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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
There's an interesting little story in the news today. So bend an ear while I tell the tale.

Roger Harlan—of Dallas, Texas—is an electronics whiz. Also he is a lazy man. And . . . he likes to keep his garage door closed because he doesn't like to have every Tom, Dick and Harry messing around with the gadgets he keeps there.

But . . . being lazy . . . it irked him to have to get out of the car and open the door and then get back in the car and drive into the garage.

So—
He put his active mind to work. The upshot of it was that he fixed his garage door so it would open when he honked his horn or whistled in a certain pattern. So cleverly was this pattern designed that the door refused to be opened by the normal pattern of honks and whistles in his neighborhood. For weeks, it was wonderful. Then something happened.

He began finding the door OPEN when he got home!

What to do?
Well, being of a scientific turn, he fell back on RESEARCH—whose job is to FIND OUT FACTS. He put his wife to work. Her job was to watch the door as a cat watches a mouse-hole.

Four days later, she came up with a report. She said that each day a mockingbird came to the garage, perched on a basketball hoop above the door, cocked its head in a discerning way, opened its throat and REPRODUCED THE PATTERN OF SOUNDS that had been designed by the inventive-minded garage owner.

Whereupon the door OPENED!

Thus challenged, the electronically-minded Mr. Harlan REALLY went to work. He designed a system of signals based not merely upon sounds but also upon an intricate TIMING of the sounds.

That did the trick. The bird came back for days in a row, and worked and worked. But in vain. Its gifted throat could accurately repeat the SOUNDS, but its bird brain was unequal to the task of matching the TIMING of the sounds.

So the mockingbird gave up and left Harlan in peace. Thereafter, when he came home the garage door was closed, but opened obediently when he pushed the button.

Why did the man win?

He had a BETTER BRAIN than the bird.

That's the long and the short of it.

The moral:

In the world of the future, it will be the best brains that win. That makes this tale worth while.

Discussion Set On Valuations

State Tax Commissioner Charles Mack and two department representatives were due here today to discuss assessed valuations recently released by the assessor's office.

The county court said the discussion would center on assessments of the Hot Springs Section of Klamath Falls where some property values were raised 90 and 100 per cent.

Meanwhile, the number of protests against assessed valuations reached 194—190 of which were from Hot Springs property owners.

Last year only 17 property owners protested assessed valuations mailed by the assessor.

Appropriations Group Blasts Ag Department

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Appropriations Committee accused the Agriculture Department today of "complete disregard for the law," criticized its policies, and cut its 1960 funds by \$142,199,265.

In recommending \$3,939,165,498 for the department's activities for the year starting July 1, the committee called for a much more active program of selling surplus commodities overseas.

Along with that criticism, it contended that many of the department's operations "are of more benefit to the general public than to the farmer."

"The situation in agriculture does not present a good picture," the committee said in a report written by Rep. Jamie L. Whitten (D-Miss.).

For the department's regular activities, the committee recommended \$1,235,645,585, a cut of \$42,199,365 from the President's requests.

For the Commodity Credit Corp., which handles surplus commodities and other farm programs, it allotted \$2,703,521,913, a cut of 100 million dollars. It said



FRONT AND REAR views of the Dick B. Miller automobile agency damaged by fire last night are shown in these photographs by Herald and News photographer Don Kettler. Firemen braved a sizzling, unsteady roof to reach



burning timbers in the front of the building in the photo at left. The picture at right shows an after-the-fire shot of the paint shop where the fire apparently started and where temperatures were hot enough to melt metal.

Fire Hits Car Firm

Dick B. Miller Garage \$100,000 Fire Victim

By TOM STIMMEL

A downtown Cadillac and Oldsmobile garage was severely damaged last night by a stubborn fire that billowed smoke over much of the city and reached temperatures hot enough to melt metal.

For more than two-and-a-half hours, 24 men fought the fire that completely wrecked portions of the Dick B. Miller Company building at Seventh and Klamath streets.

