



SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING—The United States successfully launched an Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile capable of dropping hydrogen fury on an enemy target oceans away and a peacetime prospect for orbiting an American satellite. Here, the huge missile, also known as the "Big A" is launched at the Cape Canaveral, Fla., missile center. Photo shows the missile coming out of the pre take-off blast of white smoke and steam.

Live Camel Star of Church's Nativity Scene at Outdoor California Pageant

Burlingame, Calif.—A live camel named Celia that is insured by Lloyd's of London is the star of a spectacular nativity scene and pageant staged nightly at the First Baptist church here.

One of the largest outdoor pageants anywhere, it includes a cast of 45 young people, eight sheep, two donkeys and a calf in addition to the camel.

The story of the birth of Christ is enacted on the church parking lot. The set is half the length of a football field with a 16-foot high background depicting the hills of Bethlehem beneath more than 100 twinkling stars.

There is an inn and stable with built-in manger. A livestock pen is nearby.

Despite an unwelcome rain-

storm, the pageant got underway Monday night with a minimum of hitches. An estimated 500 persons gathered to watch the five showings, and with improved weather it was hoped that upwards to 25,000 will have viewed the spectacle when its ends Christmas Eve.

But Dr. Cecil G. Osborne, church pastor, and the 100 others who worked on the pageant, are keeping their fingers crossed in hopes Celia the camel won't have to drop out of the cast. She is due to give birth "any day now," Dr. Osborne said.

High Insurance

The big bactrian (two humps) camel is the property of Fleishacker Zoo in nearby San Francisco. Before the zoo would lend out Celia, the church had to buy a \$1,000 life insurance policy on the animal for 10 days.

The First Baptist Church pageant began seven years ago as three wooden figures in a simple four-foot stable and manger scene on the church lawn. Now it is one of the Christmas season highlights of the San Francisco area. Dr. Osborne, following the original scripture closely, narrates the 14-minute pageant. The sheep and calf are kept in the pen while the camel is tied to a stake. Youngsters in flowing robes depict the coming of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, Mary riding a donkey, the wise men and the shepherds.

No Offerings

Between performances spectators are invited inside the church for coffee and chocolate. No offerings are accepted.

"It's our Christmas gift to the community," Dr. Osborne said. "It is our effort to put Christ back into Christmas."

Dr. Osborne, who has visited the Holy Land four times, said great pains were taken to assure the authenticity of the nativity scene. This applied to the silhouette of the hills behind Bethlehem, the native costumes and even the plants and shrubs.

He credited the church's youth director, the Rev. Gene Turtle, with perfecting the pageant in its present form. Turtle directed the efforts of church members who built the set and the youngsters who play the various roles.

The nerve center of the pageant is a small room in the church crammed with electrical equipment, tape recorders and switchboards. Here one man listening to instructions recorded on tape by Turtle raises and dims spotlights, gives the cues and handles the recorded music and narration by Dr. Osborne.

Lloyd Sees Russian Nuclear Weapon Fear

London.—Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd said today the danger of Soviet penetration around the "flanks" of the free world has increased.

Possession by the West of nuclear weapons, he told the House of Commons, "is the only thing they fear."

Lloyd spoke at the opening of a foreign policy debate on the heels of the NATO summit conference in Paris.

The secretary said the Kremlin "wants to freeze the status quo in Eastern Europe... split off West Germany from the other NATO countries... divide Europe from the United Kingdom and the United States."

"Their whole effort is to diminish the effectiveness of the deterrent and their attack by propaganda means is upon the possession by the West of the nuclear deterrent because that is the only thing they fear," Lloyd said.

More dirt has been moved to bury pipelines, most of which carry oil or its products, than all that required to build all existing canals.

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Water Best Friend Of Christmas Tree, Specialist States

Corvallis.—Water is still the Christmas tree's best friend, keeping it fresh and green through the Yule season preventing a serious fire hazard, said Charles Ross, Oregon State college farm forestry specialist.

Tests with chemicals and other special treatment for Christmas trees in the home appear to offer no better method than standing the tree in plenty of water, Ross said.

The Christmas holiday season gives fire added chances to strike the home, Ross reminds. Typical hazards include short circuits, lighted candles, sparks from hearth fires and matches or cigarettes on flammable decorations, paper or trash.

