

# FOUR FIREMEN DIE IN S.F. BLAZE

# Chinese Band Kills Marines In Convoy Ambush

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

IN the news the other day, the name of Representative Coffee, of Washington state, hopped up as the recipient of a \$2500 check from a Washington contractor by the name of Anderson. Coffee shrugged it off as a campaign contribution.

Cornered today by the senate war investigating committee, Anderson testifies that he gave the money to Coffee's secretary because of service he expected to get from Coffee in the nation's capital. He says he had no thought of making a campaign contribution.

The transaction occurred back in 1941, and the "service" appears to have been rendered in connection with the award of a million dollar war department hospital contract. The story so far is that Anderson was the low bidder, but was afraid the job was going to be awarded to somebody else. So he went to Washington to get help in landing it.

AN interesting sidelight is Anderson's admission that he charged the \$2500 payment to the government as a part of the contract, so that the government itself (which was awarding the job) PAID THE BILL.

REPRESENTATIVE ELLSWORTH (district across the mountains) says these investigations of alleged improper activities of members of congress and others in connection with war contracts are actually "just a dress rehearsal for what is to come."

He adds: "Even if the political control of the congress does not change, further scandals will be revealed. However, if the Republicans obtain control of either the house or the senate, or both, even the famous Teapot Dome scandal will have about the same relative rating in comparison to future revelations as a firecracker would to an atomic bomb."

"It is rumored (in Washington) that the strange wartime transactions in ships and shipping, when exposed to public gaze, will shake this capital to its very foundations—and this is but one of many."

LET'S get this situation straight. If it develops that the awarding of war contracts has been haphazardly combined with scandal, this will be the basic and underlying reason.

Against the wise counsel of the founding fathers, we have placed TOO MUCH POWER in TOO FEW HANDS with TOO LITTLE RESTRAINT.

That is ALWAYS a corrupting influence.

WHILE we're moralizing about politics, let's take a sharp look at Congressman Coffee's plaintive explanation that the \$2500 he got from a contractor was only a "campaign contribution." He seems to think that takes the curse completely off, and leaves the transaction wholly innocent.

The writer is so naive as not to think so.

Why are big campaign contributions made to candidates, anyway? There are doubtless occasional exceptions, but in general people give money to candidates, to help them get elected, because they want to be in a

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## Morse's Vet Bill Passed By Senate

Senator Wayne Morse's revised veterans training bill, strongly favored by the Klamath chamber of commerce and local education officials, has been passed by the senate and now goes to the house.

The bill authorizes the veterans administration to reimburse state and local agencies for expenses incurred in connection with administration of on-the-job training for veterans. It was also sponsored by Senators Cordon, Johnson, George, Stewart, Fulbright and Hill.

The local chamber took action after education officials here reported that administration of the program was crippled by lack of funds to pay supervisors.

## Homestead Opening Delayed At Tulelake

The public order opening Tulelake homesteads to veterans is expected to be delayed a week or ten days, according to E. L. Stevens, superintendent of the Klamath project of the reclamation bureau. The order, which was first expected about August 1, contains the regulations for the leasing of the land to eligible veterans.

Applications from over 5000 veterans have already been received by Stevens, who reports that they are coming in from every state, including Alaska and Hawaii. The order affects 86 farms composed of 7500 acres in the Tulelake area.

## U. S. Force Fights Way Out Of Trap

PEIPING, July 30 (AP)—Three hundred Chinese, some wearing the bluish green uniforms of communists, killed at least four U. S. marines and wounded 19 others with automatic weapons, rifles and grenades during a violent four-hour attack on a truck convoy of 100 leathernecks, eyewitnesses related today.

A search is being made for other marines, believed to be still missing.

The attackers, lying in ambush in cornfields 35 miles southeast of Peiping, would have wiped out the convoy had the marines not elected to jump back in the trucks and roar away under fire, the witnesses said.

"Like Explosion" Maj. Fred J. Frees, of Sioux Falls, S. D., who was with the convoy of replacements bound for Peiping from Tientsin, said the attack erupted "like an explosion."

"They threw everything at us during the first hour of attack except the kitchen sink," chimed in Sgt. James West of Cincinnati.