No accurate estimate of damage was available today, but the loss could be judged conservatively at \$100,000. The fire completely destroyed a 1959 Olds four-door hardtop, a 1958 Cadillac coupe, a Volkswagen and possibly a fourth car; it demolished the body shop, brought severe losses to heavy auto parts stored above the body shop, and so completely damaged the roof that an entire new roof may be needed.

Neither could the cause be established definitely today. "We're going in this morning to see what we can figure out," Fire Chief Roy Rowe said.

The building was almost impossible to enter last night when firemen arrived at about 10 minutes before 11.

Smoke swarmed in thick, searing clouds from the back end of the large building and swiftly moved through the showroom, offices, and repair shops.

Firemen were hampered by electric doors that finally had to be chopped open with axes. Smoke prevented firemen from finding the operating switches, and Rowe said the current probably was off anyway.

Most severely damaged part of the building was the paint shop and a small room behind it, on the alley back of Klamath Avenue, Rowe said. It was here that the fire probably started, he said.

Two pumper trucks and the department's 85-foot aerial ladder raced to the scene. The pumpers stood back in the alley and the aerial truck was stopped in front of the main entrance where plate glass windows had been painted in an unexpectedly realistic advertising campaign—"We've Caught Fire!" and "Burn the profits."

The advertising signs, co-owner of the company Melvin Miller said, were "rather ironic."

Firemen scrambled up the ladder and focused streams of water on the searing roof.

Meanwhile, in the rear, firemen with hoses from the pumpers literally axed their way into the rear of the building.

Their progress was hindered, Rowe said, by cars that broke the flow of water from the high pressure hoses.

It was here that the most severe damage was inflicted. Flaming timbers from the ruined roof plunged down on expensive, late-model cars, and intense temperatures from gasoline-fueled flames literally melted metal.

After the fire had been brought under control, the company wrecker pulled out a 1959 Oldsmobile from which paint had been completely seared off, tires were burned to lumps of hot rubber, and the caved-in roof formed a shallow depository for charcoal chunks from the roof.

Even before that, company employees fought smoke to drive from the building the cars they had reached, and firemen braved treacherous pits in the sizzling roof to reach still-burning timbers.

"It hadn't been for that real fine fire department," Miller said today. "We'd be a lot worse off than we are. They did a real fine job. That paint shop was hotter than a blister."

The fire "practically melted that 'Olds' and the roof came in on it, too," he said.

Small Hillman automobiles stored in the lower end of the garage escaped serious damage, Miller said.

"We're still operating new and used car sales," Miller said, "and we'll get the shop going as soon as we possibly can."

The first alarm was sounded at 10:46 last night by Clyde England, operator of Clyde's Towing Service next door.

"I was over after coffee at the Pastime," he said, "when I walked back and thought I saw smoke. I went out back and looked at the top of the Miller place, and thought maybe steam was escaping. I dashed in and called police and they were here in less than two minutes. They got right on the radio and called the fire department."

The fire department received the call at 10:47 p.m. Rowe said he raced into town from his California Street home and saw the fire when he reached the top of the hill at Upham Street.

Some spectators estimated flames as high as 50 feet in the air, but the flames were squelched soon. Heavy smoke was the major indicator of disaster.

A fire crew stayed at the scene until 3 a.m. Again, at 6:52 a.m., firemen returned when someone spotted a new breakout near the back locker rooms. That break was soon squelched, however, and firemen were back in the station in nine minutes.

Atomic Plane Program Set

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force said today it has hurdled the last major obstacle to development of a nuclear powered airplane, that of efficient shielding from radiation.

Lt. Gen. Roscoe C. Wilson, deputy chief of staff for development, told the Aviation Writers Assn. that "we therefore are now embarked on a program to produce a subsonic nuclear powered airplane which will be the prototype of a future weapon system."

Wilson did not say when such a prototype, or experimental model actually would be built and ready for testing. Development of a new plane normally takes a number of years.

"The shielding problem for nuclear airplanes has been solved. We know how to design effective airborne shields and how to predict their performance."

Wilson said a nuclear airplane would not necessarily be any larger than the current B52 heavy jet bomber. It also will be designed to operate off the same runway length as the B52.

He said a nuclear bomber would be able to cruise anywhere in the world, and would be capable of launching long-range ballistic missiles as well as handling nuclear bombs and short-range missiles.

