

Recommended

Pictures of the Rogue valley flood appear today on Page 1 of today's Medford Tribune.

MEDFORD MALL TRIBUN

United Press—Full Leased Wire

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1955

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Weather

FORECAST: Cloudy with gusty surface winds, snow in the valley. Showers Monday. Low today, 40. High this afternoon, 50. Low Monday, 38. TEMPERATURE Highest Yest. 51. Lowest Yest. Morn. 27

50th Year

22 Pages

No. 236

Pope's Christmas Message For Ban On Nuclear Tests

Vatican City—(U.P.)—Pope Pius XII Saturday proposed a ban on all nuclear tests and an international agreement on disarmament to save the world from a man-made "catastrophe."

In his annual Christmas message broadcast to the world, the Pontiff called upon nations to solve their disputes by "preventative pacification"—peaceful negotiation—to prevent their quarrels from blossoming into wars.

The Human Race at Stake

Warning of the danger of further nuclear explosions, he said the fate of "the whole human race" is at stake.

Without mentioning it by name, the Pope supported President Eisenhower's proposal for mutual aerial inspection of military installations and the plan to set up listening posts and similar controls around the globe.

The Pope delivered his 45-minute Christmas message from a golden throne in the Consistorial hall of the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican. His words were spoken to 16 purple-clad cardinals and other high officials, and broadcast in 29 languages around the world.

In his message, the 79-year-old pontiff warned: "This is the spectacle offered to the terrified gaze as a result of such use (of nuclear weapons in war): entire cities, even the largest and the richest in art and history, wiped out; a pall of death over the pulverized ruins, covering countless victims with limbs burnt, twisted and scattered, while others groan in their death agony."

"Radioactive Cloud Hinders Help"

"Meanwhile, the spectre of the radioactive cloud hinders the survivors from giving any help, and inexorably advances to snuff out any remaining life."

"There will be no song of victory," the Pope said. "Only the inconsolable weeping of humanity which in desolation will gaze upon the catastrophe brought on by its own folly."

The Pope said that further nuclear explosions "would generate conditions very dangerous for many living beings."



NATIVITY SCENE—This Nativity scene on the lawn of the Dutch Farfan residence, 723 South Newtown st., Medford, depicts the original scene which is being observed throughout the world today—the Birth of Jesus Christ. Decorations erected

by Farfan also included a Santa Claus, complete with a bag full of toys. Christmas Eve services were held in several Rogue valley churches last night, and Christmas Day services will be held today in all churches.—(Brainerd Photo.)

First White Mothers In For Holiday

Washington—(U.P.)—The magic of Christmas came to the White House Saturday, as it did to millions of homes across the nation.

In the tinted rooms of the stately mansion, President and Mrs. Eisenhower gathered with their son and grandchildren to sing carols, exchange gifts, play with toys and, for a fleeting moment, to forget the cares of state.

First Christmas in White House

This was the first family's first Christmas in the White House. They spent their yuletide in Augusta, Ga., in 1953 and 1954 and might have been there again except for something very special.

They couldn't leave town with their brand new granddaughter still in the hospital. Barbara Eisenhower, the happy mother, is going to leave the hospital long enough today to join the first family in a big Christmas dinner. But three-day-old Mary Jean has to stay behind.

The other grandchildren—David, 7, Barbara Anne, 6, and Susan, 3—ramped into the White House yesterday afternoon bubbling with excitement and anticipation. They came with their father, Maj. John S. Eisenhower, from their home in nearby Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Their arrival was the signal for the President to quit working in his office and join in the happy holiday festivities. He beamed from ear to ear when he greeted his favorite young people.

Last night, the Eisenhowers gathered around a small Christmas tree on the second floor of the White House to observe an old family tradition—the singing of carols on Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Eisenhower played the organ while the President, Mrs. Eisenhower's mother, Major John, and the grandchildren let go with full-throated renditions of old favorites.

This morning, the President will perform his happiest function. He will play Santa and distribute gifts to the three grandchildren and show them how to operate some of the toys.

Holiday Deaths To 189; 560 Predicted

Chicago—(U.P.)—Holiday traffic deaths headed for a new record at a rate of more than six an hour Saturday as the death count in the western floods mounted well.

Deaths climbed sharply late yesterday bearing out National Safety Council warnings that Christmas Eve is the most dangerous traffic day of the year.

A United Press survey showed that traffic accidents took 158 lives in the first 24 hours of the holiday. Fires killed 15, 17 died in miscellaneous mishaps and one person was killed in a plane crash for a total of 189.

Illinois led the nation in traffic deaths with 19. Michigan followed with 16 and California with 14.

The record for a three-day Christmas holiday was set in 1950 when 520 deaths were recorded. The Safety Council predicted that 560 would die this year.

