

TEX RANKIN, 2 KF MEN DIE IN AIR CRASH HERE

Herald and News

PRICE FIVE CENTS Klamath Falls, Oregon, Monday, February 24, 1947 (Telephone 8111) ** Number 10866

WEATHER
Max. (Feb. 23) 65 Min. 30
Precipitation last 24 hours .00
Normal year to date .50
Normal 1.00 Last year .90
Forecast: Clear Tuesday.

Three Persons Died in Wreckage Of This Plane



Tex Rankin, world-famous pilot, Cy Wallan and Jack Elie, local businessmen, died yesterday afternoon when this Republic Seabee hit a power line and crashed into a garden on LaVerne street. The falling plane narrowly missed the house in the background, owned by J. H. Eckert, 3247 LaVerne. The body of Rankin, covered by blankets, is on the ground beside his wrecked and overturned amphibian.

By FRANK JENKINS
IN Los Angeles a mysterious explosion wrecked an area some four or five city blocks in extent, kills an undetermined number of people and injures hundreds. As these words are written, firemen think the explosion took place in a large tank containing some chemical not yet identified. The tank was located in the plant of an electroplating concern.

Early reports say that hundreds of homes were damaged in an area of about a square mile. The explosion came without warning. One moment there was peace and quiet, with people going about the normal business of daily living. The next moment, death and destruction were all around.

UNPLEASANT thought:
That is the way the next war will be fought—if humanity is so short-sighted as not to recognize that men's power to destroy has reached the point where some way to avoid war MUST be found.

In the past, war struck first in a LITTLE area. Then it spread to a larger area. It took time to engulf whole peoples. In the past, the number of those untouched by war's searing finger has always exceeded the number of those touched.

In the future, that will be changed. It seems likely that the first notice millions of people will have that the next war has begun will be the exploding of atomic bombs that will destroy whole cities at one stroke.

DAY by day the fact comes home to us more forcefully that man's power to wreck and destroy is fantastically outstripping men's capacity for GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER.

That continues, ruin lies ahead.

IN California's grim San Quentin prison, some hundreds of convicts refuse to continue their work in the prison-jute mill. It appears as this is written that the "strike" has been stopped by the isolation of ringleaders who were said to be stirring up trouble, but at least an interesting question is posed for us by the incident:

If the "strike" hadn't been stopped by isolation of the ringleaders, what could have been done?

It is true that the strikers could have been overpowered. In the process, many of them would have been beaten and bruised. Some of them might have been killed. In the end, all of them would have been placed in cells, possibly on the traditional punitive diet of bread and water.

But production in the jute mill WOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED.

IN this modern MATERIALISTIC world, production is pretty largely the aim and end of society. Success is more and more measured by what we HAVE. What we have is measured by what we PRODUCE. If it isn't produced, we can't have it.

We are living at the moment in a disillusioned world, in which those who are happy and

Byrd Party Ready For Return Home
ON BOARD THE USS MOUNT OLYMPUS, Feb. 23 (Delayed)—The final meal at historic Little America was to be served this noon, after which all equipment being left behind will be stored underground and personnel will be loaded aboard the icebreaker Burton Island for evacuation.

Rear Admirals Richard E. Byrd and Richard W. Cruzen radioed shortly before noon Antarctic time today that Little America would definitely be abandoned "within 12 hours."

Capt. R. S. Quackenbush declared that both admirals were particularly concerned over fast-freezing ice conditions in the Bay of Whales.

Snell Tax Plan Rejection Hinted In Budget Tangle

SALEM, Feb. 24 (AP)—Oregon's budget problems were made even worse today when the house assessment and taxation committee indicated it would not approve Governor Earl Snell's plan to balance the budget by using \$7,000,000 of corporation income tax surpluses.

This left the committee the alternative of finding new revenue to be used instead of that amount.

Portal Suit Outlawry Ok'd

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—The senate judiciary committee today approved by 9 to 3 vote legislation outlawing nearly all portal to portal pay claims.

Chairman Wiley (R-Wis.) told reporters the committee approved "substantially the same bill" which a judiciary subcommittee voted for last week.

He listed these major changes:
1. The bill now includes a two-year statute of limitation, rather than the three-year limitation voted by the subcommittee. This provision still becomes operative only if the supreme court should void provisions outlawing all existing and future portal claims except those covered by contract or custom.

2. Under the revised version, suits may be filed either by individual employees, or by a worker acting on behalf of a group of fellow employees. This does not permit suits by unions.

Reds Activity In Korea Eyed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge said today that there appears to be "something to" reports that the Russians are organizing and training Korean troops.

The commander of American occupation forces in southern Korea made this statement to reporters in response to questions, after a White House conference with President Truman.

He also said that efforts to lift the Russian "iron curtain" in Korea had been unsuccessful.

The general was accompanied to the White House by Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson.

Buffalo Schools Close In Strike

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 24 (AP)—All but 20 of Buffalo's 98 public schools were closed today as more than 2000 teachers seeking pay boosts staged the largest strike in U. S. history.

