

Laxness Wins Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The 1955 Nobel Prize for Literature was won Thursday by an Icelandic novelist Halldor Kiljan Laxness.

A leftist, he is active in the all Peace Movement, which previously awarded him a literary prize. He has called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization "a society of war lunatics."

Laxness, 55, has been a candidate several years for the prize. Apparently the Royal Swedish Academy this year overcame the dislike of his political leanings that at least some of its members had felt. He will receive \$30,720 at the presentation of Nobel awards Dec. 10.

Laxness writes about the everyday life of the 150,000 persons of his home island in the North Atlantic, his "Independent People" sold highly in the United States.



O. E. THOMPSON, Klamath Falls life insurance agent, was honored recently by investiture to the rank of knight commander, court of honor, in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry. The recognition was awarded to his outstanding work in Masonry. The announcement of the appointment came from Leslie C. Scott, sovereign grand inspector general in Oregon.

Private Plane Smashes Bank

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A private pilot was instantly killed when his light plane crashed through the window of a branch bank at International Airport, showering glass on the official who had fired him from a teller-trainee job only the day before.

Witnesses said Benjamin Fauth, glided his Aeronca down wind with the engine dead yesterday and suddenly veered into the Bank of America branch. Diners in the flight deck restaurant on the second story of the building were jarred but no one was injured.

"I heard a boom and hit the floor. When I got up I saw the plane in the room," said Robert J. Workman, 37, the bank's chief clerk. He said he discharged Fauth because "his work was not serious enough." Workman suffered a cut cheek.

Fauth had rented the plane with a full tank of gas only an hour before at nearby Hawthorne Airport.

Police investigator A. L. Waggoner said Fauth apparently "was trying to get even with the bank for firing him and get rid of himself at the same time."

In Toppish, Wash., Fauth's father E. Fauth said he could not understand the crash.

McKay Lauds Ike's Team

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) — Secretary of the Interior McKay said Thursday "the despair into which many of our people were plunged when President Eisenhower's heart attack has given way to a greater confidence than ever in the stability of the government."

McKay said in a speech prepared for a Republican club luncheon that "Eisenhower's genius for organization has never been better demonstrated."

"Each member of his team knew what was expected of him and did it," McKay said. "No official panicked. No one grabbed for power."

The cabinet officer said nothing about whether he felt the President might or might not run for another term, but he did say: "Regardless of his future, the influence of his genuine goodness will be with us for many, many years to come."

McKay paid tribute to the leaders of both parties for the way he said they "have conducted themselves during this trying period."

However, elsewhere in his speech, McKay struck out at Democratic critics of the Interior Department's conservation and other policies. The secretary characterized as "pure politics" charges that "we've been giving away things with both hands."

"Let me say that nothing has been given away," McKay asserted. "I'm still waiting for someone to name just one item, but nobody has done so. There's certainly nothing in the records to back up this irresponsible accusation."

McKay went on to detail steps he said his department has taken to conserve wildlife, protect and develop national parks and improve the lot of American Indians.

He said the department is working out a 10-year program designed to expand the national park system to handle 80 million visitors yearly by the end of that period. This year, McKay said, "we expect to set a whopping big record of 80 million park visitors."

Farm Hearings Set In Dakota

By OVID MARTIN
Associated Press Farm Reporter

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The touring Senate Agriculture Committee is finding strong Midwestern support for a program that would use Federal funds to pay farmers to produce less rather than use them to buy surpluses.

At hearings held so far at St. Paul and Worthington, Minn., and Des Moines, more farmers have endorsed such a plan than any other.

The committee—which plans to go to all major farming areas of the country in search of ideas on how to restore agricultural stability—also found support for the idea among witnesses scheduled to appear at a hearing here today.

Perhaps the biggest boost given the plan were endorsements made at Des Moines yesterday by President Howard Hill of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and H. E. Flusher of the Missouri Farm Bureau.

"They told the committee that the present decline in farm prices reflects overproduction. They said the only cure is to limit output, but they declared present programs continue to promote a pile-up of costly surpluses in government hands."

