



GAIL LEDERER, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lederer of Alturas, was selected queen of the 1955 Modoc County Fair which will be held August 26-28. The surprised finalist is shown being crowned by Mrs. Hallie Tierney, Modoc County superintendent of schools, at the queen's ball held at Cedarville Saturday night. Jacqueline Haise, one of the contestants, at left, and Betty Jean Young will comprise the queen's court. Queen Gail will compete at Sacramento with other county winners for the title, "Maid of California."

—Photo by Charles E. Goulden

Employment Booms To All-Time High In July

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employment boomed in July to an all-time record of nearly 65 million, while the number of jobless dipped today 2 1/2 million, the government reported Tuesday.

The fifth successive monthly rise in employment carried the total of jobholders to 64,995,000, or about a million above the previous record set only one month earlier. The total is three million above July a year ago.

Extraordinarily brisk hiring of youngsters released from school contributed much of the gain, the Labor and Commerce departments said in a joint report. They added the employment of adults in most industries "held up better than usual for this time of year."

"As a result, unemployment— which is normally stable in July— went down by 209,000 to 2 1/2 million and is now almost a million lower than a year ago," the report said.

The tally of jobless was 1,471,000 as against 2,679,000 in June.

The rate of employment increase during the past five months has not been matched since the postwar reconversion period of 1946," Secretary of Commerce Weeks and Secretary of Labor Mitchell said in the joint statement.

Factory payrolls held steady at 18,600,000 in July as a continued expansion of production almost offset the effect of vacation shut-downs. Since the first of the year, more than half a million workers have been added to factory payrolls, the largest January-to-July gain since 1950.

The average factory work week diminished by 24 minutes—from 49.7 hours to 49.3. This, however, was almost an hour longer than the work week a year ago.

Unemployment among young persons was reduced in July as more of them located summer jobs. More significant, the statement said, was the continued drop

in joblessness among adult men, which usually rises slightly in July. Fewer of the current unemployed are skilled or semi-skilled workers, the report said, and a larger proportion are unskilled workers.

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X1A Blows Up In Belly Of Mother Ship, Pilot Saves Lives Of Crew By Actions

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—A research pilot in the world's fastest rocket plane was credited Tuesday with averting a possible disaster when his high-powered plane exploded in the belly of its "mother ship."

The rocket pilot, Joseph A. Walker, 34, saved himself and the bomber's seven crewmen from possible death Monday when the rocket plane exploded seconds before its scheduled release nearly six miles over this desert flight test center. All the fliers were civilians conducting flight tests for the National Advisory Commission for Aeronautics.

The one million dollar X1A, which holds the world's speed record of 1,650 miles per hour as well as the world's altitude mark of 90,000 feet, had to be jettisoned for fear a second explosion might destroy the bomber. The rocket plane crashed on the desert as "probably a total loss," but the bomber landed safely.

Walker, in the rocket ship when it exploded, exercised "great coolness" in cutting off switches to prevent any further explosions. He also emptied some of the highly-explosive rocket fuel before escaping into the bomber's bomb-bay.

Walker also came close to death when he disconnected his oxygen supply to escape the rocket plane. He fell unconscious from lack of oxygen and was pulled up to safety by the bomber's crew. Death can occur in a few minutes without oxygen at high altitude.

Pieces torn from the small craft by the blast struck a following P80 jet "chaser" plane, flown by Major Arthur Murray, who set the altitude record in the X1A. Murray said pieces struck his plane "like shrapnel" and cracked its windshield.

After the explosion, Murray flew close to the rocket plane and warned the bomber that all of the small ship's fuel had not been completely emptied. It was then that the rocket plane was jettisoned.

Major Charles Yeager set the world speed record in the X1A in November of 1953.

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Board Backs Airline Plan

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon State Aeronautics Board is supporting the application by West Coast Airlines for permission to have passenger service between Klamath Falls and Boise. Director Earl Snyder said Tuesday.

Snyder said the service, especially on the section between Burns and Lakeview, would provide needed service in southeastern Oregon. The airline has applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

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