

Mercy airlift resumes after anguishing delay

MIAMI (UPI)—The mercy airlift bringing ransomed Cuban prisoners of war back to the arms of their loved ones in time for Christmas resumed today after an anguishing delay of more than 13 hours.

Today's first plane, the fifth in the two-day freedom airlift twice interrupted by long delays, touched down at Homestead Air Force Base near Miami at 10:23 a.m.

There, as before, the clean shaven but shaggy haired and slightly underweight prisoners were processed, fed, given new khaki clothing and a \$100 check and then sent by bus to meet their waiting relatives and friends.

Relatives barred from the air

base waited impatiently at Dinner Key auditorium 18 miles away to end a separation of more than 20 months.

The second plane of the day already was winging toward Homestead, the Red Cross announced, as the morning's trail blazer rolled up to its ramp bearing along its 109 passengers one stretcher case and one ailing prisoner who was, however, able to walk.

Waiting Relatives

At the Dinner Key auditorium, a skeletal and cavernous former seaplane hangar now used for various types of exhibitions, relatives had begun to straggle in at 6 a.m.

The long wait of Sunday had taught them a lesson in patience,

and by the time the first plane arrived at Homestead there were only 3,000 in the hall. They had, they knew, probably two hours to wait before the prisoners arrived by bus.

Officials apparently were concerned that unless they stepped up their flight schedule they might run into more inexplicable delays such as occurred Sunday when 425 of the prisoners taken in the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion finally were brought to Miami.

The first delay lasted almost 11 hours as Premier Fidel Castro personally inspected manifest of supplies promised in the \$70 million ransom he demanded.

Then, although plane crews had hoped to work all night if neces-

sary to shuttle out the remaining Cubans, imprisoned for more than 20 months, there was another closing of the sugar cane curtain.

Planes waited in Cuba from 7:27 a.m. until 5:07 p.m. Sunday before the first was permitted to leave. Only four plane loads were flown out.

"Happiest Christmas"

"This will be the happiest Christmas of our lives," the liberated captives agreed after four planes carried them through velvet skies Sunday night to the arms of their loved ones waiting in Miami.

They were ready to fight again for the liberation of their homeland "after we fatten up a little." But the clean-shaven if shaggy patriots worried fretfully over the

fate of those they had left behind. They knew they had reason. Because their own families had waited through nearly 11 anguishing hours Sunday while the bearded Castro personally held up the first plane load of prisoners.

According to one released prisoner, Castro's deliberate stalling ceased only after a heated protest by New York attorney James B. Donovan.

Enrique Ruiz Williams, who arrived here on the first plane, said Donovan pleaded with Castro "to let the first plane go."

According to Ruiz, the Cuban premier finally waved his arms wildly and shouted:

"All right. And use all your planes. Get them out of here."

The first plane assigned to return the prisoners had landed at San Antonio at 7:27 a.m. On the freedom side of the Sugar Cane Curtain there was no inkling of what was transpiring as hour followed worrisome hour without any news of the long-expected prison-

er airlift.

Relatives had begun to gather in cavernous Dinner Key Auditorium, once a seaplane hangar, at dawn. They were not allowed at Homestead Air Force base, where the airlift planes were to land and the prisoners were to be fed and processed.

Then, at 6:06 p.m., with only a faint glow still baby pink in the western sky, the first plane made its touchdown at Homestead. A searchlight battery brought in by the Strategic Air Command played on the glistening white fuselage of the Pan American plane.

Whirlpool Of Emotion

Moments after the first 108 liberated prisoners began to disembark, walking into a whirlpool of emotion. Officials broke through restraining ropes. And at the foot of

the ramp, clad in the insulting butter yellow T-shirts they now wear as a badge of honor, waited many of the 60 sick and wounded released "on credit" in April.

One of them hobbled forward on one leg, the other left back there on the shores of the Bay of Pigs, to embrace a comrade.

Another hugged to him a cousin. One whose face was empty but his grip was firm.

These were men. Yet the tears flowed unashamed.

"Viva los Estados Unidos," shouted one, wiping his eyes. "Viva Kennedy."

Another's voice floated out over the crowd.

"We are not here because of what we did. We are here, thanks to the people of the United States."

Leaders of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) confident of a quick victory, turned-hour appeal for a 90-day truce he had urged "in the national interest."

