

The Herald and News

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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Aftermath of Roseburg:
Our lawmills grind constantly. Starting with the U.S. congress and running down through the state legislatures, the initiative and referendum machinery and the city councils, they pour out a steady stream of legislation—some of it good and a lot of it undigested trash.

The lawbooks bulge and swell increasingly, straining to contain the mass of stuff that is crammed into them.

But—

Over all these years—
Nobody in Oregon—or, apparently in Washington or California—appears to have thought of putting a simple and effective code of procedure for transporting necessary but DANGEROUS explosives from their point of origin to their point of use with a minimum of hazard to the public, and then ENACTING IT INTO LAW.

So—

What happened at Roseburg happened.

The tragedy of it is that it WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED if over the years we had directed more thought and effort toward sane and constructive and FUNDAMENTAL legislation and less effort toward what might be termed legislative fluff and froth.

It can't be argued that the situation that resulted in the Roseburg tragedy sneaked up on us without warning.

IT DIDN'T.

A dozen years ago, in Texas, there was a precisely similar tragedy. In the harbor of Texas City back in 1947, a ship loaded with ammonium nitrate (as was the truck at Roseburg) exploded and snuffed out half a thousand lives.

Half a thousand lives might have been snuffed out in busy Roseburg if the explosion had occurred at 2:30 p.m., with the downtown area crowded with people, instead of at 2:30 a.m. with the business district practically empty.

The Texas disaster stirred no warning thoughts. It prompted no serious study of the dangers inherent in the transportation of tricky explosives. Our lawmills went right on grinding out laws that could be done without and giving little thought to preventing such things as the Texas City and the Roseburg explosions.

The horse has been stolen.
The pity of it is that the same horse has been stolen TWICE. It is highly probable that this time the barn door will be locked.

Anyway, let's hope so.
Let's go farther than merely hoping. Let's DEMAND that in the future our lawmaking bodies take care of first things FIRST. The public safety certainly should head the list of FIRST things.

Roseburg has been dealt a staggering blow. As this is written, the loss is estimated at ten million dollars or more. That is a heavy loss in a relatively small city.

Businesswise, Roseburg will recover. Its people have courage and enterprise. They have faith in their city, which is the center of a rich area. New buildings will rise to take the place of those that have been destroyed or dangerously damaged. The new will be better than the old.

But at least ten lives have been lost.

Those lives can never be replaced.

100 Evacuated From Gas Area

IOWA PARK, Tex. (AP)—More than 100 persons, evacuated from a 15-block area when deadly anhydrous ammonia fumes filled the area, returned to their homes Saturday after workmen drained a leaking 6,000-gallon tank.

Police Chief Ross Chapman said the alert was canceled when a team of firemen, civil defense workers and chemical workers attached a line to the tank and pumped the heavy liquefied gas into a second tank nearby.

The leak was blamed on a high-pressure gauge which blew out.

The tank adjoins the plant of the New Ice Co. of nearby Wichita Falls, Tex. An official of the ice firm, who declined to give his name, said the tank was filled Thursday.

Police said they were unable to learn immediately who owns the tank.

Navy Developing 'Overseas' Radar

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new radar device to spy across oceans and give a quick report on ballistic missile launchings is being developed, the U.S. Navy says.

The radar also could be used as one means of uncovering sneak tests of nuclear weapons in violation of any international agreement.

Dr. William J. Thaler of the Office of Naval Research and "father" of the new radar setup called Project Tepee, said Friday night.

"I would hope you could double the warning time."

This would mean that the United States would have almost 30 minutes instead of 15 minutes—possible under the U.S. system now being built—in which to launch counter-weapons. Military men figure it would take about 30 minutes for a missile fired in the Soviet Union to reach the United States.

Thaler, 33, talked to newsmen about the project. Asked if the Navy had tested the device against Soviet ICBM testing launchings, he replied "no comment."

Trials with the device which he said is still in the early "breadboard" developmental stage, have worked at what amounts to intercontinental ranges—5,500 miles.

