

BASIN BRIEFS

From Bay Area — Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mulhall of San Francisco are house guests of Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Curran, 1435 Esplanade.

Home — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rueck returned from a trip to Chicago in time to spend the holidays at their home in Bonanza.

Bety Champagne — 527 North Eighth, leaves Saturday evening for Long Beach, Calif., for about two and a half weeks.

Receptionist — Inez Iversen, 4525 Clinton, is serving as receptionist at the Herald and News during the absence of Bety Champagne.

At Meeting — Charles Woodhouse is in Chicago this week attending Phi Delta Kappa, professional fraternity for men in education. The council is the legislative and policy-making body of the organization which has nearly 60,000 members. He is acting as a delegate from the Beta Iota Field Chapter located at SOG. He is expected to return to Klamath Falls on Jan. 4.

Mrs. William Walker — will entertain the Merrill Library Club Thursday, Jan. 7, instead of Mrs. Tom Chaburn Sr., as was previously announced. Bety Jane Keyser will review "Cry the Beloved Country." Mrs. Murray Howard and Mrs. Max Harterode will be co-hostesses at the 2 p.m. meeting.

James H. Cearley — 2225 Garden, will undergo surgery Monday, Jan. 4, in Veterans Hospital, Portland. His wife will accompany him and remain with him in Portland. Friends may write Cearley in care of the hospital, Portland.

Visiting — Mr. and Mrs. Tom Powers, Springfield, are spending the New Year holidays here with relatives.

Ill at Home — Fred Glover has been reported ill at his home at 234 High.

Winner — Mrs. Francis (Agnes) Ellis, former Klamath Falls resident, was a lucky winner in the Oregonian sponsored Roto Riches contest. The Ellises now reside at 1934 S.E. 37th, in Portland.

Shopping — Mr. and Mrs. Dick Soth, both teachers in the Bonanza High school, were shopping in Klamath Falls, Thursday.

Here for Holidays — Mr. and Mrs. Tom Milne, former Klamath Falls residents, drove over from Medford Thursday evening to spend New Year's with friends and relatives.

Farm Picture During 1953 One Of Ups And Downs As Prices, Incomes Fluctuate

By OVID A. MARTIN
WASHINGTON (AP) — The year 1953 showed that the modern farmer, like his brother of the past, still has his financial ups and downs despite government efforts to hold things on an even keel.

The total volume being close to the record set in 1952. Yet farm prices declined nearly 8 per cent during the year. Farm income dropped 7 per cent. The resulting reduction in farm buying power contributed directly to smaller purchases of farm machinery, equipment and other non-farm products. Likewise, farm land values declined and farm debts increased. These developments brought complaints from farmers and their lenders and predictions in some quarters that a new agricultural depression was just around the corner. All this happened despite the fact that the government had broad farm price support programs in operation.

A major cause of the agricultural setback — which had its beginning in 1952 — was a sharp reduction in exports of agricultural commodities. Foreign sales, which reached a record peak directly after World War II, declined nearly 30 per cent. As a consequence, supplies which otherwise would have moved overseas became surpluses that depressed prices. Most of these extra supplies were stored under government price support programs. By the end of the year the government invested in these supplies and the amount promised to climb past the five-billion mark before the 1954 crops were harvested. The farm situation was complicated also by a severe drought that plagued farmers in parts of the Midwest, Southwest, South and Far West. Because of poor pastures and feed grain crops, many farmers in these areas were forced to dump beef animals on the market. The result was a further depression of cattle prices. The year also brought in a change of national administrations and a new secretary of agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, the new farm

chief, started out by telling farmers that existing federal farm programs were not good enough to keep them prosperous. He also said the programs would eventually put producers under complete control of government. Benson, a leader in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon), declared existing programs, particularly price support measures, tended to price farm products out of foreign and domestic markets, create surpluses and bring on undesirable production controls. The secretary called upon farmers to develop "self-help" programs that would reduce government's role. Benson's ideas ran into bitter criticism from some farm leaders and congressmen, including some members of his own Republican Party. Some of his critics demanded that he resign. The basic point of controversy was the level of farm price supports. Benson said they were too high. He indicated favor for a flexible system under which supports would be high in times of shortages to encourage production and low in times of surpluses to discourage production. With backing of President Eisen-

hower and with the help of an 18-member Agricultural Advisory Commission of farm educators and leaders, Benson set to work drafting a new farm program for presentation to Congress early in 1954. Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee started doing some work of its own. It made that it called "grass roots" tours through farming areas to get producers' views on farm programs. Committee members reported that farmers as a whole opposed Benson's ideas of lowering price supports. Thus the year ended with prospects of a sharp debate over farm legislation during the 1954 session of Congress. The results may have far-reaching influence on efforts of Republicans to win enough seats in the 1954 election to continue control of Congress. Meanwhile, Benson was required by law to impose broader produc-

tion controls on farmers than ever invoked in any previous single year. The controls were designed to keep surpluses from getting larger. Another development was Benson's decision to abolish seven regional offices of the department Soil Conservation Service, stirring up a controversy that was likely to be carried over into the 1954 session of Congress.



