

The Weather — OREGON — Fair and continued cold Friday; moderate to fresh east winds. Thursday—Max., 27; min., 5; river, 1.7, falling; wind, north; atmosphere, clear.

The Oregon Statesman

SIX PAGES TODAY

There was more happiness this Christmas than ever before; the Statesman thanks all its friends for their good-wishes.

SEVENTY-FOURTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1924

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS IS QUIET AFFAIR

Simplicity Marks Celebration of Yule Tide at Coolidge Home; Capital City Observes Holiday

FEW RECEPTIONS AND PARTIES IN EVIDENCE

Government Offices Will Open Today; Congress to Meet Monday

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The simplicity that attends observance of Christmas in rural Vermont, marked the day at the White House and in a measure pervaded the entire life of the capital.

Whether by design or not, observance of the holiday throughout Washington partook of the quiet and simple manner of the celebration of President and Mrs. Coolidge, partly through the inherited custom of their Vermont forebears and partly because of the recent vacancy in the family circle.

Cabinet members remaining in the city for the holiday observed the festival with members of their families and those of high and low degree in official and private life followed much the same plan.

Returning to the executive mansion, he spent an hour with Mrs. Coolidge and John, their son, and the White House's only Christmas guests, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Stearns of Boston, and then the entire party drove to the First Congregational church for the union Christmas day services, held under the auspices of the Washington Federation of Churches.

SEATTLE BREAKS 35-YEAR RECORD

Coldest Christmas Since 1891; Thermometer Stands at 18

SEATTLE, Dec. 25.—One death of a woman from despondency, the probably fatal wounding of a man self-inflicted and the breaking of a 35 year weather record for Christmas when the temperature dropped to 18 degrees above zero, the coldest since 1891, marked Christmas day in Seattle.

The body of Mrs. Avilla Hackett was found in the gas filled apartment of her sister, Mrs. F. Thomas. In one hand was a doll and some garments, belonging to her six months old baby who died four months ago.

F. I. Besselman, merchandising manager of a Seattle style shop, was said by friends to have fatally shot himself tonight as a result of mental disorders.

Make It Snappy, Girls, Advice Given as Leap Year Draws to Close

Better make it snappy girls, if you intend to observe leap year—only five more days remain. Just five more days for the several score of Salem's "most eligible" bachelors today. They are chuckling to themselves, according to rumors that are floating around, because they have eluded the wiles of the coy ones so far. Anyway, if the maidens of Salem who are seeking loving helpmates get busy, they may be able to direct the darts of Cupid rightly and retrieve their fortune.

Members of the Salem Bachelors club have been chuckling to themselves during the past few weeks because they have succeeded thus far in escaping the fate that has so often befallen their many comrades. They have been thinking that because they have evaded the lure of the pretty helpmate seeking husbands of Salem.

The Salem bachelors are very

proud of the fact that they have gone so far, because they believe in union there is strength. They have banded themselves together, and consequently are able to ward off the attacks of the fair sex.

Not until 1928 will the eligible bachelors be forced again to withstand for 366 days the wiles and advances of those relentless females who would become blushing brides during leap year, the finale of King Cupid's special efforts to rope in the gay, unwedded macho-rols of the community.

During the past year the "eligible" ones of Salem have fared well. Just a few have fallen into the sea of matrimony. Bachelordom has not been deserted very greatly. However, the number is not large enough to have the other eligibles excited. Be that as it may, the confirmed, always-agoing to be a bachelor group of

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WILL QUESTION FOSTER-FATHER

Death of "Millionaire Orphan" Holds Attention of Authorities

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—William D. Shepherd, foster father of young William "Billy" McClintock, and chief heir to his estate, will be questioned at the state's attorney's office as soon as he reaches Chicago regarding the death of the youth at the Shepherd home three weeks ago, it was announced today.

According to advices received from Albuquerque, N. M., where Shepherd and his wife, the latter McClintock's guardian until he became of age last spring, went after the boy's death, Shepherd has already started for Chicago. Mrs. Shepherd, whom the state's attorney also wishes to question did not accompany her husband, according to word received by authorities here.

