

FLAMES RAZE LOST RIVER HOTEL

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
Nogales, Arizona, just across a wire fence and through a couple of gates from Nogales Sonora, is the jumping off place for one of the great migrations of recent history—the rush of American tourists into western Mexico.

With modern trimmings, it is a parallel for the California gold rush and the race into the Cherokee Strip. There is a slight difference in objectives, of course. The 49-ers were heading for California in search of gold. Those who made the race into Oklahoma's Cherokee Strip were seeking land.

The Americans who are pouring into western Mexico are hunting the sun. Otherwise, this latest rush is a dead ringer for the other two.

I might add that results of this latest American migration are just as satisfying as were those of the other historic migrations. The 49-ers found gold in California—or at least a lot of them did. The emigrants to the Cherokee Strip found land. In both cases, those who made good were happy.

In this particular season, EVERYBODY participating in the rush to Mexico is finding the sun. So everybody is happy.

Also—
Results come quickly.
In Nogales the other morning, when the immigrants awoke, there was ice all over the cars. It had rained early the night before, and after that the temperature took another nose dive. So the rain that had collected on the cars congealed into ice that had to be scraped off the windshields. It took some scraping, too.

But—
In Hermosilla four hours and 180 miles later, a kindly sun was beaming down from a cloudless sky. Coats were discarded and sport shirts were opened up at the throat. Cuffs were rolled back and the car windows were let down.

The Land of the Sun had been reached.

The Americans who had left their native land in the frost some four hours before simply basked in it. The Sonoran motels have a pleasant custom. They are built with what Midwesterners would call a front porch which is aimed into the sun. On this front porch there are chairs—rocking chairs, for the most part.

Everybody piled into a rocking chair and SAT IN THE SUN.

And it was WARM!
Really warm.

At least we were in bougainvillea land—not the skimpy bougainvillea of the farther northern California but the flamboyant masses of it that become ever more flamboyant as one approaches the Tropic of Cancer.

But—
There must be a fly in every ointment.

The fly in this ointment is the paucity of accommodations in comparison with the number of people desiring the accommodations.

I spoke earlier in this piece of the rush into the Cherokee Strip. If you have read your history assiduously, you will recall that in the Strip there were "Sooners." The Sooners were those seekers after land who had got in ahead of the rush.

The sooners in this modern day Rush for the Sun are those provident persons who had made reservations well ahead. The later comers find them in comfortable, even a trifle snug, possession of all the more desirable accommodations.

Of that, more anon.

Adlai Stevenson Said In Primary

PORTLAND (UP)—Unless headquarters of Adlai Stevenson specifically ask that his name be kept off the Oregon ballot, Stevenson will be in the Oregon presidential primary.

So announced Michael Munk, Reed College student and chairman of a committee collecting signatures on a petition to enter Stevenson in the Oregon Democratic primary in May.

Munk said Stevenson's aides did not forbid the action on their visit to Portland last weekend.

Munk said about 500 to 600 signatures have been collected. A thousand are needed.

European Cold Wave Takes 500; Stockholm Isolated

LONDON (UP)—Men and machines fought today to ease the plight of suffering thousands in Europe, locked in the third week of an unprecedented cold wave that has taken 500 lives.

A country-by-country breakdown of the death toll since the first icy front swept down from Siberia Feb. 1 showed: France, 129; Italy, 100; Yugoslavia, 58; Germany, 32; Britain, 39; Denmark, 26; Portugal, 20; Greece, 17; Sweden, 15; Switzerland, 14; Holland, 12; and Austria 10.

The toll is expected to go even higher when hundreds of communities, cut off by snow for days, restore communications.

Giant C-119 "Flying Boxcars" roared over the Alps from Germany to Italy with thousands of pounds of warm clothing and food for Italians suffering under the impact of the worst winter in a century. The supplies were loaded on trains for distribution in the hard-hit regions of southern Italy. Helicopters and small planes maintained a steady airdrop to isolated towns and villages.

"Mercy" shipments of food, fuel and clothing were being distributed by plane, truck and volunteer rescue ski squads in France and Greece.

In Scandinavia, the Kattegat, between Denmark and Sweden, was frozen 25 feet deep in places. Hundreds of the small islands that make up Denmark were locked in ice. Ferries labored to keep transportation going, but each needed an icebreaker for an escort.

A heavy snowfall crippled railway and highway traffic in Sweden. Stockholm was isolated by huge icepacks.

