

20 BLE IN "RED ARROW" WRECK

Chief Says Manpower Lack Hampered Battle Against Evans Apartment Flames

Had the Klamath Falls fire department sufficient manpower to both man the pumps and operate the ladders in rescuing victims from Sunday morning's tragic fire at the Evans apartment house, "it might have been a different story."

That was the charge made by Fire Chief Keith K. Ambrose before members of the city council last night when he told them that his firemen were on the scene at least 10 to 15 minutes before they were able to man the pumps and throw water into the blazing inferno which took five lives.

"When our pumper arrived it was followed a second or two later by the ladder truck. We haven't sufficient manpower to start using the hoses and the ladders at the same time. The men did the smart thing—they started getting those people down from the burning building. It is just what they should have done. It took at least 10 to 15 minutes before they got everybody down from the windows and balconies and then they went to work on the pumps," the chief said.

Undermanned
He told the council in no uncertain words that his department as well as Chief of Police Orville Hamilton's department was "more than 50 per cent undermanned." Chief Hamilton corroborated his statement later in the evening.

The fire chief told the city fathers he had attempted to bring such a situation as occurred Sunday morning to the city's attention for 20 years.

"Now the situation has been brought home to us. Klamath Falls can go back 17 years to 1930 when the people voted 'yes' on a ballot for an additional fire station which would have given us two stations instead of one for a city of this size. The council decided to abandon the station in the city hall and did this in the face of warnings of insurance companies that insurance rates would be increased if the centrally located station was abandoned.

Poor Location
"The present station is neither a centrally located station or a sub-station."
"There is plenty of equipment at the present time and more than we have the manpower to operate. The city spent \$95,000 on the station we now use—the city bought two new pieces of equipment—but we didn't add a single man to the force."

The chief continued in his review of the fire department's present situation to say:
"If we had all the equipment in the world it wouldn't do us any good if it is not sufficiently manned."

Cause of the lack of manpower was attributed to budgetary restrictions, low pay, long hours and no security at the end of lengthy service to the department, Ambrose said.

The chief was asked by Councilman Paul O. Landry if he had had more equipment "would it have made any difference?"

"The resolution spoke of the 'willful and deliberate refusal of Gerhard Eisler to be sworn and to testify.'"

Eisler refused on February 6 to swear to tell the committee the truth without making a preliminary statement first.

Now it is up to the district attorney to lay the case before a grand jury with a request for an indictment, if he thinks this step is warranted.

Legislature Gets 23 New Bills; Log Truck Limit Up
SALEM, Feb. 18 (AP)—Twenty-three new bills were introduced in the house today after running the gauntlet of the house legislation and rules committee, including bills to limit the length of logging trucks to 50 feet, prevent excessive noise on highways, and to permit any registered voter to ballot in school elections.

Only property owners now can vote in school elections. Other new bills provide that the liquor commission buy all its liquor from agents living in Oregon, direct the public utilities commissioner to investigate transportation rates, increase from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 the amount to be spent on the new state office building, increase the salaries of each of the three state industrial accident commissioners from \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year, permit the state library to conduct demonstrations of library service throughout the state, and compel the state to

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1947

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Adjusters Sift Evans Blaze Ruins

Insurance adjusters today are surveying the ruins of the Evans apartment building to determine if possible the extent of damage, monetary valuation of loss, value of salvage and cause of the blaze which took five lives Sunday morning.

The insurance firm of Vandoren, Majors and Kelstrom is acting as adjuster, and its interest in the origin of the fire stems from a possibility of arson, although the fire department's official view is that the blaze started from a box of ashes in the basement.

The charred walls of the three-story building are still standing and are considered fairly safe for the time being. The Main and 10th street walls have been boarded up against looting, but the streets are open.

This afternoon the adjusters are to confer with owners of the building and building contractors on the advisability of razing the walls as soon as salvage operations are complete.

Official faith in the strength of the standing walls is evidenced by the fact that last night the city council granted Walter Wiesendanger permission, on approval of officials, to hold a fire sale in the front portion of the Sunset grocery, which was not reached by the blaze.

Salvage work in the rooms operated by Roberts Hardware and the California-Pacific Utilities company is going on today with much fire and water damaged equipment being trucked to warehouses.

The gas company has set up a temporary office in the front of the Horseshoe cafe, next door to the Evans building. Ernest Mullis, gas company manager, has installed a couple of desks and a telephone, and has routed all telephone calls to his house on N. 6th.

It has been learned that the building, not including the stocks of the stores downstairs, was insured for about \$90,000, but the owners of the building were said to have valued the structure at twice that amount.

Bread Price May Be Hiked

CHICAGO, Feb. 18 (AP)—Wheat was a precious article today as mills scrambled to obtain supplies in the nation's markets to fill their demands for flour from bakers and government buying agencies.

