



YEP, IT'S REAL— Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, presented an Oak Leaf cluster signifying a third Distinguished Service Medal by President Truman, smiles as his wife, Penny, examines the award. The presentation was made at West Point, N.Y., at ceremonies marking the 150th anniversary of the U. S. Military Academy.

Young GOPs Rap Brannan Farm Plan as Socialistic

SPOKANE (U) — Washington's Young Republicans Friday urged agricultural platform plank, terming the Brannan Plan as being "socialistic."

Convening in Spokane, the Young Republicans passed a resolution opposing the Brannan Plan and favoring a flexible farm price support program.

They also urged that the G. I. bill be applied to Korean veterans.

and that public education be financed and administered only by states and their sub divisions.

Members also called for a constitutional amendment which would prohibit nullifications of the constitution by treaties and which would guarantee that no treaty supersede constitutional rights.

Other Young Republican platform planks urged:

An aggressive foreign policy, economic aid within the country's means, halting inflation by reduction of non essential federal spending, reducing taxes to restore individual initiative and expansion of private enterprise, restoration of constitutional government and prosecution of officials guilty of betraying public trust.

Airport Fight Takes 2 Lives

ARLINGTON, Wash. (U) — One man was killed, another wounded and a third committed suicide in a shooting fray at the Arlington Airport Saturday.

Killed was Ernest R. Meyer, former mayor of Arlington, and president of the Arlington Lumber & Plywood Co. He was shot in his office at the airport.

Chif Knudson, also an officer of the company, was wounded in the face, the bullet passing through the back of his neck.

A third man died shortly afterward in Arlington from what officers said was apparently a self-inflicted wound.

POPULATION INCREASES

BELGRADE (U) — New census figures recently released fix Yugoslavia's population at 16,338,504 as of January 1, an increase of 365,397 over three years ago. Belgrade's population is 390,723.

Semi-Invalid Dies in Fire

HOOD RIVER (U) — A 72-year-old semi-invalid perished Saturday in a fire that destroyed her home three miles south of here.

The victim was Mrs. Karl Geisler, who underwent amputation of one leg several years ago.

Sheriff R. L. Gillmouthe said Mrs. Geisler had been using sleeping pills and the fire was believed to have been started in her bed by a cigarette. Gillmouthe said there had been three previous fires at the house.

Her husband was working in a nearby orchard at the time of the fire. Gillmouthe said Geisler, because of his wife's condition, made it a practice to visit the house several times a day, but had not returned for his morning check before the fire.

The blaze, which virtually destroyed the house, was reported by Mrs. G. O. Lane, who lives an eighth of a mile away in the community of Pine Grove.

Marine Faces Murder Trial

KELSO (U) — A Seattle Marine, PFC Eugene Hanley, 22, will go on trial for his life in Cowlitz County superior court Monday.

Hanley is charged with first degree murder for the death on April 14 of Martin John Zellmer, 56-year-old Louvisey grade school teacher. Judge Howard J. Atwell will preside.

Zellmer was stabbed and bludgeoned to death south of Kalama on the old Pacific Highway and his body found by four Kalama Boy Scouts. Hanley was later apprehended in Seattle as being absent without leave from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

He told arresting officers that Zellmer had made improper advances to him and he acted in self-defense.

MEMORIAL APPEAL

WASHINGTON (U) — President Truman's Memorial Day statement asked the nation for a universal prayer for a permanent peace he said is nearer reality now than on last year's day of remembrance.

Flying Firemen Readied For Forest Fire Season

By JOHN KAMPS

WASHINGTON (U) — The Federal Forest Service is lining up 232 flying firemen for work on timber blazes in the Northwest this summer.

About 150 of the smokejumpers, parachuting to fires in the wild mountain country, will work out of Missoula, Mont. The rest will be stationed at Interlaken, Wash., Cave Junction, Ore., and McCall, and Idaho City, Idaho.

A few have been signed up and are training now. All are expected to be on the job by June 10, when colleges will be closed for the summer vacation.

