

THE WEATHER HERE

CLOUDY WITH RAIN tonight. Partly cloudy with showers Saturday. Slightly cooler. Lowest tonight, 40 degrees; highest Saturday, 47.

Maximum yesterday, 47; minimum today, 38. Total 24-hour precipitation: 0.1; for month: 3.49; normal, 4.71. Season precipitation, 13.03; normal, 15.47. River height, 2.4 feet. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

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HOME EDITION

B-50 Bomber Crashes Killing All 11 Aboard

Flaming Plane Smashes in Marsh Burying Bodies in Muck

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 23 (AP)—A flaming air force B-50 bomber crashed in a dreary river marsh last night, killing all 11 airmen aboard and scattering and burying bodies and wreckage in the muck.

The big bomber had just taken off from Chatham air force base here when it went down on the bank of a branch of the muddy Savannah river. The crash was only seven miles above the city, but it was so inaccessible it took rescue parties hours to reach it by boat.

The first persons to reach the scene were forced back by flaming gasoline, floating on the water. The flames were visible for miles.

On Training Flight Col. Frederic E. Glantsberg, commanding officer of Chatham field, identified the plane. He said it took off at 9:12 p.m. (EST) on a training flight to El Paso, Texas. It crashed about five minutes later.

The plane had been in service at Chatham for a year or a year and a half. The B-50, an improved version of the B-29 superfortress, has a wingspread of 141 feet, is 89 feet long, and weighs 125,000 pounds. The air force describes it as a more powerful version of the B-29 which bombed Japan.

The crash site was less than two miles from U. S. Highway 17, which crosses the river just above Savannah. But it could only be reached by small boats guided by boatmen who knew the river.

Near Previous Crash The crash was only a few miles from the spot where a chartered airliner crashed Jan. 7, 1948, killing 18 and injuring 38 Puerto Ricans on a flight from Newark, N. J., to their home.

The air force waited until dawn to send a large crash boat with a score or more men, armed with shovels and ropes, to try to remove the bodies. They had to transfer to small flat-bottomed swamp boats to get to the wreckage.

Two planes took off from the air base this morning to circle the crash scene and guide the rescue boats.

High tide on the river was at about 11 a.m., and the rescue parties hoped to be able to remove some of the bodies before then.

Sam Rahal, chairman of the Savannah Red Cross disaster committee, said the first search parties could not find a single large piece of wreckage, and that apparently even the engines were under water.

Support for Tito Promised

Washington, Dec. 23 (AP)—From President Truman to Marshal Tito, a major target of Soviet threats: The United States is opposed to aggression against any nation.

This is the world Mr. Truman has instructed George V. Allen, his new ambassador to Yugoslavia, to pass on to the Tito government. Allen is due to leave for Belgrade Dec. 28.

Tito has been under heavy pressure from the Russians since his break with Moscow more than a year ago. There has been speculation that sometime the Russians might try to break his power by means of guerrilla warfare.

The United States and other western nations have given Tito economic and political assistance since he stormed out of the Soviet camp. But there never has been any official statement of what this country's policy would be in the event of a Soviet-communist attack on Yugoslavia.

Mr. Truman had a talk with Allen, before his weekly news conference yesterday. He told Allen, he said, to state this government's policy to the Tito government. Then the president added that the United States is opposed to aggression against any country no matter where it is situated.

This, Mr. Truman said, doesn't mean any change in American policy which has been against aggression for a long time.

Truman Spends Christmas at Missouri Home

To Broadcast Greetings to Nation Saturday—States Policies

Washington, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Truman took off in the rain today to fly back home to Missouri for the Christmas holidays. He arrived at Kansas City at 12:45 EST in his personal plane, the Independence.

With him was his daughter, Margaret. Mrs. Truman already is at their home in Independence.

Except for a short radio speech Saturday night extending Christmas greetings to the nation, and eating Christmas dinner at home, Mr. Truman plans to follow no fixed schedule while in Missouri. Customarily he spends most of his time visiting with kindfolk and old friends.

Due Back Wednesday He is due back in Washington Dec. 28 to face the usual heavy work load incident to the opening of Congress.

In his final work day until after Christmas, Mr. Truman went over his state of the union message and other business with his cabinet and held a news conference.

Opening the news conference, the president wished newsmen a merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year and remarked that the vast majority of them have been as kind to him as he deserved.

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Burning Ship Crew Escapes

Boston, Dec. 23 (AP)—Squirming out of portholes and struggling through smoke-filled companionships, 40 crewmen and two stewardesses escaped in nightclothes early today as explosions and flames wrecked the midship decks of the moored Norwegian freighter, Fern Bay.

One crewman suffered burns and the ship's captain made his way over a cargo boom to safety in the 4 a.m. blaze which caused loss estimated at "between \$100,000 and \$500,000."

