

5 PERSONS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

The Herald and News

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KLAMATH FALLS

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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
OUR useful friend "Informed Quarters" says in Moscow this morning that the "area of agreement" covered by the Big Three foreign ministers is greater than anyone, including PERHAPS the ministers themselves, had hoped when the meeting began.

"DIPLOMATIC sources" add that the "atmosphere of futility" that prevailed after the breakdown of the London conference has been eliminated, and the Big Three ministers (Byrnes, Bevin and Molotov) appear to have been united in a spirit of collaboration.

It is added that the conferees seem to have struck up a more intimate acquaintance that is producing a real measure of admiration for each other.

And so on.

THE picture we get is that the failure of the London conference SCARED EVERYBODY, and an honest effort has been made this time to get something out of the mess.

(As when you escape a BAD accident by the skin of your teeth, and are HOLESOMELY SCARED and drive with great caution for a while.)

(YOU understand, of course, this "informed quarters" and "diplomatic sources" business. What it means is that somebody in the know has been giving the reporters the low-down after they have agreed not to quote him by name.)

A "FINAL communiqué" is expected to be issued in Moscow some time today—the exact hour being doubtful as this is written. It will be couched in the language of diplomacy and will probably reveal no more than is necessary.

Diplomats are cautious persons who like to leave a back door open whenever possible.

GENERAL MARSHALL is reported today to be meeting with and listening to the various Chinese factions. The dispatches add that these meetings "look forward to unity in China."

He seems to be backed by considerable authority—even, possibly, to the extent of using U. S. armed might to COMPEL unity, if need be, by supporting one or another of the factions (Chiang Kai-shek, presumably, as matters stand so far.)

SUCH a policy would probably be approved by the American people, if carried out wisely. What we want is a UNIFIED China that will quit fighting and go to work to develop its resources and become a GOOD CUSTOMER of the United States. What we hope for is a form of Chinese government so fair and liberal and tolerant that it could ultimately permit EVEN COMMUNISM if an honest majority of the Chinese people

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

Blinded Vet En Route Home



Corp. John Diaz, blinded in fighting on Okinawa, "seeing eye" dog, "Bliff," aboard a plane in Chicago, is wife and two children in Albany, Calif. (AP wire)

Electrical Strike Looms; Union-GM To Resume Talks

By The Associated Press

The nation's current major labor dispute, the General Motors strike, and a threatened walkout of 250,000 CIO electrical workers, held front rank in post-Christmas business along the country's labor front today.

In Detroit, officials of General Motors and the CIO-United Auto Workers planned to resume negotiations, but the wage issue—the union's demand for 30 per cent wage rate increase—was not scheduled for discussion.

In Washington, officials of the CIO-United Electric Workers whose 250,000 members have authorized a strike in support of demands for a \$2 a day wage hike, were scheduled to meet with labor department conciliators.

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Four men in Dutch uniforms in another car pulled alongside the premier's automobile and fired three bullets against the head, forcing him to halt, Sjahrir reported. He said he had gotten out of his car when one of the soldiers struck him with the pistol. At one time, Sjahrir said a Netherlands officer pointed a pistol at his head. He said a group of about 15 men in all approached the car, but fled upon the appearance of a British patrol.

Six Arrested

British military police arrested six soldiers, who said they were Eurasians and Surinamese. Netherlands army authorities said there was no doubt that the offenders would be punished. Meanwhile, Dutch sources said two Dutch soldiers were killed in Batavia when they were ambushed on Christmas Eve. Dutch Ambonese troops, these sources said, set several nearby Indonesian houses afire in retaliation. Informed quarters said that British and Dutch authorities were likely to renew peace talks with Indonesian leaders after the holidays.

OPIMUM BONFIRE
PEIPING, Dec. 26 (AP)—Eight hundred thousand ounces of opium confiscated by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's headquarters after the Japanese surrender in Peiping will be burned publicly in the great forecourt of the forbidden city on New Year's Day.

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St. Nick On Hand To Welcome Boys



Santa Claus, who knows no transportation tie-ups with Donner and Blitzen, is on hand at pier to present newly-returned Pacific vets presents from citizens and merchants of San Francisco, where thousands of service men must spend the holidays for lack of transportation home. San Franciscans are making a concerted effort to entertain as many of the vets as possible in private homes and organizations throughout the city. (NEA photo.)

Black Crepe Takes Place Of Green Holly In Scores Of Homes After Accidents

By The Associated Press
Black crepe replaced the green holly in scores of the nation's homes today as mourning for victims of violent deaths over the Christmas holidays.

A survey disclosed approximately 415 persons were killed, violently, with more than one half of them victims of automobile accidents.

The traffic fatalities numbered 219 while at least 68 persons died in fires. Violent deaths by miscellaneous causes accounted for 128 victims. These included deaths by shootings, freezings, a tornado, train and airplane crashes and accidents in the home.

