

Number of Tourists Increases, Dollar Volume Up in 1962

Salem — UPI — More than nine million visitors swarmed over Oregon during 1962, spending \$217 million — a record in both tourist and dollar volume, according to the highway department travel information division.

The 31 per cent increase in tourist travel during 1962 gave tourism a stronger hold on third place among Oregon's leading industries. Only lumber and agriculture provided more dollar income, the department said.

The travel information division conducted a national advertising campaign, answered thousands of inquiries from prospective visitors, provided information to publishers of newspapers, magazines and books, operated travel information centers in other states, conducted a tour of the state for travel editors and distributed thousands of brochures describing Oregon's vacation attractions.

Trucks Partially Block Highway in Area of Phoenix

Two truck and trailer combinations of the Oregon Nevada California Freight, Inc., slid off Highway 99 and partially blocked traffic south of Phoenix yesterday, state police said.

One truck and trailer combination driven by Joseph Herbert Taylor, 47, of Pleasant Hill, Calif., started to slow down for what appeared to be an accident ahead, the rear trailer started to slide and spin. The tractor slid into the ditch and the two semi-trailers blocked the two southbound lanes and the inside northbound lane, police said.

A second truck and trailer combination driven by John Edward Long, 38, of Fremont, Calif., tried to stop and also spun on the thin sheet of ice. The tractor and part of the first trailer went over a bank.

In another accident, three people were injured in a one-car accident about 9:30 a.m. yesterday on Hanley rd. near Central Point, state police said.

In Rogue Valley hospital for observation were the driver, Alex Clinton Kendall, 18, of 2970 Old Stage rd., and his passenger, Roger W. Kendall, 15, same address, and Luis Gene Alvarez, 15, of 673 Cedar st., Central Point. All were treated for cuts and bruises.

The car was westbound on Hanley rd. where the accident happened.

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DAILY DIP—While the eastern half of the nation is caught in the grip of a cold wave and frigid wind blasts, Edward S. Lameka takes his daily dip in the cool waters of Lake Michigan off a Chicago beach. The temperature on the lake front was 19 degrees and that's ice surrounding Lameka. (UPI)

Weather Stories Gain Prizes in Burlington Liars Club Contest

Burlington, Wis. — UPI — The world's prevarication championship has been awarded to a Williamsport, Ohio, man for his tale about the drought, according to the Burlington Liars Club.

The world's champion liar for 1962, according to the club, is Walter Lewis, Williamsport, who claimed "the weather was so dry this season that when my canary bird wanted a drink, I had to pull up the well and run it through a wringer."

The club, headed by Otis Hulett, annually awards the honor to the best story of the year.

Among other lies which received honorable mention was one by Neil Clementson of Howard, S.D., who told of government built dams along the Missouri river in South Dakota for light and power.

"We had a lot of rain this summer and for several days the lights were dim because of the dirty water running through the turbines."

Another tale about the weather was submitted by Harry Shapeero, Seattle, Wash. "It was so cold in Cheyenne, Wyo., on the night of last Jan. 2 that all the clocks and watches stopped at midnight so the minute hand and the hour hand could huddle together and keep warm."

Joe Sage, Oceanside, Calif., lied that he had the smallest chichuahua in existence.

"I took him for a walk the other night and had been gone for two hours before I realized I had put the leash on a flea. My dog was on the back of the flea."

And finally, from Francis Carrier, Boulder City, Nev., came the tale about the "mile deep Grand Canyon of the Colorado in Arizona which has been photographed so much by the tourists that its rocky walls are beginning to show wear and tear."

Medford Police Are Busy With Mishaps

Medford police were kept busy New Year's eve investigating a number of vehicle accidents in the city.

Douglas Lee Williams, 19, of 843 Marshall st., was treated and released from Rogue Valley hospital Monday after the car he was operating struck a parked vehicle registered to Lee D. and Doris Rice, 2438 Sunnyview dr.

The mishap occurred about 6:06 p.m. at Peach and 11th sts. Williams was cited for violation of basic rule, officers said.

Blandyna McQuirk, 820 West 13th st., was cited for failure to yield the right of way after the car he was driving collided with a truck operated by Dale Eugene Erickson, 3428 Hollywood ave., about 8:45 a.m. at Fourth st. and Oakdale ave. No injuries were reported, police said.

Chauncey Arnold Andrus, Eagle Point, was cited for failure to leave information at the scene of an accident after the car he was driving collided with a vehicle driven by John L. Darland, Applegate, about 12:01 a.m. Tuesday at Main st. and Riverside ave. Andrus was later arrested for driving while under the influence of intoxicating beverages and confined to Jackson county jail.

Police also investigated a one-car accident about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday at 21 Myrtle st. A car driven by Ray C. Short, 2262 Delta Waters rd., reportedly struck and damaged a fence at that address. Short was not injured, police said.

More Personnel Needed in Program

Ten times the present manpower is needed in the civilian defense program in this area to operate the shelter to control room communication system now being installed, Douglas J. Albright, control center chief has announced.

