



LAST WEEKEND'S SNOWFALL brought crowds of skiers and onlookers to the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl for skiing and fun in the snow. This picture, taken by the Herald and News Dunsuir correspondent Peggy Walsh, shows the parking lot on a week day when the crowd was not as heavy as it was over the weekend.

1959 Science Predictions Forecast By Moscow Radio

LONDON (AP)—The Russians will be able to send a rocket around the moon and fly a nuclear-powered civilian plane during 1959, Moscow radio said today.

A French-language broadcast entitled "Soviet Science in 1959" said the new year "will see still greater development in the field of interplanetary rockets and Sputniks."

"Here progress of technology and automation will without doubt make it possible to send an interplanetary rocket around the moon in 1959," the broadcast said. By using the word "possible," Moscow avoided saying flatly that the Russians would try.

The U. S. Air Force has made three unsuccessful attempts to send rockets around the moon. The U. S. Army failed four weeks ago to hit the moon. A second Army attempt is expected within the next few months.

Ever since the Russians sent up their first Sputnik 15 months ago, the West has been expecting a Red attempt to shoot the moon. Completely unconfirmed reports have circulated that the Soviet Union has tried and failed at least once.

The broadcast noted that Soviet scientists are concentrating on the problem of nuclear reactors.

It declared: "The prospects of conquering these sources of concentrated power are closely linked with the problem of penetrating into cosmic space. Soviet scientists have been working for a long time on the problem of efficient use of atomic engines for civil aviation and the results already obtained make it possible to state that 1959 will see the first trials in this field."

The specification of civil as distinct from military aviation could have two causes. One would be the usual Soviet propaganda approach that its inventions are for peace. The other reason might be that the Russians already have a nuclear-powered warplane.

On Nov. 31 the American magazine Aviation Week reported the Russians had completed a nuclear-powered bomber six months before and it had been flying in the Moscow area for two months.

Secretary of Defense McElroy said in Washington at that time that he doubted the Russians had



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Devastating Brush Fires Run Rampant In LA Hills

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two devastating brush fires ran wild in the hills ringing Los Angeles today, forcing thousands to flee and sending scores of homes up in flames.

One fire laid waste to a 9-mile stretch of Topanga Canyon, destroying 80 homes in a terrifying surge to the sea. The other raced through the Hollywood hills to the outskirts of the rich residential community of Beverly Hills.

Both fires are believed to have been touched off by a firebug.

The leaping flames, flying embers and blinding smoke provided a nightmarish background to New Year's Eve celebrations in homes close to the fire front. Christmas lights still gleamed from expensive homes from which the occupants had fled.

City and county fire officials rushed nearly 2,000 men to the blazing areas, about 12 miles apart. The size of the battle was summed up by a smoke-grimed

fire captain surveying the Topanga Canyon scene, who said, "We can't stop it. Too much wind, too low humidity, too much fire."

The Topanga Canyon blaze was the first to break out, flaring up Wednesday morning in the home-studded canyon running from the San Fernando Valley to the ocean, about 29 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Urged on by strong, dry winds from the desert the flames raced at incredible speed. Residents barely had time to throw a few belongings in their cars and join the confused, jumbled stream of evacuees.

An estimated 4,000 people were evacuated from the canyon. An evacuation center set up at Topanga Canyon Elementary School was quickly jammed. After its first rush to the ocean

the fire turned west and moved toward another thickly populated canyon. Just a few miles further on lie the charred acres and blackened ruins left from the fire that roared through the Malibu Hills.

A hundred families living in homes stretched along the bottom of San Ysidro Canyon on the northern edge of the city were ordered to be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice as the fire edged within a half-mile.

Firemen concentrated on saving homes, rather than trying to stop the fire in its drive through the dry brush.

Only a half-inch of rain has fallen in the Los Angeles area since July, none at all since October. The long dry spell has created a severe fire hazard throughout Southern California.

TRAIN WRECK
TURIN, Italy (AP)—A two-car express passenger train rammed into several freight cars today and derailed. Officials said 2 persons were killed and 10 injured.

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