Frees and West, both army men, were convoy passengers.

Major Frees, a special service officer for Peiping headquarters, told the Associated Press: "If the marines had not reacted as efficiently and swiftly as they did, the convoy would have been taken in the first rush."

He declined to identify the attackers as communists but said he saw two dead Chinese on the road who wore "bluish green uniforms," the color of those worn by communists.

Assault Repulsed Firing from both sides was heaviest during the first hour. After a few minutes' fighting, the marine defenders drove off assaults and the attackers never again approached within hand grenade range although the Chinese several times attempted to close in.

"There is no doubt the attackers were really out to get the convoy," Frees said.

"The ambush was very well timed, very well prepared," and was made from both sides of the highway under cover of cornfields reaching to the road.

The ambush occurred at noon yesterday. About 1:30 p. m. a marine was sent through the encirclement to obtain aid.

"No help came," Frees said, "but we planned our escape."

"Trucks pulled out of the fighting area at full speed. Drivers held their gas pedals down to the floorboards."

## Byrnes Backs Majority Rule

PARIS, July 30 (AP)—U. S. Secretary of State Byrnes told the Paris peace conference today the United States would stand by the conference's recommendations in event it opposes by a two-thirds majority any of the peace treaties drafted by the foreign ministers' council.

Byrnes spoke in the general assembly of the conference shortly after the rules committee had proposed unanimously that all committee meetings and general conference sessions be thrown open to the press of the world—a step toward the Wilsonian ideal of a generation ago of "open covenants openly arrived at."

One conference hurdle which had promised to be embarrassing failed to materialize when the credentials committee met.

The Russians did not as expected, put forward the names of three members of the Soviet delegation representing Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia in an

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## Whiskerino Tightens Grip On Male Chins And Jowls

By HALE SCARBROUGH The whiskerino segment of Klamath's centennial celebration is catching hold of the male population pretty generally, although in a lot of cases it took several days for it to become noticeable, and already visitors to our town can be seen standing out in front of hotels, fingering smooth chins and wondering what's happened to the rest of the world.

Now, 10 days after the mass beard-growing attempt began, some admirable facial ferns are in evidence along Main street, with the Charlie Chan-John Caradine style being easily the most popular.

That type of hirsute adornment consists of an uncutivated mustache curving off the upper lip and dropping into a bristly patch covering the chin. It's de-

signed for comfort, more or less, because a shaved neck isn't as painful as one left unattended. Also this type gives people who have always shaved every morning something to do while waiting for breakfast—a zip down each cheek, scrape along the jawbone and a few touches to the neck and the job is done.

It's also the sign of an "I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't have to" complex.

# Klamath and News

PRICE FIVE CENTS 1 KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1946 (Telephone 8111) Number 10884

## Centennial Pony Express Rider



Joe Blackwell, bearded pony express rider for the centennial celebration, is shown here on Dan Patch, the horse he will ride on his trip to Portland and back. Packing the load is the mule, "Chippy."

## Klamath Boys Held In Reno

Two Klamath Falls boys, 15 and 16 years old, were arrested in Reno yesterday and will be returned here for questioning about a series of break-ins and burglaries here in the past several weeks.

Faye Blackmer, deputy juvenile officer, said that she had been informed by Reno police that the boys had admitted stealing a quantity of jewelry from the home of Robert A. Jones, 1524 Division, in a burglary last Thursday and most of the jewelry was found in their possession.

The boys also admitted the theft of \$1850 in war bonds from Mrs. Dorothy Emery of Bear Flat. The bonds were taken when the older youth was working for KFFA at Bear Flat.

They told Reno authorities that the bonds were hidden inside a rubber boot in a garage at one boy's home in Klamath Falls and the bonds have been recovered. Also recovered here was a radio taken in a recent burglary, found hidden in a clump of weeds back of the house by a neighbor.

Both boys were known to the juvenile office here, Mrs. Blackmer said. Reno police picked them up because they were acting suspiciously and found the jewelry on them. A telephone call to Klamath Falls established

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## Pageant Calendar

Rehearsal of all children's dance groups Friday, 10 a. m., Roosevelt school.

