



WASHINGTON — Mamie Eisenhower displays her Christmas gift from the president—a gold medallion in the form of a five-pointed star encircled with a holly wreath and bearing the engraving: "To Mamie." On the reverse side is this inscription: "For never-failing help, since 1916—in calm and in stress, in dark days and in bright. Love—like, Christmas 1955." The president designed the medallion. (AP Wirephoto). (Story, page 2, sec. 2).

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sponage

I should like to be one of the first to buy the invention described by James Reston, head of the Times bureau in Washington, in his column in the New York Times of Dec. 18th. He calls it a "uniquack," and says it is a "comparatively small device" that can be attached to a TV set. It is used to test the accuracy of political statements. It is sensitive only to politics, and as long as the telecaster sticks to the truth it does not function. But let the speaker start to deceive the listener "the screen gradually turns to a light pink-sort of blushes." Then if the politician fails to heed this signal and get back to veracity "the pink flush slowly turns to a darker red until, in an extremity, a bell rings inside the machine."

Reston admits the machine has some weaknesses. It will become emotionally disturbed "while auditing some particularly outrageous bit of nonsense." For example, when Harold Stassen said President Eisenhower could wait till June or (Continued on Editorial Page, 4)

Inmate Wins 'Battle' to Stay in City Jail

A persistent prisoner appeared Sunday night to have won a "battle of nerves" against Municipal Judge Douglas L. Hay. Released from a sentence for intoxication with all other city jail inmates as a Christmas present Saturday noon, he was back in again (same charge) Saturday night. So the judge let him out again Christmas morning. He was in again (same charge) that same afternoon.

Nana Bryant, Actress, Dies

HOLLYWOOD — Actress Nana Bryant, 67, who spent 50 years in show business, died Saturday in her apartment after a two-month illness.

Miss Bryant was known to viewers of the television show, "Our Miss Brooks," as Mrs. Nestor, owner of the school in which Miss Brooks (Eve Arden) taught. Miss Bryant portrayed the role until she became ill in October.



"Now we'll start you out on... Hey, cut that out! You're no more lame than I am!"

Englewood Church Bid on Council Docket

An Englewood church's building plan will pop up again before Salem City Council Tuesday night at City Hall.

The aldermen will be holding their business meeting then, because of the Christmas legal holiday falling on the regular council meeting date.

Englewood Evangelical United Brethren Church needs special permission to build a Sunday School addition up to its property lines at the rear of the church location at Nebraska and 17th Streets. Some neighborhood resistance has been encountered and the Planning Commission has recommended against the church plan.

Meat Inspection
A new item before the Council will be a bill to propose compulsory meat inspection in Salem. Long in preparation, this bill is sponsored by Alderman P. W. Hale.

Most of the bills before the council will itemize the routine street assessments, following through the 1955 paving program at property owners' expense.

YMCA Variance
Several recent actions of the Planning Commission will come up for review, including the recent variance permit to allow the YMCA to build an addition without the required off-street parking spaces.

The Council also will consider an unfavorable report from the State Highway Department on a recent proposal from lower Chemska Street business firms that two-way traffic be restored west of Commercial Street.

Fire Rumor Panic Kills 13 in Theater

TAMPICO, Mexico — A false cry of fire set off a panic in an old movie theater here Sunday and 13 spectators were killed in a rush for the exits. Nine of the dead were children.

Many other persons were injured. The theater had a capacity of about 1,500.

Refugee Scientist Solves 'Atomic Metal' Production Problem at Lab in Albany

WASHINGTON (AP) — The story of how a refugee scientist played a key role in research which led to commercial production of the new atomic metal zirconium was told Sunday by the Bureau of Mines.

Zirconium is now a vital construction material in the field of atomic energy and in atomic powerplants like the one used in the nuclear powered submarine Nautilus. The Bureau of Mines calls it "the metal with the bright atomic future."

Until last year the Bureau was the principal supplier of zirconium required by both the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Navy. The metal was made with a process developed by Dr. Wil-

liam J. Kroll, a metallurgist who fled from his native Luxembourg before the Nazi invasion of World War II. Dr. Kroll served with the Bureau as a consultant but left in April 1953 and now lives at Corvallis, Ore.

The Bureau of Mines has turned production of zirconium over to private industry and is working on ways of increasing the metal's usefulness. Commercial production of the metal climaxed 10 years of intensive research and experimentation begun at the Bureau's Northwest Electrodevelopment Laboratory at Albany, Ore.

Back in 1945 few people had ever heard of zirconium. It was little more than a laboratory curiosity then, made in small quantities by a slow and costly "iodine process."

