Falls Police Nab Suspected Safecracker

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

Great Falls Leader

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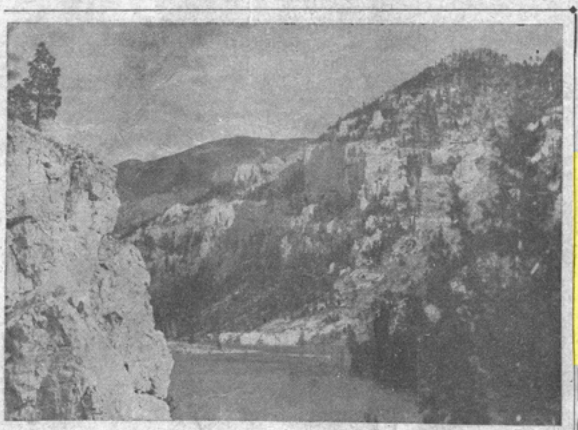


INFERNO . . . Beautiful and historic Gates of the Mountains northeast of Helena was reported an inferno today as a wind-driven forest fire raced through the Missouri river canyon and up to the peaks of the Big Belt mountains on either side. Three men, smoke jumpers, were burned to death; six others are believed dead in the blaze. Hundreds of men have been rushed to the site in an effort to bring the fire under control.

Gates of Mountains Aflame; 3 Dead, 6 Missing in Blaze

BIG FAIR ENDS THIS EVENING; CALLED ALL-AROUND SUCCESS

It was the end today for the 1949 North Montana State fair and the 17th annual exposition went down in history as a great success both from the standpoints of attendance and quality of exhibits, shows and performances.

Tonight will mark the final performance of the state fair revue of 1949, "Cavalcade of Stars." The production has won constant praise from sellout crowds each night. The show itself has been paid high tribute by nearly all who saw it while several specialty acts won constant and high acclaim.

It was indicated early today that tonight's final performance will again be a sellout. High tribute has been paid to the daring Zacchini girls whose spectacular double cannon act following the night show has been a thriller to all. The act was booked for the final three nights of the fair and is recognized throughout the world as the top in outdoor show entertainment.

The fair's outstanding six-day race meet ended today with the track again fast. Top race of the meet was the seventh race on the program, the $2,000 added North Montana State fair handicap, and the meet ended with the running of the Au Revoir handicap.

Horse owners, jockeys and race officials began leaving almost immediately following the races this afternoon for other race meets in the west and midwest. Many are going to Billings for the meet held there with the Midland Empire fair next week.

Cowboys, getting not much more than an even break with the tough Autry rodeo stock, were competing in the finals of the rodeo here with Red Lodge riders well on the way to taking top money.

Following events this afternoon rodeo officials will compute final money and points garnered by contestants and will then prepare to move the rodeo and stock to its home ranch at Dublin, Tex. Cowboys will scatter throughout the country to compete in other scheduled rodeos.

A break in the rodeo routine was provided Friday afternoon when Midway, a tough bronc, broke from his chute, tore across the arena and crashed into the fence at the right of the grandstand stage. The horse was riderless. He broke his neck and was shot by rodeo attendants.

Clifford LaValley, 16-year-old gate attendant, where the horse crashed the fence, was injured slightly and taken to the hospital to have a cut in his head stitched.

One of the highlights of the afternoon program today and Friday was the appearance in front of the grandstand of the mounted 32-man Missoula county sheriff's posse. The posse went through an intricate mounted drill with ease and precision. The posse is a group of 32 Missoula businessmen who formed the horse troupe to promote interest in horsemanship in the state.

Hundreds of livestock, poultry, agricultural and other exhibitors tonight after the show will begin the trek home with their exhibits. The exhibits have been popular throughout the week and have attracted thousands of persons. Many of the exhibits were particularly outstanding this year.

Attendance for the 1949 fair has been [illegible] highly satisfying. When the final figures are in for today's and tonight's attendance it is expected it will top that of previous years, although the national trend for fairs is sharply down.

Mady Says City Hideout For Big Ring

A man described by Police Chief Harold M. Mady as a member of a "sizable western safe-cracking gang, which has headquartered in Great Falls," was arrested by police here and is being held in the city jail.

Murray Board, 36, was arrested Thursday night in a local tourist cabin by Officers Vern Dunwiddie and Charles Herzog.

