

WEATHER

Partly cloudy through Thursday with patchy valley fog except snow flurries north today; highs 35-45 except cooler foggy areas; low tonight 22-34.

LA GRANDE OBSERVER

LA GRANDE, ORE., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1959

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Ike Home, Plans Report To People

WASHINGTON (UPI) President Eisenhower returned to his White House desk today and prepared to give the American people in a nationwide talk late this afternoon the "impressions" he gained in his 23,000-mile peace pilgrimage abroad.

Eisenhower will make what was described as a "preliminary report" on his trip when he lights the nation's community Christmas tree here at 2 p.m. p.s.t.

His first caller was Vice President Richard M. Nixon who was on hand to greet Eisenhower upon return from his trip at Andrews Air Force Base Tuesday night. White House News Secretary James C. Hagerty said the President would make a 13 to 14 minute speech while participating in the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremonies on the public grounds south of the White House. The speech will be carried to the nation by radio and television.

Further Reports Planned Hagerty described the speech as "impressions" the President had received during his 11-nation tour and said it would be a "preliminary report."

Asked if the President would make any further public reports on the trip, Hagerty said he expected the chief executive to discuss his findings often in later speeches. He said this could include the President's State of the Union Message, which will be delivered to Congress early next month.

The Chief Executive, bearing a message of "Merry Christmas and good will" to all Americans from himself and the people he visited on his three-continent tour, landed at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., at 11:25 p.m. e.s.t. Tuesday night.

After receiving a kiss from Mrs. Eisenhower and a rousing welcome from some 200 greeters headed by Vice President Richard M. Nixon, cabinet members and members of Congress, the President drove to the White House for further applause from several

thousand sparkler-waving admirers.

Local Group In Sewage Meet Report

La Grande's citizen committee formed to study the sewage problem knuckled down to the big task before them at a meeting held last night. Harold Patterson, district representative of the State Sanitary Authority, was on hand to answer questions pertaining to various types of sewage systems and to acquaint the members with some of the problems facing La Grande.

Committee members questioned Patterson on the possibility of remodeling the present plant to meet state requirements. Patterson outlined six deficiencies in the existing treatment plant, including an inadequate digester and lack of a satisfactory secondary clarifier.

Inspection Trip Three members of the committee reported on inspection trips to various types of treatment plants in Pendleton, Ontario, Vale and Pilot Rock.

Chairman Lee Stoner appointed Herman Skala as head of a committee to investigate the salvage and rebuilding of La Grande's current system. Stoner also cautioned members of the entire committee to plan adequately for future expansion of population and service when considering a solution to the problem confronting the group.

Oil Company Entered Tidewater Oil Co., Wall & K Streets, La Grande, was entered last night but officials said nothing appeared to be missing.



COMMITTEE AT WORK

Harold Patterson, left, district representative of the State Sanitary Authority, met with members of La Grande citizen committee last night to answer questions regarding sewage disposal systems and to explain the problem in the present facilities. This was first business meeting scheduled by the group. Committee chairman Lee Stoner and secretary Carlos Easley, right, sit at the head table with Patterson. Next week the committee is scheduled to meet with Earl Reynolds, consulting engineer. (Observer Photo)

Local Parish Priest Student Of Journalism At EOC Here

By BILL SEBOUT Observer Staff Writer

Father Elden Curtiss is a familiar figure on the campus of Eastern Oregon College. This month he completed a course in basic journalism here.

Father Curtiss is an assistant pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande.

When he completes his work in journalism, he will assist in the publication of the Baker Diocese edition of The Sentinel. He is

currently doing some writing for the official Oregon Catholic publication.

Seattle Paper Father Curtiss worked on the staff of the Harvesters newspaper of St. Edwards Seminary in Seattle where he studied before being ordained in May, 1953.

During the next term of school, he will do some additional work in journalism with the assistance of Harold Dorn, journalism instructor at Eastern Oregon College.

He was assigned to the local parish by Bishop Francis P. Leipzig of the Baker Diocese this past fall.

Father Curtiss expects to further his education in journalism at another school in the future and is presently considering the University of Oregon.

His duties at the parish, however, keep him occupied and he does not know when Bishop Leipzig will want him to continue with journalism work.

In the meantime, Father Curtiss is busy writing stories from the diocese on Eastern Oregon in addition to handling his duties as an assistant to Monsignor Crotty, pastor of Our Lady of the Valley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FELLOWSHIPS WASHINGTON (UPI) — The U. S. Office of Education announced Tuesday it would award nearly 400 fellowships before April 30 for study of 25 foreign languages seldom taught in this country.

LOCAL CLUBS AID 'KETTLES'

The Salvation Army Christmas "kettle" fund was enriched by more than \$400 through the efforts of service clubs and Explorer Boy Scouts last Saturday.

Lt. Oakley Summers, in charge of the Salvation Army here, said that the Lions club headed the individual club drive effort by raising \$130.40.