Thaler said the device is located at an undisclosed place in continental United States and picked up the ballistic missile-nuclear explosive tests made last summer in Project Argus in the South Atlantic and the Johnston Island

tests in the Pacific.

However, the New York Times said Saturday that several stations are now in operation, adding: "The number and locations of these stations are secret."

The Times story continued: "Soviet missile and satellite firings have been monitored for the last several months from locations within the boundaries of the continental United States."

The newspaper also said: "The system can also determine the location of missile-launching sites and can evaluate the performance of a rocket thousands of miles away. Such information has already yielded important guide lines on the state of the Soviet missile program."

If the detection equipment will spot a missile within seconds or brief minutes from the firing time at a range of more than 5,000 miles, it would appear to be better than the Air Force's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) now being built in the far north. That conventional although long range radar system is designed to detect missiles at distances of about 2,000 or 3,000 miles—after they are well on the way toward target.

The new device carries the name of "high frequency ionospheric back scatter radar."

It detects ionized gas, those particles of electrons which appear in temperatures of thousands or millions of degrees after a nuclear explosion or in the exhaust trail of rocket motors on ballistic missiles.

Paddle-Wheel Satellite May Stay Up For Year

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Paddle-wheeled Explorer VI, the most advanced American satellite, orbited in a wide sweep around the earth Saturday and collected scientific data that may ease man's way into space.

The spheroid, sporting four paddle vanes trying to catch energy from the sun, was launched Friday at the missile test center here. A Thor-Able rocket, 90 feet long and in three stages, sent it aloft.

Soaring 25,950 miles from earth at its highest point and, coming 152 miles above earth at its lowest, the satellite had the longest orbit of the six artificial moons now in space. It also takes six times as long as any other satellite to make a trip around the earth—12½ hours.

Packed in the 142-pound satellite was the most comprehensive scientific package ever orbited by the United States, enough instruments to perform 15 experiments.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington, getting reports on signals transmitted by the satellite on 108.06 and 108.09 megacycles and on an undisclosed high frequency, reported that every instrument tested was working perfectly.

Most of the experiments are designed to provide vital information for sending a man into space. In summary, the instruments would:

1. Measure the intensity and

length of the deadly radiation in the Van Allen belts that hover around the earth.

2. Demonstrate whether the four paddle vanes can convert enough of the sun's rays into electrical energy so that a future space ship could send radio messages from 20 to 50 million miles in space.

3. Scan the earth's cloud cover and transmit radio signals that might be converted into pictures that could help weather forecasting.

4. Measure the density of micrometeorites or cosmic dust to see how a space ship would hold up under their bombardment.

5. Chart the earth's magnetic field.

6. Study the behavior or radio waves to learn more about communications far out in space.

Scientists expect Explorer VI to orbit for more than a year. Four of the other present artificial moons are American. The sixth is Russia's Sputnik III.

Moscow radio told the Soviet people Friday night about the successful launching by carrying an official announcement from Washington without comment.

NASA said that because of the complex nature of the long orbit it was not possible to provide immediately a list of the countries over which the satellite would pass at specific times.

Guards Seal Off Downtown Roseburg

Last Count Reveals 11 Fatalities

ROSEBURG (AP)—The death of four-year-old Virginia Lee Kuykendall Friday night raised the reported toll from Roseburg's disastrous explosion to 11.

The little girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Kuykendall, died from burns and other injuries suffered when the Kuykendall house was demolished by the explosion of a dynamite-laden truck.

The bodies of nine persons were recovered. Four bodies were not identified.

Those missing and presumed dead were:

William C. Unrath, about 45, volunteer fireman.

Donald DeSues, 32, police officer.

Martin Lusk.

Eva McDonald.

Wayne Townsend.

Known dead were:

Dennis Tandy, 18.

Richard Knight, 20.

Harry Carmichael, about 50.

Roy McFarland.

Bonnie Lee Berg, 19.

Virginia Lee Kuykendall, 4.

Seeks Legislation

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Richard Neuberger (D-Ore) Saturday urged passage of a bill that would tighten controls on the shipment of explosives across state lines.

