

19 KILLED IN LOUISIANA TORNADO

In The Day's News

WEATHER
 Max. (Dec. 31) 30 Min. 20
 Precipitation last 24 hours .00
 Stream year to date Normal 4.57
 Last year 3.34 Normal 4.57
 Forecast: Snow
 Shooting Hours, January 1
 Open: 7:30 a. m. Close: 3:34 p. m.

Klamath Falls News

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1948 Telephone 8111 No. 1226

By FRANK JENKINS

Communist Premier Petru Groza says this morning: "The resignation of King Mihai and the proclamation of a Romanian republic have made this country an active factor in the anti-imperialist and democratic camp in the battle for lasting peace and popular democracy."

Those are fine words. But words depend on their MEANING. In the communist dictionary, a "popular democracy" is a COMMUNIST country. A "lasting peace" is a peace enforced by universal communist rule.

On this New Year morning, a professional yeg and house-breaker might say piously: "I'm going to work hard and have a good year in 1948." His old friend "informed sources" would say: "That ain't the way I hear it, sister. 'I'm going to rob your house and steal what you have worked so hard to accumulate.'"

One of our great handicaps is the fact that there is such DOUBLETALK in the world. In our own country, for example, there has been a lot of double-talk about spending and spending and saving and saving and taxing and taxing and happy and free from work. We're learning in the hard school of experience that all that means is PAYING AND PAYING AND PAYING in the form of higher prices for everything we get.

Let's cut back for a moment to King Mihai. In the cautious wording of the dispatches, he "abdicated" his throne. As Old Timer, in the Fisher and Molly program, would put it: "That ain't the way I hear it, sister. Mihai is in the same boat with the cagey workman who upon being informed that he was about to be separated from the payroll chirped up: 'You can't fire me, you so-and-so. I QUIT!'"

In the Bucharest dispatches this morning, there is an interesting and rather informative little side play. Our old friend "informed sources" (meaning somebody in the know who likes to talk but doesn't want to go out on the limb by being quoted by name) tells the correspondents the "young ex-king had intended to leave Romania yesterday, but the trip was postponed by the necessity of discussing FINANCIAL QUESTIONS with members of the government."

That is putting it delicately and tactfully. Let's approach the subject with a little more brutal frankness. What Mihai wants to know is WHERE IS THE DOUGH COMING FROM TO KEEP ME GOING? When kings abdicate, they seldom put on overalls and go out and get a job driving a truck.

They want to take it with them—preferably in large bundles. History tells us that is the way it is usually handled.

BEAUTEOUS Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma, whose name has been linked with Mihai's in the international gossip columns, opens up her heart and tells all in Copenhagen this morning. She says: "It was love at first sight with Mihai and me. . . I have had no word from him, and I don't know anything about his plans for the future. . . But wherever he goes I will follow him." (Roth of the Bible: "Whither thou goest, I will go also.")

Tou hink, isn't it? Romantic. Love conquers all. IT would be a little more IMPRESSIVE, however, if Mihai were going out to run a service station in a tank town and Anne were going to don her apron and go along to do the cooking.

THESE ex-kings are pathetic persons. Especially the abdicated ones. They would be more USEFUL, though, if they grabbed a pick and went to work. Take even the Duke of Windsor, who is a glamorous figure and according to those who know him well a right guy. He'd be doing far more for the world if he supported the wife for whom he gave all by running a sawmill instead of doing it out of his ancestral patrimony.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Flying Fort Disappears In Northland

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan. 1 (AP) Fear that a missing B-29 Superfortress and its nine crewmen may have fallen into the waters of Cook inlet were expressed today by a veteran Alaska construction engineer.

Cliff Lemhan, who said he was sitting with his wife in the lobby of a downtown hotel when the sky lit up "like the glow from a Neon sign," placed the origin of the crash as directly west of the city about over mid-channel of the inlet.

"It was snowing at the time, but the sky was so bright that buildings on the street were lighted up," he said.

The missing plane vanished within two minutes of its takeoff from Elmendorf field yesterday morning. It was en route to Fairfield, Calif., army air base on a routine weather observation and reconnaissance flight, the army transport command announced in San Francisco.

A fruitless aerial search was launched immediately after observers in the field tower reported the flash on the plane's line of flight. It came only moments after the B-29 sent an emergency call that the No. 2 engine was out.

A ground party also set out by army wessel on a round-about trip to the area — 50 miles to Palmer and cross-country about 40 miles to the Point McKenzie area. It found no trace of the craft.

The apparent disaster raised to 14 the total of men missing, and probably dead, in two B-29 mishaps in the final week of 1947.

The pilot and navigator of another plane, Lt. Vern H. Arnett and Frederick Sheetz, are being sought by dog sled and aerial search 600 miles to the northeast, 95 miles north of Nome.

They have been missing since Christmas Day, two days after their 8-men crew crashed, when they set out afoot for an isolated Eskimo village.

Three parachutists who dropped to aid the crew victims also are believed dead. Bush Pilot Bill Munz, who joined in the aerial rescue of six members of the crew, has reported sighting what he believes are the bodies of two of the trio, and possibly the third.

Crash Victim Said Better

Mrs. Ladena Winegar, whose husband was killed instantly shortly before noon yesterday in an automobile accident north of Merrill, regained consciousness at Klamath Valley hospital this morning and her condition was described as somewhat improved.

Also in Klamath Valley hospital is the driver of the car, Walter Taft "Red" Moore. All three occupants of the sedan which went out of control on a straightaway, are residents of Merrill. Moore's condition was not reported today but he is not thought to be seriously injured.

State police said this morning they thought the accident was caused by either a flat left front tire or a locked steering gear. The car was demolished in its wild ride across the highway, overturning as it went.

AID ASKED
WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 (AP)—Rep. Brooks (D-La.) appealed today to President Truman to make federal assistance "immediately available" to tornado-stricken areas of southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Arkansas.

Retail Volume In Klamath Hits New High During 1947; Economic Forecast For Basin Area Bright

With the outlook good for continued strong demand for its major industrial and agricultural commodities, the Klamath country on this New Year's Day moves from one banner year into what may well prove to be another—economically speaking.

That's the view of several business and financial leaders, who tempered their rosy prognostications with a warning that inflationary prosperity isn't always what it appears to be, and no matter how strong a local area's situation may be, it will get sick if there is national and international sickness.

Retail volume here—in dollars and cents—was probably the highest in history in 1947. That's because money was plentiful, employment was good, business was better supplied with merchandise, and there were more people in the area than ever before.

The Christmas shopping season, while perhaps disappointing here and there in the business community, was generally "terrific," and one banker pointed out that business has held up surprisingly well in the few days since Christmas.

Tragedy Marks Headlines As Klamath Region Passes Through Big News Year

By MALCOLM EPLEY
Big news that ran sensationally to tragedy flashed across the local and regional scene in 1947. For the first time in years, perhaps in all time, a story originating in this area—the Snell-Cornett plane crash—topped the year's major news events in Oregon, and received nationwide attention as an incident without parallel in the annals of any state in the Union.

The other multiple-fatality tragedies—the Evans apartment fire that snuffed out five lives and the plane smash that killed famed aviator Tex Rankin and two Klamath automobile dealers—follow close on the heels of the No. 1 story to make 1947 the record year for sensational news of violent death in this area since the Modoc war of 1872-73.

These three incidents accounted for a total of 12 fatalities, and easily lead off the "big ten" list of news events of the year in the Klamath region.

So dramatic were the three major stories that the details are etched on the memories of many Klamath county people and hardly need recounting here.

Rebel Attack On Konitsa Beaten Back By Greek Army

ATHENS, Jan. 1 (AP)—The Greek war ministry declared today that the battered city of Konitsa has been released from siege by 5000 communist guerrillas who have been hammering at the town since Christmas Day.

A communique said initial relief elements entered the embattled city last night. The weary 1000-man garrison was being evacuated today. The relief column entered the city from the west after dislodging rebel forces and "inflicting heavy losses" in a drive from strategic Bourzani bridge, the communique said.

The rebels, who fought desperately to take the city as a capital for a newly proclaimed Greek communist state, presumably retreated into the Grammos mountains. The war ministry made no mention of the direction of retreat. Previous reports said some of the rebels fled into Albania, north of Konitsa.

Capture of the Bourzani bridge, 11 miles west of Konitsa, was announced by the government yesterday. The rebels took the bridge, one of the key points to the defense of Konitsa, on the first day of their assault on Konitsa.

Military sources had no information concerning the progress of a second column of government troops which last night was reported only a mile and one-half from Konitsa and in communication with the garrison.

Semi-official reports said approximately 10,000 guerrillas took part in the general operation against Konitsa with 5000 shock troops assigned the task of forcing a way into town. The remainder were scattered along line of approach, particularly on the road from Kalapaki to Bourzani bridge. It was estimated that 2000 to 4000 guerrillas tried to keep this vital communications artery closed while waves of shock troops smashed unavailingly at Konitsa.

Violently attacking national forces, however, knocked out defense positions covering the road often in bayonet charges and hand to hand fighting while tanks and armored cars supported them from the highway proper.

Klamath Has Top Record

Klamath Falls and only two other cities in the 10,000-25,000 population class went through 1947 without a traffic fatality. The others are Palo Alto, Calif. and Westfield, N. J., according to the national safety council.

The last fatal traffic accident on the streets of Klamath Falls occurred in late January of 1946, making 22 months the city has not had a fatality resulting from traffic.

This summer an aged man died after a fall in a service station parking lot when a car backed toward him, but that did not occur on the street or as the result of traffic. Officers who investigated the incident said that the car did not strike the man although it may have caused him to stumble back and fall.

Farming Good
Farm conditions are generally good. While Klamath's 1947 potato crop was smaller than it has been for a long time, the price has been high and the market situation is especially strong right now. There is agreement that the potato industry here, having "come of age," faces some problems that will take constructive policy and good farming to overcome.

Farm and lumber values in the area, incidentally, have about balanced off, having come closer and closer together in a trend in evidence several years. The total was probably something around \$60,000,000 in 1947.

Another important business development that deserves attention at this time is Klamath's rising place as a wholesale distribution center. Tillotson pointed out that "the things that have been talked about for so long by such local people as George Davis are materializing" in a substantial wholesale industry that may be expected to continue to expand.

As evidence of the general financial health of the community, Thompson pointed out that repayment of loans is routine here now. There are few delinquencies and virtually no foreclosures.

The financial situation of local political subdivisions is excellent, with bonded indebtedness of the city, county, and school districts virtually a thing of the past. But one financier pointed out that it doesn't make much difference just where the public debt is located—if it's a big national debt instead of a local debt, as it is, it's still a serious obligation to be reckoned with.

1. Top state officials die in four-fatality plane crash.
2. Evans apartment fire kills five.
3. Plane smash kills Tex Rankin, Jack Elie and Cy Wallan.
4. High prices—highlighted by record bids for barley and stumpage.
5. Klamath reservation liquidation battle.
6. Little Miss X, the beaten child found at Weed.
7. Deputy Sheriff M. J. Barnes shoots escaping prisoner.
8. Marine barracks becomes Oregon Vocational School.
9. San Quentin escapes shoot it out with officers here.
10. Klamath grid teams tie title games but take statistical beating.

The Snell-Cornett plane crash might rank as No. 1 in a list of all-time big local stories if one were to be compiled. This tragedy occurred on the night of October 28, and took the lives of Governor Earl Snell, Senate President Marshall Cornett, State Secretary Robert L. Farrell and Pilot Cliff Hogue. They crashed near Dog Lake on a night flight to Adel in Lake county on a bird-hunting trip. Local significance of the crash was re-doubled by the fact it removed a colorful Klamath public figure who appeared likely to make a bid for high political office, and a well-known local aviator—both men held in warm affection by a large circle of friends.

Twelve Killed In Wreck Of Two Missouri Trains Today

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 1 (AP)—Twelve persons were reported killed and an undetermined number injured today in a rear end collision of two Missouri Pacific trains during a blinding snowstorm near Syracuse, Mo., 95 miles east of Kansas City.

Col. Hugh H. Waggoner, superintendent of the Missouri highway patrol, reported that 11 bodies were found in the wreckage of a Pullman car on the first section of the Missouri Pacific's "Missourian," en route from St. Louis to Kansas City.

One man, identified only as R. G. Gearhart, about 35, died at a Sedalia, Mo., hospital. Waggoner said the body of the Pullman conductor was found crushed in the vestibule of the Pullman, the last car on the train. He reported the engine of the second section, a mail and express train, had telescoped all but four feet of the Pullman coach.

Reports from the scene were being relayed here by radio equipped cars of the patrol. Communications in the area were badly disrupted by a 24-hour sleet and snowstorm, which left highways in a perilous condition.

The engineer, fireman and brakeman of the second section were reported seriously injured and taken to a Sedalia hospital.

