

RENO IS BLACK FIRE IN SIERRA

DRIVING SAFETY

Don't Let 1960 Become
Another Record Breaker
82 Have Died in 1960

RENO EVENING GAZETTE

A Newspaper for the Home

Information and enjoyment for every member of the family

WEATHER

Partly Cloudy
Continued Warm
Strong Northwest Winds
Extreme Fire Danger

EIGHTY-FIFTH YEAR NO.—124

PHONE FA 3-3161

RENO, NEVADA, MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1960

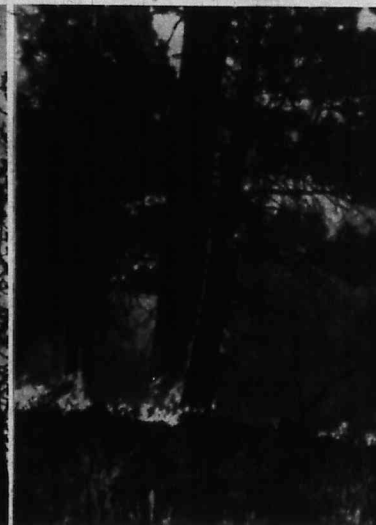
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Flames, Smoke Boil Through Sierra Into Nevada



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'Play It by Ear, Eyes, Smell'

Housewives Are Warned Of Health Danger Ahead

Western and northern Nevada housewives were given this advice today by state, county and city health officials.

"Play it by ear, eyes, and smell. Use good judgment. When in doubt, throw it out!" Reference was to possible food spoilage, a situation created by the farthing power outage.

"If the power failure goes beyond tonight," said State Health Engineering Chief Wallace White, "we're in trouble."

"Right now my advice to housewives is to check the odor of meats and other perishables. If it is all right, use it now, because tomorrow will be too late."

Our water is all right at this time, White said late this morning. "There may be isolated

trouble with pumps, but early today the major water units were operating, to include the Seventh street and Peavine unit which services northwest Reno."

Milk, major item in every household, could hold many problems after today. In cases where tiny tots are in the home, said White, use evaporated milk.

"Supplies of ice and dry ice are still holding up," he said. White urged housewives to obtain same if they can. Union Ice Co. and Sierra Oxygen reported supplies still holding up, with more quantities ordered. Sierra Oxygen expected another big supply of dry ice by 5 o'clock this afternoon.

"There may be a garbage problem," said White. "I urge housewives throughout the area

to 'throw it out when in doubt.' This disposal will create a problem with flies.

"I am therefore recommending extra city garbage disposal details. The situation could become an awful health problem, and it has to be handled intelligently."

White said "of course, canned foods are all right, and I say convert to those in the event of an inconvenience, but it's safe."

BUSINESS CURTAILED DOWNTOWN

Business activity in downtown Reno came to a virtual standstill this morning except in casinos and restaurants where there was auxiliary power.

The fire-caused power failure has brought many residents into the downtown area seeking coffee and hot food.

Business in the local hotels and clubs (where there was power) was at a peak, but most establishments described customers as "cooperative and courteous" when they had to wait longer for service.

Many department stores were closed except on an emergency basis where people needed candles and flashlights. Sears Roebuck and Co. opened as usual this morning, but business was on a limited basis. The store had no auditory power system so customers

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NO ESTIMATE ON DURATION OF BLACKOUT

Reno and Sparks sprawled helplessly across the floor of the Truckee Meadows today, cities paralyzed in the grip of a power failure that has blacked out 15,000 square miles of Nevada and neighboring Eastern California.

The electrical lifeline of a populous and prosperous area was snapped at 4:15 p.m. Sunday by a forest fire in the Donner Lake area, about 35 miles west of Reno.

High voltage lines carrying power from the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. system to this area wilted before the fire. On the Sierra slopes above Donner Lake, the skin of four high voltage lines upon which the area depends huddle together. Three are within a rock throw. A fourth is less than a mile away.

The blackout affected an area bounded roughly on the north by Gerlach, on the south by Yerington, Lake Tahoe and Markleburg, to the west and Battle Mountain to the east.

