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"ALL THE NEWS ALL THE TIME"

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Scores of Planes Search for Missing Craft

PROPERTY TAX INJUNCTION IS GRANTED

Collections Outside Cities Held Up Pending Suit—Law Claimed 'Faulty'

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Jan. 30.—(AP)—District Judge Harry E. Pratt issued a temporary injunction Saturday restraining further collections under the new Territorial Property Tax Law.

He acted in a test suit brought by Luther Hess of Fairbanks and the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Co.

His action technically restrains the Tax Commissioner from collecting taxes from the plaintiffs, but its indirect effect is expected to place in abeyance general collections under the new law pending outcome of a suit for a permanent injunction outlawing the statute.

The Judge set bonds for the two plaintiffs at \$1,000 each to cover possible government loss of \$1,236 tax payment and costs of the suit pending its outcome.

The suit was filed jointly Dec. 6, 1949, by attorneys H. L. Faulkner, Juneau; Charles J. Clabby, Fairbanks; and Edward S. Medley, Seattle, in behalf of the two plaintiffs.

'Law Faulty'

They ask the court to void the Territorial Property Tax Law on the basis of 15 points charging the law is faulty and inconsistent with U. S. statutes and the Alaska Organic Act.

Faulkner opened the motion for the temporary injunction with the allegation that the law is invalid and only an injunction would save the plaintiff irreparable injury. He said that no adequate statute exists providing recovery of taxes illegally collected, other than discretionary power of the court. He further said that in the event of successful tax recovery, the statutes fail to provide proportionate interest on the recovered amounts.

Recovery 'Difficult'

Faulkner also said recovery of taxes illegally collected would be exceedingly difficult in view of the Territory's current insolvency.

Atty. Gen. Gerald Williams claimed possible invalidity of the tax act was not sufficient ground for a temporary injunction. He denied the "irreparable injury" charge and said Territorial law adequately provides for payment of taxes collected under protest.

Williams also denied insolvency of the Territory, saying the temporary lack of funds is not the same as insolvency.

Complaints against the new law charge it lacks uniformity in assessment and evaluation, that taxpayers living outside municipalities under the act must indirectly share municipal tax burdens from which they fail to benefit, and that the law is "vague and self-contradictory."

WEATHER REPORT

In Juneau—Maximum 41; minimum 21.

At Airport—Maximum 25; minimum -1.

FORECAST
(Juneau and vicinity)

Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday. Lowest temperature near 18 tonight. Highest Tuesday about 32.

PRECIPITATION

(Past 24 hours ending 7:30 a. m. today)

City of Juneau—None;

since Jan. 1—1.17 inches;

since July 1—55.11 inches.

At Airport—None;

since Jan. 1—34 inches;

since July 1—36.43 inches.

50 Red Junks Sunk, Nationalists Claim

(By Associated Press)
Chinese Nationalist airforce headquarters in Formosa claim new air assaults on Sunday sank 50 junks preparing for the Communist invasion of Hainan Island, off the south China coast.

Nationalist headquarters said bombers wiped out many gun emplacements in raids on Luchow Peninsula, which juts out to within 10 miles of Hainan.

ALUMINUM PLANT IS INDICATED

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Skagway and Dyea, a couple of towns which haven't figured much in the news since Klondike gold rush days, may hit the headlines soon in a new rush—for aluminum.

The Aluminum Corporation of America (Alcoa) has purchased land there in connection with a gigantic development which could lead to a \$70,000,000 investment and creation of a city of 50,000.

Ralph Browne of the Alaska Development Board disclosed today the corporation has taken up options on substantial acreage at Dyea, where it is proposed to erect an aluminum plant, and at Skagway for offices and administrative structures.

He said the land was purchased this winter after the company's geologists completed studies of the mountains between Skagway and Lake Bennett.

A mammoth hydroelectric power development, with tunnels through the mountains, would be the backbone for industrial development, Browne added.