At the same time State's Attorney Robert E. Crowe said he expected to order an investigation by the January grand jury if an autopsy performed on the exhumed body yesterday reveals that the youth died from other than natural cause. A preliminary report on the post mortem examination will be given to Coroner Oscar Wolfe by several pathologists tomorrow. One of the pathologists making an analysis of the youth's vital organs represents the Shepherds.

CHICAGO HAS VARIED XMAS

Happiness and Joy Go Hand in Hand With Misery and Suffering

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—White and cold, Christmas in Chicago today brought happiness to thousands, misery and suffering to others, and death to two.

It was the coldest Christmas in many years, the mercury dropping to five below zero early today and hovering near the zero mark for the entire day.

Two persons were found frozen to death, five others suffered frozen hands and feet and scores reported nipped ears and noses. Despite the cold, the city made merry and thousands of the destitute and homeless were fed and cared for by philanthropic agencies. Religious services, big dinners and an afternoon of entertainment featured programs in the jails, hospitals, charitable institutions and homes for the aged.

The Christmas spirit failed to permeate the underworld and its members celebrated the day indulging in numerous holdups, robberies and kidnappings. One woman was robbed of a diamond ring she valued at \$2,500 and \$100 in cash.

OLD SEAMAN PASSES

SEATTLE, Dec. 25.—Captain John Matson, 88, one of the oldest mariners on the Pacific coast, died at his home today at Port Blakely, Bainbridge Island, near Seattle. Captain Matson came to Seattle in 1867.

SMASH XMAS GOLD RECORD

Mercury Drops to 4 Degrees Above Zero; Lowest in 60 Years Reported

Not only a white Christmas but a cold Christmas greeted Salem residents Thursday and only the old timers can recollect the last time it was so cold on December 25. Never, it was declared, has there been such a cold day in the last 50 or 60 years.

Portland weather bureau records state that it was the coldest Christmas day that Oregon has experienced in 60 years.

Low temperatures for the year, not excepting the cold weather of last January, were surpassed when the mercury dropped to 5 degrees above zero. The coldest this year was 5 degrees and the coldest for the present spell of chilly weather, prior to yesterday, was 6 degrees below zero. The maximum recorded yesterday was 27 degrees.

People who were congratulating themselves upon getting through the cold weather without suffering Thursday morning when they arose at an early hour to see what Santa Claus had dropped into the old sock.

At the twelfth day of the cold spell dawn today the weather appears to have gained intensity instead of decreasing, as was anticipated. Another very light fog covered the district last night adding to the penetrating quality of the cold. The wind of the early part of the week has disappeared, however, bringing some relief to those whose work keeps them out of doors.

THIRTY-THREE DEAD

HOBERT, Okla., Dec. 25.—(By the Associated Press).—With the identification of the last victim established, the death list in the Christmas eve fire at the Babb Switch rural school stood at 33 tonight. Twenty injured persons still were confined in two hospitals. One is expected to die and two others are in a critical condition. Funeral services for 16 of the dead will be held tomorrow.

FOUR ARE KILLED WHEN CAR WRECKS

Three Die Instantly When Machine Goes Over Embankment; Driver Held

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 25.—Four Richmond men were killed today when their automobile left the Petersburg-Richmond turnpike and went over an embankment. Earl Gathright, Bernie Childress and Herman Cumber were killed instantly. Charles Jordan died in a hospital. Ryland K. Leonard, driver of the car, was arrested on a charge of careless and reckless driving which later was changed to a charge of involuntary manslaughter. He was released on \$1,000 bond.

U. C. BEATS NAVY

HONOLULU, Dec. 25.—University of Colorado football team today swamped the Navy Service team here, 43 to 0, outclassing the sailors in every department of the game and leaving no doubt as to the college's superiority.

ACCIDENTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY ARE NUMEROUS

Many Fatalities are Reported Throughout Country; Fires and Flood Take Toll of Lives

FIFTY PEOPLE KILLED; LOSS FROM FIRES LARGE

Thirty-Three Burned to Death in Christmas Eve Tragedy at School House

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—(By the Associated Press).—More than 60 persons were killed, upwards of half a hundred were injured and 15 others are missing as the result of an unusual number of accidents Christmas eve and Christmas day.

In addition to the loss of life, fires, many of them resulting from overheated stoves due to the zero Christmas weather in some sections of the country, caused a heavy property loss.

