

# MEDFORD FIRE DAMAGE HEAVY

In The Day's News

## The Herald and News

WEATHER NEWS

June 26, 1945  
Max. (June 25) 60 Min. 43  
Precipitation last 24 hours .00  
Stream year to date 13.24  
Normal 11.82 Last year 13.25  
Forecast: Clear today and Thursday.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WATH FALLS, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1945

(Telephone 8111)

Number 10856

### Flames Raze Medford Industrial Area Tuesday Night



Aerial view, (top), taken at 1000 feet elevation and looking westward over the fire which destroyed five business establishments in a three-block area along South Fir street in Medford last night. This picture was snapped about 7 p. m. by Verne Shangle of Medford from a Cub trainer piloted by Shelby Tuttle Jr. The huge column of black smoke was caused by the burning spray oil. A brisk wind threatened to carry the blaze through the west side residential area but was stopped at the Monarch warehouse and mill. Below, the fire after it was brought under control. The area continued to burn for many hours and still smoldered today.—Pictures by Shangle, courtesy Medford Mail Tribune.

## Blaze Destroys 3-Block Sector In City Center

A three-block sector in Medford's industrial district, was left a smoldering mass of ruins this morning after the worst fire in the valley city's history which caused destructive damage to fruit packing and lumber plants at an estimated loss of more than one and one-half million dollars.

The fire broke out in the American Fruit Growers plant near the heart of the city at about 6 o'clock last night.

Fire Chief Roy Elliott said this morning that there was no definite indication of the fire's cause, but he is investigating reports that it may have originated in a coffee shop lounge which the Fruit Growers plant maintained for employes.

Listed as destroyed by the raging flames were the \$500,000 American Fruit Growers plant,

the adjoining Crystal Springs Packing company, \$200,000; Medford Milling company, \$150,000; Porter Lumber Seed company, \$100,000; Monarch Seed and Feed company, \$150,000; damages to nearby houses, \$50,000, and minor damages elsewhere in the three-block vicinity.

### Pear Loss Feared

There was fear, too, that the region's multi-million dollar pear growing industry would suffer even greater loss because the fruit plants, two of the largest in the district, could not be replaced before the August fruit harvest. A telephone call to the Medford Mail Tribune today however advised that other plants, including Reter Packing company, Pinnacle Packing company, Southern Oregon Sales and Bear Creek Orchards plant, would double-up in their efforts to handle the entire crop.

Over here in Klamath Falls, Andrew Collier of the Klamath Ice and Storage company, advised that both the local and Tulelake plants would handle approximately 250,000 boxes of pears for storage. This will relieve the congestion early in the fall which the fruit operators of the valley are now anticipating with the heavy loss on their hands despite the fact no storage facilities were lost in the valley. There is, however, a heavy crop anticipated and local handling will aid materially. Collier said one-half of the new Tulelake storage plant will be given over to the fruit and pears are expected beginning around September 5.

### Firemen Casualties

Four firemen, members of the Medford fire department, were either injured or overcome by fumes and smoke while fighting the flames but all were improved today, it was learned. Earl Harrison suffered an injured hand while manning the pumps but was able to return to his post after first aid treatment. Richard Knight was overcome by heat and smoke and LeRoy Williams, fireman, was knocked off the edge of the Monarch Feed plant when firemen moved a big hose and scraped him off the building. He fell one story but after first aid insisted on returning to aid others. The Monarch outfit is owned by Miksche Brothers of Medford. Freeman Johnson was overcome apparently by sulphur fumes while working at the American plant.

The fire was reported by Fred Robinson, manager of the Davis Transfer company whose (Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

## Draft Bill Now Up To President

WASHINGTON, June 26 (AP)—With more than \$50,000,000 at stake, the nation's men in uniform riveted their attention on the White House today to learn when the draft extension compromise and its companion pay increase measure become law.

The twin bills cleared final congressional hurdles yesterday in doublequick time after months of argument.

Public interest centered on the nine-month extension of the wartime draft beyond June 30 with non-fathers between 19 and 45 probably most concerned as possible draftees. Neither service, however, has indicated any desire to draft anyone over 25. Other prime provisions of the measure include:

1. An 18-month limit on compulsory service.
2. No further inductions of fathers.
3. A clause that fathers now in service may apply for release after August 1.

