

WASTE IN YULE TREES PROBED

Christmas trees from the State of Washington "undoubtedly" are among the thousands of leftovers which caused an investigation to be started today in California, according to L. T. Webster, assistant supervisor of forestry for the State of Washington.

Special investigators of the California Division of Forestry were in Fresno, Calif., photographing leftover piles of nearly 30,000 Christmas trees which glutted the market as a surplus from 60,000 trees sent there for the holidays, according to the Associated Press.

Piled-up Christmas trees which never left their sales lots still were forlorn and unwanted today in Seattle and other Washington cities.

Officials in Seattle said dealers have two weeks before the piled-up surplus actually must be removed from Seattle streets.

Full Report Planned
In California, C. E. Metcalf, deputy state forester, said a full report on the number of trees, the size and origin, and a photographic record of the evergreens that went up in bonfires in wholesale destruction, will be sent to M. E. Pratt, state forester.

"It is time we aroused public sentiment against the unprecedented loss of potential young timber which was cut for Christmas trees and not used," said Metcalf. Webster declared these trees included evergreens from Washington State, and urged a more stringent "Christmas tree law in Washington."

"There are Washington trees in that bunch, undoubtedly, but they didn't come from state-owned forest lands in Washington, you can rely on that," said Webster. "We've had men out night and day to protect the forests and keep out cutters. Naturally we couldn't control the cutting and sale of trees on private land."

State Law Criticized
Webster said the state law to protect Christmas trees is "really a poor law."

"It provides that a shipper must have a \$10 license, and that's about all," Webster said. "That means that a shipper must have a \$10 license if he sends out 10 trees, and a shipper who sends out 3,000,000 trees also must have only a \$10 license."

The Christmas tree industry slowly is improving in its methods in Washington, Webster said. "There are certain areas that can best be used for Christmas-tree farming and cutting," Webster pointed out. "The industry now is much more above board than it used to be, and its methods of cutting are improved."

Allen T. Butler, chief sanitarian of the Seattle Health Department, estimated that a third of the surplus Christmas trees already have been removed from lots in the city.

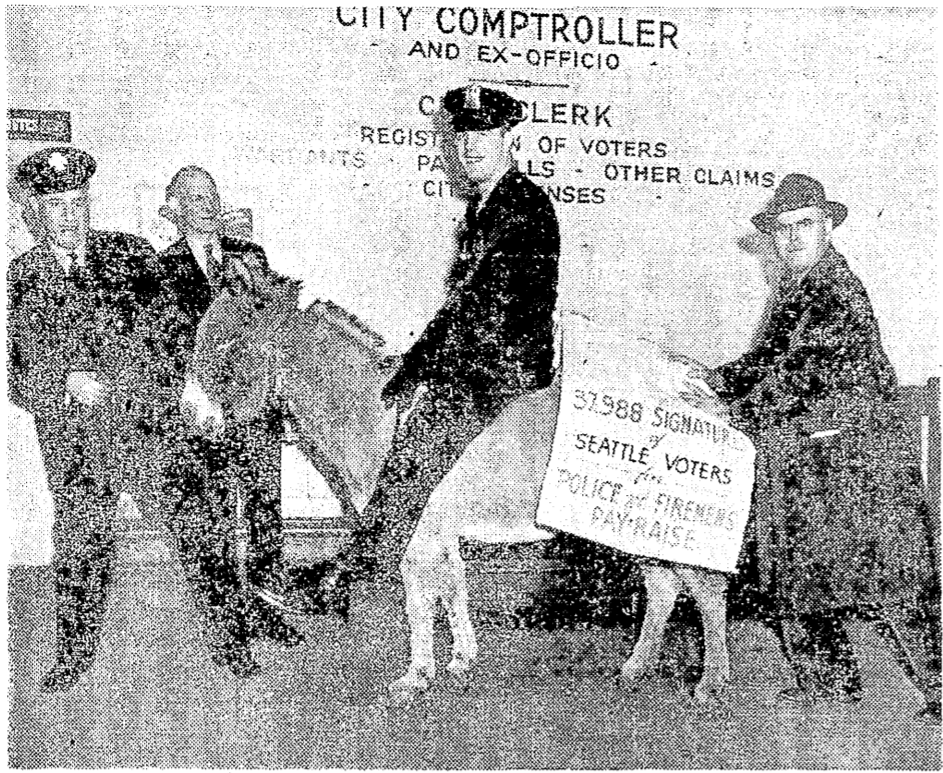
No Health Measure Involved
"Actually, there is no health measure involved here," Butler pointed out. "A couple of weeks would be a reasonable length of time for the dealers to get rid of the trees."

Butler pointed out that not all the surplus trees are entirely wasted, since some can be sold to flower stores and decorators for post-Christmas decorations.

According to city ordinance, dealers in trees must be licensed as peddlers, paying \$5 for each place where the trees are sold. In addition, the licensee must put up a \$5 deposit with the City License Department, as a guarantee that the sales lot will be cleaned up, trees cleared off and the place left in a sanitary condition. After these regulations are complied with, the \$5 fee is refunded.

Piled-up trees become increasingly dangerous fire hazards as they dry out.

CLEOPATRA LENDS A HAND.



Firemen and policemen borrowed Cleopatra, Woodland Park burro, today to carry petitions for their proposed \$30-a-month pay increase to the city comptroller's office for filing. Left to right—Firemen Ed LaVassar, City Comptroller W. C. Thomas, Police Patrolman W. D. Moore, Detective Lieut. Mario Zuarri.