Waggoner said the accident apparently was the result of icy conditions disrupting the block signal system. A mail clerk on the first section said the train was traveling about 10 to 15 miles an hour when the crash came.

Three cars in the second section were derailed but did not overturn. The highway patrol said a trooper walked through other coaches of the first section and reported he found no major injuries among the other passengers. He said several had bruises and lacerations. They were treated at the scene by physicians rushed from Sedalia and Jefferson City.

About four hours after the accident, which occurred about 8 a. m., a bulldozer pulled the parts of the derailed coach away from the locomotive. Blow torches were taken to the scene from Sedalia to cut the tangled wreckage.

Taken to a Sedalia hospital were J. B. Rogers, Kansas City, conductor of the second section, who suffered a broken left shoulder, and Mrs. Ora Siegel, Jefferson City, a passenger. She suffered a back injury.

The wreck took place during the season's first snowstorm which swept Kansas and Western Missouri leaving a blanket of ice covered with snow.

Both sections of the train were running behind schedule. The first section, which left St. Louis at 11:50 last night was due in Kansas City at 7:30 a. m.

Record Ban Up In Arms
NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (AP)—James C. Petrillo's "never again" ban on the making of recordings and transcriptions by members of his American Federation of Musicians silenced recording studios across the nation this New Year's Day and posed the question: "What happens now?"

No one ventured to answer for sure.

Ranch Woman Has Lots Of Firsts Today

SEATTLE, Jan. 1 (AP)—Paradoxically, Mrs. Ralph Turney chose the last day of 1947 for a number of firsts in her life.

Before she reached Seattle yesterday on her honeymoon, Mrs. Turney, the former Irene Olafson, had never used an electric iron, vacuum cleaner or telephone. She ate her first banana split, had her first permanent wave and went on her first department-store shopping spree.

Mrs. Turney has lived in the remote Caribou district of British Columbia since she was a small child. Home for her and the groom is the Bar K 3 guest ranch 30 miles northeast of Vancouver. B. C. Turney and her father are partners in the venture.

The nearest settlement is Lone Butte, where the Pacific Great Eastern mail train stops three days a week on its run from Squamish to Queness.

She didn't think, said Mrs. Turney, she would care to live in the city. "Too many unexpected things happening—like a slice of toast jumping at you out of a shiny metal box."

Holiday In Europe Rough

LONDON, Jan. 1 (AP)—Europe had a hangover today, too, but with Scotch at \$16 a fifth in Glasgow, champagne \$22 a bottle in Paris, the welcome to the new year was not as cordial as it might have been.

There were many in the ill-clad, poorly fed chilly nations of Europe whose New Year headaches were hangovers from a war which ended more than two years ago. Facing an uncertain future amid a widening chasm dividing the East and the West, they looked hopefully toward economic aid under the Marshall plan.

Germans received 1948 in a mood of dull despair. Their trampled country, wrecked by war, was split in two and there was no prospect for peace or prosperity.

Fighting continued in the mountains of Greece and on the bloody plains of Palestine.

The communists of Italy greeted the new year with threats of violence in the event their demands were not met. Britons were asked to work harder and Russians were asked to fulfill their latest five-year plan in four years.

South African Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts said in a New Year's broadcast: "We are living in times of great change—almost of world order moving from one stage to another."

Baby Dies Of Exposure

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., Jan. 1 (AP)—A seven-month-old baby girl died from exposure in a remote swamp near here after she was abandoned by her parents whom police were seeking, Sheriff R. A. Stephens reported today.

Her three-year-old brother survived two days and nights in the swamp, but suffered severely, Stephens said.

The sheriff said E. C. Cook and his brother, Eugene, a coe charged with robbing and shooting a negro taxi driver Monday night in the presence of Mrs. E. C. Cook and her children, all died in the taxi.

The taxi was abandoned at the edge of the Flint river in Southwest Georgia and the five persons took to a boat, the sheriff said, but the boat overturned.

The boy took refuge on a bank in the midst of a desolate swamp. The two Cook brothers left to obtain food. When they did not return by Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Cook also abandoned the children, Stephens said. She was later taken into custody.

16-Year-Old Kills Parents

YORK, S. C., Jan. 1 (AP)—Sheriff C. A. Moss said today that a 16-year-old Winston-Salem, N. C., high school boy had admitted shooting his father and mother to death yesterday after the father had accused him of stealing a wallet.