Registration for children dancers are still being accepted at the Eve Benson studio.

Chorus rehearsal Thursday, 8 p. m., at Fremont school.

All square dance positions are filled.

Prominent visitors who will arrive on United's southbound Mainliner at 10:10 a. m. to participate in the inauguration ceremonies include the following: Governor Earl Snell of Oregon, Marshall Cornett, state senator; K. C. Eldridge, chairman, trade and commerce committee of the Portland chamber of commerce; Chester Moores, president, Portland chamber of commerce; R. D. Bedinger, regional administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration; Ward Coble of Bend, Ore.; W. R. Thigpen, assistant to President W. A. Patterson of United Air Lines; George Hatch, district traffic and sales manager of United in Portland.

Arriving on United's initial flight from San Francisco will be George Lickteig, manager of the Air Express Division of western department of Railway Express Agency; E. S. Mavoney, station manager of United Air Lines at Portland, and Warren Burke, district traffic and sales manager for United at San Francisco.

## Bushy-Bearded Blackwell To Carry Centennial Bids

Bushy-bearded Joe Blackwell, long time resident of Klamath county, will leave Klamath on August 5 for his "pony express" ride to Portland and back, carrying invitations to Klamath's centennial pageant and celebration to city officials of the towns en route.

Blackwell, dressed in authentic garb of 100 years ago, will make the trip on Dan Patch, a bay horse belonging to Chet Barton, and will lead a mule, complete with pack, named "Chippy." Chippy belongs to Dan Liskey and has been donated by Liskey for the ride.

Blackwell will travel by truck or horse trailer between cities, but will ride into the towns along the way to present special invitations to the mayor of the town and to chamber of commerce officials. The invitations have been sent by the mayor, Ed Ostendorf, by the chamber of commerce, and from various county officials to officials of other counties.

Blackwell's trip will take him

## Snell To Come For Air Day

Prominent visitors who will be here for Thursday's air day festivities were listed today by United Air Lines, which will inaugurate mainline service on that occasion. The visitors will come in on a southbound plane which will land at the field in the midst of a public program to start at 9:30 a. m., and which is expected to attract a huge crowd to the municipal airport.

Complete details and time schedule of the entire program at the airport will be announced tomorrow.

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## Nagato Taken By Davy Jones

BIKINI, July 30 (AP)—One of Japan's two heaviest prewar battleships, the battered old Nagato, slid quietly to the bottom of Bikini's lagoon before dawn today, adding her to a battleship and aircraft carrier as capital ships sunk in Thursday's underwater atomic bomb explosion.

It was the fourth and last time the 32,720-ton battleship had felt the impact of American military power. Damaged by American planes in the Philippines in October, 1944, she was again pounded at Yokosuka naval base two months before the Japanese surrendered, and took a third beating in the aerial atomic bomb burst at Bikini July 1.

Task Force Commander Vice Adm. W. H. P. Blandy added the 27,999-ton battleship New York to the apparently damaged list as he issued this revised 18-ship score for the Thursday shallow-water test:

Sunk: The 26,100-ton Arkansas, the 33,000-ton carrier Saratoga, Nagato, an oil tender, and the landing ship from which the bomb was hung.

Missing and believed sunk: Submarines Pilotfish and Apogon. (He omitted the submarine Searaven, at first reported missing.)

Missing: Submarine Skipjack. Beached to prevent sinking: Destroyer Hughes, transport Falon, submarine Dentada.

Capsized: Tank landing craft 1114.

## Grapples Hunt River Victims

CARUTHERSVILLE, Mo. July 30 (AP)—The coast guard hauled out grapples equipment today in search for bodies of the 11 or more persons who are believed to have died in Sunday night's mid-channel collision of a Mississippi river ferry and a barge train.

Efforts will be made to raise the four automobiles and one pickup truck known to have been on the ferry when the flat boat was overturned in the swirling waters 50 yards off the Missouri shore.

Thirteen ferry passengers were saved. Another, a small boy, died after being hauled to shore.

Meanwhile, a special board of inquiry was set up by the coast guard to investigate the tragedy, termed by one coast guard official as "the worst on this stretch of the Mississippi river in 20 years."