The dockworkers helped shippers load and unload cargoes in the feverish last hours of port activity, then walked off the pier from Maine to Texas at the appointed hour of 5 p.m. EST. An 80-day "cooling off" period ordered under the Taft-Hartley Act expired at that time.

In answer to Kennedy's warning that the strike would "choke the economy and cut the nation's lifelines with the rest of the world," the ILA replied it would be "fruitless" to delay a walkout for three months of talks. The union promised to continue handling all military cargo.

The main issue in the deadlocked dispute was over the size of work gangs. The New York Shipping Association (NYSA) wants the gangs reduced from 20 to 17. The ILA officials in a reduction would result in 5,000 longshoremen losing their jobs.

Predict Short Strike

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"They're very weak, we'll lick 'em fast," he declared.

Similar views were expressed by ILA officials in other cities.

In New Orleans, ILA Local 1418 President Alfred Chittenden estimated the strike will last only 8 to 10 days because "the country can't take it" any longer.

A Virginia dock foreman said a settlement will come "after the holidays when everybody will be more suitable to concentrate."

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Partially Loaded

Other vessels were loaded or put ashore, and still more ships arrived in ports after the deadline with goods that will remain in holds for an indefinite period.

The Coast Guard announced in New York that boarding parties will examine the contents of all ships reported carrying "dangerous or hazardous" commodities. The inspection will be made to assure that proper safety precautions are observed, Coast Guard spokesmen said.

One vessel under close watch was the Peruvian freighter Amazonas, anchored off Savannah, Ga. The Amazonas was carrying a cargo of highly combustible fish meal which could ignite spontaneously if stored for a long period.

Token Pickets Appear

The Coast Guard said that between 50 and 60 ships remained in berths or at anchor in the New York port area as of 6 a.m. today. About 70 others departed Sunday and during the pre-dawn hours this morning.

Token platoons of pickets appeared at some docks in the New York-New Jersey waterfront area and along the Texas coast. But most ILA locals indicated they will not organize picket lines on a regular basis until Wednesday.

Tugboat crews helped move several freighters in and out of New York harbor berths following the walkout deadline. They reported that since no picket boats were observed, there was no reason to refuse service, according to the Moran Towing and Transportation Co.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE BEND BULLETIN

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CENTRAL OREGON'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Hopes rising for 'safest' U.S. holiday

By United Press International

Hopes rose today that the Nation would give itself a heartening Christmas present—the safest Christmas holiday weekend on record.

The National Safety Council revised its estimate of a possible 650 to 750 traffic deaths to 550. President Howard Pyle said "if the present trend holds... this would be the safest Christmas holiday on record" in terms of miles driven and cars on the road.

The United Press International count at 12:30 p.m. EST showed 354 persons dead in traffic accidents since the 102-hour holiday began at 6 p.m. local time Friday.

The breakdown of holiday deaths:

- Traffic 354
- Fires 31
- Planes 3
- Miscellaneous 40
- Total 454

California, with 30 traffic deaths, led the fatality count. There were 29 in Illinois, where the death count was the worst in four years, 25 in Texas, 16 in both New York State and Florida, 15 in Georgia, 13 in both Indiana and South Carolina, and 12 in Ohio and Alabama.

At a similar time in past yuletide holidays, there were 376 traffic deaths in 1953, 479 in 1955, 428 in 1956, 393 in 1958, 368 in 1960 and 424 last year.

The safety council was at a loss for the reason behind the low toll. One explanation appeared to be the snowy, icy weather prevailing across much of the central and Appalachian regions. The dangerous driving conditions prompted motorists to slow down.

Undated Oregon Traffic Fatalities

By United Press International

The Christmas holiday weekend traffic deaths in Oregon stood at one Monday.

The victim was Alice Thompson, a 26-year-old Eugene school teacher who was killed Friday night. She died in a 20-car accident on S.H. Highway 20 14 miles west of Burns.

Her car went out of control and overturned after hitting ice on the highway.

Michael R. Williams, a 22-year-old sailor from Gladstone stationed aboard the USS Buchanan, was killed in a one-car crash near Gorman, Calif., Sunday.

The car in which he was riding swerved off a highway and overturned.

Woman treated after accident

A young airman from Mountain Home, Ida., U.S. Air Force base, was operator of a car involved in a one-car mishap Sunday morning on the David L. Jones Grade. He was Horace L. Ridge, 20.

