

# MONTANA FIRE CLAIMS 13 LIVES

## Herald and News

PRICE FIVE CENTS KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1949 Telephone 8111 No. 3047

**WEATHER**  
Klamath Falls and vicinity: Fair today and Tuesday. High today low tonight 58 to 61. High Tuesday 61. Precipitation last 24 hours—0.00

# 4600 Said Dead in Ecuador Quake

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS  
I WAS shooting the breeze the other day with a service station man while he filled the tank, checked the oil and water and polished the windshield. By way of making conversation, I said:  
"How's business?"  
"It could be better," he answered, "acquiring a fat bug off the glass. There would be more business in this line if there were more tourists."  
I went on making conversation.  
"What has become of the tourists?" I asked.  
"I suspect," he replied, "they're staying home making themselves a living instead of helling around over the country like they used to do."

COME to think of it, he may have been right. If you noticed the savings bond figures lately? People are buying MORE of them. They are CASHING IN less of them. It seems to have dawned on all of us at about the same time that a little money parked away in the kitty is a nice thing to have.  
Take it or leave it, but I think that is a good sign. There has been a lot of sneering at thrift in the past decade and a half, but after all the bulk of the progress we are all so proud of has come about because somebody saved up some money and had it ready when the right time came along.  
If John D. Rockefeller and a lot of other people hadn't saved up some money, the oil business might never have got going and if the oil business hadn't been started a lot of people wouldn't be making livings for themselves and their families running service stations.

"I'll tell you something," I said, kidding the service station man. "You fellows in this business are missing a bet. Instead of sticking around working yourselves thin filling tanks and wiping windshields, you ought to ORGANIZE and send a lobby to Washington and get a law through congress specifying that if you didn't make as much each month as you thought you ought to the government would make up the difference out of the treasury."  
"That's the modern idea."

HE scraped off another bug, a big yellow one that had smacked the glass right where I had to look through it to see the road ahead. Then he gave me the eye.  
"Yeah," he drawled, "and after I'd been doing that for a year or so whose man would I be?"  
"Mine, or the GOVERNMENT'S?"

YOU know, he had something there. Did you ever catch a chipmunk and make a pet of it? It was cute, wasn't it? But you must have noticed that it soon QUIT WORK and thereafter depended on you to feed it. If you had left it alone, it would have gone on scratching gravel and storing up seeds, or whatever it is that a chipmunk is doing in the intervals when it isn't racing across a road for the pure fun of beating an approaching car. I'll bet that about a couple of generations after the government of us tamed us all and made pets of us we'd see that somebody would have PUT IN OUR MOUTHS the food the government gives us.  
I drove off, the service station man and thanked that I had heard something that would be good for me if I had sense enough to apply it.

## 3 Killed In Basin Area Auto Wrecks

Three young men were killed in automobile accidents over the weekend near Bonanza and Dorris.

The Bonanza fatality raised the 1949 Klamath county highway death toll to eight.

Both accidents occurred late Saturday night. Raymond Rhoads, 16, of Shafter, Calif., was killed when a car occupied by six teenagers failed to make a turn across the Lakeview-Bonanza cutoff just north of Bonanza.

Five of the passengers were brought to Klamath Valley hospital by Kaler's ambulance. The injured included James Rhoads, 19, brother of the dead boy; Billy Wayne Null, 17, of Kingsburg, Calif.; Bill Gregory, 18, of Merrill; Thomas Glass, Merrill, and Shirley DePue, 16, of Bonanza.

James Rhoads suffered shock and bruises, 10 stitches were needed to close a cut on Gregory's chin and the other young persons were treated for lacerations and minor hurts.

Null was reported to be driver of the car. The two Rhoads boys were visiting in Bonanza.

The Dorris accident occurred on Highway 97 north of Dorris, and the victims, Francis Baker, 20, of Shovel Creek, Calif., and Tony H. May, 25, of Tennyson, died a few minutes after arrival at Klamath Valley hospital.

Their car reportedly was forced off the highway while traveling north toward Klamath Falls.

Thurman Baker, 22, of Tennyson, was seated between the other two young men in the car and was only slightly injured.

He was treated at the hospital for a cut over his left eye.

## Dorris Asks Better Phone Service Action

DORRIS, Aug. 8.—Citizens here are urging the city council to wage a fight for improved telephone service. It was reported today.

Dorris citizens have indicated by petition that they want 24-hour service in place of the present 10 hours. The city council has referred the matter to the public utilities commissioner in San Francisco.

Of the town's 350 registered voters, 240 signed the petition, claiming that the present 10 hours is wholly inadequate to meet their needs.

