

# Violence Highlighted The News In State During 1955

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Violence—man's and nature's—keynoted the big news in Oregon in 1955.

Two bombings, one a murder and the other a \$50,000 extortion attempt, were exceeded in news importance only by a devastating Sunday punch from the weather which brought death and destruction over a wide area as the year came to a close.

The winter storm, followed by floods and slides, took 12 lives and caused damage in the uncounted millions. Only the month before, an early record-breaking freeze had left crops severely damaged.

The first bombing occurred April 14 when a dynamite charge was set off in a rest room at the big Meier and Frank Co. department store in Portland. At that very moment Aaron Frank, company president, was reading an extortion note ordering him to pay a \$50,000 ransom or another would be set off. The bombing set off a wave of semi-hysteria that led to scores of false bombing threats from cranks to students.

Eight months later to the day, a blind part-time chemist, Clarence Peddicord, was arrested and confessed the bombing. He is "eyes," he said, were his sister-in-law, Mrs. Joyce Keller. But she

denied implication in the plot.

Just a week after the department store bombing, dynamite blast blew an automobile to bits, killing Portland attorney Kermit Smith, Victor Laurence Wolf, who invoked an old Oregon law to confess in open court, was sentenced to life in prison. Called a "love slave," he said he committed murder because Smith's widow, Marjorie, asked him to. In a trial of wide interest at McMinnville, however, she was acquitted.

Another murder case held high interest among Oregon's newspaper readers. In it, a man and his wife, Wayne and Sherry Fong, were accused of murdering a 16-year-old Portland high school girl, Diane Hank. Convicted once, the Fongs were granted a new trial. Sherry Fong was convicted of a second murder and sentenced to life in prison. Her husband's second trial is pending.

Four persons died when a Pan American plane bound for Honolulu crashed in the Pacific a few miles off Coos Bay March 26. Fortunately for the other 19 aboard, the U. S. Navy transport Bayfield nearby sped to the scene to save them. The quiet bravery of passengers and crew wrote another chapter in heroic rescues at sea.

Early fall forest fires in Southern and Central Oregon killed three persons and brought extensive losses of the state's woodlands.

Less spectacular but far reaching in its effect on the people of Oregon was the 1955 session of the Legislature. Its most important act during the marathon session was a 60 per cent income tax increase. The legislators, in an attempt to solve the state's financial problems, also voted a 3 per cent cigarette tax, but it was again referred to the people. The Oregon House passed a sales tax, too, but it was rejected by the Senate.

The power story, always an important one in the Pacific Northwest, was marked in 1955 by the controversy over whether private industry or the federal government should develop the power potential in Hells Canyon of the Snake River. The Federal Power Commission gave Idaho Power Co. permission to go ahead with construction of three low level dams. But supporters of a single federal dam at Hells Canyon went to court to try to have the permit set aside.

In other power development, the Supreme Court upheld the Portland General Electric Co.'s right to build Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River.

As always, politics held a high place in news developments. Topping these was the shift in registration by Sen. Wayne Morse, one-time Republican, to Democratic. Inate Republicans asked Gov. Paul Patterson to oppose him in the May, 1956, primary.

Two stories high in human interest touched the emotions of not only Oregonians but the whole world.

Danny Schmidt, a prisoner of Chinese in the Korean War, returned home to find his bride, Una, with a new mate, California logger Alfred Fine. In the glare of publicity, he filed for divorce only to be reconciled with Una in Portland.

Eight others came home to Oregon from Korea in 1955. They were orphans of American GI's, adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holt of Creswell, a benevolent

Oregon farm couple who already had six children of their own. After months in Korea, dealing with red tape, Holt flew to Portland with the eight, along with four other orphans adopted by other couples.

Other top stories included:

The Nyssa polio epidemic following Oregon's participation in the Salk polio vaccination program; two Portland women lost for a week on Larch Mountain found safe; opposition to Southern Pacific's dropping passenger train service on the Rogue River line, highlighted by a race between a locomotive and a horse; shooting of James Applegate, Corvallis, after Eugene jailbreak by Martin Reyes; "Operation Green Light," civil defense test of Portland evacuation; natural gas coming to the Pacific Northwest; congressional timber hearings.

These, combined with many other stories, made 1955 a high ranking news year.

## Siskiyou Lists Road Damage

YREKA — About \$4,200,000 damage to Siskiyou County roads, state highways, power facilities and telephone installations during the December storms is the estimate of George Van Buskirk, assistant director of civil defense for Siskiyou County.

The figures do not include losses to owners of farm land, private homes, business buildings nor the many roads within the national forests.

County road damage alone, Van Buskirk said, may be as high as \$2,500,000. State highway destruction is believed to be about \$1,600,000; damage to power facilities, \$30,000; telephone installation, \$100,000. Access roads in unpopulated areas in national forest areas are not included in damage estimates.