Temperatures across France neared the zero (F.) mark. It plummeted to zero at Le Bourget airport outside of Paris Tuesday—the lowest ever recorded around Paris.

The cold wiped out crops in southern and central France. In Perpignan near the Pyrenees, losses were estimated at more than five million dollars.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity: Clearing Wednesday night, fair and cold Thursday with highs from 23-27. Lows Wednesday night 15-20.

High yesterday	29
Low last night	11
Precip. last 24 hours	0
Precip. since Oct. 1	15.35
Same period last year	3.98
Normal for period	7.56

Herald and News

Price Five Cents—16 Pages

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1956

Telephone 8111

No. 3401



AN OLD LANDMARK in Merrill was turned into a roaring inferno early Wednesday morning when the Lost River Hotel and Tavern and an adjacent vacant building went up in flames. The fire of undetermined origin spread so rapidly that half a dozen hotel guests were forced to flee into the street in night clothing. Power was disrupted in the Merrill business area and plate

glass windows in business establishments across the street from the fire were cracked by intense heat. Douglas Brumley, manager of the hotel, said overall damage might reach \$50,000. Merrill and Malin volunteer firemen fought the flames for more than two hours. —Photos by Don Kettler, H-N Photographer

Old Merrill Landmark Now Ash Pile

By LYLE DOWNING
MERRILL—Fire swept by a high wind destroyed the Lost River Hotel and Tavern in Merrill early Wednesday morning, forcing half a dozen persons to flee into the street in their night clothing.

The flames, which were discovered shortly after 4 a.m., also destroyed a vacant one-story building next to the hotel and tavern.

The Ben Franklin Store which adjoined the burned buildings incurred considerable damage from smoke and water.

The fire was still burning two hours after an alarm was sounded by a passerby.

VOLUNTEERS JOIN
Volunteer firemen from Merrill and Malin joined forces to battle the flames which threatened to spread to other nearby buildings.

The heat generated by the fire was so intense that it cracked plate glass windows in half a dozen buildings on the opposite side of the street.

Douglas Brumley, operator of the hotel, said he believed the total damage might run as high as \$50,000. He had no insurance on his holdings.

It was also reported that Mrs. Mary Brophy, operator of the tavern, had no insurance.

The buildings, some of the oldest in the business section of Merrill, were owned by James Loe. Part of his loss was covered by insurance.

RUINS COMBED
Two hours after the fire had been extinguished, firemen were combing the ruins in an attempt to determine the cause of the conflagration.

Brumley, who was asleep in a second floor room of the hotel said he was awakened when the fire alarm sounded. He aroused hotel guests who fled into the street.

Mrs. Brophy, who lived at the rear of the tavern, was unable to save any of her clothing or other personal possessions due to the rapidly with which the flames spread through the building.

Power in the area was cut off for three hours. Emergency crews were rushed to the scene from Klamath Falls to restore electrical service.

Flood Hits Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP)—A flash flood surged through this resort city before dawn Wednesday, running about five feet deep on some downtown streets for several hours.

One death was reported, a 38-year-old Nome, Alaska, woman who was swept by raging waters from the top of a car where she and her husband had sought refuge. Her husband escaped. They were identified as Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barker, who had been camping about 5 miles east of here.

The torrent, result of an early-morning cloudburst, came at the start of the tourist season in this West Arkansas city of about 38,000 permanent residents.

Estimates of damage to downtown business houses varied. Insurance officials said the loss would run about \$250,000. Gus Dickson, of radio station KWFC at Hot Springs, said a poll of downtown merchants indicated the damage would total about 1 1/4 million dollars.

Most of the establishments on the city's main street, winding through a narrow valley between two steep hills, were swamped. Merchandise that floated out broken doors and windows littered the street. Business houses and hotels had thick carpets of mud left in the wake of the subsiding flood.

Streets here were almost deserted when the flood struck shortly after midnight, a factor that held down the death toll.

NO SKATING TONIGHT
There will not be ice skating tonight at the Moore Park skating rink reported Bert Stott, park custodian today.

Stott said that if the snow subsides by Thursday night the rink will be reopened.

City Council Reaffirms Fluoridation

Re-passage of a 1952 Klamath Falls city ordinance authorizing fluoridation of the Oregon Water Corporation's water supply and discussion of improvements and additions to the city's sewerage system highlighted the weekly city council meeting last night in the city hall.