"He is wanted as a member of a sizable western safe-cracking gang that has been under police surveillance here for several months," the police chief said.

He was arrested on information contained in a telegram received here Thursday morning by police from a Las Vegas sheriff. It said Board and two other men, who have been arrested in Boise, Idaho, were wanted on a felony warrant charging first degree burglary.

Mady said he had been advised that the man held here and others were wanted in Las Vegas in connection with the robbery of a Las Vegas doctor's home. He said several [illegible] valuable jewels were taken.

"Our department has known for some time that these men and others were operating out of Great Falls," Mady said. "They have been watched constantly for any wrong move."

The wire from Nevada gave Mady's department the information it needed to make the arrest of Board before he could slip out of town.

Mady said Board probably would be transferred to county authorities here for extradition to Las Vegas.

Mady was advised today that James Board, brother of Murray Board, and Raymond Krantz were arrested in Boise and are being held under $150,000 bond each.

Nevada Sheriff Glen Jones' telegram said bond for Murray Board has been set in Nevada at $30,000.

Krantz is wanted by Kalispell authorities. He is described in a fugitive circular received here as dangerous.

The police chief said information obtained by the department here indicates that Board and the two men arrested in Boise are part of safe-cracking ring which was broken in Rawlins, Wyo., with the arrest there last week of five persons, including another brother of Board's, Eugene Board, 28, of Billings, and an attractive blonde.

The girl was identified as Marjorie Bittrick, 24, of Casper. She was captured with two men early

(Continued on Page 9)

—Leader Photo

HOTTEST JOB AT FAIR—Leo Lesser should have a medal. He blows the sousiphone in the municipal band and every afternoon during the week of the North Montana State fair while the sun beat down with its 100 degrees heat on normal surroundings Leo blew and sweat and blew and sweat. There was no shade where Leo worked. he faced the brilliant sun almost directly each afternoon and the reflection of light and heat from the concrete ramp in front of the grandstand didn't make things easier. It was tough on the entire band in fact yet they did a splendid job throughout.

HUNDREDS BATTLE FLAMES RAGING THROUGH CANYON

HELENA, Aug. 6 (AP)—At least three men were burned to death, seven were hurt and six are missing in a mammoth forest fire in the Gates of the Mountains primitive area near here, the federal forest service said today.

Bodies of two forest service parachutists and a third firefighter were found in a 3,000-acre fire which roared uncontrolled through timber in a primitive area northeast of Helena.

Their names were withheld pending notification of relatives.

Seven of the 15 smokejumpers who parachuted to the fire yesterday were burned, three seriously, the forest service said.

Two of the "chutists—Bill Hellman and Joseph Silvia—are hospitalized here.

Regional Forester P. D. Hanson of Missoula said poor communications held up complete information on casualties.

Hanson continued: "The first serious accident in many years occurred when smokejumpers employed by the forest service in this region occurred late Friday afternoon. At the present time, due to poor communications and the precipitous country, our information is incomplete. Rescue work is under way as vigorously as possible."

Forest Supervisor A. D. Moir said one of the smokejumpers who escaped told him all 15 made successful parachute leaps yesterday.

Then, said the jumper, "we were all enveloped in flames." He doesn't know what happened to his companions.

Dr. Amor R. Little Jr., Helena, [illegible] hospitalized men are in fair condition. Silvia is a University of Minnesota student and Hellman is from Kalispell, Mont.

All boats in the Helena area were being used to rush reinforcements down the Missouri river to help hundreds of men battle desperately in the picturesque Gates of the Mountains area.

Fire whipped along the Missouri river, which cuts deep gorges below the Belt mountain peaks, and leaped up and down sheer cliffs seeking out and destroying trees.

The blaze was advancing along a one-mile front, building up tremendous heat and pressure and threatening to burst out of the primitive area and onto private timber.

Firefighters, who reached the scene by river boat, were trying unsuccessfully to trap the flames in the Missouri canyon and smaller gorges.

The forest service was flying in reinforcements from Idaho and hoped to increase the force at the fire to about 400.

Bulldozers were taken to the fire but could not be used, because of the mountain terrain.

The blaze went "hog wild" late yesterday, driven by strong wind, a forest service spokesman said.

The wind was down this morning. The men were working under a sweltering sun.