A meeting of the volunteers in the civilian defense program has been called for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7 in the Jackson county courthouse annex basement, and anyone interested in the program is asked to attend the meeting Albright said.

Needed in particular for the staff are persons who can type, for the handling of messages, as well as those who can participate in routing through circuits and the handling of long hand telephone copy and radio-telephone operation, Albright added.

CP School Pupils Receive CARE Letter

Central Points — Students of the Central Point Elementary school this week received a letter from the CARE offices in Seattle, Wash., expressing appreciation for a contribution made by them in support of the 1962-63 CARE Food Crusade.

The gift from the students at the school will aid 124 persons for a month. It was explained in the letter.

Neediest people in 20 countries are beneficiaries of the \$1 Food Crusade parcels. Children are of first concern, along with refugees and victims of such disasters as the earthquake in Iran, typhoon in Hong Kong and floods in Pakistan, Vietnam and other areas, it was pointed out.

Penguin Population Reduced Further

Portland — UPI — Another Adie penguin died at the Portland Zoo Tuesday. The death reduced the zoo's penguin population to 22 Emperors and 10 Adie's. Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Matthew Maberry said.

Zoo Director Jack Marks flew 48 penguins from the Antarctic Dec. 1.

Officials said the surviving birds continued to receive special diets and medication.

Alaska's Story Book Railway Marked By Colorful Engines

By GORDON W. SCHULTZ
United Press International
Anchorage, Alaska — UPI — The blue and yellow diesel engines of the Alaska Railroad (ARR) shuttle back and forth today on one of the most colorful storybook tracks in the United States.

With only 338 miles of roadbed reaching from Seward at the Gulf of Alaska to Fairbanks in the heartland of the forty-ninth state, the ARR is a unique little line that captures smiles from veteran railroaders, railroad buffs and thousands of tourists.

The ARR's passenger trips are not famous for being on time. A note on ARR timetables advises:

"ATTENTION: Not responsible for train delays because of moose on tracks."

Passenger runs between Anchorage and Fairbanks, a 356-mile trip, have been as much as three and four hours late because of the stubborn critters.

Called Moosecatcher

On the ARR they don't call the front part of the engine a cowcatcher. Moosecatcher is much more appropriate.

The animals generally stay off the tracks until the heavy snow comes. It's hard for them to walk in the deep snow, so they stay on the tracks where the snow has been cleared.

"We've chased them for as long as 15 miles," veteran railroader Bob Prator said. "Sometimes they run like hell and other times we have to follow them at a speed of three or four miles an hour. Blowing the whistle doesn't help."

"When the engineer nuzzles them with the engine, sometimes they just kick back. Other times they turn around, lower their heads and come charging straight at the engine."

Sometimes the moose have to be shot. Other times they are accidentally run over.

The animals that are killed (200-300 a year) are picked up by railroad maintenance crews and skinned out. The drawn meat is given to orphanages and state institutions.

Government Owned

The Alaska Railroad is the only commercial railroad in the United States completely owned and operated by the federal government.

Under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department, the ARR has paid its own way since it was first started in 1915.

President Warren G. Harding drove in the railroad's golden spike at North Nenana on July 15, 1923, to symbolize completion of the road at a cost of \$162 million.

Two narrow gauge railroads were incorporated and adjusted to the original system. During World War II a spur line was carved out to Whittier so that port city could join Seward as a water terminal.

The ARR today is one of the main supply lines to interior Alaska and serves miners, missionaries, prospectors, traders and trappers by way of transshipment to river barges on the Tanana and Yukon rivers in the Alaska interior. The ARR owns the barges and also has up to date piggy back rail-truck facilities.

Although 45 diesel-electric engines haul the ARR's 2,014 pieces of rolling freight stock and 72 passenger coaches of all types, one steam engine is still kept in operating condition since the ARR converted to diesel ten years ago. The steam engine is brought out of semi-retirement only when diesel engines can't get through water deeper than four inches on the tracks during the spring months.

Converted To Diesel

The old steamer has had its insides converted to keep up with the time. ARR spokesmen say it is probably the nation's only steam engine fired by diesel fuel.

ARR officials are proud of their safety record — not a single passenger fatality in 47 years of railroading — as well as their treatment of passengers.

"We try to be casual but still always efficient," traffic manager J. D. Tribler explained. "This railroad belongs to the people not to us."

The ARR is easily the most casual in the nation.

ARR conductor Bob Porter told of stopping the train once so a doctor could deliver a baby in the baggage car.

When the engineer misunderstood the signal to stop the train, Porter said he pulled the emergency cord which halted the train and resulted in a number of wheels with flat sides. But ARR officials forgave the incident because of the "extenuating circumstances."

Another time, Porter said, a woman passenger with a plane to catch misread the timetable on a run to Fairbanks. She would have missed her plane but the engineer radioed ahead, the airline held the plane for her, a taxi was waiting at the station and she made the flight.

Comfort Stressed

"We like our passengers to be comfortable," Porter said, "and that's the only way to run a railroad."

