

# Writer Recalls Fred Allen's Easing of Bleak Christmas Eve on Korean Front

By H. D. QUIGG  
United Press Correspondent

New York — (U.P.) — It was Christmas Eve in Korea. The year was 1950. The weather was bleak and the outlook for Americans, bleak. The Chinese Communist army was pressing down on us.

I sat in a bare room feeling lonely far away, at home on another continent, there was warmth and gaiety this night. And here, even the memory of Christmas Eve seemed distant and unattainable.

And then a strange thing happened. From a radio in the room suddenly issued the absurdly raucous voice that was the trademark of a mighty man. "No, maw," it rasped, "Santa ain't a-ridin' tonight."

In that instant, Christmas Eve came alive. The Armed Services radio somehow had got Fred Allen to revive his famed impersonation of Santa Claus on a

stay-home strike—a skit he had done for many Christmas seasons during his heyday on radio.

**Personal Thanks**

I have wondered many times how I could thank him personally for that intensely personal favor. Maybe there was no way to do it. This piece after his death, is written as a member of a public that owes a tremendous debt to one man for sharing his superb gift of humor with us during the 1930s and 1940s.

It was an event of some moment to me, and to millions of listeners every week in the mid-1930s, to tune in Fred Allen's cry of "It's Town Hall Tonight" and the sit back for an hour of matchless comedy. I don't think he ever was quite as good after his program shrank to half an hour. He needed a full and leisurely hour to move his wit around in.

Allen had a talent for comic word shaping. Only he could

have called a fellow human being "a pore-spattered husk." His prose style was so direct that it almost hurt. One short sentence after another.

He was constantly at war with officious authority in radio. And that may have led to his celebrated definition: "An executive is a man who gets to work at 9 o'clock in the morning and finds a molehill on his desk. His job is to make it into a mountain by 5 p.m."

His subjects' devotion to him was great. The New York magazine once reviewed a Fred Allen movie by saying simply: "It's a good picture, if you like Fred Allen, the hell with you."

In an effort to describe H. Allen Smith, Fred Allen once wrote:

"Smith's face, which seems to be receding (from what, I am not prepared to say), hangs down from his hair and rests on his Adam's apple."

Writing to Smith about humor, he said: "You have to be a yuck to cater to yucks." But all of us yucks liked and loved him.

Discussion, on his program, the elegant night club located at the top of the skyscraper Radio City building, he said: "The Rainbow room—that's where people in Radio City go when they die, if they are good."

Allen was learned enough to make appearances on the supererudite radio program "Information Please." Once, Franklin P. Adams completely broke up at an Allen rally, and then explained: "He gets me giggling." Maybe there is a room beyond the Rainbow. If Fred Allen has gone there, there'll be a spate of giggling in the sky.

# Showdown Due on Guided Missiles

Washington—(U.P.)—A Senate Armed Services Subcommittee today summoned Army and Air Force officials for a showdown on which service has the better anti-aircraft guided missile.

The hearing, to be staged behind closed doors, could resolve or explode an interservice controversy that has been boiling up behind the scenes in the Pentagon.

On the surface, the question was, which is a better missile for knocking down enemy bombers: the Army's Nike, now deployed around most of the nation's principle cities, or the Navy-developed Talos, which the Air Force plans to use to defend some of its vital Strategic Air Command bases.

But in the background was the question of which service in the future is to have the mission of anti-aircraft defense.

The Army, which in the past has had the primary assignment for anti-aircraft, realized its stakes were high in the battle. It sent to argue its case two of its top three-star generals, Lt. Gen. C. D. Eddleman, chief of Army operations, and Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, director of Army research and development.

The Air Force relied on two two-star generals, Maj. Gen. K. P. Bergquist of the Air Force operations office and Maj. Gen. S. R. Brentnall, assistant chief of staff for guided missiles.

# Society

**Bethel to Observe**

Ceremonies marking the first anniversary of organization will be held at a meeting of Bethel 55, International Order of Job's Daughters, tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Pythian building. Miss Janet Perry is queen.

Special guests will be Mrs. T. A. Crump, Portland, junior past grand guardian for Oregon; Mrs. C. D. Elhart, Medford, a past grand guardian and Mrs. Everett Faber, Central Point, vice-grand guardian for the state.

Members of Bethel 22, Ashland, will also be guests.

All members of the order, their parents and all persons of proper Masonic affiliation are invited to attend.

**Attend Show**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wimberly Jr., returned home Sunday from San Francisco where they attended the General Motor's "Motorama" held at the Civic auditorium. While in the Bay city the couples also attended a performance of "Anniversary Waltz."

**Here**

Mrs. Dave Brainerd and two daughters are here from Petaluma, Calif., to visit Mrs. Brainerd's mother, Mrs. E. A. Littrell, and Mr. Littrell, 140 Greenway circle. The family formerly lived here.

**Return**

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kepling and children, Linda Sharon and Phillip Henry, have returned to Medford after spending the past nine months in Eugene, Ore. The Keplings home is at 107 South Newtown street.

# Youths Have Summer Work All Figured

Portland—(U.P.)—Three Portland youths have their summer vacation and turned over to the juvenile court.

The fire, set by matches shot into the building with homemade "clothespin" guns, caused damage estimated at \$25,000.

French Morocco—far from being a desert—resembles California in variety of climate and scenery. Half a million acres are irrigated.

About 27,000 Americans become blind during the course of an average year.

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# Quotes From the News

**By UNITED PRESS**

Washington—Rep. Charles E. Bennett (D-Fla.) on the approval of a "code of ethics" by a House Civil Service subcommittee:

"I take a sack of potatoes . . . and I send out Florida citrus fruit. Now, if a congressman gets something with star sapphires and diamonds, that's another matter. He knows it's more than just a souvenir."

Washington—Nikolai E. Khokhlov, former Russian intelligence officer, on the recent signs of unrest in the Soviet Union:

"The people of the Soviet Union, sooner or later . . . are going to rise up and free themselves from Communist rule. The revolution has already begun."

Miami—Lady Nancy Astor on what she thought of Grace Kelly's coming marriage to Prince Rainier of Monaco:

"From the American newspapers you'd think America was populated solely by naked women and cinema stars. There are plenty of women judges, doctors and scientists in the United States, but do you hear about them or their marriages?"

Chicago—The Very Rev. Harold W. Rigney, held for four years in a Red Chinese prison camp, on what he wishes to tell Americans:

"I will tell them to trust no Communist. A false sense of security is dangerous for this country."

Hollywood—Gloria Holiday in her divorce testimony against Harold J. Peary, the former "Great Gildersleeve" of radio:

"My husband was a Republican. I was a Democrat. He tried to make a Republican out of me."

Jackson, Miss.—State Sen. George Owens on raising the pay of Mississippi legislators:

"I don't think legislators should have to eat hamburgers and hot dogs when they get hungry."

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# Kefauver Would Welcome Adlai

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—A confident Sen. Estes Kefauver appeared unperturbed today by reports that Adlai E. Stevenson was coming to California on a "stop Kefauver" trip.

The lanky Tennessee campaigner for the Democratic presidential nomination, on a whirlwind tour of Southern California in his bid for California's delegation to the Democratic National Convention, said Stevenson would be "welcome" in California.

Stevenson, who was upset by Kefauver in the recent Minnesota vote, is scheduled to arrive here by plane tomorrow.

Kefauver pointed yesterday to his frequently stated remark that a "healthy primary fight will strengthen the party." He indicated he was ready for a powerful battle with Stevenson for the California delegation in the June 5 primary.

"I know Stevenson will get a good welcome in California," Kefauver said. "I can't imagine a better place for a vacation."

As to his own campaign, Kefauver said, it was an "uphill

# Hudson's Bay Ship Docks at Vancouver

Vancouver, Wash.—(U.P.)—The first Hudson's Bay vessel to call here in 109 years was tied up at the Van Couver docks today. The Dutch motorship Auriga, called here with a load of fertilizer.

The ship flies the Dutch flag but has been purchased by the Hudson's Bay company and will be fitted out for service in Arctic circle waters north of Canada.

The last Hudson's Bay ship to call at Fort Vancouver was the bark Covlitz which loaded there in 1847.

The 176-foot Auriga carries a crew of nine.

"pull" but "we're going good now."

He said he hopes Californians do like the Minnesota voters and cast their ballots "for me."

**STAR GAZER**

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide  
According to the Stars

To develop message for Wednesday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

<b>ARIES</b> MAR 21-20	1. Conditions 2. Love 3. You're 4. On 5. The 6. Don't 7. Much 8. P.M. 9. Expect 10. Don't 11. Time 12. Some 13. Be 14. Let	31 Favor 32 Fortune 33 Right 34 Be 35 Avoid 36 Play 37 Suffer 38 Unusually 39 May 40 Track 41 For 42 Against 43 Find 44 Your 45 Particularly 46 Or 47 Accidents 48 Only 49 A	61 Your 62 Connected 63 Far 64 With 65 Social 66 Exciting 67 Now 68 Reason 69 If 70 Ahead 71 Love 72 You're 73 Advantage 74 Interest 75 All 76 It's 77 Worth 78 Driven 79 Your 80 Personality 81 Financial 82 Good 83 Occupation 84 Today 85 Silly 86 Affairs 87 Be 88 Diplomatic 89 Cause	<b>LIBRA</b> SEPT 23-22	6-14-24-37 41-56-68
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**Taurus** APR 21-20  
9-12-27-46  
65-73-84

**Gemini** MAY 21-20  
6-42-47-52  
69-72-78

**Cancer** JUN 21-20  
1-7-15-23  
31-45-81-86

**Leo** JULY 23-22  
16-17-21-30  
38-51-67

**Virgo** AUG 23-22  
22-34-49-50  
66-71-74

**Scorpio** OCT 23-22  
3-4-19-33  
60-59-70

**Sagittarius** NOV 23-22  
2-8-26-35  
55-60-67-88

**Capricorn** DEC 23-22  
5-11-25-32  
53-61-80-85

**Aquarius** JAN 21-20  
10-13-20-29  
48-57-82-89

**Pisces** FEB 20-19  
18-39-43-58  
62-64-79-83

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# Cold Winds Chase Springtime Heat

Cold mountain winds routed a springtime "heat wave" in the West today, tumbling temperatures from near-90 degree peaks. The cold air, pushed on by gusty winds, blew over the Rocky Mountains and spread across Nevada, Montana, and Wyoming. Temperatures fell almost 30 degrees.

Weather forecasters predicted there would be no repetition today of summery weather which sent the mercury to 87 at Garden City, Kan., 82 at Philip, S.D., and 81 at Chadron, Neb., yesterday.

To the east, the southern Atlantic coast warmed up, but not enough to bring Florida's temperatures up to normal. It was below freezing early today across most of the Great Lakes and New England and in the northern Rockies and the Great Basin.

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Honey Beige 12 Ft. Width Dura-Loop Pile	<b>\$4.98</b> SQ. YD.
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Parchment Beige, Loop Pile 12'x16' Roll End	<b>\$99</b>

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