

14 FOUND DEAD IN COAL MINE BLAST



REFUGEES AWAIT EVACUATION—Refugees wait at an airstrip on the Plain of Jars in Laos for an airplane to evacuate them to Vientiane, capital of Laos. Although the situation is said to have improved after pro-Communist

Pathet Lao Prince Souphanouvong made two proposals to end fighting between his troops and neutralist forces led by Gen. Kong Le, the latest reports have Communists gaining ground. (UPI)

Khrushchev Reaffirms Agreements on Free Laos

Harriman Told Of Full Support On Geneva Pact

Moscow (UPI)—Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev today reaffirmed his stand on the need for a free and independent Laos.

Khrushchev's support for his 1961 accord with President Kennedy on Laos was disclosed tonight after U. S. presidential trouble-shooter W. Averell Harriman met with the premier for 3 1/2 hours and presented him with a message from Kennedy.

Visited in Office

Harriman, in Moscow on a dramatic mission to save the peace in Laos, saw Khrushchev in the premier's office after a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andre Gromyko.

Representatives of School District Return From Visit

A group of representatives from School District 549C returned yesterday from Denver, Colo., where they observed teaching techniques, plant facilities and specific education programs.

The trip was part of an in-service visitation program conducted in conjunction with Medford's participation in the Oregon Program, which is financed on a state-wide basis by the Ford Foundation.

Included in the group were school board members, administrators, heads of departments, supervisors, and elementary school principals. Accompanying the group was Dale Skewis, Salem, supervisor of secondary education for the state department of education.

A Residential Section

Schools visited and programs observed were in Jefferson county, Colo., a residential section for people working in the Denver region. Members of the delegation divided into smaller groups to observe specific areas of interest, although in some cases, the entire delegation visited a school or observed a specific program.

The Jefferson County district was organized in 1950 from 39 small independent districts. This year the district has an enrollment of about 42,000 students.

Team teaching, one of the more recent developments in

Fighting Erupts At Four Locations On Plain of Jars

Vientiane, Laos (UPI)—New fighting has broken out between Laotian Neutralist forces and pro-Communist troops at four different spots on the Plain of Jars, informed sources reported tonight.

In addition, the Laotian Defense Ministry announced that pro-Communist Pathet Lao troops had attacked an outpost of right-wing forces led by Gen. Phoumi Nosavan.

The new outbreaks of fighting were reported as Laos' beleaguered Neutralist Premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, scheduled a trip to the Plain of Jars Saturday in a personal effort to halt the new battling that threatened the existence of his shaky coalition government.

Informed sources in Vientiane said that new fighting had broken out Thursday night and today at Khang Khay, Xieng Khouang, Phonsavan, and Lat Houang.

The four localities are all on the Plain of Jars where troops of the Laotian Communist and Neutralist factions have been fighting sporadically for more than a month.

Premier Souvanna, meanwhile, issued a statement criticizing "foreign" charges—apparently those made by the Russian—that the strife in Laos had been instigated by the United States.

Access Roads To Freeway Section Are Barricaded

"If motorists are determined drive on the unopened section of the freeway, they will find some way to get on it," according to Oregon State Highway Department Resident Engineer Donald Haller after an Ashland man was killed Thursday noon in an automobile-construction truck accident on unopened Interstate 5 near Talent.

Haller explained that all access roads to the freeway are barricaded with "Road Closed" signs, but explained that motorists are able to drive around them since workmen and construction equipment must use these roads.

He stated that motorists have knocked down the barricades, in some cases becoming stuck in mud when they have driven around them, have torn down fences and broken padlocks to reach the partially completed freeway.

The engineer explained that Thursday's fatality occurred in the most congested construction area of the freeway, used frequently by heavy equipment for transporting gravel to and from the rock crusher.

Haller noted that he had observed families, with children, using the unopened freeway. Work on the freeway continues nearly around the clock, he noted, so that workmen and equipment are in area the majority of the time.

NEWS BRIEFS

HALLECK SAYS EXCUSES RUNNING OUT
Washington (UPI)—House Republican Leader Charles A. Halleck said today President Kennedy had broken so many campaign promises that "Apologists for the administration are running out of excuses."

SOVIET FIGHTERS CIRCLE U.S. HELICOPTERS
Berlin (UPI)—Two Soviet jet fighters circled two U.S. Army helicopters over Berlin today, apparently to underline Russia's contention that the helicopter flights were illegal.

AMERICAN INSTALLATION FIRED IN VENEZUELA
Caracas, Venezuela (UPI)—Six masked men carrying tommyguns today set fire to the U.S.-owned Cordage Hull Company on the outskirts of Caracas. The three-hour, six-alarm fire caused \$200,000 damage.

U.S. HOPES FOR 'HOT LINE' PROGRESS
Geneva (UPI)—The United States hoped to make some progress on a "hot line" communications link between Moscow and Washington today despite the gloomy outlook on the nuclear test issue.

