a greatly expanded use and may find next summer's operation to be entirely different," he explained.

Kennedy Opens Meetings On Legislative Program

Palm Beach, Fla. — UPI — President-elect John F. Kennedy today opened conferences with the Democratic leadership on the new administration's legislative program for Congress next year by meeting with Vice President-elect Lyndon B. Johnson.

Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, arrived from Austin, Tex., aboard their private Conair. They motored to the Kennedy ocean-front villa, where they will be overnight guests.

House Speaker Sam Rayburn was flying from Texas aboard Kennedy's private

High Court Holds Witness Immunity In States Legal

Washington — UPI — The Supreme Court ruled today that a federal grand jury can promise a witness immunity from state as well as federal prosecution in order to get needed information about narcotics violations.

A provision in the 1956 Narcotic Control Act permits the Justice Department to get a court order requiring such testimony if it is thought necessary in the public interest. In return, the witness gets a guarantee that what he says will not be used against him.

The argument in today's case focused on whether the guarantee applies to state as well as federal courts.

The 7-2 decision held that it does and that the law is constitutional.

Thus the witness has no need for invoking his constitutional privilege against self-incrimination.

In other actions today, the court:

- Agreed to hear arguments and decide whether an inaccurate Federal Housing Administration appraisal gives a home buyer the right to sue the government. The case involves an Alexandria, Va., home owner who won an \$8,000 settlement in a lower court against the government. The Justice Department appealed the decision.

Declined to hear arguments on a complaint by the Washington Broadcasting Co. that the National Broadcasting Company's plan to acquire a Boston television station would violate a consent judgment against NBC.

Red Cross officials emphasized the need for blood today by reminding residents that the area has only met 64 percent of its quota during the last year. To obtain the 290 pint quota for the visit, 350 donors are needed. Mrs. J. W. Burba, blood donation chairman, said. Only 20 appointments have been made so far.

She said that the Bloodmobile will be at the Red Cross chapter house, 60 Hawthorne ave., Dec. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. Since the visit is so close to the holidays, it will close at the earlier hour.

Appointments for the visit may be made by telephoning the Red Cross at Spring 3-3813.

A number of service clubs and churches in the area are reported to be assisting with the drive to obtain blood donors.

Minister's House Is Burglarized

A large quantity of household items and Christmas presents were taken during a burglary at the home of the Rev. Robert Edward Cull, 1409 West Main st., sometime Sunday evening.

While Mr. Cull, minister of First Assembly of God church and his wife were away for the evening on church business, someone went through the house, taking a television set, a movie camera, jewelry, and a large number of Christmas presents.

Investigating police said the burglars apparently entered the home between 7 and 9 p.m. through an unlocked door leading from the garage to the house.

Police are looking for a 1955 or 1958 light blue Ford that was seen parked in front of the house during the time of the burglary.

Police Chief Charles P. Champlin said this morning that he wants to emphasize to area residents the importance of keeping homes locked during the holiday season. Because it is the Christmas season, and because nearly every home contains a valuable Christmas presents, there are more house burglaries during the holidays than at any other time during the year.

In addition to keeping the homes locked, Champlin also pointed out the necessity of keeping homes lighted when the occupants are away.

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. — UPI — Launch of a Discoverer XIX satellite equipped to help perfect detection of missile firing was canceled today because of technical difficulties.

Manfield and Rayburn were to join the Kennedys and Johnsons for dinner tonight.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger announced that the conferees and Kennedy would hold a joint press conference Tuesday.

5 shopping days left

USE CHRISTMAS SEALS FIGHT TB

Christmas Greetings

1960 1960

Forerunner of Manned Space Flight Fired

Astronauts Watch Canaveral Shot

Cape Canaveral, Fla. — UPI — The United States fired an empty Project Mercury capsule 235 miles over the Atlantic ocean in the first successful test of plans to put a man into space early next year.

The seven U.S. astronauts, bidding for the first man-in-space assignment, watched the 83-foot combination of capsule, escape tower and Redstone missile blast from a launching pad.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the capsule floated by parachute into the ocean about 16 minutes after firing—a success that marked a milestone in the oft-delayed Mercury program.

Recovery ships sped toward the floating capsule within minutes.

Scientists expected to return the capsule and its contents to the cape and later to laboratories at Langley field, Va., for study.

If Project Mercury, the nation's top-priority \$350 million dream for manned conquest of space, can escape further serious delays, one of the astronauts may ride into history books of the future by April on a similar "suborbital" flight by the Redstone capsule machine.