Wilson said two types of nuclear power plants are being developed, the direct air cycle and the indirect liquid metal cycle.

In the direct cycle, the air flow from the engine intake through the compressor and directly through the reactor, where it is heated, expanded through the turbine, and flows out as a jet stream.

In the indirect cycle the reactor heats a liquid metal which flows through a closed system. The air is heated by passing through a heat exchanger.

The direct cycle turbojet system is being developed by General Electric Co., at Evandale, Ohio, and at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho.

Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Co. is developing the longer range indirect cycle program at Middletown, Conn.

Convair Division of General Dynamics, Fort Worth, Tex., has been awarded a design study for the experimental airplane that will use the nuclear power.

Water Rate Hike Halted By PUC

Public Utilities Commissioner Jonel C. Hill reported today that proposed rate increases by the Oregon Water Corporation scheduled to go into effect in Klamath Falls on May 21 have been suspended.

Such suspensions always precede public hearings, although Hill didn't set the date for the hearing. In an earlier release, the PUC office indicated that a press of previous hearings might delay setting a date for the Oregon Water rate increase hearing.

The action also affected the Roseburg area where the same company has applied for a rate increase also.

POLECAT USES SCENTS

LONDON (UPI)—Charles Williams saw a strange striped animal ambling down his garden path and quickly threw his coat over it. Police said the polecat is somebody's pet, will the owner please come quick. Williams was believed willing to throw in the coat, too.

Red Bid Divides Germany

GENEVA (AP)—Russia formally proposed to the West today a peace treaty to be signed with divided Germany. The United States said it was "keenly disappointed" and accused the Soviet Union of wanting to perpetuate the division of Germany.

The U.S. reaction was given in a statement issued immediately after the Big Four conference ended its first week of sessions with a recess until Monday.

In a speech presenting the Russian treaty draft which was originally made public Jan. 10, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko charged the West with fostering a renewal of militarism in West Germany.

British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd challenged this allegation, saying "we have our own views as to where responsibility" for arms race lies. The West has often accused Russia over the years of forcing West German rearmament by arming East Germany.

The U.S. statement said Gromyko's speech and the Soviet treaty proposal show "the Soviet Union . . . has made no effort whatever to meet Western objections . . . regarding the Soviet draft."

"Instead," the statement declared, "it has presented the same old proposals and Mr. Gromyko's exposition has not served to make them any more palatable than they were on Jan. 10."

The United States and its allies had denounced the Russian plan at that time as being designed to keep Germany divided and to split West Germany away from its western allies and neighbors.

Western informants said after a quick examination of the version presented by Gromyko at today's conference session that it appeared

only contained no substantial changes.

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev said in a speech in Russia Thursday that peace must be made "with the two actually existing German states." The Soviet plan is completely at loggerheads with the Western package proposal, introduced here Thursday, which calls for a peace treaty with a unified Germany.

Gromyko was reported to have made some preliminary comments on the Western plan today.



COL. JACK W. WILLIAMS

Base Leader To Give Talk

Col. Jack W. Williams, commander of the 408th Fighter Group at Kingsley Field, will be one of the main speakers at the second annual Aviation Week banquet to be held Saturday, May 16, Armed Forces Day, at 6 p.m. at the Reames Country Club.

Col. Williams, a native of Munday, Texas, entered the United States Air Force in August 1941, after graduating from Texas A & M. College with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

Completing the Aviation Cadet Flying Training program in August 1942, Col. Williams was soon assigned to Wright-Patterson Field, Ohio, where he flew experimental type aircraft during World War II.

Discharged in November 1946, Colonel Williams flew experimental aircraft for Republic Aviation Corporation and Howard Hughes Aircraft Company until October 1947 when he was awarded a regular commission in the USAF and reported for active duty at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.

In April 1948 Colonel Williams was assigned to the 19th Bomb Group at Andersen AFB, Guam where he was group materiel officer, then 93rd Bombardment Squadron commander. Returning to the U.S. in April 1950, Colonel Williams was assigned to the Oklahoma Air Materiel Area, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

Colonel Williams returned to the United States in August 1958 to become commander of the 408th Fighter Group, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls.

