

**Picard Enters Plea Of Innocent in Court**

Roy Picard, of Picard's of Medford Jewelers, 129 South Central ave., entered a plea of innocent in municipal court Friday morning to a charge of failure to file registration, and a trial date was set for Jan. 27.

Picard is accused by the city of Medford of selling electrical equipment without a permit. He and his attorney, Robert Dames, also made an unofficial request for a jury trial this morning. Jury trials in municipal court are optional.

**Self-Employed Farmers May Get Social Benefits**

Some self-employed farmers may be entitled to use an optional method for computing their net farm earnings for social security credit, Edward B. Jacobson, manager of the Medford social security office, has reminded farm operators.

He pointed out that: (1) If the gross income from agricultural self-employment is not more than \$1,800, the net farm earnings may be either

the actual net or 2/3 of the farm gross income; (2) If the gross farm income is more than \$1,800, and the net farm earnings are less than \$1,200, either the actual net or \$1,200 may be reported.

If the gross farm income is more than \$1,800, and the net farm earnings are \$1,200 or more, the actual amount of net earnings must be reported.

**Use of Option**

The use of the option will enable farmers with gross income as low as \$600 to obtain social security protection for themselves in their old age, or, if they become disabled, and for their survivors in case of death, Jacobson said.

However, regardless of the method of reporting, there must be net earnings of at least \$400 (from farming alone, or in combination with other self-employment earnings) to get social security credit for the year.

Some farm owners who receive cash, rent, or crop shares from tenant farmers can get social security credit for such income. If the farm landlord, under his agreement with his tenant, materially participates in the production or management of production of the farm crops raised on his land, this income may be creditable for social security purposes and subject to the social security tax.

Additional information may be obtained from the Medford social security office at 1005 East Main st.

**The Week in California**

**Hotel Fire Claims 19 Lives; State Legislature Convenes**

**By United Press International**

A tiny fire in the room of a drunk-fuddled tenant, at first believed extinguished, suddenly mushroomed into a flaming killer early Friday in one of the worst hotel disasters in San Francisco history.

At least 19 persons were killed and 38 injured when flames billowed through the five-floor Thomas hotel in pre-dawn darkness.

Many of the 135 tenants, mostly elderly pensioners, saved their lives by leaping into firemen's nets or onto stacks of mattresses while flames spouted from every floor and shot 150 feet in the air.

Earlier in the week, the 1961 session of the state legislature opened in Sacramento.

**10-Point Chapter**

Gov. Edmund G. Brown urged the legislature the next day to enact a 10-point chapter in his Democratic administration's program for "responsible liberalism."

The governor, starting the last half of his four-year term, urged action in the field of narcotics, education, water, social welfare and elections. And he offered a token tax reduction by proposing to exempt prescription drugs from sales taxes.

But he did not offer specific bills on two of the most controversial issues in the session—capital punishments and a minimum wage for farm workers.

Elsewhere, there were these developments:

**Block:** Fred Block was freed after spending almost nine years in jail in Woodland for refusing to pay his former wife \$750 alimony and child support. He vowed that "not even a plump, respectable widow with money in the bank" could lure him into another marriage. Block, 67, could have paid the money but refused. "She doesn't deserve it," he said. Yolo Superior Court Judge C. C. McDonald ordered Block released. "As long as the money for the support of the child is no longer necessary, it is ridiculous to keep this man in jail," the judge said.

**Dennis:** Dennis Crosby must pay \$100 a week for support of a 3-year-old daughter born out of wedlock to a Hollywood divorcee, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Clarke F. Stephens ruled. Stephens also directed the 26-year-old son of crooner Bing Crosby to pay attorney's fees of \$7,500 for Mrs. Marilyn Miller Scott, with whom young Crosby admitted having intimate relations. A jury, by a 9-3 vote, held that Dennis was the father of Mrs. Scott's daughter, Denise Michele, born Nov. 24, 1957.

**Fire:** A mother and four children were killed when an explosion set off a fire which swept through the home of a Richmond restaurateur. The blaze critically burned a male visitor in the home. Five other persons escaped as firemen battled the flames, which caused serious injuries to two fire department captains. The victims were Mrs. Marie Malone, 42, and her three children, La Donna, 13, Danny, 6, and Darrell, 4, and a visiting child, Debra Linder, 4, of Nice in Lake county.

