

Terk To Nation's Christmas Tree Today Will Be 30th Visit To Giant Sequoia

Sanger — (U.P.)—The "world's oldest living thing" will be the scene this weekend for a gathering of pilgrims dedicated to the Christmas message of "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

The nation's Christmas Tree, which sprouted from a seed while men toiled to build the pyramids centuries before the birth of Christ, once again will play the symbolic role for world peace through Christian ideals.

The 30th annual "trek to the tree" is scheduled Sunday with about 3,000 persons expected to make the 34 mile journey from Sanger to the famed General Grant Tree in Grant Grove of Kings Canyon National Park. There will be choral groups and an address by Dr. Stuart L. Anderson of Berkeley, Calif., president of Pacific School of Religion.

The worship services at 2:30 p.m. (PST) also will be included in a nationwide radio broadcast.

Unique Service
Walker Lundberg, chairman of this year's trek to the mighty sequoia redwood, believes the pilgrimage is unique. He pointed out civic and service groups, churches and "just plain" citizens in the small Central California community participate.

"However," he added, "the project wasn't easy in the beginning. It took a lot of hard work before the treks began and more to keep them going year after year."

In 1923, the idea was conceived by the late Charles E. Lee, secretary of Sanger's Chamber of Commerce. He overheard a small girl ask her mother how many lights it would require to decorate the General Grant Tree. Lee knew the lights would be almost impossible, but thought an annual re-dedication would do just as well.

It has since been estimated it would take 3 1/2 miles of trimming and tinsel plus 3,000 light bulbs to create enough radiance from the tree to penetrate the darkness of mountain night.

Started 30 Years Ago
Lee went to a friend, R. J. Senior, and they mapped out a campaign to interest the citizenry. On Christmas Day 1925, the first hardy band of pilgrims hiked through slush and snow for services at the base of the 267.4 foot high sequoia.

The following year, the U.S. Department of Interior formally dedicated the tree as the nation's Christmas Tree.

Snow around the tree in the early treks sometimes exceeded a depth of 20 feet and the sturdy pilgrims used shovels to dip trails through which worship equipment and organs were hauled. Now there is an all-year highway to the grove, making the trip from Sanger a simple one.

The General Grant Tree, topped at the trunk with rugged and gnarled mass of limbs which in themselves are larger than most trees, is the second tallest redwood in the world.

Twenty five miles away the General Sherman Tree stretches 272 feet into the air from the base at the 6,500 foot level of the Sierras.

Kefauver To Enter Oregon Primaries, Newspaper States

Coos Bay—(U.P.)—Sen Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.), who Friday announced he was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, will enter the Oregon primaries next May and the California primaries next June, the Coos Bay Times reported Saturday in a copyrighted story.

Not only will Sen. Kefauver enter these two primaries, but he will campaign in both states with vigor, according to Coos Bay Times News Editor Forrest Amsden. Necessary sums to support his candidacy have been underwritten, and the basic outlines of his campaign organization in each state have been arranged at the newspaper said.

Guarantee Expenses
The story released in advance exclusively to United Press, said California friends of the senator have subscribed a minimum of \$100,000 to guarantee that necessary expenses will be met. The money is expected to come from thousands of individuals, many of them in the ranks of labor.

In Oregon, sums of money running into five figures have been likewise guaranteed by friends of the senator who expect the fund to be raised among thousands of the senator's followers who have urged him to make "the good fight in 1956."

The Times said Lyle Cook, Berkeley attorney, will head the northern California Kefauver committee. Southern California campaigning will be headed by Tom Carrell, San Fernando business man who earlier this fall spearheaded the Kefauver drive among former supporters of the Tennessee Democrat.

Serve As Advisor
Langdon W. Post, erstwhile head of federal housing in the 11 western states, will serve as advisor to Kefauver for the entire state, with Harvey Hise of San Francisco expected to be treasurer of the California group.

In Oregon, Kefauver's campaign will be headed by William L. Josslin, Portland attorney and secretary to the late Governor Charles H. Martin. Josslin directed the senator's primary campaign in Oregon in 1952.

The Times said Kefauver was "totally disinterested in any deal" to confine his efforts to the vice-presidency, which bait was held out to him by the Stevenson party machine in California. He did indicate that the post of secretary of state was

Fires in past ages have damaged and scarred the Grant Tree, but its majestic artistry still is an inspiration for the proof of the teachings of the Prince of Peace.

Mrs. Robert Peary Reported 'Gravely Ill'

Portland, Me. — (U.P.)—Mrs. Robert E. Peary, 92-year-old widow of the discoverer of the North Pole, was reported "gravely ill" at her home here Saturday.

