

### Explosion Forces Mother Plane To Jettison Bell Experimental Speedster

KLAMATH FALLS, N. Y. (AP)—A mother plane forced to jettison a Bell experimental speedster after an explosion on the runway last night, a witness told from a plane over Lake Ontario.

The chief test pilot of the Bell X-2, and another crew member, were forced to bail out. The 100 mph speedster was carrying the experimental Bell X-2, reported capable of flying at speeds well over 1,000 miles an hour.

A widespread search was on today for the two men, but great hope was held that they survived.

It was reported that the parachute of the test pilot, Jean L. (Skip) Ziegler, 32, did not open.

The other crewman, whom the aircraft firm declined to identify except to say he was a Bell employee, reportedly parachuted from the bomber.

A Bell spokesman said no one was in the X-2 when it was dropped into the lake about 15 miles from Rochester.

It was indicated that both men dropped out of the four-engine mother plane which was damaged but landed safely here.

The spokesman said the explosion was aboard the mother ship. But he explained that the X-2 was damaged and that the complicated mechanism of carrying a "parasite" plane made it difficult to be certain that the X-2 itself did not explode.

He said the firm had been unable to determine the cause of the explosion.

### Opco Asks Rate Boost OK On Rate Boost

California Oregon Power today initiated steps for a rate increase with the Public Utilities Commission before the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California.

The first general rate increase in the state has been sought by Opco since it was organized in 1929, and according to A. S. Miller, Opco president, now becomes necessary because of higher wages, increased costs of materials and fuel, corporate income taxes, and other factors.

Miller said the average wage which Opco now pays its employees is 29 per cent higher than paid in 1946. While the general increase requested will probably amount to 2,400,000 in annual gross revenues, the net amount will amount only to about 100,000.

Miller stated that in the year period from January 1, 1952, to December 31, 1952, the company has invested more than \$64,000,000 in additional and improved facilities, and in that period the company's earnings have been reduced by more than 100 per cent.

Miller said the company expects to invest an additional \$15,714,000 as of its long-range construction program.

Miller said that the proposed rate increase cannot be without adequate relief in increased rates, and while the rate adjustments recently have been necessary to bring about a equitable relationship between various classes of customers, Opco's rates are generally higher than at any time in its history.

### Armed Forces Rites Slated

American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary of Klamath Falls will observe "Armed Forces Day" on Saturday, May 16, as Armed Forces Day to pay honor and tribute to our men in service in all branches.

The slogan for the observance will be "Power for Peace."

This date will mark the 4th anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which by Presidential Proclamation in 1949, replaced the separate observances by the individual arms of the defense structure.

Klamath Post 8, American Legion and Klamath Unit 8 of the American Legion Auxiliary will be joining other veterans, civic and patriotic groups in local and state celebrations honoring the members of our armed forces in emphasizing their responsibilities in our nation's efforts to attain a lasting peace.

### INHERED

WILD BEACH, Ore. (AP)—Thomas Chadwick, Portland, suffered a bruise and a possible leg fracture Thursday when a car he was operating collided with a Greyhound bus on the Coast Highway south of here.

Passengers in the bus were uninjured, but no injuries were reported.

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CHILOQUIN STUDENTS did a good job last week when they presented a three-act comedy "Growing Pains" at the school. Taking part in the production were Linda Pope, Sharon Zadina, Donna Hobbs, Bill Vaden and Ronnie Leggett, pictured above.

### Chiloquin Students Give Three Act Play At School

CHILOQUIN—A high school cast did an admirable job of presenting a three act comedy, "Growing Pains" at two performances Tuesday, May 5. A matinee was held for the school students and an evening performance for the community. The comedy of adolescence was directed by Antonia Roverol was directed by Joseph Mercer, principal.

Linda Pope and Ronnie Leggett, young teenagers, Sharon Zadina and David Kircher, who acted the parts of the parents, Donna Hobbs, a young flirt, and Bill Vaden played the lead roles. They were capably assisted by the rest of the cast including Carrel Wilson, Lois Kessler, Betty Porter, Sue Seabold, Naomi Johnson, James Weddle, Leland Ortis, Kay Heplund and Susan Ravizza, who played two roles.

James Huff and his junior class students were in charge of makeup and Mr. Huff with Carrel Wilson and George Hobbs, manual training instructor, were in charge of stage setting, lighting and curtains.

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### Ochoco Pruning Contract Let

PRINEVILLE (AP)—The Ochoco National Forest awarded another contract Tuesday for pruning young pine trees.

It went to Gordon Francis of Burns, a University of Oregon student. He is to prune about 6,000 trees in the Paulina Butte District this summer. The price was not reported.

The contract was the sixth of 12 to be awarded this year. Joseph A. Thalhofer, forest administrative assistant, reported. He said that experiments have proved that pruning increases the quality and quantity of timber.

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### Washington Students Out On Annual Spring "Lark"

SEATTLE (AP)—The annual outbreak of spring fever reached the University of Washington's fraternity house district Tuesday night and an estimated 1,000 men and women students milled about the district setting fires, throwing water and fighting with police and firemen.

Considerable damage was done to clothing of the participants, some elderly automobiles which were burned, windshields, windows, bottles, water carrying equipment and policemen.

The melee started, police reported, as a friendly water fight among a group of men students. They soon tired of this sport, united and started sorties against sorority houses. The girls fought back with hoses, pails and water in various receptacles.

One policeman was hospitalized for a leg injury after students doused him and a fellow officer with water. Six fire alarms were turned in as blazes sprang up here and there. Three tow trucks called

to tow away impounded automobiles had the air let out of their tires and ended up towing away one of the trucks after students took the keys from it.

Sanity began returning to the district shortly after midnight. A few bonfires and great piles of debris marked the student's "lark."

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