

MODOC COUPLE KILLED IN WRECK

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
AS these words are written, there is no shooting news on the wires. Nobody, at the moment, seems to be fingering a trigger.

That is always something to be thankful for.

THE French have "devalued" the franc. That is to say, a pound or a dollar will now buy MORE francs.

Why did they do so?
Their reason is interesting, but isn't made fully clear to us common ordinary people, who don't keep up on such matters.

Primarily, they want to sell more goods to America, and are fighting the value of the franc as a sort of shot in the arm to make that possible.

HOW does it work?
Quite simply.
If you're buying goods in Paris, you have to pay for them in francs, not dollars.

So you first buy francs, and with your francs you pay your bill. That's how international trade is carried on.

The more francs you can buy with your dollar, the cheaper your French goods will be.

The French want to sell to us, so they are cheapening their francs instead of cutting their prices.

They are kidding themselves, of course. But in these days, we'd rather kid ourselves than to face realities.

THE Russians, who, in many ways are nobody's fool, see through the scheme at once.

A Moscow dispatch says this morning that the devaluation of the franc "seeks to cast a veil over the true purpose of the new (French) currency measure."

There are two interesting side-lights to this cheaper franc business.

One is that it touches off a wave of speculation in London and Paris.

Another is that it opens prices to STARTLING SPECULATION. Smart people take advantage of it to make easy money on the rise or fall.

Another side-light is that French exports are chiefly luxury goods (perfumes, hats, original model dresses, etc.)

It is highly significant that in the present-day world free enterprise America is about the only place left where luxuries can be afforded by the common run of people.

The luxury market elsewhere in the world is pretty well confined to black market operators, speculators and racketeers of various ilk.

THAT is something for us to think about. As long as our system provides the common run of our people with more of the good things of life (everybody knows that LUXURIES are among the good things that we all strive for) than any other system generally in use, we'd certainly be apt to swap it for some system that would provide us with LESS.

IF the time ever comes when communism or socialism offers us the realistic prospect of more of the good things of life than we are getting under our system, then will be the time to consider a change.

You have to travel widely, or read widely and discriminatingly, to be sure of it, but if you travel widely enough or read discriminatingly enough you'll come to the conclusion that AS IS our system produces more for the general run of people than any other system presently in use in the world.

As long as that remains true, we'd better hang onto it.

Japs Hunt For Bank Slayer

TOKYO, Jan. 27 (AP)—Thousands of Tokyo police searched tonight for a monstrous, white-haired, big-nosed Japanese who murdered 12 bank employees with poison Monday in an effort to loot the Shima branch of the Teikoku bank.

Examiners were unable to tell how much, if any, loot had been obtained. More than 200,000 yen (\$6000) was left on bank tables, leading to belief that the poisoner had been frightened off before having a chance to gather up any funds.

The killer, posing as a public health doctor, entered at closing time and ordered the banks' 16 employees to drink a colorless liquid, which he said was prescribed because of dysentery in the area.

Twelve of the 16 died. One woman employee managed to crawl out the door and call for aid.

Business Failure Figure Gaining

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (AP)—There were more commercial and business failures in the week ending January 23 than in any week since early 1933. Dun and Bradstreet reported today.

The business research firm said failures rose to 109, compared with 61 the preceding week. There were twice as many failures as in the corresponding week of 1947.

Manufacturing and retail trade accounted for most of the sharp increase.

WEATHER
Max. Jan. 26: 34 Min. —13
Precipitation last 24 hours —.09
Stream year to date —.40
Last year 4.19 Normal —6.51
Forecast: Fair.

Herald and News

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1948 Telephone 8111 ** No. 1248

Veterans Blast Federal Housing

Cold Wave Death Toll Mounting

By The Associated Press
The midwest got a new batch of frigid weather from Central Canada today, the third cold wave in a week, a week in which 150 deaths were attributed to the cold and snowy weather.

The fresh mass of cold air centered in the Dakotas and Minnesota and moved into other sections of the central states and the Rocky mountain region. The federal weather bureau in Chicago said temperatures across the country, except in southern Florida, were below normal.

The continued cold weather throughout the eastern half of the country found many communities curbing industrial activities as a measure to conserve fuel for domestic purposes.

