



LAOTIANS ON MARCH—Laotian citizens head out of Vientiane, capital of Laos, for the Thai border as shelling of the capital and the 76 hours of bitter fighting came to an end. Most of the refugees fled with only the clothes on their

backs and such belongings which they could carry with them. A few of the more fortunate had bicycles.

(UPI Telephoto)

This Drunken Driver Was Easy To Catch

Philadelphia — (UPI) — Police didn't have to chase their first holiday drunken driving suspect here Sunday. He crashed into the rear of a police car.

Forrest Haines, 30, was pronounced intoxicated by a police surgeon and held for the grand jury.

New York City Fire Buff One of Navy Yard's Severest Critics

By JACK V. FOX

New York — (UPI) — A millionaire fire buff has been one of the Navy's severest critics of the housekeeping at Brooklyn Navy yard where a \$75 million holocaust killed 49 men on the Carrier Constellation.

He is Edward F. Cavanagh

Jr., 52, for the past seven years fire commissioner of New York.

A socialite, graduate of Harvard Law school with a 25-room mansion at Glen Cove, Long Island, Cavanagh would seem a least likely general for New York's 11,000 firemen. But one thing that sets off his Irish temper is a suggestion the post is a "hobby."

The mark of the intensity he puts into the job is visible in his hair. It was jet black when he took office. Now it is gray. He is on the scene at every big fire and—in these winter months that averages about two nights a week long past midnight.

Number of Fires Drops

Cavanagh was in command at the tragic Brooklyn jet plane crash into a row of tenements and again at the Constellation fire. He has expressed astonishment at the Navy's use of wooden scaffolding for its workers inside the hull.

A blunt man, Cavanagh has long contended that 90 per cent of all fires could be avoided with proper precautions and in his first four years as New York commissioner the city's total fires dropped from 54,000 to 43,000 annually.

Cavanagh's father, a real estate man, was a fire buff, too. From the age of four the boy was taken by his dad to disasters. He hung around old engine house 211 in Brooklyn in the days when horse-drawn engines made a fire-fighting even more spectacular.

Cavanagh says the fire he remembers most vividly was the one at the Brooklyn candy factory in 1915.

"I was seven at the time and it was the first mass death I had ever seen," he recalls. "Young girls were jumping from windows and being burned to death. It was revolting. Fourteen girls were killed because doors were locked, fire escapes blocked and someone had put syrup

which burns like grease, on the stairway."

Takes Fire Job

He went to Georgetown university, then to Harvard and practiced law from 1932 until 1941 when he went into the Army, coming out with rank of lieutenant colonel. Then Mayor William O'Dwyer persuaded him to take the top fire job in 1954 at a salary of \$25,000.

At his showplace home, Cavanagh has one of the world's most extensive and costly museums of fire-fighting equipment which his wife calls his "firephania." Among it is a bell of silver from an engine that fought the great Chicago fire.

His Long Island home and his New York City apartment are cut in on the citywide fire radio so that he is in constant touch.

"This job is a very, very painful task many times," he said. "Going to fires and seeing senseless destruction becomes a hard burden."

4-H NEWS

Keen Cutters

Murphy — The Keen Cutters, 4-H sewing group of Murphy led by Mrs. George Bretz, undertook a project benefiting others rather than their usual Christmas gift exchange.

The girls recently completed making napkin holders, made from tubes from all size rolls of paper which they covered and decorated in a Christmas theme. Their leader distributed them to rest homes in the area.

This is the second year the group elected to do their part in spreading Christmas spirit, rather than concentrate on the giving and receiving of gifts. Last year they made place mats which were distributed in the same manner. Members of the group are Sandra White, Marie Meek, Janice Staples, Louise Pare, Corinne Anderson, and Barbara Bretz.

Most Deductions For Taxes Won't Require Proof

Washington — (UPI) — Most American taxpayers won't be required to justify deductions for state and local taxes in their 1961 federal income tax returns.

