



SOME PRESENT AND FORMER COMMISSIONERS of the Weed Shastina Volunteer Firemen are shown here studying a map outline of parts of the Weed area. The group met at the Weed Court House last week to discuss and plan future activities of the local department of the Weed Shastina Fire District. From the left, seated, Lynn Eastor, M. E. Ellison, Harold Cedros, assistant volunteer chief; Dysart Scribner, Rolland Riley, volunteer chief; standing, Robert McMahon, Robert Mallory, chairman of the board of commissioners; Boyd Meline and Leslie Ewing. — Photo by Lucile Gaynor

Warden Leads Riot Squelch

FLORENCE, Ariz. (AP)—Two weeks ago, Warden Frank Eymann led 25 lawmen in putting down a riot at the Arizona State Prison.

Now he is seeking a commutation of sentence for a convicted murderer who stood by him during the insurrection.

Eymann told this story to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles:

When the riot started Dec. 4, Eymann entered the prison yard in the midst of wildly shouting convicts. Someone yelled, "Kill the warden."

Then Otis Taylor, 47, a Negro serving a life term for murder, stepped out of the pack and stood beside the warden. Taylor warned the convicts: "This is a good warden. You'll have to kill me first before you kill the warden."

Then Taylor and the warden, side by side, walked unharmed through the prison yard.

"When I needed a good man," Eymann told the board, "he stood beside me. I recommend commutation."

The board took the request under advisement.

TRANSIT PROBLEM

PORTLAND (AP)—The City Council today decides on whether to let the Rose City Transit Co. reduce service on four lines here.

The firm has said it wants to stop night-time service and most Sunday runs on the lines—which have been termed non-productive.

A city official said he favored the move, which would save the company an estimated \$44,853 a year.

Tragedy, Sorrow In Wake Of California Brush Fire

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif.

(AP)—Tragedy and sorrow lie today in the wake of a four-day brush fire that has flared over more than 50,000 acres of Southern California hills and canyons and is still out of control on nearly half its 75-mile perimeter.

While more than 2,000 men fight the stubborn flames, residents pick their way over the blackened earth to the ruins of their homes and summer cabins. Eighteen structures have been destroyed. More than 200 are still in peril.

In picturesque San Juan Canyon, scenic beauty is turned to rubble and ashes.

The canyon people who have returned share the common sadness of loss.

There is Joe Paseri. He came to the canyon to make his home in 1942. Beside the house was a great oak tree. Joe, 77, spent many a day relaxing beneath its branches.

Driven out by the fire, Joe came back to the ruins of his cabin, the black skeleton of the oak and the charred table beneath it.

"I don't know what to do," he said. "I feel like crying."

He reached into the ashes and picked up half of a figurine.

"St. Anthony," he said. "My wife's patron saint."

He sat down beside a blackened metal box, once his refrigerator. He cried.

There is Henry Emberg, who evacuated his home on the sheriff's orders and returned hopefully after the fire had passed. "There

was nothing left," he said in shocked disbelief.

John and Romelia Lampo trudged through the charred remains of their cabin.

"We had a nice cabin," said Romelia. "All of the cabins here in the San Juan cost \$8,000 or more to build and furnish. Mostly old people lived in them."

"Rebuild? No," said John. "It takes money for that and ours is gone."

"I wonder what the little animals will do for a drink?" Romelia asked.

"We had three little foxes—Limp, Easter and Bobtail—and we used to feed them every day."

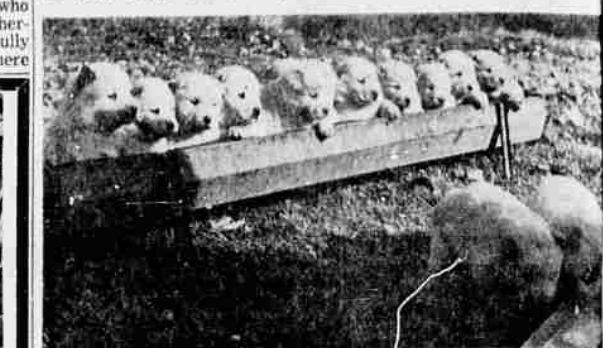
"Yes," added John. "Every day at half past four exactly."

