

Secrecy Surrounds Trial of Hoffa

Nashville, Tenn. — A strengthened force of U. S. marshals wrapped a tight security cloak around the federal court trial of Teamsters President James R. Hoffa today despite the objection of defense attorneys.

Judge William E. Miller ordered six extra bailiffs in the courtroom after a slender young laborer attempted to shoot down Hoffa with an air pistol during proceedings Wednesday.

Hoffa was struck by two of the pellets but said he was not hurt. His assailant, who identified himself as Warren Swanson of Washington, D.C., was held on a contempt of court charge.

Miller also ordered the marshals to search everyone entering the courtroom for the remainder of the \$1 million conspiracy trial. He locked up the jury Wednesday night and said he would decide today whether to leave it locked up for the duration of the trial which is now in its seventh week and is expected to last until Christmas.

491 Cases of Flu Reported in State

Portland — The State Board of Health said Thursday 491 persons in Oregon were reported to have the flu during the week ending last Saturday.

The board said the figure was considerably lower than the number of cases reported for the comparable week last year.

Annual total to date is 24,026 cases which compares with 20,038 a year ago. The health board said, however, the higher figure for this year is inflated by a rash of cases in January which resulted from an outbreak in December of 1961.



NO UMBRELLA?—Gretchen, above, who visited the Mail Tribune newsroom Wednesday, looked positively stunning in her winter outfit... a checked coat and rubber boots from front and rear. Gretchen is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Newman, Holiday Inn, Medford. Mrs. Newman explained to Gretchen that the boots and coat were to keep her from catching cold, but, from the look on her face, Gretchen still feels a little silly in them... particularly when getting her picture taken.

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Airport Rental Rates Are Included in Controversy

Among other things, Douglas alleged that rental rates charged by the city are out of line with those charged by comparable airports elsewhere in the state. He suggested the city contact the state board of aeronautics for data on rates charged by other cities.

Gutjahr said today that "rental rates now in effect (at the Medford airport) are comparable with rates at other similar airports and were established by the council in 1958." The airport manager pointed out that "the first operator to be charged the revised schedule of rental rates was able to operate a highly successful and profitable business."

Douglas said that a "standard of operation at the airport is desperately needed." He charged that "illegal, irresponsible operators" are diluting the customer market to the point that established flight operators cannot profitably operate their businesses. He said the unfair competition is coming from private plane owners who do their own maintenance work and who engage in instruction and charter flights.

Covered Payrolls Under Top Figure

Salem — Covered employment in Oregon last year averaged 4,000 below the record 1960 figure, the Research and Statistics division of the State Department of Employment said today.

A review of 1961 employment information published today by the department showed covered employment averaged 419,926 during 1961.

Topping employment losses were the lumber and wood products industries. Construction activity also showed an appreciable letup. Smaller losses were recorded in most manufacturing industries and the transportation, utilities and trade groups.

Service establishments and financial institutions showed increases. Although the number of employed was down, covered payrolls totaled \$2,088,565,287 during 1961, an increase of nearly \$30 million over 1960.

Corvallis Man Loses Teacher Election Bid

Milwaukee — Donald Kabler of Corvallis, Ore., has been beaten in a bid to become president of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association.

Kabler lost to Wrenoy Smith of Saltsburg, Pa., in an election for the presidency of the association at the closing session of the group's annual convention here.

Planks on Rail Tracks Fail To Halt Train

Tangent, Ore. — Southern Pacific's northbound Shasta Daylight was undamaged Wednesday night when vandals placed four or five wooden planks on the track here.

A Southern Pacific spokesman said the planks were placed at from six to eight car lengths apart on the track. The train passed through them without incident.