## New OTI Checks Enter Picture

A new type of payroll check was being used in evidence in the business district here Saturday.

The checks were cashed by Oregon Technical Institute employees and by various businesses in town which do business with the state school on the hill. Heading on the check reads "Oregon Technical Institute Special Account" and the drafts are on the state treasurer.

The school has a payroll of about \$35,000 a month.



VANDAL RIP TURF — Newly-sodded lawn at the side door of Klamath Union high school was ripped up over the weekend and the chunks of turf piled up in front of the door. John Glubrecht, city school maintenance man, inspects the damage.

## United-Southwest Combo Angle Hinted In Hearing Over KF Air Line Service

"Keep your fingers crossed" would serve the city from the south and west.

This idea, which is different from the four alternative schemes developed early in the hearing, came up in a question which the CAB examiner asked W. L. Patterson, president of United Air Lines, who was on the witness stand.

He asked Patterson if United would object to a situation in which Southwest was certificated to serve Klamath from the south, with a connection to Medford, and United would be allowed to continue to serve Klamath to and from the north but would not be allowed to serve Klamath to and from the south.

Patterson replied emphatically that United would oppose such a scheme.

The other alternatives: Continuation of the present United north-south service; Southwest Airways direct service south from here but only Medford connections for south service; West Coast to provide direct north service; Southwest direct south service.

Commenting on UAL's President Patterson's statement at the hearing challenging the CAB's right to take towns like Klamath Falls off its schedules, Stark said:

"United doesn't want to be forced out of Klamath but may get out voluntarily through a transfer with another carrier and approved by CAB."

Stark said United witnesses took no exception to a statement by West Coast to the effect that United had expressed willingness to withdraw from Klamath and certain other places provided West Coast acquires the facilities United now has at those points.

The chamber manager said it always takes at least several months to complete procedure on a case such as this, and he thinks it will be well into next year before a final decision is made. Klamath, he said, will take whatever steps are necessary to protect its interest when the CAB examiner's recommendations are made. The board will act after that.

## Honesty Pays Off For Waitress

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., Aug. 8 (AP)—Waitress Lorraine Head today is the favorite waitress of the biggest tipper in town—because she was honest.

A week ago, a male patron ordered two drinks. He gave her a five and a one-dollar bill in payment. That, she told him, was way too much money and returned the surplus.

Saturday night, he came in again, sought her table and ordered another drink. He tipped her \$50.

Then he ordered another drink. Another \$50 tip.

She dinner. The tip was \$100.

Then doesn't know his name.

## Four Towns Virtually Wiped Out

By JORGE MANTILLA  
QUITO, Ecuador, Aug. 8 (AP)—The unofficial death toll in earthquake-ravaged Ecuador soared above 4600 today as damage estimates from some 25 mountain towns reached \$28,000,000. Countless thousands were reported hurt.

The Ecuadorian cabinet voted in emergency session last night to take immediate action on President Gao Plaza Lasso's plans to rebuild the stricken areas—most populous in Ecuador.

The defense ministry said 2000 troops were on duty in the worst hit zones and order was being maintained.

Communications were being restored slowly as the Ecuadorian air force ferried doctors, nurses and medical aid to thousands of injured.

Three U. S. Caribbean air command planes from Balboa took six tons of relief supplies to Quito yesterday. They included blood plasma, serums and drugs.

The president, back from a tour of the ravaged areas, said some of the scenes of suffering rivaled even the "most dantesque" imaginable.

Four towns which virtually disappeared from the map were Guano, Patate, Pellino and Pillaro.

More Lives Seen  
Eyewitnesses returning from Ambato, largest town to receive the full force of the shocks, said the number of dead and injured undoubtedly had been underestimated.

These witnesses said the ravaged area now is only a cemetery where the odor of death is almost unbearable.

They said the number of persons buried along the slopes of Tungurahua volcano may never be known. They reported that when the quakes struck, masses of earth slid away from the mountainsides and the volcano erupted.

Frantic relatives who fought their way into the earthquake area in search of loved ones found mountains of debris instead of communities.

The Patate river was blocked by the mountainside which created a lake at the foot of the old town of Patate.

A call went out today to all U. S. air force and many freight planes in the Panama area to join a mercy relief flying doctors, nurses and medical supplies into the earthquake-ravaged sections.

The U. S. Caribbean command headquarters alerted all freight planes in the Panama area to join the relief operation. A military spokesman said if there were not enough air force and navy freight planes in Panama, additional planes will be drawn from the Antilles bases. Some American planes already have participated in the relief work.

The earthquake, which struck Friday, blasted a communication and transport lines.

