

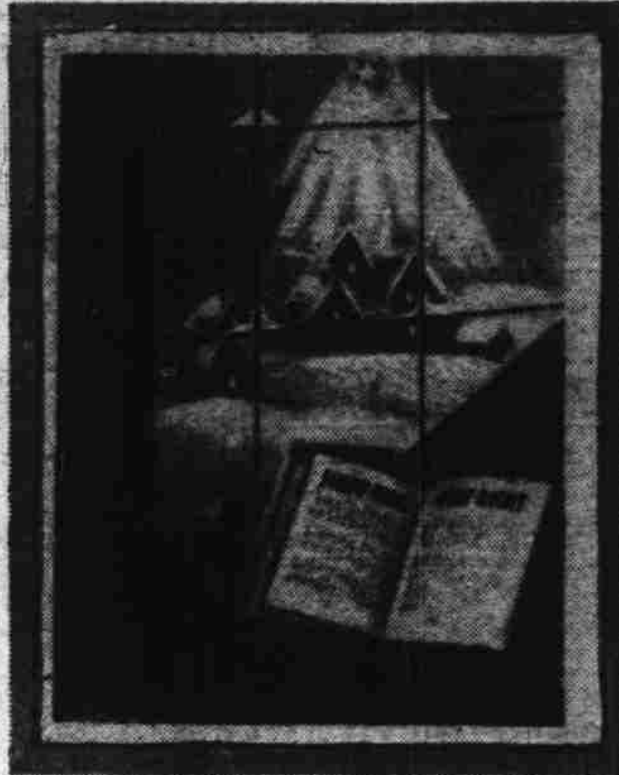
# How Christmas Carols Began

By Trudi McCullough  
AP Newsfeatures Writer

**THE NIGHT** before Christmas in 1818, "Silent Night"—most beloved of Christmas carols—had not yet been composed. But on Christmas Day it was sung by children in an Austrian village.

That Christmas Eve the village priest, young Josef Mohr, sat reading, when a peasant woman knocked at the door. A child had been born in one of the humble homes in the Alps. He went to bless it and returned so filled with the meaning of the Christmas story that he sat down to write what he felt. The lines kept turning into verse: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright . . ."

Franz Gruber, schoolmaster composed "Silent Night," later erroneously attributed to Haydn. Next morning, with only a guitar to guide them, the village children sang the song. The journey of "Silent Night" had begun.



# IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The flutter of Christmas shopping, the scramble for gifts from depleted stocks, the hurry of crowds on downtown streets give a wrong impression of Christmas, 1944. The mood of the people is sober. A few weeks ago there was enthusiasm about Christmas, as folk looked forward to this as probably the last wartime Christmas, as far as the war in Europe is concerned. There was still a ray of hope that the bloody business in Germany might be concluded, perhaps by the year-end. The German counter-offensive quickly cooled that enthusiasm. Deep concern, if not depression, replaced the buoyant optimism that had prevailed since last summer. People realized that in the whirling maelstrom of battle at the junction of Germany and Belgium and Luxembourg our own men were fighting and dying, our own men were being engulfed in the rolling tide of German armor and infantry. There could be little lightness of heart in such a situation.

While there was no lack of confidence in ultimate victory, the fact suddenly dawned on Americans that the war was far from won. There has been, in consequence, a great deal of self-reproach over our complacency, our over-confidence, our "superiority complex," if you please. Now we feel like saying, with Kipling:

"For frantic boast and foolish word  
Have mercy on thy people,  
Lord."

There is at home that guilty feeling that somehow we have let our (Continued on editorial page)

# Delivery of All Parcels Today, Postoffice Plan

All packages in the Salem post office will be delivered today, Postmaster Henry Crawford said Saturday night. With the biggest holiday season in its history behind it, the Salem post office staff was ready to observe the Christmas holiday on Monday with all work cleared up.

Only packages received during the night Saturday or Sunday morning will be left to deliver today, Crawford said. The work was all cleared up last night except for misdirected packages. The post office will remain closed all day Sunday and Monday.

The expected drop in quantity of incoming mail did not hit the local office until Saturday noon, several days later than usual, Postmaster Crawford said.

# Berlin Brings 'White Christmas' to Yanks

SOMEWHERE IN NETHERLANDS, NEW GUINEA, Dec. 24 (AP)—Irving Berlin brought a "white Christmas" to American doughboys here last night with his unexpected appearance at a holiday party. The song writer arrived unannounced en route to join his troupe of "This Is the Army" for a tour of the Pacific theatre, and obliged the GI's with piano numbers and with some songs which he helped make popular.