Over Thousand Killed in Quake

TEHRAN, Iran, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Government officials rushed relief supplies today to the Persian Gulf area of Bushire, struck by a recent series of sharp earthquakes.

First unofficial reports on the toll had said that more than 1,500 persons were killed but the Government said it believed these figures were greatly exaggerated. The Government, however, gave no figure of its own on the possible total of dead. Rescue and relief workers in Bushire thus far have recovered only 30 bodies.

MRS. MCGRAW HERE

Mrs. Jesse McGraw of Sitka is registered at the Baranof Hotel.

FROM SEATTLE

Don McDonald of Seattle is stopping at the Baranof Hotel.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

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(Ed Note—President Truman's tax message to Congress significantly followed up a point repeatedly emphasized in the Washington Merry-Go-Round that crack-downs on tax violators would yield billions in greater revenue. Here is another in Drew Pearson's important series on tax frauds.)

WASHINGTON—Probably 99 percent of the Treasury Department's vast army of hard-working, underpaid revenue agents are honest. However, political fixers of tax frauds arranged by certain of the big boys in Washington have had bad repercussions in the lower ranks.

A few agents have figured that since the big boys at the top were getting theirs, the little fellows at the bottom might as well get some too. One result has been an outbreak of bribery in New York City, where one T-man has been indicted and four others suspended. However, despite the fact that the suspensions took place six months ago, the case appears to have been put on ice.

Some of the charges against the five include "forgetting" about tax cases on the request of Tammany politicians. And if President Truman really means business about cracking down on tax violators, as I am sure he does, here is one place to start.

And just in case Secretary of the Treasury Snyder doesn't know all the facts, here are some that will interest him.

"Sneak Letter"

In New York's third Internal Revenue collection district in February 1948, an informer's letter was received stating that Kenmore Inc. Cloak and Suit manufacturers at

(Continued on Page Four)

TRAIN ROLLS DOWN HILL; LOCOMOTIVE GOES POWERLESS

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 30.—(AP)—A transcontinental train carrying more than 200 passengers careened backward down a three-mile long hill last night dragging a powerless engine.

None of the passengers aboard the Milwaukee Railroad's Hiawatha streamliner was hurt.

Engineer Edward Maxwell, 67, of Spokane and fireman Dick Liberty, 30, were slightly overcome by smoke and gas fumes.

The electric engine of the East-bound streamliner caught fire early last night. Maxwell smelled smoke and brought the train to a stop as it toiled up a grade near Kittitas in central Washington.

Crew members fought the fire for two hours with liquid extinguishers and snow. Edwards said the train started its slide back down the hill when the brakes failed. He estimated its speed at 15 miles an hour or more.

Passengers and crew members were quiet and orderly as the train rolled through the darkness with its own lights cut off when the power failed.

ASSAYER WOULD LIKE TO SEE USEFUL ORES SOUGHT HERE

Arthur E. Glover, for 10 years assayer in the Fairbanks district for the Territorial Bureau of Mines, would like to see prospectors get their minds off gold, and get the lure of finding metals in Alaska which could be processed and used in the Territory.

Glover was in the city over the weekend with his wife enroute to take up the post of assayer in Ketchikan, taking the place of Nils Johansson, leaving the department by retirement under last year's retirement act.

"Of course," he said, "there aren't the prospectors there were some years ago. Economics has changed all that. Today we consider even a hunter who picks up rocks on his way through the wilderness and brings them in to us for assay as a prospector. But that's the way metals are found, many times."

He would like to see pumice and cement looked for—materials which could be refined and used by Alaskans themselves. He feels the ores are in the ground, but must of course be searched out.

He said he doesn't know much about the Ketchikan area, but hopes to collect specimens for his office there for the public to view, and to encourage men to go out and search for useful ores. His work in Fairbanks has been concentrated on assaying and judging finds in the Pedro and Estro Domes, the lode areas from which the huge placer beds there are derived.

