

Russia Claimed Ready To Sign Ban on Tests



Pierce Display Is Judged Winner of Jaycee Competition

A display at the A. C. Pierce residence, Pierce Heights, was sweepstakes winner in the annual Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas lighting contest, Del Landing, project chairman, announced today.

A display at the Pierce residence won last year, but both entries have been different, Landing pointed out.

The Pierce display this year featured the traditional Nativity scene, with the Babe in a manger having a lighted halo. Near the child are three gifts of the Wise Men, and five lambs and a live burro.

Northwest area: Mrs. L. B. Pierce, 516 West Jackson st.; first, Charles Botzger, 3350 Jacksonville highway, second, Northeast area: Thomas Cardona, 224 Saginaw dr.; first, Mrs. J. J. Pyle, 2480 Roberts rd., second, Southeast area: Clark Rawlings, 131 Vancouver ave.; first, Dr. O. A. Welsh, 1300 East Main st., second, Southwest area: Mrs. Burr E. Tye, 102 Mistletoe ave.; first, W. D. Mattson, 1036 Mt. Pitt ave., second.

Snow Reported on Mountain Passes

Snow was reported on major highways out of the valley this morning, according to state police.

New Leads Being Checked by Police in Disappearance of Martin Family

Portland —UPI— Two new leads were checked today in the search for the Ken Martin family of Portland, missing since Dec. 7 on a Christmas tree hunting expedition.

Highway Traffic Death Toll Starts Upward Climb

Safety Council Predicts 620 Deaths

By United Press International Americans rejoiced together today in churches or laughed together under Christmas trees in a holiday from the ballistics, brinks and blockades that have beset the chaotic world of 1958.

Accused Slayer Of Boy Critical

Astoria —UPI— The condition of Robert L. Slater, 53, Portland labor leader charged with the fatal shooting of Larry Banyard, 16, Tigard, Tuesday remained critical today.

Three Injured in Highway Mishap

Three persons were reported in fair condition at Josephine General hospital today following a two-vehicle accident Wednesday about 4:55 p.m., a mile north of Rogue River on Highway 99, state police reported.

January Critical In Test Ban Talks

Washington —UPI— U. S. officials said today the first weeks of January will be critical in determining whether the United States, Britain and Russia reach a workable agreement on a nuclear test ban.

Development Loan Fund Budget Cut

Washington —UPI— President Eisenhower, in his budget-cutting program, was reported today to have slashed \$300 million from the State Department request for the Development Loan Fund.

Girl First Christmas Baby in Portland

Portland —UPI— The first baby born on Christmas day in Portland was a daughter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Gene G. Westberg, at St. Vincent hospital at 12:35 a.m.

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Inner Peace Essential, Nobel Winner Asserts in Yule Message

By FATHER GEORGES PIRE, Writer for UPI

Huy, Belgium —UPI— For the past 1958 years the angels have been singing the encouraging words known to all "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men." Without this assurance we might doubt that peace is possible after finishing a year like this and finding ourselves before the unknown of 1959. And especially when we see what little progress humanity on the whole has made.

feel the need to believe that someone believes in them. I have received many letters saying, "thank you for your faith in mankind." Let us, therefore, have reasonable faith in mankind and let us all during the year to come make an effort for peace.

and hope for peace must not expect too much of it from an exterior source. This "exterior source" may be a congress or a meeting of politicians.

Help us build new European villages in which we can provide a human life to human families. It does not matter if these families come from Eastern Europe and are now in the West. He would do the same for any family which found itself destitute in another corner of this world which must become more fraternal.

Unite our goodwill. I to help you and you to help me. Increase my range of action, the warmth of my island of peace. May this message, written without a literary touch but the depth of my heart reach you all and bring you some joy on this Christmas of 1958.

Ashland Resident Killed When Hit Late Wednesday

Ashland —Charles Johnson, 82, of Ashland hotel, was killed about 5:55 p.m. Wednesday while crossing East Main st. at the intersection of Oak st. to return to the hotel, Ashland city police reported.

The man was struck by an automobile operated by Kenneth Theodore Wenaus, 46 Granite st., Ashland. Police said there is still a question as to whether Johnson was in the crosswalk at the time of the incident.

The traffic fatality is the first in more than two years within the Ashland-city limits, police said. Johnson's death brings to 22 the number killed in traffic accidents within the county this year. This time last year 26 persons had lost their lives in automobile accidents in the county.

SHOW STEALER - A "co-star" in the Lone Pine school Christmas play last Friday may never win an Oscar, but her appearance on stage proved to be one of the highlights of the evening's performance.

The "actress" was a fluffy white burro named Chiquita, shown above with Courtney Odell and Harold Simon who played Mary and Joseph in the production. Courtney arrived in Bethlehem on Thursday escorted by an honorary guard of Jordanian cavalry police.



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Thousands of Pilgrims Gather At Holy Shrine of Christendom

Bethlehem —UPI— Thousands of pilgrims worshipped today in Bethlehem, the small town nestled in the Judean hills where Christ was born.