**Finch:** The prosecution disclosed it will fly Swedish exchange student Marie Anne Lidholm to Los Angeles so she can repeat her role as a key witness in the third trial of Dr. R. Bernard Finch and Carole Tregoff. The third trial got under way, with jury selection expected to take two weeks or longer. Miss Lidholm had served as maid for the 43-year-old surgeon at the time Barbara Jean Finch was shot on the lawn of their West Covina home.

**Citizen:** Actress Anna Maria Alberghe applied for United States citizenship after 11 years of movie and night club work in this country. The Italian beauty first came to Hollywood at the age of 13.



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**DEBATES PRAISED**

Washington — Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), a sponsor of the law permitting last fall's Kennedy-Nixon TV debates, has offered a bill which would allow similar telecasts in future campaigns. Magnuson praised the debates conducted last fall and linked them, in a short Senate statement Friday with the Electoral college count which formally gave the presidency to John F. Kennedy.

There are about 138,000 clergy-men in the U.S.

**Small Worlds Around Us**

**By Lynn M. Watkins**  
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

"Sow and Reap" was Slogan, But Nature Had Last Word

The people were pretty proud of the powerful earth-moving machines; the bulldozers, the power-plows that broke up the soil, ripped out the native vegetation, toppled the trees and the bushes. "Clear the land" was the cry, "break up the topsoil; pulverize the earth, plant the crops; reap the harvest." "Sowing and reaping" was the slogan, and at the time the real significance of the expression was overlooked; no one thought it might have a deeper meaning. "Beautiful," the planters said as they looked out across the vast plains, unobstructed by plant or grass clump. Then the sowing of the seed and the rich earth brought forth the grain. Year after year, bountiful crops were harvested. The golden flood of grain and money inundated men's minds. Beautiful, bountiful; money and more money. From the good earth sprang the grain and from the grain came the money. Man was in control. Nature was bent to his will.

**Teen Sheath**

Then came a time when no rain fell from the cloudless sky. The land became thirsty. The earth cracked; the topsoil turned to dust. Winds came, picked up the dry soil, scooped it up and carried it aloft. More winds, more dust; great black clouds of gritty smudge dimmed the sun. Automobiles, hundreds of miles away turned on their headlights; cities lighted the street lights at noon-time. People covered their faces with cloth to keep out the gritty air and stared up at the murky sky as earth particles settled over the land like a black omen of doom.

Ships far out on the ocean swept the dust from many western states from their decks; at times the dustcloud was so dense it interfered with a ship's navigation. Billions of tons of topsoil, from several western states billowed up and was swept away by the winds; the restless winds actually carried acres of soil away forever. The great dust storms of the 30s were devastating the land.

**Progress Reversed**

"Progress" had reversed itself and come back and slapped mankind right in the face. For years the very wonderful land-moving machinery had been tearing away the vegetation that held the land together. Man, who stupidly believed himself bigger than Nature, had abused his heritage. The land struck back; no more submissive, it exacted a terrible toll; it rebelled in bitter retaliation.

Millions and millions of dollars were lost; hundreds of families were starved out; the "dust-bowl" had become something very real and very terrible; everything the people owned was blown away by the restless winds.

Tufts of grass, weeds, bushes, trees—all help to hold the earth together; destroy them and the land itself will blow away. All this and more happened only a few short years ago, and already many people are stupidly repeating the same old mistake; they would dismiss that nightmare of dust and drought as a bad dream, but it was very real—it happened, and it can happen again.

Nature is submissive only to a certain point; and she ALWAYS wins in the end; something to do probably with "reaping the whirlwind."

**Thirsty Land**



9082  
by Marianne Martin

SIZES 10-16

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**WILL HOLD HEARING**

Washington — AP — The House Interior committee will hold a hearing Jan. 16 to review progress on the saline water research program. Chairman Wayne N. Aspinall (D-CO.) said Friday the committee wants to determine what progress has been made before considering proposals to expand the program.