The city council reaffirmed the ordinance authorizing fluoridation of the city's water supply at the urging of representatives of the four chapters of Beta Sigma Phi sorority. Although fluoridation was authorized by the ordinance in 1952 the chemical was not added to the water at that time.

Mrs. Joyce Dickinson reported that in a recent dental survey of 2444 elementary students in the city schools over 75 per cent needed dental care. Mrs. Dickinson said that since the 1952 ordinance was passed there have been extensive tests conducted over the nation which prove conclusively the effectiveness of fluoridation in the prevention of tooth decay, especially in growing children.

A proclamation endorsing fluoridation by the Klamath County Medical Society and the Klamath County Dental Society was read to the council by Mrs. Dickinson.

City Attorney Henry Perkins pointed out that due to the vagueness of existing state laws and court rulings on fluoridation the ordinance is to be considered more as a recommendation than as a binding city ruling.

Glen Bowen, Klamath Falls manager of the Oregon Water Corporation, said his company is ready to comply with the wishes of its customers and the city in the matter of fluoridation. He said that 42 per cent of the firm's customers live outside the city limits.

He said he has received 190 letters for fluoridation and five against.

Sodium silico fluoride would be added to the water system in sufficient quantity to bring the fluoride content of the water up to about 1.5 parts fluoride per million parts of water.

After re-passage of the ordinance the council gave the water firm 120 days to install the necessary equipment for fluoridation.

Bowen said that there would not be a rate increase for the added chemical. He estimated it would cost the water company about \$8,500 per year for fluoridation and indicated the company would begin installing the necessary equipment for fluoridation as soon as possible.

The need for improvements in the city's sewerage treatment plant and additions to the sewer lines in the city were reviewed by City Engineer E. A. Thomas. Thomas said that a clarifier is now needed at the present treatment plant on the west side of Klamath River. The state sanitary authority has asked the city to stop dumping solids and foam from the treatment plant into the river.

If a new clarifier was added to the present plant it could be an increment of a new plant, Thomas pointed out. He said that as sewerage plants can be built in segments, the new clarifier could be the beginning of a new plant. The present plant, built in 1929, has been inadequate for some time, it was reported.

The present system of sewerage lines in the city have become inadequate due to the increased use of household appliances such as garbage disposal units and washing machines. The daily sewerage load has increased from 150 gallons per capita per day in 1929 to 250 to 300 gallons per capita per day now, Thomas said.

Increased infiltration into the system, especially from the east side of town, also has added a burden on the overloaded lines, the city official reported.

Week's Vacation Starts For Ike; Hunting Planned

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower left by plane Wednesday for a Georgia vacation that may well bring him to a decision as to seeking a second term.

The President took off in his plane Columbine III at 10:35 a.m., less than 24 hours after his doctors reported to him and to the nation there is no medical barrier to his running again and serving another term if elected.

The President, in high spirits, was accompanied by Mrs. Eisenhower and her mother, Mrs. John S. Doud, and by a small staff including James C. Hagerty, press secretary.

They were bound for Thomasville, Ga., and a week's stay at the estate of Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey near there.

The President planned to get in some quail hunting and perhaps some golf.

How he feels after tramping the woods and fields in pursuit of birds may determine his decision as to whether to run again.

From six physicians who examined him, the verdict was that he appeared fit for "another 5 to 10 years" in the presidency.

But the doctors offered no advice as to whether he should run again.

"The choice is his not ours," Dr. Paul Dudley White, Boston heart specialist, said in telling a news conference late Tuesday about the medical report he and his colleagues gave Eisenhower.

The President's six doctors said in a prepared statement Eisenhower "has made a good recovery" from the heart attack he suffered Sept. 24, and his health "continues to be satisfactory."

Eisenhower undoubtedly will give the physicians' report careful consideration before he makes his announcement, which he has indicated will come around March 1. But he told a news conference a week ago today:

"I think I will probably trust my own feelings more than I will the doctors' report."

Private Plane Believed Down

BAKER, Ore. (AP)—Snow swirled out of low clouds over the rugged Blue Mountains Wednesday where a Kennebec, Wash., man was believed down in his private plane.

Karl Singhs, about 35, took off from Halfway, Ore.—some 40 air-line miles east of here—Tuesday afternoon en route for Pasco by way of Pendleton.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration office here said he last was heard from by radio at 2:15 p.m., heading on a course that would have taken him near La Grande and Mesham.

