Auburn Postal Receipts Reach Record in '54

Postal receipts reached an all-time high at the Auburn Post Office in 1954, Postmaster Charles L. Messer reported today.

Receipts climbed to $521,925.29 last year, he said. This was $12,782 higher than the 1953 total.

Receipts come from the sale of stamps, box rents, postage payments and postage meter receipts.

The new high in receipts came as a result of an increase in all phases of the Post Office's business, according to Postmaster Messer.

A decline in the December volume of receipts was in contrast with the yearly figures. The volume of receipts for December was $46,221.52, or $2,316.15 less than 1953's volume for December. Postmaster Messer said the Auburn employment situation might have caused the decrease in the December business.

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Assassination May Herald New Period Of Turmoil for Tiny 'Banana Republics'

By CHARLES M. McCANN
UP Staff Correspondent

The guns that cut down President Jose Antonio Remon of Panama may herald a new period of turmoil in the six little "banana republics" of Central America.

Remon's assassination threw Panama into a crisis which bids to last for a long time, and may erupt in more violence.

There are the makings of crises in Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

An attempt was made last April to assassinate President Anastasio Somoza, the "strong man" of Nicaragua, and a further attempt would not be surprising.

Tension Builds Up

El Salvador, the tiniest of the six, alone is quiet at the moment. But tension is already building up there in anticipation of a presidential election next year.

On the basis of its population—a total of nine million—Central America easily holds the all-time world record for political violence.

Panama, for instance, has had 22 presidents since it became a republic in 1922.

In Honduras, Julio Lozano is sitting in the presidential chair, a virtual dictator. There was a presidential election last October. The Liberal candidate got the most votes—49 per cent. But an absolute majority was needed for election. In the absence of President Juan Manuel Galvez, who had gone to Panama for medical treatment, Vice President Lozano was declared president. Galvez's term expired Dec. 31. But Lozano is still president, watching for signs of a challenge to his rule.

Somoza Is Rightist

President Somoza of Nicaragua is feuding with President Jose Figueres of neighboring Costa Rica. Figueres is a liberal, who has made his country a haven for liberal political refugees from other Latin American countries. Somoza is decidedly of the right wing.

Figueres has charged that Costa Rican rebels have been given refuge in the Nicaraguan jungle along his country's frontier. Somoza has charged that Costa Rican troops and planes have violated the Nicaraguan frontier.

This situation is highly explosive, and is being closely watched by the state department.

Guatemala Threatened

Guatemala, where a Communist-dominated government was thrown out last year, is now threatened with trouble from both right and left wing elements in politics.

Part of the turmoil in Central America, as in some South American countries, comes from economic instability. There was hope that the recent inter-American economic conference in Petropolis, Brazil, might result in some big-scale United States economic aid. There is no more potent political stabilizing syrup than American dollars. The United States did not respond. There was great disappointment, and some bitterness over that.

But it is questionable whether even this soothing syrup could help in Central America right now.

Road Back Is Long From Purgeland

By TOM WHITNEY
AP Foreign Staff

The road back from Purgeland is a long one, but sometimes the travelers return to Moscow. Many men once prominent in the Soviet Union are missing today. The new year prompts speculation on which of them may be heard from in 1955.

Sometimes the word comes in dramatic fashion. An illustration is the communique last month announcing the execution of a former minister of state security, Victor Abakumov and five subordinates. Abakumov's name had not been mentioned in the Soviet Union for four years.

Some Are Dead

Some of the missing Soviet leaders undoubtedly are dead—shot by secret orders or starved in prisons and concentration camps. Others of those purged may be alive in prisons. Still others may occupy obscure posts where they are kept out of the limelight for the time being.

The most famous name among the missing is that of Lt. Gen. Vassily Stalin, son of Joseph Stalin. Vassily used to command air parades in the capital when his father was alive. It's possible he commands some obscure air base in a distant area. It's also possible he is in prison. Probably he knew much about the network of intrigue that surrounded the Kremlin in Stalin's last days.

Knew Some Secrets

On this score another name is important, that of Alexander N. Poskrebyshev, head of Stalin's personal secretariat. He knew some of the darkest secrets of the Soviet dictator. He also has not been mentioned since Stalin's death.

Westerners have speculated that Poskrebyshev's hand may have pulled the strings of the notorious quashed "doctors' plot." His story must be a fascinating study in intrigue and the fate of the great in Russia.