Following an unusually sharp advance over the past four weeks, wheat was selling at the highest price since 1920 in most markets. Flour was advancing with wheat and there was some speculation that bread prices might be hiked.

In back of the price upturn, in the opinion of grain experts, was the government buying of wheat and flour for export to food deficit areas abroad.

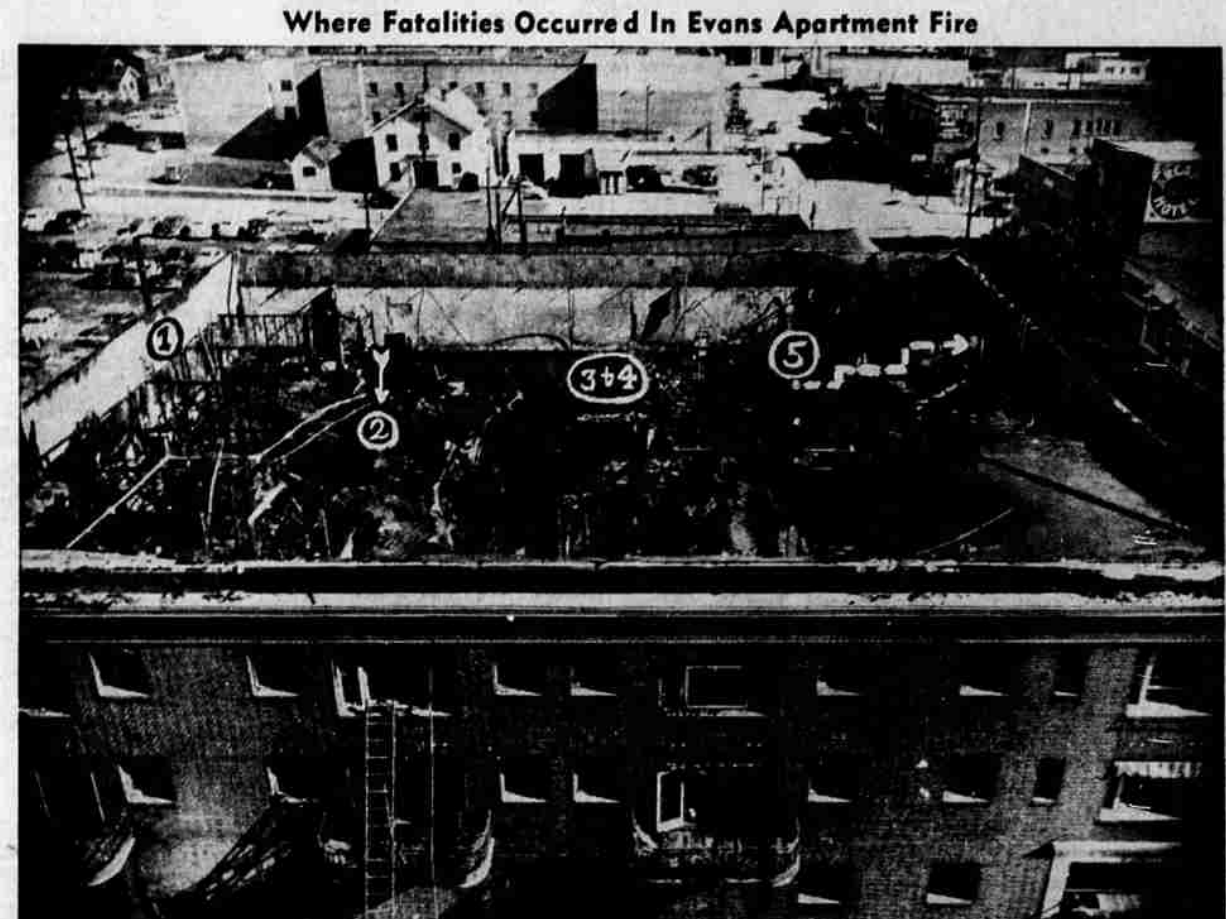
C. M. Galvin of James E. Bennett and company, grain firm, said, "I think the fundamental reason for the sharp advance is the draining of our supplies to furnish foreign governments with wheat and flour."

ROADS NORMAL
SALEM, Feb. 18 (AP)—Oregon's highways were normal today except for a few patches of ice and snow in the mountain passes, the state highway commission reported.

Churchill Raps Holy Land Move
LONDON, Feb. 18 (AP)—Winston Churchill, clashing with Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin in the house of commons today, charged that Britain was maintaining in Palestine a "vast apparatus of protracted delay."

Bevin retorted that the former prime minister's accusation was "totally unjust." He said it would have been fatal for Britain to present the Palestine question to the United Nations as she has decided to do, without exhausting every other means of solution.

Their exchange came after Bevin told the house he decided on appealing to the United Nations because Britain's league of nations mandate proved unworkable and the demands of Jews and Arabs "irreconcilable."



