

BLASTS STRIKE Klamath Falls

In The Day's News

THE staggering catastrophe on the Texas coast leaves us shocked and awed and even a little frightened. We are tempted to wonder, as the news pours in, whether we are as yet able to handle the forces that a swiftly advancing modern civilization is unleashing.

THIS is a good time to remember that fire, which must be as old as mankind, has always been both servant and destroyer. Yet, on the whole, it has served more than it has harmed. Without fire, man would still be a savage, eating his food raw and capable of living only in hot climates.

THERE are hopeful aspects even to this Texas horror. This morning's dispatches tell us, for example, that there has been almost no looting. Human beings pan out pretty well in the pinch. It is in the behavior that we are not so admirable.

WE are inclined to stand up better under adversity than under prosperity. There is a thought for the day: If you gave until it hurt to the Red Cross, you feel good about it now. There are times when sacrifice pays off better than selfishness.

YOU must have noticed the widely varying reports as to loss of life. You may have blamed the newspapers for carelessness and excitability. Well, we aren't perfect. Far from it. But put yourself in the midst of a disaster such as that in the Galveston area. Communications are crippled if not wholly destroyed.

TEXAS CITY is destroyed. We are appalled by the destruction that has overtaken it. By way of keeping your balance, remember this: Much of Europe, from the Volga river westward, is as totally destroyed as Texas City. The same is true of much of Asia. Texas City is small, as cities go. RUSSIA, cities throughout the world, their aggregate number startlingly large, lie in ruin as complete as Texas City. Their people are idle and hungry.

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Union Seeks Strike End This Week

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—Joseph A. Beirne said today he is seeking a settlement of the telephone strike this week but called for "courage" in union ranks if the walkout is prolonged.

Beirne, president of the National Federation of Telephone Workers, conceded to reporters that the strike will begin to tell on idle, payless workers if the dispute extends beyond Monday.

The strike leader outlined to newsmen what he had told a mass meeting of hundreds of striking members of the Washington Telephone and Traffic union, NTFW affiliate in Turner's arena. Reporters were not admitted to the meeting.

"We're working toward a settlement this week," Beirne said.

"If we don't settle by Monday our people will still be out on strike but some of them may want to go back to work."

The 340,000 strikers over the nation will have to exercise "courage" to maintain their walkout, he added.

Beirne said there is complete lack of any negotiations now either in Washington or between Bell System affiliates and NTFW unions around the country. He said the government has not arranged any new meetings with the NTFW leadership here.

"If we don't win this year, we never will," Beirne said he told the mass meeting.

He reiterated that the strike will continue until there is a wage settlement.

Terrific Blast Destroys Ship

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 17 (AP)—The explosion of the freighter High Flyer early today was described by some as even greater than yesterday's death dealing blast.

Reports were that it was felt as far as Baton Rouge, La., 235 miles away.

C. E. Leverkuhn, driver for the Continental Trailways, said he had taken a load of volunteers to Texas City just before the ship exploded.

"I reached Texas City with them about 12:30 a. m.," he said, "and I saw the explosion. I saw the ship go up in the air. I saw the flames. I saw the smoke. I saw the water. I saw the people. I saw the destruction. I saw the horror. I saw the tragedy. I saw the end of a city."

Strike Curb Bill Readied

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—The House rolled its potent union-busting curb bill into position for passage today.

Some technicality could prevent a final vote before tomorrow.

But Chairman Hartley (R-N. J.) of the labor committee, in command of the bill, offered to bet a new hat that the house would approve it by late afternoon. The senate may get down to action on its own, after measure next week.

An eventual compromise will have to be worked out.

The house bill got over three big shumps yesterday when the house refused to:

Outlaw the union shop, which lets an employer hire anybody but union members.

Permit industry-wide collective bargaining on a national scale.

Company-wide dealing by unions would be permitted.

Lift a ban on employer donations to welfare and health funds controlled by unions.