Rumormongers club was the Scap-tinist with \$77.3. Third was Kiwanis with \$69.23; Rotary fourth, \$55.33; Junior Chamber of Commerce, \$36.05, and Explorer Scouts, \$29.16.

At Least 42 Dead From Plane Crash

RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI) — Firemen combing the charred wreckage of a suburban home here said today at least 42 persons were killed and 10 others injured in Tuesday's double air crash.

A Brazilian domestic airliner, which lacked wings with an air force jet trainer over Rio, crashed in suburban Ramos, setting four homes on fire. All of the 22 persons aboard the airliner and at least 10 residents of the crash area were killed.

Air Capt. Eduardo Silva Perez, pilot of the trainer, parachuted to safety.



PRIEST ATTENDS EOC—Father Elden Curtiss, assistant at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, nears end of his first course in journalism. Father Curtiss is preparing for service with Baker Diocese edition of The Sentinel, official state Catholic publication. Instructor Harold Dorn listens as priest asks question during class meeting. (Observer Photo)

BEAUTY AND THE BANDITS

Pretty Girl, Armed Men Rob Bars, Pistol - Whip Onlookers

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) The girl was young and good looking and her two escorts were well dressed. She sipped her beer while the men toyed with highballs.

Bartender John Von Meier, 55, found them pleasant enough, typical holiday drinkers. After two rounds the girl got up and left. As she reached the door one of her companions whipped out a pistol and cracked Von Meier in the face with the butt of the gun.

"All right," the gunman said, "this is a stick-up."

patrons to lean forward with their hands on the bar.

George C. Slocumb, 55, started to speak. He was slammed over the head with a pistol and fell unconscious to the floor. The bandits got \$55 more before they left the Stillwater Cafe in Lafayette.

The Village Tavern in nearby Richmond was crowded when the young woman and her two escorts arrived not long afterward. There were nine customers and three employees. The girl ordered a beer and the men drank gin.

Suddenly both men poured out a stream of foul language, whipped out guns and ordered everyone to lay on the floor. The attractive girl stood and watched. The two men, both in their mid-20's, went down the line rob-

bing the patrons. When the bandits reached Mrs. Marjorie Nowell, 45, one of the men smashed her with his pistol. Then he bent down and kissed her on the neck. Then he picked her up and hit her again. He bent down and kissed her again.

Tuesday night Oakland police summoned to an amusement center arrested Mrs. Corinne Wieland, 22, wife of an overseas Navy man, and Larkin Murrell, 31, ex-convict, as suspects.

Mrs. Wieland confessed her part in the assault and seven other hold-ups since May, and implicated Richard Dubinski, 27, as the second gunman. An all-points bulletin was issued for his arrest. She claimed Murrell and Dubinski "were always threatening me and held me prisoner."



PLEASE SANTA, A GARBAGE CAN—Gary Davis, 3, of Memphis, Tenn., has a simple request for Christmas. Gary seems to have a phobia for garbage cans and insisted to a local department store Santa that all he wanted for Christmas was one nice garbage can. Here Gary has climbed aboard the can while his pet dog, Penny, seems to be perplexed by the entire affair.

Winter Strikes U.S. With Furious Punch

FAIR SHOT, POOR JUDGE

SAN JOSE, Calif. (UPI) — Rookie sheriff's Deputy Darrell Morehouse proved to fellow workers Tuesday that he's a fair shot—but a poor judge at firearms.

Morehouse picked up another deputy's new pistol while on a coffee break at headquarters and remarked: "Well, well, a five-shot Chief Special."

He removed five rounds from the cylinder, took aim at the candy machine and slowly squeezed the trigger.

The gun was a six-shot "Cobra."

WHITE CHRISTMAS LOOMS FOR MUCH OF THE NATION

United Press International Winter in all its force and fury struck hard today. It assured a white Christmas for much of the nation, but put a real crimp in holiday travel plans.

As the Northeast recovered from heavy snow, Arctic air spilled southward through the area, dropping temperatures to below zero. In Oneonta, N.Y., it was 12 below.

A wide band of snow spread over the Midwest, slowing highway traffic to a crawl. There was an eight-inch fall at Madison, Wis., and in some parts of the state the snow was 14 inches deep. Roads in northern Illinois were barely open in some spots.

South of the snow there was rain and Northern California got its "first appreciable rain in over three months," the Weather Bureau said.

Heavy snow warnings were in effect for the Great Lakes region and hazardous driving conditions were expected to continue.

Blame Winter For 14 Deaths

NEW YORK (UPI) The nation's biggest city, digging out of a seven-inch snowfall that nearly hamstrung its transportation arteries, today faced a possible repeat performance Christmas Eve.

The 18-hour snowstorm started on the last day of autumn and ended at 9 a.m. e.s.t. just 35 minutes before winter officially arrived Tuesday. But air, rail and road transportation was hobbled for most of the day.

