



THREE-ALARM FIRE — San Francisco Firemen battle a three-alarm fire in a downtown office building. No estimate of damage has been made, but the fire did considerable

damage to the three-story building. There were no reported injuries during the 30-minute battle to control the blaze. (UPI)

State Highway Contracts Let In 1963 Totaled \$107.6 Million

SALEM (UPI) — The State Highway Department awarded \$107.6 million in contracts during 1963—\$31 million more than were awarded in 1962, Highway Engineer Forrest Cooper said Saturday.

In all, 168 contracts were awarded, compared with 195 the year before, Cooper said. He estimated the department would let \$61 million in contracts during 1964.

Of the \$107.6 million contracted during the year, \$16.7 million was for bond projects, \$3.2 million for construction on the county road system, \$260,000 for work on city streets of the state highway system, \$3.4 million in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in connection with the relocation of U.S. 30 near the John Day Dam, \$80.1 million was in connection with federal aid participating projects, and \$3.9 million was for state-financed construction.

Contracts awarded in 1963 included 158 miles of grading, 184 miles of rock base construction, 86 miles of oiled wearing surface, 130 miles of asphaltic concrete pavement, 4 miles of Port-

land cement pavement, and 89 bridges and structures.

About 50 miles of interstate highway was completed or opened to traffic during the year. At yearend, 116 miles were under construction to freeway standards. This leaves 260 miles to be put under construction to complete the interstate highway system in Oregon before the target date of 1972.

The highway department and U.S. Corps of Engineers are relocating the Columbia River Highway between Rufus and Boardman to skirt waters to be impounded behind John Day Dam. The 28-mile stretch between Rufus and Arlington is all on new location high on a hill. East from Arlington to Boardman much of the Columbia River Highway will be salvaged and become a part of the final four-lane divided interstate freeway.

About 208 miles downstream from the John Day Dam, construction is underway on the \$24 million bridge over the Columbia between Astoria and Megler, Wash.

South from Ashland to the California state line, the rugged Siskiyou is being to the highway builders. During 1963 three contracts were let involv-

ing the expenditure of \$13.7 million for the construction of 8½ miles of highway.

The department's parks and recreation division reported a

continued increase in park use, with an estimated 13 million park visitations during 1963 compared with 11.5 million the year before.

Budget Restoration Requests Invited

SALEM (UPI) — State departments have been advised to submit priority restoration requests for presentation to an Emergency Board meeting Jan. 24, the Finance and Administration Department revealed Saturday.

When the 100,000-acre Boardman project was turned over to the Veterans' department by the special session of the legislature, \$900,000 that had been spent by the state to develop the project was refunded to the general fund from surplus veterans' funds.

Gov. Mark Hatfield will review a agency restoration requests, and submit recommendations to the Emergency Board.

The Emergency Board, made up of legislators, must give its approval before any of the \$900-

000 can be used to restore austerity cuts resulting from the Oct. 15 tax referendum.

Finance and Administration Director Freeman Holmer advised a g e n c y heads "special consideration will be given to those items where the smallest allocation will accomplish the greatest gain in the preservation of essential public services."

Agency heads were ordered to submit their restoration requests by Jan. 8.

Holmer said "it is planned to present the entire list of requests to the Emergency Board for their consideration together with the governor's recommendations as to which requests should receive allocations at this time."

COMPULSORY INOCULATION
 PRETORIA, South Africa (UPI) — Immunization against polio became compulsory Saturday for every South African child over the age of 3 months. The official Gazette said parents who fail to have their children inoculated may be fined \$140.

Afro-American Group Head Critical of NAACP, Others

PORTLAND (UPI) — The national chairman of the Afro-American Association said Friday his organization believes the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other civil rights groups are concerned only with the middle class Negro.

Oakland attorney Donald Warden said that the present posture of the civil rights groups "is not only misleading, but doing more harm than good."

Warden, here to speak on his organization and its aims, accused the NAACP of taking a

gating schools and ignoring the real criterion.

"The real purpose of education is to learn," Warden said. "They are measuring educational progress in terms of how many schools are desegregated. If desegregation were all there is to it, that would be fine."

He continued, "schools are largely desegregated in the North, and the dropout rate among Negroes is higher in the North than it is in the South. Of Negroes in graduate schools in the North, more are from the South than from the North."

Warden said his organization, which has 5,000 members, is conducting a program in the San Francisco Bay area aimed at educating the masses of Negroes and instilling in them a pride of race that will move them to help themselves.

He said they are taught such things as how to register for night classes or how to buy a used car, in addition to reading and writing in "street schools."

"We reach some people in meetings, some on the radio, and the only way to get many of the prospects is to go into the street," Warden said.

Decision On Status Of Negro Expected Soon

SPOKANE (UPI) — The first major decision on whether a Georgia Negro will be returned to be executed or will be allowed to go free as expected after a federal court hearing beginning here Monday.

The case is that of Charlie Will Cauthen, 26, who was arrested in Warden, Wash., this summer on a fugitive from justice warrant.

Cauthen was convicted Feb. 23, 1959, of the murder of Elijah Melvin Perkins, a white service station operator from Griffin, Ga. He escaped from the Pike County jail at Zebulon May 25, 1959, and was working on a farm near Warden when the Federal Bureau of Investigation caught him.

Cauthen claims he is innocent of murder, but the question of guilt or innocence is not being taken up by the court.

Five attorneys acting in Cauthen's behalf have asked for an order releasing him from the Spokane County jail. They contend he was denied due process of law in his Georgia murder trial.

In their petitions for release, the attorneys claim Negroes were systematically excluded from juries in Griffin County, that a confession was taken from Cauthen while under coercion and without legal aid and that when an attorney was appointed for Cauthen, the attorney failed to pursue all legal avenues to defend his client.

Mr. Index Rescue Efforts Resume

EVERETT (UPI) — A rescue party resumed efforts Saturday to bring out the bodies of a Seattle man and his 12-year-old son who died on the slopes of Mt. Index early Friday morning of cold and exhaustion.

Dangerous terrain and light conditions forced a halt to the attempt Friday night to recover the bodies of Horace Gates, 41, and his son, Frank.

ACCIDENT VICTIM DIES
 VANCOUVER, Wash. (UPI) — Kelli Kreute, 30, Orchard, Wash., died at a hospital Friday from injuries suffered in a two-car accident near here Tuesday.

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