Ned H. Dearborn, council president, issued a new plea for caution. "We beseech every driver to end this senseless slaughter," he said.

Three persons were killed and a fourth critically injured near Haviland, Kan., in the crash of an auto taking a family to a Christmas visit.

One person was killed and 21 others injured when a gas explosion ripped through a two-story building at Oklahoma City where workers were preparing eggs and turkeys for last-minute Christmas delivery.

While accidents mounted, the Weather Bureau said Santa Claus has left on his annual trip—well bundled up. A weather station just 240 miles south of the North Pole reported a temperature of 4 degrees below zero. But the bureau forecast

MF Plane Makes Gold Beach Trip

A Mercy Flights plane from Medford made a flight to isolated Gold Beach Friday to take a desperately sick girl to Eugene for emergency surgery.

The plane, one of the new twin-engine Beechcraft air ambulances operated by Mercy Flights, Inc., was summoned by amateur radio operators from the Curry county community, which was cut off from the outside world by flooded highways.

The girl, 11-day-old Kelly Johnson, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Johnson, and was in Sacred Heart hospital at Eugene a little more than an hour after the plane took off from the soggy, silt-laden airfield at Gold Beach. The baby's mother accompanied her. She was the 430th patient carried by planes of the non-profit air ambulance service since it began operations just six years ago next month.

Pilot George Milligan said the flight was uneventful except that the muddy airstrip was slippery, and the plane skidded to a stop just 100 feet short of the end on landing because there was no traction on the slick mud. The takeoff was made without incident.

R. J. Reinning Dies Of Heart Attack

Ralph J. Reinning died at his home in Shady Cove, Friday, apparently of a heart attack.

Mr. Reinning, who built the Riffles on the Rogue resort and neighbors were cleaning up debris left by the flood when he suffered the attack.

The body will be taken to Seattle by Conger-Morris funeral home for services and interment. The body will remain here until 9 p.m. Sunday.

Mr. Reinning was born in Stewardson, Ill., March 28, 1902. In Seattle on April 27, 1929, he was married to Thelma Townsend, who survives. He had made his home in Shady Cove for the past 13 years where he owned and operated a radio and television repair shop.

Also surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Reinning, and a brother, Seth Reinning, all of Seattle.

The family wishes flowers be omitted.

Resolution Mailed To Sponsor Of TV Show

Medford city council members expressed their admiration of the Phil Silvers television show by passing a resolution asking the show's sponsors to schedule the show on another night other than Tuesday.

"It conflicts with regularly scheduled meetings of the common council of the City of Medford," the resolution states, "to the great inconvenience of the nine members thereof."

Mayor Earl M. Miller signed the document, which has been forwarded to the sponsors.

Road Conditions

Highway 99 — Open and clear to the north; icy and chains required over the Siskiyou. Highway 99 West in California open to the Bay area; Highway 99 East closed at Yuba city; at Stockton subject to flooding conditions.

Travel to south through San Joaquin valley discouraged.

Highway 66 (Green Springs) — Icy, should carry chains.

Highway 97 north and south of Klamath Falls — Icy.

Highway 101 — Closed in several spots in Oregon and California by high water.

Highway 199 — Travel discouraged west from Grants Pass. Detour around Applegate river bridge, Crescent City overcrowded by stranded travelers.

Highway 62 — One-way traffic seven miles south of Prospect caused by slide.

Highway 238 — Closed one mile west of Ruch.

Highway 234 — Open between Gold Hill and Sams Valley; Dodge bridge still closed.

Highway 42 — Myrtle Point to Coquille, one-way traffic being conveyed.

Highway 38 — Drain to Reedsport, open partly one-way.

Highway 395 — Susanville to Reno, closed.

Three Nuns Die In Fire Which Levels Four Structures

Guilford, Conn. — Three nuns burned to death and another was injured Friday night in a fire that leveled the four buildings of a Roman Catholic convent. Another 41 nuns and a priest were able to escape the flames.

The tragedy struck as the members of Our Lady of Grace Monastery were preparing for their deeply religious celebration of Christmas, one of the most joyous days in the convent's year.

The nuns who were killed were identified as Sister Mary Delores, Sister Mary Regina and Sister Mary Constance. Their baptismal names were not immediately available.

The injured nun, identified as Sister Mary Pierre, was taken to St. Raphael's hospital in New Haven, Conn., where she was in good condition with a broken foot. She received the injury in jumping from a second floor window of the burning convent.

Possible tragedy was averted in a convent fire in Elizabeth, N.J., Friday because of the timely action of a nun, Sister Frances Anthony, of the Immaculate Conception Church Convent, smelled smoke coming from the basement of the building and rang the prayer bell. The warning enabled four nuns and their housekeeper to escape in time. Flames severely damaged the building.

