

# 30 DEAD, 300 HURT IN L.A. BLAST

## Herald and News

PRICE FIVE CENTS

KLAMATH FALLS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1947

(Telephone 8111) ★ Number 10864

## Strike Off



By FRANK JENKINS  
(Travel Correspondence)

THE Farmers Market in Los Angeles (dealt with in these chronicles yesterday) was in the beginning only a twitch in the brain lobes of a couple of first-class screwballs. Now it is a unique and immense establishment.

In its stalls and its shacks and its kiosks, almost any want the human system is capable of harboring can be satisfied. You can get a hamburger sandwich—with or without. If you want your portrait done in oil, you can be accommodated.

This writer has noted as yet no maternity hospitals, or even any diaper laundries. But, at the other end of the cycle, you can provide yourself with beautiful flowers to be laid upon your casket—and if you chose to have a headstone chiseled here there can be little doubt that an artisan would be forthcoming to handle the transaction for you. As for any desire between diapers and dissolution—well, if they can't take care of it today they'll probably be able to by the end of the week. That's the way the Farmers Market is run.

ONE pregnant thought in closing.

From his hunger-ridden start to the present multiplicity of his achievements, Dahljem has insisted upon QUALITY. In the first week, a ruddy chiseler came in with a half dozen baskets of nice tomatoes picked that dewy morning, sold them promptly and then oozed out and came back in with some limp and shoddy discards from a speculator's back door. They gave him the bum's rush and told him if he ever came back they'd make dog food of him and sell him over the counter. That ended that.

If you'll track back 100 real American successes in business, you'll find about 99 of them founded upon dependable high quality of product.

KNOTT'S Berry Farm isn't so recent. Its roots go back to the Forty-Niners.

The original Knott and his family crossed the plains with an ox train. He won through to the gold fields, and washed a moderate amount of dirt out of the riffles. But he was no hog. When he got enough to make a comfortable weight when he hefted it, he quit mining and went after a piece of land.

The site of the present Berry Farm is a part of that original holding.

AT first he just farmed. Then he and his descendants got to growing berries. When the Boysenberry was developed, they specialized on it. They've stuck to it more or less ever since. They've branched out into feeding people—both over the counter and in various modest food-packing plants. Over some of their restaurant counters they'll still sell you a piece of Boysenberry pie whose flavor will make the foliage at the roots of your hair tingle.

They have various restaurants scattered over the place, each distinct and characteristic in its atmosphere and in its food. You (Continued on Page 7, Column 3)

## 10 Cent Per Hour Boost Agreement

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20 (AP)—A threatened strike of CIO union oil workers in five western states, set for 10 a. m. Pacific time today, was averted when company and union representatives reached a tentative wage agreement less than three hours before the deadline.

The agreement subject to ratification by the union membership, was accepted for the union by O. A. Knight, the international president of the CIO oil workers. He promised it would be presented to the members within 72 hours and said that meanwhile the strike was suspended.

Frank E. Wenig, chairman of the federal conciliation panel which has been in session with company and union representatives for several days, said the wage proposal of the Standard Oil company tentatively accepted by the union provide for:

An increase of 10 cents an hour in base pay, plus a visional cost of living increase of \$17.70 monthly, effective from January 1, 1947, to December 31, 1947, with the provision that after September 1 either party may reopen the matter of wages. A union spokesman said the agreement was reached on behalf of the Standard Oil company and the General Petroleum company. It was indicated, however, that any agreement reached by those companies would be accepted by the other five major companies in this region, the Shell, Union, Tide-water Associated, Richfield and Texas.

Some 20,000 employees of the seven companies in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Nevada had been ordered to strike today in support of their demands for a wage increase of 22.5 cents, originally \$1.40 an hour.

## Bus Accident Injures Youth

A nine-year-old Fairhaven school boy, Verlon Alford, is in a critical condition at Hillside hospital today with multiple injuries received late Wednesday when he slipped under a school bus as he ran along side the big machine.

The child, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. V. Alford, route 3 box 465-A, had apparently stepped from the bus and as the machine continued, ran with the car and his foot slipped. The rear wheel of the bus passed over the boy's body and he suffered four fractures of the pelvis, two broken vertebrae, internal injuries and bladder damage, the attending physician stated today. The child's condition was critical throughout the night but this morning was reported very much improved. Due to internal hurts, the boy still remains in a serious condition.

## Legislative Public Power Issue Explodes In Battle

SALEM, Feb. 20 (AP)—The legislative public power issue exploded in full fury today at a house utilities committee hearing on bills to provide a method for dissolving peoples' utility districts and to compel PUD's to obtain certificates of public convenience and necessity from the state public utilities commission before they could begin operations.

The dissolution bill, sponsored by residents of western Lane county who want to get out of the central Lincoln PUD, brought charges by PUD representatives that the bill would cripple them because it would make it impossible to sell their bonds.

Residents of Florence and Reedsport, both served by the PUD, told of the many failures in their service, and they hotly denied that the private power companies had anything to do with their bill.

