

GM Reports New High In Employment

DETROIT, July 28 (AP)—With more than 400,000 employees on its payrolls, General Motors Wednesday reported a new peacetime employment peak.

President C. E. Wilson said the average employment for the second quarter of this year is 403,743, compared with 375,079 for the second quarter of 1948. GM's highest pre-war employment for any previous quarter was in the second quarter of 1941 when 518,726 employees were on the payroll, part of them engaged in defense production.

Average employment for the first six months of this year, Wilson said, was 400,002, compared with 381,995 for the same period in 1948.

GM hourly-rated employees averaged \$69.52 in weekly earnings for the first half of this year, compared with \$61.63 for the same period in 1948.

Salem Voters Okay Merger

SALEM, July 28 (AP)—West Salem voters approved Tuesday a proposal to merge with the city of Salem, directly across the Willamette river. The vote was 337 to 130.

Salem voters will ballot on the merger in the near future.

The merger, if completed, would add about 2800 persons to the present Salem population of about 50,000. West Salem Mayor Walter Musgrave has been a leader in the proposal which also had the backing of his city council and leading West Salem industrialists.

Salem Mayor R. L. Elfstrom said the election results were gratifying and promised an early opportunity for Salem electors to cast ballots on the issue.

The fact that the neighboring towns have allied municipal problems and are forced to consolidate their work in major civic plans promoted the merge move. West Salem is presently included in the Salem school district and receives fire protection and emergency water supplies from the larger city.

Bockman Wins Rodeo Honors

CHEYENNE, Wyo., July 28 (AP)—Cowboys flew through the air with the greatest of ease Tuesday at the opening of Cheyenne's 53rd Frontier Days.

Ten of the cow waddies straddled Brahma bulls and eight of 'em got free air trips. Only two of the cowhands stayed aboard. Bill Bockman of Virginia Dale, Colo., was rated the best rider with Ed Fulk of Lander, Wyo., claiming runnerup honors.

None of the Brahma riders was injured but Chuck Samelson, Redwood, Calif., suffered a broken leg when he jumped off a bronc named Racket after a successful ride.

Todd Whately, Hugo, Okla., rodeo veteran, caught the fancy of the cheering opening day crowd. He copped the day's honors in bareback bronc riding and tied for first in steer bulldozing. Whately outrode Gene Rambo, last year's all-around champion cowboy, who took second in bareback.

Miners Needed In Czech Pits

PRAGUE (AP)—Czechoslovakia's communist government is combating shortages of manpower and machinery in its coal mining industry as a serious threat to the nation's five-year plan.

In the mining town of Ostrava pictures of absentees are put on placards in the city square.

The government is offering free vacations to miners at Bohemian spas, which a coal digger could never afford on his wages. There are also priorities on housing—in flats from which "undesirable elements" are expelled.

The press has been making something of a national hero out of Karel Benedikt, a 76-year-old miner from Ostrava. He has worked in the pits 42 years and has raised all his 10 sons to become miners. Two of the oldest son's sons also joined the trade.

SEATTLE, July 28 (AP)—Federal conciliators will try again Friday to settle the north coast Greyhound bus strike.

William G. Hoste, conciliator, said he had called a meeting of company representatives and officials of the Motor Coach Employees union (AFM). The strike is now in its 40th day.

The last futile effort to reach an agreement ended July 5.

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US 395 Improvement—Photo shows construction of fill on new portion of US 395 directly east of Willow ranch, part of a general construction project on this route between Alturas and Lakeview. When completed, probably in 1952, the entire route from Alturas to the Oregon line will have a maximum 3 per cent grade, 100-foot radius curves and 32-foot surface. Last week-end, 15 carloads of road enthusiasts toured the section and had a picnic at New Pine Creek.

A Drama Of The Road

By FRANK TRIPP

Jean Belasco had a pony act which played in vaudeville in winter, joined a small circus or became a tiny circus all by itself in summertime.

One day Jean walked into our newsroom and told Charlie Barber, the news editor, a hard luck story. No work for long, dull times and ponies to be fed had exhausted every penny that he had.

He was at the end of his rope and needed a friend. Though a stranger to us, he sure hit the right guy when he found Charlie.

Jean's outfit was intact. His little tent, gadgets and banners were packed in the single truck that transported the entire enterprise. His ponies trudged behind for the short week-end jumps between hamlets. But there was no place to go and no money to move the show if there had been.

Charlie said: "Why don't you set up and play here for a week, to get on your feet again?"

"This is a pretty big town for my little show," said Jean. "I've no way to let folks know I'm here. I'm cleaned clean."

"Forget it," said Charlie. "Find a lot on the outskirts and go to it."

"I can't buy any advertising," said the showman.

"Well, I still can write a press notice," said Charlie, "and this sheet I'm working for is soft on show folks. Its publisher once walked the ties back home—a busted trouper, just like you."

So Jean found a lot and Charlie wrote some stories about the little exhibition. Folks went out to see the show, which was as wholesome and clever as it was tiny. Jean made a little stake for himself, thanked Charlie from the bottom of his heart and took to the road again.

Belasco drove his own truck from village to village. He set up and billyhooded his show; fed, bedded and groomed his ponies; did it all with cheap local help as he moved along. He didn't deserve the heartaches and the fate which befell him. It was love of the life and for his

"Jean Belasco, pony act, killed here. No funds for burial. Wire five or up." Enough fives, tens and twenties came back pronto. Some said, "Advise if you need more."

Tex bought Jean a casket, got him a grave and engaged a minister. Just before the service was to begin he said to the undertaker, "Hold on; still the act a minute. I forgot something." He dashed away and came back with a bouquet of flowers.

Tex put the flowers on the casket. He took off his hat, seated himself

Frank Buck Not Afraid Of Bandits

SINGAPORE (AP)—Frank Buck, the American "Bring 'Em Back Alive" man, flew into Singapore to prepare for a new jungle film and said stoutly: "I'm not afraid of bandits—but I won't be able to start filming until they clear off. I must think of my staff."

Buck plans to visit several parts

of Johore, the southernmost province of Malaya, which he may use as locale for his film. Johore Bahru is the capital of the state of Johore. Although there is trouble in the outer parts of the state, the capital city is peaceful.

LONG TIME

DENVER (AP)—H. Rugg Williams, Denver's deputy police chief, is well into his 60th year in the department. He was only 17 when he became a rookie cop in 1886.

Restricted Location

The Torrey pine is known on the North American continent only on a strip of land two miles long and eight miles wide, along the ocean, north of San Diego, Calif.

in a single chair provided for mourners, looked up at the minister and said: "Okay parson; drop the curtain." And another drama of the road was ended.

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