## 'Booby Trap' Meant For 'Friend' Asserts Bowden

PORTLAND, Ore., July 30 (AP)—Detectives questioning James W. Bowden, 47, charged with first degree murder in the dynamite booby-trap death of his comely wife, reported today Bowden insists he rigged the bomb to send to "a friend" of his wife.

Bowden still denies that he sought to lure his estranged wife to open the "Pandora box" of death by warning the family not to tamper with the small trunk, Detective Capt. Eugene Ferguson reported.

The 44-year-old Mrs. Bowden, mother of two teen age girls, was blown to bits Saturday night when she opened the trunk and set off the six sticks of dynamite that detectives said Bowden told of rigging into a small box and fitting with tacks, wire and a small battery.

Detective Bard Purcell said the husband, arrested at an Oregon coast town early Sunday morning, has been unable to explain why he did not disconnect the bomb after he was unable to figure a way to send it to the man detectives reported was named in a diary found in the battered trunk.

## Heavy Rainfall Soaks Klamath Basin Area

Klamath rains succeeded in thoroughly wetting the area Tuesday as low-hanging rain clouds spread over Klamath county. The temperature held fairly even with 57 degrees being reported at 12:30 p. m. Early morning temperatures slipped to 51 but things warmed up a little around noon.

Forests were in unusually good condition for this time of the year according to the Klamath Forest Protective association. No lightning was reported.

## WEATHER

July 30, 1946  
Max. (July 29) 79 Min. 50  
Precipitation 24 hours 1.00  
Stream year to date 14.00  
Normal 12.25 Last year 12.26  
Forecast: Slightly cloudy tomorrow.

## KF To Vote On Levy For Swim Pool

People of Klamath Falls will be asked at the November election to vote on a levy of \$175,000 for a municipal swimming pool.

Action to put the proposal on the ballot was taken by the council in special session last night, climaxing years of discussion of swimming pool projects here. The levy will probably be for four mills for four years, the amount to be raised not exceeding \$175,000.

The council action was taken on recommendation of the city recreation committee, which decided against an earlier proposal to ask for \$293,000 at the November vote. In discussions yesterday, the recreation committee and councilmen agreed that it would be better to ask for a smaller amount, limiting the facilities to be constructed to a swimming pool, locker rooms and lobby or waiting room.

If the people authorize the pool, it will be built on the newly-acquired site in the 1900 block of Main street, where there is an artesian hot water well to supply water for the pool.

Also on the ballot at the November election will be a proposed continuing levy of a mill and a half to provide operating funds for the recreation department, including the swimming pool. The present levy of half a mill, which raises only around \$5000, is not believed sufficient to operate the expanded program.

The original plan was to ask for \$293,000 to build the swimming pool and a gymnasium, all on the mung pool, a lounge with offices Main street site. It was brought out in the discussions that there has been strong sentiment for a swimming pool here for many years and that the public at this time might prefer a construction program restricted to the pool.

There was some discussion of the possibility of private contributions to finance other construction at the site, with no action taken. The whole matter of further development on the site was left for later consideration.

## Warning Issued On Jap Mines

SEATTLE, July 30 (AP)—Pacific northwest coastal residents were warned by the 13th naval district yesterday that explosive mines, including Japanese mines, are being washed ashore.

A district spokesman said no accidents have been reported from these objects, but that a suspicious object washed up near Newport, Ore., a few days ago and disappeared before authorities arrived.

## Guests Escape Holocaust At Herbert Hotel

SAN FRANCISCO, July 30 (AP)—Fire raged through a downtown hotel early today, killing four firemen of a special rescue squad attempting to aid fellow fire fighters trapped by roaring flames.

The blaze swept upward from the basement of the seven-story Herbert hotel after about 240 guests, warned by telephone and sirens, had escaped to safety.

Some of the guests were treated for smoke effects, but none was reported seriously affected.

Sixteen firemen were overcome by smoke, several of them hospitalized.

Some of the injured were in the building when the rescue men dashed through a backstage night club entrance on the ground floor to give aid to firemen caught in the flames.