The heaviest single toll over the holiday was taken in a hospital fire in Hartford, Conn., with 17 persons fatally burned. Six other persons in Meriden, Conn., died in a fire at a home.

Texas and California reported the most deaths by violence, 52 and 46 respectively. The fatalities in Texas were 33 victims of traffic accidents, fires 1, and 18 by miscellaneous causes, including 15 slayings. California topped the country in motor deaths with 35.

In New York state 21 violent deaths were reported, including six in traffic accidents, while Illinois motor mishaps, all in Chicago, totaled three.

Heavy snowfalls, rain and sleet in many parts of the country kept highway travel at a minimum over the holiday.

Final Big Three Report Delayed

LONDON, Dec. 26 (AP)—Reliable informants said tonight there were indications that the final communiqué on the Moscow meeting of the big three foreign ministers, which had been expected tonight, had been delayed for at least 24 hours.

These quarters said, however, that the fact the communiqué had been delayed did not indicate any breach in the amity which has marked the meetings of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin.

It was said that more time was necessary for writing the communiqué than originally had been expected.

The bulletin will be "very comprehensive," it was said. (See also page 6.)

It's A Skinny Sheet-But Still The Best In Town

"You should furnish coal oil with it. It wasn't big enough to start the fire."

"Where's the rest of the paper? We only got part of it."

"Better put a little lead in the ink. It wasn't heavy enough to stay on the porch."

And so it went, as readers gave The Herald and News a rousing ribbing for the thin edition published Monday afternoon. It was the first four-page regular edition circulated by this newspaper in 15 years. Drastic reduction in the size of the paper will continue through the last few days in December.

The reason: Paper rationing. In order to stay within quarterly quota, The Herald and News had the choice of running normal size papers for two or three days and then stopping publication entirely until month's end, or putting out small-size papers daily.

The latter course was decided upon. It meant drastic reduction in advertising content, but news is running in about normal volume. The advertising department, incidentally, was happy at the kicks which have been coming in, interpreting them as proof that people like to read the advertisements. (Advertising, incidentally, is the major income-producer for the paper, and the thin papers this week are definitely not a financial enterprise.)

The quarter on which the quota is based will be ended and The News and Herald will return to normal size on January 2, before the new \$1 monthly circulation rate goes into effect.

Meanwhile, it's a skinny sheet—and asks no mercy from the kidders.

Car Wrecks Place Two In Hospital

Ambulance Plows Into Rear End Of Light Passenger Coupe

Sloppy melting snow and ice on the highways, particularly in the mountains, caused a flurry of serious automobile accidents in the Klamath Basin over the holidays and put two persons in Klamath Valley hospital with severe injuries.

Mrs. Florence Oppelt, 211 Wendling, who was hurt in a crash on Sand Creek mountain Christmas Eve, is reported to have a skull fracture by hospital authorities and Wesley Harris of Tulelake, also hurt Christmas Eve, has painful lacerations and possible back injuries.

Clarence Hill, Estella Hill and Al Shelton, all of near Klamath Falls, and R. C. Lilly, Merchants-police ambulance driver, were all treated for minor injuries after an accident Monday night on the Merrill highway.

Lilly was driving his ambulance to Tulelake to the scene of another accident when he crashed into the rear of a 1939 Chevrolet coupe driven by Clarence Hill about four miles south of town on the Merrill road late Monday night. Hill reported that he had signaled for a turn and was turning in at Robert's store when the ambulance smashed into his car.

The impact knocked his light coupe across the road and into the back end of a pickup truck belonging to Al Shelton which was parked in front of Idella's store. Shelton, sitting in his vehicle, was hurt by the second crash.

Mrs. Hill was a passenger in the coupe. Hill said the ambulance was making about 55 miles per hour when it struck his car, and that neither its siren or horn was being sounded. Extensive damage was done to all three vehicles.

Wesley Harris, 34, night policeman at Tulelake, was hurt in the accident down there when the Chevrolet panel truck he was driving skidded and overturned on the Alturas-Hatfield highway about a mile out of Tulelake.

Harris was chasing another car when the accident occurred, Tulelake Police Chief Frank Rhodes said today. The highway was slick and the truck slid while rounding a curve heading for the state line and rolled over at least four times.

An unidentified soldier who was in the truck with Harris got out of the wreck without a scratch. Persons in the car they

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Mrs. Henry Moe Taken By Death

Mrs. Henry Moe, 1321 Pacific Terrace, since 1916 a well-known resident of Klamath Falls, passed away at the family residence at 5:45 p. m. December 24. Mrs. Moe had been ill for 20 months.

Ginevra Whiteside Moe was born at Camden, Ohio, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whiteside. She came to Klamath Falls in 1916 with her husband when they established Moe's store here, and for many of the early years assisted in the operation of that business establishment.

Mrs. Moe was active in social affairs in the community, and was prominent in the Reames Golf and Country Club.

