



Pacific Ocean Countries Greet Santa Claus in Varied Ways

By United Press International
Whether Santa Claus arrives by surfboard or submarine, he is met with enthusiasm and unique Christmas celebrations throughout the countries and islands of the Pacific Ocean.

According to the Pacific Area Travel Association, winter travelers can find holiday scenes ranging from the snow-covered pines of Alaska to the sunny beaches of Australia, where Dec. 25 is mid-summer and families take Christmas dinner in picnic hamper to the shore.

In the Philippines, the Christmas observance lasts for 22 days, beginning on Dec. 16 when the devout attend a 4 a.m. "Misa de Gall," so-named because the Mass starts at the first crowing of the cock. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and lanterns, while carolers and brass bands serenade from door to door.

Feast Follows Mass
On Christmas Eve, a feast of roast suckling pig follows midnight Mass, with Christmas Day devoted to visiting and gift-giving. But the day that Filipino children anticipate is Jan. 6, when shoes are placed on window sills the night before to be filled by the Three Wise Men.

In the Hawaiian Islands, the arrival of Santa Claus by outrigger canoe or surfboard signals the start of the holiday season. Soon a freighter known as "the Christmas Tree Ship" steams into port with a load of Pacific Northwest fir trees for Hawaiian homes. The traditional carols are heard, with a ukelele accompaniment, as well as the islands' own Merry Christmas song, "Mele Kalikimaka."

Visitors to Japan will find the annual Christmas Eve Ball at Tokyo's Imperial Hotel a major event of the social season. But for the Japanese, New Year's is the major holiday. Cards and gifts are exchanged on that day and almost everyone enjoys a week-long holiday.

Plum Pudding Served
The Christmas customs of "Merrie Olde England" are found in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji where the traditional dinner of roast goose and plum pudding is served. The ancient institution of "boxing day"—when boxed gifts are exchanged—falls on Dec. 26, providing a four-day week end this year for most of the English-speaking countries in

The Eastern goldfinch is the state bird of New Jersey.

the Far East.
For the Chinese population of Hong Kong, Formosa and Singapore, New Year celebrations start Feb. 8, when festivities herald in the lunar new year, which, this time, will be known as the "year of the pig."

Several days of activities, including a dragon parade, fireworks and performances by roaming musical groups are climaxed by the beautiful Festival of Lanterns, during which vast crowds turn out to join in the huge parade.

Finest Cuisine
A French flavor prevails at Christmas in Vietnam, New Caledonia and Tahiti where restaurants go all out to serve their finest cuisine and wines. The arrival of "Pere Noel," the French version of Santa Claus, in Noumea, New Caledonia, each year sets off a round of spirited revelry. In past years, "Father Christmas" has arrived by plane, ocean liner, submarine and even satellite.

Buddhist Thailand does not celebrate Christmas, but holds colorful New Year religious ceremonies from Dec. 31 through Jan. 5. Yellow-robed monks receive alms, bells are tolled, gongs sounded and priests chant blessings in all-night services.

Chemotherapy, Virology Promising Areas of Modern Cancer Research

Editor's note: The following dispatch, reporting on progress in cancer research, was written for United Press International by the director of the National Cancer Institute. The institute is one of the seven research divisions of the U.S. Public Health Service's famed National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Md.

By JOHN R. HELLER, MD
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Written for UPI

Washington — Two of the most promising areas of modern cancer research are chemotherapy—treatment with drugs—and virology—the study of viruses as a cause of cancer.

In the past decade a number of chemical agents have been developed that are temporarily effective in the treatment of such malignancies as leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, cancer of the breast, and prostate gland.

To date, no case of human cancer has been cured by treatment with drugs alone. However, many cancer patients have experienced prolongation of life and relative freedom from suffering owing to therapy with anti-cancer drugs.

Suppresses Rare Cancer
One of the most dramatic results of cancer chemotherapy is the suppression of a rare form of uterine cancer, choriocarcinoma, by the drug methotrexate. This disease usually kills the patient within a year; but a few women, whose disease had spread to the lungs and brain by the time drug treatment was started, has shown no evidence of cancer for months. One of these patients has manifested no sign of the disease for 2½ years.

The federal government, independent research institutions, colleges and universities, and American industry are now joined in a massive, nationwide research program aimed at developing safe, effective anticancer drugs. This undertaking was begun in 1953 when Congress allocated one million dollars to the National Cancer Institute of the U. S. Public Health Service for a centrally directed research program in the chemotherapy of acute leukemia.

In 1955, the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center was created in the National Cancer Institute, and was given the responsibility for developing a cooperative chemotherapy research program in laboratories and hospitals throughout the United States and abroad. For the present fiscal year, the appropriation for the center is 23 million dollars.

Center in Full Operation
The research program of the chemotherapy service center is now in full operation after completion of a three-

year "tooling up" period. Essentially, there are three phases in the program: (1) the acquisition and initial testing in mice of thousands of chemicals each year to identify those few that possess anti-cancer activity; (2) further testing in animals and laboratory to learn more about these chemicals and to develop safe procedures for their use in humans; and (3) evaluation in extensive clinical trials with patients in hospitals of the still fewer drugs that are safe and show promising anti-cancer activity.

The magnitude of this research effort is reflected by the fact that each year some 40,000 different materials are being tested in animals for anticancer properties. Experience has shown that only about one in a thousand substances tested will find its way ultimately to clinical trial, and even then, many will prove to be inadequate for use in treating human cancer.

At the present time, there are about 60 drugs undergoing clinical evaluation in about 150 hospitals throughout the country that are cooperating in the chemotherapy research effort. In these studies, drugs already well known to the medical profession, such as methotrexate, nitrogen mustard, and the sex hormones, are used as references to determine the effectiveness of newer materials.

Industry Participates
One of the most important aspects of the national chemotherapy program is the active participation of private industry. Many pharmaceutical, chemical and allied firms, with their special facilities and talents for carrying out drug research, are making an invaluable contribution to the program.

The chemotherapy program will accelerate the search for anticancer drugs and may

make it possible to develop additional, more effective, perhaps curative chemical agents for the treatment of malignant disease.

The suggestion that cancer may be a virus disease, such as polio or influenza, was first made more than 50 years ago, and is today the basis for another important, rapidly expanding area of cancer research.

Many investigators have demonstrated conclusively that some forms of cancer in animals are caused by viruses. Within the past few years, scientists at the National Institute of Health, at Bethesda, Md., found that a single virus, obtained from the

tissue of a leukemic mouse, causes a wide variety of tumors, not only in mice but also in rats and hamsters.

Develop Vaccine
In another study, a scientist working at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York City, has developed a vaccine that protects about 80 per cent of mice challenged with a leukemia-producing virus.

These two studies are illustrative of a great deal of virus research now in progress in the cancer field.

Naturally, the question arises: Is human cancer a virus disease? And if it is, will science develop an anti-cancer vaccine? No one can answer either question at present. As yet, no form of human cancer has been shown to be caused by the action of a virus. Therefore, the results obtained in animal cancer-virus research are not applicable to human cancer. However, continued

progress in virus research may lead to the discovery of a means of preventing some forms of cancer in man.

Both chemotherapy and virus research appear to offer the hope that medical science will be able to find ways of controlling cancer, either by the use of drugs, by preventive means, or both.

Hoffmans Win EP Lighting Contest

Eagle Point — Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hoffman received first place in the Christmas home lighting and decorating contest at Eagle Point sponsored by the Eagle Point Lions club, according to Glenn Clymer, chairman of the judging. They were awarded \$10.

Mrs. Beryl Hickson was awarded second prize of \$7.50; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hale, third, \$5; and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Hopper, fourth, \$2.50. The Hoffman home displayed Santa Claus and his reindeer on the roof with Christmas lights and a tree at the windows.

Mrs. Hickson prepared a nativity scene for the contest, the Hales a number of Christmas scenes, and the Hoppers a Santa and sleigh.

Salem — Oregon highway traffic increased 4.2 per cent during November compared to November of 1957.

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