

Olympic Torch 'Snatched'

McALESTER, Okla. (UPI) — The battery-powered Olympic torch was snatched from a Boy Scout honor guard at city hall Wednesday night, and police said today it's a federal offense.

The torch, on a Boy Scout hand-to-hand trip from Mexico City, site of last year's Pan-American Games, to Chicago, site of this year's, was recovered—somewhat battered but still burning bright—less than two hours after its abduction.

Charles Turnbo, 18, was arrested on suspicion of snatching it, and two other youths, who returned the torch and implicated Turnbo, were held as material witnesses.

Police Chief Elmer Durant told Turnbo he'd have to talk to federal officers about the prank because the torch is federal property. The international light of friendship belongs to the Atomic Energy Commission, it was said.

The torch arrived here Wednesday night, after completing the first third of its journey from scout council to scout council across Oklahoma, and was placed on display with an honor guard in the lobby of the city hall.

The angry scouts reported that a youth ran into the building, pushed them aside, snatched the torch and ran out again before they knew what was up.

Cadet III; Discharged

Ill health has resulted in a medical discharge from the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, for a Klamath Falls boy, Delmar Hawley.

Word reached his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vance F. Hawley, last week that the young airman was in the hospital suffering from amnesia. Within a few days he recovered completely, but became one of the 143 men to leave the academy since June. Most of these have been discharged because of physical reasons.

Hawley has not been officially discharged from the service itself. He will probably have to fulfill his military obligation by participating in the reserve program. But this is not definite.

If he is released from the Air Force, he is planning to attend Oregon State College with his goal to become a research chemist.

The 1959 graduate of Klamath Union High School received his appointment from Sen. Richard Neuberger.

At this time he is home on a 30-day military leave.

Alimony Woe; Exiles Self

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Bernard J. Blechars, divorced and saying he was behind in his alimony payments, was troubled and fearful that police were looking for him. He went into the woods to think.

He stayed there three months. Police found him along a highway Wednesday in fashionable suburban Bloomfield Hills. The 32-year-old Detroit shipping clerk's clothes were in rags. His hair and beard were matted with dirt.

He weighed 80 pounds. He was a husky 175 when he began his self-imposed exile from society May 9.

"I'm divorced," Blechars mumbled to incredulous officers. "I was behind in my alimony. I thought the police must be looking for me. I found this place. It looked like a pretty good place to me."

For three months, Blechars said, he ate apples and berries, drank water with his hands from a muddy creek and covered himself at night with a piece of plywood.

"I didn't do anything," he said. "I just thought."

He gave no reason for leaving the woods. Police said they had no warrant for his arrest.

The place in which he lived is a swampy, secluded spot within shouting distance of several houses belonging to the wealthy who live in the suburb.

Blechars' ex-wife, Nancy, 24, reported him missing the day he said he entered the woods. He had quit his job as a shipping clerk at a Detroit manufacturing firm about a week before. The Blechars, parents of a 4-year-old girl, were divorced in July 1958.

Physicians said Blechars, a Marine who served in the Pacific in World War II, was suffering from malnutrition and loss of weight but otherwise showed no ill effects from his experience.

Moussorgsky, the Russian composer noted for his rugged and powerful operas, had a contrasting first name. It was "Modest."

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AUTHOR ASHLEY RUSSELL, native of Yreka, autographs copies of his first published book "Siskiyou Trail" on a recent two-day visit to a Yreka Stationery firm. Russell is a commercial artist employed in the advertising field in Portland. The Siskiyou County setting of the book stimulated many persons in that area to purchase copies.



CHIEF LEROY ROWE
Klamath Falls Fire Department

Post Given Fire Chief

Fire chief LeRoy Rowe of the Klamath Falls Fire Department has been appointed county fire defense chief by the County Fire Defense Board, consisting of all local fire chiefs in Klamath County. The appointment is in connection with the Oregon State fire service plan to be used when a fire emergency involves the entire county or a portion of the county. Chief Rowe will assume command of all fire operations within his jurisdiction when such an emergency occurs.

Chief Rowe was also appointed by the director of Klamath County Civil Defense to head the County Defense Fire Service, in which capacity he will be responsible for fire operations in a civil defense emergency.

Chief Rowe replaces Fire Chief E. R. Deatherage of the Air Force Fire Department.

Sale Of Trees Held Recently

LAKEVIEW — An emergency sale of trees damaged in the Honey Creek fire of July 22 was held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, at the Fremont National Forest office in Lakeview.

A short term advertising period was necessary because of danger to the timber from blue stain. This also opened the bids to operators outside of the Lakeview Federal Unit in open competition.

Successful and only bidder was American Forest Products Corporation. A total of \$27.55 per thousand was bid for the pine. This included \$21.65 for stumpage; \$4.60 for stand improvement and \$1.30 for slash disposal. Volume was 6,820,000 board feet. A total of one million feet of white fir and other was sold for \$7.80 per thousand, which included \$6.50 for stumpage and \$1.30 for slash disposal.

The sale terms run from August 11 to December 31, 1959.



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Criminal Charges Slated Against Nurse Home Aides

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (UPI) — Criminal affidavits were being prepared today against attendants of an unlicensed nursing home who were accused by a grand jury of torturing elderly patients in punishment for their senile transgressions.

The grand jury's four-page report charged that patients were struck, left under restraint in chairs for as long as eight hours at a time, doused with burning antiseptic for incontinence, inadequately fed and in constant danger of being trapped by fire.

The jury said it had heard evidence that "toenails were pulled from patients' feet as punishment for their alleged misconduct."

"Many of the problems of improper care of patients could have been eliminated," the jury's report said, "if the family and friends of patients had been interested and concerned enough. Many of the patients had no visitors for months at a time."

It also blamed state and local health departments and fire and safety departments for an "appalling lack of coordination in the supervision of nursing homes and laws and regulations governing them."

Mrs. Viola Barnes, who operates the Comfort Nursing Home with her husband, Harold, flatly denied the jury's charges. "I'm going to prove that report was false," Mrs. Barnes said. "I can prove it was a lie from beginning to end."

The grand jury returned no indictments but asked the prosecutor to take action. Prosecutor C. H. Roberts Jr. said he is doing so. The jury said formal action would not be possible in some cases because the allegedly abused patients have since died.

The nursing home has been without a license since July 1 when it failed to file application for renewal within the required time, the report said. A renewal application was received by the state board of health on Aug. 6 but has not yet been processed, the jury said.

The jury said the home was not adequately staffed with trained personnel.

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Closing Program Set By Fair

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Centennial Exposition—which will end on September 17—will close with a month-long Old Oregon Trail Days program.

The Centennial Commission said the program will be built around the Oregon Centennial wagon train nearing the end of its long trek from Independence, Mo., to Independence, Ore.

Back to School DANCE

- Friday, Aug. 14, 8 to 11:30
- Fairgrounds
- Sponsored by KUHS Rally Squad

Music provided by Bill McSpadden, Disc Jockey

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Loss of life, loss of vacation lands, loss of timber and watersheds can result from one cigarette thoughtlessly flipped from a car window, or one burning match dropped beside the road.

During these fire hazard months, a spark of any kind can be a deadly missile. And every year, our forest areas become more and more vital to the nation's welfare.

So be extra careful this year. Use your car ash tray. Douse your campfires. Be sure all fires are out, dead out. Be sure you don't cause a shameful forest fire. (Every year, some people do. 9 out of 10 forest fires are still man-caused.)



Remember- ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

This message is brought to you as a public service to the prosperity of the Klamath Basin by the following firms who urge you to help Keep Klamath Green by observing all safety measures while in the woods:

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