'30 or 35' Believed Killed as Explosion Shatters Big Sioux City Office Building

U. OF OREGON LIBRARY EUGENE, ORE. COMP

Herald and News

Price Five Cents—24 Pages —1 KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1949 Telephone 8111 No. 2156

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

HERE is an interesting statement: "Britain's compulsory health system is burdened with red tape BUT THE MAN IN THE STREET WOULD RISE TO ITS DEFENSE IF A POLITICAL PARTY TRIED TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM HIM."

• • •

THAT opinion was expressed at a meeting in Berkeley the other night by a Dr. Leslie Banks, former chief medical officer of the British ministry of health, who is in the United States on a speaking tour.

He added:

"The man in the street may grumble. We (British) are a nation of grumblers, anyway. But if you tried to take the service away from him, you'd be surprised at the average Englishman's reaction."

• • •

I think Dr. Banks is right. And I'm quite certain that all theatre owners and managers will agree without hesitation that he is dead right.

There was a time when theatre people gave out a considerable number of complimentary tickets. As conditions in their industry changed — as, for example, costs rose to the point where they no longer could afford such a practice—they began to cut down on their lists of "comp" holders.

From all I can hear, the roar that went up from those who had been getting into the shows for free was terrific.

• • •

WE newspapers used to follow the same practice. We gave away complimentary subscriptions. Why? I never did know for sure. I think perhaps the practice grew up out of the curious quirk in human nature that makes it easier for us to say YES than to say NO.

Anyway, we did it. We excused ourselves on the ground that after all once the press started it didn't make much difference. In those days paper was very, very cheap and I suppose we reasoned that when we gave complimentary papers to certain people we were MAKING FRIENDS.

Came then the war. And with the war came scarcity and high prices of paper. With paper scarce and the price of it high, we began to cut off our "comps."

!!!!!!!!*******?????!!!!

• • •

THOSE asterisks and exclamation points and question marks and such that end the preceding paragraph of this piece are intended to depict language of the kind one isn't supposed to spell out in a family journal.

The language in question was used by those to whom we had been giving complimentary copies and to whom we had been compelled to announce that hereafter it would be impossible to give any more complimentary copies.

It wasn't all just plain rough language. In fact, relatively little of it was rough. It was more on the plaintive side. People who had been getting papers for nothing were just simply hurt and disillusioned to think that after having been so generous and so thoughtful all these years we had suddenly turned hard and grasping and commercial.

They just couldn't believe it of us, they said.

• • •

I'M personally convinced that what Dr. Banks says about the Britisher in the street and the free-for-nothing medical service he has been receiving and how he will feel about it if the service is ever taken away from him is the gospel truth.

He isn't going to like it.

NOBODY ever likes paying for something he has been getting for free.

QUEEN MOTHER IMPROVED

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AP)— Queen Mother Mary, who has been kept indoors for three weeks by a cold, went for a drive this morning and had tea with King George at Buckingham palace. The queen mother is 82.

NEW AUSTRALIAN LEADER—Robert Gordon Menzies (above), Australian liberal leader, is slated to be restored to the prime ministry he held from 1939 to 1941. Australia's labor government, after an eight-year rule, has been ousted in the national election. Now that Australia and New Zealand have ousted their labor governments, Britain is the only country within the commonwealth with a socialistic laborite government.

KF Men Held For Robbery In California

Two men who said they were from Klamath Falls are held on suspicion of armed robbery at the Lassen county, Calif., town of Nubieber today.

They are booked as Wilbur H. Blackmon, 31 and Paul McGowan, 35. The men were arrested six miles west of Nubieber late last night when their car overturned during a police chase after an unsuccessful attempt to hold up a cafe.

Holdup Try

Deputy Sheriff Jim Snipes of Lassen county said two men entered the cafe and ordered the girl cashier to hand over cash in the till. She refused and the men fled.

Nubieber police took up the chase which ended when the car missed a curve and rolled over. McGowan suffered head and chest injuries in the wreck and is being kept under guard at a hotel. Blackmon was jailed.

The two men are not known to police here other than that the district attorney's office records show Blackmon was arrested for a traffic violation last year.

Car Stolen

However, an automobile was stolen here late yesterday afternoon and the owner, Jack R. Hendricks, 1304 Worden, told city police this morning he suspected a man by name of Blackmon.

The stolen automobile, taken from 11th and Pine, was a 1935 black Ford sedan. Information from Nubieber did not describe the car wrecked there.

Parents Responsible For Children

EUGENE, Dec. 14 (AP)— Parents who let their children become delinquents will face fines or a jail sentence here.

The city council has approved an ordinance patterned after one at Baker making the parents or guardians of children under 18 responsible for their misdeeds.