With smoke cleared away, a clear view was possible today into the fire-gutted interior of the Evans apartment building. This picture was made from the top of the Medical-Dental building, and was marked to indicate the location of bodies of the five victims of Sunday's tragic blaze. It looks into the top of the building from the Tenth street side.

No. 1 shows the location of the third floor apartment of Sydney B. Evans, owner of the building, whose body was found near the window there.

The arrow at No. 2 points downward at the approximate location of the body of Mrs. Golda Harney, which was found on the ground floor, after her body, on a bed, had fallen through from her second floor apartment.

Nos. 3 and 4 indicate the location of a light well, in which were found the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. George Peaster. Trapped and dazed, they are believed to have jumped or let themselves fall down into the well.

No. 5 shows the approximate location of the spot where Delbert Crumpacker, volunteer rescuer, found Mrs. William Lorenzen (nee Dorothy Gustafson) lying in a hall where she had fallen in an attempt to escape. Crumpacker went in through the Main street window at right, pulled the woman to the window, and there J. W. Holtzapfel took her through the window and down ladders. Badly burned, she died en route to the hospital.

Fire Victims Hunt Housing

Recovering from shock following Sunday morning's fire at the Evans apartments, survivors were now on the search for rooms or apartments in the face of an already critical housing shortage.

The American Red Cross, Klamath county chapter, said this morning that a check with the former occupants of the apartment house revealed that they were still staying with friends, relatives or in downtown hotels but that all were desperately in need of homes.

Late Monday afternoon firemen permitted one occupant of the first floor to enter the building and there they found her dentures for her. A jewel box as well as a \$500 diamond studded wrist watch, were lost in the ruins. An insurance adjuster observed that an explosion could have strewn such articles "every which way." A tiny charm from a bracelet, was the only piece of jewelry which this occupant located. It was a "Statue of Liberty."

Mrs. Mae K. Short, former Klamath county clerk and occupant of the apartment house, advised The Herald and News today that she was in possession of a blue coat, handed to her by another survivor who left the building with that coat and also a fur coat. Mrs. Short said she did not know who came to her aid but she can be reached at the home of Mrs. P. E. Hannon, 117 N. 8th.

The Red Cross said today four families were outfitted with clothing and that some telegrams had been sent to relatives. It was the housing shortage that bothered the survivors today.

Food Poisoning Victims Recover
Samples of food and kitchen equipment which the food for an Elks dancing party Saturday night was prepared, were being taken to Portland today by a representative of the Oregon State health department for analysis after 10 persons were hospitalized and at least 50 others made violently ill from food poisoning. All had eaten food prepared for the affair.

Willard Ward, exalted ruler of the Elks lodge, said there was no blame to be placed and that it was an unfortunate happening but an analysis of food as well as pots and pans was to be made in an effort to reach the source of the poisoning.

All 10 of those in Klamath Falls hospitals from Sunday morning until late Monday, were said to be improved and able to return home. Those confined to their homes were also said improved.

Restrictive Labor Bills Rapped By AFL President

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP)—AFL President William Green declared today enactment of restrictive labor legislation now before congress would "produce such great industrial confusion and as to undermine the present world position of the United States."

The 73-year-old head of the American Federation of Labor

told the senate labor committee the "indispensable first step" in dealing with labor-management relations is to "acquire a complete knowledge and understanding of those basic forces and of those new circumstances" which have arisen in the past 15 years.

"The American Federation of Labor," he said in his prepared testimony, "is prepared to cooperate with this or any other committee in making such a study."

President Truman has urged a similar course on congress before it passes any long-range labor legislation.

Green identified the forces and circumstances as "our expanded economy and our great advancement in machine production with resulting manpower displacement; the dislocations and adjustments caused by the depression; the war and the postwar period; and the emergence of certain economic and social trends."

The AFL president—first organized labor spokesman to testify before either the senate or house labor committees this year—took up one by one the bills before the senate group.

These include the Ball-Smith-Taft bill to set up a federal mediation board and compel a cooling-off period before strikes; and three bills by Senator Ball (R-Minn.) to bar the closed shop, outlaw industry-wide collective bargaining and overhaul the Wagner act.

Green assailed them all.

Board Rules That Economic Strikers May Be Replaced
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP)—The national labor relations board posted fresh notice to unions—and to congress—today that workers who strike over wages and job conditions can be replaced without violating the Wagner labor relations act.

Statement On Reds Upheld

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP)—Secretary of State Marshall told Soviet Russia today that undersecretary Dean Acheson spoke "in line of duty" in describing Russia's foreign policy as "aggressive and expanding."

This government's reply to a protest by Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov said:

"Under our standings a restrained comment on the matter of public policy is not a slander. Therefore I know that on second thought you will not attribute hostility to frankness."

