

Tot Awaits Santa, Delicate Operation

By MAXINE NURMI
Observer Staff Writer

There's a sparkle in Debbie Lynn Loosie's eyes when she hears someone talk about Santa Claus. She, like most other La Grande youngsters, is anxiously awaiting the arrival of Jolly O' St. Nick on Christmas Eve.

But there is something even more important in store for little Debbie than the visit from Santa.

Debbie will undergo open heart surgery at Portland's Doernbecher Memorial Hospital Jan. 14.

The operation will be a major event in the life of this charming 4-year-old youngster. A successful operation will give her a chance to live a normal life.

From Missouri

Debbie was born March 19, 1955, at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where her father was stationed with the U. S. Army. Her heart condition has existed since birth.

When Debbie was two years old, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Loosie, took her to Doernbecher. Doctors at the well known Oregon childrens hospital discovered an opening in her heart.

Open heart surgery is comparatively new to medicine. The opening in the heart is "patched" with a plastic-type material which will expand as Debbie grows.

The surgery will require 23 pints of blood. Area residents responded to Debbie's need for blood at the Nov. 10 blood drawing here, with 13 pints of blood. Other donors have signed up to give blood on Debbie's behalf at the next local drawing.

Mr. and Mrs. Loosie expressed their gratitude to all of the persons who have helped them.

Express Thanks
"We are sorry that we don't know all of the names of the people who have helped. We would so much like to thank them in person," she said.

With the exception of the two years which Loosie spent in military service, the family has lived in La Grande since 1952. Loosie is employed by the Eldridge Packing Co.

Debbie's favorite playmate is her two-year-old sister, Lynda Diane. Keeping up with the household dog and cat keeps the brightly-d pair occupied.

Debbie will leave for Portland, Jan. 4 to enter the hospital. Mrs. Loosie has made arrangements to remain with Debbie until she is able to return to her home.

Two Weeks
If everything goes as planned, Debbie will be back with her family two weeks after the operation. She will be confined to her bed for about a month of convalescence.

When she is well, Debbie will be able to begin life anew. She'll be able to play with the toys which Santa Claus brings her.

And one day, little Debbie Loosie will take her place with the other children her age. She will thrill to the experiences of childhood.

Medical science, with the aid of loving parents and thoughtful neighbors, will have given Debbie a new lease on life.



TELL ME MORE ABOUT SANTA

Debbie Loosie, right, and sister Lynda Diane, left, sit on their mother's lap listening to stories of Christmas. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Loosie. Debbie will leave shortly after Christmas for Portland where she will undergo a heart operation at the Doernbecher Memorial Hospital. (Observer Photo)

Western Washington Prepares For Floods

SEATTLE (UPI)—Melting snows in the mountains and heavy rains today were swelling Western Washington rivers to the point that officials were gearing for a repeat of the devastating floods which hit the area late last month.

The Army Engineers were moving into the areas threatened by the rising Snohomish, Snoqualmie, and Green rivers which dealt out millions of dollars worth of damage just before Thanksgiving.

Last month's flooding closed all major mountain passes to cross-state motor and rail travel, forced hundreds of families to leave their homes, and wrecked havoc with thousands of acres of rich farmland. The area, its cross-state motor facilities still crippled to some degree, was just beginning to return to normalcy.

Early today the Corps of Army Engineers, which is coordinating the flood fighting efforts, said the Green River was expected to reach a crest of 66 feet at 6 p. m. in the Kent-Auburn areas south of here. The Snohomish River to the north was expected to reach 29 feet by 3 p. m. Both figures would put the rivers a foot or two lower than last month's levels but still would be considered dangerous flood proportions.

The Snoqualmie River to the west of here was reported two feet below its previous high early today and had already taken out a temporary bridge built to replace a span torn out during the

previous disaster. The Snoqualmie is the stream which ate through the four-lane U.S. highway 10 east of North Bend, closing the vital Snoqualmie Pass. Workmen just this week reopened the pass to one-way traffic.

