



GROUND—An American Airlines employee rests in one of the baggage bins at Chicago's Midway Airport, unused because of the pilot's strike which has paralyzed the airline during the Christmas holiday rush. Federal negotiators say there is hope of resumption of negotiations in the strike, which has tied up both American and Eastern Airlines.

French Children Get Two Separate Christmas Days in Every Year

Paris—(UPI)—French children enjoy two separate Christmas days every year from the gift-giving point of view, which is why some French fathers shy at the sound of sleigh bells.

Like most children in the Western countries the "little ones" (les petits) of France must get lots of presents when everybody's Christmas day rolls around on Dec. 25.

But they are also in line for lots more presents on New Year's day, which is why many French fathers are flat broke on Jan. 2. But they chalk it all up to "tradition," shrug their shoulders and wear a fixed smile.

In France, the Santa Claus cult is strong. Here he is called "Pere Noel." French say he lives in the sky and comes down the chimney. French children place their shoes near the fireplace to tip him off that they are waiting.

In houses where there are no fireplaces, they put the shoes near the radiator or under the Christmas tree when there is one.

The idea of having a Christmas tree and decorating it was imported into France during the last generation. It is pretty widely installed now, even on the French Ri-

Ashland Housewife Released to Husband

A 17-year-old Ashland housewife has been released to her husband by Jackson county juvenile authorities following her arrest last Saturday in connection with shoplifting in a downtown Medford store.

She told city police in a signed statement that she had taken two boxes of scatter pins from Van Lee's 88-Cent store, 227 East Sixth st. She originally told police she was 22 years old. When it later developed she was 17, she was turned over to the juvenile authorities.



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About 13 Million Americans Save by Christmas Club Plan

New York—(UPI)—Some 13 million Americans saved up more than \$1,360,000,000 in nearly 8,000 banks this year as members of a rather illogical savings system known as the Christmas Club.

It's illogical because, contrary to all the rules of financial good sense, neither the banks who run the clubs nor the people who put their money away in them make anything on the deal.

Under the plan a person deposits from 25 cents to \$50 each week for 50 weeks. At the end of the year he receives a check for the full amount deposited.

But the depositor receives no interest on his money, and in some cases has to pay the bank for the privilege of saving.

In turn, the bank makes no profit on the odd arrangement since it doesn't hold the money long enough to make investment profitable. In fact it costs banks anywhere from \$2.50 to \$4.25 just to handle a single club account for one year.

What then is behind the phenomenal success of the Christmas club? "It's all psychological," said Archibald Gillies, vice president of Christmas Club corporation.

"People feel once they have joined the club they have an iron-clad obligation to keep up payments, although all they have done is make a contract with themselves," Gillies theorized.

"People," he said, "also have a guilt complex about taking out their money before the end of the year, and are embarrassed to explain to the bank why they need the money right away."

Gillies, whose firm started the first successful Christmas club in 1910, said clubs around the country have increased their total volume of annual savings by approximately 65 per cent in the past

10 years. He estimated that this year's volume of savings increased three per cent over 1957 with the average member saving \$105.

The savings club executive said that banks benefit indirectly through the thrift plan. He explained that approximately 30 per cent of the club's savings find their way into permanent bank accounts, and the plan also lures a sizable number of potential depositors into a bank.

Only about 31 per cent of Christmas club savings go to meet Christmas expenses, he said. Roughly 10 per cent is used to pay taxes, 12 per cent for mortgage and insurance payments, and the rest goes for education, household and other bills.

Illustrating the pulling power of a Christmas club, Gillies noted that one of the country's biggest banks launched an extensive advertising campaign for savings accounts and netted fewer than 10,000 new depositors. A year later the bank started its own Christmas club and today has 150,000 members.

Seven Persons Die In Bus Collision

Pulaski, Tenn.—(UPI)—A Greyhound bus carrying holiday travelers caromed off one truck near here Tuesday night, slammed into another truck and burst into flames, killing seven persons.

Bodies of the victims, some headed home for Christmas, were so badly burned that the job of identifying the dead was slow. At least 12 bus passengers and the driver of one truck were injured.

Witnesses said bodies were "lying all over" the highway near here after the crash with flames from the burning bus casting an eerie light over the scene.

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London—(UPI)—Nat Travers, 83, the king of London's cockney comedians, died Monday. Travers, who made his first stage appearance at the age of 8, was a music hall performer for 75 years.

MOROCCAN DIES
Rabat, Morocco—(UPI)—Abdallah Chefchaoueni, 35, under-secretary of state for finance in the outgoing Balfrej government, died of a heart attack Tuesday.

Washington—(UPI)—The Christmas mail is running slightly heavier than last year but Postmaster Arthur E. Summerfield says it is being handled with greater economy and efficiency.

London—(UPI)—Bill Crutten-den, 52, former champion of England's town criers, said his voice began to fade from crying Christmas greetings in American streets and on TV shows on a recent tour of the

United States. He was in danger of losing his most valuable asset in Houston, Tex., he said, until he found a bar selling British beer. "After two pints I was back crying as loud as ever," he said.

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