

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Squire

Richard Hakluyt, English historian whose writings are a rich source of information on the voyages and discoveries of the century which followed the discovery of America, wrote this: "And... Lopez de Gomara in his general historie writeth in manner following of certaine great and strange beasts never seen nor heard of in our knowne world of Asia, Europe, and Africa: which somewhat resemble our oxen, having high bunches on their backs like those on the backs of Camels, are therefore called by him Vacas corcobados that is to say, Crooke-backed oxen, being very deformed and terrible in shewe, and fierce in nature: which notwithstanding for foode, apparell, and other necessarie uses, are most serviceable and beneficiall to the inhabitants of those countreys."

That is the first appearance of our American bison or buffalo in English literature. It is a very accurate description of this beast which once populated the plains of the west in countless thousands. The buffalo was "deformed" in its appearance and, when aroused, amply fierce by nature. It was also quite indispensable for both Indians and whites as a supplier of food, clothing, tent-cover—and its dried offal for fuel.

Alfred Powers, dean of creative writing for the Oregon system of higher education, has culled literature for its best writing on the buffalo, and put his selections, with comments of his

(Continued on Editorial Page)

Storm Moves Northeast to New England

A storm mixture of everything in the weatherman's winter catalogue was moving northeastward into New England last night after leaving virtually all the northern half of the United States east of the Rockies locked in snow, sleet or glaze.

The storm extended as far southward as northern Georgia, which had all the varieties, and westward through Nebraska, where the snowfall ranged upward to 11 inches at Lincoln, with considerable drifting.

Throughout the area many trains and buses were far off schedules and some plane flights were cancelled. Part of the storm was centered in the extreme northeast section of Illinois where snow was falling.

U.S. to Observe Greek Election

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP)—More than 600 Americans will go into all parts of Greece shortly as election observers in a project believed unique in history.

The size of the U.S. delegation and the exhaustive scope of the project were disclosed today by informed government officials, who asked to remain anonymous. These officials said they knew of no parallel for the observation—by invitation—of one country's elections by citizens of another on such a scale.

Britain and France also have accepted the Greek invitation to send observers, but Russia has declined.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Would you mind closing the door? The light hurts my eyes."

SOLDIERS RAIL AGAINST PACIFIC WAIT

U. S. HOLIDAY DEATH TOLL NEARS 300

3 Killed In Oregon Accidents

Traffic Wrecks Account for Over 1/2 of Dead

By the Associated Press
The death toll for the nation's Christmas holiday weekend neared the 300 mark last night with more than one-half of the fatalities due to traffic accidents. Fires accounted for about 50 additional victims, while other violent deaths from miscellaneous causes totaled 76.

Violent deaths in Texas over the holiday period accounted for nearly one-sixth of the country's violent deaths.

The outstanding accident was a hospital fire in Hartford, Conn., Christmas Eve which was caused by a flaming Christmas tree and took a toll of 16 deaths. In the same state, six others died in a dwelling blaze at Meriden.

Oregon marked up three holiday deaths Monday night and Tuesday. One traffic fatality was reported here yesterday—the death of Isadore A. Lamb, 46, struck by a car which failed to stop as he stood waiting for a bus, his arms laden with Christmas gifts.

Police said witnesses told them the motorist was on the wrong side of the street. The impact hurled Lamb's body 79 feet.

Two additional holiday deaths were listed Monday night. Andrew Allen, 82, died while eating a family Christmas Eve dinner. A four-story fall from an apartment house window was fatal to James J. Johnson, 88, who toppled from a chair he had placed on a davenport.

A number of persons died of exposure in several states. The traffic toll apparently was lightened by the fact that in part of the northern section of the country, snow, sleet and rain made highway travel so hazardous that many persons abandoned travel plans and stayed at their own firesides.

Texas led the nation with 47 violent deaths over the holidays, including 29 in traffic accidents, 15 slayings and three from miscellaneous causes.

Best Dressed Women Picked By Designers

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (AP)—Mrs. Stanley Mortimer was named the best dressed woman in the world for the second consecutive year today while the Duchess of Windsor, who made last year's list "by the skin of her teeth," moved up to fifth place.

The selections were announced by the New York Dress Institute which conducts an annual poll to select the world's best dressed woman.

The list: Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, the former Barbara Cushing, sister of Mrs. John Hay Whitney and Mrs. Vincent Astor.

Mrs. Byron Foy, daughter of the late Walter Chrysler. Mrs. Foy was second last year.

Mrs. Millicent Rogers, New York socialite.

Mrs. Lawrence Tibbett, wife of the opera star.

The Duchess of Windsor.