City Police Officer Bud Switzer (left) follows the city fire truck to 920 Eldorado after a 9 o'clock alarm this morning. The fire ladders, Harold Ulum (center) and John Mitchell, found plenty of smoke in the E. G. Hunt residence as the result of an overheated oil stove but use of the hook and ladder was not necessary.

Klamath Falls News

PRICE FIVE CENTS KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1947 (Telephone 8111) ** No. 10911

Wage-Price Statement Due Friday

Truman Puts Skids Under 3 Agencies

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—President Truman was reported today to have issued an executive order today to wipe out three major wartime emergency agencies and transfer rent controls from OPA to the housing expediter.

Officials familiar with a tentative draft of the order said it will complete liquidation of the office of price administration, the civilian production administration and the office of war mobilization and reconstruction.

OTC On Skids

It also would put the skids under the office of temporary controls, the agency set up last December to start the liquidating process.

Budget bureau officials said the order "may be issued today or tomorrow."

Congress had already tabbed OTC and its sub-groups for liquidation by June 30. By issuing the executive order quickly, the president could beat that deadline by weeks.

Also Mr. Truman could put into effect ahead of a final congressional vote one change favored by the senate banking committee. This is a proposal to shift rent controls activities from OPA to the office of Housing Expediter Frank R. Creedon.

It further would have the effect of eliminating OPA, as such, from debate over the rent control extension legislation.

However, the house banking committee is debating a bill to repeal the Patman emergency housing act, which is administered by Creedon's office, and put rent controls on a local basis.

Woman Injured In Auto Wreck

Mrs. Ann Dowdell, 32, of Ocean-side, Calif., was hospitalized this morning with painful injuries received in a head-on collision between two automobiles in front of the Hi-Way cafe on highway 97 south of town.

Mrs. Dowdell's injuries included two deep gashes in the muscle of her upper right arm and a cut over her forehead. X-rays are being taken at Klamath Valley hospital to determine any further injuries.

She was an occupant of a heavy sedan driven by S. J. Wayne Herbert Jones, 21, of Brownfield, Calif., which collided with a sedan driven by David Storey Shiel, 72, of 924 Donald, at 9:30 this morning.

Shiel, operating a car belonging to his daughter, Mrs. Jean Rawlin, had slowed down to make a left turn into the cafe driveway, when the other vehicle, coming north up the highway, tried to swing out to miss the collision. The cars rammed head-on in the center of the pavement, according to state police.

Neither Shiel, Jones or Jones' wife, Rosemary, was hurt. The automobiles were en route to Dayton, Wash., for a visit.

Solon Flays Greek Move

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—Senator Hawkes (R-N. J.) belatedly today said President Truman's Greek-Turkish aid proposal has "reputated the membership responsibilities of the United States in the United Nations."

As the senate drove toward final action on the \$400,000,000 assistance bill next Tuesday, Hawkes said "it seems incredible to me that the United States, having spent the much time in helping to organize the United Nations, should now choose to play a lone hand in the international arena."

In an address prepared for floor delivery, the New Jersey senator proposed first that the United Nations membership be polled on "whether they approve the course we are going to take before we embark on it."

He urged that an attempt then be made to reorganize the UN "in such a way that one nation, with the power of veto and an insatiable desire for expansion, is not allowed to block the peace of the world."

Re-Inventory Slated At MB

Winston Purvine, Salem, state supervisor of trades and industries, vocational department, will head an inventory committee arriving here Monday to re-inventory the Marine Barracks plant on the hill prior to the operation of the big lay-out as a state vocational school.

Director of vocational education at Klamath Union high school, was advised by Purvine late this morning that the survey would take at least one week and would be made in conjunction with WAA. Much work is ahead to segregate material that will be left for the state and that which will be moved out and put up for sale by WAA, Purvine said.