The Internal Revenue Service said this would be a by-product of a series of tables showing average sales tax payments in 33 states and the District of Columbia.

Commissioner Dana Latham said the tables — to be published on or after Dec. 28 — would tell taxpayers what deductions for local levies would be allowed without challenge.

But Latham said taxpayers still should be prepared to verify their deductions for charitable contributions, medical expenses and other items. The tables will be based on a taxpayer's income and the size of his family. They may be of use by taxpayers in states with sales taxes who itemize their income tax deductions.

About one taxpayer in three itemizes his deductions. The others take the standard deduction of 10 per cent of income.

The service said taxpayers who claim no more than the "guide-line amount" in the table "ordinarily" will not be required to prove their claim. But in the event of a full audit, they could be asked to do so.

Stock Option Agreements Out

Salem — (UPI) — Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton says that public utilities in Oregon cannot offer stock option agreements to their employees.

There are no such agreements in effect in Oregon at present and Thornton's opinion prevents such agreements in the future.

Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill asked for the opinion after three firms made application for authority to offer such agreements to key employees. The firms were West Coast Telephone, Cascade Natural Gas and Eastern Oregon Natural Gas.

Thornton followed rulings of the New York courts which held that the New York Public Service Commission has no power to approve the issuance of stock under similar stock option plans.

Thornton pointed out that issuance of stock under such plans is designed to provide compensation. Compensation is chargeable to expense but Oregon law prohibits issuance of stock where the purpose is "reasonably chargeable in whole or in part to operating expense."

Japan Safety Islands Found Not So Safe

Osaka, Japan — (UPI) — Traffic authorities reported today that 280 of the city's safety islands were smashed by automobiles this year. City officials plan to build stronger ones in 1961.

Police Department In Forgiving Mood

Fort Myers, Fla. — (UPI) — Santa Claus handed out the police department's parking tickets here Sunday.

The tickets read: "You have been caught. All is forgiven. Best wishes and a Merry Christmas from the police department."



KENNEDY MEDALLION—This is the front (left) and rear of the Kennedy inaugural medallion, reproductions of which were re-



leased in Washington, D.C. Friday. Paul Manship, New York sculptor, is the designer. (UPI Telephoto)

Noon Edition

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1960

Ex-Mental Patient Kills Daughter

Los Angeles — (UPI) — Mrs. Marguerite Mitchell, 44, a former mental patient, confessed to police she drowned her 2-year-old daughter Sunday in a bathtub filled with hot water because "voices told me to drown my child."

"I thought about doing it for week. I didn't want her to suffer everything I had suffered," Mrs. Mitchell sobbed. The girl, Terry Ann, was the only child of Mrs. Mitchell and her husband, Walter, 50, an accountant. Mrs. Mitchell was booked on suspicion of murder.

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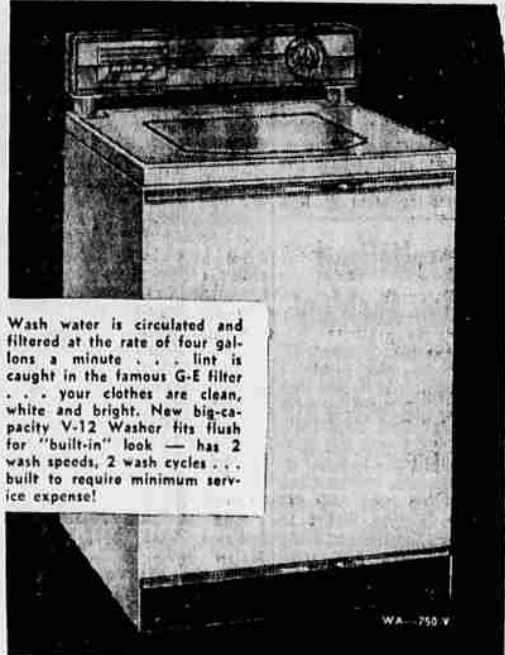


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