

Oregon Highway Maintenance Men Spend Busy Winters Keeping Roads Open, Earn Praise For Tough Job Done For Motorist

By PAUL W. HARVEY, JR.
SALEM (AP) — The 1,800 Oregon highway maintenance men, who have bitter memories of the hard winters of 1948-49 and 1949-50, are happy men now, because it looks like they'll get through this winter without having much trouble.

These are the men who plow the snow off the roads, sand the highways, and repair the frost damage. Snow removal and sanding costs are normal this winter, and it looks like there won't be any extra frost damage. Last winter was about average, too, but the two winters before that were terrific.

E. A. Collier, state highway maintenance engineer who spends \$1 million dollars a year to keep the roads and bridges in good shape, says an average of \$655,000 a year has been spent the past four years to remove snow. In addition, \$335,000 a year is being spent to sand the highways.

January, 1949, was the coldest and driest January in 60 years, with the frost reaching a record depth of 18 inches in Portland and up to 72 inches in Eastern Oregon. Collier's army of men had to do \$1,652,000 worth of extra work to fix up the roads that were heaved up by that frost.

Frost damage was bad early in 1950, too, costing \$558,000 extra. But last year, and so far this year, there hasn't been any bad frost. Collier runs 17 maintenance districts, each headed by a superintendent. There are 135 section crews over the state, averaging six men with three trucks. But these crews have as many as 25 men each in the mountain passes.

The snow removal is done by 28 rotary snow plows; 350 blades which are attached to the fronts of maintenance trucks; and 12 V plows that are used to break up Eastern Oregon snowdrifts. Sanding, which requires 25,000 cubic yards of sand each winter, requires 11 sand trucks on the mountain summits, and 157 small sanders towed behind trucks. Collier said, for instance, the annual snow removal cost on Santiam Summit is \$16,500, plus \$1,500 for sanding.

Idaho Spud Battle Grows

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) — A group of Idaho potato growers said Wednesday night they refused to cooperate with the Office of Price Stabilization in setting grower ceilings on Idaho potatoes until OPS acts on a protest opposing the entire potato ceiling program.

Meanwhile, in Boise, Harry L. Yost, district director of the OPS, said the Boise office is compiling information to determine the legal ceilings for Idaho and Malheur County, Ore., spuds.

The grower ceilings, imposed by an OPS amendment last month, are the shipper's ceilings minus certain services not performed by the grower.

The resolution to which the growers referred OPS officials was passed at a recent meeting of the Idaho Potato Producers Association.

NATO Job Still Open—You Want?

LONDON (AP) — That NATO job is still open.

The North Atlantic Council's deputies announced Thursday night Dutch Foreign Minister D. U. Stikker had turned down their bid to the post of secretary general created at the Council's Lisbon meeting.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Lester Pearson and Sir Oliver Franks, Britain's ambassador to the United States, already had declined to head NATO's unified civilian organization.



HOLDUP MAN HELD — Ex-Marine Gail Zenner (right), clutches a bandit suspect by the throat a few minutes after the man allegedly held up a department store cashier in Buffalo, N.Y., and escaped with \$2500. The store doorman (left) holds the gunman's weapon. A store detective grips the bandit's wrist who was captured outside the store by Zenner.

Propaganda Probe Opens

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Hebert (D-La.), Friday promised more detailed study of a "Pentagon propaganda mill" he said employs at least 18 men and costs over one million dollars a year.

Busy Time For Pearl J. Smith

ELYRIA, O. (AP) — Pearl J. Smith got married, jailed and bailed—all in the same day by the same man.

Smith paid Justice of the Peace C. C. Lord, 90, his last \$3 to perform a wedding ceremony. Then Lord remembered Smith was wanted on a paternity charge filed by one June Baiser, who was not the bride.

Portland Farm Buys Champ Cow

SPOKANE (AP) — Princess Larry 18th, grand champion of the Northwest Hereford Breeders Association Show, was sold to Royal Crest Farms of Portland for \$2,500 Thursday.

The champion was consigned by Herb Chandler of Baker, Ore. Richard Matson of Naches, Wash., paid \$1,750 for the reserve champion, A. D. Miss Princess, owned by the Double M Ranch of Adams, Ore.

Other sales included Reykirk Baron, grand champion shorthorn bull, to A. K. Reynolds of Walla Walla, \$1,950.

The resolution to which the growers referred OPS officials was passed at a recent meeting of the Idaho Potato Producers Association.

"We are consulting with qualified representatives of Idaho's potato industry so that our determination will be as fair and equitable as possible," Yost said.

He gets requests often to keep open the McKenzie Highway, which crosses the Cascades between Eugene and Bend.

Collier said the McKenzie route would be costly and hard to keep open because its summit is 500 feet higher than Santiam Summit. It is in a wide open lava field subject to heavy drifting, and the road is narrow.

The cost of keeping the McKenzie Highway open all winter would be more than twice that of keeping open Santiam Pass, Collier estimates.

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