When the dry, fire-prone needles start falling, it is time to discard the tree, Ross emphasized.

Extension Worker

The extension worker offers the following suggestions for keeping Christmas trees fire-safe and fresh:

1. Obtain a fresh tree and store it outdoors until ready for use.

2. Set the tree in a stand having a container for at least a gallon of water.

3. Add to the water a little antiseptic or household germicide such as chlorox to keep organisms from forming a scum on the but of the tree. This scum cuts down the amount of water the tree can "drink."

4. Before placing the trees in water, make a new diagonal cut on the stem at least one inch above the old cut. This exposes a fresh, moist surface to absorb water.

5. Stand the tree in the water at once and keep water level above the cut surfaces at all times.

Ross also suggests the following precautions against Christmas home fires:

Try to set up the tree in a cool place in the house away from television sets, radiators, fireplaces, or other sources of heat. Don't place it in locations that block exits in case of fire.

Combustible Decorations

Also try to avoid accumulations of combustible decorations, cotton, and wrappings close to the tree. Be especially careful of materials that flash-fire. Wool and silk do not, but loosely woven cotton will. Brushed-up rayon, used in some garments and children's bunnies, burns quickly.

See that wires of electric lights on the tree are in good condition and not frayed. It is best to have a switch for these lights some distance from the tree. Avoid plugging and unplugging the lights beneath the tree.

Don't leave the tree lights burning when no one is in the house. Inspect portions of the tree near the lights to see if the needles have started to turn brown—if they have, change location of the lights.

A home fire extinguisher is a good investment, Ross concludes.

Boy Scout Council Adopts Policy on Estate Bequest

A policy that the anticipated bequest from the John R. Tomlin estate to the Crater Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America, be held in trust was approved by the executive board of the three-county Scout Council last week.

"While we have no way of knowing at the present time the value of this bequest, we are most grateful that income from these funds will be available for special projects other than our regular operating budget," J. A. McDougall, Council President, said.

"It may be at least two years before the Crater Lake Council will benefit from this estate, but it is our feeling that we should go on record now indicating the importance of placing these funds in trust so that the public will understand that this bequest will not be outright," McDougall explained.

Approval Given

Approval was given at the executive board meeting to the plan for the 1958 sustaining membership program which is needed to take care of the expected shortage in the current year's operating budget as the result of allocations and shortages in some independent and federated campaigns. L. E. McEachron is chairman of the council finance committee.

Plans also were approved for the Boy Scout week window display contest from Feb. 7 to 13, a house - to - house distribution "good turn" for Mercy Flights next March in Jackson, Josephine, and Siskiyou counties, and district expositions to be held next May.

New members of the Council Commissioner staff in Jackson county were approved by the executive board. They are L. A. Pritchard and Paul Gasparotti, assistant district commissioners; and Dr. Gene Chamberlain and Walter Marquess, neighborhood commissioners.

NOW THEY BELIEVE

Syracuse, N. Y. —Deductive Manuel Leone and Harold Flavin were frankly skeptical when Robert Lyman, 4, told them he was responsible for the shotgun blast that ripped a hole in his family's apartment ceiling. They asked to be shown.

So young Robert picked up the shotgun, climbed atop a dresser to get a shell, loaded and cocked the gun, aimed and . . . The officers quickly grabbed the shotgun.

Friday, December 20, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

Gold Melter Misses 3 1/2 Days of Work During 62 Years With Same Company

By DOC QUIGG

United Press Correspondent

New York — Herman Diemer, a Brooklyn boy who has melted down 2,000,000 pounds of gold in the last 62 years, who inhales a bit of the precious stuff every day and washes about 10 cents worth of the dust from his hands every night, is retiring with a work record that is also golden.

Sixty-two years, day in and day out, melting and alloying the makings of 25 to 30 million wedding and engagement rings. There is a stint for you. But the startling part of it—and this is confirmed by the company records—is that he missed only 3 1/2 days in 62 years because of illness.

How can you goof off that way, Herman?

Blasted Flu Epidemic

"It was that blasted flu epidemic of 1918," he explained. "One day when I stepped away from the heat of the melting furnace I had a chill. They told me I better go home, and I was laid

up three and a half days with the flu."