Rav Kell, Portland, representing all the PUD's, said that under the bill, the PUD's "always would be living under the threat of dissolution, and no one would

buy their bonds under those conditions. It is a subterfuge to put PUD's out of operation."

Supporters of senate bill 99, after winning Wednesday's stunning 27 to 3 victory in the senate, carried their fight to override Governor Earl Snell's veto of the measure to the house today, where both sides agreed the issue would be close.

The bill, which would let power companies keep their power dams for the period for which they are licensed unless public agencies acquire them through condemnation, originally was passed by the house 46 to 14. Sponsors think they now have 43 votes, or three more than the necessary number to pass the bill over the veto.

The state grange, Oregon Farmers' union and public power groups waged a stubborn fight against the bill. They first tried to get the measure sent back to committee, but lost 25 to 5.

They said that if the house overrides the veto, they will get the bill referred to the people at the November, 1948, general election.



This picture, rushed to The Herald and News by AP wirephoto this afternoon, shows the scene of wreckage and debris following the explosion in Los Angeles this morning which killed at least 30 persons and injured approximately 300.

## WAA Sale To Be Feb. 25

The long-awaited war assets administration surplus property sale has been set for February 25 to March 6 at the naval air station, Klamath Falls, when \$500,000 worth of articles from wheelbarrows to bed pillows will be disposed of.

Sales exclusive to World War II veterans will be held from February 25 to March 1, for those who have already been certified. During the last two days, February 28 and March 1, certification facilities will be available at the location for those not already certified.

For full information on applications for certification veterans are advised to see Ted Case at the courthouse before attempting to buy surplus property.

George Hanscom, chief of location sales, division of WAA, will be here from Portland with a crew of some 10 to 12 trained helpers. R. E. "Randy" Jenness, chief of information division of WAA, arrived from Portland Wednesday to arrange details prior to the sale and will be in town for a week or more.

W. A. Keller of the WAA acquisition division has completed his work here and will report to Portland for reassignment. The veterans' set aside list of scarce articles, is "scarce of articles," Jenness said today, there being no really scarce articles on the sale list, such as three-quarter ton trucks.

The reconstruction finance corporation sale, when small business may buy, will be the morning of March 3 until noon. State and local government concerns such as school boards may buy from 1 to 4 p. m. March 3.

Non-profit institutions such as churches and charitable organizations will have the privilege of buying on March 4, and other buyers as wholesalers and retailers may buy on March 5 and 6. Sales hours are from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.

## Ship Sinking Off Coast

ASTORIA, Ore., Feb. 20 (AP)—The steam schooner Catherine II radioed the coast guard for assistance today, reporting she had sprung two big leaks and was having rudder trouble.

The coast guard cutter Onondaga was immediately sent to her aid. The vessel, formerly the Whitney Olson, was bound from Tacoma, Wash., to Japan with a load of railroad ties.

The coast guard said the ship was about 60 miles off the Columbia river lightship. The vessel was still underway, attempting to reach the Columbia river.

The wooden-hulled vessel, built in 1917 and well known along the Pacific coast, recently changed ownership, and flies the Panamanian flag.

The 1500-ton, 225-foot schooner was recently sold by the Oliver J. Olson company to the Login corporation.

Funeral services for the late R. H. Bunnell, former Klamath county judge who died at his home in Brookings Wednesday morning, will be held at 3:30 p. m. Saturday from the Earl Whitlock Funeral home chapel.

Interment will take place in the family plot at Mt. Laki cemetery.

## Klamath People Go All-Out To Aid Evans Fire Victims

Fire-dispossessed victims of last Sunday's Evans apartment house disaster were the recipients today of an outpouring of neighborly helpfulness from individuals and organizations of Klamath Falls.

Long before night-clad survivors of the Evans apartment house fire last Sunday morning had left the scene, telephones of The Herald and News were busy answering calls from Klamath Falls people who offered clothing, food and shelter. All these calls were relayed to Mrs. Lena

Dennis of the American Red Cross who early in the day had set up facilities to aid those who were left homeless.

Throughout the day offers continued to pour in, both at the newspaper office and the American Red Cross, and the gestures were followed by active contributions.

Each survivor of the fire, 35 in all, this week received a check for \$50 from the American Red Cross. It was made known by Otto Smith, Klamath county chapter chairman. The donation totaled \$1750. In addition, the Red Cross has worked throughout the week, locating survivors, finding homes, and doing all possible for the comfort of the men and women who lost all their possessions in the blaze which took the lives of five.

Sam Neslin of the Oregon Woolen store was one of the first to advise the paper that he was on hand at his store to provide clothing. Four men occupants of the apartment were completely outfitted without charge, and several others received clothing at cost, Neslin said.

The Venture club, of which Jean Thompson and Dorris Arnest are members, met Tuesday and presented the two with \$45 in cash and numerous personal gifts. Miss Thompson, secretary to Stanley Woodruff, principal of Klamath Union high school, and Miss Arnest, secretary in the Boy Scout office, shared an apartment and barely left the burning building before flames entered their hallway.