Two other rivers, the Skagit and the Stillaguamish, both in the northwest portion of the state, were reported rising and nearing flood stages as well.

Civil defense and Red Cross organizations were making preparations today to move in if the situation warrants.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy south, mostly cloudy north tonight; few showers north tonight and Wednesday, spreading south Wednesday; highs 44-58; low tonight 35-45.

Sudden Snow Storm Blasts Through New Mexico, Texas

United Press International
A sudden snow storm, bearing up to 10 inches of snow, swirled through New Mexico today and knifed into the Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle.

The storm spread rain, snow or freezing rain over nearly all of Texas and Oklahoma and paved many southwestern highways with ice.

The Weather Bureau issued blizzard warnings for northwestern Oklahoma and Texas and cautioned drivers not to buck the high winds and heavy drifts expected during the day.

The storm closed eastbound highways from Albuquerque and stranded 100 drivers at Vega, Tex.

More than three inches of rain pelted western Washington, melting seven inches of snow in Stampede Pass and threatening the state with its second devastating flood in less than a month.

The rains and melting snow combined to push the Snohomish, Snoqualmie and Green rivers to ward flood stage again. Army Engineers moved in to prepare for another round of flood fighting.

John L. Lewis Will Retire

WASHINGTON (UPI) — John L. Lewis, 79, a turbulent titan of the labor movement for 40 years, announced today he will resign as president of the United Mine Workers early next month.

Lewis disclosed his unexpected move in a letter to members of his union published in the United Mine Workers Journal.

UMW Vice President Thomas Kennedy, 72, former lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania and a national officer in the mine union since 1925, will succeed Lewis.

Lewis gave no specific reason for stepping down from the post he has held since 1919.



HUGE CROWDS CHEER IKE—President Eisenhower waves back to the cheering crowds of more than a million Indians that acclaimed him as he and Indian Prime Minister Nehru (right) ride through the streets of New Delhi, India. The huge throngs that greeted Eisenhower hailed him as a messenger of peace.

Wallowa Man May Be 'Crash Victim'

WALLOWA (Special) — A Wallowa man's brother may be one of 46 persons aboard a Colombian (South American) airliner that has been missing over the Caribbean Sea since last week.

Lee Burrows, Wallowa restaurant operator, today said that he had received a telegram from his brother's wife, stating that her husband — Gene Burrows — was missing in an airplane accident.

The Wallowa man said the telegram came from his sister-in-law, Julie, and her daughter, Amelia. Gene Burrows married his wife in South America several years

ago while he was in the employ of an American oil company, Socony.

"The last time I saw Gene was in the early 1950s," according to Lee Burrows. The Wallowa man said his brother was also assisting in the operation of a large apartment dwelling, the Hotel Quinta Avenida, Bogarande, Cartagena Colombia, S. A.

"Gene was stationed in the Canal Zone aboard a Navy mine sweeper during the war, fell in love with the place and returned there after his discharge from the service," the Wallowa man said.

Lee Burrows also added that his brother came through a bloody rebellion in Columbia "unscathed" some years ago.

NEW GRAND JURY DRAWN

A new Union County Grand Jury has been drawn. District Attorney George Anderson Jr. said this morning.

Members of the jury are Orien F. Hug, Elgin; Mrs. Ruth Roulet, Elgin; Roy Weigand, La Grande; Alex McKenzie, La Grande; Fred Behrens, Summerville; Mrs. Marian Baxter, Union, and Forrest R. Barnhart, Union.

SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

HELP FIGHT TB CHRISTMAS SEALS

1959 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1959

TWO DAYS OF RELAXING

Ike Hops U.S. Warship After Triumphant Good Will Junket

ABOARD U.S. ESSEX (UPI) —President Eisenhower boarded the cruiser De Moines today and headed into the Mediterranean for two days of rest from his triumphant good will mission that has carried him 12,500 miles through Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The sleek warship weighed anchor and started moving out of Phaleron Bay at the conclusion of the President's one-day visit to Greece in which he again moved through crowds of cheering thousands and praised "Greek valor and heroism" in its struggle against Communism.