Grandfather Frost Faces Criticism From Russian Children Over Toy Quality

By RICHARD KASISCHKE
MOSCOW (AP) — Old Grandfather Frost is getting some pretty strict orders these days. He's being told to pack many dolls that really say mama and boys' games that won't fall apart when he makes his gift-bearing rounds in Russia on New Year's Day. Grandfather Frost is the Soviet version of Santa Claus. He arrives a week before Christmas in the Soviet Union, which is observed Jan. 7 in accord with the old Julian calendar used by the Russian Orthodox Church.

But day after tomorrow millions of Soviet children will gather around fir trees to receive gifts and sweets. The grownups exchange gifts too—and this year the cry is for quality goods. Premier Georgi Malenkov's government has promised more and better consumer goods. Letter columns of Soviet newspapers disclose that the Russian consumer wants to see this reflected in better-made gifts now that holiday buying is in full swing. A parent who bought a doll for his daughter had this indignant comment: "The instructions said that this doll could walk, roll its eyes and say 'mama.' The doll looks very nice—if you ignore the fact that its wig is made of rags and cotton waste glued to the head, instead of hair. Neither we nor our child could make the doll walk. On the second day the doll was completely paralyzed. Despite careful handling the right arm fell off. Then, while trying to make the doll work, something broke inside and instead of saying 'mama' it only made hoarse sounds. Why do they put out such bad toys?"

Group To Aid Indians

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Paul L. Patterson, Thursday appointed a committee to help the Klamath Indians prepare for their freedom. A bill will go to Congress next month to remove the Klamaths from federal supervision. Members of the committee are: Mrs. Loa Howard Mason, state public welfare administrator; State Forester George Spaur, State Agriculture Director E. L. Peterson, State Engineer Charles Stricklin; A. Harvey Wright, State Department of Education; Asst. Atty. Wolf von Osterstedt; Forest Cooper Lakeview; and Dr. L. S. Cressman, head of the anthropology department of the University of Oregon.

It will be the responsibility of this representative group of state agencies to aid and counsel the Klamaths while they are formulating a withdrawal plan in order to minimize the risks and obstacles inherent in this difficult situation," Gov. Patterson said. He added that the committee members are those state officials who would be most concerned with the various phases of the problem. It will prepare enabling legislation for the Legislature, if this is needed.

Shooting Ends In Fatality

SEATTLE (AP) — A Coastguardman identified as Morris Butler, about 28, was fatally shot during a disturbance early Friday at the China Pheasant, a night spot south of Seattle. Sheriff's Detective Jack Appel said. Witnesses reported Seattle Police Officer Marvin Bagley, who was on duty at the resort, had ordered Butler and a companion to stop interfering with a floor show and a scuffle followed, Appel said. Bagley's gun was taken from him, the witnesses said. He then got another from another Seattle officer on duty at the club and ordered Butler to surrender his gun. Shots were exchanged, Appel quoted witnesses as saying, and Butler was fatally wounded. Ten persons at the resort came to the sheriff's office and gave statements about the shooting, Appel said.

Bus Hearing To Be Held

PORTLAND (AP) — A meeting will be held here Monday to try to work out a plan under which Tualatin Valley Stages would resume operation of buses and residential areas southwest of here. The stage company discontinued its runs midnight New Year's Eve, saying it could no longer afford to operate at a loss. Its license expired Thursday. Charles H. Heltze, state public utilities commissioner, will conduct the meeting Monday. E. G. Larson, secretary-treasurer of the stage company, said the firm would resume operation of its 20 buses if some workable plan could be devised to make "even a slight profit." Larson said the company has been losing money for five years. He added that fare increases, for which the firm originally had planned to ask, are "only part of the company's problems."

Judge Vetoes Power Suit

PORTLAND (AP) — A suit against power company surcharges has been dismissed by Circuit Judge G. F. Skipworth in Lane County, a Portland attorney said here Thursday. It was a suit against the Mountain States Power Co. Still pending are Portland suits against two other power firms. Attorney Walter Evans said he was notified Thursday of the suit dismissal. Evans represented three Lane County householders, who asked return of \$580,000 in surcharges and an injunction against future surcharges. The power company levied surcharges, ranging up to 20 per cent of the monthly bill, for several months in 1952. The company said the surcharges were needed to cover costs of steam production in a low-water period. Evans said Judge Skipworth ruled his court could not take jurisdiction.

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