

84 Survive Unprecedented Brush with Death as Giant Airliners Collide in Midair Over Maryland

ABERDEEN, Md., Dec. 19—(AP)—Eighty-four persons had an unprecedented brush with death tonight when two Miami-bound airliners collided here in mid-air but the pilots landed both ships safely and no one, incredibly, was even scratched.

One plane was a big four-engine DC-4 of Eastern Airlines with 56 passengers and four crew members. Its tail was damaged but the pilot, J. B. Kuhn of Miami, flew it on to a smooth landing at National airport in Washington where fire engines, ambulances and other emergency vehicles had been mustered but proved not to be needed.

The other was a two-engine ship of Universal Airlines, which operates so-called "non-

scheduled service from New York to Miami and Puerto Rico, with 21 passengers and a crew of three. The windshield of the cockpit was cracked, a hole was driven into the fuselage above the cockpit, and its radio and hydraulic system were knocked out, but its pilot, Henry Norris, brought it down safely at the army post field here. The planes were flying in the same direction. Visibility was reported normal.

Undaunted by their experience, the passengers of the Eastern Airlines plane took off from Washington in another plane at 8:09 to resume their interrupted flight to Miami.

One passenger of the EAL plane, Ben J. Slutzky of Ellenville, N. Y., announced a pres-

ent of \$500 to the crew and invited his fellow-passengers to a "survivors' party" at the Copacabana night club in Miami.

Mrs. Sam Negeer of New York related that "it seemed like we hit the side of a house."

Her husband recalled he had told her at the time that "if we had hit something we wouldn't be here now."

Flight Officer Eugene M. Harvey of Miami, Fla., co-pilot of the plane which landed at Aberdeen gave this account of the crash:

"We were flying at about 2000 feet a few miles north of Aberdeen when all of a sudden there was a terrific thump and then a crashing sound."

"The whole side of the cockpit windshield caved in and

nearly hit me on the head. A hole was stove in the fuselage right over the cockpit."

"After a few moments, we realized that the plane was operating all right, but that our entire hydraulic system was knocked out."

"We checked our landing gear visually, and it looked O. K., but we had no way of knowing whether it would stand up under a landing because of the hydraulic system."

"The Aberdeen field was lighted and we tried to contact them by radio, only to find the radio was shot also. So we circled the field and came in with our fingers crossed. Norris landed perfectly. I didn't know that we had been in col-

lision with until after we landed."

Miss Joan Cotton of Orange, N. J., hostess of the Universal plane who was acclaimed a heroine by the passengers and given the credit for averting a panic, said she was distributing homemade Christmas cookies when the collision occurred.

"Most of the passengers were alternately praying and asking questions. I fastened their safety belts and kept saying 'Everything is all right.' I tried to think of something to say, but that was all that would come out."

"When we finally landed the passengers saw the big hole in the front section, some of them started praying all over again—and this time they were prayers of thanks."

Today's Winners
 259-1111 75-550
 74-001 159-533
 23-781 330-328
 76-557 338-989
 77-280 9-424

Prizes in The Oregon Statesman - Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving Campaign award drivers of cars with these licenses, at The Statesman office.

The Oregon Statesman

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IT SEEMS TO ME
 By Charles A. Sprague

Several months ago the O & C administration held hearings relating to the setting up of a master unit in the Siuslaw district which would set up forest management on a renewal basis in perpetuity. The plan was vigorously objected to by some of the loggers and mills operating in the area who feared they would be shut out when the unit was set up.

The proposals were reviewed by the secretary of the interior's office in Washington, which has charge of the division, and word came a few days ago that the unit had been approved. Local officials will proceed to work out agreements with owners of private lands in the area to establish operations on a sustained yield basis. There are nine units in the Siuslaw master unit, each laid out to conform to the topography for economical administration and logging. In western Oregon eleven other master units are planned by O & C.

This is a real victory for the cause of sustained yield in our forests. Had the plan been overthrown serious delay would have resulted, and with the fast cutting of virgin timber delay is dangerous. It is time to make the transition now to a system of rotation cropping of timber, bringing the annual cut into line with annual growth.

Under the plan the O & C administration will agree to reserve for the owner private timber lands contiguous stands of O & C timber so logging operations may be continuous. The private owner agrees to conform to proper practices in handling of his lands so the forest crop will renew itself. Prizes for the government timber will be determined on the basis of the market at the time of sale.

The federal forest service is embarking on similar plans. Announcement has just been made of a cutting agreement covering forest lands at Shelton, Wash. The forest service has been working out cutting-circle plans with mills at Bend.

In the course of the next century, which will be the critical period, this transition should be effected. It will mean stability for the timber and lumber business and insure steady supplies of forest products for use of men.

Next in order of need is adoption of the general program for the state as recommended by the special committee appointed in 1945 by Gov. Snell. This will tie in well with the advance moves of the federal bureaus dealing with forests.

Animal Crackers
 By WARREN GOODRICH



Handling Record Mails at the Postoffice



The populace trod a path to these people's door this week. Pictured is a behind-the-window scene at the Salem postoffice where record numbers of letters and parcels have been dispatched in the pre-Christmas rush. It can be taken for granted that the usual great stacks of packages are in the unseen background. Left to right are: Reece Jones, Mrs. Edith Mudd and Lawton Girod. (Latest cancellation totals elsewhere on page 1.) (Photo by Don Hill, Statesman staff photographer.)

Farmers Fear Channel Shift In Willamette

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 19—(AP)—Fear that the Willamette river might return to an old channel and convert 10,000 acres of farms into an island was reported today.

While the river continued falling from its recent flood stage, some farmers in the Corvallis area said the receding waters appeared to be working behind a retention near Ingram island.

They feared that the retention might collapse and would cause the water to be diverted into an old channel and join the Long Tom river.

Army engineers said repairs would start as soon as weather permits, and expressed belief that the new cut in any case would be only a high-water channel.

Donald Population 186

The population of the city of Donald in Marion county is now 186, it was reported today by Robert S. Farrell, jr., secretary of state, at the completion of a census count of that city. The 1940 population was 164.

Courtesy Driving Campaign Prizes

Following is the list of prizes in The Oregon Statesman-Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving Campaign:

MAJOR GRAND PRIZE
 Seventeen-jewel wristwatch, choice of men's or women's (Stevens & Son).

GRAND PRIZES
 1st: New tire and tube (State Tire Service).
 2nd: Dishes, service for 8 (Salem Hardware).
 3rd: Sanitizing grill and fly rod (Sears Roebuck).
 4th: Permanent wave (Larsen's Beauty Shop).
 5th: Wool auto robe (Bishop's Clothing).
 6th: Airplane suitcase (Miller Mercantile).
 7th: Table lamp (Eld Street).
 8th: Electric room heater (McKay Chevrolet).
 9th: Table lamp (Court Street Hardware).
 10th: Andrews (Doughton Hardware).

DAILY PRIZES
 1st: Camellia (F. A. Doerfler & Sons).
 2nd: Three pair nylons (Army & Navy Store).
 3rd: Ten gallons gasoline, oil change, lubrication (General Petroleum).
 4th: Umbrella (C. Penney Co.).
 5th: Car vacuum (Hamilton Furniture).
 6th: Album of records (Heider Radio).
 7th: Auto flashlight (Yeater Appliances).
 8th: Half gallon ice cream (The Pike).
 9th: Two tickets Elsinore theatre.
 10th: Two tickets Elsinore theatre.

In addition, every one of the prize winners (daily and grand) will receive a certificate entitling him or her to an 8 x 10 brownstone photograph (Bishop-Moderne).

All prizes are being made available at The Statesman office, with the exception that certificates instead of actual merchandise will be issued for the photographs, gasoline-oil, the permanent wave and ice cream.

1,000 Lights Blaze On Christmas Tree

The annual Cherrian-sponsored 1000 Christmas lights on the courthouse lawn Christmas tree were turned on at 8:53 o'clock last night. Topped by a huge blue star, the spectrum-lighted tree has been sponsored by the Cherrians every year since 1913, except the three blackout years during the recent war.

W. W. Chadwick, king of the Cherrians, made a short talk over radio station KSLM just before County Judge Grant Murphy turned on the lights. Chadwick's talk interrupted a half-hour program by the Willamette university choir.

Laborites Seek Farm Controls

LONDON, Dec. 19—(AP)—The labor government asked today for a revolutionary farm bill under which a farmer could be ousted from his land for ignoring "scientific" advice on how to till his acres, and Winston Churchill angrily announced he would seek overthrow of the government on grounds of "tyranny, conceit and incompetence."

The bill, representing the first major governmental attempt at peacetime regulation of agriculture since the repeal 100 years ago of the "corn laws," calls for subsidies, pegged minimum prices and guaranteed markets, even if the government has to buy some products.

COAL FOUND IN ALASKA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—(AP)—The bureau of mines disclosed today that a large deposit of coal in the Point Barrow, Alaska, area is to supply that Arctic village for 75 years.

Mexican Babe Born in Coal Bin, Joins Family of 9 Living in Basement Room

FORT WAYNE, Ind., Dec. 19—(AP)—In the Christmas spirit, men of good will today sought a new home for Bebe Ana Gamez, born two weeks ago in a humble place as that in which the Christ child came into the world twenty centuries ago.

Bebe Ana was ushered into life, not in a manger but in a 7-by-12-foot basement coal bin with her 13-year-old sister, Maria, assisting the mother at the accouchement.

The story of Bebe Ana, the eighth child of Antonio Gamez, 40-year-old itinerant worker, and his 32-year-old wife, Faustina, was brought out when the mother, suffering from an infection after child-birth, was taken to a hospital along with the baby.

Antonio, a native of Mexico but a naturalized U. S. citizen, sought the aid of the Associated Catholic Charities. Then Township Trustees

Coal Czar Peace Bid Forecast

By Harold W. Ward
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—(AP)—The soft coal operators split ranks tonight, breaking up for the present their national wage committee, and producers of 60 per cent of the nation's bituminous coal expressed willingness to negotiate immediately for a new contract with John L. Lewis.

All but the southern and far western producing groups joined in a statement offering to negotiate a new contract directly with Lewis "at any convenient time."

Charles O'Neill, head of the Northern Appalachian operators and chief spokesman for the majority, said that so far as the mine owners were concerned they would be willing to open conversations with Lewis immediately, without waiting for a supreme court decision validity of the \$3,510,000 fines against Lewis and the United Mine Workers for contempt of court.

The fines grew out of the recent strike. When Lewis called off the strike he announced his willingness to open negotiations for a new contract. The mines are now being operated by the government as a result of last spring's strike.

The national bituminous coal negotiating committee, the operators' organization, was adjourned tonight sine die — not to be reconvened except by unanimous votes of its five geographical groups.

The Southern Coal Producers association and the producers west of the Mississippi river, producing about 35 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, were opposed to beginning negotiations at this time.

All-Time High Hit in City Mail Cancellations

An all-time record in letter cancellations—137,000—was reached at the Salem post office yesterday as the mail continued to pour in at the peak of the Christmas rush.

The previous record of 136,000 set on December 18 last year was smashed as postal clerks worked far into last night to keep up with the flow. Yesterday's peak load made a four-day total of 518,000 letters cancelled from December 16 through 19 postal officials said last night.

E. B. Daugherty, superintendent of mails, in reporting the overwhelming totals last night, said that a truck and a half of mail awaited hauling to the depot at that time and revealed that the bureau is sending at least a rail carload of mail from Salem each day.

Weather

| City | Max. | Min. | Precip. |
|---------------|------|------|---------|
| Salem | 45 | 34 | trace |
| Portland | 45 | 34 | trace |
| San Francisco | 50 | 37 | 0.00 |

Willamette river 15 feet.
 FORECAST: from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem: Partly cloudy today and tonight with light fog in morning. Highest temperature today 47. Lowest tonight 35.

Sen. Bilbo Brands Charges as 'Lies,' Refutes Secretary

Courtesy Nets New Awards

The Oregon Statesman-Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving Campaign neared an end today in a flurry of letters commending the plan and suggesting new and worthy nominees for a share in the daily and grand prizes.

Specific nominees could not be accepted, however, under the avowed policy of observers who were appointed to personally note only the license numbers of cars with no knowledge whatever of drivers' identities.

Judges at the secretary of state's office chose 10 more winners for today's prizes, as listed below, and will name another 10 for tomorrow and Sunday before settling into their work of selecting the grand prize winners who will be made known in next Tuesday's Statesman.

More Prizes Claimed
 Persons who claimed their prizes Thursday, on the basis of license numbers previously published in The Statesman, included: James Brandt, route 6, box 431, Salem (cancellation).
 Mrs. Frank A. Waldorf, 1150 Lee st., Salem (cancellation).
 Mrs. J. H. Turnbull, 1365 N. 21st st., Salem (three pair nylons).
 Ward Rueck, route 6, Box 89, Salem (10 gallons, oil change, lubrication job).
 Gruin M. Wayt, 1320 Franklin, West Salem (10 gallons gasoline, oil change, lubrication job).
 Oiler W. Hall, route 2, Silverton (car vacuum).
 Dr. W. S. Cole, Salem (album of records).
 Jack Stevenson, box 213, Sweet Home (album of records).
 J. C. Darby, Salem (two theatre tickets).
 Robert L. Martin, 3580 S. Commercial, Salem (two theatre tickets).
 Stearns Cushing, 1475 Saginaw, Salem (two theatre tickets).
 All winners also receive certificates for an 8x10 browntown photograph.

Judges in the campaign stressed Thursday that the grand prizes are not limited to the first-place winners in the 10 daily contests, because on some days the second or third place winners might have performed just as valuable acts of courtesy as the first-place winners on other days. The entire list of winners, therefore, will be thrown into the pool eligible for the major awards.

New Winners Named
 Today's 10 winners, by license number, are as follows (weather, traffic conditions, location, time and other factors are considered in the judging):
 259-111: Dec. 18; downtown; 10:15 a. m.; driver proceeded several blocks looking for parking space but did not double park, gave pedestrians right-of-way, proper signals and turns at four intersections, right-hand signal green light after permitting pedestrian lane to clear.
 23-781: Dec. 14; 800 block on State; 9:45 a. m.; signalled properly and slowed to stop to let pedestrians across street.
 17-557: Dec. 18; Court, Commercial, Church, Ferry; 10:30 a. m.; signalled properly, gave pedestrians right-of-way at all intersections, turned in proper lanes, gave plain hand signals.
 77-280: Dec. 18; State and Liberty; 2:10 p. m.; gave proper hand signals and gave pedestrians right of way even though in heavy traffic.
 15-556: Dec. 18; Center and High; 4:20 p. m.; stopped for person stranded in middle of crosswalk when light changed.
 159-533: Dec. 18; Capitol and D; 3:40 p. m.; stopped to avoid crowding people to curb and to prevent traffic tie-up.
 336-328: Dec. 18; Capitol and D; 3:25 p. m.; stopped to let school children cross street, when line of cars was holding them up.
 338-989: Dec. 18; Commercial and State; 2:45 p. m.; driver had right-of-way but stopped, with proper hand signal, to let another car go by.
 9-424: Dec. 18; State and Commercial; 11:20 a. m.; gave pedestrians walking against red light the right-of-way, signalled for stop.
 Repeating yesterday's winners, some of whom have not yet called for their prizes (which are listed elsewhere on this page): 39-567, 285-700, 339-601, blank, 379-813, 263-784, 295-616, 357-548, 29-510, 336-476.

All prizes are available at The Statesman office anytime this week.

Camp Protests Slum Charge

Protests against reported statements that the farm labor camp, near the Salem airport, is a slum district, were voiced last night at a meeting of about 100 camp residents in their community building.

Representatives of the Salvation Army, Catholic Charity and the county welfare administration met with residents of the camp to discuss the reports.

The main difficulty of maintaining the camp is caused by poor drainage, Fred Settle, superintendent, said, adding that he has registered a complaint with the Portland office of the U. S. agricultural department, which operates the camp, and expects action on the drainage situation soon.

Not Running



SACRAMENTO, Calif., Dec. 19—(AP)—Gov. Earl Warren of California who added his name once more today to the list of republicans who say they are not candidates now for the GOP presidential nomination. A Dewey - Warren ticket for 1948 has been talked about in early speculation.

Alumina Plant Fertilizer to Go to UNNRA

The \$5,000,000 government alumina plant on the north edge of the city will begin operation on a \$4,000,000 ammonium sulphate fertilizer order for UNNRA immediately after the first of the year, plant officials disclosed last night.

Together with the announcement came the development that the reconstruction finance corporation in addition to Senator Guy Cordon it had concluded arrangements for the Willamette Fertilizer company to take over the plant next year from the Columbia Metals Co.

Local plant officials said last night that it was their understanding that no change in personnel would result from the switchover. The plant will continue to be operated by RFC but will be handled locally by the Willamette company, head of which is Frank Birmingham, owner of Woodburn Feed and Seed Co. The Willamette concern is a distributing group.

U.N. Board to Inspect Greek Guerilla War

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Dec. 19—(AP)—The United Nations security council, in a remarkable spirit of harmony, voted unanimously tonight to send a commission to the Balkans to investigate alleged border violations involving Greece and assist the commission. Polish Delegate Oscar Lange said the amendment would permit the representatives to cross each others frontiers.

Soviet Delegate Andrei A. Gromyko made a number of concessions, including the abandonment of an amendment which would have limited the membership of the commissions staff, after the council agreed informally that it would have as few staff members as possible.

Cherry Growers To Add to Plant

A \$50,000 improvement will increase the capacity of Willamette Cherry Growers, Inc., cherry curing and storage plant in Fairgrove addition south of the state fairgrounds, by about 25 per cent when it is completed some time in the spring of 1947. Robert E. Shinn, general manager, said last night.

Additions will include forty-two 12,000 gallon tanks for curing and storage purposes, two more receiving stations and truck scales, Shinn said. A building permit for the improvement was issued yesterday by the city engineer's office.

Narcotics Permit in Question

By William T. Peacock
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—(AP)—Senator Theodore G. Bilbo branded as "lies" or "hallucinations" today every charge of wrongdoing against him, then heard a new witness say he once interested himself in a Natchez, Miss., man's effort to get a narcotics permit.

The witness was Dr. Harry J. Anslinger, federal commissioner of narcotics who identified the Natchez man as Harry Carr. Dr. Anslinger told the senate was investigating committee further that one of his agents "told me he had evidence that the sum of \$1,500 had been paid by Mr. Carr to Senator Bilbo in connection with this prescription."

Bilbo, 69-year-old Mississippi democrat, testified for two and one-half hours, sparred with Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.), and obviously enjoyed himself.

Denying all, Bilbo denounced his former aide as he read from a 42-page prepared statement.

Caesar and Bilbo
 "Christ had his Judas Iscariot; Caesar had his Brutus; George Washington had his Benedict Arnold, but I claim to have had the greatest traitor of them all in my trusted secretary," he said.

Bilbo said negro and communist-dominated groups who opposed his philosophy are behind efforts to blacken his name and drive him from the senate.

Before Anslinger was called to testify to the narcotics matter, Bilbo had referred to Terry's statement on it as a "lie out of the whole cloth."

Anslinger's story was this: He was called to Bilbo's office Oct. 11, 1945. The senator showed him a letter from Dr. A. J. Podesta of Vicksburg, Miss., to which was attached two medical certificates relating to a man named Harry Carr at Natchez, Miss.

Anslinger said that the certificates — one signed by Podesta, the other by Dr. James Logan of Natchez — were to the effect that Carr suffered from chronic asthma, chronic heart trouble and chronic arthritis, was 66 years old, and had been a user of narcotics for many years.

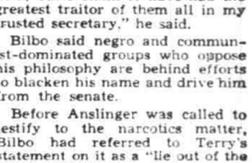
Sought Drug Permit
 Anslinger said Carr "wanted a permit" for a regular supply of drugs.

He said he told Bilbo that while the bureau did not issue such permits, it would have no objection to the prescribing of two grains daily to Carr if the doctors felt the man had a medical need for morphine and the bureau's inquiries substantiated that conclusion.

Nearly a year later, on Sept. 13, 1946, Anslinger said, a revenue agent named Eaton came to him asking for a statement on the facts concerning the conversation he had with Bilbo.

"Eaton told me he had evidence that the sum of \$1,500 had been paid by Mr. Carr to Senator Bilbo in connection with this prescription," Anslinger testified.

Shopping Days Left



BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS