

# Decree Shuts Down French Financial Markets

## At Least 47 Lose Lives in Holiday Fires

By United Press International  
At least 47 persons lost their lives in Christmas holiday fires across the nation. Pennsylvania reported the greatest number of fire deaths—10, including seven children, ranging in age from a few months to 6 years.

At Braddock, Pa., near Pittsburgh, three children died and four members of the family were injured when fire roared through their home early today. Grace Fletcher, 4, and a brother, Eddie, 6, suffocated. Jerry, 2 months, burned to death in his crib.

Another blaze in a home at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., killed Deborah Degnan, 3, and her brothers, Donald, 2, and Edward, 1. Paul Wingert, 3, died in a home fire at St. Petersburg, Fla.

They smelled smoke and roused the others. A medical examiner identified the dead as Mrs. Elizabeth Latham, 63, Roman Karza, 45, and Edmund Kropiewski.

Two persons died in fires in Michigan and one perished in Indiana.

In New York, two airline hostesses, Janet Siegel, 22, Arlington Heights, Ill., and Nancy Curley, 23, Louisville, Ky., raced into a blazing apartment building Thursday night to rescue panic-stricken Mrs. Mary Stalker, 78. But flames prevented them from reaching Ann Brennan, 45, who died in the fire.

## Pilots Request Mediation Board Clarify Proposal

By United Press International  
Pilots striking against American Airlines today asked the National Mediation Board to clarify its proposal to end their week-long walkout.

Board Chairman Leverett Edwards said he would attempt to answer the request of the Air Line Pilots Association later today.

Edwards offered the "truce" proposal Tuesday. It was promptly accepted by the president of American Airlines. The union took it under advisement.

About one-third of the nation's air carrier fleet remained grounded because of labor disputes.

Strike Began Friday  
The pilots' strike against American began last Friday, shutting down the airline in advance of the Christmas holiday travel rush. A company spokesman said if the pilots accepted the truce plan, American could not resume full operations much before Sunday, although some flights could begin immediately.

Meanwhile, twin walkouts against Eastern Airlines entered their 33rd day and appeared destined to continue through the Christmas holiday.

Engineers Deadlocked  
Striking mechanics voted to accept a new contract offered by Eastern, but negotiations with flight engineers, also on strike against the airlines, remained deadlocked.

George Brown, president of the Miami, Fla., local of the International Association of Machinists, said he doubted if mechanics would cross the engineers' picket lines.

## Rain Forecast for Week End in Area

Southern Oregon residents will have ample opportunity to use umbrellas and rainwear this week end, but sleds, toboggans and skis may go unused, according to the weather bureau.

The five-day forecast calls for rain, "heavy at times" in western Oregon with amounts of 2 to 3 inches and more along the coast.

Weather for skiers is somewhat hopeful with the freezing level expected to drop to 4,500 feet this afternoon. There will be some snow in the mountains, the weather bureau said.

All roads are open and clear, state police report. Only road where chains should be carried is the Diamond Lake rd., east and west. The snow there is packed and sanded.

All routes to California are open and normal, according to the California highway patrol.

Halsey Said in Fair Condition in Hospital  
Wilmington, Del.—(UPI)—Fleet Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey Jr., 76, was reported in fair condition today with a heavy cold at Delaware hospital.

Salem—(UPI)—Chains are required for travel to Timberline lodge.

## Sub-Freezing Temperatures Reported Over North, North-Central States

By United Press International  
Sub-freezing temperatures over most of the north and north central United States were compensated for today by prospects of continued clear skies and little snow.

Northern New England and the Eastern Seaboard as far south as West Virginia and parts of lower Michigan had sub-zero readings for the holiday week end.

Southerly breezes, which

## Quemoy Island Shelling Halted

Taipei, Formosa—(UPI)—Communist Chinese guns remained silent today after joining the Nationalists in observing a half-day Christmas cease fire Thursday.

The Defense Ministry said no shelling was reported from the Quemoy Islands up to noon today.

The Nationalists' Quemoy garrison was ordered not to return fire Thursday in observance of the Christmas holiday.

After firing 46 rounds of sporadic shelling Thursday morning, Communist loudspeakers along the coast announced their guns would stop shelling at noon so the Nationalists could have a holiday.

She told police she had no place to go and would have a better Christmas where she was. She received a steak dinner, and a Christmas stocking from the Salvation Army.

Along the Pacific Coast, Washington and Oregon reported light rain and 40-degree temperatures extending as far south as upper California. A storm approaching the Pacific Northwest was expected to bring more rainfall and possible snow in the high mountains.

In the Southern Rockies and Southern California, there was clear weather for Christmas.

## Diplomats See Gromyko Speech As Plea for Talks Compromise Seen Possible on Berlin

Moscow—(UPI)—Western diplomats said today Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's Christmas Day speech to the Supreme Soviet appeared to contain a new Russian plea for a round table conference of major powers.

They noted that, while Gromyko's speech contained the usual attribution of sinister motives to the West and threats of universal destruction if the Berlin crisis touches off a world war, it also contained an expression of readiness to "hear and discuss any western ideas" for a Berlin settlement.

While it appears for the time being at least that Russia is standing firm in its demand for an end to the four-power occupation of Berlin, western observers believed a compromise might be possible if the western powers submit counter proposals rather than reject the Red plan out of hand.

Gromyko said also that Russia is ready at any time to sign an agreement with the United States and Britain to end nuclear weapons tests "without any reservations and preconditions."

## Truck Driver Is Cited Into Court

James Howard Nunes, 26-year-old Christmas tree salesman whose truck ran over George Washington Childs, 61, Monday night, is to be tried in municipal court next Wednesday on a traffic citation.

Childs, of 16 Portland ave., was reported improved at Sacred Heart hospital today. He suffered severe chest injuries when the left rear wheel of the Army surplus weapons carrier truck ran over him, police said.

Medford police cited Nunes 169 Glenwood rd., for failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk following statements obtained from Childs at the hospital Tuesday afternoon.

He appeared in court Wednesday and entered a plea of innocent. Bail was set at \$15.

Childs told police he had been walking westbound on East Main st., and was about halfway across Cottage st., in the crosswalk, when struck.

Asked if he had seen the vehicle approaching, Childs reportedly replied: "Yes, coming awful fast, didn't slacken his pace."

## Heavy Fighting Reported in Cuba

Havana, Cuba—(UPI)—Heavy fighting between government and rebel troops was reported today in the city of Caibarien on the north coast of Las Villas Province in Central Cuba.

Communications sources in Havana said an announcement by a rebel radio broadcast that the insurgents had captured the city were "premature."

The source said the rebels overran a navy outpost of about 20 men in the seaport. But they said the main defense of the city was in the hands of the army and the troops were holding off the attackers from fortified positions.

## Five Prisoners Are Released on Holiday

Medford police released five inmates from city jail to celebrate Christmas in freedom, but a sixth preferred to stay behind bars.

Sentences were suspended for five men serving time for drunkenness in public or vagrancy offenses. The sixth, a woman, had also been sentenced for drunkenness in public.

She told police she had no place to go and would have a better Christmas where she was. She received a steak dinner, and a Christmas stocking from the Salvation Army.

# Holiday Toll Heading for Record

## Three Perish In Northern Oregon Crash

By United Press International  
Oregon today counted three highway deaths since the long week end tally started at 6 p.m. Christmas eve. The first three victims all were from California two of them children.

In addition, three other persons died as a result of injuries suffered late Wednesday afternoon. And a search continued near Tillamook for the bodies of two teenage boys feared drowned in a Wednesday boating mishap.

## Communist China Said Harassed By Revolvers

New York—(UPI)—The Columbia Broadcasting System reported from Taipei today that Communist China is being harassed by anti-Communist revolvers which are spreading from Tibet to Southwest China to the northwest up to the Outer Mongolian border.

The report, from CBS correspondent Eddie Tan, quoted a high Chinese Nationalist intelligence official as saying the revolts began last April and got to such a stage that Peiping's Defense Minister Peng Te Hui had to hurry to the remote southwest province of Singhai last October to direct military operations against the rebels.

CBS pointed out that Peng's emergency trip coincided with the temporary cease fire the Reds proclaimed in the Quemoy crisis Oct. 6.

There also have been numerous previous reports of widespread discontent in Communist China over establishment of the commune system which imposes forced labor on the population and destroys the family ties which have been traditional in China for generations.

The Nationalist official, who was not identified, said the anti-Communist rebels are mostly nomadic Tibetans and Moslem tribesmen, CBS said.

"On several occasions," CBS quoted him as saying, "the intensity of their uprisings surpassed the Hungarian revolt in 1956."

## Three Christmas Babies Born in Area

Three Christmas day babies, all girls, were born in valley hospitals yesterday.

The last to arrive was a 6-pound daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pearce, post office box 536, Rogue River, at 11:52 a.m. at Sacred Heart hospital.

Two others reported Thursday were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Tosh, 1422 Dixie lane, at Rogue Valley hospital, and to Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Beydler, route 1, box 199, Talent, at Sacred Heart.

## Gold Hill Hardware Store Burglarized

Rifles, shotguns and other items valued at approximately \$2,000 were taken over the holiday by burglars who entered Morrow's hardware, Gold Hill, the Jackson county sheriff's office reported today.

The owner, Donald E. Morrow, told investigating deputies that approximately \$26 in cash was missing, along with the guns, electrical appliances and other items. Entry was made by forcing a rear door sometime between 10 a.m. Christmas day and 8 a.m. today.

## French DC6 Airliner Hurlled To Ground By Strong Winds

Salisbury, Rhodesia—(UPI)—A French DC6 airliner crashed after taking off into a tropical thunderstorm today, apparently hurled to the ground by strong winds.

The U. A. T. Airline said three passengers, all South Africans, were killed. Others of the 63 passengers and seven crewmen wandered away from the crash scene, causing rescuers for a time to believe the casualty toll was higher.

## Complaint Seeks \$50,000 in Damages

Leonard T. Rose, 823 1/2 West 10th st., Medford, has filed a complaint in circuit court asking \$50,000 general damages and \$5,173.49 special damages for injuries received in an automobile accident March 13, 1958.