This includes, in addition to Reno and Sparks, such Nevada communities as Carson City, the state capital; Lovelock, Winnemucca, Fallon, Virginia City, Yerington, Smith Valley, Minden and at Lake Tahoe, Stateline, Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Glenbrook.

On one 120,000 kilowatt line in the Donner area, flames destroyed a segment of five A-frame structures and crews working at night had managed to restore one today.

On a nearby 60,000 kilowatt line, 13 poles were down and

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Disaster in the Sierra

200 Million Dollar Loss as Five Fires Consume Forest Regions

Canned Food Advised by State Official

Dr. B. A. Winne, state director of preventative medicine, said this morning if the power outage continues past today housewives should turn to processed (canned) foods as much as possible.

"Right now we have no big problems. But a continued power shortage could change that picture."

"We have all our vaccines protected, and standing by in event food contamination cases crop up," he said.

Homes without gas for cooking can haul out the barbecue sets, he suggested.

"When the fresh food supply is considered inadvisable use your canned foods," Dr. Winne concluded.

Tahoe Forest Hospital Busy

TRUCKEE, Calif. (Special)—Personnel at the Tahoe Forest Hospital were busy today treating a steady flow of fire victims.

Several of those admitted, a spokesman said, were overcome by smoke. None of the injuries were serious, the report said.

Among the patients is Richard Rogers, Truckee youth, who suffered a broken leg while battling the fire northeast of Truckee.

Wind-whipped flames raced into Nevada's forests today, consuming a seven-mile swath of tinder dry timber as they swept northeast of Verdi to within 17 miles of Reno.

A spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service said \$200,000,000 is a "conservative estimate" of timber losses so far in the two largest of five fires in the area. He said the loss is zooming hourly.

The most serious of the blazes have swept blackened lines of charred timber from the north end of Donner Lake to six miles west of Verdi, and from Forest Hills, Calif., 15 miles northeast to near Westville, west of Squaw Valley.

BULLETIN

Sierra Pacific Power Company announced electrical service via temporary power lines will be restored to downtown Reno this afternoon and that service to residential areas should be resumed by late today.

BULLETIN

Elmer Briscoe, San Joaquin County deputy sheriff from Stockton, Calif., today was named Reno Chief of Police by the City Council. Briscoe has had 24 years experience in law enforcement. It was announced.

William Brodhead has been acting police chief since the resignation last month of Police Chief William Gregory. The new chief was interviewed at two personnel meetings of the city council prior to his appointment.

A third blaze still is raging over a small area along Luther Pass, south of Lake Tahoe. Officials of Toiyabe National Forest said this fire so far is not a serious threat.

Two other California blazes, one about 5500 acres north of San Juan at the middle fork of the Yuba River, and the other in the Garden Valley area north of Coloma are believed under control.

Meanwhile, Reno, still ringed with a semi-circle of blazing timber to the west, remains without hope of restoration of power and electrical service today.

Spokesmen for Sierra-Pacific Power Company said service may be restored by tomorrow but admitted it is impossible to

EGG TESTS PUT BACK 50 YEARS

The power failure turned the clock back 50 years at the Sierra Food Co. plant in Sparks.

The firm normally processes about 4,500 dozen eggs a day with fertility tests or "candling" as part of the procedure. For a half century magnifying electric lights have been used in the candling process. But business was conducted today with flashlights and candles.

E. L. Armour, firm operator, said he hadn't used candles in the process since he was a boy. That was more than 50 years ago.

NOT AVAILABLE

The usual California-Nevada temperatures were not available from the U.S. Weather Bureau because of the power failure.

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Record Broken

ROME (AP)—Lynn Burke again broke the listed world record for the 100-meter backstroke today while Jeff Farrell, Joan Spillane and Shirley Stobs sealed up place on the American Olympic relay swimming teams today.

Alfalfa Burns

PETALUMA (AP)—Ten thousand sacks of dehydrated alfalfa meal, apparently ignited by spontaneous combustion, burned subterranean today in the storage

Direct Appeal

MOSCOW (AP)—Barbara Poppers decided today to appeal directly to Premier Nikita Khrushchev for clemency for her husband, convicted U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

Cross to Carry

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxes took 100 million dollars in 1959—an average of \$667.04 for every man, woman and child in the nation—the Census Bureau reports.