But the men of the army, navy, marines and other armed services—from gold braided officers down to privates and apprentice seamen—were more interested in the time of the pay boost signing.

The increases—ranging from \$25 a month for the privates up to \$166.67 for the upper bracket generals and admirals—will become effective on the first day of the month following the presidential signature.

Because the present stopgap draft act dies at the end of this month, Mr. Truman was expected to sign the compromise extension before July 1.

But he was not under the same pressure to sign the broad pay increase plan. Hence if he delays this until after July 1, all men on duty with the armed service would have to wait until August 1 before collecting the extra money.

## Parade Draws City Societies

Brady Narey, chairman of the fraternal section of the rodeo parade committee announces that the fraternal organizations of the city are responding 100 per cent. Andy Meek of the Eagles has reported that his organization will have three entries, the Eagles drum corps, Eagle drill team and the ladies auxiliary drill team. V. C. Goodwin of the Elks reports that his organization will enter a decorated float. Victor Vaska of the Moose said that his organization would have a marching band and that the ladies auxiliary would also be present. The Shrine will present the Hillah drum corps, with 27 pieces, in their colorful uniforms.

One of the first community entries to come in is that of Henley. Ethel Whitlatch advises that her community will present a historical float as a contribution to the centennial program. The Klamath Indian Agency has also advised that its float will promote the centennial idea.

Altogether some 22 entries have already been made with more than half of the sections yet to be heard from. There is every indication that this will be the biggest parade in Klamath's history, according to E. P. Ivory, parade chairman of the Klamath rodeo committee.

## Meat Famine Faces Nation

By The Associated Press  
A virtual famine in fresh meat for most of the nation was reported today—with no indications of immediate relief—as the senate prepared to act on the house-approved compromise OPA bill retaining meat price controls.

Some packer industry spokesmen said should the bill become law, keeping the lids on livestock and meat prices, the country's meat supply "will get even worse."

Others asserted the scarcity would continue for several months. One large packer said the shortage would continue "until the fate of the country is averted. There were threats of a complete shutdown of facilities from packing houses to retail markets in Los Angeles because of expressed dissatisfaction over the OPA bill provisions.

Fish and fowl and eggs replaced the main meat dish on the country's dinner tables as hundreds of butcher shops across the country closed. Operations in packing plants dropped to new all time low levels.

The abnormally low volume of livestock at markets during the last two weeks has resulted in the lowest output in history at many plants.

## Police Continue Parking Patrol

The police department's three-wheeler is still patrolling the business section of town marking cars for overtime and improper parking.

Most of the owners of cars tagged have paid their tickets, but a few have neglected to show up at the police station and police warn that warrants will be issued for registered owners who ignore traffic tickets.

## Two Soviet Republics Lose Autonomy For Treacherous Actions During War

MOSCOW, June 26 (AP)—Two formerly autonomous Soviet republics in south Russia have been deprived of their autonomy and many of their inhabitants have been resettled in other parts of Russia as penalties for wartime treachery, it was disclosed officially today.

The Crimean and Chechen-Igush autonomous Soviet socialist republics, units of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist republic, were abolished as such and reduced to the status of provinces of the federation.

Total populations of the areas last were listed as 1,500,000 but a large proportion of Russians and Ukrainians, who lived in the republics and whose loyalty was unquestioned, were not removed.

The banished residents included those who lived around the Grozny and Mordok oil fields in the northern Caucasus, near the high tide of the German invasion. The action was revealed in published decrees of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist republic.

Exactly how many were uprooted and where they were moved were not announced.

The revelations were the first official Russian announcements of treachery affecting territorial units of the Soviet Union during the recent war.

A decree said "many Chechens and Crimean Tartars voluntarily and together with the German army waged an armed struggle against units of the red army. Under German orders, they also formed diversion bands for a struggle with Soviet power in the rear."

The ministry said a favorite practice was the falsification of production reports by directors and sub-executives in order to increase the prize money which was paid as reward to themselves and their friends.

In the complicated composition of the Soviet Union, the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist republic, whose capital is Moscow, is one of 16 constituent republics of the Soviet Union. The federation occupies 92.7 per cent of the total area of the USSR, and included as of last year 16 so-called "autonomous Soviet Socialist republics," of which the Crimea and Chechen-Igush were two.