# Salem Churches to Celebrate Birthday of Prince of Peace With Special Noel Services

With prayer, music and lighted candles, the birthday of the Prince of Peace will be celebrated today and Monday in Salem churches. While regularly-scheduled Sunday services center about the humble nativity of the Babe of Bethlehem, several churches have planned special observances of the great feast of Christendom. **Midnight Service** The midnight Christmas eve service will begin with a candlelight procession at 11:00 p.m. Sunday night at Saint Paul's Episcopal church. The choir will sing Tours Communion, The Magnificat, and an offertory, "The Sheep Lay White Around" by Sure. Organ preludes will precede the service. Special prayers will be offered for the young men and women of the parish in the military service of their country.

**Seven Christmas Masses** Seven Christmas masses will be celebrated in Salem's two Catholic churches Christmas day. The first will be a 6 o'clock high mass at St. Vincent de Paul's church and the last will also be a high mass at 11 o'clock at St. Joseph's. Other high masses will be celebrated at 10:30 at St. Vincent's and the first mass at St. Joseph's will be a high mass at 7 o'clock. Low masses will be celebrated at 8:30 and 9:45 at St. Joseph's and at 7:30 and 9 o'clock at St. Vincent de Paul's. Christmas carols will be sung at all of the low masses and the choir will sing the high masses. St. Michael's mission at Chemawa will have low masses on Christmas at 7, 8 and 9 o'clock with carols sung by the students.

**First Baptist Church** The First Baptist church will present a Christmas service 6 to 7 o'clock in the morning on Christmas day. Organ Christmas melodies will be played at 5:55 a.m. to open the meeting, followed by the singing of a group of the old Christmas carols. A mixed quartet will sing, "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne," and "There's a Song in the Air." Miss Mabel E. Fox will sing a solo, "Cantique de Noel," by Adam.

**Lutheran Services** Christ's Lutheran church will hold a 10:30 Christmas day service with a sermon by the pastor on "The Wonder Child in the Manger."

# Senators Work to Give U.S. Advantage From Air Bases

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Senators maneuvered today to provide an ace in the hole for the state department when it sits in on the final determination of aviation rights. Chairman Mead (D-NY) announced that members Tamm (D-Ind) and Burton (R-Ohio) of the senate war investigating committee have been instructed to find out what has been done or will be done with American-constructed airports when they make a flying trip to north Africa after Christmas. Mead said the committee is determined that Uncle Sam keep a string on the world-wide system of landing fields which military engineers have built in foreign

countries until it becomes certain that this country will share in aviation rights in those countries. Along with their clean shirts Tunnel and Burton will pack committee instructions to check the coordination of American civil, military and relief agencies abroad to inquire into the tapering off of lend-lease, to learn plans for the postwar disposition of facilities and to find out how much oil is coming out of the middle east for the fighting forces. "We particularly want the state department to have a string attached to that line-up of airfields from Casablanca to Cairo when it goes into conference to determine landing rights all over the world," Mead told a reporter.

# The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851 NINETY-FOURTH YEAR 24 PAGES Salem, Oregon, Sunday Morning, December 24, 1944 Price 5c No. 339

# NAZI FLANK DENTED

# Rationing to Grow; Manila Field Raided

# Pointless Articles Going Out

# Most Vegetables, Meats Will Cost Points Next Week

**By Marvin L. Arrowsmith** WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Virtually all point-free meats and canned vegetables will be back on the ration list by the start of the new year, it was learned tonight. The OPA, reliable sources said, is prepared to announce the drastic move next Wednesday. New point values, now being discussed, probably will be effective December 31. **Affects Many Items** The decision is understood to affect practically all cuts of beef, veal, lamb and pork, as well as all major canned vegetables. The affected foods have been ration-free since last May. Because of continuing need for freezer space in warehouses for military commodities, frozen fruits and vegetables probably will stay point-free. Jams, jellies and preserves are not expected to be returned to the list. **Victory for OPA** Restoration of points to the wide variety of meat cuts and vegetables will be a major victory for OPA over the War Food Administration. For the last five months OPA has recommended that point-free meats and vegetables be put back under rationing, contending that spotty distribution and shortages—actual and potential—warranted such a move. **WFA, which has jurisdiction as to which commodities are rationed, rejected the proposal each time it was submitted. The dispute was climaxed last month when OPA appealed to Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson, asking that he act as arbitrator.**

# Greek Civil War Spreads Over Entire Nation

ATHENS, Dec. 23 (AP)—Fifteen thousand to 20,000 left-wing Elass warriors stormed the rightist guerrilla stronghold in northwest Greece today, spreading civil war clear across the nation, as stiff fighting also erupted north of the Athens port of Piraeus, where British-Indian troops landed under the support of naval guns and rocket-firing Beauflighters. **British headquarters, which only last night received the Elass' reply to its cease-fire ultimatum, officially declared that the Elass assault on the right-wing stronghold around Ioannina was an "unprovoked attack" in violation of an agreement reached between the rival factions at Caserta before the original British landings in Greece.** While Lt. Gen. Ronald Scobie, the British commander, and Harold McMillan, British resident general in the Middle East, conferred on the situation, Indian troops battled the Elass between north of the main harbor basin of Piraeus, southwest of Athens.

# Willamette to Share in Fund Okehed by FR

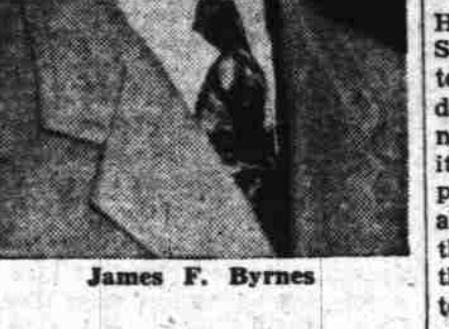
WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Roosevelt's signature put a billion-dollar program of approved flood control projects on the nation's postwar books today. But congress still must appropriate the money for the projects, which encompass not only flood checking works, but also reclamation, hydroelectric power and similar developments. **PORTLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—A \$20,000,000 appropriation to improve the Willamette river basin by constructing five new dams at Dorena, Detroit, and three sites not yet chosen is authorized in the flood control bill signed today by President Roosevelt.** Lookout Point on the middle fork of the Willamette, Quartz creek on the McKenzie river, and a spot near Sweet Home on the Santiam river are tentative sites for the other dams, army engineers said.

# Oregon Sweeps Close To E Bond Goal

PORTLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—Oregon swept to 90.2 per cent of its \$34,000,000 E bond goal today with sales of \$30,685,429. Eight days remain to reach the mark. Overall sales, long past the \$107,000,000 quota, reached \$145,291,130. Multnomah county, with only 79.1 per cent of a \$19,000,000 E quota, still hung behind.

# Cracks Down 100 Jap Airplanes Blasted

# Destruction of Nips in Ormoc Area Completed



# Byrnes Orders Closure of All Racing Tracks

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—In its most drastic manpower move of the war, the government today banned horse and dog racing and served notice that materials, fuel and transportation will be denied businesses which defy manpower regulations. Selective service also was directed to review the qualifications for military service of professional athletes. The actions capped a week of intensified endeavor to speed up the whole American war effort to the greater pace which the German counter-offensive has shown will be necessary for victory. Today's actions were ordered directly by James F. Byrnes, director of war mobilization and reconversion. It was announced, however, that his request that all racing tracks close by January 3 was issued with President Roosevelt's approval.

# Glenn Miller Now Missing

DUARTE, Calif., Dec. 23 (AP)—Maj. Glenn Miller, peacetime dance band leader, is reported missing in action in France, his wife's parents announced here tonight. **Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Burger said the word came by telephone from their daughter, Mrs. Miller called from Tenafly, N. J., where she had gone to accompany a girl, recently adopted by the Millers, to California.** Mrs. Miller said that the band leader had been in England for some time, directing musicians' groups in an armed forces entertainment program, and that he went to France about two weeks ago.

# Marine Senior Surgeon Dies at 57 in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—Dr. Stephan A. De Martini, 57, senior surgeon at the United States marine hospital here, died today. A native of Portland, Ore., Dr. De Martini was connected with the United States public health service for many years, serving in its hospital in Port Townsend, Wash.

# Low Temperatures Predicted Christmas

PORTLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—The thermometer is expected to dive to 20 degrees—the season's low—here Christmas eve.

# Allied Air Might Pours Destruction On German Ranks

# Yank Relief Columns Bite Into Southern Flank of Penetration By Enemy; Situation Improves

PARIS, Sunday, Dec. 24 (AP)—American relief columns, swinging up through Luxembourg and southeastern Belgium in their first effective counteraction, have bitten into the southern flank of the German penetration which now has reached Libramont, only 23 miles northeast of historic Sedan, allied headquarters disclosed last night. With clearing skies the world's mightiest air force also swung into action with 4500 sorties against the German invasion columns, cutting destructive swaths through their ranks and hammering their rear bases. Allied headquarters, lifting a 48-hour time lag on front news, gave this report of the situation: Striking north of the city of Luxembourg and also north of Arlon, 13 miles northwest of Luxembourg, American troops have dented the German southern flank. **Attack Located** A front dispatch covering this action through Friday morning said the Luxembourg counteraction was sprung north of Mersch, eight miles above Luxembourg city. Although this dispatch was censored it contained these perhaps significant words: "It is obvious that in the eight days since the Germans threw the dice in what probably is their last big gamble, the Americans have had time to reform their forces." **Halted in North** Encouraging news also came from the northern flank, where Associated Press Correspondent Wes Gallagher said that Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt had been forced to pull back one of his crack SS (Elite) divisions because it was so badly mauled by hard-fighting doughboys in the Malmédy sector. The Germans left more than 1000 dead in the snows below Malmédy, Gallagher said, and a hard freeze setting in had the Yanks grouped around small bonfires across the battle-ridden fields and cross-roads. Hundreds of Hitler's youthful troops are snow-covered lumps, dead in the No Man's Land between the lines in that area, the dispatch said. **US Loses Stavelot** The Americans, however, have lost Stavelot, five miles southwest of Malmédy, headquarters disclosed, and also confirmed the German announcement that St. Vith, 12 miles southeast of Stavelot, had been taken by the Germans. **Masses of German armor were reported pushing the Americans back slowly from St. Vith toward Vielsalm, nine miles to the west and seven miles south of Stavelot. SHAEF described this action where the Americans were trying to prevent a link-up of major German columns, as one of the epic stands of the war. The Americans slugged it out toe to toe, and are still fighting with great courage, but are slowly being pressed back by superior forces.**

# Allied Planes Enter Effort To Halt Nazis

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The might of allied air power was thrown in today over the snow-covered western front in an attempt to check the German drive into Belgium and Luxembourg as more than 400 heavy bombers and more than 1000 fighter-bombers pounded Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt's lines. In some of the fiercest air battles of the war, 106 German Messerschmitt and Fockewulf fighters were shot down by American fighters and bombers which escaped with much smaller losses. Three heavy bombers and 13 fighters were reported missing by the U. E. Eighth air force, based in Britain. **Three hundred planes of the U. S. Ninth air force based in France shot down at least 29 of the German fighters which rose by the hundreds to protect the German supply lines. The Ninth's losses were not reported here.**

# One Contest Winner Found

Names of one winner and of one possible winner, in the Sixth War Loan Victory dream house contest were filed Saturday with Marion county war finance committee, although the first prize was yet unclaimed. **Theodore Rainwater, 1980 South Church street, will receive the \$4000 worth of war bonds should first place winner not file his name with the committee by Friday of this week. Should the winner report, through a bank of Marion county, or to Douglas Yeater, committee chairman, then Rainwater will be declared winner of the two-acre tract, second prize. If Rainwater is declared winner of first prize then G. A. Austin, 1535 State street, will be awarded the tract of land.**

# Soviets Report Nazis Killed 700,000 Persons, Including Americans, Britons, in Death Camps

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 (AP)—A Soviet extraordinary state commission investigating war crimes reported today that 700,000 persons including an undetermined number of citizens of the United States and Britain, had been killed by the Germans in three camps in Lwow Province, Poland. The report did not list the names of the Americans and Britons, nor did it give any further details concerning them. The victims of all nationalities were said to include both civilians and prisoners of war. **Writers, artists and musicians were made to wash the stairways of one seven-story building with their tongues, and then were compelled to pick up garbage with their lips, the report said.** In another incident, the report related, the commander of one of the camps, the Yanov camp, threw two four-year-old children into the air and shot them to amuse his own nine-year-old daughter. The committee said it was also established that at the three camps—Yanov, Sitadel and Lisensitz—the Gestapo devised the "human icicle" treatment, which consisted of putting bound prisoners into barrels of water and then placing the barrels outside in below-zero temperatures, with guards standing over them until they became frozen in ice. **Nazi Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler was said to have participated directly in the crimes, visiting the camps several times for personal inspection.** "As a result of this," the report said, "the Lwow atrocities of the German monsters bear the mark of the personality of Himmler himself." The German government, said the report, systematically sent to the Lwow camps prisoners of war and civilians of foreign states from concentration camps in Germany and then tortured and killed them. **The victims were said to have included Ukrainians, Poles, Czechoslovaks, Yugoslavs, Americans, Britons, Netherlands, Italians and citizens of other states, including many Jews. The reports were confirmed by the commission, by numerous statements of Soviet citizens and also by French prisoners of war who had been confined in the camps and were liberated by the Red army.** The commission reported that "children were selected and given to detachments of the Hitler youth as targets for shooting practice."

