

Station	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	44	30	.00
Portland	44	30	.00
San Francisco	49	42	.01
Chicago	28	5	trace
New York	31	19	.00

Willamette river 8.7 feet.  
**FORECAST** (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Mostly clear today and tonight. Continued cool with the highest temperature today near 43 and the lowest tonight near 25. Salem temperature at 12:01 a.m. today was 27.

# The Oregon Statesman

Statesman Centennial  
 101st YEAR  
 Dedicated to the Growth of Oregon

101st YEAR 10 PAGES The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Monday, December 24, 1951 PRICE 5c No. 271

## Fire Turns Christmas Party into Death Trap for 41

### IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

President Truman has referred the steel wage dispute to the wage stabilization board. If it is not able to resolve the controversy before the present contract runs out, December 31st, presumably the president will invoke the Taft-Hartley law and order a deferment of the strike for 80 days pending further efforts to work out a settlement. He is on record as saying that a shutdown of steel production is not to be tolerated at this time.

What is on the block is the whole wage-price-stabilization structure. After the steelworkers are the coal miners with a contract running out the last of February, and John L. Lewis has already backed up the demands of his one-time associate and present rival, Philip Murray of the CIO-steelworkers. And after the miners are all the other labor groups, organized and unorganized, with a stake in this issue.

If the wage block goes, the price block will go too. It may be that the concession will be only a notch or two; but whatever it is the result will be more inflation. Although the steelworkers demand a "sizeable increase" Murray might be willing to settle for a modest increase. But the government authorities know how contemptuous John L. Lewis is of wage boards and wage controls. When they treat with Murray they are looking over his head at Lewis.

### Throng of GIs Left Stranded At Terminals

By The Associated Press  
 GIs by the hundreds waited impatiently in airport terminals yesterday — stranded or delayed as they tried to rush home for Christmas.

Fog over San Francisco, mixups in non-scheduled airline flights and just the normal Christmas rush were some of the factors that slowed down the servicemen's trips.

Some were angered not only by the possibility that they wouldn't be home for Christmas, but by the hours slipping away on their last leaves before going to combat in Korea.

Among the latter were most of the several hundred service men stranded yesterday at Lockhead Air terminal in Burbank, Calif. They slept on floors and benches or went to hotels when non-scheduled planes on which they had bought tickets failed to appear or had no room for them.

### Cardinal Spellman Celebrates Mass In Korean Chapel

WITH FIRST CORPS, Korea, Monday, Dec. 24 (AP)—Archbishop Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York today celebrated his first wartime mass in Korea in a chapel built from a bombed out quonset hut. A congregation of 600 soldiers jammed the newly built chapel. It was filled shortly before 7:30 a.m., when the Cardinal Spellman arrived wearing army winter clothes and donned his mass vestments.

Following mass, Cardinal Spellman stood outside the chapel and shook hands with every soldier, asking his name and home. He asked each to write his name and leave it and relatives address so he could write them on his return to New York.



**LAST SHOPPING DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

### 'Point 4' Director Killed

8 Americans, 13 Others Perish in Iran Air Mishap

TEHRAN, Iran, Dec. 23 (AP)—Dr. Henry G. Bennett, director of President Truman's Point Four program, seven other Americans, and 13 other persons perished last night in an airplane crash during a blinding snowstorm just north of Tehran.

Mrs. Bennett was among the victims. The American party was coming to Tehran for an official five-day visit in connection with the U. S. Point Four program of technical aid for underdeveloped countries. The tragedy cast gloom over the American embassy here which had prepared elaborate plans to entertain the Christmas visitors.

The four-engined plane, which belonged to Egypt's MISR airlines, tried doggedly last night to pierce the overcast from Iran's first snowstorm of the season. Finally, the Egyptian pilot was instructed to go to Basra, Iraq, or return to Baghdad, Iraq, where the plane had taken off for Tehran.

It crashed into the base of a steep 10,000-foot granite range forming a barrier north of the capital. There were no survivors of the accident, the worst in Iran's history. The crash scene was five miles from the Tehran airport.

In addition to the Bennetts, other Americans aboard were identified as Benjamin Hardy, Dr. Bennett's public affairs officer; James T. Mitchell, audio-visual specialist; A. C. Crilley, Dr. Bennett's special assistant; Louis Henrik Jordal, a University of Michigan botanist believed to have been on a mission for the United Nations food and agricultural organization (FAO); Jesse Lee Smith, Columbus, Ga., representing the Centennial Cotton Gin company; and Mrs. Emiljaan Schneidgar (address unknown).

The other victims were six Iranians, the five Egyptian crew members, one German and one Indonesian.

The Iranian government sent expressions of sympathy and condolence to the United States government. In Washington, the White House expressed deep shock at the news of the tragedy. Dr. Bennett left Washington last month.

Dr. Bennett, 65, who was on leave from his post as president of Oklahoma A. and M. college, at Stillwater, Okla., took the post as head of the technical assistance program in November, 1950.

The Bennetts are survived by three daughters and two sons.

### 72nd Wedding Anniversary Due in Albany

ALBANY, Dec. 23—On Christmas day, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Weaver will celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary, and while no open house is planned this year, Mrs. Weaver said their door is always open to friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver were both born in Illinois. Mr. Weaver at Winnebago Jan. 25, 1857, and Mrs. Weaver at Durand on Aug. 29, of the same year.

They were married at Durand on Dec. 25, 1879 in their new home. Mrs. Weaver prepared the wedding dinner for the wedding party and guests.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Weaver came to Albany. The passing years have dealt lightly with the well-known couple, although Mr. Weaver is now confined to the house to a great extent.

Mrs. Weaver does all her own house work with the exception of the laundry which is sent out. Their home contains many pieces of furniture and dishes which would delight the heart of any collector of antiques. Among these is an organ, a gift to Mrs. Weaver from her father on her 16th birthday.

The only children of the couple died in infancy. However, Mr. and Mrs. Weaver have near them a daughter, Mrs. Mary Weaver, who is Mrs. Patricia Bryant, who with her four children, give an added interest to the daily lives of the elderly couple. Mrs. Bryant's husband is in Korea.

### Fairview Pageant Depicts Christmas Hymns



Fairview school pupils observed the Christmas season with a pageant depicting the "Origin of Christmas Hymns," presented to the public and Fairview employees Friday night. Center piece of the pageant was the nativity scene with two of the pupils acting as Mary and Joseph, above. The same program was presented for the students Friday afternoon, and featured the school orchestra and choir. (Statesman photo).

### Frankfort Mine Explosion Toll Climbs to 101

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., Dec. 23 (AP)—The known death toll in the West Frankfort mine disaster climbed to 101 tonight as the government began an inquiry into the disaster.

Seventy-eight bodies have been recovered from the blast-torn tunnels of the Orient No. 2 mine, and another 22 were seen by rescue workers underground. One miner died in a hospital tonight of injuries received in the blast.

There were still parts of the mine to probe. Even as weary rescue workers, some near exhaustion, wormed deeper into catacombs of the 550-foot deep shaft. Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman had 12 investigators at the scene.

He himself flew here from Washington today with John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers. On hand, too, was John Forbes, director of the U. S. bureau of mines.

Together the three went down in the timber-shattered mine for a quick look. When Chapman emerged from the pit, he said he was on his way to the state capitol at Springfield to confer with Governor Adlai Stevenson. He plans to return to Washington tomorrow.

The rescue work at the sprawling mine near West Frankfort—a city of sorrow this Sunday before Christmas—moved along slowly.

The volunteer workers, most of them veterans of the coal pits, labored under intense heat and fought a treacherous foe—the same deadly gas which caused the explosion two miles back from the shaft some 550 feet below the surface.

All except three bodies have been identified. Many of them were horribly mangled by the great blast which shook the mine's 12-mile of tunnels about 8:30 p.m. Friday.

### Rooming-House Blaze Fatal to Man at Reedsport

REEDSPORT, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—A body believed to be that of Denny Hartford, a logger, was found today in the charred ruins of a combination restaurant and rooming house here.

Fire broke out in the building early last Friday. A waitress ran from room to room awakening about 36 guests and directing them to safety.

It was thought everyone had gotten out of the building until the body was discovered today. Hartford was a logger for the Gardiner Lumber company.

### Hungary Fines 4 U.S. Fliers \$30,000 Each

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Dec. 23 (AP)—A Hungarian military court convicted four American fliers for violating Hungary's borders and fined them each 360,000 forints (about \$30,000) today. A government announcement said they confessed and acquiesced in the verdict.

If they cannot or will not pay, they will have to go to jail for three months. There was no immediate hint as to when or whether the fliers would be freed. It was unlikely that two captains and two sergeants would have the equivalent of \$120,000 in their pockets.

"It is a complete surprise to me," said U. S. Minister Christian Ravndal when informed of the development by newspapers. "We had no idea when a trial would be held. I really can't give any comment now."

U. S. legation officials have not been permitted to see the fliers, who were forced down in Hungary November 19 while on a flight from Germany to Yugoslavia by Russian fighter planes stationed in Hungary under the peace treaty. The court ordered the plane, a C-47 confiscated with all its equipment, which Hungarian officials said proved the fliers meant to help spies and diversions in Hungary.

The fliers are John J. Swift of Glen Falls, N. Y., Capt. David H. Henderson of Shawnee, Okla., T. Sgt. Jess A. Duff of Spokane, Wash., and Sgt. James A. Flam of Kingsland, Ark.

The government's announcement they admitted that they "violated the Hungarian border near Gyula on November 19." It said they could not give a "satisfactory explanation" why they possessed military maps of some parts of the Soviet Union and the people's democracies, nor why there were parachutes in "super-fluo numbers," a radio transmitter and bundles of warm blankets in the plane.

Some of the readings reported were: Fargo, N. D. -26; Duluth, Minn. -14; Glasgow, Mont. -20; Seattle 30, and Greensboro, N. C. 20.

### Gen. Dean Spent 20 Days Without Food Before Capture; Red Newsman Tells of Interview

By ROBERT B. TUCKMAN  
 PANMUNJON, Korea, Dec. 23 (AP)—A Communist correspondent, who said he interviewed Maj. Gen. William F. Dean in a North Korean prison camp only two days ago, related today that the long missing 24th Division commander saved his last bullet to kill himself rather than be captured in the summer of 1950.

But the general was betrayed by two English-speaking Koreans who at first befriended him—only to hand him over to North Korean troops. Wounded and faint from 20 days without food, Dean was quickly over-powered before he could use his gun.

The dramatic and detailed account of Dean's capture on August 25, 1950 and the amazing story of the month Dean spent eluding the Reds in South Korean hills were told by Wilfred Burchett, 40, correspondent for the Paris newspaper Ce Soir. An Australian by birth, Burchett served as an allied war correspondent in southeast Asia and southwest Pacific war theaters during World War II.

Burchett's story, tinged only in a few places with Communist propaganda, agreed generally with earlier reports of Dean's saga, which had been pieced together from both Communist and friendly sources.

### Pre-Yule Activity Near End

"Twas the night before Christmas . . ."  
 Pre-Christmas activities will shift tonight from the stores and offices to the homes of area residents as preparations are completed for celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Christ.

By 6 p. m. tonight most stores will be closed to permit clerks and workers to spend Christmas eve with their families. Some stores including Miller's will close at 4:30 p. m. Stores will remain closed Christmas day.

State, county, and city offices will be open today but most will be staffed by a skeleton office force necessary for limited operations.

Federal offices except for the postoffice will not operate today. But for postal employees the day will see a flurry of activities designed to get Christmas mail delivered before Christmas day. Regular deliveries were made Sunday to keep the heavy flow of mail from jamming post office facilities.

Weathermen couldn't promise a white Christmas, but they expected it to be a bright one. A high pressure area spread into the Willamette valley Sunday bringing sunny skies and cooler temperatures. The weather bureau at McNary field said it looked like the weather would stay that way for the next couple of days.

Lack of precipitation, either rain or snow, promised some salvation for people planning out-of-state or across-the-mountains trips for the holidays. All major highways were reported in normal condition for the season Sunday. Little new snowfall was recorded over the state on the weekend.

While residents made final preparations for the holiday, Salem merchants were looking back on a highly successful Christmas season. One merchant said Christmas business was just "about equal" to last year.

Parties and dances have been scheduled at several state institutions in Salem tonight. Special Christmas eve programs are planned for the Hillcrest school for girls and at McClaren Boy's school.

Special Christmas dinners, turkey and all the trimmings, are slated for state institutions. At Oregon state hospital 3,000 patients and attendants will have distribution of gifts. Several institutions will have Christmas trees and distribution of gifts Christmas eve.

The Salvation Army will distribute gifts to inmates at the Oregon state penitentiary. The state purchasing department reported it had purchased a liberal supply of nuts, candies and oranges for the Christmas holiday at all institutions. (Christmas church services story on page 2).

### Slide Blocks Columbia Highway for Nine Hours

HOOD RIVER, Dec. 23 (AP)—A slide blocked the Columbia River highway for about nine hours today.

State police said the slide hit the road five miles east of Viento at about 6 a.m. A 60-ton boulder had to be cut up and hauled away before the highway was reopened at about 3 p.m.

### Holiday Accident Toll Climbs to 318

By The Associated Press  
 As the early hours of the long Christmas holiday slipped past, the nation counted its mounting list of dead—victims of violent accidents.

Tragedy visited hundreds of families—crashing Yuletide joy—with at least 318 lives lost in a variety of accidents, principally traffic and fires. Traffic mishaps killed 235 persons, while 48 were lost in fires and 35 died in miscellaneous accidents during the period from 6 p.m. (local time) to 11 p.m. EST Sunday.

The nation's safety council and forecast 600 traffic deaths in the 108 hours ending at midnight Tuesday. That is the highest prediction the council ever made for a holiday period.

### Cascades Slide Halts Traffic on SP Main Line

Salem train traffic was idle on the main north-south lines of Southern Pacific railroad after tons of rock and dirt crashed on a freight train south of Crescent Lake, derailing seven cars and blocking main line tracks through the Cascade mountains early Sunday.

No trains had passed through Salem up to midnight last night. The slide occurred 32 miles south of Crescent lake at 4:40 a. m. station agents said. The first of four northbound passenger trains was expected then to reach Salem by 1:30 a. m. today.

Delayed were two northbound sections of the Cascade passenger train, the Klamath, the Shasta Daylight and all freight traffic, officials said.

No one was injured when the slide struck the train which was standing on a siding. The cars, however, tipped on to the main line tracks which run alongside. Blocked tracks delayed the arrival of north and south bound trains all along the route. The south bound Shasta Daylight was rerouted through Roseburg and Ashland, Ore., and will arrive in San Francisco several hours late.

### Retail Price Rise Continues

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23 (AP)—Retail prices were increased throughout the west from October 15 to November 15 and, in a number of cities, reached an all-time high level, Max Kossoris, western director of the bureau of labor statistics, reported today.

During that 30-day period of both goods and services hit new peaks in Los Angeles and Seattle. In other cities food prices were the principal factors in the rises. Both Salt Lake City and Denver reached new all-time highs for retail food prices in November while Portland missed the all-time high of last May by 2 of a percentage point.

Portland was the only city reported that did not show a new price peak in some category. Portland's food price level rose 2 per cent during the October-November month to 251.8, just one-tenth of a cent below the all time high reached in May of this year.

State police said the slide hit the road five miles east of Viento at about 6 a.m. A 60-ton boulder had to be cut up and hauled away before the highway was reopened at about 3 p.m.

### Mexico Scene of Tragedy

TIJUANA, Mex., Dec. 23 (AP)—Fire turned a gay Christmas party for poor children into a screaming death trap in which at least 41 persons perished here last night.

One man was reported missing and it was believed his body and that of others were in the fire ruins.

The Miguel Aleman hospital treated 88 persons and reported 32 in serious condition.

Most of the dead and injured were women and children, Dr. A. D. Alberto Rojo, under-director of the hospital, said.

The poor children were getting presents from the Christmas tree on the stage of the third-floor auditorium of the old coliseum building, when the fire started.

Survivors said two rowdies started scuffling near the tree and knocking it over. This caused the electric lighting to short and start the blaze.

A different version came from an official source, however. District Attorney Francisco Castanon, Jr., said an investigation indicated dropped stairs started the fire. Castanon said the fire was the highest for any fire in Mexico's history.

"Just A Little Fire"  
 "It was just a little fire at first," said 13-year-old Lenor Medrano, whose mother was among the victims. The child was carried out of the building by a man. She didn't know him.

"Nobody was afraid right away," the child said. Men started throwing beer on the burning tree, some of them laughing as they did so.

Instead of going out, the flames leaped up and ignited the curtain on the stage; then roared up to the ceiling.

A crowd, estimated by authorities as from 300 to 400, was seated on benches and in the hall and in a balcony surrounding it. Most of them were women and children.

Screams Heard  
 As the flames roared upwards, screams broke out. There was a quick movement in the crowd and the rush for the exit started. Alarm spread throughout the hall. It had two doors but one was locked.

The only open exit was down the front stairs to the street. The rush to that door, with men, women and children tumbling from the balcony to join in, caused a crush that closed it. Then, the lights went out.

Complete Panic  
 From then on, the survivors said, panic became complete. Little Lenor Medrano said she didn't know what happened to her mother. She became separated from her in the darkness, lighted by the terrifying glow from the fire.

She was being crushed under the mass of humanity in the stairway when the man lifted her to his shoulders and carried her out. "It was horrible, horrible, horrible," said Louis Alarid, announcer for radio station XEAM, which had studios in the building. He told of making his way from the structure ahead of the main rush. "All was madness," he declared.

Pressure Too Low  
 The single fire company of the border city of 40,000 reached the scene but found that water pressure was too low for it to check the blaze.

The firemen were met at the entrance by the rush of maddened humanity, as it pressed out crushing women and children beneath it.

"Everything was delirium," said Salvador Urquiza, reporter for a Tijuana newspaper who assisted many from the building. Some jumped from the windows, he said. Those who were injured in the fall crawled across the street to avoid being trampled upon.

The building destroyed was a concrete and wood structure. The Christmas party was an annual affair, arranged by private charities.

### Mine Widows Woman Twice

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill., Dec. 23 (AP)—For the second time in 26 years West Frankfort's Orient No. 2 mine has made 48-year-old Mrs. Goldie Sandusky a widow.

Her second husband, Stanley Sandusky, 49, was one of the men lost in Friday night's explosion. Twenty years ago her first husband, Noah Avery, was killed in a cave-in there.

Mrs. Dean, informed earlier of the interview, said the quotations sounded like Dean—particularly a joke about his "German gotter." She also confirmed that August 25 was their wedding anniversary, as the communist correspondent reported.

Dean, missing since July, 1950, was named on the communist prisoners of war list handed United Nations command truce negotiators. A communist correspondent told AP correspondent Robert D. Tuckman of interviewing Dean in a North Korean prison camp only two days ago.

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Most of the time, Dean was sick, Burchett said. His left shoulder was broken. He suffered from dysentery or an acute intestinal infection, and finally malaria.

However, Burchett asserted Dean regained his health last September.

Burchett said he found Dean in good health last Friday. They talked for three hours in a two-room cellar that is his prison.

Dean asked, Burchett said, about his wife in Berkeley, Calif., and his son and daughter.

He told Burchett that last August 25 his thoughts were of his wife. That day marked one year that he was captured. It also was his silver wedding anniversary.

It did not turn out that way. Near Chinan, about 30 miles south of Taejon, he was led into a trap by two Koreans who had befriended him. When North Korean soldiers closed in with their rifles, Dean drew his gun but one of his "friends" grabbed his arm before he could shoot.

The long chase was over for the Congressional Medal of Honor winner. The long months of imprisonment in semi-isolation stretched ahead.

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