In a telegram to the Associated Press, Neuberger said the disastrous explosion of a truck carrying explosives at Roseburg Friday "emphasized the urgent need for such legislation."

The Magnuson Bill, Neuberger said, would give the Interstate Commerce Commission increased authority over movement of explosive cargoes by all types of carriers.

In addition, the bill would stiffen regulations on shipments of radio-active materials and live viruses.

Hatfield Returns

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Mark Hatfield was rushing back to Oregon Saturday to inspect personally the damage caused by Friday's disastrous blast and fire in Roseburg.

En route home from the National Governors Conference in Puerto Rico, Hatfield stayed overnight at Denver Friday night and issued this statement:

"To the families of those who have suffered this tragic loss, may I extend deepest sympathy. I have been in touch with developments and the responsible forces which have moved into the situation. I have every confidence in those who are in charge."

Acting Gov. Walter Pearson visited Roseburg following the blast, and at first said he would ask the President to declare it a disaster area.

Later, though, Pearson said he had changed his mind because "the agencies of the city, county and state government and the Red Cross have done such a tremendous job in getting the disaster under control."

Hit 350 Buildings

ROSEBURG (AP)—A preliminary count showed 350 buildings damaged here in Friday's explosion.

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Explosion Injures 100 In Wide Arc

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP)—Eight business blocks of this Southern Oregon city, seared and shattered when a truck load of explosives blew up like a bomb, were sealed off by the National Guard Saturday while searchers sought more victims.

At least 11 persons were killed early Friday when the 6½ tons of dynamite and other explosives detonated after fire spread to the parked truck from a nearby building blaze.

Coroner C. H. Babbitt said he was certain that there were other deaths. He said ashes, believed to be the remains of humans, were found in a charred rooming house near the blast scene. The ashes are being sent to a laboratory for testing.

Some 100 persons were injured by the blast, 32 of them requiring hospital treatment.

The explosion, which eyewitnesses said sent a column of flame hundreds of feet into the air, caused extensive damage to an eight block section on the edge of the main business district. Buildings in some 22 blocks around the blast scene were damaged to a lesser extent. Firemen said they had reports of windows being broken as far away as seven miles.

Arlo Jacklin, mayor of this city of 12,200, said property damage would probably total 10 to 12 million dollars.

The truck, loaded with two tons of stick dynamite and 4½ tons of the explosive mixture of ammonium nitrate and oil had been parked near the Gerretsen Building Supply Co. building for the night by its driver, George Rutherford, 47, of Chehalis, Wash.

It is believed that a fire started in trash cans and then spread to the Gerretsen structure. Firemen were fighting the fire—which spread quickly—when at 1:15 a.m. the truck blew up with a deafening roar.

Rutherford said he heard the sirens and rushed to move the truck. It exploded when he was a block away. He was thrown to the ground. Gerald Butler, a Eugene, Ore., insurance man who came to Rutherford's aid, said Rutherford screamed "Let me go. Let me go. I've got to go down there and see how many people I've killed."

The blast scattered embers over a wide area and a number of smaller fires were started.

The known dead all lived in Roseburg.

Mayor Jacklin, surveying the tragedy that struck his city, said "It's going to be a long time before we even think of rebuilding. We've got a lot of buildings to condemn yet."

Radio 'Hams' Opened Link To Roseburg

Ham operators having FCC licenses at Klamath Falls have been in constant communication with Roseburg ham radio operators ever since the disastrous explosion and fire which occurred early Friday morning at Roseburg.

Through this facility, several persons have received quick information about family, friends and business connections in that stricken community.

Joe Searles, Klamath County Civil Defense director, reports an incident which occurred Friday forenoon. Mrs. R. B. Hix, 729 Cook

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A HUGE CRATER is all that remains where a truck loaded with explosive material blew up in downtown Roseburg early Friday. News men stand on the crater's edge, top photo. An unidentified woman, below, examines rubble in the street in front of what once was an automobile agency. Some larger buildings disappeared completely.

— AP Wirephotos

Japan Offers Suitable Gift For Ceremonial Swords

NEW YORK (AP)—Some GI's are in for a good "cut" if they own certain ancient Samurai swords, considered by Japan to be national treasures.