Approximately 60,000 of the city's 71,000 pupils took a forced holiday. Only about one-third of a total 2960 teachers remained on duty.

Lillenthal Margin Thin, Poll Shows

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—A senate poll showed today that David E. Lillenthal needs to win over only eight of 23 undecided senators in order to eke out confirmation as chairman of the atomic energy commission.

An Associated Press check over the week-end of all but four of the chamber's 95 members listed 40 in favor of President Truman's embattled nominee and 28 opposed.

If a full membership were on hand when the issue comes to a vote, 48 "ayes" would be necessary for confirmation.

Phone, Power Service Hit

Yesterday's fatal plane crash in the Altamont district threw out both power and telephone service throughout the area when the aircraft crashed into the 66,000-volt main line to Lakeview, breaking that line and shorting out the telephone wires.

The 11,000-volt St. Francis park line was broken, and that district was without electric power for 35 minutes, the damage also causing momentary breaks throughout a wide area, Lakeview, Sprague River, Bly and Bonanza were without power for 55 minutes.

The Altamont substation area was out for a period of 2 hours and 52 minutes, while the East-side Copco plant was out for 15 minutes, although this break did not affect the service. The South 6th-Shasta way area was without power for 37 minutes.

Power lines were replaced at an early hour today, and no further difficulty is anticipated, according to Sam Ritchey, Copco manager.

About 100 phones in the Altamont district were thrown out of use by the crash, but service to most of them is expected to be restored by this afternoon.

According to Charles Seavey, telephone company manager here, the damage was caused when the broken power line fell across the phone wires and the surge of power burned out several cables. Extent of the damage to phone wires has not been established as yet, and a crew of nine men is still working at the scene of the break and throughout the district.

Eastern Storm Goes To Sea

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (AP)—Conditions in eastern seaboard areas struck by a three-day snowstorm returned to near normal today as the storm blew itself out in Maine.

In its northeastward sweep, the storm caused at least 53 deaths.

Road crews still worked to open secondary and rural roads, clogged by drifts as deep as 12 feet in parts of Maryland. Near Cookeysville, Md., workmen yesterday opened a lane to 150 motorists trapped for 15 hours.

Laundry Folk Back On Job

Laundry workers, members of local 220 returned to their jobs this morning after reaching a "mutual agreement" in which employees and laundry operators agreed upon a 40-hour week, a 75-cent minimum and an 85-cent maximum.

Workers walked out on strike Friday morning after stating their demands for a 10-cent an hour increase and the 40-hour week. The agreement was reached at a meeting at the Willard hotel at about 1:30 a. m. Sunday following a session between laundry operators and a negotiating committee from the local.

Louis Zieman, United States conciliator, spent the week-end here. He left Sunday for his home in Eugene.

Battle Fleet Leaves Harbor

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Feb. 24 (AP)—Twenty-two warships, led by the super-battleship Iowa, sailed from here today to engage in a practice Pacific war that will include an attack on Hawaii.

The flag of Vice Adm. Alfred E. Montgomery, commander of the first task fleet, was flying from the Iowa as the force moved out.

Rear Adm. O. B. Hardison, aboard the carrier Boxer, will command the force in a maneuver engagement with a western Pacific fleet under Rear Adm. Frederick McMahon. They will combine for the Hawaii attack.

Other ships sailing from here, to be joined by the cruisers Duluth and Atlanta and oilers Kaskaskia and Ashtabula from San Pedro, were the cruiser Tucson and 19 destroyers.

Broadcasts To Russia Said Clear

MOSCOW, Feb. 24 (AP)—Reception of the new "Voice of America" broadcasts, relayed from the United States to Russia via Munich, was better last night than at any time since the programs were launched a week ago by the state department.

There seemed little doubt that the broadcasts were being heard by an increasing number of Russians. Most of those who listened to the program, however, reiterated the belief that it was aimed too high to appeal to the general public.

Dog Mutilation Reward Out

A reward of \$500 is being offered by the Klamath Humane society for sufficient evidence to arrest and convict whoever is guilty of mutilating a mother dog. The offer was announced today by Mrs. Ida M. Odell, president of the society, and Mrs. Annabelle Newton, secretary.

Women in the suburban area near Homedale reported the case to the society. A mother dog, they advised, had been



BUS THOMPSON

Million British Back On Jobs

LONDON, Feb. 24 (AP)—A million workers returned to reopened plants in the midlands today on this coldest day of the winter, which gave icy notice that the critical coal shortage still was unsolved.

Another 4,000,000 remained idle. Plants were re-opened in only eight of the 38 counties which the labor government had shut down two weeks ago.

A pea soup fog blacked out London and large areas of England, delaying coal shipments and putting heavier strains on the short coal and waning gas supplies.

Falling Tree Kills Logger

Everett Charles Post, 60, lumber scaler for the Red River Lumber company at Alturas and well known in Klamath Falls, was killed instantly late Saturday morning when he was struck by a green tree during logging operations near Canby.