New placer fields are hard to find, he pointed out, because of no surface indications. On the Kenai Peninsula are many stream beds covered by soil which would yield rich returns, but finding them is too much of a hit-and-miss proposition, he said.

He hopes to get interest up in radioactive substances, and said: "Anything might be radioactive—there's really no outward indication, yet such a discovery would mean much to not only the finder but to the nation."

AXFORDS IN JUNEAU FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT

Being welcomed by their many friends on a short visit here are Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Axford, now residents of Anchorage.

They lived here from 1936 to 1940, Axford operating the Topnotch Cafe, which now is Belle's. His business in Anchorage is the Carlquist Jewelry Company.

The Axforths came here yesterday, planning to stay until Thursday. They are guests at the Baranof Hotel.

JOHNSON OF KAKE FILES FOR REELECTION ON GOP TICKET

Frank G. Johnson of Kake filed today with the clerk of the district court for reelection to his seat in the Territorial House of Representatives on the Republican ticket.

His filing brings to five the number of his party who have filed for the primaries, to be held April 25. Eleven Democrats are on the opposing team so far.

COLD BLAST IN PORTIONS OF NATION

(By Associated Press)
Most of the western half of the nation was locked in a frigid blast today while eastern states had comparatively mild weather.

The mercury skidded far below zero at many points from the upper Mississippi valley westward to northeastern Oregon and eastern Washington, and was well below normal as far south as northern Texas.

At Bemidji, Minn., the temperature plummeted to 50 degrees below zero as the center of the cold wave hovered over the Dakotas and Minnesota. At Moose Lake, Minn., it was only two degrees warmer at -48.

Chicago, with a low of 7 above, was near the eastern edge of the cold air mass.

"AIRSHIP" BARANOF RESCUES WRANGELL; NOW THEY CAN DIG

Wrangell's got the air. Not only has the little fishing community south of here got the air, but she got it from the Bureau of Public Roads, the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Alaska, and the Alaska Steamship Company, no less.

This somewhat overwhelming array of titles is accounted for by the fact that a week or so ago Wrangell dried up because of freezing weather.

That was taken care of, so far as fire protection was concerned, by two saltwater pumps being hurriedly deposited on her aid. Front Street by SS "Gunga Din" Denny, who got them from the Army, who Secretary of Alaska Lew Williams arranged with to let them go.

Next they wanted to get at a broken and frozen water main, but couldn't do it with pick and shovel. They had a large air jack, but nothing to make it kick. So they appealed once more to Williams, who once more got busy.

He appealed to Coast Guard Lt. Comdr. Edward P. Chester, Jr., military aide to the Governor, who after looking for air all over the place, finally located an air compressor belonging to the Bureau of Public Roads.

The Bureau loaned it to the Territory, which in turn lay in wait for the southbound Baranof, which put it on board and dropped it this morning at the gasping town.

Wrangell hopes they'll be able to clear up their situation soon with the equipment. A city truck daily makes the rounds with fresh water, and residents rush out with buckets, cans and whatever else will hold water to collect their ration for the day. The truck gets water from one lone tap operating in one end of town.

The trouble started by the freeze catching the community without an insulating blanket of snow, and the fact a main cracked, draining what little water they had stored in their reservoir. The cracked main is what the air compressor will make a concentrated "Taku" to so after.

JACK MUTCH PASSES AWAY AT HERMISTON

John W. (Jack) Mutch passed away Sunday at Hermiston, Oregon, according to a brief radiogram from Mrs. Mutch and received by Secretary Biggs of the local lodge of Elks.

Mutch was born Feb. 1, 1883, in Stromness, Scotland. While in Juneau he was master plumber for the Oscar Harri Shop. The Mutch family left Juneau about two years ago for the states. He was a member of the Juneau Elks since 1939.

The mayor of Klawok, Frank Peratrovich, has asked Coast Guard aid in freeing the Klawok harbor of ice.

The cutter Citrus will be sent to the town tomorrow to the job. In a message to the Coast Guard, Peratrovich said the bay and channel at Klawok has been partially frozen for several days.

"An emergency exists," the message said. "Must free boats to secure fuel and mail boat service."

WE'VE NEXT TO NOTHING: GOVERNOR

Need Radar Screen, More Troops, Gruening Says—U.S. Rule 'Unsuccessful'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Alaska could be captured tomorrow by one or two Russian parachute divisions coming across the Bering Strait, in the opinion of Gov. Ernest Gruening of Alaska.

From those Alaskan bases, once captured, any part of the United States would be vulnerable to air attack, Gruening told a House Appropriation subcommittee hearing.

This committee's report, released last night, shows he told the members that the total U.S. military force in that strategically important northern outpost is 7,500 men.

This, Gruening described as "next to nothing."

He recalled that during the last war the Japs got and kept a toe-hold for a year in the Aleutian Islands. He maintained that once the Russians occupied Alaska, it would be very difficult to get them out.

He said it was hard for people in Alaska to understand why Congress would appropriate a total of \$7,000,000,000 in economic and military aid to halt Communism in Europe yet give but \$96,000,000 to Alaska.

Radar and Housing

He said Alaska has asked, as an "absolute minimum," \$137,000,000 which would not make that Territory impregnable, but merely would start a construction of a radar screen and house a limited number of troops.

Gruening said he had no quarrel with the economic and military aid programs to Europe.

"We may head off a third World War thereby," he said.

"We appear to have held the Russians at the line which they reached when they took over Czechoslovakia, or at least thus far we have stopped them."

"But while that has been going on they have taken all of China. They have taken an area many, many times as vast in extent and a population many times as numerous, as what we prevented their taking in Europe," he said.

Back Door Open

"It seems unthinkable to us that we would double-bar the front door and leave the back door ajar, as almost an invitation to come in," he continued.

Gruening said the picture was dramatized for Alaskans when they learned it was proposed to transfer production from the Boeing Aircraft plant in Seattle to Wichita-Kans.

He said the Air Force, replying to questions, said it considered the North West area vulnerable to air attack from Siberia.

Gruening said further questioning developed that the Air Force expected these Russian planes would fly over Alaska enroute to Puget Sound.

"But they could not fly over Alaska if that Territory had a radar screen to warn of the Russians' coming and interceptor planes to go up and shoot them down," the Governor said.

"If there is going to be another Pearl Harbor, it will be in Alaska and it could come any time now," he said.

Gruening also urged economic development of Alaska.

"The 82 years of Alaska rule under the United States has not been a success so far," he said.

STOCK QUOTATIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Closing quotation of Alaska Juneau mine stock today is 3 1/4. American Can 116 1/4, Anaconda 30, Curtiss-Wright 8 1/4, International Harvester 27 1/4, Kennecott 55, New York Central 12 1/4, Northern Pacific 14 1/4, U.S. Steel 28 1/4, Pound \$2.80.

Sales today were 1,640,000 shares. Averages today are as follows: Industrials 201.69, rails 55.54, utilities 42.17.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS

Denali from Seattle due sometime tomorrow.

Princess Norah from Vancouver due tomorrow afternoon or evening.

Baranof scheduled to sail from Seattle Saturday.

MORE MEN OUT IN COAL STRIKE; PICKETS BUSY

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Bands of roving pickets helped swell the number of striking coal miners to 89,575 today as the "no contract no work" strike surged into its fourth week.

Last week about 88,000 of the nation's 400,000 soft coal diggers refused to work until they get a contract. The number of idle grew despite a White House hint that increased coal production could stave off Presidential intervention.

The strike doubled the number of stay-at-home miners in West Virginia. That state, biggest coal producer, counted 20,000 out of the pits out of 110,000.

In Pennsylvania, the number two coal state, 51,300 out of 100,000 soft coal miners are refusing to work. The state department of relief reported relief applications are mounting swiftly in coal producing counties.