The most serious as well as the most pathetic Christmas eve tragedy occurred at Hobart, Okla., where 33 persons are known to be dead as the result of a fire in a school house where a Christmas entertainment was in progress.

The next highest toll of life was taken near Roanoke, Va., where six are dead, nine are missing and 35 are in hospitals as the result of breaking a "muck" dam at Saltville last night.

At Stamford, Texas, four were killed and six injured, one seriously, in a fire in the Stamford Inn. Two men were frozen to death in Chicago's five below zero Christmas weather, a policeman was killed as the result of a fall and a Chinese laundryman was shot and probably fatally wounded in a renewal of tong warfare.

Three were killed and one was probably fatally hurt and another less seriously injured in an automobile accident at Richmond, Va., and at Dixon, Ill., a three year old child shot and killed his 10 year old brother with their father's shotgun and one person was killed as the result of placing oil in a cook stove.

Two were killed in a Christmas eve shooting scrape near Richmond, Ky.; two were killed in an automobile accident at Birmingham, Ala.; a three year old girl died of burns at Worcester, Mass.; one was killed in an auto accident at Lexington, N. C.; a policeman was killed at New Orleans by a bank robber; a mother died of

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TWO BOYS DROWN PLAYING ON ICE

Brothers Die in Attempt to Rescue Cap; Younger Boy Runs for Help

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 25.—Two brothers, Stacy Swanson, 12, and Clark, 10, were drowned about 7 miles north of this city at 4 this afternoon in an attempt to rescue from the water a cap lost by the younger lad in playing on ice that partly covered the slough.

Clark's cap fell off, and in trying to get it, he fell in. His brother, coming to his rescue, also went under. A smaller brother rushed for help but the bodies had been in 10 feet of water for 15 minutes when neighbors pulled them out. They were sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Swanson, farmers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYBODY

By ELLA McMUNN

Dear People: I'd like to say something, but it kind of sticks in my throat, and I have to keep pawing at my eyes, although I have not hurt myself this morning, or anything. But they just keep filling up and slopping over onto my typewriter. Dear People—dear, dear people, I can't seem to get any further than that. I never knew there were so many kind hearts in the world, for, somehow, I think it was a matter of heart, instead of head, that caused so many to buy my little book, "Down On The Farm."

But whatever it was I am gloriously happy over it, and I will tell you, since it is your affair as well as mine, that the money is going to be used to prop up the old barn, so it won't fall down, and put shingles on it, and a window in it, so I won't have to wonder if I am putting the pitchfork into the hay or into a "hobo." And if there is any money left I shall buy my Mother an Ingersoll watch, or maybe I will buy the watch first.

Anyway I thank you for buying the book, and the Statesman for writing such lovely things about it, and managing it, and Patton Brothers for selling it, and I and my Mother certainly do wish you a Merry Christmas.

POOR CHILDREN IN NEW YORK GUESTS OF CITY

Theatrical Performance Attended By Over 6,500 Youngsters; Toys Given

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Hundreds of Christmas entertainments were staged here today for poor children. At each of these Santa Claus distributed toys and fruit and candy to boys and girls who otherwise might have lost faith in him.

One of the most spectacular functions was at the Hippodrome where 6,500 youngsters were entertained at a theatrical performance after midget actors had assisted old Kris Kringle in handing out presents to the children.

Thousands of Christmas dinners, clothing and gifts were distributed to needy families by relief agents in cooperation with countless individuals. The holiday spirit also pervaded hospitals, prisons and reform schools.

Gaily decorated trees were set up in many of them. Christmas dinners were served in all of the institutions, and volunteers provided music and other entertainment. The weather man's promise of a "white Christmas" did not materialize.

One Divorce Action to Two Marriages, Record

SEATTLE, Dec. 26.—For every two marriage licenses issued in King county, which includes Seattle, during 1924, one divorce action was begun, according to County Clerk George A. Grant. Up to today 4330 marriage licenses had been issued and 2195 divorce actions filed, Mr. Grant said. During 1923 there were 2225 divorce actions begun and 4421 marriage licenses issued.

FLOOD DEATHS MOUNT TO SIX

Many Homeless When Wall of Water Sweeps Dwellings Into Stream

ROANOKE, Va., Dec. 25.—Six persons are known to be dead and nine are missing as the result of the breaking of a "muck" dam of the Matheson Alkali works at Saltville last night. Thirty-five are in hospitals at Abingdon and Saltville, some seriously injured. Most of the injured were said to be lying in an improvised hospital over a drug store at Saltville.