When the Bureau metallurgists started looking for a way to produce the metal in volume, they turned to a titanium making process developed by Dr. Kroll, which he had patented in both Germany and the United States.

Salem Host to Inch of Rain on Christmas

Maybe only Junior, who wanted to try his new Christmas bicycle, noticed it, but Salem was treated to more than an inch of steady rain on Christmas day.

The Willamette River continued a steady fall, however, down to 18.8 at midnight, although several areas were reported still inundated.

Downtown streets were pretty well deserted, except for an occasional policeman. Free parking was available in front of any darkened store or restaurant window.

The forecast for today and Tuesday is more rain, a south wind with strong gusts and somewhat cooler temperatures, McNary Field weathermen said.

Strongwoman Drops Hope on His Head

LONDON — Comedian Bob Hope returned Sunday from Iceland where, one of his aides said, he was banged up in a fall while entertaining U.S. troops.

A spokesman for Hope told this story: During a performance Saturday at Keflavik, British strongwoman Joan Rhodes lifted Hope to her shoulders.

Suddenly he slipped off, cracked his head on the platform, cut his nose and hurt his neck. A London doctor treated him.

Hope appeared Sunday night as guest star on a British commercial TV program. He showed no visible effects and did not mention the fall.

The comedian went to an engagement after the show and newsmen were unable to check the account with him directly.

Frozen Milk Kept in Plastic

WASHINGTON — You soon may be able to pick up a bag of milk at the grocery.

Independence Farmer Feared Victim of Flood

INDEPENDENCE — A farmer in this area was feared drowned Sunday when his tractor was found in a deep hole in flooded lands near the Willamette River.

The missing man was identified as Lee C. Pope by Independence Police Chief George Utley. Pope was described as a bachelor about 70 years old who lived alone on the Marion County side of the Willamette River, a mile south of Independence.

Utley said a neighbor found the tractor Sunday when he went to the missing man's house. He found the missing man's dog alone and "very hungry," the chief said.

The tractor was found some 50 feet from the house in a hole four feet deep. The chief speculated that Pope met with accident on Thursday when flood waters were rising fast in this area. The water was receding Sunday.

The chief said Pope had driven his tractor to Independence on previous occasions when the Willamette River jumped its banks and threatened to isolate his house.

Cut Up By Holes
The chief said the road to Pope's property was "all cut up by holes caused by the flood" and the missing man may have been starting for town on his tractor again when the presumed accident occurred.

Utley said he doubted that the body would have been carried out to the channel of the river, several hundred yards away. He said he understood Pope has relatives in Springfield but none in this area.

The Marion County sheriff's office was called to investigate.

Labish Flood Waters Yield Body of Boy

BROOKS — The body of Peter Harris, missing 15-year-old Lake Labish area boy, was found Christmas morning in flood waters about half a mile from his home. The discovery capped intensive search and dragging operations conducted after the boy failed to return Friday night from an inspection of some traps.

Death of the boy was the first fatal accident in the Marion-Polk area to be attributed to flood conditions resulting from last week's storm.

Southwest Oregon Rivers Recede; Streams Rise Again

Among those missing was Lee C. Pope, 70, an Independence area farmer. (Story below).

Others reported missing included Elmer Leonard, 25, and his brother Richard, 21, of the Hood River area, missing in a Columbia River boating accident, and Fred Hale and Bill Geer, Grants Pass, the pilot and passenger in a light plane that disappeared in a Rogue River Valley flight Saturday.

The dead are: Peter Harris, 15, Brooks (story below); Cecil Connor, 37, Milo; Bert Gladney, 21, Pendleton; Ancil Lowmman, Nehalem; Victor Flury, 38, Roseburg; and John E. Clifford, 73, Oakridge. (Additional details, sec. 2, page 2).

State Holiday Dead At 6; U.S. Toll High

Earlier Ivan A. Senter, 40, Newberg, was killed in a tree topping accident.

A plane with two persons aboard was missing in the Rogue River Valley area of Southern Oregon.

A pilot's report of sighting the Christmas traffic death toll climbed steadily early Monday toward an almost certain all-time holiday record.

At 1:30 a.m. (EST) the highway toll was 433. Fires took 44 lives, miscellaneous accidents 49 for a total of 526 since 6 p.m. (local time) Friday.

The National Safety Council had predicted 560 highway deaths. The present record is 556.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Six persons died in Christmas holiday accidents in Oregon and two others were missing.

Traffic accidents claimed the lives of four. Donald Hugh Wilkinson, 20, a sailor on leave from the San Diego Naval Base, was injured fatally when an automobile plunged off a highway near Carlton and hit a power pole.