Hurt Seriously

Lloyd Johnson, 40, of Rapid City, S. D., was injured seriously at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Sunday when a two-man sled overturned on a curve of the Olympic course. Johnson was pilot of the four-man bobsled team which won the 1953 world championship.

Boiler Overheats

An overheated boiler flamed briefly and smoked at the home of Mrs. Eva C. Raplee, 19 Franklin St., to call out city firemen at 12:59 a.m. today.

Engine Company 1 answered the call and reported no serious damage to the boiler or other property.

Drunk Gives Himself Up

LOS ANGELES (UP)— Desk Sgt. Michael Sherry wondered when the first drunk would be booked for 1955.

At exactly 12:01 a. m. New Year's Day, Rex Moore, 42, staggered through the precinct doors shouting:

"Happy New Year! I'm here and I'm drunk. You better put me in jail."

Sherry booked him.

Bloodmobile At Rope Plant

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile unit will visit the Columbian Rope Company mills from 9:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. Friday, Charles W. Avery, chairman of the Cayuga County blood program, announced today.

This is the twelfth time in the past four years that the bloodmobile has visited the mills, Harold F. Hayden, blood donor campaign supervisor at the plant said.

Mr. Hayden said a quota of 150 pints of blood has been set for the four Columbian mills.

Employes are to sign up with their departmental foreman or at the medical department in the main plant.

In announcing the visit, Mr. Avery said the amount of blood being used by the Red Cross is increasing tremendously. He reminded Cayuga County residents that anyone in need of blood may receive it free of charge at the two city hospitals or anywhere where Red Cross facilities are available.

Adult Education Registration Set

WEEDSPORT—Registration for adult education classes at the Weedsport Central School for the second semester will be at 7:30 p. m. today at the school.

Registration is open to anyone beyond the compulsory school age who is not enrolled in private or public school.

Joseph Abraham, director, has announced that the following courses will be offered: Woodworking, beginning typing, physical fitness for men, hooked rugs, orchestra, clothing and driving. If enough register the following courses could be offered: Ceramics, painting, women's physical fitness and photography.

Other courses could also be provided if instructors are available and enough people show an interest, according to Mr. Abraham.

In February Mr. Abraham hopes to offer a one or two session course on "How To Fill Out Income Tax Blanks."

DeSapio Has Double Task in State Cabinet

ALBANY (AP) —Tammany Chief Carmine G. DeSapio entered Gov. Harriman's cabinet with a double task.

One is to carry out the routine duties as secretary of state.

The other is to convince normally Republican Upstate New York that Tammany Hall is not the villain it is painted in GOP oratory.

He appears determined to prove that the Manhattan Democratic organization is respectable now, whatever its past history.

"The one thing you've got to offer to win votes is good government," DeSapio says.

And with the 1956 presidential election drawing nearer, the Democrats are looking for upstate as well as downstate votes.

Sen. Thomas C. Desmond, Newburgh Republican, recently termed the secretary of state's office a "Hernando's Hideaway" for political bosses. But it is unlikely DeSapio will hide.

As Tammany chief his activities have centered largely in New York City. As secretary of state he will be in a position to extol the new administration at meetings and functions throughout the state. He has made several speeches upstate since being designated for the post.

Republicans argued during the campaign that if the Tammany tiger ever got its claws on Albany it would take everything but the capitol steps.

DeSapio shrugs this off as campaign oratory and points to his own record.

He spearheaded the election of Robert F. Wagner for mayor. Wagner made appointments that were well received and his administration cracked down on graft and corruption. Then DeSapio sparked the election of Harriman as governor.

The next two years may decide how the state will line up in 1956.

DeSapio actually wears three political hats. Besides being Tammany chief and secretary of state, he is Democratic national committeeman for New York.

Democrats claim he is the first Tammany man ever elected to the national post and the first man of Italian descent elected to either the Democratic or Republican national committees.

At 46 he is about six feet tall and trim figured with wavy black hair a matinee idol might envy. He dresses conservatively and, because of an eye condition, wears tinted black glasses. He drinks tea.

DeSapio grew up in the Grand St. area of New York's lower East Side and got into politics at the district level. He worked his way through party ranks and became Tammany leader in 1949, when the organization was in the doldrums after a succession of defeats.