At least 14 deaths were blamed on the snow in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The dead included 7-year-old William Nichols of El Paso, Tex., who slid beneath the wheels of a truck on his first ride in New Kensington, Pa.

Eight persons died in highway accidents, three in falls, and two from apparent heart attacks while clearing snow.

The weather bureau said there was a chance of rain or snow Thursday as a precipitation area forming in the Midwest moves eastward.

Seven inches of snow would be shrugged off by many American cities. But New York, with its tight checkerboard of streets and its thousands of commuters who push in by road and rail in the morning and surge back out in the evening, can't be slowed to a near halt by even less.

Fire Guts 3 Stores In Montreal District

MONTREAL (UPI) — A fire on the city's main shopping street early today brought 80 firemen out in near zero temperatures to battle flames which gutted three stores.

The two-alarm fire partly destroyed two buildings on St. Catherine St. An adjacent theatre, the Comedie Canadienne, was damaged by water.

No one was injured.

He's Old Hand At Delivering Babies

DENVER (UPI) Aviation instructor Chiles Unstead, 52, delivered his third set of twins, his wife's 11th and 19th children, in their trailer home Monday night.

"After I delivered the first pair of twins," Unstead said, "my wife decided she didn't need a doctor."

Firemen Answer Call

The La Grande fire department was called to 1301 Madison Ave., yesterday afternoon to put out a roof fire. Two trucks were dispatched to the minor blaze that occurred at 3:35.

Christmas Beginning Of Long Holiday Here For School Children

By GRADY PANNELL Observer Staff Writer

Christmas will be a long holiday for city and county school students and for some public officials this week.

City students will begin their holiday period following dismissal of classes at the regular hour this afternoon. They will report back to classrooms on Monday, January 4 of a new year.

EOC students already are on a long holiday. College classes were dismissed last weekend.

Post-office workers will be the busiest of the lot here, however, as weary mailmen trudge their routes right "up to the wire."

The Social Security office will be closed Thursday afternoon and will not open again until Monday, giving the SC workers a long Christmas.

Most churches will observe Christmas with special services here, and one religious organization, the Salvation Army, plans to offer its cheer a little early.

At 7 o'clock tonight, the Salvation Army will hold its annual Christmas program for needy children at its headquarters, 211 Fir St.

Parents wishing to have their children included in this program are invited to have them present. Highlight of the evening will be a Christmas play, according to Lt. Oakley Summers.

The play is "The Question," and it deals with what Christmas means to the individual. Old St. Nick will be present, too, and he will gift the youngsters. Candy will be passed around at the end of the program.

92 Families Lt. Summers said, there were 92 families here receiving Christmas baskets. A total of 150 persons were visited by the SA, in juvs, hospital and the Hot Lake rest home. Each received a gift.

\$300,000 JEWEL ROBBERY PULLED IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A bandit robbed a swank downtown jewelry store of \$300,000 in gems Tuesday night, then vanished into the surging crowd of Christmas shoppers.

The robber, armed with a pistol in one hand and what he said was a vial of explosives in the other, forced an employee of the store to go with him. But the employee, Ralph Ruthe, escaped when the man tried to force him into a church on the next block.

Graham Browne, manager of the Paul DeVries-Louis and Co. jewelry store, described the bandit as a professional.

"He took only the big pieces 11 of them, and he stuffed them all into a blue paper bag," Browne said. "He took no junk."

The stolen pieces included a 10-carat diamond ring, a 5-carat man's diamond ring, two 3-carat diamond rings, a 6 1/2-carat emerald ring, a star ruby and a string of perfectly matched 11-millimeter cultured pearls.

age and walked him all the way up to Post and Mason (a block and a half away). Ruthe broke away and came back unharmed.

The gunman was described as in his mid-forties and about six feet tall. His only disguise consisted of dark glasses and a pair of stick-on type bandages in a V-shape from his eyes to his mouth.

Browne said the bandit rejected several less expensive items suggested by Ruthe, emptying show-cases and window displays while Christmas shoppers passed by a

few feet away unaware that a holdup was in progress.

One employee, Mrs. H. J. Leyser, said she observed a uniformed policeman standing with his back against the store window during the robbery. She said the officer departed before the robber did.

Another employee, Mabel Duke, said the bandit told her he was wanted for murder.

"He said one thing more would not make any difference. Just before he left, he said, 'I'm serious. If there's a false move, I'll blow the place sky high. If any attempt is made to call police I will kill this man (Ruthe). I'm probably going to kill him anyway.'"

Ruthe escaped when he ducked into the office of British Overseas Airways Corp. He said the gunman had told him to go inside the First Congregational Church when they reached the next corner, "but I'll put a bullet in your back."

An independently operated jewelry wholesaler firm, located a block away from the retail store, was the scene of another \$200,000 jewel robbery in 1955. The three robbers were caught within a few days.

2 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT HELP FIGHT TB CHRISTMAS SEALS 1959 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1959