

Sabotage Checked in Southern Pacific Passenger Train Crash

Regional Editor

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1963

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Eleven Persons Injured as Four Cars Jump Track

FBI Agents Called Into Investigation

Northridge, Calif.—FBI Federal agents today investigated a tampered switch which sent a Southern Pacific train carrying 118 passengers careening down a spur track toward a warehouse containing flammable chemicals.

Eleven persons suffered minor injuries Monday when three coaches and one baggage car of the Los Angeles-bound Coast Daylight jumped the tracks.

Officials said the derailment halted the nine-unit train within 100 feet of the warehouse.

Thrown Switch

Engineer Frank C. Iverson, 63, said he was going 80 miles an hour when he saw the thrown switch on the outskirts of this San Fernando Valley community and slammed on the emergency brakes as he thundered over it.

"It was a deliberate attempt at sabotage," Iverson said. "Someone with a good working knowledge of the switch must have done it."

A Southern Pacific spokesman said federal bureau of investigation agents were called in when it was discovered the "switch was left open, but the signal was required to show a clear signal for the engineer."

Much of the spur line was torn up. Officials said damage to the train was not major.

Police Capt. R. W. Lauritzen, heading 23 officers at the scene, concurred that "the switch was deliberately thrown." He said there were reports that two other tampered switches were found here and in nearby Chatsworth.

"It was like a roller coaster going sideways," said Russell Bates, 37, a Southern Pacific engineer who was riding as a passenger in the first car. He said the coach began bucking when it went off the track, but said the passengers remained relatively calm.



PUNCTURED BAGGAGE CAR—A Los Angeles county fireman takes a close look at the section of rail which punctured the baggage car of the crack Southern Pacific Daylight train as it was derailed in Northridge, Calif., yesterday after hitting an open switch. Several persons of the 118 passengers were injured, although luckily the two-unit diesel and all the cars remained upright. (UPI)



OVERFLOWED BANKS—The night street scene above shows emergency teams who were at work in Carnegie, Pa., last night rescuing people from their flooded homes after Chartiers creek overflowed its banks. The Ohio river

tributary which flows through Carnegie caused extensive property damage. The flood is said to be the worst since 1956. (UPI)

Worst Flood in 21 Years Hits Four States; Cities Cut Off

Thousands Forced To Leave Homes; Schools Closed

By United Press International
March floods drove thousands of persons from their homes, closed schools and left communities practically isolated in four states today.

The floods, triggered by heavy rains, rising temperatures and a rapid thaw, spread across parts of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Rising Waters
Newark, Ohio, declared a state of emergency and National Guardsmen were called out. In West Virginia, communities as large as Clarkburg were all but isolated by rising waters. The worst flood in 21 years threatened Greene County, Pa., and schools and roads were closed in Indiana.

There was no accurate count of the number of homeless but hundreds of families were forced to flee. They included 300 families in West Virginia's Wood county and 350 families in the Chillicothe, Ohio, area.

The floods were only one day old but had already claimed a toll of lives. Three weather deaths were counted in Ohio and Wheeling, W. Va., police were attempting to confirm a report that a child was missing after a boat carrying a family from its home capsized.

Cries for Help
Near Liberty, Ind., a man and his 16-year-old daughter were missing in the flood waters. They left their rural home in the family car Monday night to drive into Liberty and had not been seen since.

Branchfield Will Be In Medford Saturday

Representative Edward Branchfield (R-Jackson) will be home for the coming week end, he has announced from Salem.

He will be in his office Saturday afternoon, March 9, to meet with residents who wish to discuss legislation. Branchfield's office is at 711 East Main st., Medford.

Efforts to Obtain Funds for Project Will Be Pursued

Efforts to obtain funds for the Rogue Basin project for fiscal 1963 will be pursued, it was decided last night by the board of directors of the Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources association.

The action was taken at a board of directors meeting following the association's annual meeting in Grants Pass.

Railroads, Unions To Resume Talks; Walkouts Feared

Chicago—UPI—The nation's railroads and five key unions will resume negotiations over "featherbedding" March 13 in what could result in a paralyzing, country-wide strike.

The U.S. Supreme Court ended months of legal maneuvers Monday by ruling the railroads had the right to impose sweeping work rule changes.

The unions have said repeatedly they would strike if such work rule changes, designed to eliminate "featherbedding," or unnecessary jobs, were put into effect.

The agreement to resume negotiations headed off what could have been an immediate strike over the years-old question of automation and job displacement in the rail industry.

Actually, the talks in Chicago initially will take up only the elimination of 40,000 firemen on freight and yard service.

J. E. (Doc) Wolfe, chairman of the National Railway Labor conference, said work rule changes would not be discussed until the firemen's issue was settled.

He said that if the firemen's issue was not solved, then the railroads "would proceed to make our rules effective."