Flames ate through the five-deck superstructure of the 10-month-old 8000-ton vessel, out of Oslo, Norway, which arrived here recently from Port Said after a voyage to Far Eastern ports. Her cargo was crude rubber and tea.

Tugs and land apparatus battled the flames. Fire trucks threw up a curtain of water to keep the flames from army base sheds.

Radio Operator A. K. Lind suffered severe burns about the face and hands.

Last to leave, Capt. Arild Werland of Oslo, said he was trapped in his stateroom and dropped from a port to a cargo boom to make his way ashore.

Two Funerals Planned

Eugene, Dec. 23 (AP)—Funeral services will be held in Eugene, then in Los Angeles next week for Mrs. Louisa Flint Kellems, 78, religious educator and mother of Miss Vivian Kellems, Connecticut industrialist.

Cordray Pleads Guilty, Fined \$250 for Gambling

Harley V. Cordray, ex-Salem police officer, changed his plea from not guilty to guilty in circuit court Friday morning to a charge of operating a lottery. Circuit Judge George R. Duncan sentenced him to 30 days in jail and to pay a fine of \$250, sentence to be suspended on payment of the fine, which it is understood will be paid. A slot machine involved is to be destroyed.

The change of plea was made and sentence imposed in the absence of Cordray, Paul Burris, his attorney appearing for him. He said Cordray had gone to Ventura, Calif., making arrangements for a job there but subject to returning voluntarily if desired by the court. He said that Cordray was operating a small slot machine, a "tin horn operation," as he referred to it, and that admittedly it was wrong. He also said admittedly it was wrong that Cordray in operating a merchant's patrol service allowed his men in uniform and to carry guns, but nevertheless the charge was merely a misdemeanor and a small scale one.

District Attorney Ed Stadter stated that the Cordray case has been subject to a very thor-



20 Santas Out With Mrs. Santa

Santas—about 20 of them—and all of them dressed in civilian clothes will be on the streets of Salem this evening waiting to be tagged.

Mrs. Santa will be there, too, and the person first tapping her on the shoulder and saying, "Tag, you are Mrs. Santa," will be the winner of \$100 in cash. Presentation of the \$100 will be made at 9 o'clock in front of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Santa Clauses, each representing one of the downtown stores, will be of all ages, complexions and stature. One may be a blonde, another have brown hair, one tall and another of medium height.

All will have one thing in common, however, they represent prizes in merchandise from the store for which they are acting as Santa Claus. On being tagged and greeted with "Tag, you are Santa Claus," each Santa will escort the tagger to his store and there present a prize in merchandise ranging from \$12 to \$40 in value.

Tonight will be the last night that the Santas and Mrs. Santa Claus will be on the streets and the hours will be the same as the two previous Friday nights, from 7 to 9 o'clock. Stores will stay open until 9 o'clock to accommodate the late shoppers.

Paul Robeson's Wife Lauds Chinese Reds

San Francisco, Dec. 23 (AP)—The wife of Paul Robeson, American Negro singer, was quoted by the Chinese communist radio today as sharply attacking the United States government and lauding the communists.

The broadcast, heard in San Francisco by the Associated Press, said she made a Peiping radio speech on Dec 19 during a visit to Red China. Mrs. Robeson was quoted:

"Today, our government is controlled by sixty families who use our dollars, our press, our radio, our guns in plans for war. Our people are pitted against each other by our economic, social and political systems."

4 Youngsters Killed In Auto-Train Crash

Pana, Ill., Dec. 23 (AP)—Two youths and two teen-age girls were killed and a third girl was seriously injured last night in an automobile-freight train collision near here.

Coroner Earl J. Baker of Christian county said the 10 year old car crashed into a New York Central freight train at a crossing about two miles west of this south-central Illinois community. The train, enroute from St. Louis to Indianapolis, was delayed three hours. Bodies of the victims were thrown several hundred feet along the railroad right-of-way.

Baker said the five young people were returning to Pana after driving a third boy to his farm home, about a mile from the accident scene. He said the condition of the injured girl, Phyllis Huffmaster, 16, is critical. She was removed to a Pana hospital.

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Explosives Found Examined

Inspector Joseph V. Krug (left) of the Detroit, Mich., special investigation squad and Inspector Albert Langtry, head of the police scientific laboratory, inspect dynamite and fuses found on a basement stairs of the United Auto Workers international headquarters building in Detroit. The dynamite, 39 sticks complete with two detonators and fuses, was found in a cardboard box wrapped in gaily decorated Christmas paper. (AP Wirephoto)

Secrecy Lid Clamped on Bomb Plot for Reuther

Detroit, Dec. 23 (AP)—A secrecy lid was clamped today on the investigation of the dynamite bomb plot against the CIO's auto union.