His wife, Irma, was brought to Bend and treated at the St. Charles Memorial Hospital. The accident occurred when the west-bound car struck a slick spot on the highway, rolled over its top and came to rest across the road. The accident occurred about 9:45 a.m. and Oregon State Police investigated.

In another accident, Lloyd E. Reed, 344 Delaware, suffered cuts when his car skidded on the Couch Market Road in the Tumalo area and struck an abutment to a bridge. He was treated at the St. Charles Memorial Hospital.

GREETINGS TO SCOUTS

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Kennedy sent Christmas greetings Sunday to the Boy Scouts of America and to its leaders who are helping to develop them into responsible young men.

J. L. Van Huffel, pioneer Bend resident, dead at 81

J. L. Van Huffel, 81, who provided transportation in the Bend area for railroad magnates even before steel came up the Deschutes gorge, died in his sleep here Sunday morning.

He was one of Bend's first garage operators, with his beginning "plant" set up under a juniper tree at the rear of the present Trailways building.

Mr. Van Huffel's first contact with railroaders was casting glances into the Deschutes country was in 1908, when he was a chauffeur in Portland. One day he got a hurried call to go to the Klamath Lake country to pick up E. H. Harriman of the Union Pacific and his two sons north to Shauko, then end of the rails. One of

'Snow ball' being planned by Skyliners

The Bend Skyliners will sponsor a "Snow Ball" Saturday night, December 29, in the Pilot Butte Inn Gold Room. Dancing will be from 9 p.m. to midnight, with music by the Vikings, a local combo.

The party was arranged to provide Christmas - week entertainment for local residents and visitors, many of whom will be in town for holiday sking, according to Mrs. Olaf Skjersaa, general chairman.

Mrs. Les Snider, co-chairman, is handling tickets. They will be available at the door, she said. Decorations, carrying out the snow theme, will be arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Larry West.

A feature of the evening will be the selection of the "King and Queen of Snow." They will be crowned by Dr. Lowell Aplin, Skyliners president.

The party will be a "come as you are" occasion, with ski clothes and casual dress acceptable. A soft drink bar will be provided.

All age groups are invited to attend. Serving on the host committee will be Dr. and Mrs. Aplin and Mr. and Mrs. William A. Healy Jr. of Bend, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Francis of Portland, frequent local visitors and Skyliner members.

Ice skating is possibility over holidays

Ice skating in Bend over the Christmas holidays is a possibility, providing the cool weather continues.

The new municipal rink in Juniper Park, a phase of the Rotarians' development, was flooded last night, starting about 10 o'clock. Vince Genna, city recreation director, reported.

If freezing weather continues, it is expected that the rink may be ready for skating tonight. However, Vince said, premature use would damage the ice surface, and volunteer "testers" are asked to refrain from walking on it or attempting to skate until the word is given.

When the ice is ready, the lights will be turned on, it was announced.

Last night, the mercury in Bend dropped to 15 degrees, and there is prospect of 10-degree weather tonight.

Bird population near minimum in Bend area

Bend, it appears, is to observe a virtually birdless Christmas.

From various sources comes the word that the bird population this season is close to the minimum, with only sparrows noticeable around town. Even their number, it was reported, are greatly diminished.

The lack of birds has been especially noted by Dr. J. C. Vandever, Bend, a former member of the Oregon State Game Commission.

Dr. Vandever said he has no answer to the diminished population of birds.

Normally this time of the season, he noted, many of the birds "pull out" for warmer climates, but robins, blackbirds and others of the common varieties remain.

This season only the sparrows, of two species, are in evidence.

Some blame the low bird population on the Columbus Day gale.

Others add: "Maybe we are going to have a hard winter, and the birds have moved out."

TEMPERATURES

High yesterday, 30 degrees. Low last night, 15 degrees. Sunset today, 4:31. Sunrise tomorrow, 7:38.

WEATHER

Fair through Tuesday; highs 30-35; lows 8-13.



HAPPIEST SEASON OF THE YEAR — Ann Hardwick, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hardwick, Bend-Burns Highway, puts final touches on her Christmas tree just in time for Operation Santa Claus. (Nate Bull Photo)

Pilgrims flock to Bethlehem for Christmas

BETHLEHEM, Jordan (UPI)—Thousands of Christmas pilgrims flocked to Bethlehem today.