## Sally Teases Anxious Cops

SAN FRANCISCO, June 26 (AP)—Sally Rand told her night club audience today that, with police waiting to arrest her for the third time in 24 hours, she had quite a bit to bare.

"Police car rides are dull," the fan and bubble dancer said, "and getting pretty silly."

"But fan dancing must go on," Sally, wrapped in ermine, danced, waiting feathers. The coat came off, and Sally danced in a flowing gown which nightly had failed to cling through the show.

The finale brought the gown down around her ankles, but instead of just Miss Rand there were long-handle drawers and a gilded corset left.

The policemen silently strode away. Said Sally after the show: "I just decided to tease 'em a little."

## E. B. Hall On Air

E. B. Hall, Klamath Falls hotelman, will be the guest of KFLW at the 4 o'clock broadcast tomorrow, Thursday, when he will tell the story of plans relating to operation of the city heating plant. All interested persons and especially those users of city heating service are asked to listen in when Hall will be interviewed at 4 p. m.

## Row Flares As Senators Debate OPA

WASHINGTON, June 26 (AP)—Senator Wherry (R-Neb.) cried out today that another year of price control would produce "actual violence in this country" as senate tempers grew hot in the midst of a showdown debate on extension of OPA.

His face flushed in anger, Wherry shouted across the floor to Senator Guffey (D-Pa.) "You're a rubber stamp."

His assertion came during a noisy session during which Guffey and other senators were ordered by the senate's presiding officer either to end their audible floor huddle or leave the chamber.

Always for Administration Wherry declared that Guffey had never voted against an administration measure.

As Wherry continued his arguments for stripping OPA of even more controls than those recommended by a joint congressional committee, Senator Bridges (R-N. H.) chimed in, too.

Bridges said "We've reached a pretty low level when you have to violate a law in order to buy a loaf of bread."

The time of a vote on the extension legislation was uncertain. Wherry's efforts were directed at overthrowing the joint committee's compromise recommendations and forcing a new get-together between representatives of the house and senate on the final form of the OPA bill.

Warning by Barkley Against that attempt, Democratic Leader Barkley already had taken the floor to caution that the chances are dim that there can be any price control after next Sunday if the present bill is rejected.

He asserted that it contained "imperfections." At the same time he called upon his colleagues to follow the lead of the house and accept the legislation as put together by a joint committee which worked out differences between the two branches.

## Canning Sugar On Hand Soon

Sugar for home canning will be available July 1 when spare stamp No. 10 becomes valid. This stamp will be worth five pounds of sugar per person, but it is unlikely that any more sugar will be released for canning purposes. This stamp and spare stamp No. 9, which became valid March 11, are both good through October 31.

Sugar stamps were announced early this year to provide sugar for southern states where fruits ripen early. At that time housewives elsewhere were asked to budget their sugar use for actual home canning and to plan its use to coincide with the ripening of fruits in their communities.

Persons who customarily can fruit or jam for sale may apply for home canning sugar for this purpose, not to exceed 250 pounds per family unit, and provided they received sugar for home canning for sale in 1945.

Although sugar rationing is no longer being handled by local OPA boards, Mrs. L. C. Offield of the Klamath county board, ventured an opinion on why sugar is still being rationed after a year of peace. One reason is that a great deal of the beets used for beet sugar were not harvested last year. Even though cane sugar areas, which were war casualties, have been replanted, it takes two years for the crop to mature, and therefore this sugar will not be ready until next year.

Sugar rationing representative for this area is Mrs. Marjorie Lee in the Bedell building, Portland.

## Plane Service Begins Aug. 1

The first United Air Lines passenger planes will land on the Klamath Falls airport August 1, W. T. McIntyre, United manager here, told members of the Klamath County chamber of commerce board of directors at their luncheon meeting today noon.

The flight service inaugural had been tentatively set by United for July 16, but McIntyre said that the post office department and the CAA, who really have the final say, had decided on August 1.

McIntyre came here from Salem last night to take over the office which United will establish at the airport. He visited the port this morning and reported that it was a whole lot better air field than he had expected.

