

# HOLIDAY DEATH TOLL HITS 568

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

WE learn from the news this morning that over the long Christmas week-end some 500 people died violent deaths in this country.

They aren't greatly surprised. The census bureau has been telling us that our population is now about 150 million. We Americans are inclined to live a little recklessly.

It would be a bit strange if out of 150 million reckless livers at least a half a thousand didn't get killed.

OVER the week-end, another bit of news leaked out but didn't make much of a splash in the average household busy with Christmas observance.

Alfred Einstein says he believes he has SOLVED the greatest mystery of the physical world WHICH IS WHAT GRAVITATION IS MADE OF.

His solution, the dispatch telling of its adds, is entirely in mathematics. So, probably, it can not be verified for several years.

IF you are much older than you like to admit, you can remember the splash made by Einstein's theory of relativity—which was also "entirely in mathematics." That is to say, it was only an equation IMAGINED by him.

Einstein's relativity equation suggested the possibility of the splitting of the atom and you know what the splitting of the atom has led to.

Let's not laugh when we are told that Einstein has imagined another mathematical equation that might lead in time to the solution of the mystery of gravitation.

THIS is the point of this whole business: If we could find out what gravitation is made of, we WOULD PROBABLY LEARN HOW TO CONTROL GRAVITATION.

If we could learn how to control gravitation...

LET'S stop right here. We have troubles enough in this world at the moment without opening up such Pandora's boxes as control of gravitation.

DOWN where the perpetually warm waters of the Indian Ocean meet the perpetually warm waters of the South Pacific, the Dutch colony hitherto known as the West Indies ceases to be and the United States of Indonesia comes into existence.

The United States of Indonesia starts off with some 77 million people. When we broke off from Mother England to start the United States of America, there weren't a lot more than a MILLION of us.

The Indonesians are tackling the toughest of all problems on a bigger scale than we did.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (whom in many ways I greatly admire) congratulates the Indonesians today on their new republic, and adds: "With their new freedom GOES RESPONSIBILITY, and it is my hope that the people of Indonesia may grow to a stable and good life."

I'M not trying to put myself in Eleanor's class, but I too would like to add a thought to this historic occasion.

I HOPE NO DEMAGOGS TRY TO SELL THE 77 MILLION INDONESIANS THE IDEA OF SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

That idea and liberty never can mix.

## Dutch Give Freedom To Indonesia

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands, Dec. 27 (AP)—Queen Juliana gave up most of Holland's rich colonial empire today by proclaiming independence for 77,000,000 Indonesians.

The simple, 30-minute ceremony in the royal palace climaxed four years of guerrilla fighting in the tropical East Indies islands and weeks of tough bargaining in conferences between Dutch and independence-seeking Indonesians.

With Juliana's signature, the United States of Indonesia (USI) became the world's newest independent nation. It also began an experiment in international partnership—the Dutch-Indonesian union under which the Dutch kingdom and the Indonesian republic are loosely linked by the symbol of The Netherlands crown.

The queen declared that separation of the East Indies colonies from The Netherlands was "piercing... the very roots of our existence" and added:

"The world looks on in wonderment and perceives that, here and now, these two countries are realizing their own deepest desire, the desire for peace."

"In The Netherlands, this is viewed with solicitude," she continued, indicating mildly that a strong minority in The Netherlands had opposed the time of the transfer of the sovereignty.

"But at this moment, and in this place I would state emphatically that in The Netherlands one and all concur with the principle of the transfer of sovereignty."

## Labor to Ask Wage Hikes, AFL Declares

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—The AFL served notice today that its unions will seek "substantial" wage boosts in 1950.

The big labor organization mentioned increases of 7 to 15 cents an hour as a goal. The wage drive was outlined in the AFL publication, Labor's Monthly Survey.

Increased wages are possible, the publication said, "without causing a general increase in living costs" if management and labor work together to improve production efficiency.

The publication said that a 10 cent hourly wage increase for all the nation's workers would boost consumer buying power approximately \$2,000,000,000. It said this would insure a good business year in 1950.

# Herald and News

Price Five Cents—14 Pages KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1949 Telephone 8111 No. 2165

## Tax Chiseling Studied, Stiff Crackdown Asked

### Jap Quakes Kill Eight, Level Homes

TOKYO, Dec. 27 (AP)—Heavy snow today spread a new blanket of misery over Central Japan, where eight persons were killed and hundreds left homeless by 20-odd earth tremors between Sunday night and this morning.

National rural police said eight were killed and one person was missing. Many were injured but only one seriously. Eighty-six homes and buildings collapsed and 283 others were badly damaged.

Early tonight a 40-second tremor disrupted electric light connections in one Tokyo district. The central meteorological observatory termed the earthquake weak. Its epicenter was about 65 miles north of Tokyo.

The earth's convulsions were felt in nine prefectures of Honshu, Japan's big central island. Imaichi, a city of 17,000 about 85 miles north of Tokyo, suffered most.

Seven of the dead lived in Imaichi. Most of the homeless were in that area. The police said emergency measures were being taken to comfort them and shelter them from the snow and cold.

Approximately 100 Americans were in the stricken area, where the U.S. army has several rest hotels. All escaped injury.

In Southern Japan, Mount Aso on Kyushu island quieted down after blowing its volcanic top yesterday. The peak stopped belching huge stones and dense black and brown smoke. Only a thin column of white spiraled skyward.