Mrs. George Schlee, fashion designer known professionally as Valentina.

Mrs. Harry Hopkins, the former Louise Macy.

Rosalind Russell, film star.

Mrs. Robert Sarnoff, the former Esme O'Brien.

Clare Boothe Luce, Connecticut congresswoman. Mrs. Luce placed fifth on last year's poll.

Uses Same Christmas Tree for Seven Years

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 25 (AP)—Mrs. L. M. Drake has no worries about buying next year's Christmas tree. She's used the same one for seven years.

Originally sprayed with a special preserving fluid, the four-foot tree is hung upside down in the Drake attic each year after the holiday season ends. The needles are practically intact, says Mrs. Drake.

STORM WARNINGS UP

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25 (AP)—The United States weather bureau announced tonight storm warnings had been ordered posted at 9 p.m. from Point Arena in California to Tatoosh Island, Washington. The bureau forecast increasing southeast wind late tonight, reaching gale force tomorrow morning.

The Oregon Statesman

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Top Wake Isle Japs To Hang

KWAJALEIN, Marshalls, Dec. 25 (AP)—Rear Adm. Shigamatsu Sakaibara, former Japanese commander of Wake during the occupation, was sentenced to death by hanging today along with his executive officer, Lt. Comdr. Soichi Tachibana, for the mass execution of 98 American civilian employees of Pan-American Airways Oct. 7, 1943.

A U. S. military commission sentenced the two—Sakaibara admitted he ordered the executions—after Sakaibara declared in an outburst that those who conducted the atomic bomb attacks on Japan should be regarded as criminals of war.

"Now as we are about to receive the decision of the American court," the admiral said, "I would like to make a request that the people who planned and carried out the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan should be regarded in the same light as we."

The two defendants were held responsible for orders which sent the civilian prisoners of war to their deaths at a time when American air bombings led the Japanese to believe that there would be an attempt to retake Wake.

They were marched to a lonely beach in moonlight and mowed down by rifle squads while blindfolded and shackled.

The Japanese defense counsel, Lt. Comdr. Kozo Hirata said "it was one of those tragedies which happen necessarily with the ruthless actions of war."

"Although the execution was a serious tragedy, it may be justified before law as a means of protecting the Japanese Wake unit from hostile deeds."

The trial commission did not share this view.

Denver's City Hall Picketed by Veterans

DENVER, Dec. 25 (AP)—More than 100 veterans carrying signs reading "we can't live in foxholes here" and "what about those wartime promises" picketed Denver's city hall today in a demonstration against the housing shortage.

The demonstration was sponsored by the American veterans committee. Several of the veterans were accompanied by their wives and children.

President Braves Rough Flight To Be Home For Christmas

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Dec. 25 (AP)—A rousing "Merry Christmas" from more than a hundred townspeople outside "the Little White House" greeted President Harry Truman as he arrived at his home at 8 o'clock (Eastern Standard Time) after a hazardous airplane flight in wintry weather from the nation's capital.

The president had landed at the Kansas City municipal airport at 5:55 o'clock after a 5 hour and 40 minute trip through leaden skies that showered sleet and rain against the chief executive's plane, "The Sacred Cow," in the early part of the flight.

Mr. Truman, who had not missed a Christmas at home in 27 years, surprised his 93-year-old mother, Mrs. Martha Truman, and his sister, Miss Mary Jane Truman, by driving over icy pavements to their Grandview cottage before going on to Independence where a 30-pound turkey will highlight the dinner that has been kept waiting for him.

The president's wife, their daughter, Margaret, and Mrs. Fred Wallace, had met the plane at Municipal airport and drove the 15 miles to Grandview. After a short visit which Miss Mary Truman described as a friendly family chat, the president's party drove on to Independence.

About 200 carolers serenaded the president shortly after he entered his home. As they concluded with "Silent Night," the president came out on the front porch to greet them. The president's plane had made only one stop, that at

Stalled Yanks Join in Entertainment on Pier



SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—While Bobby Willinghurst (Miss Illinois) of Louisville, Ky., struts across stage, other GIs await turn in "shapely leg" contest staged by San Francisco entertainers on pier for soldiers unable to get home for Christmas. (AP Photo)

Congressman Meets Death By Gas Fumes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP)—Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald said tonight he issued a certificate of suicide in the asphyxiation death of Congressman Joseph Wilson Erwin, 44, North Carolina democrat.

Erwin's body was found at 1:15 p.m. today in his gas-filled kitchen and Dr. MacDonald said death occurred sometime Christmas eve night.

The discovery was made by a close friend, Theron L. Caudle, assistant attorney general, and his son, Theron, jr., who were calling to pick Erwin up for Christmas dinner at their home. A note on the doorstep addressed to the elder Caudle warned them the house would be full of gas.

Caudle, chief of the justice department's criminal investigation bureau, told a reporter that the freshman congressman from Charlotte was slumped over in a chair with a pistol and a straight-edged razor in his hand.

Erwin, Caudle related, had just been released from Walter Reed army general hospital. He had fallen outside his home several days ago injuring again a leg which had undergone five operations for osteomyelitis, a bone disease.

Chinese Reds Prepare Truce

CHUNGKING, Dec. 25 (AP)—Strife-torn China hoped this Christmas day for a New Year's truce between central government and communist forces as a prelude to unity talks slated for January.

A communist spokesman said the communists would submit in writing tomorrow their verbal proposal of December 19 for an unconditional truce freezing troops of both sides in present positions. Although a flat halt in fighting was not regarded here as so simple as might appear on the surface, the communist proposal was considered important because it represented a withdrawal from the earlier demand that government troops return to points they occupied when Japan surrendered.

MAC ORDERS STATISTICS

TOKYO, Wednesday, Dec. 26 (AP)—A directive by General MacArthur today ordered 11 Japanese offices and agencies to maintain weekly statistics in order to give an up-to-date picture of Japan's economy. Previous statistics were monthly, quarterly or semi-annually.

Yule Affects Salem in Varied Ways

By ISABEL CHILDS
City Editor, The Statesman
In Salem, Christmas, 1945, was many things.

The Birthday of the King was birthday for at least three children, delivered in hospital and maternity home here.

In hundreds of mid-valley homes, it was a day of homecoming as men in uniforms soon to be discarded or wearing small golden lapel eagles gathered round laden tables and trees.

Solon Proposes Public Take Risk For British Loan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP)—Senator Johnson (D-Colo.) suggested today that the proposed loan to Britain be financed by a special bond issue, which he said would serve as a popular referendum.

Under Johnson's plan, the bondholders rather than the U. S. Treasury would bear the loss if the British should default.

The bonds would be offered to the American public by the U. S. government and the interest rate would be "exactly what Britain pays." The people who buy the bonds, Johnson told reporters would "take whatever risk there is and accept whatever payment Britain makes."

Byrnes Highly Pleased With Meet Results

By Eddie Gilmore
MOSCOW, Dec. 25 (AP)—Secretary of state James F. Byrnes is highly pleased with accomplishments of the Moscow foreign ministers' conference, including concrete agreements on several controversial issues, authoritative quarters said today.

The three principals began the longest meeting of their Moscow sessions in Speridifika palace at 4 p.m. (8 a.m. Eastern Standard Time) and were still deliberating at 9:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time).

A highlight of the conference, which at all times has been conducted in an atmosphere of extreme cordiality, was the announcement on Christmas eve that Byrnes, British foreign secretary Ernest Bevin and Soviet foreign commissar V. M. Molotov had arrived at a compromise accord on the procedure for drafting the European peace settlement.

It was Secretary Byrnes' suggestion to announce to the world the news of the agreement on Christmas eve. Molotov and Bevin were said to have been delighted with the idea.

MRS. PATTON RETURNS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP)—Mrs. George S. Patton, jr., landed here in an army plane at 1:32 p.m. EST today, completing a fast trip home from the funeral of her famous husband in Luxembourg.

Army Praises Boy's Dog as Hero, With Tongue in Cheek

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 25 (AP)—The mighty U. S. army that hurled death and destruction on the axis had time for concern over the grief of a boy for his dog—and that is why an eight-year-old Minneapolis lad has one of the most unusual commendations stemming from World War II.

Three years ago Laddie, the shepherd dog of Ronnie Haskvitz, died, and to spare Ronnie's feelings his parents told him Laddie had been enlisted in the K-9. He was headed overseas, they explained. They thought Ronnie would forget in time.

Then a short time ago Ronnie saw some K-9 dogs being mustered out of service and he waited for Laddie who, he told his mother, "will soon be coming home."

Weeks passed and the impatient Ronnie wrote a letter to the war department. His parents kindly headed it off. More weeks and another letter, but this time Ronnie mailed it himself and the burden of it was: where is my dog? In a few days an apologetic officer called from nearby Ft. Snelling. K-9 records had no such dog listed. Mrs. Haskvitz explained. The officer had no comment.

Today Ronnie was proudly displaying a communication from headquarters at Ft. Snelling. "We received your letter," it said, "and after checking all the files here at this headquarters we regret to inform you that your dog died while in the service of his country. We know you will feel bad about it, but you should be glad he died while doing something for the war. We extend to you our heartfelt sympathy."

Trip East Speeded For Vets

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25 (AP)—Many thousands of Americans who fought in foreign and strange lands and won, spent Christmas day on their native soil today thankfully and joyously although still far from their homes and families.

In all the great ports of the Pacific seaboard soldiers and sailors and marines just home from war, became special guests in private homes, in club and lodges.

There were nearly 170,000 stranded veterans on the coast for at least part of Christmas day. They longed to be home with their own families but bore cheerfully the fact that servicemen were returning in such tremendous numbers railroads could not handle them.

Trains were moving men eastward to their homes at a better rate than heretofore. The Southern Pacific checked on its transcontinental rail lines and found that about 94 per cent of passengers were servicemen.

"Hotel Ships"
There were thousands of parties for the veterans from Seattle to San Diego. Each "hotel ship" in the major ports was visited by Santa Claus; presents were distributed; extra portions of turkey served with sumptuous dinners.

Los Angeles welfare groups set up a special center for discharged, homeless veterans. This downtown center will be open through the holiday season.

In San Francisco 42,000 were stilled Christmas guests. The port of embarkation said this number would be reduced steadily, as only 18,000 more are due up to Jan. 1, just about twice the number that arrived yesterday alone. Railroads were moving out about 5000 a day.

Los Angeles played host to about 75,000 veterans. In military hospitals, army and navy patients received special attention in keeping with the season. Many of them were decorated their casts with "Merry Christmas" tags and signs.

Los Angeles was the only west coast port able to clear all veterans from ships at anchor or docked. San Francisco had four "hotel ships," with another, the SS Lubbock, coming in today. Similar conditions prevailed in the Seattle area. There simply wasn't room ashore for the volume of men arriving.

Special religious services were well attended today. About 800 men attended a midnight Christmas mass at pier 45 in San Francisco. In all cities churches had special welcomes for the men.

French Drop Value of Franc

PARIS, Dec. 25 (AP)—The French government announced tonight that it had cut the value of the franc by more than half, setting it at 110,000 francs to the dollar, and 480 to the pound sterling.

Devaluation of the franc, which since the liberation, has been pegged at 50 to the dollar and 200 to the pound, will take effect tomorrow with publication of the decree in the official government journal.

Members of the constituent assembly forecast last week the franc would be reduced in value as a step toward full scale resumption of international trade.

Slide Halts Vets Eastward Trip

DENVER, Dec. 25 (AP)—A rock slide in a railroad tunnel 29 miles west of Denver today derailed the engine of a westbound Denver & Salt Lake City train, blocking the passage and marooning several hundred soldiers aboard two east-bound troop trains.

4000 GIs March On Garrison

MANILA, Dec. 25 (AP)—Four thousand demonstrating U. S. soldiers marched on the 21st replacement depot headquarters today in protest against cancellation of a scheduled transport sailing for home.

The soldiers carried banners proclaiming, "We want ships." They were met by Col. J. C. Campbell, depot commander. He ordered them to return to their barracks. After listening to a brief talk by the colonel, the men milled around for about ten minutes, then filtered back to their quarters. A spokesman for the men said another mass meeting protest would be held Wednesday.

Cancellation of assignment of the transport Admiral Sims precipitated the demonstration. Colonel Campbell explained the transport was withdrawn in connection with consolidation of the 21st and 29th replacement depots. The Daily Pacifican, army newspaper, quoted Campbell as saying:

"You men forget you're not working for General Motors. You are still in the army."

Petrillo Bans Foreign Radio Music in U. S.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25 (AP)—American radio stations have been told to ban all musical programs originating in all foreign countries except Canada. James C. Petrillo, president of the AFL American Federation of Musicians, said today. The edict becomes effective Dec. 31.

Petrillo said the order is being reinvoked to protect the American musician against foreign competition, "the" through international short wave radio a foreign musician could displace an American's services without entering the United States.

He said that the ban is not new, that there has been an understanding between the union and the radio stations before the war to stop the foreign musical programs but "during the war the AFM waived its objections to network broadcasts of programs emanating from foreign countries, even though music for these programs was furnished by musicians who are not members of the American Federation of Musicians."

Weather

| City | Max. | Min. | Rain |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Salem | 49 | 40 | 41 |
| Eugene | 51 | 43 | 39 |
| Portland | 51 | 45 | 41 |
| Seattle | 46 | 38 | 41 |
| San Francisco | 57 | 50 | 39 |

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy today, occasional light rain. Maximum temperature 50 degrees.