Hill said that his suggested program would cost upwards of a billion dollars a year but that this amount would be no more than the cost of present farm programs.

Senate committee members indicated they are weighing the plan most seriously. They were influenced by the fact that a similar program is being advocated by the rival National Farmers Union. Some members said the plan might provide a basis for getting the two big farm organizations closer together.

Over The Garden Gate

TULELAKE

By Mrs. Carl Jensen

The Tulelake Garden Club met October 18 at the home of Mrs. E. C. Schweitzer with Mrs. Sam Anderson and Mrs. C. J. Main as co-hostesses. Fifteen members and one guest, Mrs. Fred Lamb, Eagle Point, mother of C. J. Main were present.

Mrs. Raymond Baker won the hostess prize. Mrs. Earl McFall, president was in charge of the business meeting.

Plans were discussed on the Tulelake Garden Club Christmas show to be held in the Masonic Hall on December 9. Theme of the show will be Christmas Symbols. Mrs. Theodore Fish will serve as general chairman.

The November meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Fish. Subject for study will be "Flower Show Procedure."

Negative Geneva Results Predicted By 'Observers'

WASHINGTON (UP) — The American public is on notice from responsible men here and abroad that there is no more than a 50-50 chance, if that, for success at the foreign ministers conference which began today in Geneva.

The "acid test" description of the conference is not something new and uttered only after the

July Big Four Summit Conference could be carefully reviewed and considered.

President Eisenhower used the phrase last July 25 when he said the "acid test" of July's agreements and their would come only when the foreign ministers met. They now are meeting. Mr. Eisenhower repeated the phrase Wednesday.

The Big Four at Geneva merely agreed that the foreign ministers should meet to seek solutions to problems which the Big Four cited for their attention. They are the flaked problems of European security and German unification and cultural exchanges among the nations.

Not since the Big Four met has there been more than a shred of two of evidence that the Soviet Union will accept any security or unification arrangements which would be acceptable to the Western powers.

Before Secretary of State John Foster Dulles took off for Geneva and after he had conferred with Mr. Eisenhower, the secretary could express only "measured hope" for a successful conference.

Western diplomats in London were warning a fortnight ago that

Soviet overtures to the Arab states — sale of arms, offers of credit and of technical assistance — marked the beginning of a major diplomatic offensive against the West.

At about the same time the defense ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization states were meeting in Paris. Dispatches reported that the "Spirit of Geneva" was not in the air there. Instead, the NATO men were told that the Soviet military menace to the West was greater than ever before.

As October began, Harold MacMillan of Great Britain warned the United Nations General Assembly against undue optimism on the outcome of the foreign ministers meeting.

APL President George Meany addressed the American Legion convention in Miami, Fla. Meany said nothing had occurred to produce concrete evidence of any change in Russian aims to "impose the godless ideology of Communism on the world by aggression, subversion, fraud, deceit or any other means available."

The most chilling report on the present attitude of the men in the

Kremlin came from West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's party which visited Moscow by invitation after the Big Four met at the Summit. "Their attitude is unchanged," was the word brought back by the Germans.

All of the foregoing casts a dark shadow over Geneva as the foreign ministers take their seats. But the shadow is not dead black. It isn't quite so bad as that.

Labor Merger Nears Finish

NEW YORK (AP) — Preparations for merging the AFL and the CIO into one big labor organization are practically completed, report labor leaders George Meany and Walter Reuther.

Meany, now president of the AFL and slated to head the new organization, said its constitution is in the "final stages."

Reuther, president of the CIO, reported "real progress" has been made. The main outlines of the new organization are firmly drawn he added, and he could foresee "no changes in substance" between now and the joint merger convention here Dec. 5.

At a unity committee meeting yesterday, the two groups agreed on directors for 22 regional posts throughout the country, with 13 coming from the AFO and 2 supplied by the CIO. Names were not made public.

Meany said the proposed constitution included safeguards for smaller unions, insuring them against being forced to merge with larger unions.

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