Among forest service officials scouting the blaze from the air were Hanson, C. S. Crocker, Missoula, regional fire control chief, and Moir.

The Belt mountains fire is the biggest in the region comprising 17 forests of Montana, Idaho and eastern Washington.

Another fire nearby was burning along a one-mile front in the York-Bull Run gulch area. Fifty men were battling that blaze and as many more were expected to join them.

UNBELIEVABLE INFERNO

HELENA, Aug. 6 (AP)—An aerial observer described the Gates of the Mountains forest fire near here today as an "unbelievable inferno."

Ed Johnson, Associated Press writer, reported:

"Flames are leaping from cliff to cliff and running swiftly from the Missouri river canyon to the mountain peaks. Trees literally exploded in the path of the blaze, sending flames about 50 feet into the air."

Pilot Paul Choquette, aerial patrol scout for the forest service, said the fire spread rapidly. He flew over the area yesterday morning and there was no fire. Lightning started the fire about noon.

"Within a few hours the fire was well started and moving fast," Choquette reported. "The forest is extremely dry. The trees explode. The flames are burning along the canyon and leaping up cliffs. In the side of one steep cliff I saw a lone tree explode—far from any other foliage."

FIRE IN AREA OF 28,000 ACRES

HELENA, Aug. 6 (AP)—The spectacular Gates of the Mountains primitive area covers 28,000 acres of high country a scant 25 miles northeast of Helena.

It abounds in big game, upland birds and fish. Through the deep gorges the clear blue Missouri river cuts a zigzag path.

The area is crossed only by a few forest service trails and the paths made by elk and deer.

The Gates may be reached either by boat from Hilger's landing, 16 miles north of Helena on the Great Falls highway, or by automobile at the Checkerboard ranger station, about 35 miles northeast of Helena and beyond Nelson.

SUN RIVER FIRE UNDER CONTROL

Word was received at headquarters of the Lewis and Clark national forest service in Great Falls at noon today that a lightning-caused fire in the Sun river canyon about 85 miles west of this city, which went out of control Friday night, was believed to be under control.

The blaze broke out in the Green Timber basin, about one mile south of Gibson dam, and covered about 100 acres. About 40 men battled it through the night and today the force had been increased to between 130 and 140 men, mostly volunteers from the Great Falls air force base. Douglas Merrison, in charge of the Augusta ranger station, was directing fire-fighting operations.

Fred O. Leftwich, supervisor of the Lewis and Clark forest, was surveying the fires from radio-equipped plane. Also on the job were Lachlan Stewart, the assistant supervisor; John Fallman, staff man from the local office; Dan Massing, Stanford forest ranger; Richard McElfresh, White Sulphur Springs forest ranger, and Charles Loberg, of the state fish and game department.

This morning 100 men from the east base were flown to the big Gates of the Mountains fire and another, also in the Helena national forest, each said to cover about 1,000 acres.

Greek Army In New Drive

ATHENS, Aug. 6 (AP)—The Greek army kicked off today on a major offensive in the Grammos mountains against a Communist-led guerrilla force estimated at 5,000 troops.

The general staff reported the guerillas were supported in battle by Albanians firing from Albanian soil nearby.

The Greek guerillas are compressed in an area of about 250 square miles against the Albanian border west of Nestorion and northeast of Konitza.

The general staff said several defense points were taken by Greek forces southwest and northwest of the 7,000-foot-high mountains in the first fighting despite "bitter resistance."

Today's Race Results

First race, 6½ furlongs, Inaflash, first, $17.80, $9.90, $4.60; Tipsy's Tip, second, $35, $9; Flitterverse, $3.40.

Second race, 5 furlongs, Night Spot, first, $4.60, $3.40; $3; Ravon, second, $3, $3; Sterebo, $4.40.

Third race, 5 furlongs, Prompt Return, first, $5.20, $3.60, $3.20; Speed Mattier, second, $3.60, $3.40; Billy Y, third, $4.40.

Weather Forecast

GREAT FALLS VICINITY

(Data Supplied by U. S. Weather Bureau)

Clear to partly cloudy tonight and Sunday. Scattered thunderstorms over mountains. Low tonight 60; high Sunday 90.

GREAT FALLS TEMPERATURES

Maximum yesterday, 98; minimum last night, 70; 1 p. m. today, 100.

GREAT FALLS PRECIPITATION

24 hours to noon today	.00
Total this month to date	.13
Normal this month to date	.30
Same month to date last year	.37
Jan. 1 to date this year	9.53
Jan. 1 to date last year	14.40
Jan. 1 to date, 50-year normal	10.22

MONTANA WEATHER DATA

The Associated Press

West of divide—Partly cloudy tonight and Sunday. Few scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms; low tonight 56-66; high Sunday 85-95.

East of divide—Fair tonight and Sunday; few scattered late afternoon and evening thunderstorms; continued warm; low tonight 55-65; high Sunday 90-100, except 85-95 northwest.

City—	Max.	Min.	City—	Max.	Min.
Billings	98	70	Havre	101	60
Bozeman	95	54	Helena	97	57
Broadus	98	57	Kalispell	93	52
Butte	90	48	Lewistown	93	58
Custer	101	62	Livingston	90	51
Cut Bank	95	56	Miles City	101	66
Dillon	98	54	Missoula	98	57
Drummond	96	47	W. Yellstone	94	44
Glasgow	101	60	Whitehall	95	53

(United States weather bureau report for period ending at 6:30 a. m., Aug. 6.)

Touche! Fair Bows to West On Fencing

Westerners don't like to be fenced in, nor do they like to be fenced out.

That is the conclusion of Leo C. Dalley, secretary-manager of the North Montana State fair formed after a busy week of checking multiple tasks daily during the fair week.

One of the problems was of fencing. The fair board has yet been unable to find a fence that will resist the urge of western children to get inside.

"It's just the west," Dalley said. "The people here won't be fenced out. Why, I know several boys and girls who went over or through the fence rather than through the gate when they had gate passes in their pockets. I saw one boy sitting up in a tree watching the grandstand performance yet he had two grandstand seat tickets in his pocket."

The problem is the same that faces baseball and football team managements or anything else for which a gate is entrance, Dalley said.

The fair board is wrestling with the problem and studying fencing. By next year the fences at the grounds may be higher and harder to beat but they aren't apt to be invulnerable.

Paper Sued Over Inquiry

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (AP)—James V. Hunt, a central figure in Washington's current "5 percenter" inquiry, announced today he is filing suit against the New York Herald Tribune.

Hunt declared in a statement that "irresponsible half-truths" printed by the newspaper "have gone a long way toward ruining my business."

Now a Washington management counselor, Hunt's activities came under congressional committee scrutiny after the Herald Tribune published a story June 21 saying he had accepted a $1,000 fee from a businessman seeking government contracts.

Ambush Police

SINGAPORE, Aug. 6 (U.S.)—Seven policemen were killed and 17 wounded yesterday when Malayan terrorists ambushed a three-truck police convoy in lonely Pahang state, authorities said today.

400 Killed, Thousands Hurt in Ecuador Quake

QUITO, Ecuador, Aug. 6 (AP) — Four hundred bodies were counted today and many more are believed to have been victims of earthquakes that ripped mountain cities and villages yesterday in the Ambato region.

Rescue workers picked through the ruins of a dozen localities high in the Andes south of Quito on searches that added to the death toll. They treated hundreds of injured and many were being taken away for hospitalization.

(The Ecuadorean embassy in Washington said it had been advised officially there were 500 dead in Ambato, a provincial capital, and the city lost 70 percent of its buildings in the quake.)

One thousand were injured in Ambato alone.

Ambato, a textile city of 50,000 population, was apparently hardest hit. Communications were knocked flat and information from the stricken area was scant. The area affected covers 300 square miles. The population of the region is about 300,000.

It was the biggest disaster suffered by Ecuador since colonial times. Ambato was destroyed in 1797 by an earthquake which also ruined the towns of Pelifeo, Quero, Pillaro and Patate. The dead totaled 5,908.

Interior Minister Salazar Gomez asked in a broadcast from Ambato for army demolition squads to raze buildings damaged to the verge of toppling over on survivors.

Early news of the disaster trickled in over only one channel—a small battery-powered radio station of the Shell Oil Co. which normally handles only company business.

Army relief planes sent to Ambato from Quito had to turn back this morning because the airport was fogbound. Two more set out from Guayaquil with hopes of landing later with blood plasma and vaccines sent by the Red Cross there.

President Galo Plaza Lasso, a large-scale farmer, ordered all milk produced on his lands sent to Ambato and started out himself to direct relief efforts in the town.

Locomotives were testing the southern section of the Guayaquil-Quito railway and relief trains were ready to pull out as soon as the line is found to be secure.

Miguel Albornoz, secretary-general of the Ambato public administration, said in a broadcast the survivors spent last night in the open or under tents—out of reach of tottering building.

10-Year-Old Struck by Car

Betty Ann Ledbetter, 10, suffered minor injuries early this afternoon when she was struck by a car being driven by Herschel D. Nealy of the Great Falls air base.

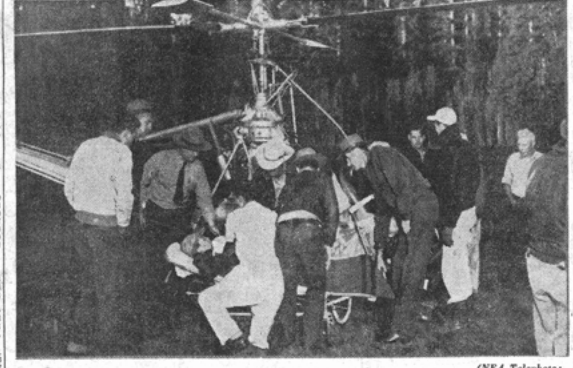
The accident occurred at the east end of the First avenue north bridge between 12:15 and 12:30 p. m. The Ledbetter girl was taken to Columbus hospital in a police ambulance but was released after X-rays showed she had not suffered serious injuries.

Witnesses said the girl had alighted from a city bus, which was on the inside lane of the avenue immediately in front of the car being driven by Nealy. Both vehicles were coming toward the main part of the city. Nealy, attempting to go around the bus, found his way blocked by a pickup truck which was traveling east in the outside lane. To avoid a smashup, witnesses explained, Nealy veered to the right of the bus, drove over the curb and skidded onto the grass in the park near the river. His left front fender grazed the Ledbetter girl, knocking her to the ground and bruising her leg.

Nealy was booked by police for having no driver's license. Further investigation is being made.

Jews Bombed

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Aug. 6 (U.P.)—A bomb exploded in the Jewish quarter of Damascus last night, wrecking buildings and injuring several persons, reports reaching here said today.



(NEA Telephoto)

YOSEMITE 'COPTER RESCUE SUCCESSFUL—Dr. Verlin Baysinger (white uniform) and Yosemite National Park rangers place injured Terence Hallinan on gurney at White Wolf, Calif., after helicopter rescue flight from the rugged Benson Lake area, 22 miles away. The 12-year-old boy suffered a skull fracture when he was thrown from his horse while on a park trip. The helicopter used in the rescue, a standard Hiller 360, was removed from the company's assembly line and offered for the rescue when they heard of the youth's plight.

Baseball

The Associated Press

NATIONAL

Brooklyn	001	00			
Cincinnati	000	00			

Branca and Campanella; Wehmeier and Cooper.

Philadelphia	010	200	001—4	8	0
Pittsburgh	000	100	020—3	8	0

Heintzelman, Konstanty (8) and Seminick; Bonham, Gumbert (8) and McCullough, Fitzgerald (8).

Boston	000	000	004— 4	7	2
Chicago	231	211	00x—10	13	0

Bickford, Barrett (3), Antonelli (5) and Crandall; Dubiel and Owen, Burgess (8).

New York at St. Louis—Night.

AMERICAN

St. Louis	204	200	000—8	10	1
New York	012	022	002—9	13	1

Embree, Ostrowski (5), Fannin (9) and Berra. Home runs St. Louis Lehner, Priddy, and Lollar; New York: Berra, Rizzuto (2), DiMaggio (2), and Henrich.

Detroit	000	000	000—0	5	0
Boston	100	001	01x—3	9	0

Trucks, Newhouser (7) and Swift; Parnell and Tebbetts.

Cleveland	000	000	000—0	8	0
Philadelphia	001	000	10x—2	7	0

Lemon and Hegan; Fowler and Guerra.

Chicago	000	200	120		
Washington	020	000	002		

Kuzava, Kliesman, and Malone, Scarborough, Haynes (10) and Evans.

Aunt Het

By Robert Quillen

I don't care if I do spoil my grandchildren. They ain't here much, and I'd rather they'd tear up a few things than tear up my nerves by squallin'