Wreck Proves To Be Old One

On the report of a pilot, an air search mission was conducted this morning, Thursday, over Clear Lake area in California, to investigate a wrecked plane, which proved to be an old one.

Merritt Arbuckle, chief aircraft communicator for CAA, with Allen Moccabee, manager of the Oregon Aircraft service, and John Quigley, a local pilot, conducted the search. The men reported the wreckage that of a U. S. navy F4U which crashed sometime during the occupancy of the navy of the air base in Klamath Falls.

The search unit flew low over the wreckage, guided by a fire seen from the air, which they assumed was from a freshly-wrecked plane, until closer investigation showed a nearby flock of sheep, leading them to the conclusion that it was a sheepherder's camp fire. The low altitude flying definitely established the identity of the wreckage, which has been reported previously and investigated upon each report.

The mass of tangled metal can easily be seen by anyone flying over this particular territory. Arbuckle stated, and it is hoped that some authority will dispose of the wreckage to avoid further unnecessary reports.

New Flying Service Opens

A new business enterprise in this city, the Lakeland Flying Service, commenced operation this week under the management of W. L. "Penny" Payne and Gene Durant.

Payne is a veteran of the U. S. army air corps of World War 2. He resides with his wife and small daughter at 106-B homoja housing. Durant, formerly an aircraft salesman in this territory, is a long-time resident of the Klamath basin, having received his schooling at Henley grade and high schools. With his wife and 13-year-old son, who is a student at Altamont, Durant resides at 142 E. Main.

The new flying service offers flying instruction, charter trips and passenger excursions. Material for a landing dock to be built somewhere on Upper Klamath lake is on hand ready to begin construction as soon as the right location is decided upon.

"Flying boats," aircraft with pontoons for water landings, will be in operation on the lake this coming Sunday, the Lakeland Service managers announced, and extend a cordial invitation to the people of Klamath Falls to be on hand to see the operations.

Surgeons Offer Aid To Texans

BOSTON, April 17 (AP)—The services of experts who had marked success with new methods in saving the lives of many persons horribly burned in Boston's 1942 Coconut Grove night club disaster were offered today to stricken Texas City, Texas.

Doctors of the Boston City and Massachusetts General hospitals, headed by Dr. Charles C. Lund, stood ready to fly to that area if needed.

"We shall send anything or anyone they need," said Dr. James W. Manary, superintendent of City hospital.

Steel Strike Threat Seen

PITTSBURGH, April 17 (AP)—Stickers proclaiming "no contract, no work" are appearing on steel workers' automobiles these days and a few have even been plastered in the United Steelworkers' office here—possible portent of a major steel strike after April 30.

That's the expiration date of the present contract extension between the CIO union and the United States Steel Corp. The original pact ran out February 15 but was extended by mutual agreement.

The steelworkers, who have given no official blessing to the stickler campaign, explained the seals were brought here earlier in the week by Chicago members of the steelworkers' committee negotiating a new wage contract with "Big Steel."

The seals, borrowing a line often used by the nation's miners, read simply: "Deadline April 30—No contract... No work."

An official pronouncement on the negotiation with U. S. Steel and the other steel makers will be forthcoming next Monday through the union's wage and policy committee which will ratify proposals made by the executive committee Saturday and Sunday.

NOTICE

All personal inquiries regarding Texas City casualties or individuals should be addressed to the Dallas Chapter of the Red Cross, where central files are being kept. L. D. Romine, public relations, Red Cross, Washington, said merely address the inquiries to the Red Cross, Dallas, Texas.

In Wake Of Explosion



A shipboard explosion in the harbor at Texas City, Texas, leveled the city. Twisted buildings and wrecked automobiles litter the area.

Gralapp Named Chest Head, Year's Campaign Talked

Arnold L. Gralapp, president of the Klamath County Community Chest, was re-elected to that post at a meeting of the membership held Wednesday night in the chamber of commerce rooms.

