

32 Miners' Bodies Found, Hope Fades for 60 Others

(Story in Column 5)



By Charles F. Sprague

The Oliviers, Sir Laurence and his wife, Vivian Leigh, have come back to America, playing in two Cleopatra plays at Ziegfeld theatre, New York, in their first appearance here since 1946 when they came with the Old Vic repertory company. They are repeating in this country, on alternate nights, Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" and Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra," which they carried through last season in London. The success that attended them in their home country is expected to follow them in this. Both have succeeded in pictures, too, Sir Laurence's great successes having been in the J. Arthur productions of Henry V and Hamlet, and Miss Leigh starred in "Gone With the Wind."

The two plays catch Cleopatra at the beginning and the end of her career as queen of Egypt. Shaw's play shows her as a girl of sixteen attracting the interest of a bald middle-aged man, but as Shaw says, "in Egypt sixteen is a ripe age than it is in England."

The play has much less of George Bernard Shaw than most of his others, like "The Apple Cart" and "Pygmalion and Galatea," but it is Shaw rather than Julius Caesar, who delivers this speech to Cleopatra after she justifies her order for the execution of a traitor, as he hears clamor in the streets:

"Do you hear? These knockers at your gate are also believers in vengeance and stabbing. You have slain their leader; it is he that they shall slay you. If you doubt it, ask your four counsellors." (Continued on editorial page, 4.)

Boy Unaware Of Mother's Fate on Ship

ASTORIA, Dec. 22-(AP)—An 11-year-old boy played here today still not told that his mother and sister were among the 11 missing after the fire aboard the Danish ship *Erria*.

He is William George Brunlees, whose grief-stricken father, Angus Brunlees, Whitehouse, Y.T., still has not recovered from the twist of fate that separated him from Mrs. Brunlees and their daughter, Elizabeth, 6, the morning of the fire.

He left them in the ship's lounge while he stepped out on deck to see whether it was safe out there. Flames exploded behind him, and he could not get back to his wife and daughter, who are believed to have perished in the lounge.

Brunlees said he was taking the family on a long-planned trip to Europe.

Townpeople were taking up a collection for his son, intending to buy him an electric train for Christmas—one just like the train he had admired at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Richardson, who took him in after the disaster. (Story about ship on page 2.)

Truman Sends Steel Dispute To Wage Board

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—President Truman tonight sent the deadlocked steel controversy to the wage stabilization board in an effort to avoid a nationwide strike New Year's eve.

The president said the wage dispute between the steel workers and various steel companies "has now arrived at a stage where it gravely threatens the progress of national defense. . . it is of the utmost importance to prevent interruption in the production of steel."

The president added "it is for this reason that I have certified this matter to the wage stabilization board. This will provide the parties with a forum where their differences may be resolved and a fair settlement reached, without resort to a costly shutdown."

The move followed the collapse yesterday of federal mediation efforts to attain a wage agreement between the union and leading steel companies. The union is asking wage increases and other benefits that might exceed 30 cents an hour increase.

Canby Bulb Grower Dies

PORTLAND, Dec. 22-(AP)—Mer-ton G. Ellis, operator of a commercial bulb farm at Canby and nationally known bulb expert, died at a Portland hospital today following a heart attack.

He was born at Dallas, Ore., Oct. 29, 1881. Two sons and four daughters survive.

SALES PRECIPITATION Since Start of Winter Year Normal This Year Last Year Normal

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

101st YEAR

TWO SECTIONS—28 PAGES

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Blind Organist Provides Christmas Carols



Holiday music can be heard coming from the home of T. S. Roberts, blind organist and music instructor in the late afternoon and early evening until Christmas eve. Here Roberts plays the organ while three carolers supply the words. From left the girls are Virginia Benner, 2677 Lansing ave.; Diane Burkland, 2666 Skopil ave.; and Sharon Anderson, 2145 Carlton Way. (Statesman photo.)

Former RFC Official Quits Pentagon Job

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—William E. Willett, former member of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation board, resigned suddenly today from his \$11,800 navy department job. Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett was reported to have taken a hand in Willett's case upon finding the navy had employed him.

Willett had been working in the office of Undersecretary of the navy (whom I had met only twice) since October 24 without higher ups knowing he was in the Pentagon, officials close to Lovett told reporters.

They said the first knowledge in top defense department circles of Willett's appointment to a personnel and housing position on Whitehall's staff came when they read published stories two days ago.

Willett was one of five members whose nomination to that agency by President Truman was blocked by a senate subcommittee after an inquiry into "influence" was used in the lending agency.

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The wage stabilization board (WSB) ruled, with industry members dissenting, that such plans may be put into effect—within certain limits—without counting the cost toward what is allowed in the way of wage increases under other stabilization rules.

These rules, in general, allow pay boosts of about 14 per cent over January 1950 levels but greater pay increases are allowed under various exceptions.

The new ruling is permissive; employers don't have to give medical, hospital, surgical, disability or death insurance benefits to workers, their wives and children.

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Duff Says Demand For Eisenhower's Candidacy Grows

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—Senator Duff (R-Pa) declared today there is "a tremendous grass roots demand" throughout the country that General Dwight D. Eisenhower bid for the republican presidential nomination and that he is convinced the general will do so.

Formally opening Washington headquarters of an "Ike for President" group in the GOP, Duff told a news conference the plans to advise Eisenhower about the "demand" when he visits the general in Paris, probably early in 1952.

Employers May Give Welfare, Health Benefits

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B-29 Dives into Denver Area, No One Killed

DENVER, Dec. 22-(AP)—A two-engine B-29 bomber with eight persons aboard, including one woman, crashed in an east Denver residential section tonight. No homes were hit and no one was killed.

Two aboard the plane were injured. Lowry air base officials said the injuries were not believed serious.

One motorist appeared to burn as the plane came down on its belly about 400 yards from the nearest dwelling.

The scene was less than a mile from where a four-engine B-29 crashed December 3, killing eight crewmen and destroying or damaging five homes.

Air force officials at Lowry field said the plane was from Andrews field, Maryland, and was taking off for Perrin air force base near Sherman, Texas.

The crash, at 9:06 p.m. (MST) was near Monaco and Bayaud boulevard within the landing-takeoff pattern for the Lowry east-west runway.

Motorist Runs Over Himself

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 22-(AP)—A motorist ran over himself today, and somehow emerged without serious injury.

Myron D. Yax, 42, was thrown from his automobile when it collided with another at an intersection.

He landed in the street, and his automobile caught up with him, and climbed right up on his chest. A service station operator had to get a jack to hoist the car off him.

Yax came out of it with a shoulder fracture and cuts on his head and legs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—The militarized regiments of the east German people's police are in training oldrums. Their numbers—50,000 young men under Communist indoctrination—are static.

Though a new Soviet buildup in the heart of Europe is not yet underway, it could begin anytime. Some allied officers call 1952 "Russia's year of decision."

The high ranking opinion goes this way: "They can't wipe us out now with what they already have in position. As late as last summer, they could suddenly strike westward and seize Europe in a single onrush."

The allies have enough power on the ground to bring a surprise onwave attack to a halt on the Rhine. There are now six American divisions instead of two, three British instead of two, four French, and the equivalent of a mixed division of Canadians, Belgians, Danes and Norwegians.

Miners' Bodies Burned

By Earl Aykroid
WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., Dec. 22-(AP)—Hopes were fading tonight for the rescue of from 50 to 60 men trapped in an explosion-shattered coal mine after 32 burned and torn bodies were brought to the surface.

Sweating rescue crews continued their desperate probing through thick smoke and gas to reach the men 550 feet underground at the Orient No. 2 mine near here. Appeals were broadcast for more rescue volunteers.

Sobbing wives, sisters and children of the trapped men waited courageously for word from the men who had been working on their last shift before the Christmas vacation.

Terrific violence of the underground blast last night was shown in the mutilated condition of the bodies brought up.

Estimates of the possible toll ranged to more than 100. Members of the rescue teams described scenes of underground horror—hair standing straight up on the head of one body; other bodies pressed close to the floor as if the men made final desperate clutches for life-giving air; bodies with limbs ripped off; others roasted.

Bodies identified
Five of the 32 recovered bodies have been identified. They were taken to a temporary morgue at the junior high school. Four men, who survived the blast with injuries, got out last night.

The mine, owned by the Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin Coal Co., is one of the world's largest shaft soft coal producers, producing three million tons annually. It includes 12 miles of sprawling tunnels.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22-(AP)—The Post-Dispatch reported tonight it learned federal mine inspectors made repeated criticisms of methods to control methane gas in Orient mine No. 2 at West Frankfort, Ill., but the company took no steps to comply with the federal inspectors' recommendations.

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Mercury Low, Snow High in Midwest Area

By The Associated Press
Winter got started officially yesterday in a nation which already has its fill of snow and cold.

The new season found the midwest covered with snow and ice. Low temperatures reached levels under the zero mark in six states. Bismark, N.D., had -22 and Chicago had -2 before the mercury line began to edge up.

Travel in many midwestern areas was slow and treacherous, and some roads were blocked by heavy drifts.

More snow was forecast for the north central states. The cold front moved eastward to the Appalachians.

Farther east, comparatively mild weather prevailed along the Atlantic seaboard.

The waves of snow and cold that have passed across much of the nation during the past ten days have resulted in 265 deaths.

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U.N. Invites Reds to Visit Prison Camps

List of U.S. Traffic Deaths Starts on Second Million

Holiday Toll 156; 3 Oregon Deaths

By The Associated Press
The motor vehicle claimed its one millionth victim in the nation Saturday.

The traffic toll was run up in 52 years, three months and nine days. The grisly milestone was reached and recorded at 11:27 a.m. Sat.

Dave Dawson, 25, of Danbury, Tex., was the last person to die among the final 10 victims recorded by the Associated Press in a nationwide spot check that began Wednesday. He died at 9:13 a.m. (EST) Saturday from injuries suffered in an auto accident seven hours earlier. Two others were fatally injured in the same crash.

The total reached the million mark on the Associated Press tally sheet with the report of the death of Miss Elma Wischmeier, 52. She died in a Cleveland, O., hospital at 7:20 p.m. (EST) Friday. News of her death reached at tabulators at 11:27 a.m. (EST) Saturday.

The actual one millionth victim never can be identified. Statistics early in the century were estimates instead of actual figures.

The highway slaughter, currently averaging 100 deaths each day, kept pace with earlier forecasts. The National Safety council predicted March 1 that the one millionth fatality would occur in December. On June 29, the council picked the Christmas holidays as the time. The council picked the exact date on Dec. 14.

If the present rate of fatalities continue, the council says, the two millionth traffic death will occur in 1981.

The Christmas holiday period started on a grim note for many families Saturday as 156 persons were killed in traffic, fire or miscellaneous accidents. The breakdown of a count started by the Associated Press at 6 p.m., local time, Friday, when the holiday travel period began, showed 125 dead in traffic accidents, 22 in fires and 9 from miscellaneous causes.

Hazardous driving conditions prevailed in the central part of the nation. Extreme cold increased the hazard of dwelling fires resulting from overtaxed heating systems.

Cold weather, probably through Christmas, was expected to keep the snow and ice on the midwestern highways.

Oregon counted three traffic deaths today after the start of the long Christmas holidays.

Icy roads were blamed for two of the deaths. A truck skidded from icy pavement just south of Portland and overturned. The driver, Jacob Wacker, 53, Portland, was killed.

An ambulance skidded from the icy Mt. Hood highway near Rhododendron and crashed into a tree, killing the driver, Herbert Zachery, 53, Redmond funeral director. He was en route to Portland to pick up a hospital patient, A. H. Holmes, to take him home for Christmas. Mrs. Holmes, a passenger in the ambulance, was unhurt.

The previous night Kenneth Jewel Smith, 29, Salem, driver of a produce truck was killed when his vehicle ran out of control on the Pacific highway seven miles south of Ashland. (Story on page 5.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22-(AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill called on the British people tonight to mobilize for a three-year fight against national bankruptcy.

They will have to battle alone without counting on American money, he solemnly told a nationwide radio audience.

In the spirit of his famed "blood, sweat, toil and tears" exhortation of the last war, the 77-year-old prime minister told the country:

"I have nothing to propose to you that is easy. Churchill made his pre-Christmas fireside address to present his view of the problems confronting the nation after his conservative government has been in office eight weeks. The position is "stern and grim," he declared.

The prime minister warned against attaching "exaggerated importance and hope" to his forthcoming visit to the United States in January. All that may be expected from America, he said, is aid in the common defense program.

"But," he warned, "you must not expect the Americans to solve our domestic problems for us. In rearmament and in the North Atlantic organization we have immense and intricate affairs in common; and I want to make sure that we can help each other as much as possible."

He asked that domestic political wrangling cease and that judgment on his new regime be suspended for a while.

"We require at least three years before anyone can judge fairly whether we have made things better or worse," he said.

The prime minister said when his regime took office the country stood within a few months of national bankruptcy. Had affairs been allowed to drift, he said, the country would have had to choose between charity "if we could get it" and starvation.

INDEPENDENCE FOR LIBYA
TRIPOLI, Libya, Dec. 22-(AP)—Libya, the poorest nation on earth, gets its independence Monday as a Christmas eve gift from the United Nations.

INFLATION IN DICE GAMES
NEW YORK, Dec. 22-(AP)—Harlem dice game, broken up tonight by police, was no two bit affair. Arrested were 46 men. Seized was \$15,000 in cash.

Weather
Salem Max. Min. Precip.
Portland 47 39 40
San Francisco 50 38 40
Chicago 40 31 40
New York 42 31 40
Willamette river 5.5 feet.

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Heavy cloud with wind today and tonight. High today near 48, low tonight near 34. Salem temperature at 12:01 a.m. today was 34.

Reds Evasive On Exchange Of Sick POWs

MUNSAN, Korea, Sunday, Dec. 23-(AP)—Communist troops delegates today refused to give a definite answer to the allied request for an immediate exchange of sick and wounded prisoners.

Brig. Gen. William F. Nuckols, official U. N. command spokesman, told newsmen the red evasiveness amounted to a rejection of the request. Nuckols said the morning session of delegates discussing prisoner exchange was "stormy and frustrating."

MUNSAN, Korea, Sunday, December 23-(AP)—The allies dramatically invited the communists Saturday to come south and see for themselves that some 37,500 disarmed prisoners are actually South Korean civilians and not genuine red army men.

By this offer they sought to quiet some of the red haggling which has stalled armistice talks, and possibly also to hasten an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners.

The communist negotiators gave no reply but might do so at the next subcommittee meeting scheduled at Panmunjon at 11 a.m., today (9 P.M. Saturday, E.S.T.). Plans rejected.

The reds rejected three allied proposals in the truce supervision subcommittee meeting Sunday morning. The proposals were mostly a re-wording of past offers.

The Christmas-time gesture of United Nations good faith urged the reds to come and inspect prisoners installations near Pusan and promised that any of the disputed personnel who wanted to return on the red side could do so at the proper time.

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