DUCK POSSESSION WANTED RAISED AS HEARINGS WIND UP

Completion of public hearings on game seasons in Southeast Alaska has been completed with return to Juneau of Dan Ralston, acting head of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who spent the past week in Ketchikan and Wrangell hearing suggestions and recommendations from sportsmen and trappers of those areas.

Recommendations, after being compiled and evaluated, will be presented to the meeting in Anchorage February 13 of the Alaska Game Commission, which sets the coming year's rules in regard to wildlife.

Big turnouts showed up before each community's hearings. Ralston said. Both towns asked the possession limit on ducks and geese be raised. Ketchikan wanting 50 duck and 20 geese, while Wrangell asked for 15 ducks and 6 geese. Practically all towns in the area have asked that this limit be raised, although the limit varies.

Present possession limit of ducks is 10, considered too few by many sportsmen because of costs involved in going after the migratory birds.

Deer Season Change

Both towns asked that the deer season be changed. Ketchikan's suggestions followed that of the Territorial Sportsmen, Inc., group here, for September 1 to November 15, setting it back eight days. Wrangell wanted the season from September 20 to November 20.

Both groups asked for uniform dates on game, to get away from pressure applied on certain areas by the present staggering of openings and closings.

Both asked that mink trapping be closed next year, and Ketchikan suggested that when opened, only 30 mink per trapper be allowed, and that all be tagged.

Marten were asked by Ketchikan to be opened from December 15 to January 31, but only after many arguments, and the motion barely carried, Ralston said. The large minority opposed such a long season.

Ten days more was asked by Wrangell for brown and black bear—from September 1 to June 30.

Wrangell asked that two of its neighboring lakes, Pats and Virginia, be restocked, because of their being practically fished out. Cutthroats were in the lakes, but Wrangell residents weren't particular as to what's put back in Ralston said.

FORSYTHE, HOMER FILE ON DEMO TICKET HOUSE SEAT

Two more Democrats filed for a seat in the House of Representatives primary race to be run April 25. They are Earl T. Forsythe, Juneau businessman, and Steve L. Homer of Haines, who operates a car and freight barge between that point and Juneau during summer months.

Forsythe, former president of the cooks' and waiters' union and well-known baseball player, has lived in Alaska since 1934. He is 40 years old.

FROM ANCHORAGE

Among Anchorage residents registered at the Baranof Hotel are Ed Coffey, Ted Brady and A. C. Swallinger.

WIFE, CHILD ON PLANE, SGT. AIDS SEARCH

By Master Sgt. Robert Espe, as told to Graham Trotter, Canadian Press staff writer.
(Ed. Note: Robert Espe, radio operator attached to the Sixth Radar Unit of the U.S. Air Force at Elmendorf Field, Anchorage, Alaska, is the husband of Mrs. Joyce Espe, 23, missing with their 23-month-old son, Victor, and 42 other persons on the U.S. C-54 transport somewhere in the Yukon.)

WHITEHORSE, Y.T., Jan. 30.—(AP)—I've gone through the hysterics and have cried myself silly. I believe that due to the fact conditions in the area where the plane was last reported were good and that it was daylight last Thursday when it disappeared, the plane could have made a normal, ditching-procedure landing in some clear spot. If it did I'm sure my wife and little son are still alive.

My wife was seven months pregnant and because her health was not good in the Alaskan climate she was going to visit Mr. and Mrs. James Vagueur in Rifle, Colo., and have the baby there.

She was scheduled to take another plane out of Anchorage. But it was to have left three hours later than the one she finally boarded, which was making a direct run to Great Falls, Mont.

Delay at Start

I was at the field to see her and Victor off. But after a run down the field the plane failed to take off because of the failure of a feathering motor in one of the propellers, a very minor thing. That caused a three hour delay.

The plane crew had fitted all the passengers with parachutes. My last words to Joyce were: "If you have to jump, give the baby to Sgt. Roy."

