

# Herald and News

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## Rebels Gird For Attack



OFFICERS FOR 1954 of the Junior Chamber of Commerce will assume their duties Monday night. Left to right are Frank Michaelson, first vice-president; Donald A. W. Piper, president; Rex Dye, retiring president; Leo Molatore, second vice-president. Elected to the Board of Directors were John Heilbronner, Don Bridge, Dean DeWitt, Dick Newman, Bill Alexander, Barney Cavanaugh and Bob Dirschl.

## Vietminh, French Units Swap Fire

HANOI, Indochina (AP) — French military sources said Friday that the Communist-led Vietminh were reinforcing their "Iron Division"—No. 316—for a possible attack upon Dien Bien Phu, the last big stronghold of French Union forces in the Thai country of northwestern Indochina. French Union forces, meanwhile, clashed with small Vietminh units south of the fortress. The reinforcements were being supplied by men from the Vietminh Divisions 308 and 312 which have been massed in the Thai Nguyen area 40 miles north and the Tuyen Quan region 65 miles northwest of Hanoi, the informants added. In the delta itself the French reported 50 Vietminh killed and 50 captured in minor mop-up operations. Other skirmishes occurred in the heavily fortified Plain Des Jarres area in central Laos. French Union forces clashed with a Communist-led Vietminh patrol at the village of Luang Khoun, 72 miles north east of Muong Prabang in Laos, and French officials said the Vietminh lost five killed. For the ninth straight day French fighters and bombers attacked Vietminh troops along the Mekong River where the Vietminh attacked with one division before Christmas and then apparently withdrew into the jungle.

## Hospital Is Fight Scene

A Merrill Indian youth who lacked sufficient confidence in his paleface brothers' surgical skill to have a cut thumb treated was in the City Jail Friday on drunk and disorderly charges after causing a near-riot in Klamath Valley Hospital. The accused is Robert Hult, 21, who went to the hospital for treatment. An artery was severed in his left thumb and he was bleeding profusely. When a surgeon arrived to sew up the thumb, Hult is alleged to have whipped out a long-bladed knife and threatened to kill anyone who touched him. Finally, it took four policemen to hold him on the operating table while the surgeons repaired the injured thumb. When he was released, Hult, according to arresting officers, started to fight. He was overpowered after punching and kicking the policemen for several minutes. Hult quieted down after he was lodged in a jail cell. He is slated to appear Saturday morning before Police Judge Frank Blackmer.

## Livestock Outlook Held Encouraging For 1954 Era

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The outlook for 1954 for livestock and livestock products in the seven states west of the Rockies was described Thursday as offering "some grounds for optimism." In its monthly and year-end business summary, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco said the national supply-demand picture "has begun to show signs of stabilizing" and added this has a "more important bearing" on the general health of Twelfth District agriculture than any single internal factor. The summary also said: "The Twelfth District is an important supplier of both cotton and wheat, from which District farmers can expect reduced cash receipts in 1954. Increased acreages of hay and forage which are expected in 1954 may be marketed at relatively low prices. Production of fruit and vegetables is expected to increase next year, but this increase is expected to be offset by lower prices for these products. Gross farm receipts in the District may decline by a percentage as large as, or perhaps larger than, that in prospect for the United States as a whole. Discussing livestock and livestock products in particular, the report stated: "While it is generally agreed that there is little prospect for prices and incomes from sale of livestock and livestock products to be improved in 1954, greater stability in production and marketable supplies of these commodities may mean that there is also little likelihood of any further significant deterioration in the farmers' position."