Both the FBI and city police shielded their efforts to solve Tuesday night's mysterious explosion of a powerful explosion at the international union's headquarters.

Defects in the bomb prevented its explosion. FBI agents, ordered into the case from Washington, proceeded without comment.

As a painstaking search for clues continued, police took further steps to protect unionists and to guard against any further attacks.

The nature of the precautions was undisclosed. "To reveal the steps taken would be to defeat our purpose," said Police Superintendent Edwin Morgan.

After the attempts on the lives of Walter and Victor Reuther, police guards were placed at the brothers' homes.

The CIO United Auto Workers also bought an armored car for Walter Reuther, their president.

Walter was shot and seriously wounded in the spring of 1948. A year later Victor met a similar fate—again from a shotgun marksman in ambush.

At his press conference in Washington yesterday President Truman commented on the dynamite plot.

Mr. Truman denounced it as outrageous. Harry T. O'Connor, the FBI's special agent in Detroit, conferred with Chief of Detectives Jack Harvill. Neither would discuss the conversation.

However, Harvill said the inquiry so far had turned up "nothing hot."

Gale and Rain Bring Wet Christmas Here

Wind that reached a peak of 52 miles per hour velocity in stronger gusts whipped over the Salem area Friday morning, and that is strong wind for this section. Through much of the windstorm the velocity averaged 37 miles for one-minute duration but in some of the severe blows went as high as 52 miles.

Along with the wind came rain with prospect that the Christmas holiday will be a wet one rather than a white one. Rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 10:30 a.m. Friday amounted to more than half an inch, 31 of an inch being measured.

Forecast is for cloudiness and rain tonight, partly cloudy weather and showers, Saturday, and slightly cooler temperatures.

AMA Magazine To Change Name

Chicago, Dec. 23 (AP)—Hygeia, health magazine of the American Medical Association, will change its name to "Today's Health," effective with the March, 1950, issue.

Pope Pleads Christian Unity To Oppose Militant Atheism

Coal Strike or Lock-out Looms After January 1

Washington, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Truman's new refusal to step into the coal dispute set off more talk today of the possibility of a strike or lock-out after January 1.

John L. Lewis' miners will work only Tuesday and Wednesday of the next two holiday weeks. After that the big question is whether Lewis will crack down hard and close the mines entirely in a real test of strength.

Those who argue that this is Lewis' plan think he adopted the three-day work week December 1 just to put some Christmas money into the pockets of his hard-pressed miners.

Having done that, some operators reason, he may call the diggers out and try the big squeeze. This would permit operations only by those employers who sign a contract for a 35-cent tonnage welfare royalty and \$15 daily wage.

Even the three-day work week is pinching the operators. With their mines down for four days out of every seven, and Lewis allowing only an "irreducible minimum" of maintenance on those four days, the operators say they're eating up 60 to 70 cents a ton in overhead.

That comes out of profits which the employers say average less than \$1 a ton. Would Close Mines

For that reason, there is a sizeable group of soft coal operators who would like to take the initiative and shut down their mines. They think a contract would be forthcoming in less than a month.

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Global Airlines Told to Merge

Washington, Dec. 23 (AP)—Over the bitter objection of Trans-World Airlines, a government examiner has recommended approval of a merger between TWA's two trans-Atlantic rivals.

The transaction—which would involve the purchase of American Overseas Airlines, Inc., by Pan American Airways, Inc., for \$17,450,000—would have to be okayed by the five-man civil aeronautics board and by President Truman.

Approval was recommended yesterday by CAB Examiner Thomas L. Wrenn—who once before had gone on record as favoring just two U.S. airlines in the trans-Atlantic service.

Wrenn said the purchase agreement should offer protection to the employees of American Overseas, which is controlled by American Airlines.

He also proposed that Pan American take over the Atlantic operating permit of the purchased airline, as well as its assets.

That was a sharp improvement over the department store record of a six per cent lag behind last year for the period from Jan. 1 to mid-December.

Power Line Disrupted

Portland, Dec. 23 (AP)—The Bonneville Power line from Salem to McMinnville was disrupted today, cutting off power to McMinnville. The line went out at 10:53 a.m. Bonneville officials said a falling tree might have struck the line, though they were not certain of the cause.

Suicide Believed Master Mind of Big Gem Thefts

London, Dec. 23 (AP)—Scotland Yard pieced together today the bizarre double life of a suicide who they believed may have master-minded some of Europe's biggest gem thefts in the past decade.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, robbed of £20,000 (\$56,000) worth of jewels at Sunningdale in 1946, are believed to have been among his victims, Yard sources said.

Already detectives have turned up stolen jewels worth £100,000, and are searching for more.