They will include many college students — future foresters getting some practical training — and a few former Army paratroopers.

Ground crews, who find the going rough in the forests, have called the smokejumpers the "demon boys" of the fire fighting business because they travel to work in style.

But they are a rugged lot. They have to be rugged to get through the four-week training period required to get them ready for work.

They get long sessions of calisthenics and obstacle courses aimed at limbering and toughening muscles and developing legs.

One feature is the blockade, called a back-buster. The trainees legs are tied below the knees to vertical stakes while he does rube-ups from a prone position. Trainers leap daily from a tower while laden with fire fighting equipment, simulating a parachute drop.

Dangling from a high boom, the trainees learn how to steer open parachutes and how to get loose when one snags a tree and threatens to hang its wearer.

They make several actual parachute jumps, and do some project work and fire fighting.

The safety angle is stressed in all lectures. This has paid off because in the 11 years that smokejumpers have been used not a man has been killed while jumping.

Twelve smokejumpers died in Mann Gulch near Helena, Mont., several years ago, but their deaths are not blamed on the jumping operation. Flames trapped them while they were fighting the fire several hours after they had hit the ground.

Since the crew foreman survived by hurrying an area and lying in it while the main fire roared around him, the use of escape fires for safety has become a training must.

There are other safety measures. Men are not dropped at elevations more than 8,000 feet above sea level when winds are strong; when the plane is less than 1,000 feet above the ground; in heavy timber, or where cliffs, boulders, new headquarters at Missoula.

The Forest Service fire control chief, C. A. Gustafson, reports excavation for the center will be

or other hazards made a jump too dangerous.

Smokejumpers are paid a minimum of \$284 a month, compared with \$246 for ground crew members.

They are sent to fires in remote mountain areas not easily reached by ground crews. Their mission is to put out fires before they get big. Often they reach a fire in an hour or two, while it would take ground crews a day or more to get there.

The smokejumpers are getting a

started as soon as Congress takes final action on an appropriation for the project, expected in a few weeks.

Construction of the center, for which Rep. Mansfield (D-Mont.) is asking nearly one million dollars, is scheduled to be completed in time for use during the 1954 fire season.

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INDUSTRY 4,878 new industries have located along Southern Pacific lines since the end of World War II (see map below). For the past 25 years an average of one new industry per day requiring spur track facilities has located along S. P. lines. Since World War II that average has been more than two per day.

AGRICULTURE The volume of all products of agriculture moved by Southern Pacific annually rose from 8,262,944 tons in 1940 to 13,550,311 tons in 1950—an increase of nearly 64%. America's largest dams are in the Western empire, and coupled with the nation's most energetic private power companies, they have brought vast power for industry and have accelerated the opening of new land.

PEOPLE Southern Pacific carried 9,226,054 passengers in 1940 and 12,455,483 in 1951—an increase of nearly 35%. The population of our 8 "S. P. States" (see map) was 18,467,411 in 1940 and 24,781,993 in 1950. This 34% increase was 2½ times the national average, while California alone accounted for one sixth of the nation's population increase. S. P.'s advertising of the West induced many of these millions to settle here. Our crack passenger streamliners actually brought many of them to their new homes.

TOTAL MOVEMENT We moved 40 billion ton-miles of freight during 1951—nearly as much as during 1944, the peak year of World War II. Parenthetically, we're proud that our rapidly dieselizing system set its all-time efficiency record in hauling freight in 1951.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE? Peace or war, we think the economy of the eight key "Southern Pacific States" is pretty solidly based upon rich, diversified natural resources, upon expanding and diversified agricultural production, and upon continually more diversified industries. We of Southern Pacific are quite confident that the course of empire will continue its westward trend. We are proud to be foremost in serving that trend.

Southern Pacific is publishing this advertisement in TIME, NEWSWEEK and all editions of the WALL STREET JOURNAL to focus the attention of industrial and financial leaders throughout the country on the growth and importance of the West and Southwest.



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