Forty-one survivors of the Guilford fire were taken to Albertus Magnus College in New Haven.

The fire, believed to have been started by a short circuit, spread rapidly through the main building, which included the dormitory, and three other buildings.

All four buildings were leveled. The bodies of two of the dead were found huddled in one corner of a room in the main building. The third body, also badly burned, was found on the ground outside the room's window. Apparently the third nun had jumped from the building, her clothing aflame.

Church Plans New Building In Medford

Plans for an Evangelical Lutheran church in east Medford were announced this week by the church public relations office in Minneapolis, Minn.

The proposed church is one of 49 new congregations which are scheduled to receive loans totaling \$2,300,000 from the ELC's church extension fund, according to the office.

Loans to new congregations are ordinarily repaid to the church body between one and five years, according to Dr. Philip S. Dybvig, executive director of the 1,000,000-member denominations home missions department.

Each new congregation is established under direction of the district president and planning committee involved, in cooperation with the home missions department. Dr. H. L. Foss is president of the Pacific district, with offices in Seattle.

Troops Ring Manger At Bethlehem To Enforce Peace As Hundreds Of Pilgrims Kneel In Prayer At Shrine

Bethlehem, Sunday — (U.P.)—Troops ringed the Manger Square today to enforce the peace on the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

As Christmas Day arrived, hundreds of pilgrims knelt in prayer in the shrine that was a stable in Mary's time. There was peace for the moment where rioting had raged only a few days ago.

But the suspicion and fear and bitterness that now mark this land kept 32 German pilgrims from completing their pilgrimage to the manger.

At the rifle-guarded gate between the sectors of Jerusalem held by Israel and Jordan, Jordanian guards barred the way and refused to let the 32 pilgrims pass.

Their chartered plane, which was supposed to land at an airport in Jordan, developed engine trouble and was forced to land at Lydda, Israel. They boarded a bus to cross to Bethlehem but were stopped at the ancient Mandelbaum gate.

Jordanian guards said they did not believe the pilgrims' plane was forced down in Israel and refused to let them pass. The Germans waited in hopes of getting through but finally gave up and went to midnight mass at a church in Israeli-held Jerusalem.

Earlier yesterday, barbed wire was rolled back to allow other pilgrims to pass. The spirit of Christmas brought chanted anthems to the hills of Judea and the guns were still.

The Arab-Israeli barbed wire parted and the route of the Wise Men opened wide for the official pilgrimage of diplomats and United Nations officers traveling the 11 miles from Jerusalem.

His Beatitude, Alberto Gori, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, made his way through the olive groves in a motorcade preceded and followed by precautionary police cars.

The patriarch walked in scarlet robes to the place of the Nativity, chanting prayers, between two lines of Jordanian soldiers wearing the red headgear of the Arab Legion. Ahead of him were four mounted constables.

But there were no incidents to mar the peace in Bethlehem where the streets were still littered by stone thrown in anti-western rioting.

Thousands of pilgrims and nearly all the faithful of Christendom were drawn here tonight.

Protestant carolers sang at the Basilica above the Manger. Roman Catholic services were held in the new Cathedral of Saint Catherine at the Basilica of the Nativity off Manger Square.

There were also services of Christmas worship by Presbyterian, Anglican, Lutheran and many other Protestant faiths.

Prayers went up from the altar above the underground cave where the stable was located. Ancient stairs led down to the Holy Grotto hewn from rock in the time of Mary and encased for the ages in marble and masonry.

Yuba City Submerged; State Streams Normal

Oregon Rivers In Banks; Prospects Are Wet Christmas

Portland, Ore.—(U.P.)—Most flooded Western Oregon streams were returning to their banks Saturday, but the state faced prospects of a wet Christmas.

The rain, however, was not expected to reach the torrential proportions of earlier this week when heavy downpours melted ice and snow to flood large areas of western and southern Oregon.

Force evacuation of several hundred persons from their homes and disrupt rail and highway travel.

Mopping Up Starts As mopping up began yesterday, five persons were counted dead, and two more were missing, as a result of the flood conditions.

Many families in the Rogue river area of southern Oregon still were not able to return to their flooded homes and will spend Christmas at the homes of friends or in emergency shelters.

Much of the Willamette and Tualatin basins still were under muddy water, but no further encroachment by the surging waters was expected. The Tualatin forced evacuation of more than 60 persons from the town of Tualatin, south of Portland, Friday night. Water was three to four feet deep over the town's streets and only Highway 99 into town was open to traffic.

Travelers continued to have some trouble moving south, but state police reported all major routes were open, except Highway 101 which was closed south of Coquille.

Telephone and teletype service also continued disrupted to many points.