## Methodist Bishop Raps Catholic Move

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (AP)—G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist bishop of the New York area, accused the Roman Catholic leadership last night of killing the proposals in congress for federal aid to public schools.

In a radio interview (WWDC) he said Francis Cardinal Spellman's "personal attack" on Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was a part of a "coldly calculated plan" of the Catholic hierarchy.

He said this plan was "designed to deny federal aid to public schools, unless the hierarchy can get its hands into the public treasury and secure millions for the support of parochial education."

Cardinal Spellman recently accused Mrs. Roosevelt, widow of President Roosevelt, of anti-Catholic bias "worthy of an American mother" after she had opposed the use of federal funds for non-public schools. Mrs. Roosevelt denied any such bias and said she will be the final judge of the worthiness of all human beings.

Bishop Oxnam said the American people have recently learned that federal aid to education is dead for this session of congress, and most of them deplore the fact.

**FIRE**  
Suburban department firemen extinguished a small blaze in a storage shed late this morning before serious damage was done.

Fire broke out in the shed located behind Bur Jajet's grocery store, 4429 Shasta way, and firemen answered the call at 11:02 a.m.

# Gates Of The Mountains Blaze Still Roaring As Fire Fighter Cut Lanes

HELENA, Mont., Aug. 8 (AP)—Wind sent flames boiling up Willow mountain this morning as weary men strained desperately to trap the mammoth Gates of the Mountains fire.

About 400 men worked throughout last night building fire lines to encircle the killer of 12 forest service parachutists and another fire fighter.

They hoped to complete the final three miles of fire line, bottling the Wilderness area blaze on 7500-foot Willow peak today. But westerly winds of 15 to 25 miles an hour drove rampaging flames rapidly toward the east and west and vast expanses of dense timber burned.

The bottlers were given a good chance to gain control during the day by a forest service observer who flew over the area. Bob Stermitz said that "it looks better this morning than at any other time."

The forest service today identified the bodies of the 13 as: David R. Navon, 28, Modesto, Calif.; Philip R. McVay, 22, Babb, Mont.; Marvin L. Sherman, 21, Missoula, Mont.; Newton R. Thompson, 23, Alhambra, Calif.; Silas R. Thompson, 21, Charlotte, N. C.; Joseph Sylvia, 24, University of Minnesota student, Plymouth, Mass.; William J. Hellman, 23, Kalispell, Mont.; Robert J. Bennett, 22, Paris, Tenn.; Eldon E. Dietter, 19, Missoula; Leonard L. Piper, 23, Blairsville, Pa.; Henry J. Thol Jr., 19, Kalispell; J. Stanley Rebo, 25, Brooklyn, N. Y., and James O. Harris, 20, Missoula.

The weather bureau predicted, moreover, that winds may increase to 25-35 miles an hour late today.

Two determined groups of men moved in from the flanks today against the fire which has blackened 5000 to 6000 acres since Friday and has a perimeter of 21 miles.

Showers slowed the advance of the flames yesterday but a 20 mile an hour fanned fire in the northeastern section.

The fire devastated from 800 to 1800 acres yesterday. Willow mountain is east of Mann Gulch, where the lightning blaze started Friday. The fire has moved four miles east of where the Missouri river winds picturesquely through mountain peaks.

Calls for volunteers went out again yesterday. Forest service officials sent fresh men in to relieve those nearly exhausted on fire lines. They also built up a pool of manpower in case the fire crosses Willow mountain.

The forest service has not sent any of its parachuting firefighters to the blaze since Friday—when the smokejumping program suffered its worst tragedy in its 10-year history.

## Frost Does Some Damage In Valleys

Frost nipped again at Klamath basin crops last night, but there was no general damage. Temperature reports today presented a spotty pattern, with unofficial readings well under freezing. In Poe and Langell valleys, Copeck Bay and other points, but with Klamath Falls showing a warm 40 above and other districts escaping sub-freezing weather.

One Copeck Bay private thermometer registered 23. Farmers said that potatoes which were dry at the time appeared to have taken further damage. That area was hard hit in the June freeze.

Lloyd Sparks of Bonanza reported temperatures from 26 to 28 in that area. The county agent's office heard of readings at 26 in Poe valley, 30 in Langell valley. The E. E. Kilpatrick ranch a mile north of Merrill reported 34. The reading at Dorris was 38.

Klamath Falls forecast for tonight is more temperature around 40 degrees.

## Baker Area Fire Under Control Today

BAKER, Aug. 8 (AP)—Firefighters last night had surrounded the fire on Pedro mountain, about 30 miles from here, and if present cool weather continues will keep it under control, according to S. R. Bennett, district grazer.

An exceptional climb in humidity, from a breaking of 7 Thursday, when the fire broke out, to 57 today, helped control the fire which has burned over 2000 acres of grass, sage and timber holdings.