River Closed
The ice-clogged Ohio river was closed to navigation for the first time since 1940 and a dozen barges loaded with 405 new automobiles were caught in the ice 10 miles upstream from Evansville, Ind. The barges were en route from Cincinnati to Mayersville, Miss.

The death toll from causes attributed to the cold and snowy weather of the past week was counted in 26 states—in the East, Midwest and South. Pennsylvania and West Virginia each reported 15 fatalities; there were 23 in the New England states; 10 in Texas and nine each in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

Temperatures of near 30 below were reported in the icy regions of Northern Minnesota near the Canadian border today and they were near that mark in parts of North Dakota and Montana. The mercury also skidded to below zero in Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa and was near that mark in Illinois and Indiana.

The new cold wave was expected to move into the eastern states tonight but the temperatures today in Northern New England were 5 to 10 below.

There was a wide belt of snow from the Southern Rockies eastward into the Ohio river valley and freezing rain and sleet was reported in parts of Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee. Colorado reported snow for the third straight day with 25 inches on the ground in the mountains at Leadville.

VIENNA, Jan. 27 (AP)—Russia was reported here today to be ready to deal on a peace treaty for Austria.

An Austrian government spokesman said hope for a settlement of his occupied country's future, long blocked by an east-west deadlock, now appeared "brighter."

The Austrian press agency said five conditions had been laid down by the Russians for discussion at the Big Four deputy foreign ministers' conference in London next week:

1. That Russian demands regarding the big Zisterdorf oil fields, northeast of here, remain unchanged. Russia wants two-thirds of the field's production and an equal share of the equipment.

2. That the oil field concessions remain effective for 50 years.

3. That Russia be paid \$200,000,000 within two years for all other German assets in Austria now controlled by Russia. (One of the toughest questions in Austrian negotiations to date has been an exact definition of what constitutes German assets in Austria.)

4. That Russia be given from 20 to 40 per cent of the Danube Shipping company.

5. That all profits obtained under these conditions may be taken from Austria free of restrictions.

You, Too, Can Get Drunk, Sir

ATLANTA, Jan. 27 (AP)—Surgery patients can get drunk. Dr. Robert Elman, professor of clinical surgery at Washington University, told a sectional meeting of the American College of Surgeons yesterday that a patient need not be prevented from drinking too much water after an operation.

"Within two or three days," said Dr. Elman, "he sometimes becomes so deficient in salt that he goes into an acute state of shock. That's what would be called getting drunk on water."

Summer In January



The temperature dropped to a season minimum here this morning—which adds to the news value of the picture above, made just Saturday afternoon in the back yard of a home at 329 McKinley street. The photographer caught little Patty Wilson, left, in swing, and her niece, Diane Wagner, as they played in the warm mid-day sunlight after stripping off their uppers and shoes and stockings. Patty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Wilson and is a second grader in Conger school. Diane is a visitor from Seattle, where they don't have as much nice winter sunshine as she finds in Klamath Falls. The temperature read 59 when this picture was taken.

Students Denied Quarters

By HALE SCARBROUGH
Bitter complaints about the administration of Klamath Falls' federal housing units are breaking out into the open today as a result of a meeting of the Allied Veterans council last night and a report that Oregon Vocational school students—all veterans—are being refused admission to the housing units.

The students are classified as "transients" by Austin Hayden, housing superintendent here, Winston Purvine, OVS director said, and "transients" are denied the privilege of living in the federal apartments.

Students enroll at OVS for classes lasting from 18 months to three years and are desperately in need of housing. Many are married but have been unable to bring their families to Klamath Falls because of the housing shortage.

Purvine said, would enroll in courses here if they could be guaranteed housing.

Hayden and others interested in the situation said they believed Hayden's interpretation of the "transient" regulation to include students was his own and not that of the housing authority.

Hayden was reported out of town and unavailable for comment today.

The veterans council meeting last night aired not only that gripe but a long-continuing one over the "bureaucratic" administration of the federal units. The council claims to know of 14 instances where "special privileges" were granted to persons who became tenants of the apartments without working up on the waiting lists for taking less-desirable quarters first.

An instance is also cited of a veteran here in town who is paying \$24 a week for an auto court lodging, and is refused admission to the housing units because "he has adequate housing."

The veterans council reports that Hayden says there are now 15 vacancies in the "boxcar" apartments of the Mountain View units—least desirable of the federal houses—and that he has contacted all persons on his waiting lists and none want the Mountain View apartments. They are two-bedroom furnished affairs, renting for \$39 a month.