Survivors include her husband, long a leading business man of the community; a brother, D. W. Whiteside of Riverside, Calif.; Mrs. Lila Moe Nobeley, a niece of Mrs. Moe who has been close to the family for many years, was here at the time of Mrs. Moe's death. Her husband, Bert Nobeley, has arrived from their home at Oakland, Calif.

Services will be held at the Earl Whitlock chapel, Sixth and Pine, at 3 p. m. Thursday, with Rev. F. C. Wissenbach officiating. Interment will follow in Linkville cemetery.

Arriving In United States

By Associated Press
Anthony C. Branson T/Sgt. Lakeview, arrived on USS Washington due in New York December 29.

Raymond J. Barnes, PFC., Klamath Falls, arriving on John Clark due in New York December 29.

Cause Of Blast Not Explained

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., Dec. 26 (AP)—Five persons were killed and five were injured, none seriously, in an unexplained explosion which destroyed a warehouse-apartment building here early today.

Five bodies were recovered from the ruins. They were identified tentatively as Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Caroline Sue Stovall, 10; Mrs. Francis Watson McClain, 28, and her sister, Miss Mildred Watson, 21, of Huntington Park, Calif.

The two latter had been visiting their mother at Huntington Park, Calif., and left there Tuesday afternoon. Their automobile was found wrecked on the street near the destroyed building. The Stovall child's mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Stovall, was among the injured. Her father, a marine, was unhurt.

First theory that the building was destroyed by a butane gas tank explosion was discarded. Fire Chief C. L. Tenney said, when the tank was found intact. He added it was believed accumulated gas from a leaking pipe may have been exploded by the exhaust from a truck.

Slipped On Starter
Anthony Berta, a truck driver who was among the injured, said the explosion occurred when he stepped on the starter of his machine.

All the victims were among the 20 residents of the apartments on the upper floor of the two-story building.

All available fire equipment fought the blaze, and had it under control within a half hour. Police regulars and reserves were called out to patrol adjacent blocks, where the force of the explosion had shattered virtually every window. A bank block away was put under heavy guard.

Patrolmen reported some residents of the 20 apartments had escaped to the street, which was littered with broken glass, metal window frames and fragments of brick.

The building housed the Santa Barbara Distributing company's beer and soft drink bottling works, located at Chapala and Cota streets, only a block from the main artery, State street.

Police and sheriff's telephone exchanges were jammed with calls from residents, many of them miles away, inquiring about the blast.

Woman Victim Of Beating

GRANTS PASS, Dec. 26 (AP)—Victim of what state police and the sheriff's office termed a brutal beating at the hands of the man she was to have married, Helen Howell, 40, of Los Angeles, was recovering in the Josephine General hospital today.

Pending investigation of the early Christmas morning beating which he told officers he meted out to the woman in the back seat of a car on the road to Grave Creek, William Daniel Corey, 37, formerly of Los Angeles and now of Grave Creek, was being held in the county jail to serve 10 days sentence on his plea of guilty to state police charges of driving a car without a driver's license and driving a car bearing a void foreign license.

Beaten
Police said the woman, who "staggered" into a farm house near Grave Creek early Christmas morning suffering from shock, contusions and deep lacerations and heavy bruises about the face and body, was first taken to Grave Creek after state police arrived at the farmhouse, then was brought to the hospital here.

Officers said that the woman could not speak coherently at the time she was questioned, but told the police that she came here about a week ago to marry Corey, that her furniture was on the way here, and that she had brought \$2400 in money with her. She said she had known Corey about five years.

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N. Carolina Lawmaker Takes Life

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (AP) Clutching a pistol and a razor, Rep. Joe W. Ervin, 44-year-old North Carolina democrat, was found dead in the gas-filled kitchen of his home here Christmas Day.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald issued a certificate of suicide by asphyxiation.

Ervin, a first-term, had complained Monday night of an old leg ailment which had been complicated by a fall last week and of a recent heart disturbance. He had just been released from Walter Reed army hospital after two days of treatment.

The body was discovered by Theron L. Caudle, assistant attorney general and close friend who had called to take the lawmaker to Christmas dinner.

A note on the doorstep addressed to Caudle warned that the house would be filled with gas.

Other Notes

Two other notes were on the dining room table. One was addressed to Ervin's widow, Susan, who had gone to Morganton, N. C., to spend the holidays with her mother-in-law, Mrs. Samuel J. Ervin Sr. The other was to a brother, Samuel E. Jr., former superior court judge at Morganton. Neither was made public.

Caudle said Ervin asked him in his note to tell his mother he had died of heart disease. His fall last week prevented the lawmaker from accompanying his wife to Morganton.

A lawyer, Ervin was elected to congress last year from the 10th North Carolina district. He had lived in Charlotte since 1925.

His death left the house lineup at 240 democrats, 190 republicans, two minor party members and three vacancies. Four democrats, Reps. Dickstein (N.Y.), Rainsbeck (Ga.), Weiss (Pa.) and Woodrum (Va.), have announced their resignations to be effective at year's end.

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