Burro Packs 37,988 Pleas For Fire, Police Pay Raise

The ceremony of transporting petitions bearing 37,988 signatures "by burro express" from the Public Safety Building to Comptroller W. C. Thomas' office in the County-City Building today attracted wide attention.

The petitions validated the request of the Policemen and Firemen's Greater Safety Committee to place on the March ballot the proposition of a flat \$30-a-month pay increase for approximately 1,100 men in the Police and Fire Departments.

Under the provisions of the City Charter, an initiated measure requires the signatures of 10 percent of the voters who cast ballots for mayor at the last preceding election. A minimum of 10,831 valid signatures would be required, but Cleopatra, a rugged burro from Woodland Park, bore 37,988 signatures, plus Patrolman W. B. Moore, who weighs about 200 pounds.

Burro Assisted
In an excess of zeal, Detective Lieut. Mario Zuarri pushed and Ed LaVassar, a husky fireman, pulled. After the ceremony, the performers, including Assistant Sheriff Hal Armstrong and half a dozen hangers-on went to the Busy Bee restaurant for waffles, stripped with bacon, with maple syrup, while

others in trees must be licensed as peddlers, paying \$5 for each place where the trees are sold. In addition, the licensee must put up a \$5 deposit with the City License Department, as a guarantee that the sales lot will be cleaned up, trees cleared off and the place left in a sanitary condition. After these regulations are complied with, the \$5 fee is refunded. Piled-up trees become increasingly dangerous fire hazards as they dry out.

Lenigrad Plans to Build MOSCOW, Dec. 28.—(AP)—A projecting and planning board headed by Lenigrad's foremost architects has been established to direct a reconstruction program for the city which envisages the restoration in 1944 of 70 architectural monuments damaged by German shellfire. Tass, the Russian news agency, said today that buildings to be restored include the Admiralty Buildings, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Revolution Museum, Stock Exchange and the Kazan Cathedral.

OWNER ACCUSED IN AUTO DEATH

Failure of Reuel E. Grow, 37 years old, of Bothell, to make sure his automobile was not in gear before he cranked it, was the cause of the death of Mrs. Edith Benedict, 54, who was hit by Grow's driverless car December 7, a coroner's jury decided today.

Mrs. Benedict, who lived in Bothell and was an employee of Sand Point Naval Air Station, was struck by the backing car as she awaited repairs on her automobile in a Bothell service station.

Grow testified he just started to crank his 1928 roadster in a service station across the street and was "very surprised" when it started backwards. He tried to halt the machine, he said, but was knocked down when the door swung open. Ernest Bailey of Route 2, Bothell, a witness, said the driverless automobile backed up the highway, made a U turn, and traveled back to hit Mrs. Benedict. She could not see the automobile, he explained, and ran into its path as someone shouted a warning.

Hopkins Brands Letter About Willkie Fake

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Harry Hopkins says his name has been forged in connection with a political dispute involving Wendell Willkie, and that he has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate.

Hopkins described as a fake a letter credited to him predicting that Willkie again will be the Republican presidential nominee next year.

"That letter and the signature are both forgeries," said Hopkins. Photographs of the letter were made public last week by C. Nelson Sparks, former mayor of Akron, Ohio, whose recently published book, "One Man—Wendell Willkie," asserted that irregularities figured in Willkie's 1940 nomination at Philadelphia. Sparks stated he had "complete confidence in the source of the letter" and that he was "certain of its authenticity." Sparks has associated Hopkins' name with a movement for renomination of Willkie in 1944.

Willkie called the Sparks' charges absurd.

More Enemy Aliens May Enter Army

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The induction of more enemy aliens into the armed forces is predicted by the Selective Service system, as the result of an Army decision permitting the assignment of nationals of enemy countries to combat theatres where they will not fight against fellow countrymen and relatives.

Heretofore the Army has turned down citizens of Germany, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria if they objected to serving.

The decision to assign them to other theatres "may cause some enemy aliens to withdraw their objections to all service in the military establishment of this country," Selective Service headquarters said today. Such cases will be reconsidered by draft boards.

Mexico has stopped the pay of soldiers relieved of active service.

American Japs' Fighting Wears Out Commander

By DON WHITEHEAD Associated Press Foreign Staff

WITH FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, Dec. 27.—(Delayed)—The little men from the Hawaiian Islands who have fought in the Italian invasion to prove they are as good Americans as any other Doughboys, have won their place so far as their fellow-fighters are concerned.

From the beaches of Salerno right into the Nazi winter line, these troops of Japanese descent have fought and are now fighting some of the hardest battles of the entire campaign.

Their first commanding officer was Lieut. Col. Farrant Turner, 48 years old, of Honolulu. He led them on the invasion and stayed with them through some of the hardest fighting in Italy. But in the rugged country now embraced by the front a man near his 60s can hardly expect to stand the physical strain of mountain warfare as a field commander.

Reluctantly Turner gave his command to Maj. James Gillespie of Des Moines, Iowa, one of the most popular officers in his division. But Gillespie suffered an attack of stomach ulcers and in turn gave over the command to Maj. John A. Johnson, Jr., whose home is at Kanai in the Hawaiian Islands.

Since landing in Italy the unit has won a reputation for its close fighting and on more than one occasion the men have frightened German troops with their wild cries.

Wife-Killer Suspect Held

BELLINGHAM, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Emerson F. Rhodes, 26 years old, a Canadian Indian, was being held in the Whatcom County jail on a charge of killing his wife in Fresno, Calif. The arresting officers said Rhodes admitted slaying his wife while drunk and hiding the body in a closet.

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