Hayden is reported considering recommending that 15 of the "boxcar" units be torn down.

This afternoon some 12 or 14 students of OVS who want housing immediately are going to the Mountain View location to look over those apartments, and the wheels may be set in motion to have the "transient" ruling as applied to OVS students reversed.

The Klamath County chamber of commerce has written a letter to Jesse Epstein, regional housing director in San Francisco, urging that the units not be torn down and that OVS students be allowed to live in them.

Purvine said Hayden told him the OVS students could move into the Mountain View units if OVS would take over operation and maintenance of the units completely. But the \$39 a month rental would have to be paid.

Epstein is asked to come to Klamath Falls to get a personal view of the federal housing situation here. A meeting last night remarked that if Klamath Falls can afford to tear down 15 livable apartments, it is the first town on the Pacific coast which can.

Slayer Gets Second Trial

SALEM, Jan. 27 (AP)—Forrest Wilson, sentenced to life imprisonment for first degree murder, won a new trial today because Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna of Jackson county failed to instruct the jury about the different degrees of homicide.

Wilson was accused of the fatal shooting of John B. Camden in Medford November 1946. The slaying followed a poker game held in a garage, the state contending Wilson had lost money in the game and shot Camden to get his money back.

Wilson submitted an alibi in order to show he was not present at the time of the crime.

The state contended the murder was a first degree crime because it was committed during a robbery. Wilson's attorneys said that even if Wilson did commit the crime, it could not be first degree murder because it was not a robbery. They claimed it is not robbery for the loser in a gambling game to try to get back the money he lost.

The supreme court decision, by Justice J. O. Bailey, said enough evidence was submitted to sustain a first degree murder verdict, but that the lower court erred in not instructing the jury on second degree murder and other degrees of homicide.

No Rain For California

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27 (AP)—No immediate relief is in sight for California, suffering from its worst drought conditions in 70 years.

A disturbance in the North Pacific had raised hopes of rain, but the U. S. weather bureau said today the storm had moved north and would miss California.

Forecasters came up with the monotonous prediction "clear"—which for weeks has meant a succession of blue skies and an ever deepening woe to agriculturists.

Searing hot winds in Northern California further dried out land parched by lack of rain. Underground water supplies dropped. Some ranches dependent on wells began to haul water.

Southern California felt a touch of rain yesterday, but not enough. Other cities studied municipal water rationing measures already taken by Santa Barbara and Ventura. San Francisco and Los Angeles both reported temperature highs of 58 degrees.

Business District Of Tiny Town Of Moclips In Ashes

HOQUIAM, Jan. 27 (AP)—Two-thirds of the business district of the small coastal community of Moclips, 27 miles north of here, lay in ashes today and at least five families are homeless after sparks from a welding torch touched off a fire in the basement of a commercial garage, the state patrol reported.

The blaze started in the Percy Houghton garage about 8:30 p. m., the patrol reported, and was brought under control around midnight.

There were no casualties. Damage was estimated by property owners at \$150,000.

Whipped by a strong east wind, the fire swept through the business district to destroy the post office, garage, a grocery, cafe and gift shop. Five homes were burned.

The razed post office housed the community's telephone exchange and the region still was shut off from outside communication early today. State patrol and coast guard radio equipment was pressed into service.

Coast guardsmen from the Westport, Wash., station patrolled the area to prevent looting, and members of the Hoquiam and Aberdeen Red Cross disaster relief units prepared to establish headquarters for the homeless in the unused navy training station at Pacific Beach, two miles south of Moclips.

Mrs. C. W. Alley of Pacific Beach offered 10 empty cabins as temporary housing for families whose homes were burned.

Pumper trucks from the coast guard station and volunteer fire department at Westport, and the Hoquiam and Aberdeen fire departments fought the blaze for nearly four hours after speeding to the ocean community under state patrol escort.

Mail Route Recommended

PORTLAND, Jan. 27 (AP)—Recommendation for a star mail route between Klamath Falls and Lakeview is being sent to the postmaster general. Fred H. Twoby, district railway mail superintendent, said today.