Defendants are three Talent men, Paul E. Overfield, Edward Lunsford, and Cletes F. Moore.

## \$100,000 Damage Suit Filed Here

A complaint seeking \$100,000 damages from Medford Ice and Storage Inc., Ralph and Virginia D. Cook, defendants, was filed in circuit court Dec. 24.

Jack Tuchten, Chicago, is seeking the amount, plus special damages and costs, as the result of an accident Dec. 29, 1956, in Chicago which occurred when he was unloading a railroad car shipped by Medford Ice and Storage.

## Seattle Police Hunt for Slayer

Seattle—(UPI)—Robert L. Johnson, 46, Seattle, was shot to death outside a Beacon Hill tavern Thursday night and police were conducting a search for the slayer.

Johnson died of at least two bullet wounds, coroner's deputies reported.

A ricocheting bullet accidentally wounded Mrs. Nettie Craben, 21, Portland, Ore., in the ankle.

## Atlas Satellite Silent on Christmas

Washington—(UPI)—America's Atlas satellite was silent Christmas Day as it soared through space on a course that took it over the Holy Land.

But the 4 1/2 ton satellite was expected to get back in the communications business again soon.

## 291 Persons Die In Auto Crashes To 10 a.m. Today

By United Press International  
Holiday traffic deaths piled up at a record rate today and a safety expert told motorists to stop thinking celebration and start getting scared.

Otherwise, he warned, the United States may be headed for an all-time holiday traffic death toll.

At 10 a.m. (PST) a United Press International count showed 291 persons died in vehicle accidents since the holiday period started at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Fires killed 57 persons, one died in a plane crash, and 41 persons died in other accidents for a total of 390.

California led among the states in number of holiday traffic deaths with 32. Texas had 28, New York 21, Pennsylvania 18, North Carolina and Ohio 15, Illinois 13, Massachusetts 12, Georgia and Michigan 10.

## Accident Victims In Fair Condition

Three persons who were injured Wednesday afternoon in an automobile accident north of Rogue River were reported still in fair condition at Josephine general hospital today.

Hospitalized following the accident were Richard V. Taylor, 20, of Grants Pass; Mrs. Rachel Amanda Fritz, 75, and Mrs. Venus Lyle Billeter, 57, both Fresno, Calif.

## Husband Forced To Exchange Wanted Christmas Present

Racine, Wis.—(UPI)—Warren David got just what he wanted for Christmas. But he had to take it back, anyhow.

He jokingly told his wife he wanted a blonde doll for Christmas. She obligingly placed the order in a request container at a department store.

Christmas Eve, David's package—a giant ribbon-adorned box—arrived. When he opened it, out stepped a blonde, 5 feet, 2 inches tall, measuring 38-24-36.

## Ashland Man Involved In California Fatality

Sacramento, Calif.—(UPI)—Mrs. Ilda A. Doughty, 29, Dunlap, Calif., was killed and her husband seriously injured Thursday night when a Greyhound bus skidded into a crowd of curious persons at an accident scene.

Highway patrolmen said the first accident occurred when Wayne Bercier, 20, Florin, Calif., stopped his car in the highway to make a left turn onto a suburban road.

## Sub-Freezing Temperatures Reported Over North, North-Central States

Sub-freezing temperatures over most of the north and north central United States were compensated for today by prospects of continued clear skies and little snow.

Northern New England and the Eastern Seaboard as far south as West Virginia and parts of lower Michigan had sub-zero readings for the holiday week end.

Southerly breezes, which

## Preparation for Devaluation of Franc Apparent

De Gaulle Cuts Short Christmas Vacation  
Paris—(UPI)—A surprise decree shut financial markets throughout France today in devaluation of the tottering franc.

Newspapers here said Premier Charles de Gaulle will cut short his Christmas vacation in the country and return to Paris for special cabinet talks this afternoon.

Official sources said the markets were shut down to "avoid any inopportune reaction to the decisions which are being studied by the government."

May Reopen Monday  
The markets, normally closed on Saturday and Sunday, will not reopen until Monday at earliest.

The government apparently planned to use the time to work out its fiscal decisions without the risk of panicky speculation on the franc.

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33rd Year  
**MEDFORD MALL TRIBUNE**  
Price 10 Cents  
No. 238  
MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1958



WEATHER	
FORECAST: Mostly cloudy and showery tonight; becoming partly cloudy with scattered showers Saturday. Low tonight 35; high Saturday 45.	Temp. 45
Lowest this Morning 40	40
Pre. to 10 a.m. today 42	42
Our Skies Tonight	
Sunset today 4:44 p.m.	4:44 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:40 a.m.	7:40 a.m.
Moonrise tonight 5:50 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
Last Quarter 4:50 p.m.	4:50 p.m.
PROMINENT STARS	
Rigel, in the southeast 8:26 p.m.	8:26 p.m.
Aldebaran, high above Rigel.	
Jupiter, in the south-west 10:13 p.m.	10:13 p.m.
Mars, high in the south-east 6:12 a.m.	6:12 a.m.