## Trio Caught On Mountain

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A violent storm apparently caught three climbers atop a 11,245-foot snow-covered mountain today. Wanting to be the first on the peak of Mt. Hood on New Year's Day, they left Timberline Lodge at the 8,000-foot level yesterday morning. They expected to reach the top by nightfall and spend the night there. But at night the storm came up, and forecasters warned of heavy snows on the way plus winds up to 80 miles an hour at the peak before daybreak. Temperatures of 15 degrees above zero were expected. There is no shelter at the top. The climbers had sleeping gear and some food, though, and no immediate fear was felt for their safety. The three are Layden Walsh, Olympia, Wash.; Fred Hart, Corvallis, Ore.; and Art Maki, Ridgefield, Wash. Other climbers were waiting on the lower slopes of the mountain, about 60 miles east of Portland, to start a New Year's Day race for the top, but officials warned them not to start because of the storm. Forecasters expected the storm to ease off later in the day.

## Suspect In Robbery Held

Clifford Gerhardt Annen, 34, 1317 Adams, picked up by Oregon State Police on South Sixth Thursday for having no operators license has admitted to authorities that he is wanted in Minnesota on a burglary charge. Upon questioning by police he admitted knowing something of the burglary case but would not admit he was implicated. Sheriff Henschel, Cambridge, Minn., was notified this morning by state police that Annen was being held in the county jail on \$400 bail, pending word from Minnesota authorities as to whether they will come for him. Annen has not stated whether he will waive extradition.

## Weather

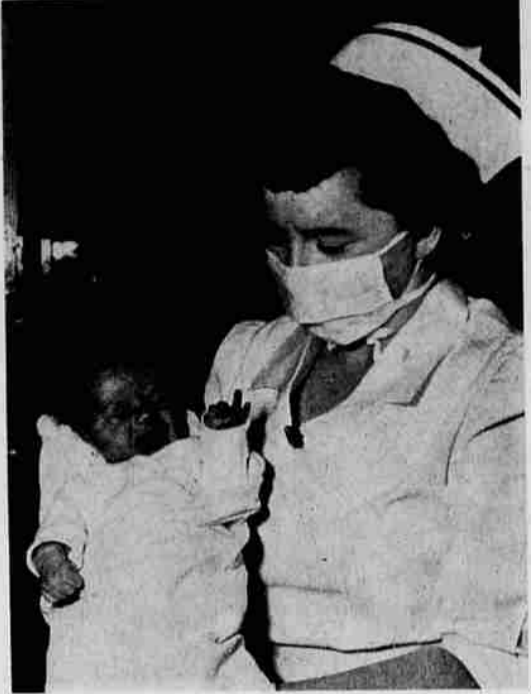
FORECAST: Increasing cloudiness with occasional light snow Friday night. High yesterday 39 Low last night 22

## NEW TOWER

PORTLAND (AP) — The City Council gave television station KFTA permission Thursday to replace its 210-foot antenna with a 500-foot one atop Council Crest Portland. The station said the new tower would be shipped soon from Cleveland. Station officials said it would improve reception in fringe areas.

## Ministers To Gather For Parley

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States, Britain and France agreed Friday to Russia's proposal of Jan. 25 for a meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers at Berlin and moved to avoid any further delay of the conference. Aside from accepting the date—a three weeks postponement from the previous western proposal of Jan. 4—the western powers also: 1. Agreed that representatives of the four high commissioners in Germany should discuss the precise place and any other technical arrangements for the meeting. 2. Said that since the foreign ministers themselves will be meeting soon there is no point now in discussing the questions which will be raised at their conference. This is designed to avoid a preliminary, time-consuming argument over an agenda. The United States note on the conference, the State Department announced, was delivered to the Soviet Foreign Office by Ambassador Charles Bohlen at 1 p.m. Moscow time—3 a.m. MST. British and French diplomats were reported to have delivered similar notes. SITE SOUGHT The Soviets may make some acknowledgment, finally confirming the Jan. 25 date, but the next serious business is agreement on a meeting site in Berlin. Officials of the western powers are reported hopeful that the Soviets will not seize upon the technical problems which will come up in preliminary discussions on arrangements to stall the conference. The agreement to have the discussions proceed in Germany responded to a Soviet suggestion and is an effort to avoid any further delay.



MARY ELIZABETH REEL, Tulelake, Miss 1954, is the first baby born in the Klamath Basin this year. The little girl made the hurdle to win the honor over Baby Boy Ternus, son of Chief of Police and Mrs. Jerry Ternus, also of Tulelake. Mary Elizabeth was born at 1:50 a.m. to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reel. Her mamma was presented with a number of gifts from Klamath Falls' businessmen. Showing off the new arrival is Nurse Jean Clark, Klamath Valley Hospital.

## Tulelake Baby Winner Of Stork Derby; First Basin Child Born In Year of '54

It's a girl! And Tulelake has her! And the first boy born in 1954 in the Klamath Basin, also. Little Miss 1954 squealed her way into the Edward Reel family from Tulelake at 1:50 a.m. today at Klamath Valley Hospital to make two daughters for the folks from California. Elder sister is Connie, aged four. Mary Elizabeth Reel, six pounds, 11 1/2 ounces, made her radio debut a few moments after her arrival when she registered a protest about being interviewed by Charlie McFarlan, of KFLW who waited for the big event with two prospective fathers, "Pappa" Reel and Chief of Police Jerry Ternus.

## San Gabriel Blaze Licked

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Residents in a section of 50 houses in the San Gabriel Mountains returned to their homes Thursday night after backfires alleviated danger in this area but 1,000 firefighters continued battling other danger spots in southern California's six-day forest fires. During the day residents of a section known as Pasadena Glen had been considering the possibility of evacuating their homes when a localized segment of the fire became menacing. The U. S. Forest Service said the fire near Pasadena Glen was serious but believed all of the houses could be saved. The same flare-up lifted—kept within a half mile of the million dollar Mater Dolorosa retreat house and Passionist Fathers Monastery but firemen backfired to prevent damage. Later a new outbreak was reported when flames swept into Kinnebrew Canyon east of the Mt. Wilson toll road and at the head of the glen. Men and equipment were sent there to battle the flare-up. The fire jumped westward across firebreaks late Thursday and burned within less than a mile of some houses. This blaze now appears to be contained, county firemen said. Mt. Wilson and its hotel, observatories and eight television transmitters were still safe from the fire. The Mt. Wilson-Monrovia Peak fire has burned 15,000 acres since Sunday. A companion fire in the Mt. Baldy region, 20 miles east, scorched 4,000 acres. The Forestry Service estimated a loss of \$7,325,000 in damage to watersheds and fighting the fires.

## Two Held In Bank Robbery

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — Two men were in custody and Mexican border points were watching for two others today after all four were charged with felony theft in the \$37,329 robbery of the Houston National Bank. The bank was robbed yesterday at 9:20 a. m. when a man slipped into a basement vault, took the money from Donny Norris Allen, 19-year-old bank employe, and then escaped without being noticed. After 10 hours of questioning by FBI agents, Police Homicide Capt. Frank Murray said young Allen admitted being an accomplice of three other men he implicated in the robbery. The FBI confirmed Murray's statement. Besides Allen, the three charged were James David Mitchell, alias James David Richardson, 23; Johnny Gonzales Navarro, 24, brother of a Houston policeman; and Nick Mitchell, 45, an uncle of the younger Mitchell. Navarro surrendered to police within an hour after police orders were broadcast last night for his pickup. Arrested at a bus station from where he had telephoned police, he denied any connection with the robbery.

## Dogs Uncover Cache Of Bootleg Booze

SHAWNEE, Okla. (AP) — Trooper C. A. Morris has two dogs to thank for uncovering 168 pints and six fifths of contraband liquor. The hunting dogs, in the back seat of an automobile he stopped for speeding, began playing around while he wrote a ticket for the driver and uncovered the new year's cheer under blankets. Man's best friend?

## Cordon Waits On Political Path

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Guy Gordon of Oregon expects to announce next week whether or not he will run for the Senate again. Apparently a physical examination will determine his answer. He underwent the examination last week. He indicated he would file again if the medical report is favorable. Gordon said earlier he did not want to run, but would if he felt it was the only way to keep the seat from falling to the Democrats.