Mr. Post, a native of Wisconsin, had resided here since 1930, coming to Klamath Falls from Eugene. His wife, Dorothy, is the Klamath county jail matron and a son, Richard, 801 Eldorado, also survives. The remains are to be moved here today from Alturas and final rites will be announced by Ward's. Mr. Post had been with the Alturas firm for some six years. His wife lives at 216 Main.



TEX RANKIN



CY WALLAN



JACK ELIE

Safe Cracking Effort Fails

An unsuccessful attempt to crack the big safe in Montgomery Ward company offices sometime over the week-end was reported here today by Klamath Falls city police.

Tools used in an effort to open the safe were apparently taken from the hardware department. Chief of Police Orville Hamilton said Monday, but they failed to prove sufficient to force the heavy door. It is understood that a lock was broken on the alley door and police are of the opinion that the prowlers hid in the building at closing hours Saturday and made their exit by removing a hasp from the inside.

Some men's clothing was taken according to Al Oines, Montgomery Ward manager, but no money was missing.

Body Found In LA Reservoir

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24 (AP)—A possible new murder mystery confronted authorities today with the finding of the battered, lacerated body of a woman floating in a reservoir. Sheriff's deputies said the unidentified woman, apparently about 35, had been in the water for a week or more and indicated further examination would be necessary to determine definitely whether she was slain.

GEISHAS SAVE TREE

TOKYO, Feb. 24 (AP)—Ten geisha girls have been called to Kumagaya, just west of Tokyo, to save the city's cherry trees, which by branch, have been disappearing into cook stoves of shivering citizens.

The geishas will sing and dance near the Chichibu charcoal district, attempting to persuade producers to deliver more fuel.

Cy Wallan And Jack Elie Killed; Thompson Hurt

By HALE SCARBROUGH

Tex Rankin, who for more than a quarter century had taunted death as one of aviation's most spectacular stunt pilots and aerial circus showmen, died at the controls of a modern Republic Seabee amphibian in a garden plot in suburban Klamath Falls yesterday afternoon.

Lanier Searles Wallan, better known as Cy Wallan, and Jack Elie, both local automobile dealers, met death in the crash, and Milton (Bus) Thompson, ex-war-time flier, is still in a semi-conscious condition at Hillside hospital from his injuries.

Rankin was at the controls of the silver-and-green pusher-type monoplane, when he, Wallan, Elie and Thompson took off from the Klamath Falls airport at 8 minutes until 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The flying weather was perfect. The local men's wives watched the take-off from the field.

The plane, Rankin's personal craft, had been filled with gas, luggage was aboard and the men were heading for Portland to an aircraft dealers' convention.

About two minutes after leaving the airport the plane ripped into a 66,000-volt high tension line 50 feet above LaVerne street, spun, flipped over and dived into the garden a mile from the airport.

Rankin Famed In Aviation

John Gilbert (Tex) Rankin, who at the age of 53 still held two air stunting championships, was a contemporary of Jimmie Doolittle, Eddie Rickenbacker, the late Wiley Post and Charles A. Lindbergh in the air pioneering era when aviation was far more glamorous than today.

He was perhaps the Pacific coast's best-known aviation figure.

Rankin served with the army ground forces, and after discharge he learned to fly. His aviation career followed the pattern of barnstorming stunt shows in patched-up Curtiss "Jenny" aircraft. Rankin averted and thrilled groundlings the country over with his daredevil performances at state fairs and aviation shows, and was one of the earliest movie stunt fliers.

He became world famous in 1931 when he turned 131 consecutive outside loops, a record still standing, and in 1937 he won international aerial acrobatic honors at St. Louis with the "square loop" he originated.

Other famous Rankin exploits were to fly upside down a few feet from the ground and to snatch a handkerchief off the ground with his wingtip.

During his stunting days he often defied superstition by carrying a black cat in the cockpit of a plane numbered "13."

Too old for active World War II service, Rankin opened many flight training schools for the government, most of them in California, and helped to teach thousands of young birdmen. He could fly any type plane.

In 1945 he had to quit his daredevil career on a physician's orders, but maintained his home in Tulare, Calif., and earned his living from the business end of civilian aviation.

Whiskey Proves Big Tax Getter

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—Whisky, wine and beer accounted for more than seven cents of each \$1 in federal taxes collected during 1946.

Internal revenue figures released today show that the government took in \$2,890,000 from levies on alcoholic beverages—an amount equivalent to about \$19 for each man, woman and child.

11 AAF Fliers Huddle On Ice-Cap Awaiting Rescue

and short days of the Arctic region.

Three transports and a troop-carrying glider winged their way across northern Canada from Ladd field to establish an operational base at Thule, Greenland, 200 miles south of the crash scene.

At New York, Maj. Gen. William H. Tunner, commanding general of the Atlantic division of the air transport command, took preliminary steps for a rescue by helicopter or by dog team and alerted all ATC aircraft in Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland to stand ready to aid.

Capt. Donald A. Shaw, a specialist in arctic rescue work, was flown from New York to Goose Bay, Labrador. The ATC has dog teams and equipment by which sled and dogs can be dropped by parachute if it is necessary to "mush" the trapped men out.