Marshall's reply to the protest made by Molotov last week against testimony given the senate atomic energy committee by Undersecretary Acheson was delivered to Molotov today in Moscow by Ambassador Bedell Smith.

The text was released here by the state department.

Super Atomic Bomb Visualized

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (AP)—A hypothetical atomic bomb that could endanger the entire United States by its radioactive cloud blanketing the nation is described today by Edward Teller, noted atomic scientist, in the bulletin of the atomic scientists of Chicago.

But in an editorial the bulletin mentions a much more practical bomb that it says would be capable of producing a radioactive cloud which would wipe out all animal and plant life over hundreds of square miles.

Such bombs would destroy ten square miles, says the editorial, and are as real today as was the twenty thousand tons of TNT equivalent of the Hiroshima bomb.

Wreck Scene Is Historic Spot
ALTOONA, Pa., Feb. 18 (AP)—A desolate mountain curve in one of the wildest areas in western Pennsylvania was the scene of the wreck today of the Pennsylvania's crack flyer, the Red Arrow.

Train Jumps Tracks On Sharp Curve

ALTOONA, Pa., Feb. 18 (AP)—The Pennsylvania railroad's "Red Arrow," lost Detroit to New York passenger train plunged from the track near named "Horseshoe Curve" today, killing an estimated 20 persons and injuring close to 100.

Coroner Daniel Replegle said 17 bodies had been removed from the wreckage and that the death toll would run "to at least 10 more," including three train crewmen.

The railroad said it didn't know the cause of the accident, one of the most serious in Pennsylvania's history, which occurred two miles west of Horseshoe curve at a spot known as Bennington curve at 3:25 a. m., eastern standard time.

A spokesman for the railroad said the speed at the place of the wreck was 35 miles an hour. The "Red Arrow" was running 50 minutes behind time when the accident occurred.

The two engines used to pull the train over the scenic Allegheny mountains, a combination coach and baggage car, one diner and three sleepers were scattered down a 150-foot embankment. Another coach and a combination baggage car and coach toppled over on their sides on the tracks while three other sleepers were derailed but remained upright. The last four cars of the train—two sleepers, a coach and an express car, stayed on the rails.

Passengers Asleep
Most of the people aboard the ill-fated train were asleep when the tragedy occurred. Many suffered exposure from the cold in addition to their injuries, including a group of sailors en route to the Bainbridge, Md., training station and a troupe of midge entertainers.

Listed among the dead were M. E. McArdle, engineer of Scottdale, Pa., and E. H. Henry, fireman of Derry, Pa., on the second locomotive, and J. M. Parasok, fireman from Altoona on the head engine. M. S. Billig of Altoona, at the throttle of the first locomotive, was badly scalded. McArdle had served 47 years, 37 as an engineer, with the Pennsylvania railroad.

Also identified among the fatalities were Pvt. George H. Stacy of Ft. Dix, N. J., and Toledo: Mrs. Sadie Taylor of New Castle, Del., and John A. Drumm of Dubois, Pa.

A hospital train was rushed to the scene and the injured were brought to Altoona where the Penn Alto hotel and the USO were turned into emergency hospitals.

Cabs To Get 2-Way Radios
Installation of two-way radio communication sets in eight of its vehicles was announced today by The Hurry Cab company.

All of the equipment is on hand, permits are in order and installation of the tower at the cab office at 7th and Pine is in process. Call letters W-7-KXS have been assigned and government radio frequency has been granted by the federal communications jurisdiction. Wiley Wightman, owner of the cab company, today advised.

Expenditure of over \$6000 for equipment and installation is expected to facilitate service and keep the office in touch with cabs at all times. Keith Cramer of Cramer's Radio Service, is installing the sets in the cabs and will operate as maintenance manager.

Written material has been received from radio district 13, and is being studied by dispatchers who will take an examination in Portland for licenses. The dispatchers are Peggy Long, Peggy Pebler, Agnes DeChineau and Virginia Seeds. Mrs. Knighton will also take the examination.

The sets are the same as used in police cars, Knighton said. The company has 10 cabs and if it is found advisable sets will be installed in the two remaining ones, or it may be that these two will be eliminated from the fleet with the speedier service enabled by the new equipment, according to Knighton.

Amendments To Tax Slash Bill Banned By Committee
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (AP)—The house rules committee voted today to ban amendments to a resolution proposing a \$6,000,000 cut in President Truman's \$37,500,000,000 budget.

The action by the republican-controlled committee was taken as democrats sought the house was being "shocked" against freely working its will.

The decision to send the budgetary bill to the house floor for a vote on Thursday under a closed rule came in the face of this statement by Rep. Cannon (D-Mo.):

"This is the most drastic rule that can be written. It is not in keeping with democratic procedures, but is an agent of dictatorship."

Rep. Smith (D-Va.), a rules member, declared: