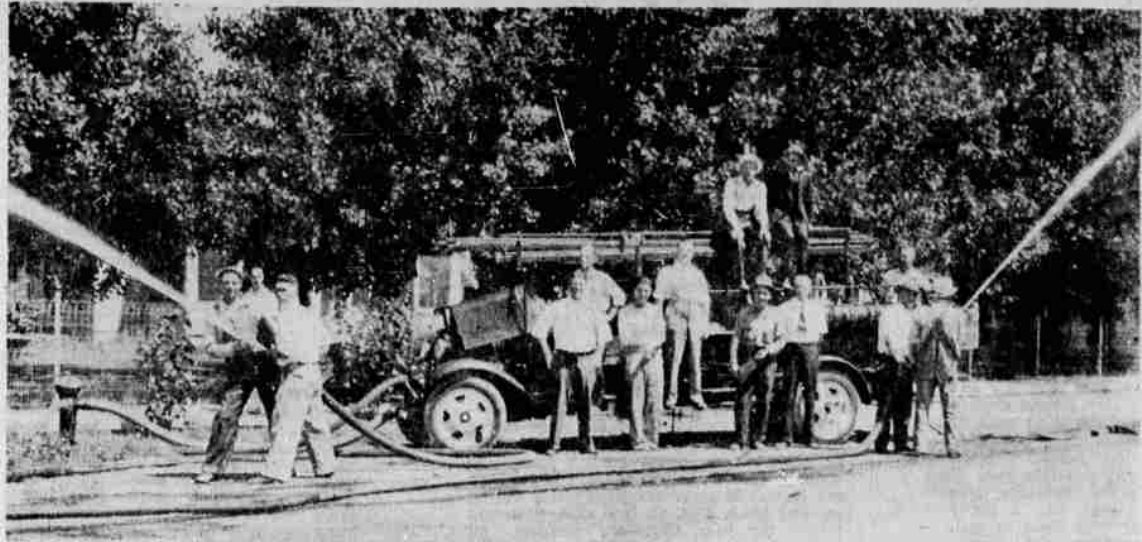
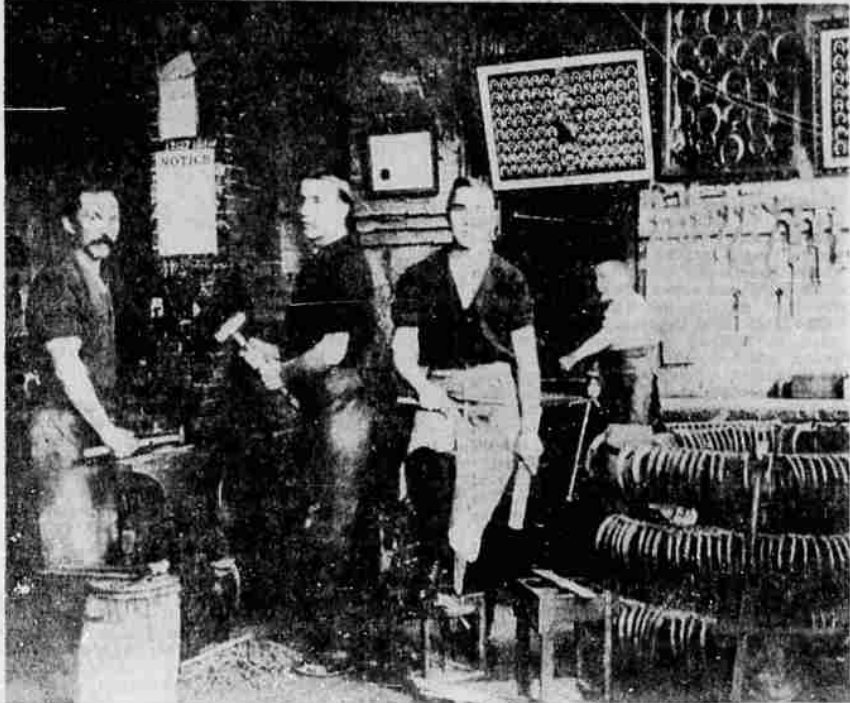