High winds and low humidity have made the fire fighters' job tough one. They don't expect to have even tentative control over the flames before Thursday.

The fire is believed to have been started by a tracer bullet ripping into the dry brush, either from a hunter's rifle or a military plane.

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Slayer Awaiting Legal Process

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP)—Slayer Carl A. Eder, 16, under constant guard in the county jail, today awaited the formal legal processes which could send him to life in prison for five killings.

The tall, pale youth was arraigned in suburban El Cajon Municipal Court Tuesday on five counts of murder. He stood with bowed head as the names of his victims were read by Judge Fenton Garfield.

The victims, knifed and shot to death in their modest two-bedroom home in El Cajon, were Mrs. Lois Pendergast, 37, and her children, David, 9; Thomas, 6; Diane, 4; and Allen, 2.

Judge Garfield certified Eder to the Juvenile Division of Superior Court, which will determine whether he is to be tried as an adult or juvenile.

Under California law a juvenile may not be sentenced to death. But if the Juvenile Court determines that he may be tried as an adult, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

If the court decides Eder is to be treated as a juvenile, he could be committed to the California Youth Authority. In that case he would remain under CYA control until he is 25, when he could be released without further action.

Eder's capture Monday night ended a search that had started when Thomas Pendergast, 39, a San Diego aircraft plant pilot, found his wife and children murdered Friday evening.

Eder, a runaway from a Rochester, N. Y., suburb, had been befriended by the Pendergasts and taken into their home six weeks earlier.

Pendergast told newsmen he felt only pity for the boy. "I think he is insane," he said.

A psychiatrist who talked with Eder said he did not detect any

thing unusual "under the circumstances" about the confessed murderer.

Private funeral services for the five victims are set for Thursday.

Chicago Fire Findings Told

CHICAGO (AP)—Sneak smoking, delay in sounding an alarm and combustible materials in a stairwell stood out today among findings in the tragic fire at Our Lady of the Angels School Dec. 1.

Coroner Walter McCarron said the most important finding was a report of sneak smoking in the school just before the fire in which 89 children and 3 nuns perished.

Sgt. Drew Brown of the police arson squad told the coroner's blue ribbon jury Tuesday that:

"We have definitely found there had been smoking in the school near the stairwell where the fire started."

"We have found definitely that combustible materials were stored in the stairwell."

Brown testified the arson squad found two boys who said they had seen the sneak smokers between 2:20 and 2:30 p.m. The fire alarm was sounded at 2:42.

Brown said the boys could not identify the smokers by name and that pupils and teachers would be questioned again.

Heart Attack Hits Scribe

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Friedrich C. Othman, Washington columnist for the United Feature Syndicate, suffered a heart attack Tuesday.

Doctors reported his condition Tuesday night as "pretty good."

The 53-year-old veteran newsmen was stricken shortly after he had covered the morning session of a House elections subcommittee hearing looking into the defeat of Rep. Coya Knutson (D-Minn.) in the Nov. 4 election.

Doctors said he suffered what they described as a "coronary thrombosis with a myocardial infarct."

Othman became ill during lunch in the Senate restaurant. He walked from there to the Senate press gallery to rest and then went to his Washington home where he was attended by a physician and later removed to Doctors Hospital.



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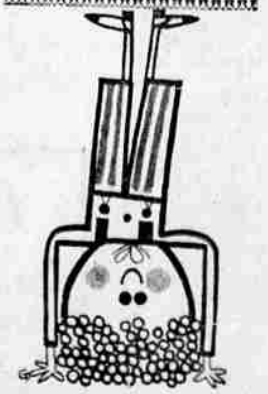
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