Earl W. Snyder, Oregon director of aeronautics, flew Wednesday morning from Salem to La Grande to set up search headquarters.

The Wednesday morning temperature at Mesham hung at zero. A half inch of snow had fallen there in the past day and was still coming in flurries that at times were heavy.

Aerial search awaited improvement in the weather.

Singhs had flown to Halfway in the morning and filed his flight plan to take him back to Pasco by 2:30 p.m.

He operates a big trailer lot for both sales and parking. He has a wife and four children and started taking flying lessons last summer.

Adlai Tours Washington

SEATTLE (AP)—Adlai Stevenson took his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination to the land of huge dams and atomic energy today after telling an audience here the Eisenhower administration has left this country unprepared to cope with Communist expansion.

Hammering at what he called the "frequent and foolish failures" of the Republicans, Stevenson told a 325-a-plate Democratic rally last night that the desire for peace is not a partisan problem.

"But there are crucial differences among us as to methods, policies and the vigor with which we shall pursue them," he said. "I am not one of those who feels, or says for partisan advantage, that all the administration... has done in this field is wrong or has wholly failed."

"But I am shocked when I read every day that all is well... and that whatever a Democrat says about the conduct of our foreign affairs must be taken with a grain of salt."

The former governor of Illinois told the audience of 400 persons that communism cannot be stopped by slogans or "a Republican chorus of 'peace and prosperity.'"

The Communists, he said, are on the move, using "aid, trade, arms, good will missions, technical missions, student exchanges, athletes and neutrality propaganda" and "our government is unprepared structurally and divided philosophically."



MRS. VIRGINIA PERRY, left, and Dean Marks, operator of Marks Cafe in Merrill, arose this morning to prepare hot coffee for firemen battling the fire that destroyed the Lost River Tavern and Hotel. Free loading, as usual, was the 9 o'clock photographer.

P. S. Hitchcock Seeks Senate

Former State Senator Philip S. Hitchcock, Wednesday announced his candidacy in the Republican primary for the United States Senate seat now held by Democrat Wayne L. Morse.

Hitchcock was a member of the Oregon State Senate from 1948 to 1954. He is now director of church and public relations for Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

In 1953, Hitchcock won the Oregon Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for his work on civil rights legislation.

While in the state senate, Hitchcock was a member of the Little Hoover Interim Committee on Reapportionment and a member of the interim committee on revenue.

He also was a member of the labor industries committee and national resources committee.

In announcing his senatorial aspirations, Hitchcock said:

"Many offers of support have come from people who want me as their candidate for U.S. senator. That is the principal reason I have made the decision to enter the campaign. This does not mean that I am a reluctant candidate. I intend to wage an active and forceful campaign and to present my political philosophy in such a way that there can be no mistake as to where I stand on any issue."

Hitchcock concluded with the assertion that he believes in the Eisenhower philosophy of humanitarianism, liberalism and financial responsibility.

British Sales Of Copper Wire To Russia Reported

WASHINGTON (AP)—Investigating senators received testimony Wednesday that Russia is buying from Britain "strategic copper wire produced from metal mined with U.S. financial aid."

The testimony, by Jerome S. Alderman, assistant counsel to the Senate Investigations subcommittee, marked the start of potentially stormy public hearings.

In an opening statement, Chairman McClellan (D-Ark.) accused government officials of withholding information about what he termed mounting free world sales of strategic materials to Russia's "war machine."

"This subcommittee is determined to get that information if it is within its power to do so," McClellan said.

Sen. Bender (R-Ohio) commented that while he does not oppose the investigation "we ought to use the greatest discretion." He expressed concern that repercussions among nations which are "allegedly our friends" might damage the free world's cause in the cold war.

One objective of the hearings, McClellan said, is to above whether this country keeps many items under embargo to the Soviet bloc but has consented to sale of the same items to the Russians by Allied nations.

Alderman promptly testified that is the case. He said the United States agreed at Paris in 1954 to remove 90 items from the list of items embargoed by free nations for sale to Russia, eased restrictions on others, but left this country's own embargo and control lists unchanged.

Alderman named Herbert Blackman, a Commerce Department official, as one of those involved in the international talks that led to the eased restrictions. He termed Blackman a "very clever young man, but not the man for the job."

Alderman said Russia is "desperately" short of copper, and is getting "substantial quantities" from Britain with this country's consent.