THIS IS MERRILL'S first fire truck, largely built by Ben Faus, Merrill's first fire chief in his blacksmith shop about 1932 on a Ford chassis. The equipment was manned by volunteers and the department 33 years later is operated in the same manner. New hose was being tried out on a summer day when this picture was taken. Pictured are some members of the department and some townsfolk looking on. (l to r) they are the late Andy Kuehne, Johnny Dillard with the hose, Jay McDonald,

present Merrill barber; the late Elmer Merritt, one time postmaster in back of McDonald; Kenneth Colwell, Dr. Frank E. Trotman, still practicing in Merrill; Chief Ben Faus, Tom Liard, owner of the Malin Drug Store, then a resident of Merrill; the late "Spud" Lodge and unidentified "helper". On top of the machine same order are Warren Fruits and Lee Brown. At the tail end of the truck is Bob Dalton, now living in California. The picture was taken in front of the Henry Cox home.



BEN FAUS cut his eye teeth on a toed horseshoe in the town of Boulder, Colorado where his father, the late Jacob Faus, far left, was an expert blacksmith and horseshoer. He taught his three sons the trade (l to r) Jack, Ben and Robert. Two sons, the two older followed in their father's footsteps but Robert, baby of the family, became a doctor. The circular rack in the foreground is hung thick with toed shoes in anticipation of ice and snow. Jacob Faus is at the anvil and on the wall in the large frame are nickel-plated shoes made by Ben.

Liles Retakes Witness Stand

FT. LEWIS, Wash. (AP)—Lt. Col. Paul V. Liles returned to the stand for cross-examination Friday at his Army court martial on charges of working with the enemy while their prisoner in Korea.

The 39-year-old Birmingham, Ala., career soldier, testifying in his own defense, told the 10-man Army court Thursday he made broadcasts, recordings and speeches used by the enemy for propaganda purposes in 1951.

He justified his actions, however, by saying they were intended to save the lives of American prisoners of war or to further an escape plan he had hatched. Communist threats prompted some of the activities, he said.

Under direct examination, Liles reviewed his three years as a prisoner of the Reds. A high point was one of four attempts he made to escape from his captors.

Liles said he obtained a North Korean uniform to make his escape and was at large for three days before he was picked up.

The witness described broadcasts he made for the Reds. He said he agreed to the first, March 4, 1951, in hopes of appealing to the International Red Cross for an air drop of food and medicine for some 3,000 American POWs.

The Reds cut out the appeal, he said, but he managed to get into the script enough military information to reveal whereabouts of the POW camp and prevent its being bombed by American forces.

Liles said he was very ill when he "voiced signed" an appeal to U.N. forces to surrender but later when other POWs made a disturbance managed to grab the tape recording and drop it in a well. He and other POWs, he said, "voiced signed" appeals to the five powers to form a peace pact, and to President Truman and Gen. MacArthur to withdraw U. N. troops from North Korea.

QUITE A NIGHT

HAMPTON, Va. (AP)—Jack Lawson, tailback for the Hampton High School football team, had himself quite a night when the Crabbers beat Oscar Smith High of South Norfolk 40-6. Lawson scored three touchdowns, kicked four extra points, gained 55 yards in 13 carries, averaged 44 yards on six kickoffs, recovered one fumble and blocked a kick.

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Veteran Merrill Blacksmith Recalls Early Basin Days

By RUTH KING

The gift of quieting a nervous horse, of putting a proper crease in a horse shoe and driving a tidy nail was inherited by Benjamin Franklin Faus, pioneer resident of the Merrill country from his Swiss and German ancestors who passed it from father to son.

Ben Faus was born in Boulder, Colorado on March 28, 1892 and grew up in the searing heat of an open forge, to the pounding dip of iron on anvil and wind in hand bellows. His father prided himself upon being the best blacksmith in Colorado and his three sons, one now a doctor, were indoctrinated with the love of perfection in the blacksmithing business.

He came to Merrill in 1905 and went to work for blacksmith George Jury. The following year he opened his own shop which he operated until 1944 when he retired to return to Boulder to spend some time with his aged mother.

Until 1907 there was no water works in the town of Merrill and the several big fires that destroyed part of the town were fought by bucket brigades.

Ben's father before him was a volunteer fireman and the need for more adequate fire protection for the town worried him into organizing the town's first volunteer crew.

He acquired an old chemical rig, two 35-gallon tanks and 40 rubber buckets. Money for the equipment was raised with dances and in the years that have followed George Washington's birthday on February 22 has been the day for the traditional day to continue to raise funds to keep the fire equipment rolling. In the early days, members of the Library Club gave suppers at the dances.