Physicians and nurses rushed from near by towns were aiding those hurt while other relief was given those left homeless. Searching parties were scouring the banks of the Holston river, for miles below the alkali works, in an effort to recover more bodies. It was feared that some of the missing may be buried in the tons of muck released with the waters when the storage dam gave way.

The flood which bore down at 10 o'clock on the mill settlement nestling below the impounded waters came without warning and the victims, trapped in their homes, were unable to escape. All the missing are believed to have been swept into the north fork of the Holston river. One body, that of Mrs. Harry Traitor, the only identified dead, was found four miles below the scene of the disaster at her home in the first house below the dam. A Christmas party was said to have been in progress and it is thought that most of the missing were guests at the Traitor home.

SABATINI GETS PRIZE

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Rafael Sabatini for his novel "Scaramouche" has been awarded the \$10,000 prize offered by Adolph Zukor to the writer whose story or play made the best motion picture in the year which ended last September 1.

John Drinkwater, English Poet-Playwright, and Daisy Kennedy, His Fiancee, Inspect Future Home



Drinkwater, known principally in this country for his Abraham Lincoln play, is shown above with Daisy Kennedy, the violinist. They were snapped as they visited their future home in Evelyn Gardens.

HUNDREDS SEE FROZEN RIVER

Willamette Spanned By Ice Bridges; Pack Forces "Relief" Against Bank

Hundreds of people yesterday walked or motored across the Marion-Polk county bridge for a sight of the Willamette river frozen over by ice. The river was bridged in two places just south of the county bridge by huge ice cakes that had come together, piled up and then were joined by the freezing of the water between the cakes.

It is seldom that such a sight is to be seen in Salem and it has been years since the river was frozen from bank to bank. Old timers recollect a few times when this occurred in the past.

The river steamer "Relief," owned by the Inland Transportation company, kept afloat Thursday though it settled a little deeper in the water. The water advanced from the boiler room to the edge of the deck while the pressure from the ice pack forced the vessel closer to the bank, moving the entire ship about two feet. The ice was also forced from the water in the river on to the banks. Everything removable in the "Relief" was taken off yesterday so that in case the vessel should sink the loss would be reduced.

CHRISTMAS BRINGS SON LOST 20 YEARS

Aged Father Finds Boy on Christmas Day After Continued Search

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 25.—A son who lost his father 20 years ago and a father who searched for his son for a score of years, wrote "Finds" in a Christmas drama of real life today with a proposal and an impending wedding to add romance to the closing chapter.

The son is Arthur Swanson, taken from his home when he was two years old, brought up among strangers under the name of Arthur Peterson, who thought for twenty years that his father was dead. The father is Edward Swanson, who for twenty years has sought to find his son.

Mr. Swanson, a stationary engineer, went to Green Bay, Wis., then to Chicago, then to Sister's Bay, Wis., seeking his son.

At last he came to Minneapolis. Arthur Peterson, sitting in a local theater with the "girl" was called to the telephone by an usher and told to call his own home. He met a man who called himself "Mr. Hanson." They talked a minute. Then the man said: "I'm not Hanson, I'm Edward Swanson, your father."

The new found father bought a diamond ring for Arthur today and at their first Christmas tree together in twenty years, father and son shook hands—and the son proposed to "the girl."

EMPLOYEES GET LARGE SHARE

Lumberman Gives Between Two and Three Million Dollars to Workers

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 25.—(By the AP).—A Christmas gift of possible value of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 was announced here today.

William McClellan Ritter of Washington, D. C., formerly of Columbus and founder of the William M. Ritter Lumber company, the executive offices of which are here, is the donor and 124 men and women who reside here and in 12 eastern states are beneficiaries.

Mr. Ritter is turning back to the men and women most of whom are employees of the company, approximately one-fourth of the capital stock of the corporation that bears his name. Plans for distribution of the stock were completed last night.

The shares that will be divided number 12,500 and have a par value of \$1,250,000. As the stock of the corporation is closely held, no exact approximation of the real value of the gift could be obtained, but local bankers expressed the opinion that it might run between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

HOLIDAY CROWDS TAX UTILITIES

Stages Double-Headed to Accommodate Christmas Rush; Trains Filled

Holiday traffic showed a high peak the few hours preceding Christmas. Every train, stage and motor bus was heavily loaded with holiday throngs on their way to spend Christmas at home. Ticket receipts and reports show that most of the traffic was of short hauls. Stages running to Portland and to points south of Salem were double-headed in order to care for the people who wanted to celebrate Christmas away from the city.

It is claimed that more people passed through the Stage Terminal during the past week, than have previously passed there during any time of the past year. The Fourth of July would be the only exception, however, for at that time a record was made in holiday crowds.

The Oregon Electric reported a heavy sale of short haul tickets to Portland and to points south. Special heavy sales were made to people traveling to Portland.

Southern Pacific officials report that traffic was about the same, with the exception of the last hour rush. Many tickets were sold for Silverton and way-points.

SANTA CLAUS STOPS TO SEE STATE WARDS

None of Institutions are Forgotten and All Report Having Had a Pleasant Christmas Observance

SMALL GROCERY STORE CONSUMED AT HOSPITAL

Dinner Requires Volumes of Edibles; Cantatas, Programs are Given

Wards of the various state institutions were not forgotten yesterday when Santa Claus called on Salem folks. Programs, dinners, and special features were in evidence at the different places.

Because greater freedom has been allowed to the sending of gifts to inmates of the state penitentiary Christmas day was not observed with the usual Christmas dinner, according to Warden A. M. Dalrymple. The dining room decorated with Yuletide greenery and a program provided by Frank Bligh, Salem theater man furnished entertainment for the inmates in the morning.

Hospital Has Dinner
A real Santa Claus visited the wards of the Oregon State hospital Christmas day and distributed candy and nuts to the 300 inmates. The wards were well decorated for the occasion with Christmas greenery. A light lunch was served at noon, with cake, pie, cider, etc., being served. Later in the day, however, a big dinner was served with the following menu: 2250 pounds of chicken, 500 pounds of dressing, 30 gallons of gravy, 25 gallons of mashed potatoes, 125 gallons of cabbage salad, 600 pumpkin pies, 500 pounds raisin cake, six barrels of cranberries, 200 gallons of milk, 150 dozen eggs, 500 pounds sweet spuds, 100 pounds fruit cake, 100 boxes apples, 200 gallons coffee, 200 pounds fruit salad, 100 pounds plum pudding, 1100 pounds of candy, 500 gallons cider, 1500 pounds mixed nuts, and four barrels of popcorn. No special program was observed.

Programs are Given
At the school for feeble-minded two operettas were given, one for the custodial children and one for visitors and friends. A picture show for all the children was held Christmas evening. "The Capture of Santa Claus" was depicted by the smaller children, while "The Doll's Lullaby and the Frolic of the Toys" by the older ones. Yesterday they were served a Christmas dinner with a menu of 1900 pounds of goose, and all the trimmings that go to make up a real dinner. There was pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, baked sweet potatoes, and other things that go to make a Christmas dinner. A small Christmas tree was placed in each cottage and decorated.

Christmas packages swamped and filled the office of the industrial school for girls, according to Mrs. Clara Patterson, superintendent. A Christmas tree, and a picture show yesterday afternoon and a program last night. A Christmas cantata is to be presented tonight.

Carols are Sung
Carols were sung Christmas morn by a chorus of 13 boys at the training school for boys and a special dinner was given them at noon. Packages were delivered to them and every one received a present. A program was presented in the evening.

SEATTLE CITY HALL IS RAIDED

Federal Prohibition Officers Stage Raid on City Departments

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 25.—(By the Associated Press).—F. A. Hazeltine, federal prohibition director for the Pacific northwest, late Wednesday raided the King county court house and the Seattle city hall, which are combined in a single building. He found nine empty whisky bottles, which county employees told him were used for turpentine in the paint shop. The superintendent of the building pronounced the raid a political attack, and announced that he would ask the county commissioners to file a complaint in Washington against Hazeltine.

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 25.—One man was killed and two others were seriously injured as a result of railroad crossing accidents here today. Antonio Marino, 50, a laborer, was instantly killed at Rodeo when struck by a Southern Pacific train.