They included black robed priests, Christian Arabs wearing the traditional burnoise and Americans and Europeans in smartly cut suits and dresses.

More than 2,500 Israeli Christians took advantage of the biennial break in the dispute with the Arabs and passed through the Mandelbaum gate in the wall dividing Jerusalem for the pilgrimage to this birthplace of Jesus Christ.

At a signal from frontier guards on the fortified Jordanian-Israeli border, Israeli and Arab Christians boarded special buses for a ride through the famous gate and followed the path of the Magi to this little town.

In Bethlehem, they joined thousands of other pilgrims—some of them from as far away as the United States and Europe—to celebrate the birth of their Lord 1,962 years ago.

Besides 5,000 persons were due to arrive here today. The old streets already were jammed with a mixture of modern Western automobiles and the familiar donkey carts.

The Mandelbaum Gate is the only break in the wall which divides the Israeli and Jordanian sectors of Jerusalem. The wall is fortified by sandbags, barbed wire and pill boxes because of the 14-year-old dispute between the Israelis and the Arabs.

The arrival of the Israeli pilgrims marks what has become a twice-yearly, poignant, 24-hour moratorium in the Arab-Jewish conflict that divides the Holy Land.

Each Christmas and Easter, Jordan allows the Christians from Israel to enter Jordan for the pilgrimage to Bethlehem. They must leave Jordan by Tuesday and no Israeli will be allowed to enter this nation until next Easter.

Santa due tonight Area ready to join in yule celebration

By Ila S. Grant Bulletin Staff Writer

Stores were busy with last-minute shoppers, the weather was crisp and clear, and greetings were exchanged in market places and coffee houses, as Bend residents prepared today for the celebration of Christmas.

Homes are festive with decorations and fragrant with the preparation of feasts. Greenery and poinsettias were put in place in a number of churches, for vigil services tonight, and traditional Christmas Day rites tomorrow.

While business was bustling in food and gift stores, it was closed

Ex-Shaniko mayor hopes to save hall

SHANIKO (UPI) — The former mayor of this small town says he plans to save the old city hall from demolition.

Joe Morelli indicated he became interested in saving the old wooden structure when he learned it had been purchased by a city councilman who intended to tear it down.

Morelli said some of the residents came to the fore and the council and dismantling halted.

In the course of the controversy over the old landmark, it was learned the city's charter had been lost, so the community was relying on its 1961 incorporation papers for a guide in administering the town's affairs.

Some funds have been raised locally to aid the restoration project and Morelli said the Oregon Historical Society is interested in the town's historical significance.

4 youths taken after burglary at golf club

The Bend Golf Club was burglarized early Sunday morning, following the club's annual Christmas party. Four youths were taken into custody and placed in detention quarters.

City of Bend and Oregon State Police converged on the club after Ken Spence, whose quarters are on the grounds, called officers after he heard a commotion in the building.

On entering the building, officers discovered evidence of the burglary, but found no one. However, a description of a getaway car was obtained.

About 200 feet north of the clubhouse, officers found two cases of beer, which apparently had been dropped by the persons who had entered the club. Nothing was taken other than the liquor.

A break in the case came following an altercation between some youths in a local restaurant. Also, state officers picked up the car sought in the getaway.

Taken into custody and placed in juvenile quarters of the Deschutes County jail were Bert R. Larson, 16; Charles E. Ridderbusch, 17; Lester L. Hilgers, 15, and Frank J. Choate, 17. All are Bend residents.

The youths told officers the entry of the Golf Club was made to obtain beer. They said Larson, Ridderbusch and Hilgers entered the building. Choate drove the getaway car.

The youths were just leaving the building when officers arrived, and got away in the darkness.

Mercury drops to 15 in night

Central Oregon experienced its coolest weather of the season last night, with a low of 15 degrees recorded in Bend at dawn today.

The five day forecast indicates that the cool weather is to continue, with lows in the 8-13 degree bracket predicted for interior Oregon tonight.

Some snow is possible after Wednesday, with light to moderate amounts, the five-day forecast adds.

Heavy white frost covered Bend this morning, and there was some drifting "mush" ice on the Deschutes.

Dockworker strike ties up U.S. shipping

NEW YORK (UPI) — A strike by 75,000 dockworkers brought shipping to a near halt today at East Coast and Gulf of Mexico ports.

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