Harry Edwin Conklin, Salem, was killed Sunday in a two-car collision on Highway 99-E. (Story below).

Two-Car Crash on 99E Kills Salem Area Man

A 69-year-old Salem area man became Marion County's 32nd traffic fatality of 1955 in a two-car collision about 5:30 p.m. Sunday on Highway 99E at Chemska road.

Harry Edwin Conklin of Route 2, Box 404, was declared dead on arrival at Salem General Hospital, apparently from head injuries. His wife, Mrs. Anne E. Conklin, 64, and her sister, Mrs. Sadie Mitchell, 67, of Chemska, were hospitalized for observation and treatment of apparently minor injuries at 42 Salem General where they were taken by Willamette Ambulance.

Driver of the other car was listed by State Police as Homer Alfred Mitchell of Portland, no relation to Mrs. Mitchell. His injuries did not require treatment, police said.

Both cars were extensively damaged, police said, the car driven by Conklin, hit broadside, coming to rest, after throwing out all three of its occupants, in a nearby field.

Another car was damaged to the extent it had to be towed from the scene in a rear-end collision as traffic was being slowed at the accident scene.

Motorist Cited
Lloyd Duane Fountain, 5065 Lone Oak Rd., was cited for following too closely, police said. A car driven by Nellie Mae Mariott, Woodburn, received comparatively minor rear-end damage, police said. Minor injuries apparently did not require treatment, police said.

Conklin's death was the 42nd of the year in the combined Marion and Polk County areas. (Additional story in Section 2, Page 2.)

Love Conquers All in Race Across Nation

LOS ANGELES — It took a lot of trans-continental doing but a preacher from Oregon and a sympathetic marriage license clerk conspired to give a soldier and his New York sweetheart a Christmas Eve wedding.

Pfc. Donald Campbell, 19, of Fort Ord, talked long distance the other night with fiancee Janice C. Clary, 18, of North Stockton, N.Y. They decided they wanted to marry Christmas Eve.

Here's how they did it. Campbell took his health examination on the base. The bride-to-be took hers at home. Campbell contacted the Rev. J. Whitcomb Broucher, a Baptist minister of Portland, who was spending the holidays here with his son.

Dr. Broucher took the youth to the marriage license bureau where the clerk took the license home with her. The bride-to-be's plane wasn't due in until hours after the close of the bureau.

Auto Industry Inquiry Near

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Monroney (D-Okla) announced Sunday a Senate investigation will start Jan. 19 into automobile bootlegging, "wild credit" and other alleged abuses in the motor car sales industry.

The public hearings will climax an eight-month background probe by a special staff of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee.

Gunshot Breaks House Window

A window broken by gunshot was reported to city police Sunday evening by George Van Buren, 285 N. 21st St. He said he heard the shot a moment before the window in his house broke.

Investigating officers found a 22 caliber short slug on the window sill, apparently having been "stopped" by the window shade after being slowed by the glass, they said.

AIR TRAFFIC GAINS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) estimated Sunday that U. S. domestic and international scheduled airlines carried about 42 million passengers this year—a 19 per cent gain over 1954.

Denver 'Warm' On Christmas

DENVER — This mile-high city, only some 10 miles from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, celebrated its warmest Christmas Day on record Sunday.

Residents walked the streets in shirt-sleeves as the thermometer climbed to 66 degrees. The previous all-time high of 65 was recorded Christmas Day, 1946.

Denver's wasn't the highest reading in Colorado, however. At Trinidad, in Southern Colorado near the New Mexico border, the mercury soared to 71.

Cold Spreads South, East

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The beginning of a new cold wave spread south and east across the mid-continent Sunday while some cities in Texas and along the Gulf Coast basked in record warmth for any Christmas Day.

Temperatures dropped sharply in the Southern plains states. At Oklahoma City, Sunday's high was 48, just 37 degrees cooler than that on Saturday.

Dodge City, Kan., reported a high of 44, down 44 degrees in the same period, and Fort Worth, Texas, listed a high of 63, a drop of 23 degrees in 24 hours.

Stolen Truck Contains X-Ray

INDIANAPOLIS — The truck someone stole from the parking lot at the State Board of Health Saturday night was no ordinary vehicle.

It contains a \$10,000 X-ray machine used for giving chest examinations in schools and industrial plants throughout the state as part of the anti-tuberculosis campaign.

SAILORS HELP GRPHANS

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Crewmen of the U. S. passenger liner President Wilson have presented clothing and candy to needy orphans of Yokohama for the sixth consecutive Christmas.

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