TWO QUESTIONED IN SLAYING OF POSTMASTER
Gadsden, Ala. (UPI)—Police today questioned the wife and brother of Floyd L. Simpson, picked up Thursday in connection with the roadside slaying of Baltimore postmaster and civil rights crusader William L. Moore, 35.

Road Board Not To Develop Dunes

Salem (UPI)—Gov. Mark Hatfield said today the State Highway Commission was "only answering an inquiry" when it expressed willingness to develop the Oregon Dunes area as a state project.

Hatfield said there was no plan for the commission to take over development of the area.

The commission Thursday suggested it could develop the area as a possible compromise solution to the battle over the proposed national seashore in western Lane and Douglas counties.

Commission Chairman Glenn Jackson said his agency is not opposed to federal development and does not plan to push the idea, but it is "ready and willing" to help if called upon.

Eagle Point School Budget Vote Slated

Eagle Point (UPI)—A budget, reduced by \$36,773, leaving a total of \$308,026.77 to be raised outside the 6 per cent limitation, will be presented to voters of Eagle Point School District in an election May 14.

The Eagle Point school board and the budget committee met April 22 to study the school budget, which was defeated by voters of the district April 17.

It was decided to eliminate the purchase of a new bus, included in the original budget, and to cut all remodeling, painting and repairs to a minimum. Only necessary repairs and essentially needed plant maintenance will be done, board members reported.

The planned summer recreational program has been removed from the budget and some improvement to grounds postponed.

Some equipment and supplies have been reduced and board members expressed the hope that they can be included next year.

Board and budget committee members said they had tried to reduce the budget with a minimum of detrimental effect on the educational program.

55 City Recorders Attend GP Meeting

Grants Pass—Approximately 55 city recorders and treasurers from throughout the state are attending the annual workshop of the Oregon Association of City Finance Officers here.

The workshop opened yesterday and will conclude this afternoon. Presiding is Mrs. Frances Juris, Prineville city recorder-treasurer. New techniques in city finance management and legislation affecting budgeting are among topics being discussed.

Textbook Rental Proposal Tabled

Salem (UPI)—A measure which would have allowed school districts to rent textbooks to parochial high schools was tabled Thursday in the Senate Education committee.

SURVEYS APPROVED

Salem (UPI)—The State Highway Commission Thursday approved location surveys for a route for the McKenzie River Highway between Blue River and Mill Creek.

CITY BUDGET COMMITTEE SETS FIRST MEETING

The proposed preliminary 1963-64 budget for the city of Medford will be presented to members of the citizens' budget committee at its initial meeting tonight.

City Manager Robert Duff's budget message will be delivered to the committee. The group will also elect its officers for this year. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers in city hall.

ASSESSMENT APPROVED

Salem (UPI)—The Senate today approved a measure allowing counties to assess timber lands in Eastern Oregon.

Hope Dwindles For Eight Others Missing in Shaft

30 Survive Violent Explosion

Dola, W. Va. (UPI)—Fourteen soft coal miners were found dead today deep inside the explosion-torn Clinchfield Coal company's No. 2 mine and hope dwindled fast for eight men still missing.

The explosion, triggered late Thursday night by either methane gas or coal dust, plunged this small mining community of 200 people into gloom.

As grim word was flashed from rescue teams 330 feet beneath the surface, the strain began to tell on relatives who had gathered at the pithead.

First two bodies were found, then another, and then a group of 11 in one of the main working areas which probably bore the full brunt of the violent blast.

Thirty other miners survived the tragedy by scurrying to the surface.

The general feeling at the mine office was one of pessimism.

Shortly before noon, a spokesman for the mine's management disclosed that 24 rubber sheets had been ordered from a nearby mortuary.

But in the tradition of coal mining, rescue teams pushed forward against time in an attempt to reach the men still unaccounted for.

Significantly, the Compass No. 2 mine is located only a short distance from the scene of this country's worst mining disaster. On Dec. 6, 1907, 361 miners lost their lives in a mine near Monongah, W. Va.



MINERS AWAIT WORD—Fellow coalminers await word from the men who were trapped inside the Compass No. 2 mine at Dola, W. Va., following an explosion late Thursday. Standing in center facing the camera is John Mora-

bito, who said "I was standing about a mile from the scene of the blast when the concussion shook the shovel out of my hand and knocked me to the floor." (UPI)

Cuban Oil Refineries Said Target of Raiders

'Mystery' Plane Drops Five Bombs On Installations

Miami, Fla. (UPI)—Anti-Castro raiders in a twin-engine plane made a low-level bombing attack Thursday night on Cuban oil refineries on Havana's eastern outskirts, it was reported here today.

The "mystery" aircraft dropped five 100-pound bombs on the refineries, former Esso and Shell oil installations, but Cuban exiles reporting the raid said they were ineffective.