Phil Hitebeck, chairman of the chamber's aviation committee, told the directors that his group the new service, saying such envelopes printed commemorating the first airmail to go out over the sliding window of his stand for good.

Progress has invaded the pop corn business only to a certain point. There are no more horse-drawn wagons peddling the puffed kernels and there are no more mobile stands, but a pop corn stand in any form will always delight the young in spirit.

## By FRANK JENKINS

THERE is an interesting little tale on the wires today to the effect that cherries are rotting on the trees in the Willamette valley because of lack of pickers. The dispatch adds that the shortage of pickers is caused by lack of housing.

It seems to work out this way: Growers in the Salem area, with the biggest crop in years, are calling for 5000 pickers—which is more than the Salem area can provide, so migratory workers are needed. "But," the story adds, "there is no housing for migratory workers because the materials shortage has made it impossible to get temporary housing completed."

THE Oregon State College extension service adds that good pickers can earn more than \$15 a day, but the jobs go begging because people (naturally enough) won't work unless they can have a place to live.

Nobody wants to sleep out in the rain, even for \$15 a day.

YOU'VE doubtless heard this tale: "If we had some ham, we'd have a ham and egg sandwich if we had an egg."

Well, that's the fix we're in now. Only CONTINUED PRODUCTION can get us both the ham and the egg we need to make the sandwich we all want.

INCIDENTALLY, we must always guard against the tendency to think the picture is darker than it really is. We must remember that BAD news always makes the headlines.

ALSO—We must remember that we READ the bad news, all the way through, whereas we often skip the constructive, GOOD news that really fills three-fourths of all the space in all the newspapers of America practically every day.

FOR example: We read of strikes and work stoppages. We read how OPA rules are hampering normal production and distribution. We jump to the conclusion that the country is going to hell in a hand-basket FAST.

But if you read this and other newspapers discriminatingly today you will find a Washington dispatch announcing that at the present moment fewer than 150,000 workers are idle because of strikes.

That is the lowest figure since just after V-J Day.

THE peak of idleness because of labor disputes, by the way, was reached on Friday, January 25, when 1,680,000 workers were off the job. The figure for today is less than ten per cent of that rather staggering total.

IT looks this morning as if the conference OPA bill, referred to in this column yesterday, will be approved by both houses of congress and will go to the President—who may or may not veto it. (It is at least a fair guess that he won't, as the time limit on OPA is getting extremely short.)

The house has already approved it. Senator Lucas (Democrat, of Illinois) says this morning he thinks the overwhelming house vote (265 to 105) fore-shadows a senate OK for the bill—"even though," he added, "nobody likes it."

TO keep the picture straight in your own mind, you must remember that this ruckus over OPA is as full of politics as a dog is of fleas. More or less ALL the politicians have been using OPA to put their opponents on the spot.

Hence the hullabaloo. All reasonable thinkers have known from the beginning that we will have to put up with price control until such a time as production reaches a moderately stable balance with demand and COMPETITION comes back into the picture.

## Arkansas Upholds Negro Voter Ban

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., June 26—The Arkansas supreme court upheld today a legislative act designed to ban negroes from voting for state officials in democratic primaries.

The act, passed last year, sets up separate primaries for state and federal offices. Negroes can vote in the primaries to nominate federal officials.

## Pop Corn Era May Return

Who doesn't get nostalgic at the thought of the old horse-drawn pop corn wagon where for a nickel a bag, youngsters and oldsters alike could have a mouth-watering treat on the light, puffy kernels that fairly dripped with hot melted butter?

If present indications mean anything, the pop corn stand may have a comeback. During the week the city has had four applications by individuals desiring to start them. For many years, no similar applications have been made and the pop corn stand was becoming a thing of the past.

In years gone by one of those places where "everyone in town met everyone else" was the little

four-wheeled pop corn stand on the corner of Main and 8th where the United States National bank building now stands.

The era of the pop corn wagon is easily within the memory-span of Klamath's 20-year-olds, who even at that age look back with regret at the day the man in the white chef's hat closed the sliding window of his stand for good.

Progress has invaded the pop corn business only to a certain point. There are no more horse-drawn wagons peddling the puffed kernels and there are no more mobile stands, but a pop corn stand in any form will always delight the young in spirit.