

Court Denies Damage Suit

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP) — A circuit court jury returned a unanimous verdict Tuesday denying a \$25,000 damage suit filed against two La Grande High School employees by a boy who lost an eye.

The suit was filed against Ronald Walk, the school principal, and Jack Rainey, a physical education instructor, by Franklin Shaw, 13.

Shaw said in the suit he was struck in the eye by a baseball bat thrown during a game at the school in April of 1956. He said Rainey had canceled a class and told his students to play baseball.

The suit contended Rainey left the school yard and Walk came onto the grounds during the game, but was negligent because he failed to closely supervise.

A Woodpecker's Thoughts Turn To Love In Spring

RYEN, N.Y. (AP) — Ten days ago a staccato knocking and banging awakened the Richard Spath household at 5 a.m.

"Good heavens," said Mrs. Spath, "whatever can that be?"

"Must be the plumbing," said her husband.

No, it wasn't the plumbing, said the plumber.

Second day: same time, same noise. Spath called in a heating engineer. Not the heating, said the engineer.

Third day: ditto time and racket. Gas man called in. No defect, the man said.

Fourth day: same old time and racket.

tribulation. Spath donned a robe and hurried outside. There, in the dawn, he saw the culprit: a downy woodpecker hammering like mad on the television aerial.

"Go home," "shoo!" and rocks and hand-clapping failed to scare away the bird.

Wednesday, Spath consulted the National Audubon Society. Advised the society: Turn the garden hose on him; or get a toy pop gun and frighten it; or get a fireworks permit and shoot some roman candles at it.

Spath has decided to use the hose treatment first. He'll probably get help from his wife and two youngsters, Greg, 6, and John, 3.

That downy woodpecker isn't just a mean old cuss, said the Audubon Society. He's merely using the TV antenna as a sort of sounding board to issue a spring love call.

At any event, the spokesman continued, the hammering won't go beyond the next few weeks or so. By that time, the bird either will have found a mate or will give up. And what's more important to the Spaths, it will go away.

Damage Suit Names Jockey

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP) — A million-dollar suit alleging invasion of privacy has been filed against Billy Pearson, jockey and art connoisseur.

Frank Sullivan, who identifies himself as a former horse owner and trainer, assistant track manager and ticket seller, filed the suit Wednesday. He included Pearson's biography, "Never Look Back," and the publisher, Simon and Schuster, Inc.

Sullivan charged that the book depicts him as a tout and represented his personal life in untruthful manner for the purpose of personal profit.

Reds Famed Bolshoi Ballet Opens Tonight In New York

NEW YORK (AP) — From patched-up floor to iced champagne, everything is set for tonight's big show — the American debut of the Soviet Bolshoi ballet troupe.

A stellar cross-section of society, diplomacy, business — and even dance fans — have plunked down \$50 each for box seats and \$40 per orchestra chairs to witness the gala.

In addition, there will be 200 standees at \$3 each. The eager line to buy that space began queuing up Wednesday afternoon. Those enduring the all-night vigils were armed with blankets, sleeping bags and picnic jugs. The standing room tickets go on sale tonight.

The premiere performance, Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," launches a 3½-week repertory run in the old red-and-gold Metropolitan Opera House. Then the 100 dancers and 90 musicians go on tour, returning here in May to end the eight-week visit with added appearances at Madison Square Garden.

The arrival has been accompanied by an inevitable flurry of last-minute details and snags. Some alleged ticket scalpers have

been already nabbed.

But most important, for the performers, was that matter of the stage floor.

"It's like a plowed field," sympathetically murmured an American ballerina, Nora Kaye, after hearing of the visitors' complaint about splintery, rough sections of the stage.

"There's nothing unusual," explained a spokesman for Sol Hurok, the impresario who is sponsoring the visit in cooperation with the American National Theatre and Academy.

"The floor gets banged up by moving scenery during the opera season. The workmen moved in Monday and have been patching and repairing."

The Russians also discovered during rehearsals that stage movement and leaps had to be reduced, because the Met stage is one-third smaller than their home theater in Moscow.

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On The Record

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HEINE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Heine April 14 in Klamath Valley Hospital a boy, weighing 7 lbs., 12 1/2 oz.

MILHORN — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Milhorn April 14 in Klamath Valley Hospital a boy, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz.

SWEET — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Sweet April 13 in Klamath Valley Hospital a boy, weighing 9 lbs., 3 1/2 oz.

VAN ORDON — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin L. Van Ordon April 13 in Klamath Valley Hospital a boy, weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz.

GIRLS

TABOR — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Tabor April 14 in Klamath Valley Hospital a girl, weighing 7 lbs., 12 oz.

1959 ROUNDUP BOYS: 157 GIRLS: 107

Italy Politico Raps Decree

ROME (AP) — Pietro Nenni, leader of the Italian Socialist party, called on the government Wednesday night to protest a Vatican decree forbidding Roman Catholics from supporting Communist sympathizers in elections.

Nenni, whose party often sides with the Communists on issues, charged in the Chamber of Deputies that the Vatican order violated the treaty regulating relations between Italy and the Holy See.

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Betterment Chief Lauds Progress

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP) — Los Angeles is beginning to lose that bleak and sterile look.

So says Frederic A. Chase, executive director of Los Angeles Beautiful. He pointed out that the 10,500 permits to plant trees on downtown streets last year represented a 90 per cent increase over 1955.

The result, he says, is that "the city is beginning to resemble a habitat of human beings rather than a bleak and sterile mosaic of asphalt, concrete and steel."

Liz Recuperates From Operation

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor was recuperating today after having her tonsils removed at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

Singer Eddie Fisher, the actress' fiance, was at her side before and after surgery Wednesday. Then he flew back to Las Vegas, Nev., for a night club engagement and to protect his legal residence status under which he expects to get a Nevada divorce from Debbie Reynolds May 11.

Miss Taylor was expected to remain in the hospital three or four days for treatment of a chronic throat infection.

WAS IT NECESSARY?

BAIRDWIN PARK, Calif. (AP) — Robert Wren, 50, a truck driver, worked all night on his income tax return. Then he slashed his wrist, temple and ankle with a bread knife, police reported. His wife Wilma found him bleeding on his bed and summoned police. He was reported in serious condition at a hospital.

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