

Delaware River Crossing To Be Staged Christmas

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — George Washington's historic crossing of the Delaware will be re-enacted on Christmas Day.

Leading the group is showman St. John Terrell, producer of the successful Music Circus at Lambertville, N. J., a summer resort on the Delaware.

Terrell, who will play the part of Washington, believes the crossing on Christmas, 1776, is America's greatest holiday story. He hopes his project comes off so well that the country will make it traditional.

The showman and his crew will wear uniforms copied in every detail from the famous painting of the crossing by Emanuel Leutze. They'll cross in a boat from one-third the size of the bulky Durham boat used by Washington's men, but Terrell said it has been built along identical lines.

They'll even improve a bit on the earlier voyage across the Delaware. For instance, there will be no ice cakes to threaten the voyagers with a chilling dunking in the river. Historians doubt there were any floating about 177 years ago, anyway.

And besides, Terrell said, "Our families are leery enough of this already without our adding any more perils. They're coming to watch just to see if we fall in the river."

Attorney General's Rulings Disliked By Control Board

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP) — Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton, the first Democrat to hold his office in 58 years and the only Democrat now in high office in Oregon, isn't very popular right now with his Republican colleagues.

That's because of two recent Thornton opinions dealing with the state's penal system.

The first one held that the prison must stop its 30-year-old practice of letting convicts harvest crops on private property. This will make it necessary for the state institutions to buy all their fruits and vegetables on the open market, at much higher prices.

The second opinion said that the Board of Control can't buy a site for the new state reformatory. This means a delay until 1955 in this long-awaited project.

The three Board of Control members, all Republicans, didn't like either one of these opinions. And some Republican politicians are saying that Thornton is giving them a ready-made political issue for next year—that the Democrats have put a road block ahead of Republican plans for rehabilitation of convicts.

Advice Accepted

These three board members—Gov. Paul L. Patterson, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry and State Treasurer Sig Unander—believe that Thornton's opinions in these cases are wrong. But they will accept his advice.

The Republican state officials think Thornton is too strict in interpreting the laws. They believe the convicts could do their fruit and vegetable picking, and that the reformatory could be built, because the law doesn't say they can't be done. Thornton says these practices would be illegal because the law doesn't say they can be done.

"I know those opinions are unpopular," Thornton said, "and I'm just as anxious as anybody to get jobs for the convicts, and to build the intermediate institution.

"But my job is to give advice right down the middle, regardless of how I feel or anybody else feels, and regardless of the politics that might be involved. I have to interpret the laws in accord with the constitutions and court decisions of the United States and the state of Oregon."

His opinion on the reformatory, he says, follows to the letter the principle laid down by the state Supreme Court early this year in a case in which it threw out the crop-dusting law because the Legislature delegated law-making powers to the Department of Agriculture. Similarly, Thornton ruled the Legislature couldn't delegate power to the Board of Control, without spelling it out in the law.

The law gave the Legislature the \$1,250,000 to build the reformatory, but it didn't mention that the state should buy a site for it.

Politics Denied

Thornton says "I don't play politics in writing opinions."

His two chief deputies, E. G. Foxley and Catherine G. Barsch, are Republicans whom he kept on the job. Thornton says the Democrats are giving him a good cussing out for keeping them on.

Thornton says the policies in making opinion haven't been changed since he took office.

Thornton is the legal advisor for state officials, and they could ignore his advice, if they wished. But this is rarely done. This makes his opinions have almost the same importance as court decisions.

If his advice were ignored, then a court case might result. Thornton then would have to defend the state officials involved, and defend a position opposite to which he took in an opinion.

Some people wonder why the Board of Control asked Thornton for the opinions in the first place. They point out that if the prison had continued its fruit picking practice and if the board had bought the reformatory site, it is doubtful that anybody would have brought a suit to attack it.

But the board said it felt that it should be on strong legal ground before proceeding.

Police Want To Test Sanity Of This Thief

SALEM, N. H. (AP)—Police would like to find the thief who broke into Mrs. George H. Brea's home. They want to test his sanity.

The burglar unwrapped 20 Christmas gifts but took only a camera and tie and all the wrappings. He stole three jars of candy, but left two boxes of chocolates.

He took two boxes of fishing tackle, but left two fishing reels behind. He picked up a .22 calibre revolver, but turned down a hunting rifle.

And when he had finished—he swept the floor.

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Astoria Youth Wins Contest

SALEM (AP) — James Mantell, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Mantell, Astoria, Friday night was declared winner of an Oregon "Voice of Democracy" contest.

It was part of a competition sponsored by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Television and Radio Broadcasters and the National Radio and Television Manufacturers Association.

Three judges here heard recordings of 3-minute talks by 27 regional contestants over the state on the theme "What Democracy Means to Me."

For his selection the Mantell boy won a trip to Washington, D. C., where he will take part in a national high school forum on democracy.

The judges were State Treasurer Sig Unander; Harry W. Collins, Salem, a member of the State Board of Parole, and Robert Summers, Eugene, secretary of the Oregon State Broadcasters Association and member of the University of Oregon journalism school faculty.

DOGGY PRE-CHRISTMAS PARTY

Santa Claus plays host at the Seattle, Wash., Humane Society Kennel pre-Christmas party. He arrived with a tree and all the trimmings for the impounded dogs. Here he holds a pup who seems delighted with Santa's choice in presents. During the pre-Christmas season, the organization itself is playing Santa, and will give away each of the dogs in custody for the price of a license.



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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) — There's nothing like the Christmas spirit!

Court officials here reported Mrs. Betty Shamblin of Englishtown paid a \$2 parking fine by mail Saturday and enclosed a Christmas card.

TO RETURN ISLANDS
TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese government announced Friday that the United States will return the Amami Oshima islands to Japan on Christmas day. The islands lie midway between the southernmost Japanese island of Kyushu and Okinawa.

Season's Greetings and best wishes

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