The stocky youngster, Tommy Lee Phillips, was picked up by police here today in company with his 16-year-old girl friend, Bessie Ruth Jenkins, as they waited in hopes of being married by a probate judge.

Sheriff Moss said the youth signed a statement saying he shot his father with a rifle after the parent accused him of taking the purse containing \$100 in cash and a \$132 pay check.

Rain, Ice Add To Peril Of Refugees

SHREVEPORT, La., Jan. 1 (AP)—Freezing winds and rain added peril and discomfort today as rescue workers counted a mounting toll of lives and property in the wake of scattered southern tornadoes. The toll of known dead reached 19.

The cotton and oil belt of northwestern Louisiana and southwestern Arkansas was hardest hit, with 10 bodies counted in the almost demolished community of Cotton Valley, La.

Three were dead in the Memphis, Tenn., area from another twister, and one fatality each was counted in Leion, Dykesville and Haynesville, La. in Village and Altheimer, Ark., and in Mante, Miss.

Hundreds were homeless and scores were injured.

The intensive weather disturbance moved into the Ohio river valley with rain, sleet, or snow and proceeded northeastward at a 35-mile-an-hour clip.

Three Killed
Hazel, Marie and Wilbur Becton were killed when their farm house collapsed 10 miles north of Memphis.

A woman was fatally injured at Dykesville, La., and an unidentified negro was killed at Haynesville. At Village, Ark., a school superintendent was killed when a high school gymnasium was demolished.

A twister also struck Gilmer, Ark., destroying one house, but there were no deaths or injuries reported there.

The funnel-shaped twister was first sighted south of Vanceville, La., by Herman Jones of Bossier City. He said he saw the funnel dip toward the earth as he drove along a highway. He abandoned his automobile for the comparative safety of a roadside ditch, he said, and watched as the funnel sucked up a house from nearby woods.

At that time, Jones said, the tornado was cutting a swath about 80 feet wide.

Hit Valley
Romping across wooded and swampy sections of Bossier parish, the twister struck Cotton Valley from the southwest, damaging much of the business district.

Then it came back to strike the little town again, this time from the northeast, and demolished many homes.

Mayor Sam Coyle estimates 500 persons are homeless and that the list of injured in Cotton Valley alone will reach 200.

A check of hospitals in the stricken area showed at least 170 persons have been treated for storm injuries.

The storm roared on through Leion and Dykesville, La., before invading Haynesville where it struck the western and northern edges of the town, doing major damage to the business section. More than 30 buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Sixty persons in Haynesville were injured and treated at hospitals there.

One-third of Cotton Valley was flattened, witnesses said.

Dr. M. S. Browning, retired Cotton Valley doctor, said the tornado "sounded as if a huge flight of B-29 bombers was coming. . . then hit it."

"The storm was over about five minutes after it hit," he said. "I looked out of the window and saw debris flying through the air and littering the streets."

U.S. Traffic Deaths Drop

By The Associated Press
The nation's motorists apparently steered away from wild driving in celebrating the arrival of the New Year.

An unofficial survey across the country today showed that 18 persons were killed in traffic accidents since 5 p. m., New Year's Eve as compared to 37 fatalities in the same period on Christmas a week ago.

(The total includes one each in Oregon and Washington.)

The national safety council estimated that 175 persons may be killed in traffic accidents in the 30-hour period ending at midnight on Christmas. In the similar period on Christmas the violent death toll was 289, including 179 in traffic mishaps and 109 from miscellaneous causes. There were 116 violent deaths in the 1947 New Year's holiday, including 80 in motor accidents.

Incident weather apparently was a big factor in holding down the traffic toll last night and early today. Driving was hazardous in many sections of the country.

Reds Say China Victory Sure

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1 (AP)—Mao Tse-tung, chief of the Chinese communists, declared in a statement broadcast by the communist radio today that his forces now were conducting a nationwide offensive and confidently predicted defeat of the Chiang Kai-shek government despite United States aid.

The communist radio, using a North Shensi Province dateline, described the statement as the first of a 10,000-word report by Mao in a meeting of the Chinese communist central committee on December 26.

Three Burn To Death In House

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Jan. 1 (AP)—A mother and her two small sons were burned to death and two other children were carried to safety when fire swept a three-family home today.

The victims were Mrs. Francis McLaughlin, 29, occupant of second floor apartment, and her sons, Michael, six, and Patrick, four.