His praise for Greece came in a speech to Parliament, which gave him a standing ovation when he said he made his trip for "peace and friendship and freedom."

The only jarring note came from the left-wing bloc which stared ahead in stony silence when he spoke of the struggle against Communism and said Greece and America would remain strong.

The left-wing bloc has 78 members in the 300-man Parliament. The ruling pro-western National Radical Union, which cheered every remark, has 173.

Visits Injured Boy

Traveling with the official party aboard the Des Moines were his son and daughter-in-law, Maj. John and Barbara Eisenhower.

Before leaving Athens, Barbara visited the hospital bedside of Theodore Zervos, 6, who was critically injured Monday while cheering for the President as he drove into Athens.

She stroked the cheek of the small boy and talked with his mother.

The child was one of 22 injured when a stone and iron wall collapsed under the weight of on-lookers.

Thousands of Athenians, including girls in colorful Greek national costume and soldiers holding bal-

loons with Greek and American flag designs, watched as the President climbed into a helicopter for his trip to the ship.

Enroute, the helicopter swung past the Acropolis and other glories of ancient Greece before setting down on the cruiser's after deck.

It was raining hard as the President left.

Eisenhower's state of health continued to amaze his staff.

"He's stood the trip better than any of us," said Press Secretary James C. Hagerty.

President is Pleased

As he addressed Parliament his voice was strong without any trace of hoarseness and he appeared to be in energetic spirits.

The president was exceedingly pleased by the results of his trip.

One White House source said seldom had the President seemed more self-confident and hopeful of the future, so buoyed up by he over the days of adulation and cheering public acceptance in foreign lands.

Eisenhower, however, was represented as realizing that the cheers of the people of India and Pakistan won't ring nearly as loudly once he confronts the realistic problems of western unity at the Paris conference starting this weekend.

The Des Moines will cruise leisurely westward until Thursday when the President stops at Tunis. Then it will steam northward across the Mediterranean to Toulon, France, where the President will land Friday afternoon and take a special train to Paris.

Commie Troops Mass At Border

BANK DEVICE 'BACKFIRES'

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (UPI) — A security device of the First National Iron Bank of Morristown has been catching the wrong persons.

For the third time this year, the bank's tear gas system went off unexpectedly. The staff burst into tears.

Airman In Fair Shape After Wreck

William Schepper, 18, Portland, was in fair condition at St. Joseph Hospital here Tuesday morning as a result of injuries suffered Sunday morning in an auto collision with a lumber truck west of the city.

Schepper and his companion, Alvin Lee Scott, 23, Portland, were hospitalized. Scott suffered a fractured hip and pelvis. Schepper suffered severe head injuries.

Both Airmen
Both men are stationed at Niles Air Force Base, Montana.

— Driver of the Utah Pacific lumber rig was Jerald Shearer, Cloverdale, Ore. He was unhurt, police said. Shearer said he was heading east on Highway 30 when the 1954 car slid into the trailer of the truck at a curve. The accident occurred at 3 a.m.

Scott, driver of the auto, however, told police that the trailer slid into his vehicle. No citation has been issued pending final reports of investigating officers.

Veteran Policeman Cap Myer In Resignation From Force

Resignation of Capt. Arnold C. "Cap" Myer, veteran of 17 years as a law enforcement officer in La Grande, was announced today by Police Chief Oliver Reeve. The resignation is effective Jan. 1, 1960.

Myer, in his letter to the chief, expressed a feeling of regret in leaving the department but stated that he has an opportunity to enter private business.

The veteran officer moved to La Grande in 1943 with his wife and five children. He entered law enforcement April 12, 1943, and worked up through the ranks. Myer, in years of service, has been with the department longer than any other member.

Since his appointment to the department, Myer has served under five different chiefs.