Van Buskirk's estimates are preliminary figures, he states, and subject to revision when proper surveys are completed. He believes at least 368 miles of county roads are affected by storm damage and 1,100 lineal feet of bridge construction either washed out or seriously damaged.

Northern and western Siskiyou County suffered the greatest flood damage. The Klamath and Salmon rivers accounted for a large part of the havoc, isolating several communities and destroying resorts along their banks.

Streets Superintendent John Petty of Dunsmuir is preparing an estimate of street damage in that community. Mayor Fred Lloyd has stated state and federal loans may be sought by the city to help with repair costs.



"THE LIEUTENANT WORE SKIRTS"—A 20th Century-Fox comedy starring Tom Ewell and Rita Moreno, will be on the screen at the Esquire Theater Saturday night, New Year's Eve.

## SERVICE CLUB CALENDAR

- WILLARD HOTEL**
- Tuesday  
Toasts, 6:30 a.m., Spruce Room.  
Lions, noon, Pine Grove Room.  
20:30 Club, 7 p.m., Spruce Room.
- Wednesday  
Daughters of the Nile, 1 p.m., Pine Grove Room.  
Realty Board, noon, Spruce Room.  
Shrine Club, 7 p.m., Pine Grove Room.
- Thursday  
Life Underwriters, 7:30 a.m., Spruce Room.
- Friday  
Rotary, noon, Pine Grove Room.
- Saturday  
Kiwanis initiation, 6:30 p.m., Pine Grove Room.
- WINEMIA HOTEL**
- Tuesday  
Exchange Club, noon, Empire Room.  
Quota Club, noon, Camas Room.  
KFLW, 3 p.m., Crater Room.
- Wednesday  
Estate Planning Board, 7 a.m., Crater Room.  
Chamber of Commerce, noon, Empire Room.  
CDMC, noon, Crater Room.  
Toketeo Lions, 6:30 p.m., Empire Room.
- Thursday  
Soroptimists, noon, Camas Room.  
Venture Club, 6:30 p.m., Empire Room.
- Friday  
Estate Planning Board, 7 a.m., Crater Room.
- Saturday  
Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, 8 p.m., Camas Room.

## Great Plains Dust Predicted

WASHINGTON — The threat of new dust storms hangs over wide areas of the Great Plains, the Agriculture Department reported today.

Reports from the field as of Dec. 1 indicated, the department said, that dry soils and below normal rain and snowfall have left about 20 million acres of land in 10 Great Plains states in a condition to suffer wind damage.

This acreage, however, is about six million less than that in a similar condition a year ago. Severe dust storms during the past winter and spring caused heavy crop losses and soil erosion, just as they have done periodically for many years.

Of the land subject to blowing, about 13,886,000 acres is in cropland. The balance is largely range grazing land.

"The total amount of land that will actually be damaged during the current low season will depend," the department said, "on such factors as the intensity of livestock grazing, the type, velocity and duration of windstorms, the amount and frequency of precipitation, and the timeliness of emergency tillage in blow areas."

## Citizens Spent 68 Billion For Food In 1955

By STEVEN V. DAVID  
NEW YORK (AP) — A growing—and prosperous—population spent an estimated 68 billion dollars for food in 1955. The industry confidently expects to move on to another record in the coming year.

Food men have reason for optimism, for the American housewife seems determined to upset for all time a favorite maxim of the economist: That the percentage of disposable income spent on food declines when income rises.

American income certainly has risen. Yet Paul S. Willis, president of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, points out that we're spending an average of 23 per cent of our personal disposable income for food now, against 23 per cent in 1935-39.

Willis observes that the estimated 68 billions spent in food markets in 1955 compares with 64 1/2 billions the year before—and with a

mere 16 billions in 1939. This leads him to predict that, come 1960, the nation's food bill may be running around 100 billion dollars.

A good part of the credit for booming grocery sales, of course, may be given to the so-called convenience foods, for which the housewife is more than willing to pay a higher price. Willis comments that at least a third of today's grocery sales are of items that didn't exist in their present form 10 years ago or were there only in token quantities.

George Mantley, president of the National Assn. of Frozen Food Packers, estimates frozen food sales this year at a huge \$1,300,000,000. In 1956, he adds, sales should be well over the two-billion-dollar mark. He attributes the steadily rising sales figures to the introduction of such prepared frozen products as pre-cooked dinners, potato patties, meat pies, fish sticks and the like.

How much will food cost in 1956? The U. S. Department of Agriculture believes housewives will pay about the same, on average, as in 1955.