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—A giant spouting fountain spewed bubbles instead of water Friday. Pranksters poured bubble bath into the fountain.

Red Cross Furnishes Dinners, Gifts For Local Flood Victims

Christmas dinners and toys for the children, were the aims of Red Cross workers over the weekend in assisting homeless victims of last week's floods.

Serious rehabilitation work was expected to begin early this week, following reports from a complete survey yesterday and today of actual flood damage, Red Cross officials said.

Some families were digging out of the mud and muck in attempts to make homes liveable again.

The national organization is offering its full facilities to alleviate the flood disaster in southern Oregon as well as in harder-hit communities of northern California, it was reported.

Sen. Wayne Morse, in Washington, received word from Ellsworth Bunker, Red Cross president, that the organization would do all in its power to help Bunker's wire to the senator said in part:

"Am greatly distressed over reports of human suffering and property destruction from floods in your state. Please assure those affected that total Red Cross resources are being made available to provide immediate emergency care and for necessary long-term assistance in rebuilding and repairing homes, giving medical assistance, in providing furniture and other necessary items. We are moving in necessary trained disaster staff to assist Red Cross chapters in giving prompt aid to flood victims. Continued assistance will be given until the job is finished."

Thanks President Senator Morse also has wired President Eisenhower to "thank him in advance" for everything he and his associates in the administration would do to provide emergency assistance out of the President's emergency fund to alleviate suffering.

Christmas dinner for flood victims in the Shandy Cove, Elk Creek, Trail and Rogue River areas was being provided by Red Cross through cooperation of local restaurants.

Those who lost their homes or their cooking facilities, or who otherwise were unable to provide a Christmas dinner because of the flood, were invited to get in touch with Red Cross representatives in the area.

Contacts Listed In the Rogue River area victims should contact Mrs. Charles Babcock at Shangi-la auto court or Mrs. A. P. Klonhans, West Evans creek road.

In Shady Cove, Mrs. Strother is in charge. A total of \$200 was turned over by Junior Red Cross yesterday to community volunteers for purchase of toys. Shandy Cove was to receive \$50 and harder-hit Rogue River \$150.

Predicts Red Invasion Of Nationalist China Taipei, Formosa—(U.P.)—Vice-President Chen Cheng of Nationalist China predicted Saturday the Chinese Communists would review their forays against Formosa early next year.

Chen said the Reds might even launch a surprise military attack on Formosa itself next spring.

Report Soviets May Release More Prisoners Bonn, Germany—(U.P.)—A government spokesman said Saturday the Soviets have informed West Germany that more German war prisoners will be released early in January.

The information was sent by the Russians through the Soviet and West German embassies in Paris. The exact date and the number of prisoners involved was not disclosed.

River Levees Break Shortly After 10,000 Evacuated

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Breaks in the levees along the Feather and Yuba rivers Saturday submerged Yuba under four to 15 feet of water only a few hours after the town had been evacuated, adding 10,000 more persons to the Christmas eve list of homeless refugees.

Some 35,000 persons were homeless at least for the holiday as thunderous floods sent river after river in three states boiling over in a disaster labeled "major" by President Eisenhower.

The ever-rising toll of the known dead reached 28 Saturday and scores were missing or unaccounted for by early checks. Saves Marysville Ironically the very levee breaks that flooded Yuba City saved its twin city of Marysville, just across the Feather river. The waters as they rushed into Yuba City took the pressure off levees surrounding Marysville and allowed the water level to descend to a safe mark.

Yuba City, also surrounded by levees, was ordered evacuated shortly after midnight after one levee break south of the city.

A few hours later, after all except volunteer emergency workers had left the town, another levee broke and the swollen river took over. So sudden was the uprise of water that those left behind were trapped in trees and atop houses.

Reports from rescue parties and the rescued from Yuba City said that some houses were afloat as the entire Sacramento valley city was awash. There was no estimate of the damage but it was certain to go into the billions.

A sketch of conditions in other major disaster areas: Eureka Area Eureka—Six small towns of Humboldt county, near Eureka, were completely smashed by the floods of the Eel river and six persons were known to be dead. The flood began subsiding Friday but Eureka still remained isolated. Highways were flooded and bridges washed away and communications still out.

Sacramento river valley—Three persons were drowned at Auburn earlier in the week but the worst danger on the upper Sacramento has passed with recession of the floods. The points downstream still were threatened or flooded. The crest of the upper river was at Colusa with a stage of 66.5 feet, 1.5 feet below the danger level. Reno Flooded Reno, Nev.—Heavy snowfall Saturday ended the deluge caused by 48 hours of steady rain which sent the Truckee river over its banks into the downtown business area. The river was back in its normal channel and a good eight feet below flood stage. There was six inches of snow on the ground.