

JURY PROBING MARAGON'S CASE

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
MODERN economics note:
Cotton growers have just voted to accept government control over HOW MUCH THEY CAN PLANT in return for government guarantees of HOW MUCH THEY'LL GET for their crop when it is harvested.

HOW come?
Well, with a guaranteed price and plenty of fertilizer, the cotton growers have been growing a whole lot of cotton. So much cotton, in fact, that the government boys are getting worried (among other things, they don't know where they're going to find storage enough to hold all the price-guaranteed cotton.)

So they've had to say to the cotton grower:
"See here, Bud. If we're going to pay you the guaranteed price for all your harvest in the fall, you've gotta cut down on what you plant in the spring. Otherwise, we're going to pile up so much cotton that when an airplane flies over the cotton belt it will look like you're 40 feet deep in snow."

If I were a cotton grower, I wouldn't like that. I'd want to go on growing cotton according to my regular rotation plan. When the limitation-of-planting directive was sprung on me I'D SQUAWK.

But all my squawking wouldn't get me far.

Here's why:
The government boys would say to me:

"Look, son, if you want to be a rugged individualist you can go on planting cotton till it runs out of your ears. We can't stop you, and we probably won't try."

"But don't forget this: WE HOLD THE PURSE STRINGS. We're the only guy who is going to be sap enough to pay you a nice fat price for your cotton in the face of more cotton than the consumer will buy at the demanded price."

THAT one would hold me.

I'd have to recognize, as a seller, that when supply exceeds demand THE BUYER HAS THE WHIP HAND. Under our existing system of guaranteed high prices, THE GOVERNMENT BECOMES THE BUYER.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE WHIP HAND.

THAT'S my personal objection to the welfare state. I realize that governments are so POWERFUL that they can scatter a lot of welfare around. But, under such a system, the point must come, sooner or later, when the government can AND WILL tell me WHAT I CAN DO OR ELSE.

That point has arrived in the case of cotton.

Feeling as I do about this whip hand business, I'm glad I'm not a cotton grower.

Mercury Plummet, B'r'r'r!

Old Man Winter blew the frost off the thermometer, gave another look this morning and chalked up a seasonal low for Klamath Falls and the surrounding area.

It was 3 below zero, coldest of the season, early this morning.

But it was colder elsewhere and at Bly the residents reported 18 below, recording the coldest temperature in the state of Oregon.

At Gerber dam it was 14 below and at Clear Lake, 10 below, according to the U. S. bureau of reclamation.

Roads Better
Highway conditions were much improved today as no new snow fell in the district, but chains are still needed on the passes. There was packed snow on the Greensprings and motorists were urged to at least carry chains. Packed snow covered highways leading out of the basin.

Despite a bright sun, the mercury rose to only 11 above zero at 11 o'clock this morning. The forecast is for "warmer tonight," but the weatherman didn't say how much warmer.

United Air Lines reported planes on schedule with a normal ceiling today.

Trains Late
Holiday travel combined with snow conditions caused incoming Southern Pacific passenger trains to be late. No. 19, due from the north at 7:50 a. m., arrived at 9:50, two hours late. No. 20, due in from the south at 10:25 a. m., arrived at 10:55 a. m.

Banding crews were out on both the city streets and on the state highways.

Frozen pipes were common in town and householders realized this morning that winter had really arrived.

TEMPERATURES	
Klamath Falls	3 below
Bly	18 below
Gerber dam	14 below
Clear lake	10 below
Crater lake	1 above
Dorris	zero
Kirk	3 below
Chemult	3 below
Crescent Lake	5 above
Mowich	6 above
Dunsmuir	25 above
Keno	25 above
Odele	15 above
Lekeview	4 below
Medford	25 above
Eugene	28 above
Portland	27 above
Salem	29 above

Actor Bound, Actress' Home Robbed

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (AP)—Robert Wilcox, motion picture actor, was found bound and gagged today in the apartment of Actress Diana Barrymore. Police said he was tied up by two men who ransacked the apartment.