The bid call closed yesterday and Twoby said he was confident his recommendation—an alternate to a suggestion that the mail be taken to Lakeview from Portland by truck via Bend—would be accepted. He said the carrier would leave Klamath Falls for Lakeview at 2:30 a. m. and arrive there in time for city carriers to make delivery. The return will connect with the 9:50 p. m. northbound Southern Pacific train for Portland as well as southbound trains.

The Lake county chamber of commerce had proposed the truck route from Portland, but Twoby said weather and other factors made the Klamath Falls route preferable.

Time of starting service depends on the speed with which the postmaster general acts. It might be in about 30 days, Twoby said.

Ducks Pose Big Problem For Man

LONDON, Jan. 27 (AP)—George Edward Jackaman has a problem: How do you make 16 ducks read and obey a magistrate's order to quit disturbing the neighbors by quacking by night?

Unless you use an axe?

Three of Jackaman's neighbors in suburban Wealdstone complained in court today that the ducks kept them awake. Jackaman said the ducks quack only when disturbed, and usually "they merely chuckle quietly among themselves."

The magistrate agreed with the neighbors, fined Jackaman one pound (\$4) and ordered him to keep the ducks quiet.

River Wreck Sinks Tug

ASTORIA, Ore., Jan. 27 (AP)—A river collision sunk the tug Melville and damaged a hog fuel barge in the Columbia near Longview last night.

The tug, owned by the Knappton Towboat company, Portland, sank 12 minutes after colliding with the barge. The crew of seven escaped.

The fuel barge, being pushed from Longview to Portland by the tug James Tait, was damaged. It became waterlogged and broke loose but was caught again by the James Tait and the tug Klickitat.

There was no damage to the Melville's tow, a barge carrying 5000 barrels of oil.

The Melville's superstructure remained above water and salvage operations were expected to start today.

Late Spud Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27 (AP) (USDA)—Potatoes: 10 broken, 11 unbroken cars on track; arrivals: California 3, Oregon 3, Nevada 1, Idaho 2; market firm; Klamath Russets No. 1-A, \$3.85.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27 (AP) (USDA)—Potatoes: 14 broken, 23 unbroken cars on track; arrivals: California 7, Oregon 4, Idaho 2, Utah 2, by truck 8; market firm; Deschutes Russets No. 1-A \$5.25.

Divorces Tyrone Power



French Actress Annabella appears in court in Los Angeles to divorce Tyrone Power of the films. She testified the actor often refused to talk to her and went to his room to sleep. She won alimony totaling at least \$50,000 annually, less her earnings.

Strike Halts Kaiser Plant

DETROIT, Jan. 27 (AP)—Kaiser-Frazer corporation shift workers home today when a dispute among power truck operators halted the two final assembly lines in the big Willow Run plant.

A company spokesman said the operators left their jobs when one of their number was transferred to another department. There was no comment from the CIO United Auto Workers local 48, of which the operators are members.

The power truck operators move supplies of various types to assembly lines throughout the plant.

Pravda Raps Soviet Firms

LONDON, Jan. 27 (AP)—Pravda today accused many industrial plant managers in Russia of disrupting consumer goods production. It singled out production failures in spades, locks, hammers, ironware and spoons.

The official communist party paper said in an editorial broadcast by Moscow radio:

"The abolition of rationing and the rise in the real level of the standard of life in our country demands from industry a considerable increase in the output of consumer goods production."

It pointed out in terms of almost unprecedented sharpness for a Russian newspaper dealing with internal affairs, that many plant managers were not carrying out their assignments.

Oregon Has 17th Rainless Day

PORTLAND, Jan. 27 (AP)—Oregon was in its 17th consecutive day without rain today, and shivered in temperatures which in many areas set new lows for the month.

Baker's 6 degrees was Eastern Oregon's low this morning, the weather bureau reported. Lakeview had 14 and Klamath Falls 15.

Only Portland in the Willamette valley escaped sub-freezing temperatures. The 4:30 a. m. reading gave Salem and Eugene 23 and Roseburg 24, while Portland's low was 36. The weather bureau said a strong east wind in the Columbia gorge favored Portland—with less wind the temperature would have dropped to that of other valley cities.

The long dry period was nearing the record for the month set in 1943 at 20 consecutive rainless days.

Lumber Price Drop Seen Soon

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (AP)—Predictions that lumber prices will decline by as much as 20 to 30 per cent came today from the annual convention here of the Northeastern Retail Lumbermen's association.