Rural Board to Levy 1½ Mills to Balance Budget

The Jackson county rural school board must levy approximately a 1½ mill tax to provide \$156,308.14 necessary to balance the new fiscal year budget.

This does not include the 26½ mills required for the equalized levy. Based on the current assessed valuation figure for the county this is \$2,743,827.93. But this could be lower or higher during the new fiscal year. The equalized levy is set by law and determined by formula. The money from it is redistributed to county school districts.

Last night, the rural school district budget committee approved \$81,510.87 for the administration budget, \$102,642.25 for the curriculum materials center, \$46,650.20 special education (mentally retarded students), and \$7,750 for a new speech program.

Total expenditures estimated as needed for the new fiscal year are \$238,553.32. Total budget resources or miscellaneous income totals \$82,245.18.

Total administration salaries are \$42,037. Travel total is \$5,400.

The largest budget section total is \$102,642.25 for the curriculum materials center. Major expense there is the salary total of \$41,012 which includes the director, secretary, booking coordinator, technician, courier, production technician, shipping clerk and extra help. Total capital outlay is \$7,753.20.

The curriculum materials center budget represents an increase of \$2,217.67. The administration budget of \$81,510.87 is a \$1,024.52 increase over the current budget of \$80,486.35. Special education budget of \$46,650.20 reflects a \$19,810.20 increase over the current \$26,840 allocation. However, this program and the new speech program costing an estimated \$7,750 are reimbursed through local school district tuition fees and state funds.

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Ways and Means Committee To Defend Ways And Means Action

Promise Fight With Governor Hatfield

Salem—UPI—Legislative leaders stood up for the Ways and Means committee today and said if Gov. Mark Hatfield wants to fight, they are ready to "take him on."

"If he wants bare knuckles, if he even wants brass knuckles, we'll take him on," said Senate President Ben Musa.

"It's the old Mark talking... back in form," said House Speaker Clarence Barton.

"I think that committee is doing a good job, and I'm standing up for them," he said.

Fight for Budget
Hatfield Monday accused Ways and Means of taking a "meat cleaver" approach to his proposed budget. The governor said he will fight for his full proposed budget for higher education and civil defense.

Barton and Musa accused the governor of talking out of two sides of his mouth.

Barton said Hatfield "plays all kinds of hocus-pocus" with his own budget figures, making several adjustments after it is announced. "But the minute it's put into printed form it becomes holy writ," he said.

He challenged Hatfield to "list the accomplishments" of the Civil Defense agency, which a Ways and Means subcommittee wants to reduce to a staff of three in the governor's office.

"I didn't hear Mark Hatfield taking credit for any accomplishments in the Columbus day storm," he said. The CD agency has been accused of falling apart during the storm.

Hatfield doesn't want the agency in his office because he wants to "dodge complaints... it's par for the course," said Barton.

Musa said Ways and Means is doing an "excellent job... the state will be eternally grateful to them in the long run."

Hitchhiker Found To Be Escapee

Routine investigation of a hitchhiker south of Ashland revealed the man had escaped from the Indiana state penitentiary about 8½ years ago, the sheriff's office said today.

Deputy Douglas Decker became suspicious over the numerous fictitious names given him and lodged the hitchhiker, Richard Ralph Lawson, 36, in the county jail on charges of soliciting a ride.

A check with Indiana authorities revealed Lawson had escaped from Pendleton, Ind., Sept. 7, 1956. Lawson has a signed waiver of extradition and will be picked up by Indiana authorities in the next few days, the sheriff's office said.

APPLICATION APPROVED
Stayton—UPI—Francis F. Hill, president of Northwest Natural Gas company, announced today the company's application for a franchise to serve the community of Stayton had been approved by the city council.

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Unemployment in Area Rises; Not Near '62 Total

The highest unemployment totals of the year were noted during February, as usual, John J. Patton, manager of the Medford office of the state employment service, has reported.

The totals, however, were below the same period in each of the past two years, Patton said. The over-all performance of the "poorest" month was described by Patton as "good." Job placements were about 12 per cent above February, 1962.

No indication of any noteworthy change in the local employment picture is anticipated by Patton in the immediate future unless the threatened Southern Pacific strike becomes a reality and forces closure of lumber firms because of inability to ship products.

Weather Interfered
Bad weather interfered with outside work to some extent and was the cause of some layoffs, most of which were of short duration, Patton said. The lumber industry has continued to operate throughout the winter, with few shutdowns.

There was no tendency for the layoffs to become general at any time, and throughout the month there were many employees being called back to their jobs, he said.

Retail business is showing considerable activity, with several new stores opening soon or being announced. Mentioned by Patton were Leed's Shoe Store, and a Lerner's Shop in the Medford Shopping Center.

A recently announced construction project is the building of a new Safeway supermarket in Ashland. The Naurus Equipment company is now completing a new building near the fairgrounds, south of Medford, and a new "Legal Arts" building is under construction in the civic center area.