Colonel Williams will be introduced at the Aviation Week banquet by H. O. Juckland, chairman of the Sportsmen Pilots Association-sponsored Aviation Week celebration. Other speakers will include Glenn D. Woodmansee, Los Angeles, attorney for the Federal Aviation Agency, fourth region. He will speak on "The Government's Role in Aviation." The public is invited to attend.

MARK 110TH ANNIVERSARY

MOSCOW (UPI)—A Russian couple in a mountain village near the Caspian sea port of Makhachkala have celebrated their 110th wedding anniversary. Moscow Radio reported Monday night. The home service broadcast said the 131-year-old man and his 136-year-old wife have three children who are over 100 years old.

Weather

Northern California — Fair through Saturday. Warmer. Northwesterly coastal winds 12-25 miles an hour.

Klamath Falls and vicinity — Clearing tonight. Fair Saturday. Low tonight 30-38. High Saturday 56-63.

High yesterday 58
Low last night 26
Precip. last 24 hours — trace
Since Oct. 1 4.94
Same period last year 14.78

CRATER LAKE

High yesterday 37
Low last night 20
8 a.m. today 27
Snow snow 3
Snow depth 55
Skiing good

Roads are clear and bare on High 62 through the park and to the rim. The warming hut is open every day and skiing is expected to be good this weekend. Wind was calm this morning and skies partly sunny.

Cold Chills Eastern U.S.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mid-May cool snap chilled most of the eastern half of the nation today and cooler air also spread into some western sections.

Anchorage, Alaska, was warmer this morning than St. Louis and Louisville, Ky., and almost as warm as Atlanta, Ga., as the cool Canadian air dipped into the southland.

The 45-degree mark at Anchorage compared with the St. Louis, Mo., record 39 for the date, 42 at Louisville, and 47 at Atlanta.

Temperatures in the 30s were reported in North Carolina, with a mountain reading of 22 degrees at Clingman's Dome near Gatlinburg, Tenn. Sioux Falls, S.D., recorded 27 degrees — the lowest ever so late in the season.

Readings in the 20s were recorded from portions of the Northern Plains to the upper Great Lakes. Low marks were in the 30s over much of the Midwest.

There was even snow in the unseasonal weather picture—a light dusting early in the day at Erie and other western Pennsylvania communities.

The cold air which advanced southward dropped temperatures into the 40s in New England to the 50s and low 60s in the Gulf states. The readings were 7 to 15 degrees lower than 24 hours earlier. Frost was indicated from New England to the North Carolina mountains.

Only other wet spots were in the Pacific northwest and in New Mexico and the Texas panhandle.

Carpenters Hit Missile Center

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The Carpenters Union set up picket lines outside the missile test center here today in a dawn strike that appeared to be gaining momentum.

Traffic to the Cape and nearby Patrick Air Force Base was snarled for miles as many of the carpenters' fellow tradesmen pulled off the road to join the walkout in a sympathetic gesture.

Early indications were that the majority of the Transport Workers Union, which has the largest representation on the Cape, was respecting the pickets.

Strike Vote Due For TV

NEW YORK (AP)—National Broadcasting Co. television engineers and technicians vote today on terms of a settlement to end a work stoppage that started April 27.

The agreement between negotiators for NBC and the National Assn. of Broadcast Employees and Technicians was announced by an arbitrator shortly before 1 a.m.

Terms of the settlement were not made public.

The stoppage, which kept 1,500 employees off the job here and in six other cities, resulted basically from a dispute over the extent to which members of the union should participate in producing TV shows overseas for broadcast in this country.

Supervisory personnel kept NBC television and radio on the air. The company called the stoppage a strike in violation of the contract and the union called it a lockout.

NBC and union officials declined to comment on the settlement announcement, made by Benjamin C. Roberts, impartial umpire in the dispute.

COP RED-FACED

NEW YORK (UPI)—The policeman was ready to eat his words after he said, "Come on, bud, get back," to a man standing near President Eisenhower at the World Trade Fair Thursday. The man was Mayor Robert F. Wagner.