

# White House Ready For Christmas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The White House is decorated and the Truman clan is gathering there for Christmas.

There are lighted trees on the Pennsylvania avenue portico, red poinsettias in the foyer and holly on the mantel in the state dining room.

Already here are the president's C. Wallace, both of Independence, Mo., and Mrs. Truman's brother D. P. Wallace of Denver and his family which includes youngsters Marlon, 10, and David, 11.

Two other brothers of Mrs. Truman, George P. Wallace and Frank C. Wallace, both of Independence, and their wives are expected by Christmas.

The president and family plan to open gifts after breakfast Christmas morning in the upstairs west hall where the family tree will be set up. There will also be a tree in the east room.

Mrs. James H. White, White House social secretary, said that Mrs. Truman and daughter, Margaret, who are Episcopals, will attend midnight service Christmas eve.

The Christmas dinner menu is planned to use as little wheat as possible. There will be a bit of bread in chestnut dressing, with which the baked turkey will be stuffed but no rolls, pies or cakes.

The menu:

Tomato consommé celery and olives, roast turkey with chestnut dressing and apple gravy, cranberry jelly, mashed potatoes, asparagus, molded ring with fruit as a salad, plum pudding, candy nuts and coffee.

## GOP's Push Fight For Full Party

PORTLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—Oregon Republicans intend to continue their fight for the customary 15-member state delegation to the party's national convention.

Ralph Cate, national committeeman, has asked Secretary of State Earl T. Newby and David O'Hara, head of the Oregon elections division, to certify 15 delegates on the 1948 primary ballot. The national GOP committee previously ruled Oregon would be allowed only 12 delegates.

Several state GOP clubs recently petitioned Cate and Mrs. G. T. Gerlinger, national committeewoman, to oppose the reapportionment of delegates on the basis of congressional districts.

## Actress Sues In Sterilization Case

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23 (AP)—Film Actress Anne Nagel has filed a \$350,000 damage suit against Dr. Franklin Thorpe, Hollywood surgeon, charging that when he removed her appendix in 1937 he also took out other organs without her authorization.

Her superior court complaint alleges that the surgery left her incapable of motherhood. At that time she was married to the late Ross Alexander. Her present husband is James H. Keenan.

Dr. Thorpe is the former husband of actress Mary Astor.

## Europe To Get Prize Bull

TACOMA, Dec. 23 (AP)—If permission can be arranged, the Pacific Northwest's Christmas ship to Europe will carry with it a \$1500 prize bull and a marine corps veteran as the bull's escort.

The bull, Clor Al, was donated to the Christmas ship by Albert Hooker, Tacoma industrialist and farmer-on-the-side, some two weeks ago. Since then a number of offers to buy the blooded animal have been received but Hooker feels the \$550

## Ferry Service To Return

UMATILLA, Ore., Dec. 23 (AP)—Ferry service across the Columbia river here will be resumed Wednesday after a lapse of more than a decade.

The ferry, purchased at Arlington by Harry Rodenbaugh and Capt. Francis Stephens of Umatilla and Jim Pierson of Hermiston, will ply between here and Plymouth, Wash., and was expected to speed traffic back and forth during construction of McNary dam.

Captain Stephens, widely known as "Steppe," operated the ferry owned by the late W. H. Switzer until it discontinued service in the 1920's after the Wallula cut-off highway was completed.

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# The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustrous of midday to objects below;  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his couriers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer! and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on Dunder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.  
His eyes how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry,  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke, it circled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face, and a little round belly,  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump—a right jolly old elf;  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.  
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a Good-night!"

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