Experts attending the meeting agreed there would be little reduction as long as retailers are bidding up prices for short supplies of better grade lumber.

Roy Wenzlick, St. Louis, Mo., housing and building analyst, told the lumbermen he based predictions of a 20 to 30 per cent drop "in the not-too-distant future" on expectations of greater productivity of labor and on belief the present boom is at its peak.

Overem Files For Clerk As Democratic Candidate

ANNOUNCED
State Senator—Hitchcock (R)
Peterson (D)
State Representative—Semon (D), Steinsiefer (R)
District Attorney—None.
Sheriff—Low (R).
County Clerk—DeLap (R), Overem (D).
County Assessor—None.
County Treasurer—Langalet (D).
County Commissioner—None.
County Coroner—None.

operated a plumbing and heating concern until November, 1946. He present he is employed as warehouse superintendent at Oregon Vocational school.

As for his qualifications for the office, Overem is trained as an accountant and still follows that work as a sideline. He has held public office before, having been mayor of Latham, Kas., in 1924-27, and city clerk of Selden, Kas., prior to that.

Overem's filing is expected to break the ice and others who have announced themselves as candidates may get their intentions down on paper in the next few days. Deadline for filing is March 12.

Charlie DeLap, republican county clerk and candidate for re-nom., this morning offered to take over the office if Overem is nominated in the May 21 primary and would not have to go into the job cold if elected in November.

The only other political stir noted today was a statement by E. P. (Pat) Ivory, local democratic leader, that he would not run for state party committeeman but would run for party delegate-at-large to the democratic convention to be held in Philadelphia.

Dust Storm Cause Of 8-Car Smash

ALTURAS, Jan. 27—An eight-car accident in a New Mexico dust storm yesterday took the lives of two prominent residents of Modoc county — Mr. and Mrs. Vie & Christensen of Likely.

The Christensens and Mrs. J. B. Bert of Upland, Calif., were burned to death in the gasoline tank explosions and fires which followed the multiple collision on U. S. highway 80, near Deming, New Mexico.

Reports from Deming were that the cars encountered a complete black-out in the dust. One car stopped, the others piled up and a fire, of undetermined origin, swept the wreckage. Gasoline tanks of the smashed cars exploded.

Badly Burned
The Christensens, who operated one of Modoc county's largest ranches, were burned beyond recognition. They were identified by army dog tags.

Five of the automobiles and a house trailer were destroyed. Four persons were seriously injured but survived, and four others were less seriously hurt.

The Christensens were en route alone to New Orleans where they planned to attend the Mardi Gras. They had scheduled a stop with their married daughter, Adela Marie, in Texas. They are survived by two other children: Burnel, who was a University of California varsity football player a season or two ago, and George.

Grange Maps Timber Tax

PORTLAND, Jan. 27 (AP)—An initiative measure to tax timber for conservation and research programs is planned by the state grange.

Grange Master Morton Tompkins said a tax of 25 cents a thousand board feet would be asked and estimated the measure would raise \$1,500,000 annually for reforestation, seeding, disease and fire control.

The tax would cover timber cut on federal forest lands as well as state and private tracts.

The measure would enlarge the program adopted at the last legislative session which provided for a 5-cent severance tax on timber cut. That measure originally called for 25 cents but was scaled down in legislative discussions.

Tompkins said the measure would allot three-fourths of the money for reforestation, disease and insect control, fire protection and management of state and county forest lands. A fourth would go for research and for technical assistance to small lot owners, comparable to extension service aid to farmers.

Tompkins said petitioners would be circulated by the 350 granges of the state to get the 18,600 signatures needed to place the measure of the ballot.

This Guy Wants To Be A Cop!

DETROIT, Jan. 27 (AP)—Tony Rea, who has been trying unsuccessfully for five of his 23 years to qualify for the Detroit police force, was accused today of hiring a brawny friend to take a physical examination for him and a brainy one to pass the mental test.

Rea appeared in traffic court yesterday with 200-pound Robert Gilligan and Student Joseph Sokolowski, identified by police as the brawn and the brain. Both, officers said, passed their tests with flying colors.

Judge John D. Watts placed each of the three on six months' probation after they pleaded guilty.

Police, who said they discovered the ruse when they became suspicious of the sudden jump in Rea's written exam rating, charged Gilligan was paid \$15 for his part in the plan and Sokolowski did his share for free accordion lessons.