Police said Wilcox told them he was alone in the apartment when two men appeared at the door at 9:30 a. m. and said they wanted to leave flowers for Miss Barrymore, who is confined to Roosevelt hospital from the effects of a fall.

Wilcox said he told the men the daughter of the late John Barrymore was in the hospital but the men insisted on leaving the flowers.

Taken from the apartment, the police said, were a milk coat, a silver fox scarf, a suitcase and about \$50 in silver.

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U. N. President Romulo Asks Atomic Armistice

Teen-Ager Convicted Of Murder

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 20 (AP)—Ronnie Pitts, described by the prosecution as a debaucher with a criminal mind, was convicted last night of murdering the father of his teenage schoolmate sweetheart.

The jury recommended that the 18-year-old youth be sentenced to life imprisonment for the slaying of Perry Henderson, vacuum cleaner executive and father of his sweetheart Anna, Mississippi law requires that the trial judge be guided by the jury's recommendation in pronouncing formal sentence.

The state had sought the death penalty.

U.S., Russ Race Alarms Filipino

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 20 (AP)—Carlos P. Romulo, president of the United Nations assembly, today proposed a temporary armistice in the production and use of atomic weapons.

Romulo said his proposal was made in the hope of halting a costly race between the United States and Russia for atomic supremacy. He stressed that his plan was intended only as an interim measure to give more time for the working out of a permanent atomic control plan.

Secret Meeting
The Philippine diplomat handed his proposal to Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton of Canada shortly before a secret meeting of the six permanent members of the U. N. atomic energy commission.

Missing Youth Still Sought in Mountains

WALLA WALLA, Dec. 20 (AP)—Searchers pinned their hopes for rescue of 18-year-old Donald McDonald today on the slim chance that the missing Walla Walla youth had taken refuge in one of the vacant cabins dotting the rugged, snow-covered Blue mountain area.

The boy has been unsighted since wandering away from an elk hunting companion last Thursday in the Black Snake ridge sector southeast of here.

Near zero cold, six foot snow drifts and almost constant snow flurries hampered searchers and lowered chances of the youth's survival.

Good Crater Skiing Seen

There was some good news in the weather report today.

Crater lake officials said skiing would be excellent this week-end for the first time in the season "if" the weather holds.

There is a 45-inch pack on the ground throughout the park and the area was described as a veritable fairyland with frost encrusted trees, a bright run making the snow sparkle.

Big Day Nears For Youngsters

Whoopie—only three more days of school and then Christmas vacation, presents, coasting and fun.

City and county schools, along with Sacred Heart academy, will close for the holidays with the end of classes on Friday afternoon, December 23. All classes will reconvene Tuesday, January 3.

A lot of the next three days will see programs and classroom parties in the schools as the holiday spirit invades the buildings.

On Wednesday and Thursday nights the big Christmas program, gift to the public, will be presented at KUHS.

Malin Chamber Ballots Mailed

MALIN—Nominating ballots for directors of the Malin chamber of commerce were in the mail today.

All ballots must be in the hands of the secretary before 8 p. m. Monday, January 9, at which time they will be counted.

Five are to be voted on and hold-over directors are Walter Siatny, John Reber, Bill Rajnus, Jesse Smith and Louis Kallina.

Ballots are to be mailed to Melvyn Wilde or Louis Kallina, Malin.

Lies Charged Former White House Visitor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (AP)—A grand jury today began looking into the case of John Maragon, one-time frequenter of the White House, who is accused by senators of lying to them under oath.

For the grand jury, the question is whether there should be an indictment for perjury. That is a crime carrying a possible penalty of two to 10 years in jail on each count.

Maragon is the former Kansas City bootblack who had a friend in Presidential Military Aide Harry Vaughan. He has been accused of lying when he denied to senate "five per center" investigators that he ever got any money for handling business deals with government agencies.

The first witness before the grand jury was Gilbert Hlaxas, a short-hand reporter who recorded some of the hearings at which Maragon made his denial.