(Continued on Page Two)

TRAINED RESCUE PARTIES ARE OFF FOR PLANE SEARCH

DENVER, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Two more planes left Lowry Air Base near Denver yesterday to join the Arctic search for a missing Air Force transport in the Yukon.

A C-82 cargo plane, carrying a helicopter, got away with a crew of five, two extra pilots, and three extra mechanics. It's the second helicopter bearing cargo plane to head north from Lowry for Great Falls, Mont., in as many days.

A special search aircraft, the new Grumman SA-16, carrying a crew of four, two extra pilots, three extra mechanics and three para-droctors also made the run.

The doctors, trained to jump from high altitudes in rescue missions, were Capt. Rufus Hessberg of Albany, N.Y., and 1st Lts. Donald C. Humphries, home address unavailable and Neville Stiles, Corpus Christi, Tex.

Two other planes, scheduled to make the flight, are being held up for repairs.

MOTHER, WIFE OF MISSING PLANE VICTIM, TALK

ALEXANDRIA, Minn., Jan. 30.—(AP)—The mother of Major Gerald F. Brittain, pilot of the C-54 missing in the snowy wastes of the north said last night "these moments of waiting are torture."

"All I can do is pray," said Mrs. Linda Schlichting, Major Brittain's mother. Mrs. Schlichting said her second husband, Alvin, operates a resort on Lake Andrews near Alexandria, Minn.

She commented it seemed strange her son had had a mishap. "My son flew the Atlantic 64 times during the war without one," she said. Mrs. Schlichting said the Major's wife Marjorie, whom he met and married in Belgium, had been in touch with her.

"She called me from El Paso on the chance that I might have heard something," Mrs. Schlichting said. Mrs. Brittain is expecting her first baby in March.

FRIGID AREA SCANNED BUT NOT A TRACE

Greatest Hunt Ever Made in Yukon Territory for Plane—44 Aboard

GREAT FALLS, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Lack of sufficient heaters to prepare winter-bound search craft for takeoff today hampered Great Falls Air Force Base efforts to get additional planes into the Yukon search for a missing C-54 and its 44 occupants.

Despite this handicap—in sub-zero temperatures that freeze a mechanic's hand to metal if touched without glove—five search planes left the base before noon to join other USAF and Canadian Air Force ships in the widespread search area.

Search planes started leaving the field at 4:30 a.m. (MST) to reach the Yukon in time to begin searching by daylight. They took off as rapidly after that hour as they could be thawed out and the motors started.

Temperatures of 28 below zero at the base Sunday warmed up to about 15 below today.

Nearly 50 planes have been funneled into the local base from other installations to be sent north as soon as they can be winterized and dispatched.

Helicopters have been brought in aboard C-82s. They will remain here to be pressed into service when and if the missing craft is located. Jump crews, including para-droctors, are standing by.

MOUNTAINOUS AREAS NEXT

WHITEHORSE, Y. T., Jan. 30.—(AP)—At Elmendorf Field, near Anchorage, Alaska, searchers said that between 33 and 50 percent of the probable search area had been covered. However, they said mountainous areas had not yet been touched due to generally poor weather conditions.

All large aircraft from Elmendorf have joined the sweeping search. Small craft, helicopters, trail crews and paramedics are standing by.

TWO NATION SEARCH

WHITEHORSE, Y.T., Jan. 30.—(AP)—More men and mechanics were poured today into the search for a missing U.S. Air Force Transport and its 44 occupants.

Pace of the two-nation hunt, already ranking as the largest in the history of the frozen north, was stepped up as it entered its fourth day with reports of sub-zero temperatures bringing new fears for the survival of any of the plane's occupants.

Temperatures at Snag, a tiny weather station 20 miles inside the Yukon Territory from Alaska over which the huge transport made its last contact with the outside, were 10 below zero last night. Even colder readings were in prospect before morning.