This technically would be the Free World's first manned space shot. The "big one"—sending an astronaut into an earth orbit in a capsule aboard an Atlas missile—is expected late next year.

The pressure is on the United States. Russia already has orbited three unmanned models of a five-ton space cabin for its "cosmonauts." One was brought back to earth intact in August, giving rise to speculation that a Soviet manned flight might be "imminent."

The one-ton capsule launched today had no living creatures on board. But it carried some of the most complex instruments involved in any U.S. space shot, including a camera to view the cockpit panel by which an astronaut would "feel" his way through space.

Bloodmobile Visit Set for Wednesday

Jackson county residents have been encouraged to give "the gift of a life this Christmas" by donating blood Wednesday during the visit here of the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

Red Cross officials emphasized the need for blood today by reminding residents that the area has only met 64 percent of its quota during the last year. To obtain the 290 pint quota for the visit, 350 donors are needed. Mrs. J. W. Burba, blood donation chairman, said. Only 20 appointments have been made so far.

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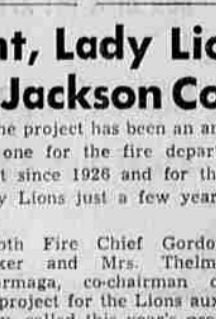
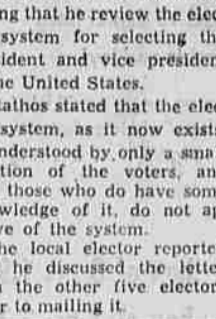
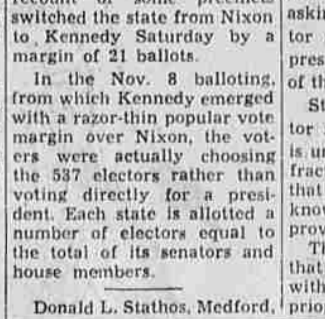
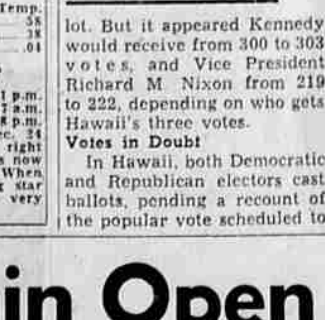
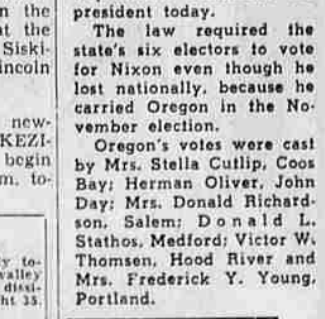
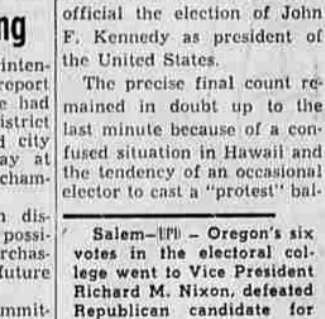
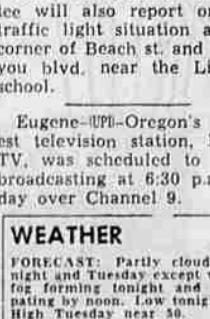
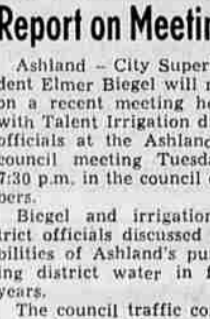
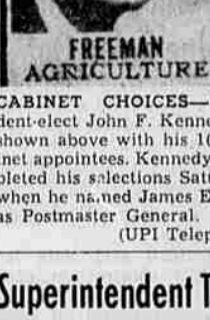
Appointments for the visit may be made by telephoning the Red Cross at Spring 3-3813.

Eugene — UPI — Oregon's newest television station, KEZL-TV, was scheduled to begin broadcasting at 6:30 p.m. today over Channel 9.

Regional Edition

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

22 Pages MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1960 No. 234



Dozens Believed Trapped Below Decks of Ship

Firemen Cut Through Hull of Flat-Top

New York — UPI — A disastrous fire flashed out of control through the aircraft carrier Constellation today, trapping dozens of Brooklyn Navy Yard workers below decks and heavily damaging the Navy's biggest and most advanced carrier.

At least 20 workers were reported killed and 100 injured. Firemen were cutting through the hull of the listing flat-top, a \$275 million dollar ship, to reach trapped men tapping on the sides for help.

The fire department reported 61 men were missing. A ruptured can of inflammable liquid and a welder's torch set off the blaze which exploded through the carrier at 7:30 a.m. (PST) while 3,000 workers were readying it for sea duty.