The dead man was known as Barry Holliday, 51-year-old man-about-town, famed among London's underworld as "Society Bertie" or "Johnny the Gent." He was found shot to death in a hotel room in suburban Virginia Water Wednesday. A walking stick hollowed out to contain a concealed gun was by his side.

Holliday had friends in high society. He frequented country hunting meets with socialites who later were often robbed of their gems.

Fingerprints taken after his death identified Holliday as another sort of man altogether —

Rain Making Claimed Water Shortage Cure

Los Angeles, Dec. 23 (AP)—A noted aerologist today claimed success for a new artificial rain-making method which he says would have prevented New York City's current water shortage.

Dr. Irving Krick, official weather forecaster for the Normandy invasion, disclosed results of large-scale rainmaking tests in Arizona conducted by his American Institute of Aerological research.

The new method works from the ground up much like smoke from a chimney. Another artificial method, developed by General Electric company, seeds dry ice into clouds from airplanes.

GE also pioneered use of silver iodide seeding of clouds from planes. Krick says the ground smoking method is much cheaper.

The Krick tests utilized mobile silver iodide "smoke" dispensers located strategically as to wind direction. He estimated that the method quadrupled the Arizona test area's rainfall during a two year period.

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Late Spurt in Xmas Shopping

By CHARLES MOLONY Washington, Dec. 23 (AP)—Christmas shopping showed signs today of taking a late spurt that might carry it to a close finish with last year's record winner.

It seemed to be in harmony with the optimism over the nation's business outlook which was expressed by President Truman at his news conference yesterday. Mr. Truman didn't elaborate.

The federal reserve board reported that a surge of buying at the mid-December point shot department store sales ahead of the same part of boomtime 1948 for the first time in months.

And 1949, striving at being the 12th consecutive year to hang up a new Christmas sales high, packed one big advantage: It has an extra shopping day over last year, since this Christmas falls on Sunday whereas it came on Saturday in 1948.

The reserve board, compiling reports from all over the country, announced department store sales last week forged one per cent ahead of the same week of 1948.

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Union Pleaded Within Roman Catholic Church

Vatican City, Dec. 23 (AP)—Pope Pius XII pleaded today for union within the Roman Catholic church of all christians to oppose the advance of militant atheism.

The pope's address, his annual Christmas message, was directed to the whole world.

He spoke on the eve of the 1950 Holy Year which he said "must be decisive, especially for the longed-for renewal of the modern world."

"Oh, that this Holy Year could welcome also the great return to the one true church, awaited over the centuries, of so many who through believing in Jesus Christ are for various reasons separated from her," the pontiff added.

Why Separations He said "Men are anxious about the effrontery with which the united front of militant atheism advances, and the old question is now voiced aloud: Why are there still separations?"

The pope expressed a hope for unity within the church and said, "The holy door, our arms and our heart" will be opened for all.

"May this jubilee mark the return of all humanity to God," he declared.

The pope made a strong plea for social justice, asking both social systems of capitalism and communism—though he did not mention them by name—to return to christianity and legitimate liberties and rights. He criticized the negation of fundamental rights and the enslavement of men to totalitarian states.

1950 Holy Year of Peace The pope expressed the hope that the 1950 Holy Year will be a year of peace and not of war, a year of justice and not of national egoism. He encouraged workers to defend their "just aspirations" but said the possession of material wealth without faith in God is of little use.

"If on other occasions," the pope said, "an invitation to unity has been sent forth from this Apostolic See, on this occasion we repeat it more warmly and paternally . . . for all those who adore Christ."

"Beginning today," the pope said, "we direct to the whole world, then, our plea that all men and each one in particular, from every land and every shore, may accomplish the desired great return with all the urgency demanded by these extraordinary times."

Pontiff, Truman Hope for Peace

Washington, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Truman told Pope Pius XII in a Christmas message that the United States "gladly re-dedicates its efforts to the creation of a peaceful and advancing world order."

The pontiff said in reply: "We invoke the light, assistance and blessing of the Christ child upon your excellency's person and work, as well as upon all your fellow citizens, who courageously strive to find and follow the road leading to a peaceful future for mankind."

The White House today made public the exchange of messages. Mr. Truman's, dated December 17, was delivered to the pope by Myron C. Taylor, U.S. representative at Vatican City.

The summons to peace on earth, good will toward men, has come ringing down the ages, giving direction to the thought and the action of every human being whose life is lived according to God's purpose," the president wrote.

"The significance of the divine call, personified in the birth and mission of the Savior, is increasingly visible in the record of history despite the vicissitudes oftentimes encountered on the long path of the centuries."

Mr. Truman noted a "steady achievement of friendly, mutually helpful relations among most of the world's peoples today, living indeed as good neighbors."

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