When chosen secretary of state he was a member of the City Board of Elections at $12,000 a year. The new job pays $17,000 plus $6,000 expenses.

READ THE WANT ADS

Truck Damaged In Rt. 5 Mishap

The driver of a truck which crashed into a pole at 4:19 a. m. today, about a mile west of Auburn on Route 5, escaped injury but his vehicle was considerably damaged, according to state police.

Harold White, 41, of Buffalo, told troopers he swerved off the road, as an unidentified car drove head-on toward him. The White truck struck a utility pole.

Troopers Wade Townsend and Edward Stelmach investigated.

Case Is Adjourned

Proceedings were adjourned to 7 p.m., Jan. 10, upon request of Anthony Guidone, 20, of the Town of Mentz, when Mr. Guidone appeared on a speeding charge last evening before Peace Justice Maurice B. Trowbridge of Mentz. Guidone asked for time to consult an attorney. He posted bail for his appearance. The Mentz motorist was given a summons on a speeding charge yesterday by Deputy Sheriff Ralph DiLalle in Port Byron.

Work Speeded On Mt. Carmel

Contractors building the new Mount Carmel High School are bearing down to make up for delays caused by recent cold and snow, it was reported today. The contractors say they will complete the school on schedule for occupancy this fall.

Windows have arrived at the project and it is anticipated that during January the building will be enclosed, heat turned on and interior work speeded, according to the architects.

It was noted that at times as many as 60 men, of whom 25 per cent have been Auburn construction labor, have been employed by contractors at the project.

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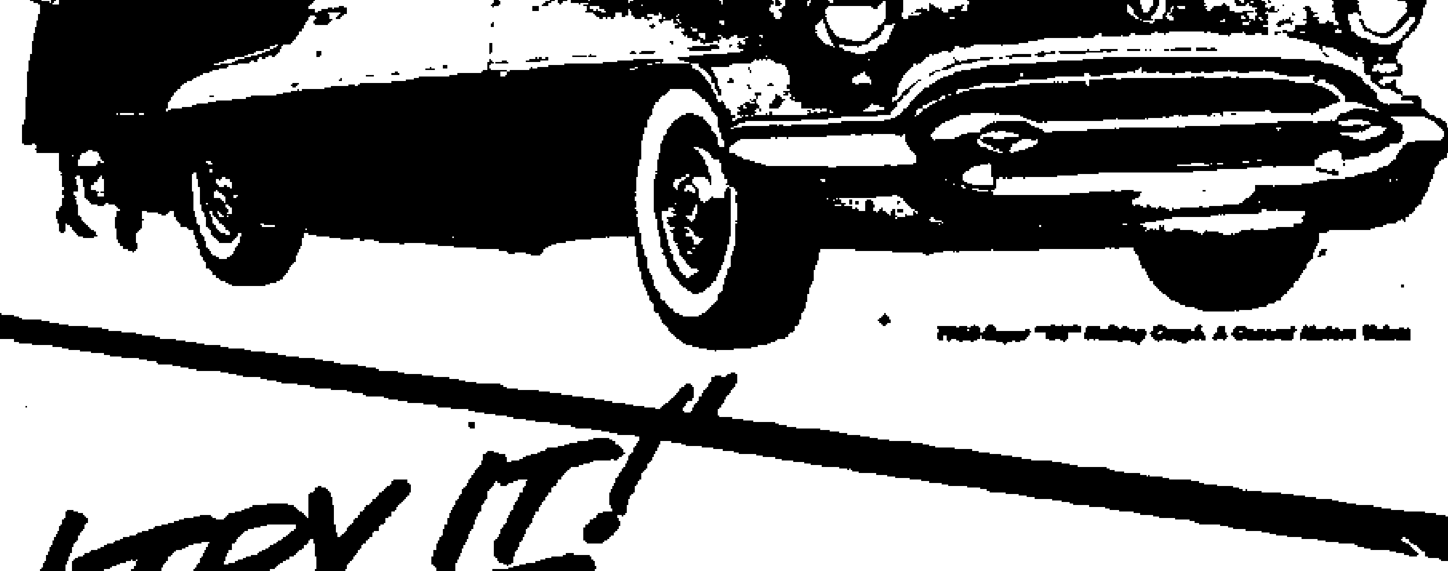

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