Serving with Gralapp during the coming year will be E. G. Glahn, first vice president; Vern Owens, second vice president; Mrs. Isabel Brinker, secretary; A. J. McDonald, treasurer.

The group favored professional management of the next drive and at an early meeting of the board, decision will be made whether or not this will be the future policy of the Chest. It was reported that Eugene has "used" the system of paid and trained workers in campaigns with much success. Gralapp also advised that negotiations would begin at once with the Oregon Chest on policy of next year's campaign and sentiment was expressed against including any national organizations in the drive.

The Boy Scouts were authorized to put on a capital and trust fund campaign in the near future, this policy entirely in compliance with the constitution of the Chest. Funds so derived will be used for camp development.

Elton H. Thompson, campaign manager of the 1946 drive, gave a full financial report to the group at last night's session. A second report was given by Vern Owens, chairman of the nominating committee, who announced the following board of directors: Henley Carroll B. Howe; Merrill, Joe Bailey; Malin, Ted Demeritt; Chiloquin, Walter Zimmerman; Fort Klamath, Mrs. Guss Page; Klamath Indian tribe, Lenard Kirk; Bly, Clark Abbott; Bonanza, Fred Ruck; Keno, Joe Foster; Gilchrist, to be named. Klamath Falls directors, Mrs. Isabel Brinker, Mrs. Robert A. Thompson, Malcolm Epley, Clarence Humble, Elton H. Thompson and Charles R. Stark.

Organization representatives: Boy Scouts, E. G. Glahn, Arnold Glalapp; Girl Scouts, Mrs. James Pinniger, Vern Owens; Camp Fire, Mrs. J. W. Kerns, A. J. McDonald; Salvation Army, J. W. Kerns Sr., A. M. Collier; YMCA, Paul Lee, John Sandmeyer.

The following organizations pledged support to the Chest in communications read before the membership: Klamath County Council of Church Women, League of Women Voters, AAUW, Sororists, Klamath Falls Woman's Library club, YMCA, Child Care, Health and Welfare committee.

Highway Group In Klamath

State highway engineers from Salem arrived in Klamath Falls late Wednesday night and were up early this morning looking over the route of the proposed north entrance into the city.

In the party were H. G. Smith, state highway construction engineer; Glen Paxson, bridge engineer; Gene Booth, design engineer, and W. E. Chandler, division engineer with headquarters in Bend. They were accompanied to the site by P. P. Whitmore, resident engineer, and Alfred Collier, Klamath Falls businessman.

Bids for the big job, which will rival the S. 6th street construction project completed last year, are called for May 28 by the Oregon state highway commission. One of the changes which will go into effect to bring the route into the main section of the city, will be a two-foot drop in the Esplanade stretch to permit big trucks to pass under the Southern Pacific overhead crossing.

The canal bridge at Esplanade will also come in for a big widening job, according to Smith, construction engineer.

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WEATHER	
Max. (April 16) 41	Min. 45
Precipitation last 24 hours	0.00
Stream year to date	7.15
Last year 11.35	Normal 8.70
Forecast: Cloudy, showers.	

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Flames Near Leaking Gas Installations

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—The Red Cross today reported 490 known dead in the Texas City, Tex., explosion, revised downward its earlier report putting the known toll at 714.

AUSTIN, Tex., April 17 (AP)—Gov. Beauford H. Jester today issued a proclamation declaring "a state of emergency" in the Texas City explosion area and outlining steps necessary to keep the situation under control.

Rumbling fires sending walls of black smoke a mile high crept close to eight leaking tanks of high octane gasoline here today and Texas City, rocked yesterday and today by five major explosions, waited tensely for more.

The death toll stood at an estimated 650, with 3000 injured, according to Dr. Clarence Quinn, medical coordinator appointed by Mayor J. C. Thahan.

City Endangered

Deputy Constable Herbert Whitmore of Galveston county said all of Texas City was in danger. He said if the wind shifted to the south "Texas City is liable to go."

