

Pope Shows Improvement

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, in evident effort to allay growing concern over the health of Pope Pius XII said Wednesday that "the state of the supreme Pontiff, thanks to God, continues to improve."

The newspaper also described as "absolutely unaltered" reports in the Italian press that an English specialist who attended the late King George VI of Britain had been called for consultation.

This report, printed in both L'Osservatore and Il Tempo of Rome, conservative newspapers, had heightened worry in Vatican circles that the 77-year-old Pontiff may be suffering from cancer.

King George died of a thrombosis in 1952 after he had been operated upon for cancer of the lung.

A Vatican press office bulletin Tuesday said medical examinations with "happily negative results" had established that the disturbance from which the Pope suffers is of "a gastric nature provoked by a non-adequate functioning of the neuro-digestive system."

The announcement appeared to be aimed at dispelling the fears of cancer. As described in that bulletin, the ailment is nervous indigestion. Hiccups from time to time disturbs the Pope's sleep.

Over 200 Hindu Pilgrims Meet Death in Stampede

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Scores of Hindus were trampled to death Wednesday in a frenzied stampede of religious bathers into the holy waters at the joining of the Ganges and Jumna rivers, near Allahabad.

Unofficial estimates of the death toll ranged from 200 to 1,000. Unconfirmed reports said at least 1,000 were injured.

Although official sources at Allahabad would give no casualty figures and refused any comment on the reported tragedy, eyewitness accounts said 200 square yards along the sandy banks of the sacred Ganges were strewn with bodies after police cleared away the millions of panic-stricken bathers at the great Kumbh Mela festival—one of the holiest in the Hindu religion.

The vast throng of pilgrims, estimated at three million strong, had gathered at the rivers' confluence in eastern India—350 miles south of New Delhi. In observance of the orthodox Hindu belief that bathing there during the Kumbh Mela spares them the pangs of rebirth into a reincarnation.

Hindu astrologers had proclaimed Wednesday's ceremony as a 12th Kumbh Mela, the most important religious bathing festival in 144 years.

A bathing festival—known as the Mugh Mela—is held at the spot every year from Jan. 14 to March 4. It commemorates a battle on the site in Hindu mythology in which the gods defeated a horde of demons.

Every 12th year, however, this ceremony becomes the Kumbh Mela and is more sacred. Every 12th Kumbh Mela, which Hindu astrologers believe coincides with a mythical eclipse of the new moon, reaches the acme of religious importance.

To the devout, there is no better time or place to die, for death during the 12th Kumbh Mela would mean a direct passage to heaven.

Prime Minister Nehru was to visit the festival Wednesday and Indian President Rajendra Prasad had been scheduled to join the bathers. There were no indications where the two government leaders were when the stampede occurred.

More than two million of the pilgrims had waited all night on the river banks amid cold rains. They hoped to bathe during the first three hours after the daylight eclipsed the new moon, considered by the Hindus the most auspicious time for the ceremony.

Their frenzied eagerness to reach the waters resulted in the tragedy.

Marilyn Plans Visit to Front

TOKYO (AP) — Actress Marilyn Monroe will make a four-day visit to Korea, including front-line units, in a few days.

The Army made the announcement today, adding somewhat unnecessarily, "She will be most welcome."

She will sing and talk to troops. A pianist will accompany her. Husband Joe DiMaggio will stay in Japan, coaching Japanese baseball teams.

"I have wanted to go to Korea to see the boys for a long time," the blonde actress said, adding that her movie schedules had made it impossible.

"Now, even though I am on my honeymoon, I have the chance to go—and I'm going for at least four days."

The Far East Command said Miss Monroe's tentative schedule calls for the trip to start Feb. 14 or 15.

Council Busy At Silverton

SILVERTON — Principal business of the Monday evening city council included consideration of a new gas franchise; completion of the state highway work on a block of James Ave.; a call for bids to finish the planned municipal park kitchen shelter; authorizing the attendance of City Manager Robert Borland at the three-day Corvallis instructional course for water employees March 24, 25, 26; and hearing police judge and library reports.

Carl Hande, Jr., acted as mayor in the absence of Mayor Harry Carson who is vacationing in California.

Meeting with representatives of the gas company on Monday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., will be Errol Ross, Earl Hartman, councilmen, and Robert Borland, manager, at the city hall in Silverton. From Salem will be J. A. H. Dodd and C. I. Landsverk of Portland, both of whom were present Monday night in the interest of the Portland Gas and Coke company.

Object of this meeting will be to formulate a new franchise.

The city manager explained that the present franchise was drawn up in 1930 to expire in June, 1955. A legal act of the state legislature the next year made 20 years the limit for any franchise or contract, and numerous other cities in the Willamette Valley are receiving 2 per cent of the gross receipts of the company.

Communication from the state highway commission advised the city to renew request for the paving of the James Ave. block, so the amount needed would be classified under the 1955 allotment, as the policy was to help cities not before having had aid, and that the present \$250,000 was spent. Silverton was assured of applied-for aid from the 1955 program if proper application was made on time.

The application as suggested will be made.

The bids for building the park kitchen shelter must be in by March 1, in order to have the electrified and roofed park kitchen completed in time for the earliest park visitors and assuring the Centennial guests of the pleasures of outdoor preparations.

Spray Plane Pilot Killed

HEPNER (AP) — John W. "Kit" Carson died in a plane crash Tuesday as he flew to visit his wife at Klamath Falls.

It was the second time Mrs. Carson had been widowed by a plane crash.

Carson, 32, was a spray plane pilot. Tuesday because heavy fog over this area prevented weed spraying, he decided to fly to Klamath Falls to visit his wife.

Minutes after he took off from Lexington, his base for spraying in this area, his plane crashed into fog-covered Reservoir Hill here.

Two and a half years ago at Klamath Falls Mrs. Carson's first husband, Harold McPherson, died in a crash. He had operated a spray business, the Midland Air Service, and Carson, one of his pilots, took over the management. Last year Carson and McPherson's widow were married.

At Garden Club

The Valentine motif was used in the flower arrangements at the Monday afternoon meeting of the Salem Woman's Garden club. Mrs. Seward Kellcut presided.

The surprise table was planned by Mrs. Ray Rhoten. Mrs. Bryan Goodenough and Mrs. Walcott E. Buren planned the tea table and Mrs. Kellcut poured.

During the program hour, Earl Pettyerew talked on geraniums and Donald Madison showed slides of Victoria and the northwest.

Bridal Shower

SHERIDAN — Miss Alene Williams was guest of honor at a bridal shower given by Mrs. Muriel Bate and Miss Barbara Hughey this week.

Guests were Mrs. Alvin Williams, Mrs. DeArmond Boakes, Mrs. John Gubrod Sr., Mrs. Kenneth Amos, Mrs. Ted Williams, Mrs. Robert Hughey, Miss Mary Ann Williams, Miss Jerrun Zook, Miss Charlene Mulford, Miss Vieta Pruitt, Miss Myrna Grosser, Miss Eleanor Reynolds, Miss Verla Kunzler, Miss Lorraine Chamberlain, Miss Donna Countryman, Miss Pat Hughey, Miss Karen Moeck and Miss Bonnie McGee.

50th Anniversary

SHERIDAN — Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, Sr. celebrated their golden wedding anniversary January 17. Their wedding date was January 14, but they delayed the celebration so their children from California could attend.

Those attending were two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Cartwright of Anaheim, Calif., and Mrs. R. O. Brown of Southgate; and their son, John H. Edwards, Jr. of Norwalk, Calif., and many friends from this vicinity. They received many nice gifts.

Bill to Improve Tillamook Bay

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oregon congressmen Tuesday introduced bills to authorize construction of two projects in the state.

Sen. Guy Cordon and Rep. Walter Norblad offered bills for channel improvements at Tillamook Bay which would close a breach in the Bayocean Peninsula. Cost was estimated at 1 1/2 million dollars with local interests contributing \$250,000.

Cordon and Rep. Sam Coon introduced bills for construction of the Haystack equalizing reservoir to provide a more stable water supply for the North Unit irrigation project on the Deschutes River.

Hospital Medical Staff Has Election

The medical staff of Salem Memorial Hospital Tuesday elected Dr. Don E. Woodard as its president. He succeeds Dr. James B. Howarth.

Other officers elected were: President-elect, Dr. James H. Seacat; vice president, Dr. Richard P. Embick; secretary, Dr. George K. Vollmar.

Committee chairmen named for the year were: Dr. Merle F. Brown, general practice; Dr. Stuart Laneffield, medicine; Dr. Allen L. Ferrin, surgery; Dr. Ian D. Macdonald, records and program; and Dr. Horace D. McGee.

for picnic affairs. Twelve cases were brought before municipal Judge Quintin Estell in the short time since he has served as judge. Five curfew

warnings were issued without fines. Fines netted the city around \$135, with small suspensions. The library report showed Jan-

uary's circulation to be 1,135, an increase of 344 over that of December. New books added were 35, new borrowers registered, 16, books removed from circulation,

16. January donors were Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Kleinsorge, Mrs. R. Millenhour, Mrs. Earl Dederick, Mr. and Mrs. F. Glenn McDonald, Miss Genevieve Scott, Geraldine

Morgan, Miss Olga Johnson, William Dettwyler, Mrs. George Christenson, V. F. Waux, Mrs. Austin Sanford and Mr. and Mrs. Clay Allen.

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