The USDA says meat will continue in abundant supply, with lower pork prices offsetting slight increases for other kinds of meat. Retail beef prices will average about the same as in 1955 although prices for choice grades are expected to rise. Chicken prices will rise slightly, stabilizing around Easter. Milk production is expected to increase a little.

The department estimates that meat consumption in 1955 ran around 161 pounds per person and adds that supplies may be big enough next year to allow the same consumption. Beef consumption may be down slightly from 1955's record rate of 81 pounds per person because production probably will decline.

LAST WEEK OF  
**LUCAS FURNITURE**  
DECEMBER STORE-WIDE SALE!  
All your furniture needs reduced — SATURDAY LAST DAY - Make your furniture dollars go further this week!  
**LUCAS FURNITURE**  
195 E. MAIN

9055  
36-50  
by Marian Martin

**SIZES TO 50**  
Princess lines of this wonderful bra—promise you the most flattering fit, comfortable firm support for the larger figure! Sizes up to 50 can jiffy-sew regular and long-length versions—to wear as the basis of all your fashions for the coming seasons!

Pattern 9055: Women's Sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50. Size 36 longer version, 1 yard 5-inch.

This easy-to-use pattern gives perfect fit. Complete, illustrated Sew Chart shows you every step. Send thirty-five cents in coins for this pattern—add 5 cents for each pattern for 1st-class mailing. Send to Marian Martin, care of Herald and News, Pattern Dept., 232 West 18th St., New York 11, N.Y. Print plainly name, address with zone, size and style number.

**CLOSING OUT SALE**  
continues.  
**KLAMATH FURNITURE CO.**  
221 Main

**ROSE INFLUX**  
PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A half million automobiles carrying 1 1/2 million persons are expected here Jan. 2 to view the Tournament of Roses parade, says the Auto Club of Southern California.

**YOUR DOWNTOWN Agent For**  
United Airlines, West Coast and all scheduled airlines... tickets and reservations.  
**World Wide Travel Bureau**  
716 Main Phone 6873 or 5551

**McINTYRE TRAVEL SERVICE**  
Your Experienced Agent  
**WILLARD HOTEL**  
Phone 3088

**GINO'S**  
Will Be Open Until  
**4 A. M.**  
New Years Eve  
FOR YOUR DINING PLEASURE!  
BEN B. LEE, MGR.  
Phone 6496 For Orders To Go

IT'S TIME TO TRADE that car 'cause you get such huge allowances! Check the splendid values in Classified.

**YOU CAN APPLY FORMICA**

ON A SINK  
ON FURNITURE  
IN THE BATH

**DO-IT-YOURSELF**  
with simple tools and Formica Contact Bond Cement. We have everything you need and Free Instructions.

Calhoun's  
Floor Covering's

**New Year's Eve**  
**DANCE MALIN**  
SATURDAY - DEC. 31  
★ HATS  
★ NOISEMAKERS  
★ HORNS  
Dancing 10 till 2  
Music By  
Bunnell's Orchestra

**Celebrate!**  
JOIN US NEW YEARS EVE

At  
**Klamath Falls BIGGEST PARTY**  
IN THE  
**PINEGROVE ROOM OF THE WILLARD HOTEL**

★ MUSIC  
★ FINE MUSICAL COMEDY  
★ FLOOR SHOW  
★ Hats  
★ Noisemakers  
★ Ballons

Cover Charge  
1.00 Plus Tax

**Happy New Year**

Celebrate At  
**The Chuck Wagon**  
"Kamath's Most Popular Lounge"  
630 Main Phone 2-9167

**Big New Year's Eve Party!**

- Free Hors d'oeuvres
- Noise Makers
- Novelties

See The Big Bowl Football Games  
On TV In Our Lounge

**1/2 Price**  
**New Tussy**  
Wind and Weather Lotion

Limited Time!  
Regular \$1.00 Size  
**50¢**  
Reg. \$2 size now \$1  
Same wonderful Wind and Weather benefits in Hand Cream, too!  
Reg. \$2 size now only \$1  
... price plus tax

Now with **FOUR** new miracle ingredients!

**HEALS!** With Allantoin! Amazing skin healing action for chapped, cracked skin. Helps get rid of beauty-robbing dead dry skin.

**PROTECTS!** With Silicones! Act like a detergent barrier to fight off attacks of harsh detergents and soaps while Lotion soothes, refreshes.

**SOFTENS!** With Emollients! Skin softeners help keep skin smooth, soft despite weather. Wonderful for roughened elbows, heels, knees.

**FIGHTS INFECTIONS!** With Hexachlorophene! Checks skin germs. Reduces risk of infection through open cracks in your skin.

No Wind... No Weather... No Detergent Need Roughen, Dry or Chap Your Skin Again!

**Curry's DRUGS**  
Klamath's Drug and Cosmetic Center  
9th and Main Phone 2-3475