Valuable Officer

Myer's children, three boys and two girls, have all graduated from La Grande High School with the exception of the youngest who was born here.

NEPAL WORRIED OVER RED CHINESE ACTIVITY

KATMANDU, Nepal (UPI) — The Chinese Communists have massed 100,000 troops and 400 planes within easy striking distance of the Nepalese border, reports reaching this Himalayan capital said today.

The Communist troops helped put down an anti-Communist uprising in Tibet and now have rolled down to the very border in some places, with 20,000 of them stationed opposite the Nepalese border checkpoint of Wolungtingmola.

Nepal has been worried for months by the Chinese Communist actions in Tibet, and Defense Minister M.B. Gurung made an inspection tour of the northern frontier and reported "heavy concentrations" of the Communist Army there.

Maps Revised

Maps issued in Peiping show some regions of Nepal as Communist territory but there have been only frequent reports of any actual Communist incursions into Nepalese territory. The maps also show parts of India, Sikkim and Bhutan as Chinese.

Sikkim and Bhutan are Indian protectorates and India is responsible for their defense. Nepal is an independent kingdom and an Indian Government statement that an attack on Nepal would be regarded as an attack on India produced misgivings here, with government officials apparently nervous about getting embroiled with Peiping.

Troops Few Days Away

Gurung, in his report on his northern inspection tour, told the independent English language newspaper Daily Commerce, that the Chinese also have built up all-weather roads linking Nepal's border with Tibetan towns and that troops are only a few days' march from the border.

Unofficial sources here said the Chinese recently constructed a strong land and air force depot at Digorcha in Tibet—a week's march by troops through the mountain passes but only a few minutes by plane.

Nice Dies Following Accident

BAKER (Special)—Glenn Nice, Union Pacific Railroad employe from La Grande, died at 12:35 a. m. Tuesday in the St. Elizabeth Hospital here.

Nice, of 2103 1/2 Cedar St., La Grande, was injured Sunday morning when the car in which he was a passenger collided with a Greyhound bus near this city.

Frank J. Herron, 307 Spring St., La Grande, was killed in the wreck.

Hospital attendants said that Jim Herron, the other passenger had "a fairly good night."

Oxman Overpass

Oregon State Police from Baker investigated the mishap which occurred at the Oxman overpass. Sixteen passengers were in the bus at the time of the accident, but escaped injuries.

Nice, 41, is survived by his widow, Jeana Mae Nice, and two sons, Kenneth and James Nice, La Grande; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nice, North Powder, and great grandfather, James Wicks, North Powder.

Nice resided here for 16 years, was a member of the B.L.F. & E. Union Pacific Junior Old Timers and Western Steam Siends. A veteran of World War II, he was born at North Powder.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Daniels Funeral Home, in charge of Rev. Louis Samson, with interment in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Death Penalty For Cubans

HAVANA (UPI)—A Cuban revolutionary tribunal today ordered firing squad executions for two men accused of forming an armed opposition to Premier Fidel Castro's government.

The executions, if carried out, would be the first by firing squads since midsummer. During the first half of the year, more than 500 persons were executed by firing squads.

Today's death sentences were meted out in Pinar del Rio to former army Cpl. Luis Lara Crespo and Jose Antonio Vincente Morfii Reyes.

Another 28 persons, all Cubans, received sentences ranging from 10 to 30 years imprisonment.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT DUE TONIGHT

Members of La Grande High School music groups and directors discuss plans for tonight's concert at dress rehearsal. Con cert, first of season, will be presented at 8 p.m. in school auditorium. Program will feature numbers by combined orchestra and choral groups. Left to right, Jay Loren zen, president, Mixed Chorus; Mrs. Betty Faulkner, director choruses; Norma Feik, Girls' Chorus president; Nancy Evans, front row, vice president, orchestra; Richard Mansfield, director orchestra, and Larry Gribbs, president of orchestra. (Observer Photo)