District Attorney Answers Letter Regarding Three Deaths

(Editor's note: Jackson County District Attorney Alan B. Holmes stated earlier this week that he did not intend to reply to a letter published in the Dec. 5 Mail Tribune from Mrs. R. D. Graham, Anderson, Calif., regarding the death of her sister, Nancy Bohl of Grants Pass, and Mrs. Bohl's two children. Mrs. Bohl's death has been declared to be suicide. Following a discussion of the letter on a local radio station, Holmes has written the following letter in reply. It is printed in its entirety).

"I had not meant to reply to a communications letter dated Dec. 5, 1962, by Mrs. R. D. Graham through the communications column, but by reason of further publicity being given this matter on KDOV radio station, I feel some reply is now necessary. "I do not feel that I can place in public view all the facts and information received by the law enforcement agencies in the investigation of the deaths of Mrs. Nancy Bohl and her children without invading the right of privacy to the decedent and her remaining family.

"However, I can advise there was but one head wound entering and proceeding in a path compatible with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The car was locked from the inside and was not 'swiped clean' of fingerprints as inferred. There simply were no latent or definable fingerprints.

"Ballistics, paraffin and polygraph (lie detector) tests were conducted, pathological reports were prepared and every avenue of reasonable probability was explored before the conclusion was arrived at and which appears on the coroner's death certificate. All these records are available to any agency properly authorized to view them, as well as by the heirs or authorized agents of the heirs of the decedent.

"The inferences in the letter and by one or two persons through KDOV that this case was improperly handled by the law enforcement agencies is simply untrue. I don't mind the personal criticism, and would be more than welcome to discuss any matters, by appointment, in relation to the duties of district attorney of this county. But this should be clearly understood; the men of this county and state

who work for you in the law enforcement agencies, at part time pay and subject to long hours day or night, should not have to further bear criticism which is neither constructive nor which is based upon fact."

"The facts as alleged in this letter are in the main grossly incorrect. Not one of the many law enforcement officers connected with the investigation of this case has ever indicated to me, nor has any evidence presented to me led me to believe, that the cause of the death in question is other than by the decedent's own hand.

"This case was completely and meticulously investigated not only by the Jackson county sheriff's office, but as well by the Josephine county sheriff's office, the Oregon state police, the Fresno county, Calif. sheriff's office, and through the agencies of the State Crime Laboratory and the Crime Laboratory at Washington, D.C., of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Eastern Wins Permit For Excursion Fares

Washington — The Civil Aeronautics Board Thursday gave Eastern Air Lines permission to put new experimental winter excursion fares into effect Friday.

It rejected protests by Braniff, Delta, National, Northwest, Trans-Texas and United against the fares, which would provide a 13 per cent discount for round-trip travel over Eastern's domestic routes and to Canadian points. The discount would apply only to certain days of the week.

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Schools To Present Christmas Music

Salem — A series of nine pre-Christmas musical programs to be held in the rotunda of the Capitol building here has been announced by the Secretary of State's office.

Each performance will start at 12:20 and conclude at 12:50 p.m.

The schedule:
Dec. 11, Roseburg High school choir; Dec. 13, Clackamas High a capella choir; Dec. 14, MacLaren School for Boys choir; Dec. 17, South Salem High school choir; Dec. 18, School for the Blind choir; Dec. 19, Hillcrest school choir; Dec. 20, North Salem High school choir; Dec. 21, Sacred Heart academy choir; and Dec. 24, Forest Grove boys choir.

New Rehabilitation Center Operating

Portland — Emanuel hospital opened its \$1 million rehabilitation center Thursday. It is the first of its kind in the Northwest.

The five-story addition to the hospital has a 48-bed capacity and also is equipped to handle outpatients. It is designed to aid patients in becoming self-sufficient after illness or injury.

The opening signalled the start of a two-day rehabilitation institute at the hospital. Experts from throughout the United States are participating.

Dry Ceiling Timbers Said Source of Fire

Portland — Firemen said today a blaze that injured 13 firemen and caused \$200,000 damage to the New York Apartments on Southeast Belmont st. early Thursday apparently started in dry timbers in the boiler room ceiling.

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