

Today's Roundup

By MALCOLM EPLEY

THE newsgatherers in our office were busy this morning picking up the details on a dozen or more accidents—



one fatal and several others causing serious injury—which occurred in this area over the Christmas Eve-Christmas Day period.

While this was going on locally the AP wire brought in a story telling of the huge nationwide violent death toll over the same period.

These past-holiday accident stories are universally displayed as big news because they are in sensational contrast to the theoretical tradition of the day—rejoicing, merrymaking, and happiness.

There may be other periods of like length in the year when the accident toll mounts to similar volume, but at no time does tragedy strike the public consciousness with such impact as at Christmas.

But we are in an atomic area now. We are seeking progress toward peace and production. If the active republican leadership should succeed in delivering one or both, the step from the senate to the White House might be shorter than that from Albany.

Vandenberg has already been announced as the next president by the governor-elect of Michigan—although he renounced intent also. Taft is in an excellent tactical position since he adroitly retired from the last race in favor of Bricker (who now may similarly bow in favor of Taft).

And, of course, Warren of California, Martin of Pennsylvania, Stassen of Minnesota (the announced candidates) and Martin of Massachusetts, may be running along with some others who could make it a close fight.

Thus my present conclusion is that the chances of Vandenberg and Taft, if added together, are certainly much larger than Dewey's. Unless they kill each other off, or split, they couldn't beat him today.

Don't you wish you were a leprechaun? Wouldn't it be nice to say "The devil take the whole human race," and really not care?

I would like to take off my shoes right now and wade around in the morning dew of a land I never saw.

I would like to shuck off this husk "me" and be somebody else. Don't you ever get tired of your own identity?

I've worn the "dogtag" of myself so long that I would trade places with a Siberian shepherd if I didn't hate to eat lamb so much.

Did you ever look into the eyes of a cat? There is mystery. A cat is engaged and purring adventure. The eyes of a cat are windows to a terrible wonderland in which we tame people are afraid to wander.

Problems Unsolved I am an untidy man sitting at a desk heaped one foot high with letters. In each letter is a problem. I hate to answer letters because I don't think any problem in life is ever really solved.

Do you think it would be fun to have my job and write a daily piece for the newspapers? Not today.

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getter. Higher up some of the leaders are saying his nomination and election are already a foregone conclusion. But this does not happen to be the case. Dewey is not the best republican vote getter. Those republicans, who are fine pointers, have figured that Bricker of Ohio received 59.91 per cent of the vote in his home state; Martin 59.81 per cent; while Dewey received 56.60 per cent (but Warren of California got nearly all).

WHO IS LEADING? NOR is Dewey's titular leadership actual. The working leaders of the party really are Vandenberg on foreign policy, and Taft on domestic policy. This may or may not turn out to be Dewey's advantage.

While he sits in Albany taking a stand only necessarily on the issues of the state, Vandenberg will be mostly at the United Nations the next two years taking a stand on every international issue which comes along.

Similarly, in the senate, will be required to act daily on economic issues of the day. In the past the positions occupied by Vandenberg and Taft have been considered by politicians to be detrimental.

Usually in such positions, men accumulate too much opposition in time, and the nomination goes to a governor (Landon and Dewey) or an outsider (Willkie) against whom not much can be said.

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SIDE GLANCES



"Couldn't you just let me smear enough lipstick on my face so the fellows won't think I spend my evenings at the library?"

Boyle's Column

Day After Christmas Proves Tough For Writer

By HAL BOYLE NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (AP)—I can stand everything about Christmas except the day after.

That is today. Today I want a nice padded cell away from anything and anybody I ever knew. Don't you, too?

Don't you wish you were a leprechaun? Wouldn't it be nice to say "The devil take the whole human race," and really not care?

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The World Today

By GLENN BABB AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

Of all the western powers which perforce are relaxing the ties that held their pre-war empires together, France just now is finding the process most painful.

In the bloody fighting that surges over broad areas of Indo-China she is reaping the harvest of six decades of not very enlightened or generous colonial rule and nearly six years of tragic eclipse after Hitler's 1940 triumph in the west.

It is a strange spectacle presented today in southern and eastern Asia. Nations which rank as victors in the greatest of all wars, instead of consolidating their spoils, are divesting themselves of some of the richest colonial possessions.

