

Stalin Reported Hale and Hearty On 69th Birthday

By Henry Shapiro
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Moscow, Dec. 21 (UP)—Premier Joseph Stalin is 69 years old today and from all recent reports he is hale, hearty and alert despite his graying hair and arduous life.

Newspapers made no mention of Stalin's birthday. It is not a national holiday, so no flags were unfurled, there were no celebrations or other public observances. But the soviet people know he

is 69. There is a simple notation on all soviet desk calendars saying "1879—Josef Vissarionovich Stalin born."

And Moscow radio, in its radio calendar feature, noted the day by saying "Josef Vissarionovich Stalin was born Dec. 21, 1879."

Pledge Increased Output

But on the eve of Stalin's birthday the bulk of Pravda's front page, like that of Izvestia and other newspapers, was devoted to what has become a long-established, peculiarly soviet institution—letters to Stalin pledging increased industrial and agricultural output.

These are from workers, engineers and party leaders. The letters come from all over the soviet zone. They promise Stalin more meat, wool, fish, rail car loadings, timber, and other things. They wish him health and many years

of life, but they do not mention his birthday.

Name Is Symbolic

This may be because Stalin's name is symbolic in this country, not only of supreme communist party leadership but also of superlative wisdom, knowledge, goodness and the other accepted virtues.

Only last week, Stalin, who recently returned from a southern vacation, entertained the Czechoslovak trade delegation at a Kremlin banquet. Guests reported he looked tanned, cheerful and vigorous.

There is not a single responsible diplomat here who believes repeated foreign reports that Stalin's health is failing or that his role in soviet leadership is not what it used to be.

Star Glows From Top of Juniper

Prineville, Dec. 21—A "Star of Bethlehem" atop a weathered, dead giant juniper tree, its message of illumination, "Peace on Earth to Men of Goodwill," shining forth above a base of many brilliantly colored lesser lights, will be lighted this week again by residents of this city's new residential districts, Ochoco Heights and Loma Vista.

The old juniper was first lighted in 1940. It is recalled by Mrs. M. D. Barney, who with her husband were among the first to make their home on Ochoco Heights. At that time only 13 families resided in the district. Today 80 families dwell in the modern new homes, overlooking Prineville at its north edge. She recalls that the task of those who conceived the Christmas celebration with the tree and its "Star of Bethlehem" was lighted by the substantial aid rendered by J. F. Daggett, general manager of the Alexander Yawkey Lumber company. He had a crew wire the old juniper.

To Be Last Year

The Ochoco Heights and Loma Vista residents, however, will view the glowing juniper this year with a wistfulness, for it will be its final year of existence. The old tree is on grounds around a modern new duplex, now being finished in the district by Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Wilson. It will be felled and burned when the holiday season is over. The residents will wish it were like the mythological Phoenix and could recreate a new tree from the ashes. They say, however, they will continue the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree, which has been observed since the custom was launched every year except those of war days when black-out regulations prevented. If necessary a big juniper or a conifer from the surrounding forests will be erected on the heights.

All of the 80 families of the neighborhood will participate in decoration of the lighted Christmas tree this year, according to Mrs. Curtis H. Saunders who has spent the week end collecting colored electric bulbs and other decorative material. And in addition nearly every home on the heights has erected special outdoor illumination. At the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Jordan appears a large mechanical representation of Santa Claus, bounding along in his sleigh, drawn by his reindeer herd in full flight.

The causes of most tractor accidents are falls from the machine overturning of the tractor, and refueling hazards.

Power Service Is Interrupted

Prineville, Dec. 21—Harold Henninger, local manager of the Pacific Power & Light Co., said yesterday that the cause of interruption of service, which lasted 48 minutes here early Sunday evening, remained a mystery.

It was indicated that some kind of frost condition on the high voltage trunkline between the Cove and White river plants had caused switches to kick out at Hood River. The Dalles and at the Cove plant on Crooked river. The apparent short hit the terminal facilities of a telephone line carried on poles of the trunkline, Henninger said.

Henninger said that the line was being thoroughly patrolled yesterday in an effort to ascertain the cause of the interruption, which lasted about 15 minutes less time at Redmond and Madras than at Prineville. Bend was not affected, he said.

Waterfowl Hunt Opens Thursday

At noon, Thursday, the second half of Oregon's split season for duck and goose hunting opens. The season will extend through January 8. Duck stamps are issued on the basis of a year extending from July to July so the same stamp that was valid for the first half of the season will be valid through the whole season.

Oregon hunting licenses are issued on the basis of the calendar year and it will be necessary to secure a 1949 hunting license to hunt waterfowl during the period from January 1 to 8. Hunting licenses for 1949 will be sold at the same rate that they were in 1948.

ed hamilton

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Official Records

MARRIAGE LICENSES

The county clerk yesterday issued marriage licenses to Floyd William Snyder and Lois May Ash, and to William M. Russell and Constance Lou Harkness, all of Bend, and to Ray W. Dunn and Evelyn E. Cross, both of Redmond.

CIRCUIT COURT

W. E. Shaver was plaintiff in a civil action complaint filed yesterday naming William E. Sterling and Shirley M. Sterling defendants. The complaint alleged that the defendants owed the plaintiff \$1193.61, the balance due of an amount to be paid agreed to in a business transaction between the plaintiff and the defendants in May, 1948, asking settlement of this amount plus costs and disbursements.

Bend Youth on Carrier Tarawa

Francis LeRoy Hall, aviation structural mechanic, third class, USN, son of Mrs. LeRoy Hall of Route 2, Bend, Ore., is serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Tarawa, a unit of Task Force 38, which is now undergoing an intensive training period in the western Pacific and the China sea area.

These exercises are being conducted for the purpose of giving officers and men of the task force realistic training in all phases of naval activities. In addition to the training on ship board, personnel familiarize themselves with the ports and peoples of foreign lands.

Ports of call between training maneuvers, include Honolulu, Tsingtao, China, Yokosuka, Japan and Guam.

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To Peggy—

for bringing up our children—while I mostly sat back and gave advice.

for being the family chauffeur, years on end.

for planning a thousand meals a year—and having them taken for granted.

for constant tenderness I rarely notice but am sure I couldn't live without.

for wanting a good watch ever so long . . . and letting your slow-moving husband think he'd hit on it all by himself.

Peggy—

To Jim

for the things you didn't say the time I ripped off the fender.

for balancing my checkbook without grumbling or plying.

for sparing me those chilly trips to heat the 6 A.M. bottle.

for not having to be defrosted when I forgot to send your suit to be pressed.

for being so eternally there for me to lean on!

for wanting a good watch for years and years, but being too unselfish to go and spend the money on yourself.

Jim

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FRANCES . . . \$100.00
14k natural or white gold case.

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14k natural gold-filled case.

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Bold stripes or paisleys in fine quality broadcloth, fashioned by Van Heusen and others—we have his sizes and colors.

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