

# OPS Promises Finish Fight Against Black Market Here



**FRONTLINE VISIT** — Lt. Gen. James Van Fleet (left) visits the 40th National Guard Division headquarters somewhere along the front in Korea. Showing the general around are Maj. Gen. Hudelsen, 40th commander (center) and Brig. Gen. Willard Wyman, commanding officer of the IX Corps. Note the flag in background at half mast in honor of King George VI.

## Yonna and Swan Lake Water Rights Curbed

**By MALE SCARBROUGH**

The State Engineer's office has called a halt in the issuance of permits for use of underground water of Yonna Valley and Swan Lake Valley for irrigation.

Charles E. Stricklin, State Engineer, announced that no more underground water rights in those regions will be approved until a study of the supply of the water is completed.

At present, by local estimate,

## In The Day's News

**By FRANK JENKINS**

In California, where these words are written, there are two subjects of major conversation—rainfall and politics.

As to the first, water is running out of California's ears. In the north, every little creek is a rushing little river. Water stands in every low place in the flatlands. Going into Sacramento, the Yolo by-pass looks like San Francisco bay. And so on all down through the San Joaquin Valley. There it is water everywhere you look.

South of the Tehachapi, the moisture isn't so apparent to the eye, although they've had rainfall that in other years would have seemed staggering. In many parts of the Southland, the precipitation so far in this current stream year has reached 18 inches. Rivers that have been dry so long that their dusty beds have come to be accepted as the regular thing are now carrying good-sized flows of water toward the sea.

The ancient tale about the guy who became so bored with life that he is alleged to have said, "I would have jumped into the Los Angeles river and ended it all if he hadn't hated to get his new suit all over dust wouldn't get even a chuckle this year, for water is actually flowing in the bed of it.

Up in the Santa Clara valley, where water has been a burning subject for many, many long dry years, the water table is beginning to rise rapidly. It is asserted on good authority that it is already back to half the normal height of years when the rainfall was regarded as normal, and is still rising—which is causing the smiles on the faces of pump irrigators to spread clear around behind their ears.

Old timers, questioned on the subject of rainfall, shrug their shoulders deprecatingly and aver that such isn't anything at all. Why, they say, you should have seen it when it really used to rain down here.

They relate that away back in 1916 there was a rain that really was a rain. One of the main bridges on the Santa Ana river, they chortle, was so thoroughly washed out in a minor cloudburst that no trace of it was ever seen again. Searching parties were sent out to look for the wreckage, but no dice. Not so much as a splinter of it was ever found.

They then go on to tell you that "in the current rain year, it is largely on the Republican side, as it seems to be taken for granted that Truman will either run himself or will dictate his successor.

There is almost no talk AGAINST any of the four Republicans whose candidacies have been more or less formally launched. That is to say, people tell rather freely why they are for whomsoever they are for, but spread no poison about the others. You hear it widely said that any one of the four would make a good President.

There is plenty of backing in California—as there should be—for Governor Warren, but there is also a lot of outspoken talk for General Eisenhower. He seems to command, in California, as elsewhere, the faith and the confidence and the trust of large numbers of people. Senator Taft has a large following in all the casual talk one hears. There is little mention of Stassen.

As to the political talk, it is all on the Presidential side, so far. There is plenty of it. So far, at least in the places where I've listened, it is largely on the Republican side, as it seems to be taken for granted that Truman will either run himself or will dictate his successor.

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## UMT Action Blasted By Churchmen

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Slashing at attacks on universal military training by leaders of church groups, the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday put its "Franklin D. Roosevelt" bill on the floor.

Most church witnesses bitterly assailed the proposal to compel 18-year olds to take six months' basic military training but say they are willing to go along with the Selective Service draft for several more years.

**HOPE**

Russell is a sponsor of the UMT measure. He hopes it eventually can replace the draft by building up a vast reservoir of trained manpower in the reserves.

The committee chairman told several witnesses Tuesday he could not understand why they support the draft and oppose UMT.

He noted that the draft is under complete military control, that it takes men down to 18 1/2 for two years actual duty that may include combat and then puts them in the reserve for another six years.

On the other hand, Russell said UMT would be carefully supervised by a five-man commission, under civilian control, would require only six months' service initially and this under special safeguards for morals and welfare.

**HEARINGS**

Public hearings on UMT continue Wednesday with spokesmen for several veterans organizations expected to support UMT.

Some of the witnesses in opposing UMT Tuesday struck out at government leaders, the Pentagon and the Congress.

Mrs. Branson Gilbert McIlwee, a Winchester, Va., grandmother, testified that President Truman and Secretary of State Acheson "should be behind bars."

"You senators should impeach President Truman and remove Secretary Acheson," she said, adding that Gen. MacArthur should be appointed President.

**POW Exchange Limit Agreed**

**MUNSAN, Korea (AP)**—Allied negotiators Wednesday accepted a 60-day limit on exchanging prisoners and offered to compromise their demands for supervising a Korean truce.

The Communists had proposed the 60-day limit. The exchange period is to start when an armistice is signed. The agreement does not rule out the question of voluntary repatriation.

The United Nations Command, holding 132,000 prisoners, had wanted 30 days more than was allowed the Reds to complete the exchange.

**Alpine Snow Deaths Mount**

**VIENNA, Austria (AP)**—Austria's four day death toll from alpine avalanches mounted to 26 Wednesday. Latest victims were three children and a British skier.

The bodies of the three children, two boys aged 4 and 6 and a 12-year-old girl, were dug out of the snow at Leutasch, northwest of Innsbruck.

They were trapped in their home when a huge avalanche roared down 5,500 foot high Gehrspitz Mountain.

The British skier, Albert Thomas Hargreave, was killed at Oberurg.

Two companions, also British, were buried but were rescued.

Police said the three went for a ski tour on the Mutspitz Mountain despite warnings of danger from avalanches.

**Weather**

**FORECAST:** Klamath Falls and vicinity and Northern California—Fair through Thursday. High Wednesday 41. Low Wednesday night 15. High Thursday 45. High temp yesterday 30. Low last night 6. Precipitation Feb. 12 .02. Since Oct. 1 11.48. Normal for period 7.31. Same period last yr 11.71. (Additional Weather on Page 4)

# Herald and News

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**OPS OF THE 455th Engineer Aviation Meeting**

National Guard, appeared at the Armory yesterday to make blood donations. Pictures are (front row, left to right) Cpl. Charles Ferguson, 1st Lt. Gerald Pierce, Sgt. Charles H. DeBolt and Sgt. Glen LaMeres. (Back row, left to right) 1st Lt. William Tyeer, 1st Lt. Jack E. Smith and 1st Lt. Walter Risse.



**414 Give Red Cross Blood**

Yesterday, the second in a two-day run of the Red Cross bloodmobile here, duplicated Monday in its take of blood—207 pints.

The total collection, scheduled to cover both January and February blood quotas, totaled 414 pints of blood, and fell short of the goal of 225 pints set for each day.

**Park Tickets 'On the House'**

Most everyone who has gotten a meter ticket for overtime parking has dreamed of the day he or she could take it to the Police Station and tear it up in front of the desk officer.

**Tax Return Errors High**

A sampling of returns made by the State Tax Commission indicates that maybe as many as 80 per cent of the personal property taxpayers in Klamath County are making incorrect reports, according to an announcement today by Otis Metsker, Klamath County Assessor.

**Three Jailed For Vagrancy**

Two women and a man, arrested by City Police Monday, on vagrancy charges, each got 30-day jail terms in Municipal Court this morning.

**Taft Denies Morse Pact**

**SEATTLE (AP)**—Sen. Robert A. Taft, R-Ohio, has denied that he promised to help Sen. Wayne Morse, R-Ore., get a seat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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**City Limit Extension Next on Radio Forum**

**By WALLACE MYERS**

Next Monday evening's Build the Basin forum, offered by the Herald and News and its radio station, KFLW, throws the top importance and interest in the topic for discussion is "Should Klamath Falls corporate limits be extended to include principal suburbs, thereby increasing the city population by some 10,000 people?"

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**Taft Oregon Visit Brief**

**PORTLAND (AP)**—Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio said Wednesday that brief appearances in Portland and Pendleton likely will be the only campaigning he will do in Oregon for the Republican presidential nomination.

## Reds Prowl As Korean Air Warms

**SEOUL, Korea (AP)**—A light touch of spring hit Korea's Eastern front Wednesday—along with probing Communist infantrymen.

The mild weather was continuing and a thaw was starting.

A Red company of about 160 men pounded an Allied advance position west of the Mundung valley on the Eastern Front for 10 hours Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

**Reds Prowl As Korean Air Warms**

The Allies withdrew on order about dawn but reoccupied the position four hours later against no opposition and found 12 Communist dead.

NO ATTACK

Allied troops spotted about 200 Reds in the Mundung valley, but the Communists did not attack. In the same area Tuesday U.N. soldiers killed 96 Reds and wounded 120.

**Reds Prowl As Korean Air Warms**

U.S. Fifth Air Force warplanes cut Communist rail lines in 35 places Wednesday morning. Pilots also reported destruction of two locomotives and one Red anti-aircraft position.

Nine B-29 Superforts bombed the Suncheon south bypass rail bridge Tuesday night. Three other B-29s hit the rail yards at Sandong and one raided the Kyompo steel mill.

**Reds Prowl As Korean Air Warms**

U.N. warships pounded road and rail networks off the East Coast. At Hungnam, the destroyer USS Halsey Powell worked over rail yards, rail and highway junctions and a nitrogen plant with five-inch shells.

The destroyer USS Twining fired night and day at targets around Wonsan.

**Vandenberg, Carter Away**

Justice around the County Courthouse is on a temporary basis this week.

To start with, Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg is in Portland for two weeks on assignments made by the Supreme Court for Multnomah County circuit courts.

**Vandenberg, Carter Away**

Ordinarily in Judge Vandenberg's absence orders concerning Circuit Court business are signed by District Judge M. A. (Nick) Carter.

But even that situation is on a substitute basis, since Judge Carter is in Eugene attending a traffic conference.

**Vandenberg, Carter Away**

So Circuit court orders usually signed by the District Judge in absence of the Circuit Judge are this week signed by the "District Judge protemp" in absence of the District Judge in absence of the Circuit Judge.

District Judge protemp in absence of Judge Carter is Ben Goddard, attorney, associated with the law firm of Farrens and Maxwell.

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## All Potato Shipments Investigated

The Office of Price Stabilization has investigators in the Klamath area now and will keep them here until the office is satisfied there is no further need for on-the-spot enforcement of OPS ceiling price regulations on potatoes.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

Since the Portland office's jurisdiction extends only to the state line, West said the Sacramento OPS office also has investigators here handling the Northern California phase of what has been termed a black market in spuds.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

West said that there have "apparently been some abnormal practices" in connection with shipment of potatoes from the Klamath Falls area.

Every carload shipped out is being checked from the origin to the destination now, he said.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

The "abnormal practices" are suspected, he said, when one shipper is able to get spuds and another isn't.

West said the OPS was "in the dark" as to what was going on here but that there seemed to be some shipments going out without actual billing, making it difficult to determine what price is being paid for the potatoes.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

Potatoes have been under price ceiling since Jan. 19. February base price here is \$3.85 for U. S. No. 1 two-inch minimum, less 30 cents for sacks if supplied by the shipper, and 20 cents more for washed spuds.

Before the ceiling price was announced, potatoes were going for considerably more.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

The price ceiling is not on the grower but on the shipper, unless the grower happens to do his own shipping. The shipper is allowed a 15 cent margin.

Suspected infringements of the OPS regulations are at the shipper level and on down to the market.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

Most of the potatoes shipped from here go into California markets.

West said the OPS is going to insist on regular billing for potatoes shipped, giving the name of the buyer and seller, description and price paid.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

If honest records are kept, he declared, any violations of the ceiling price will show up. If honest records aren't kept, the investigators will have to dig.

"We intend to be fair in the investigation," West said, "and we hope the Klamath Falls situation will clear itself up."

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

**OTHER AREAS**

He also said there had been only a few minor complaints from the Bend-Redmond area, also a big spud-shipping center. Yesterday Twin Falls, Ida., along with Klamath Falls was pointed out as a center of black market activities.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

The OPS law provides for possible jail sentence of up to a year and \$1,000 fine for criminal and intentional infringement of the regulations, as well as recovery of treble damages in civil action. In correct practices could be halted by federal court injunction, West said.

**All Potato Shipments Investigated**

**NEW POSTMASTERS**

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Senate has approved the following nominations for postmasterships in Oregon: Arthur B. Scarseath, Camp White; Charles W. Garlie, Gladstone; Vella A. Harlan, McNary; Russell F. Cooper, Sutherlin.



**9 O'clock Special**

**ON THEIR WAY** to see a physician (a check-up for Fred) this morning were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kohler, 1507 Summers Lane.