This process is accompanied by expressions of desire to spread the light of freedom and self-government throughout the world. In some cases, at least, skepticism is pardonable.

The bald fact is that in the fight for survival against the predatory axis powers some of the ultimate victors paid so dearly in blood, treasure and prestige that they no longer have the strength to keep far-away peoples in the subjection of pre-war times.

Countries Freed So the Netherlands are acquiescing in formation of the Indonesian republic. Britain is proceeding along the path that Winston Churchill describes as the "decline and fall of the British Empire"—seeking means of letting India go, drafting the plans for an independent Burma.

France, probably more than any other European power, lost "face" in Asia as the result of her tragic misfortunes between 1939 and 1945. Struck down by a European power on battlefields thousands of miles away, she had to submit for four years to the domination of her prize Asiatic colony by an Asiatic conqueror.

Japan, more humiliating than that of the British in Burma, for example, or the Dutch in Java, for they, at least, were able to give battle before yielding to the Japanese.

Nationalism Rises The major result was that when the Japanese tide receded it left behind in Indo-China a vigorous nationalism that made it certain that French rule never could be re-established on the old basis.

The Annamese, who form the bulk of the population—totaling some 10,000,000—of the three most important sections of Indo-China—Tonkin, Annam and Cochin-China, turned from resistance to the Japanese to resistance to the returning armies of imperial France.

So strong was this resistance that France was impelled to come to terms with it and strike a bargain, in the agreement of March 8, 1946, that recognized the Viet-Nam republic as a free state having its own government, its parliament, its army and its finances forming part of the Indo-Chinese federation and the French union.

Viet-Nam was able to establish its rule over the northern and eastern provinces, Tonkin and Annam. As far as internal affairs are concerned those areas are under Annamese, or Viet-Nam, rule. But it was hardly to be expected that Annamese nationalism would be satisfied with such a compromise; now it wants control of its foreign affairs as well as incorporation of Cochin-China, richest of the provinces, in Viet-Nam.

The French have agreed to leave the latter question to a referendum of the people of Cochin-China. In grappling with this crisis France has been handicapped by absence of a strong government at home. The fourth republic has just come into being after long months of indecision and conflict between evenly matched political forces.

Missionaries Visit TOKYO, Dec. 26 (AP)—Emperor Hirohito today granted an audience to four American Christian missionaries who have been active here many years.

Community Tree Program Draws Big Crowd



A flashlight picture of the crowd at Monday night's community Christmas tree program on the courthouse lawn sponsored by the Klamath County junior chamber of commerce.

Peace And Quiet Should Be Theme Of National Park

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (AP)—If the man who runs them has his way, this country's national parks will remain islands of quiet in an age of speed and noise.

Newton B. Drury, director of the national park service, urged today in his annual report to the secretary of the interior that the long-standing ban against air-planes within or low-flying air-planes over federal parks be perpetuated because:

1. Takeoffs and landings would disturb park wildlife and, "for some rare species, such as the trumpeter swan and the sandhill crane, the effects probably would be serious."

2. The danger of fire or damage to natural features from plane crashes would be increased.

3. Natural landscapes would have to be disturbed to provide runways and servicing facilities.

4. Airplanes would create too much noise. "Anyone who has sat through a concert at the (Potomac river) waterfront in Washington, D. C., will attest to the disturbance an airplane can cause," said Drury.

The gains in access to the parks would not compensate for the losses of the qualities of what are in many cases both limited and fragile areas.

Drury said, however, aerial sightseeing over the parks "may well be considered desirable at many places" if "reasonably regulated" and held to a proper altitude.

Accidental Shot Kills Young Bride

REEDSPORT, Dec. 26 (AP)—Agnes Wroe Morris, 19, a bride of six months, died early yesterday of a gunshot wound which police reported was caused by the accidental discharge of a pistol held by a cousin.

The young woman was shot at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Wroe, on the Smith river, where she and her husband, Donald Dean Morris, had made their home since their June 21 wedding.

The accident occurred about 10:30 p. m. Christmas Eve and she died at 2 a. m., Christmas Day.

THREE SAVED FROM ASPHYXIATION

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 26 (AP)—Ralph Brennan returned home from a Christmas visit to his mother yesterday in time to save the lives of his wife, Bertha, and their two children, Ralph Jr., 2, and Patricia, nine months.

Sugar Program Said "Mess"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (AP) Describing the administration's sugar program as "a terrible mess," Senator Butler (R-Neb.) called today for a "plain old-fashioned tariff" to protect the American sugar industry.

Butler's statement coincided with a report by Rep. Jenkins (R-Ohio), chairman of the republican congressional food study committee, who criticized the government's "senseless fear of a wartime sugar surplus" and predicted both rationing and price control of sugar can be safely abolished late in 1947.

Jenkins, asserting American housewives have been getting "the short end of the sugar deal" for five years, said each household consumer should get at least 10 pounds more sugar in 1947 than in 1946. Industrial allotments should be increased 20 per cent, he added.

Butler declared potatoes were planted on thousands of acres that should have borne sugar beets and added: "Unless the program is changed, we are certain to see less sugar produced in the United States and we will become more and more dependent on imports."

Man Run Down By Car After Hand Grenade Fails

READING, Pa., Dec. 26 (AP)—A 29-year-old YMCA resident was run down by an automobile after a thrown hand grenade struck him but failed to explode in a mysterious Christmas morning attack which police said the injured man was unable to explain.

City Detective Grover Bucher said Harry Huffman, reported in fair condition in Community General hospital, told him the attack occurred as Huffman and Miss Bessie L. Morris, 29, were leaving a friend's house.

Bucher said Huffman told him the couple started running across the street and an automobile, without lights, pulled from the curb, plugging Huffman against a tree. The car sped away as his companion reached the sidewalk.

Bucher said the bomb was loaded and did not explode because the detonator, found lying in the street, apparently became dislodged as the bomb was thrown.

Two Held In Home Burning Charge REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Dec. 26 (AP)—Two Redwood City men were held Monday on a charge of conspiracy to commit arson in the burning December 6 of the newly built home of a negro war veteran, John T. Walker, 22.

The two, both of whom live within a block of Walker's destroyed home, were booked as John B. Arlotti, 40, and Henry R. Harkins, 23. The arrests were made last night by San Mateo county sheriffs.

Walker's home, built with a GI loan and valued at \$6000, still was without wiring when it burned down in what sheriff's deputies called "a clear case of arson."

Bright, Green New Dollar Bills Look Phoney To Bowery

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (AP)—Joseph Bonavita came down to the Bowery yesterday bearing gifts—bright, green dollar bills.

But unlike Santa Claus, the 39-year-old ex-fighter turned restaurateur, had a hard time disposing of his presents, for the Bowery residents are a cynical and disillusioned lot.

When police finally gave their stamp of approval that the bills were authentic U. S. coin of the realm and assigned a detective to persuade the more difficult cases that this was so, the money flowed like water.

Bonavita gave away nearly all of the \$1500 he came down to the Bowery with from Brooklyn.

He told police "This is the fifth Christmas I've done this, but not on such a scale before."

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The bird flew against the barrel of the gun and dropped at Hatfield's feet with a broken neck.

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The neighbors of Mrs. Wood, whose husband was killed recently in a fire which destroyed their farm home, went to her home with 16 tractors, 10 trucks, 20 wagons and 10 corncripers.

In less than a day the Woods' 65 acres of corn was harvested, and about 5000 bushels shelled and trucked to an elevator.

Seattle Car Service Out

SEATTLE, Dec. 26 (AP)—An area of 90-square blocks in downtown Seattle was without trolley coach service today after a fire in the downtown station of the city light company burned out two of three units serving the Seattle Transit company, L. P. Graber, system general manager, said.

Graber said the two units were "gone completely." The third unit also was damaged, he said.

Efforts are being made to reconnect the lines through a Puget Sound Power & Light company substation.

"If we are successful, service may be restored late today," he said. "It will be six months before repairs are completed."

The entire area—bounded on the north by Virginia street and Jackson on the south, and between Elliot bay and Sixth avenue—is being served with 20-minute shuttle motor coach service.

The fire followed a short circuit which occurred, according to W. C. Snow, assistant superintendent of city light, when M. M. Rays, operator at the central sub station, started to connect one circuit and disconnect another.

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