Miss Thompson was also given a personal shower by teachers of Klamath Union high school and men members of the faculty gave monetary gifts. She also shared in a donation taken up by the Klamath Falls Teachers' association.

Also sharing in this contribution was Mrs. Mayme Johnson, first grade teacher at Mills school. In addition, Mills faculty took up a donation of some \$120, and the children in the school brought gifts of both money and articles of personal use.

Three employees of Miller's store, Olive Mason, hostess (Continued on Page 7, Column 4)

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Thus, it would exclude such non-productive activities as walking to the work bench and waiting in line for pay checks. The back pay suits sprang up after a supreme court decision last year which held that employers are liable under the wage-hour act for non-productive time which he controls, whether or not it involves actual labor.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Max. (Feb. 19) — 51               | Min. — 30        |
| Precipitation last 24 hours — .00 |                  |
| Stream year to date — 5.36        |                  |
| Normal — 7.50                     | Last year — 9.70 |
| Forecast: Fair and warmer.        |                  |

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## 4 Block Square Area Wrecked By Explosion

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20 (AP)—At least 30 persons were killed and more than 300 were injured, 25 critically, in an explosion that rocked downtown Los Angeles today and was felt for miles.

Deputy Chief of Police Joseph Reed estimated that the death toll will reach 75.

It destroyed the one-story brick plant of the O'Connor Electro-Plating company, where some 25 persons were employed, together with four nearby residences. Other buildings over a four-block area were wrecked.

The plant was at 922 East Pico boulevard, a mile south of the Civic center, where the blast was plainly felt.

Emergency hospitals were swamped and scores of persons were taken in private automobiles to other hospitals. Some bodies were found beneath 10 feet of debris. The explosion was followed by fire.

The whole area seemed to go up in smoke similar to the pictures we've seen of the atomic bomb explosions," said Battalion Fire Chief William Tynan, who witnessed the blast.

Police said "It was the worst holocaust in the city's history—the greatest accident in southern California since the earthquake of 1933."

Police estimated 300 homes had been damaged to greater or less extent. Extra officers were called on duty when looting was reported.

More than 25 automobiles parked in the vicinity were destroyed. Whether any occupants were killed was not determined. Screams of the dying and injured added to the confusion caused by thousands of spectators who thronged the vicinity.

Others sought vainly for relatives in the stricken region. As crumpled bodies were borne out on stretchers, laid on sidewalks and tagged for identification, firemen delved with shovels in the debris searching for other victims.

An emergency morgue was set up in a private mortuary, and all available ambulances—city and county—were rushed to the spot. 12 fire companies fought the flames set up by the blast.

The first person found dead was a boy of 13 or 14 who had been peddling magazines on a bicycle route a block from the plant. A long piece of pipe hurtled down and crushed him.

Unconscious Victims

Motorists picked up many unconscious victims on the streets before the arrival of ambulances and took them to hospitals. Residents of the vicinity of 74th and Alameda streets, some 70 blocks from the scene, reported many windows were broken there by the force of the explosion. Residents of Pasadena and Glendale said windows rattled there.

One life was saved by Norman Scott, 41, a Southern California Telephone company workman who, thrown to the ground by the impact, picked himself up and pulled an unidentified woman from a blazing building.

"People were crying and screaming everywhere," Scott said. "I found another woman, charred and burned beyond recognition. I couldn't help her. She was dead."

Wayne Bearsa, a janitor, said he was blown completely out of the building. "Everything fell apart," he declared. "I was covered with all sorts of debris. I was plain lucky."

Mrs. Lucille Long, a housewife, was working in the kitchen of her two-story home when the blast took place. The house collapsed, but Mrs. Long escaped with slight eye and arm injuries.

Eldo Krutz, employee of a shop in the neighborhood, said "It was just like the Bikini atom bomb explosion, judging by the newsreels I saw."

"I was walking through our plant when the explosion cut loose," he said. "A plate glass window came through on top of me and knocked me flat, face downward. I got out and saw a big smoke mushroom go up just like the atomic bomb explosion."

His boss, L. K. McCalla, said it seemed to him as if "somebody had pushed me over."

Mrs. Gertrude Baker, working as a janitor on the fourth floor of a manufactory, was knocked unconscious by the blast, several blocks away. She said she crept down the fire escape to the street.

Tony Antoyan, a produce company executive, said a chunk of copper came hurtling through the roof.

"I was flabbergasted," said Antoyan. "I didn't know what had happened until someone told me about the explosion."

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The impression has spread that the cuts will come from the armed services, Rayburn went on.

He said that if the cut was voted, Secretary of State Marshall, soon to leave for the Moscow meeting of the foreign ministers council, will "fly there with a crippled wing."

Republicans vigorously denied the contention that the fighting effectiveness of the armed services would be impaired by substantial savings in their funds.

Rep. Smith (D-Va.) hurled the charge of "czarist rule" at the republicans. He declared the "gag" against amendments was without precedent.

On the rule test, Rep. Tom Murray of Tennessee was the only democrat to cross the party line, voting with the republicans.

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