The ordinance provides for fines up to $200 or 100 days in jail.

Jews Scorn U.N's. Holy City Decree

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (AP) Premier David Ben-Gurion arrived today in Jerusalem to set up his government in the disputed Holy City in defiance of a United Nations plan for internationalization.

The silver-haired, 64-year-old chief of government arrived just before noon, without fanfare or ceremony, drove to a hotel where the flag of Israel was hoisted, and began an informal conference with his ministers and officials.

His arrival climaxed a transfer of government ministers which has been going on quietly ever since peace was restored to the city after the end of the Arab-Jewish Palestine war. In the shadow of the walls of the Old City, occupied and patrolled by soldiers of Hashemite Jordan, the Israeli officials went methodically about the business of setting governmental functions in motion.

The prime ministery is the seventh of the Israel ministries to be installed in headquarters in Jerusalem. The foreign minister, however, is remaining in Tel Aviv, at least for the time being.

Jewish residents of the Holy City always have regarded it as the "eternal capital" of Israel, but these moves, coming so quickly after the U. N. decision to make this an international area, have been carried out in an atmosphere of deadly seriousness.

Today's Palestine Post said it is fully realized that "powerful forces have been set in motion by the assembly's decision."

The knesset (parliament) closed its Tel Aviv sessions last night by voting overwhelmingly for the government's decision to speed the transfer of all offices except the ministries of foreign affairs and defense to what Prime Minister Ben Gurion called "Israel's eternal capital."

U. S. Advice

Ben Gurion avoided an outright proclamation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, presumably in acknowledgment of advice from U. S. Ambassador James MacDonald urging against any "inflammatory" action.

But the silver-haired premier told a solemn session of the parliament that Israel rejected the U. N. plan to set up an international regime over Jerusalem. He said "we are continuing with the transfer of the government to Jerusalem and hope to complete it as soon as possible."

Parliament decided to meet in Jerusalem in 10 days.

(At Lake Success, the 12-nation U. N. trusteeship council voted to proceed with plans for trying to set up the framework of an international regime in accordance with the resolution approved by the general assembly. But some diplomats predicted the Israel decision to move government offices to Jerusalem may wreck the U. N. program.

(The United States—which with Britain supported Israel in opposing internationalization during assembly debate—was defeated in a move to delay trusteeship council discussions on Jerusalem. The council voted 6-1, with five abstaining, to proceed with work on drawing up a plan for international rule of the Holy City.

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL—Nuns from Mt. St. Joseph's school, San Francisco, watch their charges on a ride at the Emporium during Christmas entertainment for children.

Luckless Village Has Food, Clothing Now But No Employment

SHALLMAR, Md., Dec. 14 (AP)—Life was stirring again today along this string of houses buried between high, towering mountains. The 54 families of Shallmar had food and clothing again.

Now there's only one thing lacking: work. Then they wouldn't need the handouts of food and clothing from more fortunate towns.

These families are dependent almost entirely on the operation of the Wolf Den mine that juts into the hill just above them. But the mine has been closed since last March because there have been no coal orders.

Wolf Den and many other mines in the section are "marginal" producers. They are so small or their coal is such low quality or so hard to get out that they cannot compete with other operations.

W. A. Marshall, broker for the coal mined at the Wolf Den pit, said in New York that the mine will reopen anytime its coal can be sold. Right now, there isn't a market for it.

(Marshall once owned the mine. The town got its name by reversing the syllables of his name: Marshall — Shall-mar.)

Unemployment compensation checks helped for a while, then most of them ran out last August, cedit, but that limit was soon reached.

Three families moved out after the mine shutdown. But the rest have stayed, hoping for a break in the grim stalemate.

A group of miners sat around the pot-bellied stove in the union hall while the others were painting the walls so the room could be used when the hot lunch program for the children is started, perhaps today.

They talked freely of the town's condition. Generally they held no grudge against anyone. The company had explained the situation to them last March, and they seemed to accept the situation as one they couldn't cope with.

But none was ready to move. As one put it, "I was born just up the river, and I guess I'll die here."

George Stonebreaker, a miner for 37 years, said he had "moved to a little shack with a plot of ground up on the hill. But I been sick and haven't been able to do anything with it. My woman worked a little bit, bu she's off."

Tony Crosco, a stocky, 59-year-old digger with white flowing hair, told how he went into the mines when he was nine.

"I went in with a little pick and worked right beside my father," he recalled. "Later they put me to driving the mule and I drove mules until I was 17. Then I started digging coal.

U.S. Renewing Relations With Panama

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AP)—The United States is renewing diplomatic relations with Panama, withheld since Arnulfo Arias took power in a series of government overturns last month.

