

FAIR, SLIGHTLY cooler tonight. Increasing cloudiness Sunday. Lowest temperature tonight, 30; highest Sunday, 45.

Maximum yesterday, 49; minimum today, 27. Total 24-hour precipitation, .01; for month, 4.10; normal, 4.93. Season precipitation, 13.64; normal, 15.68. River height, 5.7 feet. (Report by U. S. Weather Bureau.)

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Yuletide Being Celebrated All Over World

Europe Enjoys Finest Christmas Since Last Pre-war Year of '38

(By the Associated Press) A world still seeking the path of true peace four years after the end of its greatest war turned again today (Sat.) to the old and ever new Christmas story.

President Truman, home for the holidays in Independence, Mo., planned his traditional Christmas eve greeting to the nation—a speech to be broadcast over the major networks (5:15 p.m. EST.)

The president will throw a switch lighting a big tree on the White House lawn in Washington at just about the time the tree lights begin to go on in millions of American homes.

Catholic Holy Year Opens

For the world's 400,000,000 Roman Catholics, Christmas eve marked the formal opening of the 25th Holy Year of the church.

Pope Pius XII inaugurated the jubilee year in Rome with three strokes of a silver hammer opening the holy doors of St. Peter's basilica.

Europe, despite a shortage of snow, was ready to celebrate its finest Yuletide since the last pre-war year of 1938.

There was more food, more toys, more warmth—More of almost everything—in European countries.

Britons went on a shopping spree for this Christmas season. Even Germany, with gaunt ruins standing in nearly every city, had reason for rejoicing over well-stocked gift stores and food shops.

In the Holy Land

In Bethlehem, where the Prince of Peace was born, only a few were able to make the Christmas eve pilgrimage in contrast to the thousands who used to go in happier times.

As a grim reminder of the disorders which still plague the world, there were two routes to the ancient town—one from the Arab-held section of Jerusalem, the other from the new part of Jerusalem occupied by the Jews.

Bethlehem, Pa., which calls itself America's Christmas city, added a modern touch to its annual observance. The traditional Moravian candlelight procession tonight will be televised.

Wet Christmas Looms in East

Washington, Dec. 24 (AP)—The weather bureau turned bearish today on prospects for a white Christmas.

Instead of the snow expected for much of the central part of the nation, it now looks like rain. Only in the northwest were there good prospects for new snow.

Revising an earlier Christmas day forecast, the bureau at 8:30 a.m. (EST) showed the weather picture shaping up something like this:

Northwest—Snow and colder. Central part of the nation—Rain and warmer.

Gulf states to California—Fair and moderate.

Pacific Northwest—Rain.

"A white Christmas is assured for the northern states from the Rockies to the upper Great Lakes region due mainly to snow already on the ground," the bureau reported without equivocation.

Rising temperatures in the central part of the country will bring rain instead of the snowfall predicted earlier for the central Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys.

And the rain will spread eastward on Christmas day as far as the eastern Great Lakes.

New snow is forecast only in Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and portions of the northern plains and Michigan.

It will be a mighty cold Christmas day for some parts of the nation.

Child Burned to Death

Ennis, Tex., Dec. 24 (AP)—J. E. Minton, Jr., five, burned to death yesterday when his playhouse of flimsy boxes caught fire. The lad had taken a candle into the playhouse to light some firecrackers.

Russia Charges Japan Waged Germ Warfare

12 Former Army Men Indicted With Using Airborne Fleas

Moscow, Dec. 24 (AP)—Russia accused the Japanese today of actually waging bacteriological warfare in China in 1940 with airborne fleas. They also charged the Japanese had prepared to direct the germ assault against the Soviet union.

The charges were published and broadcast as an indictment naming 12 former Japanese army men as leaders in the alleged germ warfare. They included accusations that prisoners were used as human guinea pigs to test germ warfare theories.

The indictment said Lt. Gen. Shiro Ishii of the medical service in the summer of 1940, infected areas of central China with parachuted germ-laden fleas, starting a bubonic plague epidemic.

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Storm Causes Traffic Crashes

Portland, Dec. 24 (AP)—The worst wave of pre-holiday traffic accidents on record ushered in the Christmas week-end here today.

Three lives were lost in the Portland area. John Roger Smith, 65, Portland, was fatally injured when he drove into the rear of a bus that was discharging passengers at Gresham.

Daniel Aaron Lake, 67, Portland, drove into a railroad boxcar on a siding in the city and was killed. An early morning collision took the life of Mrs. Nancy J. Werner, 26, Oswego, and critically injured her husband, John, 30.

Within Portland, there were 96 accidents bad enough to summon police by 7 a.m., today. And there were other scores unreported collisions.

The accident wave started with drivers leaving office parties to head home through heavy rain. It was the wettest pre-holiday driving in recent years and results were spectacular.

One driver sideswiped six cars on one street, cracked head-on into another on a second street, then bounced over a vacant lot to a third street and rammed two more vehicles. Two persons were injured.

Another car sheared off a fire plug, two utility poles and knocked a traffic sign 80 feet. The driver was unhurt.

In still another, three persons were dumped from their car, which then ran on 174 feet farther before hitting a parked auto. The three, who escaped serious injury, were Earl W. Shreve, 27, Salem, his wife and daughter.

Portland Plywood Sold

Portland, Dec. 24 (AP)—Negotiations to sell the nearly-finished Portland Plywood corporation plant to the Multnomah Plywood corporation for \$1,043,000 were completed today.

F. A. Johnson, general manager of Multnomah Plywood, said the plant would begin operating in about two months. The plant construction on which was halted when plywood slumped last year.

Accuse Truman 'Friend' Of 10 Percenting Fair

Washington, Dec. 24 (AP)—The Times-Herald said today "a self-styled boyhood chum" of President Truman had offered construction contracts on the Sesqui-centennial fair here for a "10 per cent cut of the profits."

A copyrighted article said Paul Alexander, from Mr. Truman's home town of Independence, Mo., had made the proposal to George M. Parker, a contractor of Derwood, Md. The paper said Parker turned down the offer.

Alexander, the Times-Herald added, is a stockholder in the National Capital Sesqui-centennial Leasing corporation, which holds exclusive leasing rights on exhibit space in the Freedom Fair—a Sesqui-centennial feature.

At Kansas City, where President Truman is spending the holidays, Charles G. Ross, presidential secretary, said he had not heard of the story and declined to comment.

Mayor Roger Sherman of Independence, Mo., a close friend of the president, said he never had heard of a Paul Alexander of Independence.

Advised of the newspaper account, Alexander denied to reporters that the construction proposal had anything to do with his official Sesqui-centennial work which he pointed out applied only to space rentals.

He said the proposal to Parker specifically mentioned a contract "on one or more of the independent buildings." These buildings, he said, are not connected with the fair itself.



Mrs. Hawser Prize Winner

"Tag, You're Mrs. Santa Claus." Shortly after 7:30 o'clock Friday evening Mrs. Janet Hawser of 1599 State street tapped Mrs. Santa Claus on the shoulder and uttered this identification.

Because she was the first person to guess the identity of the Mrs. Santa Claus for the evening, who was Mrs. B. O. Schucking, Eola Acres florist, Mrs. Hawser was the winner of \$100 in cash. In addition to this she was presented an orchid corsage by Mrs. Schucking. Mrs. Hawser said she would give part of the money to the Community Chest.

Presentation of the prize to Mrs. Hawser was made by James Beard, president of the Salem Retail Trade bureau.

Despite bad weather and the fact that the majority of the people have completed their Christmas shopping there was a considerable number out to participate in the final "Friday night" feature offered by the merchants, and to purchase their last Christmas gifts.

This afternoon business placidly will begin closing their doors at 4:50 o'clock to permit their employees to start their Christmas holiday and the majority of them will be closed by 5:30 o'clock.

Elks Play Santa To 1300 Kiddies

Salem lodge No. 336, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks put its principles into operation Saturday when it played Santa Claus to some 1300 youngsters of the community.

The kids were guests for a motion picture program at the Capitol theatre at 10 o'clock and following the matinee they marched up State street to the Elks temple where each was presented with gifts. Sackfuls of candy, nuts and fruit were distributed as the youngsters filed past counters loaded with toys of a wide variety. There was something for everybody from the huge piles of brand new merchandise.

The boys and girls, although eager for gifts from Saint Nicholas, were an orderly group. While evidently from homes where prosperity had not turned the fabled corner, the recipients of the Elks hospitality and Christmas cheer were for the most part neatly attired.

The Elks did not forget several score shut-ins and gifts were taken to their homes.

Seek to Operate Cleveland Buses Tues.

Cleveland, Dec. 24 (AP)—Mayor Thomas A. Burke declared the Cleveland transit system will be operating Tuesday—"I hope with our own employees." His statement came shortly after 2,000 AFL Transit union men voted today to continue their three-day strike against Cleveland's main means of mass public transportation.

Burke explained he didn't mean the service will be normal.

Blizzard Blocks Roads In Cascade Areas

Highway crews today were clearing the roads in the Mt. Hood area after a blizzard with winds up to 50 miles an hour felled trees, blocked highways, cut off telephone communications and caused considerable other damage.

The storm hit Government Camp about 7 p.m. Friday and increased in intensity during the night. Highway crews were kept busy all night removing fallen trees and debris from roads.

One falling tree demolished the late model car of Robert Hughes of Portland. Mrs. Hughes, who was in the car, suffered undetermined injuries. She was taken to a Portland hospital.

All telephone connections at Government Camp were severed last night. The forest service maintained communications, however, by radio.

Eight inches of snow fell during the night. The temperature dropped to 26 degrees. Strong gusts of wind piled huge drifts on the Mt. Hood highway. Power was cut off at Rhododendron.

State police found an unidentified motorist dead under his car on the highway near Government Camp. Police said he apparently had suffered a heart attack while putting chains on his car. His body was taken to Oregon City.

The highway to Timberline lodge was closed this morning, but forest service officials expected to have it opened later today.

Meantime, winds and rain washed out hopes of a white Christmas for western Oregon. (Concluded on Page 5, Column 3)

Holiday Death Toll Mounting

Death cut short the holiday season for at least 127 accident victims this week-end even before Christmas came.

Ninety-two persons were killed in traffic between 6 p.m. (local time Friday and Saturday afternoon. Twenty-nine died in fires, and six in miscellaneous accidents during the same period. The death toll by states with traffic listed first, fire second, miscellaneous third:

Alabama 3-1-0; California 9-0-0; Colorado, 1-0-0; Connecticut, 0-4-0; Florida, 1-0-1; Illinois, 4-0-2; Iowa, 3-0-0; Kansas, 0-1-0; Kentucky, 2-0-0; Louisiana, 1-0-0; Maryland, 1-0-0; Massachusetts, 1-1-1; Michigan, 4-0-0; Minnesota, 5-1-0; Mississippi, 3-1-0; Missouri, 2-1-0; New Jersey, 1-4-0; New Mexico, 1-0-0; New York, 10-1-1; North Carolina, 3-2-0; Ohio, 10-0-1; Oklahoma, 1-0-0; Oregon, 3-0-0; Pennsylvania, 6-2-0; South Carolina, 1-0-0; Tennessee, 2-3-0; Texas, 8-7-0; Virginia, 3-0-0; West Virginia, 1-1-0; Wisconsin, 1-0-0; District of Columbia, 1-0-0.

Lilienthal Gets Award

Washington, Dec. 24 (AP)—David E. Lilienthal, retiring chairman of the atomic energy commission, is to receive the Phi Delta Epsilon merit award for contributions to medicine and humanity.

Pope Opens Holy Year Amid Church Chimes

Communist Disorders Mingle With Church Ceremonies

Vatican City, Dec. 24 (AP)—Pope Pius XII opened the 1950 Holy year of the Roman Catholic church today amid the joyous ringing of church bells and the angry clatter of communist-led disorders.

Scarcely had the pontiff unsealed the Holy door at St. Peter's basilica with three symbolic strokes of a silver hammer when communists ordered and then cancelled a general strike in Rome province.

Spanish Embassy Stoned

And in the heart of ancient Rome, as the 25th jubilee year of the Catholic church began, a communist-led crowd stoned the Spanish embassy, crying "Death to Franco."

Tens of thousands thronged the Vatican basilica for the solemn pageantry of the opening. Hundreds took part in the communist demonstrations. The short-lived strike was called to protest strong police precautions against possible incidents between pilgrims and communists meeting near the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, where a cardinal opened another Holy door.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 1)

Unity Plea Gets Slight Response

Pope Pius XII's plea for all faiths to unite under the Roman Catholic church has met with either disapproval or silence from leading Jewish and Protestant spokesmen.

Some said they agreed with the pope that there is a need for reinvigorated religion in the world, but were averse to his idea of joining under the church at Rome.

The pope, in his Christmas message yesterday, urged all believers to return to "the one true church" to combat militant atheism.

The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the nation's largest, representative federation of various Protestant denominations, declined to comment.

Dr. Julius Mark, senior rabbi of the country's largest Jewish congregation, the Temple Emanuel, endorsed the pope's call for a "religious renewal" but he said this will not "be achieved by everyone joining the Roman Catholic or any other one church."

"We do not regard our own or any religious communion as 'the one true church,'" he said. "Every church dedicated to the service of God and man is a true church."

Dr. John W. Behnken, president of the Lutheran church-Missouri synod, largest body in American Lutheranism, said "there can be no return to a church which claims to take the place of Christ, and whose leader claims to be the vicar of Christ."

Symington, Hope Find Alaska Cold

Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 24 (AP)—Comedian Bob Hope and Air Secretary Stuart W. Symington arrived in Anchorage yesterday.

"Holy smoke, it's cold," said Hope as he stepped off the plane from Seattle. "Either I will have to buy a new hat or I'll have to get a new set of ears."

Hope is in Alaska to entertain servicemen during the Christmas holidays. He said he had visited Anchorage before, and remembered it well.



New Duties

Charles S. Murphy (above) will succeed Clark Clifford as President Truman's counsel. It was announced at the White House press conference. Murphy, who has been a White House administrative assistant since 1947, will take over his new duties about February. (Story on page 9). (Acme Telephoto)

Airplane Pact With Yugoslavia

Belgrade, Dec. 24 (AP)—The United States and Yugoslavia reached a provisional civil aviation agreement today allowing American civil planes to fly over this country's territory and land at its airports.

Simultaneously, it will allow Yugoslav planes to operate over American zones of occupation in Austria and Germany and land at airports there.

Although it was not specified in the agreement, it was understood here that Pan American World Airways will use a stop here on its New York to Calcutta run. This will cut about 800 miles off its present route.

The agreement marked the greatest improvement in Yugoslav-American aerial relations since the crisis provoked in 1948 when the Yugoslavs shot down an American military plane cutting across a corner of its country.

The negotiations have been going on since early November. Under the terms of the agreement, effective immediately, a United States airline "to be designated by the government," will be permitted to pick up and discharge international passengers, traffic and mail at Belgrade going in either direction.

The Yugoslav planes will have the same privilege at the occupation zone airports.

B-50 Wreckage Bodies Sought

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 24 (AP)—A swamp buggy crew today drew the task of searching the wreckage of a B-50 airforce bomber for the bodies of six missing airmen.

Five bodies already have been removed from the debris deep in a marsh bordering the Savannah river.

The 11 men met their deaths when the huge, four engine bomber, an improved version of the B-29, crashed Thursday night, five minutes after taking off from Chatham field near here.

Among those killed were Lt. Rogers Hornsby, Jr., 29-year-old son of baseball's famed Rogers Hornsby, and veteran of 50 bombing missions during World War II. Hornsby was a native of Denison, Tex.

In Chicago, the elder Hornsby said he and Mrs. Hornsby had been divorced for many years and that he had last seen his son in 1946. His visits with the young lieutenant were infrequent, the veteran player-manager said.

Another hero to die in the flaming craft was Capt. Andrew G. Walker of Norfolk, Va., who took part in 51 bomber tasks over Europe.

Twice Capt. Andrews brought his riddled plane back home, once after two engines had been knocked out. He held the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters.

Merry Christmas

is the Capital Journal's wish to one and all!

In observance of the holiday, there will be no paper published Monday, December 25th.

The office will be closed throughout the entire day, one of the two holidays observed by this newspaper during the year, a custom of 30 years' standing.

Merry Christmas

Ex-Wife Shoots John Drewry And Secretary

Five Bullets Put Into Couple by Former Spouse After Reunion

Athens, Ga., Dec. 24 (AP)—The ex-wife of University of Georgia Journalism Dean John E. Drewry shot five bullets into her divorced husband and his slim, brunette secretary last night.

The 47-year-old dean was struck twice. The 28-year-old secretary, Miss Miriam Thurmond, received three wounds from the .32 caliber slugs. Both were in satisfactory condition at Athens general hospital today.

Mrs. Kathleen Drewry, short, plump and 45, told Athens Banner-Herald Reporter Ed Thilenius that she, the dean and their 17-year-old son, Milton, had dinner together last night. Mrs. Drewry said she and the dean agreed on a reconciliation.

Mrs. Drewry's Story

"We were going to be married again soon," she said.

Mrs. Drewry said the dean bade her goodnight, wished her a good night's sleep, and then left for his apartment.

"Before going to bed, I called John to tell him how happy I was and I was sure of a good night's sleep," she continued. "But the phone did not answer. I knew where he was."

Mrs. Drewry said she followed him to the Thurmond home, walked into the living room and fired at Drewry first, then turned the gun on Miss Thurmond.

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The Yugoslav planes will have the same privilege at the occupation zone airports.

Police Chief Clarence Roberts said Drewry told officers:

"My divorced wife walked into the room where I was sitting talking to Miss Thurmond and abruptly began shooting at us. She called us horrible names."

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)



Pope Pius XII (center) reading his annual Christmas message before the Sacred College of Cardinals at Vatican City. Pope Pius XII (center) urged the world to make the 1950 Holy year a turning point towards peace. (Acme Radio-Telephoto)

Merry Christmas