Year-around, four passenger trains a week make the line's famed "McKinley park route" between Anchorage and Fairbanks. During the summer tourist season there are two trains a day.

Happy, Clear, Windy, Hurricane Gulch, Honolulu, Telkeeta and Matanuska are among the colorful little towns on the rail line.

McKinley, the tallest

peak in the Northern hemisphere at an altitude of 20,300 feet, is visible in all its majestic wonder for nearly 120 miles of the trip — at least when the weather is clear and the days are long. The scenery is some of the most breathtaking in North America.

In the hunting and fishing seasons the train stops at isolated streams or good hunting country without highway access.

And you can always flag the train at any place at any time of the year. For many persons the ARR is the only link to civilization other than bush aircraft.

"You have to stop," engineer-fireman Jim De Cicco said. "You never know if someone may be sick or hurt."

From New York

De Cicco is like many of the ARR's 918 employees who are dedicated to the road. He came from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Alaska in 1935 with a United Press correspondent, got a job on the ARR and liked it so well he stayed.

During the winter months, the roadbed is blanketed with snow. But snow is not the line's big problem. The ARR has only one rotary snowplow and officials say that's all they need.

What plagues the line is the sub-zero operating temperatures that skid to the neighborhood of -70 degrees and buckle rails and cover switches and cars with sheets of ice.

In some cases the rails are shimmed up as high as five inches off their "beds" to allow for the "frost heaves."

But in summer or winter, the Alaska Railroad is popular. This year the line's tourist traffic was the heaviest since statehood, and officials expect it to grow more every year.

Eventually the ARR may have authorization to connect with the nearest inland rail-head connection, about 1,400 miles southeast of Ft. St. John, B.C.

But that long-range plan, like many facets of the storybook Alaska Railroad, is still just a dream.

Walston, Brokerage Firm Form Company

Walston & Co., Inc., nationwide stock brokerage firm with an office in Medford, has completed its merger with Crestenden, Podesta & Miller, President V. C. Walston announced today.

As approved by the New York Stock Exchange and other exchanges of which both firms are members, the merger became effective Jan. 1. Under its terms, an additional 18 CP&M offices are now operating under the Walston name.

Previously, in early November, Walston acquired ten other CP&M offices — seven in Florida, and three in New Jersey.

With the current additions, Walston now has approximately 900 account executives, and a total of 93 offices in 31 states and overseas.

"The merger takes our firm into 13 cities and six states where we have not been represented heretofore," Walston said.

Babysitter Wounded As Gun Discharged

Portland — UPI — A 14-year-old babysitter was hospitalized Tuesday with a bullet wound. Judy M. Lankins told police the gun discharged accidentally.

She said she was babysitting at a home when she thought she heard a prowler. She telephoned Robert J. Wilson, 15, for help.

Wilson told officers the gun discharged when he picked it up.

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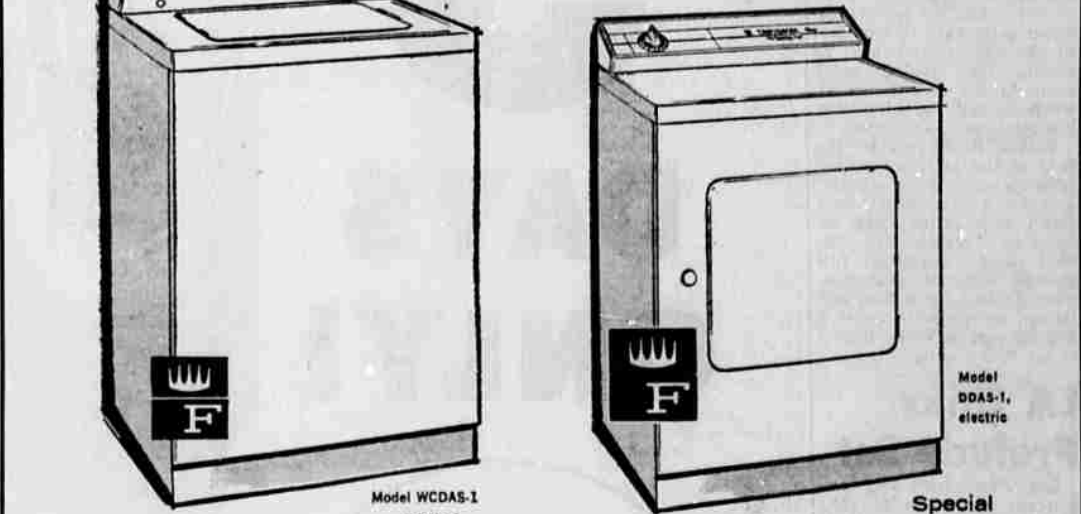
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The aftermath of the storm left Oregon Mutual policy holders in Oregon, Washington and California with torn roofs, broken windows and smashed buildings. Oregon Mutual's home office claims department was on the job even while the storm was in progress, many claims were settled on the spot. However, with nearly 9,000 claimants and \$3,000,000.00 in claims, the task of adjusting this deluge of claims required time.

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