Secretary of State Acheson announced the decision to a news conference today. He said assurances have been received from Arias that his government will fulfill Panama's international obligations. That is a particularly important point for the United States since the Panama canal cuts through the heart of the little Latin American country.

Acheson noted in a statement that there was no foreign intervention involved in the government changes in Panama.

This reference might have bearing on future American consideration of recognition of the Chinese Communist government. In the case of China, the Communists have had outside support from Russia.

In his statement, Acheson recalled that the United States has "publicly deplored" the means of the political changes in Panama.

No Survivors Sighted About Burning Ship

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 14 (AP)—A coast guard search plane found the burning hulk of the Dutch motorship Doros 300 miles due east of Miami today and radioed tersely "no survivors sighted."

Sixteen men were missing following an explosion and fire aboard the craft. Eight others were rescued. Cause of the accident was not determined.

A coast guard PBM from St. Petersburg said there was no sign of any debris near the smouldering motorship and no sign of other lifeboats in the area.

Badly Burned

Coast guard air sea rescue headquarters said a plane planned to meet the American tanker Sparrows Point at the Hole-in-the-Wall about noon to pick up one of the survivors who was reported badly burned.

The Hole-in-the-Wall is at the Southern end of Abaco island in the Bahamas.

Meanwhile air and surface craft continued to search the area in the hope of locating other survivors.

Big Search Army Looks For Girl

KELSO, Wash., Dec. 14 (AP) Searchers, with waning hope, again today forced their way through tangled underbrush of the Ostrander creek area in quest of Ruth Aberle.

The 16-year-old Girl Scout has been missing since straying away from companions Sunday noon while on a Christmas tree hunt.

There is little hope that she will be found uninjured, and a growing fear that she is dead. Coroner Gordon Quarnstrom reported last night that Sheriff's Deputy Merle Bevins had all but given up hope of finding her alive.

Won't Quit

But Sheriff's Deputy Costa Watts said late last night, as fog blanketed the area and all but brought the search to a halt, "the search will go on. We won't give up."

At dawn today more than 100 men headed north from the point where they have established a base camp. They hoped that fottprints, found late yesterday before the fog moved in, might lead to the pretty high earlier yesterday played out.

The new tracks took off along the North fork of the main stream. The were followed until 10:30 last night.

Searchers Sought

Campfires dotted the rough hillside and a mobile generator lighted the camp where some 100 men spent the night. Sheriff C. W. Raynolds issued a call for fresh searchers today.

A Salvation Army group that arrived Sunday night with the start of the search, continued serving hot coffee, and sandwiches prepared in Kelso and relayed to the chilled volunteer searchers.

More than 500 have taken part in the greatest hunt people here can recall. Men of the Longview-Kelso unit of the Washington national guard joined loggers, businessmen, laborers and even housewives in the quest.

London Hard Hit By Power Strike

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AP)—Wildcat strikers in four of London's biggest nationalized powerhouses called on fellow workers today to spread the strike to every plant in the city, threatening an almost total blackout.

Some of the 2700 strikers were out in protest against the government's sending of troops to operate the Brimsdown plant when powermen there walked out over a wage dispute.

Although the uniformed army, navy and airforce men were struggling to keep the plants operating, London's power was seriously cut. The fuel ministry issued emergency orders similar to those of the war days, ordering the populace to cut electricity use to a minimum.

50 Per Cent Cut

At dawn the four struck plants were putting out only 50 per cent of their capacity, causing lights to go out in some parts of the city and surrounding counties, forcing hospitals to turn on emergency plants and slowing down the city's transportation system.

The strike started in protest against a government plant to deduct wage increases from special bonuses the men formerly received for working in hotter and dirtier places.

The strikes are termed illegal by the government and union leaders do not support the strike.

Hospitals

At the height of last night's blackout hospitals without emergency lighting had to light their operating rooms with flashlights, candles and kerosene lanterns.

In one hospital porters pumped iron lungs by hand to keep two patients alive.

At the Dagenham dog track the electric rabbit wavered and stopped in the middle of a race. Bookmakers took bets on how many minutes it would take before the power would return and set the rabbit going again.

New Strawberry Yield High

PUYALLUP, Dec. 14 (AP)—A new strawberry developed in Washington is yellows-resistant and promises to out-yield an old favorite, the Marshall berry, by 50 per cent, a researcher reported today.

Addressing the Western Washington Horticultural meeting, Dr. C. D. Schwartze said the new variety, named the "Northwest," may yield nine tons per acre. It was developed by him at the Western Washington experiment station here.

Blast Levels Swift & Co's. Main Offices

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Dec. 14 (AP)—An explosion leveled the main office building of the Swift and company packing plant today and the death toll was estimated at between 30 and 35.

Brig. Gen. Charles Grahl, adjutant general of the Iowa national guard, said in Des Moines that guard officers told him by phone that "30 or 35 were killed."

Walter W. Lindgren, superintendent of public safety for the city, called it "probably the worst disaster in Sioux City history."

Lindgren said firemen and volunteers had donned gas masks to go into the debris-choked basement where cries of the injured could be heard.

Estimates of the number of injured ran as high as 200.

Al Wright, city sales manager for Swift who was in the company restaurant in one corner of the five-story brick office building at the time of the explosion, said:

"There was a big puff. That's all I know."

The south side of the office building was demolished and early reports said the greatest force of the explosion seemed to come on the first floor.

Toll Unknown

Walter Krebs, a spokesman for the firm, said "there is no telling how many may be dead or injured."

Krebs said a natural gas leak may have caused the explosion. The gas is used in several departments, he said.

All emergency equipment and units, including the national guard companies and the naval reserve were sent to the scene.

Acting Desk Sergeant Howard Jensen of the Sioux City police gave this report:

"Everything the city's got has been sent down there. All the ambulances in town, all the doctors available, the coroner, the naval reserve unit and the national guard.

"We understand there are around 200 injured and some dead but we don't know how many.

All-Out Aid

"They've called for gas masks. We've sent those on hand here in the department and the naval reserve and national guard are sending some down, I understand.

"We don't know anything yet about the cause of the blast."

Local Fliers Search For Missing Plane

Five planes took off from the Klamath airport early this morning to aid in the search for a missing silver Cessna unreported since its pilot, Ray Hyland of Eugene, left the Springfield airstrip last Friday.

Planes which took off at 9:30 a. m. to search the Dutchman peak area 20 miles due south of Medford were flown by Kit Carson and Ed Scholer. Carson flew an Ercoupe and took along as observer, D. Larvick. Scholer was flying a Cessna with Bill Baker of KFPA, observer.

Second Flight

A few minutes later Al Mocabee Jr., in a Piper PA-11, with Observer George Wardell of KFPA, Max Menti in a Piper J-3 with Johnny Whiteline as observer, and Lloyd "Pop" Newlun in a Luscombe, with Don Rinehart, left for the Devil's Peak sector 20 miles south of Crater lake, and the Mt. McLoughlin and Lake o' the Woods area.

Mocabee said the two earlier planes would also fly the Ashland peak, Aspen butte and other Klamath county areas.

Planes were unable to leave the Medford airport today to enter the search as weather had closed in there.

Mocabee, of Oregon Aircraft Service, has recently been appointed by the state board of aeronautics as the air designee for Southeastern and the Central portion of Oregon to conduct all searches in the area comprising Klamath, Lake, Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Harney and Crook counties.

He will work in conjunction with the state board and the Air Search and Rescue Unit out of McChord field, Tacoma, Wash.

Hyland failed to file a flight plan after leaving Springfield and it is thought the ship may have crashed in the Cascades during stormy week-end weather.

The Hyland party included Mrs. Hyland, Dr. H. Ellet Scoles of Cottage Grove and L. Virgil Fish of Eugene. They were en route from Eugene to Los Angeles.

Roseburg Voters OK Annexations

ROSEBURG, Dec. 14 (AP)—Roseburg voters favored annexation of three suburban areas by substantial margins in a light vote cast Tuesday.

Breakdowns showed the vote to be 318 to 10 for West Roseburg, 415 to 19 for Sleepy Hollow-Miller addition, and 416 to 16 for Beulah addition.

The three areas voted for admission to the city last month. They will boost Roseburg's population to nearly 10,000, City Manager M. W. Slakard said.

Corpse Probe Ends; Clue Fizzles Out

Deputy Sheriff Murray Britton said this morning he had concluded his investigation into the suicide of a man tentatively identified as Ernest Smith, Seattle, and had determined as far as possible that Smith is the man's correct name.

He ran down a lead yesterday afternoon that the headless and handless body might be that of another man reported missing here for several days and found that the supposedly missing man was right here in town.

Hotel Guest

Britton said Smith was registered at the Pelican hotel from December 3 until December 8. His body was found Sunday, December 11, in a borrow pit south of town. The head and hands had been blown off by a dynamite charge.

Smith is believed to have worked in a restaurant at Seattle a year or two ago and to have gne to Alaska from there.

No relatives have been found.

Meet the People

READY FOR holiday shoppers, Don Phelps takes a firm grip on his pipe while he sweeps in front of a Main street establishment. That's Santa Claus over the right shoulder.

TORNADO TOLL HEAVY—Men dig through the rubble of a building in Hannibal, Mo., looking for their belongings after a tornado struck the community. No one was killed, but 11 persons were injured. Property damage in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Illinois and Missouri was high, with Arkansas alone estimating more than $100,000 damage caused by the twister.