## First American POW Quits Red Camp

SEOUL (AP) — Cpl. Claude J. Batchelor, a young Texan who elected to stay with the Communists, changed his mind Friday and said it is quite possible that other unrepatriated American war prisoners will decide to return home. Batchelor smiled broadly as he was returned to the U. N. Command near Panmunjon after 31 months as a prisoner of war. He told waiting newsmen that prisoner leaders are armed with daggers to prevent defections and that mistrust and fear play a role in the Communist allegiance of the remaining 21 Americans, 1 Briton and 327 Koreans listed as pro-Red. The 20-year-old corporal from Kermit, Tex., approached an Indian guard at 1 p.m. and asked to return to the U. N. Command. Fourteen hours later he was repatriated. Batchelor's Tokyo Japanese wife, waiting in Kyoto to see him, apparently played an important part in his decision to abandon communism. He said her messages, relayed to him in the Indian-guarded compound in Korea's neutral zone "had quite a bit to do about it." Batchelor talked by telephone to his wife in Tokyo. "I feel fine," she said, bursting into tears. "You not sick? Everybody wait for you. . . . I want to see you soon. 'I'm so happy and I'm crying.' She said Batchelor kept repeating, 'I'm happy, I'm happy. . . . Batchelor originally was scheduled to hold a press conference later Friday, but it was postponed until Saturday. He told newsmen he now believes "very very little" of the Communist indoctrination he had been given in prisoner of war camps. He smiled broadly and spoke easily, without any apparent nervousness. He happily gave a thumbs up sign for photographers. He said he spent a sleepless night before deciding to ask for repatriation. He described New Year's Eve in the North Camp as not very cheerful and without much celebrating. "Will other Americans come out?" he was asked. "Quite possibly," he said. "Will more than one?" "Quite possibly." "Do you think you made a wise move in coming back?" "Yes," Batchelor answered and smiled broadly. He said he had been "quite uncomfortable" this winter but turned aside other questions as to whether he had been well treated and well fed in Communist prisoner camps. He said it would be hard to say what he missed most during his long captivity. Batchelor's story matched in part that of Cpl. Edward Dickenson of Big Stone Gap, Va., who asked for repatriation from the pro-Communist North Camp two months ago. Dickenson also said other Americans quite likely would change their minds. Neither man named names. They indicated that prisoners who might want to leave would not broadcast the information. An Indian Command spokesman said he thought it most unlikely that prisoner leaders are armed or that a POW who wanted to ask for repatriation would be unable to do so. He said: "The North Camp always has been very quiet and orderly and life there seems to be much like that of a small village." Batchelor said he had wanted to return home for a month, but did not ask for repatriation Dec. 23 when the Allies broadcast "come home" appeals because "there would have been violence." He said pro-Communist Korean prisoners "massed at the gate" to prevent anyone from leaving. The Indian spokesman said there was no evidence that this was so and added: "I am sure any man who wanted could have come out safely." Batchelor refused to answer many questions. He said he wants to take his wife home to Kermit and he became broadly as he read a message from her. "I want to see you as soon as possible," his wife Kyoko wrote. "I am so glad you are finally coming home. I love you very much." The message was relayed from Tokyo by the Associated Press. The Army said Batchelor would be "treated like any other returning prisoner of war" when he gets to Japan and will have a reunion with his wife. In Kermit, Batchelor's father and mother were overjoyed. "It's the best news I have ever heard," said O. L. Batchelor, an oil well driller. The parents had spent a sad Christmas believing their son never would return home. Only a few days before Christmas his mother had said, "It looks like there is no hope." Young Batchelor was taken prisoner in May, 1951. He appeared in good health Friday. His hair was long. His blond moustache was neatly trimmed. He wore the faded blue uniform given him by the Communists. He talked with newsmen for a few minutes, then boarded a helicopter for a flight to the 121st Evacuation Hospital in Seoul for a medical checkup. He will be flown to Japan for a complete medical examination later.



JUNE JAMES and Mrs. Mary Wyatt were snapped at Klamath Valley hospital this morning by the roving cameraman.