The grazing service official said today that as far as he knows no homes, human lives or cattle have been lost in the fire which, at its height, demanded the attention of 200 firefighters and 10 caterpillars.

The fire started Thursday night in an area north of Pedro mountain near Durkee. Fingers traced a pattern over 15 miles, mostly private acreage, although the fire area was never a solid mass of flame.

Anthony Brandenthaler of the Burns River Lumber company has estimated that the blaze may have cost his firm ten million board feet of lumber.

## Father Sues

FATHER SUES — Attorney C. M. Bumpus, father of Margot Jean Bumpus (above), 19, has filed suit against Los Angeles Police Chief William Worton and two policemen for false arrest. Margot was arrested and held incommunicado for 12 hours, charged with being the "blonde bandit" because of the notoriety cost Margot her livelihood as a trained legal secretary.



Another fire which burned over approximately 2400 acres in the Boise national forest, northeast of Idaho City, was believed controlled. Dispatcher Lynn Knight said that barring an unfavorable turn in the weather the fire should cause no further trouble.

Further north a crew of 200 fighters cleared a line around a blaze in the Clearwater forest.

A. B. (Berl) Curtis, fire warden for the Clearwater and Polatch Forest Protective associations, said there were indications it had been started from a burning match or cigarette. It was about 75 to 100 acres in extent.

Another small fire was battled in the Nez Perce forest about 50 miles southeast of Grangeville, in northern Idaho.

DIES  
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Aug. 8 (AP)—Donald C. Elliott, 54, general manager of the San Francisco Examiner, died unexpectedly Saturday night. He joined the paper in 1911.

## Pickup Truck Theft Reported

J. W. Bennett, Crater lake park employee, reported to city police this morning that his pickup truck was stolen from a Main street parking place Sunday.

The truck was described as a grey Dodge, bearing Oregon license 462-632. Bennett said he parked the truck on Main near the armory Saturday night, leaving the key in the ignition, and when he returned Sunday night the vehicle was gone.

## Two Firefighters Save Their Lives By Huddling In Rockpile During Blaze

HELENA, Mont., Aug. 8 (AP)—A box of matches saved two of a 13 smokejumpers trapped in the roaring Gates of the Mountains forest fire near here.

They landed and were fighting the fire in a canyon blocked on three sides by steep cliffs and flames.

Suddenly the wind reversed itself and blew the roaring flames eastward, toward the men.

Wag Dodge of Missoula, Mont., the smokejumper foreman, told a reporter today he saw they were trapped. He found a rockpile and used matches to burn foliage in and around the rockpile.

As the big fire advanced, Dodge crouched between the rocks and shouted for his companions to join him.

Bob Salee, Samuels, Idaho, apparently was the only man who heard Dodge, or wanted to stay.

The two stayed in the rockpile. The

Sixteen smokejumpers, mostly college students, were trapped by fire when the wind shifted suddenly after they were safely on the ground at Mann Gulch. Only three escaped.

In addition to the 12 smokejumpers, the fire killed a prevention guard from nearby Canyon Ferry ranger station.

A helicopter brought the charred bodies to a Helena morgue where fellow firefighters identified them. Mopping up operations continued today on three smaller fires in Montana.

Nine miles to the southeast of the Gates of the Mountains blaze, a 50-man crew was polishing off a fire which blackened 1200 acres in the Bull Run Gulch area near York.

Small Blaze  
Sixty-five more were mopping up what's left of a blaze at the head of Wolf Creek. A crew of 12 held a fire along Canyon creek 30 miles west of Melrose to about 50 acres.

Fighters controlled one fire in Idaho but another burned unchecked in the rugged area along the Salmon river. The blaze has ranged over approximately 3000 acres of timberland and forest service officials said it was continuing to spread rapidly.

Planes were used to carry men to the scene, about 110 airline miles north of Boise. More than 500 fighters now are engaged.

Fire Dispatcher Slim Vassar of the Payette national forest said "about the worst possible fire conditions" prevail.

"It was windy all night," he said. "It is bright and clear today and the humidity is low. It's bad fire weather and the outlook is not so good."

Another fire which burned over approximately 2400 acres in the Boise national forest, northeast of Idaho City, was believed controlled. Dispatcher Lynn Knight said that barring an unfavorable turn in the weather the fire should cause no further trouble.

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JUBILANT WELCOME — British sailors (foreground) jubilantly salute the sloop Amethyst off North Formosa after the ship's daring escape from Chinese communist captivity in the Yangtze river. The sloop had been trapped in the river since April 20 when it was beached during a duel with red artillery.