Recommendations Regulating Signs Sought by Group

Outdoor sign industry representatives in Medford requested last night to submit a list of recommendations to regulate billboard construction along the Interstate 5 freeway overpass through the city.

Councilman Al Bradford, chairman of the committee appointed by Mayor James Dunlevy to study the sign situation, made the request at the conclusion of a public meeting attended by about 60 persons at city hall last night.

Over a dozen area residents rose at the meeting to protest the installation of billboards and signs along the freeway. They were countered by several members of the sign industry who argued, in general, that the signs were vital to the tourist economy of the city.

Further Meetings Planned
At the start of the meeting, Bradford told the audience "no conclusions will be reached tonight," and that further meetings to discuss the situation would be held.

"Our primary purpose here is to get your thoughts," Bradford said. "The city council favors some kind of control, but the sign ordinance passed at the last council meeting was only a stop-gap measure."

Medford Architect Jack Edison spoke against the billboards. "People interested in having a beautiful city should fight for it," he said.

Arnold Eugene Jenny, Rogue Valley Manor, said he was "shocked by the blatant sign" already constructed on 10th st. near the overpass. He proposed the construction of a "directory sign" outside the city limits, which could inform the tourist in advance what facilities would be available in Medford.

Company Representative
Andrew Hawver of Ryan Outdoor Advertising company argued that billboards along the overpass would not obscure the motorist's view of the city.

"Our industry went on record months ago that we would

be selective in the placement of the signs," he said. He termed the proposed billboards "assets to the community."

Ira Phelps of Federal Sign and Signal company said that construction of billboards is possible only at a "few selected locations." He said a directory billboard could not be erected without obtaining special permission from the state.

Date of the next public hearing on the billboard situation will be announced in the near future, Bradford said.

Legislator Defends Trading Stamp Bill
Salem—UPI—Rep. Eugene Hulet (D-Eugene) denied today his trading stamp bill would do away with the stamps in Oregon.

Hulet accused the Sperry and Hutchinson trading stamp firm of trying to distort the effects of the bill.

County Budget Group Meets

The Jackson county budget committee held its first session today.

It will have for the new fiscal year \$4,384,000 for county operations, according to figures from County Treasurer Karl Janouch.

Janouch estimates the carry over, based on estimated receipts expected for the rest of this fiscal year, as \$382,225. This does not include the cash working fund which must be re-established by the county budget committee.

County Judge Earl M. Miller noted that two budgets, road department and welfare, are not yet in. So far the requested budget is \$4,400,420.50. County Engineer Robert J. Carstensen estimated the road budget at \$1,660,000 which would be added to the total.

Miller outlined such major problems as salary adjustments and increases, funds needed for a basin-wide water and sewage study, more courthouse parking spaces, a flood control study and possible flood control and drainage district, evaluation of the trial county farm program, an additional \$10,000 from the county in capital improvement fund for construction of the public health center at the fair grounds and improvement of the courthouse office space.

Mason City, Ill.—UPI—Fire swept the Mason City High school shortly after classes began today but all 200 students and their teachers were evacuated safely.

Behind Microphones—The Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker, seen here behind a large group of microphones, spoke to a full house at the Winnipeg Civic auditorium last night. Diefenbaker is fighting to save his government, thrown into crisis over the recent nuclear defense policy controversy with the United States. (UPI)

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NEWS BRIEFS

BRITISH-FRENCH SPLIT WIDENS
London—UPI—The British split with France widened today in the angry aftermath of a broadcast on Britain's government-owned television of a statement by former French Premier Georges Bidault who predicted the overthrow of the French government.

NEHRU CHARGES CHINESE INTERFERENCE
New Delhi—UPI—Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru accused Communist China today of interfering in the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan to further "its own expansion policy."

FRENCH MINERS DEFY ORDER
Paris—UPI—France's 200,000 coal miners defied the government's order that they return to work or go to jail and held out stubbornly today in a crippling nationwide strike aimed at winning a pay raise to beat the climbing cost of living.

VATICAN SOURCES DENY RUMOR
Vatican City—UPI—Vatican sources denied today Italian press reports that Russian Editor Alexei I. Adzhubel, Premier Nikita Khrushchev's son-in-law, had asked for and failed to get a private audience with Pope John XXIII.

WEATHER
FORECAST: Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Low tonight 35 to 35. High Wednesday 52 to 52.

Highest Yesterday Temp. 56
Lowest This Morning 35
Prev. to 10 a.m. Today, None

Our Skies Tonight
Sunset today 6:05 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 6:48 a.m.
Moonset tomorrow 1:30 a.m.
Full Moon March 9

The two bright stars north of the Moon tonight are Castor and Pollux, the Twins. Pollux, the brighter Twin, is nearer the Moon.