Not Identified

The attackers were not identified but in Washington, a free-lance newspaperman, Alexander Rorke, said he, two other unidentified Americans and a Cuban participated in the raid.

Rorke said the attackers did not encounter either fighter or antiaircraft opposition. He said the homemade bombs, one of them lighted from the end of a cigar, were dropped from 150 feet.

Rorke identified the Americans on the raid as members of an organization called "U.S. Freedom Fighters." He said it was a nonpolitical organization formed to help free Cuba.

Up to midday, Havana Radio had not mentioned the raid. News agencies were not able to contact their Havana bureaus for information on the attack.

Skepticism Expressed

In Washington, the State Department said it was "checking" the raid reports, but expressed skepticism about the attack despite Rorke's statement.

Exile sources said the attackers were out after a specific undisclosed target, but decided on a secondary objective when they were unable to pinpoint it for accurate bombing.

The bombs were homemade and presumably ineffective. Rorke said they "didn't blow anything up."

It was the first hostile bombing of the Havana area since April 15, 1961, when exiles strafed and bombed major airfields to set the stage for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion two days later.

Students Consider Air Pollution Bill While Serving Posts

A city council composed of Medford and St. Mary's high school students toyed with passage of an air pollution control ordinance yesterday afternoon, but finally referred it to committee for further study.

The council meeting was held yesterday afternoon in city hall as part of annual Student Government day activities sponsored by the Elks lodge.

In other action, the student council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing a 20-year plan to develop a civic center in an area adjacent to the Jackson county courthouse.

The proposed ordinance would have enjoined area firms from polluting the air, threatening civil procedures in circuit court, and would have become effective immediately.

One councilman expressed concern over possible effect of the ordinance on fruit-growers, pointing out that orchards were "vital to the growth and prosperity" of Jackson county.

Another student said "the major contribution" to air pollution came from the mills. In referring the measure back to committee, a councilman said he hoped that in a few years the industry would solve its own problem by better utilization of wood by-products.

Maximum Speed Limits Approved

Salem (UPI)—The House voted for maximum speed limits today in an effort to curb the state's rising highway death toll.

Rep. C. R. Hoyt (R-Corvallis) said in an age when autos can go so fast "we need something to help us discipline ourselves."

Rep. James Redden (D-Medford) said in other states with speed limits motorists heed them, but in Oregon they take advantage of a "five or ten mile edge."

Oregon has the basic rule, which requires a driver to drive at a safe and reasonable speed that will enable him to keep his car under control and not endanger others. In addition, Oregon highways have designated, or suggested speeds, but they are not legal speeds.

Speakers said the bill would retain the basic rule, but put a top on it.

The bill, which passed 35-19, would set a maximum of 75 miles on freeways and 65 miles on highways.

It also would increase the residential area speed limit from 25 to 30 miles and the school zone speed from 20 to 25 miles.

Congressman Robert Duncan To Be In Medford Saturday for Interviews

Congressman Robert B. Duncan of Medford, representative of the Fourth district, will arrive here by plane at 6:30 p.m. Saturday from San Francisco and will be available for constituents to talk with him at his home, 1500 Terrace dr., after 7 p.m.

He plans to go there immediately after he departs to spend Saturday evening interviewing constituents of this area. This will be Duncan's second visit to Oregon since taking up his congressional duties in January.

The congressman will continue to the coast area Sunday, where he has arranged a series of "open office interviews" to give Fourth district residents an opportunity to bring their problems directly to him. He will be in the Curry county courthouse at Gold Beach at 10 a.m. Sunday, and in the office of Attorney Maurice Engelgau, 217 North Adams st., Coquille, at 2 p.m. Monday, April 29, office hours for constituents will start at 9:30 a.m. in the Lebanon city hall and at 2 p.m. in the Albany Chamber of Commerce offices.

Press Conference Planned

Duncan also will visit the Labor Temple in Coos Bay at 4:30 p.m. Sunday and hold a press conference at 5:30 p.m. Sunday at 3600 Edgewood dr., North Bend.

His Monday schedule will include a luncheon address before the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

Duncan will come to Medford from San Francisco, where he is speaking on "Trade Prospects for Lumber." He will address a luncheon meeting of the Western Forest Industries association at the St. Francis hotel. About 200 members of the association from Oregon, Washington and California will be in San Francisco for the annual convention of the association.

Duncan also will attend meetings Saturday afternoon with the WFLA committees representing the O and C counties.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Some clearing tonight. Increasing cloudiness Saturday. Rain Saturday afternoon and night. A little warmer Saturday. Low tonight 58.

High Saturday 61.
Lowest This Morning 43
Prec. to 11 a.m. Today 33

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today 7:05 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 5:13 a.m.
Moonset tonight 10:17 p.m.
First Quarter April 26
The planet Mercury is now growing dimmer and moving nearer the sun. It will reappear as a morning planet in June, north of where Venus and Jupiter are now seen.