The harbor area has been evacuated of rescue and relief workers. No effort is being made to extinguish the oil fires, but firemen are keeping it from spreading to nearby residential and business sections.

The city's 15,000 residents had dwindled to about 1000 today, A. R. Duncan, Houston policeman, said. Many married couples have moved to a nearby army camp and to Galveston, Houston and other towns.

The fear of chlorine gas last night caused others to leave. A false rumor spread that an official evacuation order had been issued, and caused hundreds to move. The gas is still a threat today, and gas masks are worn.

Highways leading to Texas City are blocked and no one is allowed to enter the raged ghost town unless he is an official business.

The weather was clear but cool, and blankets were being worn in the streets.

The task of embalming the 223 bodies at the improvised morgue in the school gymnasium was completed early today. But more bodies are still being found and moved to the morgue. Bodies are being buried in a recent school party. Lines of dazed citizens stand outside, waiting to enter a few at a time to identify relatives.

Taft Works On Measure To Halt Ups

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—The senate, armed with a congressional staff report saying higher wages now would lead to still higher prices, worked today on a wage-price statement which Chairman Taft (R-Ohio) plans to issue Friday.

Taft told reporters the analysis written by Gustav Peck, labor economist of the congressional staff, carries some "pretty good arguments" against wage boost pleas advanced by CIO President Philip Murray.

Figures Talked

The study, which termed the CIO wage increase pleas "altogether unrealistic," was devoted mainly to rebuttal of figures cited by Robert Nathan, former government economist, who prepared a CIO report used by Murray to press new wage demands this year.

The congressional staff agreed with Murray and Nathan that corporate profits last year reached a record high of \$12,000,000,000 while compensation to workers declined about \$4,500,000,000.

Vigorous Denial

But they vigorously denied the Murray-Nathan contention that corporate employers could grant wage increases of billions of dollars this year without price basis and still show higher profits than in the pre-war period of 1936-38.

Turning to the CIO suggestion that part of the profits could be distributed as higher wages, the report commented:

"Profits accrue to individual companies and are only tabulated on the average or in the aggregate. Profits are not a common pool into which particular companies which have losses or low profits themselves may dig for the purpose of meeting higher expenses. There is no such thing as aggregate profits except in statistics."

Perrin Named TAC Architect

Howard R. Perrin, Klamath Falls architect, was asked to draw up preliminary plans for remodeling the Lake hotel for use as a Teen Age center and with members of the senior advisory council and student committees surveyed the Pine and Main streets building late yesterday afternoon.

Plans will be submitted Wednesday, April 23, at which time approximate costs of remodeling will also be known. Plans call for a dance floor, game room, fountain, check room, small office, kitchen, stage and rest rooms, according to Robert Banister, director of the Teen-Age center.

The building was offered for use as a youth center by Mrs. A. Smith of this city, formal presentation made at a meeting Monday night. No action on the offer was taken pending investigation of the structure.

Scotland Yard Probes "Bomb"

LONDON, April 17 (AP)—A bomb scare in jittery London, turned out today to be unfounded, but Scotland Yard agents undertook a nationwide drive to prevent the spread of Palestine violence to Britain.

A day after a home-made time bomb was discovered in the Colonial office building, a cardboard container which officials said "appeared to have a fuse attached" was found in the busy Charing Cross post office in the heart of London.

The container was doused in water and rushed to the home office, but laboratory experts there found it contained only rubbish.

Officials linked yesterday's bomb attack with the Palestine Jewish underground.

Recreation Heads Probe Possibility Of Pool Use

Samuel H. Smith, city recreation director, and Fred Robinson of the recreation committee, have been appointed to investigate and explore possibilities of the swimming pool at the former Marine Barracks plant for possible use by the city. Smith and Robinson will represent the city before the state vocational authority when the opportunity arises.