Her daughter, Mrs. Edward Stafford who was born in Greenland and nick-named "snow-baby" by the famed explorer, was at her mother's bedside.

Jet Plane Shears Off Automobile Top

Twin Falls, Idaho — (U.P.)—An Air Force jet pilot, attempting to land his T33 jet trainer on a highway near here Friday night, sheared off the top of an automobile then crashed in a nearby field.

The pilot, First Lt. Clyde Seiler of Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., was not injured. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith of Twin Falls and their daughter, Nancy, 12, occupants of the car, were hospitalized for observation.

Attendants said Mrs. Smith suffered shock but otherwise the family was not believed to have been hurt.

The plane was on a flight from Williams AFB to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. Seiler said he crossed over Twin Falls at 8,000 feet in a driving rainstorm with both his radio and compass gone. He said he spotted the highway and decided to try for an emergency landing.

Seiler reported when he saw he wasn't going to make the landing safely he started to pull up but the plane veered and hit the Smith vehicle.

The plane lost its undercarriage and a wing fuel tank in the impact and subsequent crash in the nearby field.

Korea, Japan Resume Trade After 4 Months
Seoul, Korea — (U.P.)—The Republic of Korea government Saturday authorized full resumption of trade with Japan after a four-month boycott.

Kim Il Hwan, minister of commerce and industry, announced that trade with Japan would be reopened Jan. 1. President Syngman Rhee halted all exchanges between the two nations Aug. 18.

Man Held On Charges Of Threatening Ike

Albuquerque, N. M. — (U.P.)—Federal authorities Saturday held a New York City man on charges of writing President Eisenhower a "threatening letter."

The U.S. Secret Service identified the man only as John Burns, and declined to disclose contents of the letter which agents said will be made public at his arraignment.

Burns signed a waiver of removal Friday to face charges in New York, where he apparently mailed the letter. He will be arraigned and tried there.

Fire Destroys Eugene Grocery, Residence

Eugene — (U.P.)—Fire of undetermined origin last night destroyed the Gillespie Corners grocery store on the Lorane highway about 16 miles west of Eugene.

Also destroyed was the adjacent residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pew, proprietors of the store. The Pews and their two children escaped without injury. There was no immediate estimate of the loss.

SILENT THEFT

Half Moon Bay, Calif. — (U.P.)—Thad L. Graves complained to police Friday that a burglar took 50 pounds of hamburger from his deep freeze and fed it to his kennel of wolfhounds to keep them quiet while he stole 75 parakeets from Graves' aviary.

Circus Parades on TV Closing Season

Sarasota, Fla. — (U.P.)—The circus, with all its color and excitement, thrills and buffoonery, paraded across TV screens throughout the nation Friday night before folding its tents for another season.

It was circus in its best tradition, featuring the top acts of 1955, complete with everything but the traditional circus smells. CBS, which flashed the extravaganza to 140 stations across the land, described it as the biggest remote control production in television history. It cost the sponsors, General Foods, an estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000.

More than 8,000 persons witnessed the show live from the three ring circus of Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey's winter home here.

With movie actor Charlton Heston introducing the parade of talent to TV viewers, the circus opened with its traditional blaring circus march. Then came the inevitable clowns, with their laughter and buffoonery, led by mournful Emmett Kelly, the wild lions and tigers roaring in their cages, a rialsists somersaulting and swooping high, the horses trotting in unison, elephants lumbering heavily. These and many other acts synonymous with the big top.

It ended on a Christmas note, with the entire cast in the main

Sunday, December 18, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE

May Pay Less Than Billion In Taxes

Portland — (U.P.)—The Oregon Voter magazine estimates that Oregonians pay just a little less than \$1,000,000,000 a year in federal, state and local taxes.

The issue of the magazine published Saturday said the state's tax burden is about one-third of its total income. Oregon income was set at \$2,910,000,000 and the tax take from that is \$975,200,000.

The Voter reported that property taxes throughout the state were 7 1/2 per cent higher than last year and accounted for \$144,822,391 of the tax bill.

Four Women Die In Pre-Dawn Texas Fire

Beaumont, Tex. — (U.P.)—Four elderly women were burned to death Saturday in a pre-dawn fire that swept a two-story convalescent home in a quiet residential section of North Beaumont.

Six other residents of the home were rescued by firemen and neighbors.

The fire was believed to have been caused by a defective heater in a small room at the rear of the nursing home.

Goodell Appointed To Finance Committee

Portland — (U.P.)—E. Stanley Goodell of Portland Saturday was appointed chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Republican State Central Committee by State Chairman Wendell Wyatt of Astoria.

Goodell, a lumber and shipping executive, succeeds Ralph E. Williams, who recently resigned.

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