Three hours later the fire burst out with new force, and the ship was listing four degrees to starboard. Firemen were still battling to reach an unknown number of men caught below decks in swirling smoke and flame.

The Navy opened sea cocks on the left side in an effort to save the ship from capsizing as the huge liner Normandie did at another New York pier in 1942.

Fire Commissioner Edward J. Cavanagh said he would order firemen off the ship if it listed to five degrees. Firemen were pouring just enough water into the smoking flat-top to keep the fire from spreading.

Cavanagh called for more fire equipment to fight the 10-alarm blaze.

Port Tanks Flooded

"If it lists one more degree I will have to order the ship evacuated," Cavanagh said. But when the Navy flooded the port tanks of the vessel, the carrier eased back to one degree list.

Firemen said they could hear trapped men knocking on the port side of the carrier. Another group could be heard tapping on a bulkhead of the ship.

Cavanagh told reporters at the scene: "I fear there will be quite a few casualties."

"There is no way of determining how many men are trapped," said Fire Chief George David. "This is like fighting a fire in a big city it is so huge."

Spark Start Fire

A Navy spokesman said the fire was started by a punctured fuel drum which was ignited by a spark or welder's torch. Flames spread like lightning through the entire hangar deck of the carrier.

Many of the workers leaped into the freezing waters of the East river. Others climbed down ladders and ropes to waiting tugboats.

Firemen were hampered in fighting fire by a dense snowstorm which started long after the fire broke out.

Oil soaked and choking shipyard workers struggled to safety and told of hearing an explosion and seeing the lowering flames shoot from the vessel moments later.

Presidential Electors Meet To Officially Elect Kennedy

Washington — UPI — Five hundred and thirty-seven presidential electors met in 50 state capitals today to make official the election of John F. Kennedy as president of the United States.

The precise final count remained in doubt up to the last minute because of a confused situation in Hawaii and the tendency of an occasional elector to cast a "protest" ballot.

In the Nov. 8 balloting, from which Kennedy emerged with a razor-thin popular vote margin over Nixon, the voters were actually choosing the 537 electors rather than voting directly for a president. Each state is allotted a number of electors equal to the total of its senators and house members.

Donald L. Stathos, Medford, elector and secretary of the Republican state central committee, wrote President-Elect John F. Kennedy Saturday asking that he review the elector system for selecting the president and vice president of the United States.

Stathos stated that the elector system, as it now exists, is understood by only a small fraction of the voters, and that those who do have some knowledge of it, do not approve of the system.

The local elector reported that he discussed the letter with the other five electors prior to mailing it.

Superintendent To Report on Meeting

Ashland — City Superintendent Elmer Biegel will report on a recent meeting he had with Talent Irrigation district officials at the Ashland city council meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

Biegel and irrigation district officials discussed possibilities of Ashland's purchasing district water in future years.

The council traffic committee will also report on the traffic light situation at the corner of Beach st. and Siskiyou blvd. near the Lincoln school.

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Fire Department, Lady Lions Distribute Toys to Needy Jackson County Families

Children in 200 needy families throughout Jackson county will have a Christmas this year, thanks to the efforts of the Medford Fire Department and the Medford Lady Lions.

The Lady Lions during the week end distributed approximately 2,500 toys to 562 children. Each child was given at least four toys, ranging from dolls to wagons.

Most of the toys were donated by county residents, although a few new ones were purchased by the Lady Lions themselves. City firemen took charge of the second-hand toys, repaired and painted them, and then turned them over to the Lady Lions for packaging and distribution.

The project has been an annual one for the fire department since 1926 and for the Lady Lions just a few years less.

Both Fire Chief Gordon Barker and Mrs. Thelma Dziarmaga, co-chairman of the project for the Lions auxiliary, called this year's project a "definite success." Mrs. Alan Jewett was the other project chairman for the Lady Lions.

Including among the toys this year were 650 dolls. Each doll was outfitted in a new set of clothes by the Lady Lions and several other service clubs in the Medford area.

Barker said firemen at the central fire station repaired the toys and firemen at the two branch stations did the painting. All of the city firemen assisted in the project, he said, doing the work in their spare time.

Repair of the toys was completed Friday and they were turned over to the Lady Lions for packaging. Saturday and Sunday the women distributed the toys from the Mayflower warehouse, on North Fir st.

Mrs. Dziarmaga said no toys were distributed to teen-age children this year, which would account for a somewhat lesser demand for toys this year compared to last.

Many Medford Stores Will Remain Open Evenings This Week