Caught In Trap Shortly after their entry, a flashback blocked the entrance. Using the greatest concentration of equipment and men in recent San Francisco fire-fighting history, firemen lifted ladders to all upper floors and continued the battle.

Acting Fire Chief Martin Kearns described the blaze as the most difficult to subdue in San Francisco in the last 10 years.

He said it apparently broke out in the storage basement of the night club shortly before 3 a. m. and that about an hour later the flames appeared to be subsiding under the pressure of water and chemicals. Then the fire suddenly spread upward at the back of the building to the upper floors.

J. J. Sullivan of the city fire commission estimated the damage at more than \$100,000.

Guests Evacuated Mrs. Mary E. Perry, night manager of the 130-room hotel, said she noticed smoke filtering up through the floor and called the fire department. Firemen spent several minutes attempting to locate the blaze, then notified guests to evacuate the building.

Approximately 240 persons were removed safely, many by means of ladders raised to upper roof levels.

Jack Marshall, operator of the hotel, evaluated the property at \$400,000.

At 4:30 a. m. hundreds of spectators filled the streets near the blaze, which was in a central downtown area on Powell street near O'Farrell, Pajamas-clad and nightgowned hotel guests, many with valued possessions in their arms, were among them.

## Deposited in Bank

Coffee said the money was deposited in one of his several bank accounts.

"How are you going to account to the public that you spent all the money for campaign expenses?" demanded Ferguson.

"I'm coming to that," Coffee said, "I'm coming to that."

He asked and was granted permission to present his story "in chronological order."

He then told the committee that he had paid \$3000 "out of my own pocket" in his campaign for reelection in 1938 and that he had applied the \$2500 "to try to replace some of the campaign indebtedness which had incurred in a very expensive campaign."

Anderson Testifies Coffee took the witness stand shortly after Elvind Anderson, Tacoma contractor, had told the committee that he sent the check to Paul A. Olson, Coffee's former secretary, in payment for services.

Testifying voluntarily, Coffee told the committee that allegations concerning the check were "motivated in politics, and saturated in political bias."

He told the committee it is his understanding that "these charges were presented by the republican national committee through Senator Brewster (R-Me.)." He added that he also understood that the national committee had in turn obtained them from the republican state central committee in Washington.

## Fala Unwelcome, Eleanor Departs

PORTLAND, Me., July 30 (AP) Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt cancelled her Hotel Eastland reservations and spent Sunday night in a tourist camp after Fala, who once cavorted in the White House, was declared not acceptable as a guest.

An assistant manager, Leo G. Gaines, said an Eastland clerk explained to the former first lady that dogs could not be taken above the lobby.

Gaines said she replied, "all right" and departed.

He added that Mrs. Roosevelt did not bring the late president's black Scottie into the lobby, and the hotel did not know that it was Fala.

The proprietor of the Royal River cabins at nearby Yarmouth said, however, it was Fala that stayed there with his mistress.

## Bon Homme Richard Assigned To Seattle

SEATTLE, July 30 (AP)—The huge aircraft carrier Bon Homme Richard, whose planes staged devastating day and night flights against Japan late in the war, will be inactivated at the Seattle naval station tomorrow afternoon, the 13th naval district announced today. It will be the fifth to be placed in reserve here since the 19th inactive fleet has been berthed in Puget sound.

District Attorney Thomas B. Handley ordered a first degree murder charge after Bowden confessed orally to detectives and his own attorney that he kept a diary of his wife's activities and had placed it in the trunk. He is also charged with illegal possession of explosives.

Capt. Ferguson reported a contractor friend of Bowden had admitted giving the dynamite to the accused man, presumably to be used in connection with the fishing boat Bowden operated at Newport, Ore., with two brothers.

Ferguson said one of the two daughters told of seeing their father handle a brown package with gloved hands a few days before the blast.

Mrs. Bowden had filed suit for divorce a month ago, charging her husband with cruelty and asking \$100 a month support for her daughters. Bowden inter filed an answer denying the charges. Detectives reported Bowden said his wife had been keeping company with other men while he was in the Aleutians on war projects and could not account for money he had sent home from Alaska.