The Japanese Artistic Sword Preservation Assn. has launched a treasure hunt for 42 of the fiercest-looking, two-handed blades believed brought home by American servicemen after World War II. The 42 are among an estimated 350,000 carted home by the men.

Junzo Sato, representative of the association, said Friday he was prepared to present "suitable gifts" to any one returning a valuable Samurai sword. The most treasured blades, the ones being sought, date back to the 11th and 12th centuries.

The value of the swords depends on the name of the sword maker, which is inscribed on the 30-inch blade, or the name of the family to which it belongs, Sato said.

During the war the swords were turned out by the thousands, and Sato said he was not interested in these. But the blade, he noted, has played an important part in the lives of Japan's military caste for centuries.

Sato said the Japanese consulate general here will receive returned swords and determine whether they are the treasured ones.

Finding 42 swords among a batch of a third of a million is somewhat like looking for a needle in a haystack, Sato said. And he added wryly: "There are more Samurai swords in the United States than there are in Japan."

Chapter offices are in the Klamath County Library building on Third Street.

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Shasta May Get Year-Round Resort

MOUNT SHASTA — Plans for a two to three million dollar year-around hotel-resort-ski development on the slopes of Mt. Shasta were disclosed by one of its three promoters who prefers to withhold his name for the time being.

The man said in a telephone conversation work will begin this fall on the site five miles out of Mount Shasta City on Everett Memorial Highway, the single road leading to the big and flashy new Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl.

The men, who also control Snowman's Hill ski area a few miles out of Mount Shasta on the summit of the Mt. Shasta-McCloud Road say they are going to move facilities from there to the new site.

Snowman's Hill contains a rope tow and a more sophisticated "T-bar" lift. With them, the promoters hope to draw skiing trade

when Everett Highway is closed with drifts or during storms.

The ski development will be ready for action when snow flies this fall, the men said. The lodge, a 200-room, three-story structure, however, will not be completed before the fall of 1960. Dormitories will be added later.

The lodge will be built on a 28-acre site acquired at McBride Springs by Audrey C. Handley, Mount Shasta automobile dealer, and Ray Chinca, proprietor of the Veterans Club, a Mount Shasta tavern.

The area will include a swimming pool, skating rink, and possibly a trap and skeet-shooting range. In addition, plans are being roughed to offer charter flights anywhere in the nation and airline connections with any point in the world. Eventually, the firm, which will probably contract

the flying, plans to acquire at least one twin-engine DC-3 type aircraft.

Plans also include pack trips by plane and horse to all Northern California points. The lodge will house a "hauf brau" type restaurant, too.

Rumors, when news of the development first was hinted by a southern Shastiyoun County newspaper, indicated that the trio plans to build a tramway from McBride Springs to the ski bowl to beat weather that sometimes pounds ferociously on the mountain's slopes.

The men, however, declined to confirm the report. They say planning on some segments of the project are sketchy yet, and some plans may be added or subtracted.

The other partner is Robert Meyer, San Jose real estate dealer and financier, Robert Jones,

Carmel, an architect, was hired to design the development.

Meyer recently purchased the ski bowl coffee shop in the mountain city. He has applied for a permit to sell alcoholic beverages, he said, and plans a cocktail lounge for the upstairs banquet room.

The trio said plans for the resort, brewing for about a year, were clinched by results of a careful study of traffic on Everett Highway last year. At the peak of the skiing season, some 1,100 cars used the road daily during weekends.

The year was a bad one for skiing, too, since the unusually snowfall melted far earlier than expected.

And late spring storms, which dependably leave layers of powder snow on Mt. Shasta in January, failed to come this year.



MISS MODOC COUNTY FAIR queen, center, is Roberta Bowman of Alturas. She is shown with her two attendants, Jen Hofeldt, left, and Sandra Fountain, both of Alturas. As queen, Miss Bowman will represent Modoc County in the Maid of California contest this month, while her attendants will reign as queen-for-a-day during the Modoc County Fair, August 28, 29, and 30.

— Picture by Modoc Record