Bethlehem, once part of Palestine and now in West Jordan, contains the holiest shrines of Christendom and more than 13,000 pilgrims from throughout the world visited here this Christmas season.

As is the custom once a year, Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem, five miles away, is opened for the pilgrims to pass from Israel to Jordan.

There were services a mile away along the road which leads from Bethlehem to Jerusalem at the well of the Magi where tradition says the Wise Men stopped to drink and saw the reflection of the star which led them to the manger where the Christ child lay.

Airlines Mechanics Accept Proposal

Miami —UPI— Eastern Airlines' striking mechanics have voted to accept a new company proposal. But there still is little indication when the company's grounded planes will fly again.

Two Christmas Babies Born in Valley Today

Two babies, both girls, were born on Christmas day at valley hospitals.

Parents of a girl born at 5:47 a.m. at Rogue Valley hospital are Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Tosh, 1422 Dixie lane, Medford. She weighed 5 1/2 pounds.

Trumans Gather for Christmas Observance

New York —UPI— Former President and Mrs. Truman will observe Christmas today at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Daniel.

Salem —UPI— A total of 12,376 acres was burned on state forest land during the 1958 fire season.

Gromyko Declares Reds Would Ask No Reservations

Limited Tests for Peaceful Purposes

Moscow —UPI— Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said today the Soviet Union was ready to sign at any time an agreement with the United States and Britain to end nuclear weapon tests "without any reservations and preconditions."

Addressing the Supreme Soviet, Gromyko announced to the assembled deputies: "The Soviet Government is ready to sign an agreement on the discontinuation of nuclear weapon tests at any time, even tomorrow, without any reservations and preconditions, and to cease from that day on, together with the United States and Britain, the tests of all types of such weapons for all time."

Gromyko said the Soviet Government was prepared to agree to a limited number of nuclear tests for peaceful purposes. But he said the Soviets would take it for granted that the number of tests made by the U.S.S.R. "should equal the number of tests made by the United States and Great Britain combined."

"The total number of explosions for every year should be agreed on and limited in advance," he said.

Spying Charge The Foreign Minister accused the West of trying to use surprise attack safeguards as a means of spying into the Soviet arsenal.

"We can satisfy their curiosity in one respect," Gromyko said. "We can assure them once again that the U.S.S.R. has enough up-to-date arms, both in quantity and quality, to provide the country with reliable safeguards against any encroachment."

Turning to the Berlin problem, Gromyko said that if the problem were not solved, the city might become a second Sarajevo.

The reference was to the city in Bosnia, now part of Yugoslavia, where World War I was touched off by the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria.

Gromyko said the Soviet Government's motives were being misunderstood and that the Western powers were looking for a hidden motive which did not exist.

The Foreign Minister pointed out that no substantial progress had yet been made at the Geneva conference on the suspension of nuclear weapons tests.

He said this has occurred because representatives of the United States and Britain were apparently in no hurry to solve the task before the conference.

Gromyko said the Soviet Union was always ready to ban nuclear tests and did so unilaterally last March while the United States and England refused to follow and continued their experiments at a faster pace.

Eisenhowers Have Quiet Days at Home

Washington —UPI— President and Mrs. Eisenhower observed Christmas today like millions of other Americans with a quiet day at home and the traditional family dinner.

No affairs of state were on the presidential schedule and the first family planned to entertain their son, Maj. John Eisenhower, his wife Barbara, and their four children at the White House.

Santa Claus will visit the Eisenhower grandchildren at their home in nearby Alexandria, Va., before they go to the White House for the 5 p.m. (e.s.t.) dinner with their grandparents.

But other presents will be exchanged, of course, by the family around the White House Christmas tree. The White House usually keeps the nature of family gifts secret.

All 36 Aboard French Airliner Survive Crash

Vienna —UPI— An Air France Constellation crashed in flames Wednesday night but the lives of all aboard "miraculously" were spared. The pilot of the four-engine plane said it entered a "cloud of fog" just before it plunged into a muddy field a mile short of the airport runway.

The plane was en route from Paris to Vienna with one stop at Munich. Wind Spoils Attempt Pierre Candau, French pilot of the plane in which 36 persons narrowly missed death, said visibility was good around Vienna's Schwechat airport but a strong wind spoiled his first landing attempt.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Increasing cloudiness tonight. Occasional rain Friday. Low tonight 32. High Friday 45. Low Friday night 35. Temp.

Highest Yesterday 43
Lowest this Morning 28
Prec. to 10 a.m. Today 45

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today 4:43 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:39 a.m.
Moonrise today 4:24 p.m.
Full Moon tonight 7:34 p.m.

PROMINENT STARS

Regulus, rises 9:38 p.m.
The Twins, high above Regulus.
VISIBLE PLANETS
Mars, high in south 8:50 p.m.
Jupiter, rises 4:46 a.m.