The city put a pump on Lost River, water mains were later laid and hose was bought.

Faus built the first truck, practically single handed in his blacksmith shop.

Shortly after organization of the company he was elected its first chief, a job he held until he left the country. In 1945 he was named the oldest fire chief in the state of Oregon in point of year's service.

He served as marshal, deputy sheriff in Klamath County, was trouble shooter for the Klamath Power Company owned and operated by H. V. Gates before the

company was taken over by the California Oregon Power Company. He continued to serve Copco for many years in the same capacity.

Those who have known Ben Faus, back "when" say he was one of the coolest men that ever opened a jail door for a customer.

He has been a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge for 52 years, holding the office of Noble Grand at one time. He is a member of the Elks Lodge also.

He hunted and fished when there was no limit on game and shot ducks for the Sacramento market at \$12 to \$24 a dozen. Hunters left Merrill at 4 p.m. changed horses three times to get to the train at Montague at 7 p.m. where they left for Sacramento and the open market.

Faus remembers that he could shoe eight head of horses a day for camps, buckaroos, cattlemen driving from Lakeview to Montague and harness horses. He charged \$2 a head, (all four feet) and reset shoes for \$1.25.

He has one daughter, Mrs. Don (Mona) English, Klamath Falls and two sons, Robert of Klamath Falls and Reo of Seattle.

Alturas Workers Takes Life

Joseph I. Orth, 47, Alturas, committed suicide Saturday at about 1 p.m. in the Modoc County Jail, according to a report from the Modoc County Sheriff's office.

Orth apparently hanged himself by using a piece of wire which was used as a sash cord in an old fashioned window in the cell he was placed in.

The deceased was an employee of the Southern Pacific Company and had resided in Alturas for about two years. He had been sentenced to 30 days for petty theft Friday and the sheriff's officers said he showed no intention of committing suicide when he was placed in the cell.

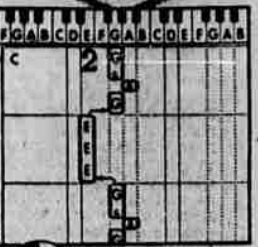
Next of kin was reported as a wife in Oakland, California. Funeral arrangements are pending.

AMBIDEXTROUS

BINGHAMTON, N. Y. (AP)—Jack Vaughan says he's a natural southpaw but in football and baseball he can throw with either hand. The six foot one 165-pound North High freshman led his team to four victories in as many games on the gridiron this fall.

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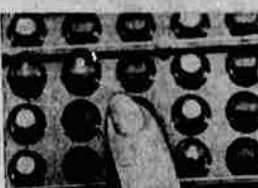
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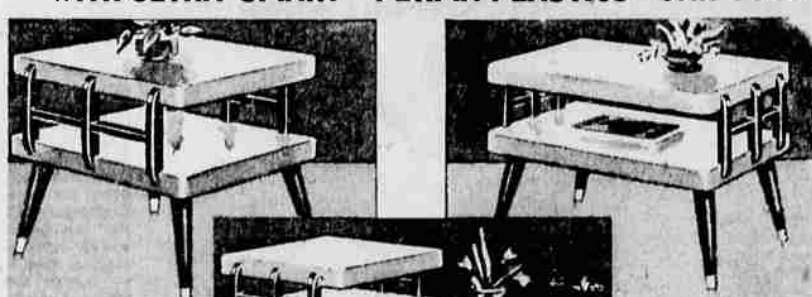
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Post Office Estimates Mail

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Post Office Department estimated Friday it will handle something more than 17 billion pieces of mail in the final quarter of this year.

The figure, about a billion pieces higher than that for the last three months of 1954, amounts to an average of more than 300 pieces for every family in America.

This month's deliveries alone, reflecting the holiday rush, are expected to reach a record of about 7,330,000,000 pieces, or 2 1/2 billion above the normal 1953 month. The December handle last year totaled 6,900,000,000 pieces.

Postmaster General Summerfield urged in a statement that return addresses be put on Christmas cards.

"For some obscure reason," he said, "many persons seem to feel it is bad taste to put a return address on Christmas cards."

Actually, it is in the best of taste. It saves friends and acquaintances much time and effort in keeping their mailing lists up to date and assures the sender, if he uses three-cent postage, that he will know if a greeting is not deliverable."