His feat of health and loyalty should be something for the record books. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. estimates that the average working man loses eight days a year (women lose 12) in illness and accidents. Under that figure, Diemer was entitled to 496 days of illness—if he had been an average man.

To what does he attribute his remarkable stay-well record?

"I believe good humor has a lot to do with it," he said. "A good smile is worth a lot. I walk around here every day telling people to cheer up."

Even when he walks, he's on gold. You can see flecks and specks of gold embedded in the factory floor. Diemer is the melder for J. R. Wood & Sons, largest U.S. maker of wedding and engagement rings. They turn out more than 500,000 rings a year.

Handles a Billion Dollars

It is estimated that the gold which passed through Diemer's hands in his long melting span amounted to around \$1 billion worth of retail rings. Diemer takes \$5,000 bars of "fine gold"—24 carat stuff—and turns it, by melting in alloys, into 14-carat gold suitable for ring mak-

The value of the "waste" from the machines is such that about \$25,000 a year is recovered in floor sweepings, hand washing, shoe brushing, and a blow-off system that filters gold dust from the air of the J. R. Wood factory in Manhattan.

In the years of turning out the hand-marks of romance, Diemer has seen the power machine replace footpower, the coffee and cola dispenser replace the beer can from the corner saloon. He's retiring at year's end. At a company dinner he got the inevitable—a gold ring—but with a 62-point diamond in it, a point for each year.

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Ichthyologist Amazed To Discover Anguilla Obscura in Africa

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York.—Imagine the astonishment of a scientist when a newly captured eel turned out to belong to the most mysterious of the eel families, Anguilla Obscura.



If you were an eel scientist and had been in his place, you would have been astonished, too. He was in South Africa; his specimen had been taken in the headwaters of a South African river.

But Anguilla obscura is a Pacific Ocean eel. Never before had one of them been taken west of New Guinea, which is some 7,000 miles east and north of South Africa.

Dr. R. A. Jubb, ichthyologist of Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, reported the find.

Travel Far to Breed

Science had known eels travel great distances to breed and their offspring, while still in larval form, repeat those journeys in going to the places where their parents came from.

But science hadn't known the distances could be anything even approaching 7,000 miles—2,000 to 3,000 miles are the established routine distances for family-minded eels and the resulting young.

For instance, the common American eel (Anguilla Chrysoptera) go no farther than the waters southeast and south of Bermuda after leaving the coastal rivers in which they spent their adult lives.

Perpetuating the eel is a fatal business for eels. What triggers the desire is unknown. After a number of years of growing and maturing in fresh water, eels suddenly stop eating.

Fat Provides Eel's Energy

They're gorged with their own fat, even to the point of changing their color. These "silver eels" slip down the rivers into the sea. Their fat provides the energy for a long journey and for breeding, and then they die.

Their larvae are tiny and transparent which preserved them from enemies. They spread out over the ocean, feeding on

animals smaller than they. Slowly they grow as slowly they cover distances. Suddenly they shrink and stretch out and become eels—little eels. By then they are near a coast and up the rivers they go, the grow and mature and eventually become silver eels which repeat the process.

Governor Removes Parole Conditions

Salem.—Gov. Robert D. Holmes Thursday removed conditions under which an Oregon man was released from prison 15 years ago.

Floyd Romaine was sentenced to life imprisonment June 12, 1921 from Douglas county after being convicted of first degree murder.

Gov. Charles A. Sprague granted him a conditional commutation of sentence June 1, 1942 and he was released from prison on condition he fulfill requirements of the State Board of Parole and Probation.

The Parole Board recently recommended to the governor that Romaine be freed completely from its control, stating that he had complied fully with their rules for 15 years.

N. Y. Police Slay Thief During Rush

New York.—Police fired eight shots through rush-hour Christmas shopping throngs Thursday night to kill a fleeing murder suspect.

The man carried personal items of 15 men he is believed to have robbed but was still unidentified 12 hours after the shooting. Police said his fingerprints were not in New York police files and copies have been sent to Washington for checking against FBI files.

He was identified as a knife-wielding thief, however, by three victims.

Thousands of shoppers and homebound office workers pressed themselves against buildings and into crowded doorways during the chase about 5:30 p.m. from a Madison ave. shoe store through busy East 47th st. to a Fifth ave. corner.

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