A broad-scale recreation program is being planned by the recreation department for this summer with swimming, woodwork, and indoor and outdoor sports to be conducted at Klamath Union high school, Smith said today. Plans further enlarging the summer pool set-up will be determined by budget allowances granted in the 1947-48 budget, now being tentatively presented to the budget committee.

The swimming program will be conducted on a cost basis as it was last year, with a small fee charged youngsters for instruction in the daytime and adults for use of the high school pool in the evenings.

Smith stated that he has received a number of inquiries regarding the tennis court on Alameda and Esplanade, which is in bad need of repair. He explained that the tennis court will be torn out when the state highway department begins work on the new north entrance route through Klamath Falls. The state has agreed to replace the court in a different location, but in the same general area after the highway is finished.

Smith added that he invites Klamath citizens to call the recreation office at any time for assistance or to offer suggestions.

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WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—The Red Cross today reported 490 known dead in the Texas City, Tex., explosion, revised downward its earlier report putting the known toll at 714.

AUSTIN, Tex., April 17 (AP)—Gov. Beauford H. Jester today issued a proclamation declaring "a state of emergency" in the Texas City explosion area and outlining steps necessary to keep the situation under control.

Rumbling fires sending walls of black smoke a mile high crept close to eight leaking tanks of high octane gasoline here today and Texas City, rocked yesterday and today by five major explosions, waited tensely for more.

The death toll stood at an estimated 650, with 3000 injured, according to Dr. Clarence Quinn, medical coordinator appointed by Mayor J. C. Thahan.

City Endangered

Deputy Constable Herbert Whitmore of Galveston county said all of Texas City was in danger. He said if the wind shifted to the south "Texas City is liable to go."

The harbor area has been evacuated of rescue and relief workers. No effort is being made to extinguish the oil fires, but firemen are keeping it from spreading to nearby residential and business sections.

The city's 15,000 residents had dwindled to about 1000 today, A. R. Duncan, Houston policeman, said. Many married couples have moved to a nearby army camp and to Galveston, Houston and other towns.

The fear of chlorine gas last night caused others to leave. A false rumor spread that an official evacuation order had been issued, and caused hundreds to move. The gas is still a threat today, and gas masks are worn.

Highways leading to Texas City are blocked and no one is allowed to enter the raged ghost town unless he is an official business.

The weather was clear but cool, and blankets were being worn in the streets.

The task of embalming the 223 bodies at the improvised morgue in the school gymnasium was completed early today. But more bodies are still being found and moved to the morgue. Bodies are being buried in a recent school party. Lines of dazed citizens stand outside, waiting to enter a few at a time to identify relatives.

Phone Lines Kept Busy

Klamath basin residents with relatives or friends in the town or vicinity of Texas City, Tex., scene of the explosion late Wednesday morning, which took hundreds of lives, flooded the long distance exchange of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company late yesterday and today and as many calls as possible were attempted through to Galveston, Tex., 13 miles from the stricken city.

Charles Seavey, manager of the local branch, said today that 24-hour switchboard coverage is being maintained despite the current telephone workers' strike and all emergency calls are given every consideration although all cannot be handled due to the reduced crew.

"People are still swamping us with long distance calls," Seavey said. "We would like to take care of all of them, but again must ask that only those that are urgent be placed."

No operation were passing through picket lines today. Seavey advised, and no new strike developments were reported here.

Britons Give Wallace Praise

LONDON, April 17 (AP)—A letter signed by 111 members of parliament, more than 100 of them laborites, thanked Henry A. Wallace today for "the contribution you have made during your visit to Anglo-American understanding and to the cause of world peace."

Wallace was handed the letter, whose signers included four lords, shortly before leaving for Scandinavia to continue a speaking tour pleading for "the century of the common man" and "unity of the world for peace."

The signers constituted about one-sixth of the house of commons membership of 640 and included Konni Zilliacus and other socialist "rebels" who have opposed the labor government on foreign policy and conscription. William G. Galacher, one of the two communists in the house, was one of the signers.