Witnesses
Waiting to appear as witnesses were Harold Ross, president of A. I. Molasses company, of Perth Amboy, N. J.; Milton Oland, Milwaukee life insurance agent; and William P. Rogers, and Carmine S. Bellino, counsel and accountant for the senate investigators.

Pollard testified to the senate investigating committee that he paid Maragon more than \$1000 in an attempt to obtain cancellation of an order suspending the sugar ration of the Allied Molasses company.

Late in the morning, Columnist Drew Pearson joined other prospective witnesses outside the door of the grand jury's room.

Pearson told reporters he did not know why he was called.

The Maragon case grew out of last summer's spectacular senate inquiry into the influence and activities of men who tried to arrange government contracts for businessmen for a fee or a percentage. Often the cut was 5 per cent, so the inquiry became known as the five-percenter investigation.

HST Returns To Capital

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (AP)—President Truman returned today from a three-week Florida vacation, looking fit and rested for the weeks of hard work ahead of him.

His plane, the Independence, landed at National airport about 12:30 p. m. after a three-hour 46-minute flight from Key West.

A large crowd, including several cabinet members and other government officials, turned out to greet him. He waved cheerfully as he started to leave the plane.

He was in fighting trim—except for the waistline—to do battle in congress for his "Fair Deal" and stump for it in the 1950 congressional elections.

Woman Says Attacked On KF Street

A woman resident of Wocus reported to city police last night she was attacked on a residential street corner last night by a young man who was frightened off by a car.

She said the attack occurred at the corner of Earle and Alameda about 9:30. Her assailant had followed her from Esplanade.

At the corner she said she came quickly up behind her and clasped his hand over her mouth. He appeared to have a pocket knife in his other hand.

Tragic Home Fire Claims 7th Victim

EMMETT, Mich., Dec. 20 (AP)—Death took its sixth and seventh victims of Farmer Clarence Bethway's family of 14 today.

As sorrowing townspeople gave aid in the Christmas week calamity, 80-year-old Grandma Louise, a heroine of yesterday's fire, succumbed with a granddaughter, Mary Lou, 13.

Both the elderly woman and the child died of burns in Port Huron General hospital.

Five other children, ranging in age from 3 to 11, were burned to death when trapped in an upstairs bedroom in a pre-dawn blaze which destroyed the family home.

Grandma Louise Bethway was burned while rescuing one child. There were 11 children in the family.



TRIMMING THE TREE is one of the holiday's nicest chores. John Owings, left, and Barton Adams, string lights and ornaments on the YMCA tree at the armory in preparation for Christmas week festivities.

Shooting Hours
December 31
Open: 7:07 Close: 3:29



INGMAN SABIN, Klamath Union high school senior, yesterday was "thrilled" to receive word he had won a \$300 art scholarship to College of Puget Sound. Young Sabin is one of the outstanding art students at KUHS and entered water colors in the annual contest sponsored by the college. This is Ingman with two of his favorite paintings.

Missing Youth Still Sought in Mountains

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Faithful Friend
The boy's hunting companion, Jack Farquharson, returned to the search yesterday despite a warning by his doctor that frostbite received earlier might necessitate amputation.

Farquharson's feet were frost-bitten during a two-day futile effort to form a search party of other hunters.

Seventy-five seasoned mountain-climbers spent the night at a base camp high in the timbered country for a three-day stay.

Another small party of men snow-shoed their way toward the headwaters of the Touchet river several canyons away from the Black Snake to investigate reports that rifle shots were heard in the area. They were not expected to reach the scene before tonight.



SANTA GETS A TICKET—Part-time Santa Claus Vincent Dombrose of Cleveland, O., ran afoul of a parking meter and got a ticket for overtime parking. Like any ordinary citizen, Santa is seen paying his fine to June Kelly, a traffic division clerk.

Meet the People

WITH HUNDREDS OF MAGAZINES to choose from, Olan Finlay is finding a decision difficult but took time out for a moment to smile at the Meet the People photo.

4 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS!