

Pullman Firm Plans Lay-off Of 3,000 Soon

CHICAGO (UP)—The Pullman Co. announced Thursday that it will lay off 3,000 employees at repair shops in Chicago and four other cities for a period of four weeks. The company said the layoff, longest since before World War II, will extend from Dec. 27 to Jan. 24. It will affect 950 employees of the Chicago shops and the remainder at St. Louis, Buffalo, N.Y., Wilmington, Del., and Richmond, Calif. Fred Boeckelman, manager of employee relations, said the layoffs are necessitated by declining revenue. Meanwhile, the Order of Railway Conductors announced it has accepted the recommendations of a presidential fact finding board for a 5 cent hourly pay raise for about 2000 Pullman conductors. A. Guy Wise, executive vice president of the union, said the raise would amount to about \$10.25 a month. The union originally sought a \$21.50 monthly increase. Wise said the union would meet with the company shortly to negotiate minor issues and sign the new contract.

Santa Cheers Party for Blind In 'Toyland'

By NELSON W. NEAL
United Press Staff Correspondent
DETROIT, Mich. (UP)—Santa Claus kept a date in toyland with more than 200 boys and girls Wednesday night. Many of them never had seen Santa before. Many never will see him for the rest of their lives. They are blind. But they tenderly stroked his snow-white beard and laughed when he whispered strange promises in their ears.

Some cried. More than 60 of the children at the annual toyland party sponsored by the Ernst Kern department store were the sons and daughters of blind parents. For the sightless, Toyland was only a world of strange and wonderful sounds, the touch of a cuddly panda bear; the feel of the smooth, straight lines of an electric train. A lot of free hot dogs, ice cream, pop and some kiddie-land rides were tossed in for good measure.

Eighth Year
It was the eighth consecutive year the big department store has thrown open its doors to blind families after regular shopping hours.

"My two children can see, but I'm blind," one young mother explained. "I came to this party last year and had a chance to inspect some of the toys my children wanted by just feeling the toys and trying them out."

But no sales are ever made at the department store party. Store officials say it would be "too commercial."

The parties were suggested in 1946 by Harry Hunter of Detroit, himself blind and president of the Associated Blind Activities. He has worked each year with the store officials to make the party a success. Hunter's wife, Olga, is also blind, but they have two children with good vision.

The Lions Club furnished transportation to the affair. Clerks at the store volunteered their services to stay overtime as hosts and hostesses.

Wait to "See" Santa
"Long lines of children waited to 'see' Santa. Some were frightened when placed on his lap. Others tenderly stroked his white hair and his red velvet suit. A freckle-faced chap tried to bite Santa's nose, but the jolly old man ducked in time.

Four-year-old Linda Hamm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hamm, approached Santa cautiously in her dark world. Her mother and father, also blind, encouraged her from the sidelines.

When Linda climbed from Santa's lap she felt for the waiting arms of her parents, and laughed joyfully when she told them of getting a box of candy from the old gentleman.

"Well, did you see Santa Claus?" her father asked innocently. "Yes, I did," the little girl shouted. "I said I wanted a piano when I saw Santa."

Surrounded by Christmas trees and tinsel and all the greens and reds and yellows of toyland, the little girl looked straight ahead in the darkness.

Agreement Ends Smelter Strike Near Spokane

SPOKANE (AP)—Agreement was reached Wednesday to end a four and one-half month strike of workers at the Grandview Mine and Mill near Metlaine Falls, an official of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers reported. J. L. Daugherty, international representative of the union, said the agreement, calling for a five per cent pay boost, is subject to ratification of the union members. In addition to the five per cent increase, he said, the contract would also allow a retroactive increase of five cents per hour for work during the month of July. Also included, he said, are improvements in bonus payments to production workers. The Grandview mine is operated by the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Co.

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