Army Engineer Workers Held on Bribery Counts

TACOMA (AP) — Two civilian employes of the Army Corps of Engineers were arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents Tuesday on bribery charges.

Special FBI Agent R. D. Auerbach said John Samuel Wilfley, 50, and Manley Powell Bates, 52, both of Tacoma, are accused of accepting a $1,000 bribe to violate specifications on a million dollar street and paving job at Fort Lewis.

Auerbach said Wilfley was resident engineer on the project and Bates was the chief inspector.

The two men were arraigned before U.S. Commissioner Frank Hale and were bound over to the federal grand jury. Each was released in bail of $2,500.

Auerbach said Wilfley and Bates are charged with seeking a bribe from the Valley Construction Co., of Seattle.

U. S. Attorney Charles J. Dennis said at Seattle the company reported a bribe attempt and FBI agents were present when money was passed at the fort.

The complaint said the men "did ask and receive $1,000 with intent to have their decisions and actions influenced on enforcement of specifications" of the project.

At the arraignment, Wilfley denied having any connection with the transaction. He termed such a bribe ridiculous because "so many people have to be in on the deal that $1,000 wouldn't go very far."

Bates declined to testify before the commissioner. He said he would tell his story in court.

Overwork Kills Champ

CUDWORTH, Eng. (AP) — World titlist Jennifer — the hen that laid 10 eggs in less than an hour — was dead Wednesday from overwork.

The pink-eyed prolific chicken hadn't produced for farmer Charlie Rogers for days. But he brought her into his home in front of the fire on Monday and Jennifer let loose — A jackpot of 10.

"Jenny spent Monday night in her cardboard box and I tried to make her eat," Rogers' daughter explained. "But the laying effort had been too much for her."

Neither Jenny nor her 10 eggs will provide a single morsel on any dining table, despite Britain's food shortage.

"I've asked a taxidermist to set Jenny up in a glass case with those 10 eggs," Rogers said.

Suburban Fire Budget OK'd

Voters approved a $26,940 budget for the Suburban Fire District at the polls yesterday by an almost 2 to 1 margin.

The vote was 37 to 20 in favor, a far lower total vote than was expected, according to Chairman Cecil Prather of the Fire District. When asked what would happen if the vote had failed to carry, Prather answered, "What would happen if a school budget were not approved?"

Grange Opposes Truck Group

EUGENE (AP) — Lane County's Pomona Grange has opened a fight to block two moves of trucking interests at the November election which the Grangers say are designed to throttle long-haul truck taxation.

A resolution adopted by the Pomona Grange will be presented to the state Grange at the group's annual meeting in La Grande next month. It urges support of the Legislature's weight-mile tax bill, now suspended by referendum, and defeat of a proposed constitutional amendment restricting truck taxes.

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MAGNIFIER NEEDED — Copies of what is believed to be world's smallest printed book fit into a matchbox in Munich, Germany, bookshop. The Lord's Prayer is book's first page.

Court Moves To Ballpark

NEW YORK (AP) — The complicated figures of security underwriting take a back seat Wednesday to a score card for the Brooklyn Dodgers-New York Giants baseball game.

Federal Judge Harold R. Medina has adjourned for the day the 18-month-old civil anti-trust suit brought by the government against 17 investment banking firms.

In the midst of the complicated case earlier this month, Medina asked: "How about going to a ball game?"

There were no objections, and Wednesday court moves from the Federal Building to Ebbets Field.

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Higher Food Prices Ready

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is expected to announce Wednesday night ceiling price boosts of about a penny each for a wide range of food items.

That's how much the Office of Price Stabilization (OPS) estimated the increases would bring to the grocer—although it said the nation's food bill would go up about 100 million dollars a year under the new ceilings.

These figures were challenged by four food distribution groups which said the adjustments would have little effect on prices.

They said competition, not ceilings, decides prices. If food retailers had gotten all the price relief they have sought and could reflect this in their prices, they said, increases of food prices to consumers would be only about five cents a week per person.

"OPS is using scare tactics in an effort to perpetuate controls," said a statement by the National Association of Retail Grocers, the Cooperative Food Distributors of America, the National Association of Food Chains and the Super Market Institute.

"The public should understand that competition is the factor today which is keeping food prices down," the statement said. "OPS has little or nothing to do with it. More than 50 per cent of all the foods sold today in grocery stores are below ceilings."

The statement said controls are doing more harm than good in the few cases where supplies are temporarily short.

Hearst Passes Dividend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Directors of Hearst Consolidated Publications, Inc., announced Wednesday a decision not to pay a dividend normally payable June 16 on Class A stock.

The statement gave as the reason "the impending heavy burdens involved in the increase of $10 a ton in the price of Canadian newsprint and in other increases in costs."

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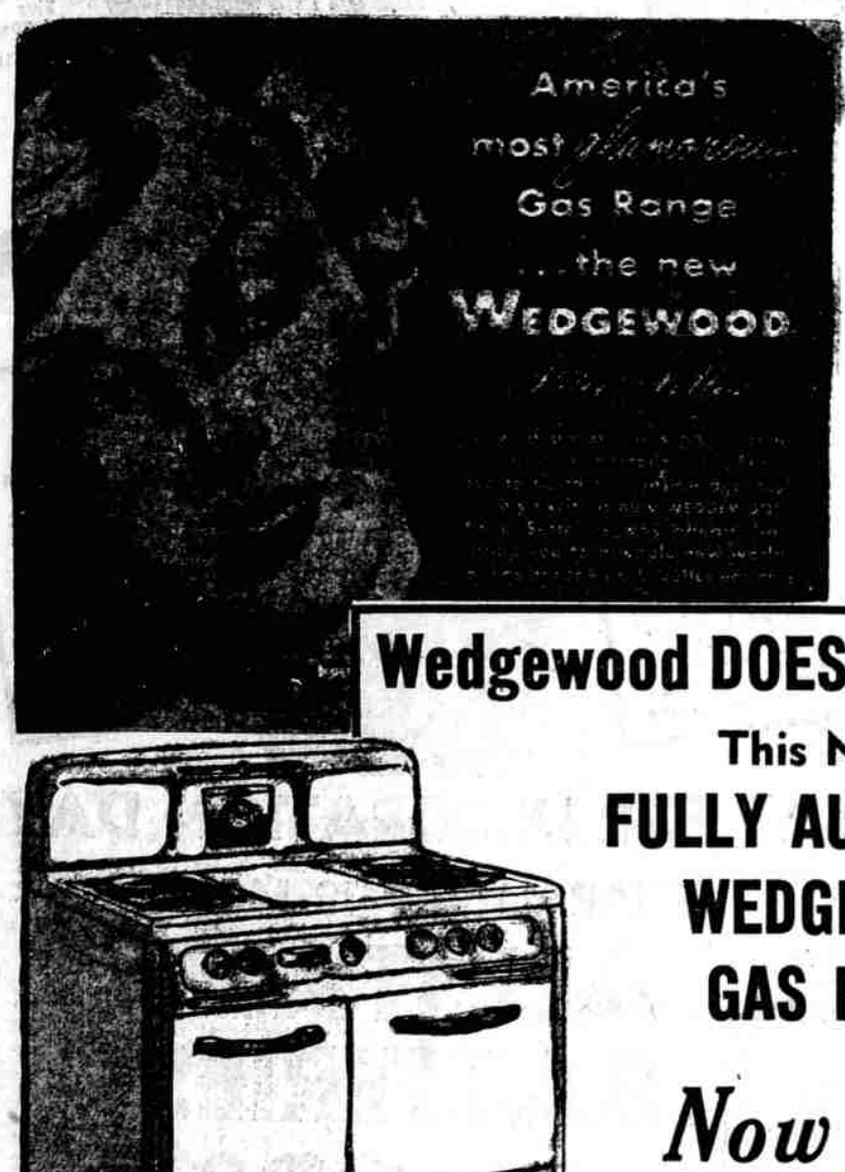

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