FREEDOM IN SIGHT—Freedom is in sight for Valentine Gardner, war bride who has been held by immigration authorities for 13 months. She sits on the sill of a window in the immigration building, 10 floors above downtown San Francisco. A special board of inquiry recommended she be given her freedom, but final action depends on affirmation by both attorney general and state department. Henry Gardner, formerly of Buffalo, N. Y., married her in the Orient.

### Yearly Cheat Loss Said \$5 Billion

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—Congress may call for a crackdown on tax evaders and close some tax law "loopholes" before it considers any legislation to raise tax rates on individuals or corporations.

Rep. Forand (D-R), member of the tax-framing house ways and means committee, today told newsmen:

"If every tax legally owed the government were collected, I believe the budget could be balanced without resorting to any tax increases."

Treasury and congressional tax experts now are studying the problem of tax dodging. Some estimated that the government is losing \$5,000,000,000 a year by tax evasion and by the so-called loopholes.

These permit some taxpayers to work the tax laws in a manner to trim-down their tax obligations.

If that amount were collected it would just about cover what the government needs to balance the budget.

Meanwhile, republicans on Capitol Hill—expecting considerable support from democrats—lined up for battle against any proposal President Truman may make for tax increases.

Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr., the house GOP leader, issued a formal statement saying he expects the president to propose a multi-billion dollar tax-hike program "so that the administration can proceed with its extravagant and illiberal plan to socialize America."

"A tax increase at this time," he said, "would have a depressive effect on economic conditions generally and might precipitate the country into a tail-spin which would cost millions of workers their jobs."

He predicted defeat for any tax-raising bill.

Martin renewed his plea for a slash of around \$600,000,000 to \$750,000,000 a year in the war-imposed excise rates on such things as furs, jewelry, luggage, communications and transportation. Such legislation now is backed by a substantial number of republicans and democrats.

Truman has said studies are being made to see if the excises can be reduced.

Healthy Senator O'Connor (D-Md) offered the opinion yesterday that reduction of the excises to their pre-war rates would provide a healthy stimulus for affected industries. He said increased sales and profits, in turn, would "make possible a greater tax return to the treasury."

## Traffic Big Killer With 397 Victims

At least 568 violent deaths were a grim payment today for the nation's three-day Christmas holiday—with another long week-end looming ahead.

One person was killed in traffic, fire or one of a variety of other accidents approximately every eight minutes during the holiday period from 6 p. m. Friday until midnight Monday.

The biggest killer, as usual, was the automobile with 406 persons, many of them children. And children were notable among victims of 97 miscellaneous accidents.

The traffic toll was less than the 435 predicted by the National Safety Council, but Ned H. Dearborn, president of the council, pointed out that the cost in lives paid for the holiday in all types of accidents was higher than the 550 claimed in the Texas City, Tex., disaster of two years ago.

"Our holidays have become a series of 'Texas cities,'" Dearborn said. "In a week, we may expect another one—a 'joyous' week-end of mass murder over New Year's—unless the people have sickened of making horror days out of holidays."

Horrible One of the most horrifying traffic accidents occurred in Texas Friday night when an automobile and a gasoline truck collided. Gas splashed from the truck's ruptured tank and ignited, turning the vehicles into pyres. A family of five in the automobile and the truck driver perished.

A mother and her six children died in a fire which swept their San Antonio, Tex., home. There were deaths from shootings, falls, electrocutions, plane crashes, exposure and asphyxiation.

The death toll by states, listing traffic, fire and miscellaneous causes, included: California 36, 0, 4; Oregon 6, 2, 0; and Washington 5, 0, 0.

On Christmas Eve the following were treated: Harold Smith, 1745 Wall, cut hand; Mrs. Velma Goldman, city, cut above left knee; Albert Francischini, Empire hotel, treatment.

Christmas Day patients treated and dismissed from emergency surgery included Floyd Graves of Chiloquin, eye injury; Mary Clark, 518 Broad, nail wound; John Carter, 328 Rogers, burns.

Fay Hall, 5531 Wantland, was treated for a cut hand; Mrs. Dan Stevenson, 3840 S. 6th, hand injury, both on Christmas Day.

On Monday Gust Backstrom, 304 S. 4th, was treated for rib fractures; H. J. Smith, 1745 Wall, hand lacerations; Amos B. Redding, 1317 Adams, contusions; Linda Lewis, 2903 Radcliffe, sprained left arm; Don Williams, 516 Pine, laceration near the right eye.

Rosemary Ward, daughter of the Clarence Ward and home from Oregon College of Education, was treated for a severe case of poison oak on Monday.

MEAT INFO PORTLAND, Dec. 27 (AP)—An ordinance which would let consumers know just what grade of meat they are buying was drafted today by City Commissioner Fred L. Peterson. The ordinance would forbid the sale of any meat which is not graded according to city specifications. The latter are based on U. S. department of agriculture standards.

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State police investigated and said they learned the brawl started in an argument over ice hockey and that Leslie Seaborn Arnold, 36, and Cochran were fighting first before Pierce intervened with the knife.

In a statement Sunday, Pierce said Cochran had Arnold down. State police said all had been drinking wine.

Arnold, James Patrick Kane, 56, and Jose Valencia, 42, were arrested on drunk charges. The pocket-knife was found on Pierce.

## Air Force Discounts Claim Flying Saucers From Another Planet

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (AP)—A sensational claim that so-called "flying saucers" are space vehicles from another planet kindled new controversy on the subject today.

The air force promptly discounted the claim. A spokesman said:

"Air force studies of 'flying saucers' lend no support to the view that they come from another planet."

The assertion that the flying discs are real and that they are used by visitors from another planet was made by True magazine in an article it calls the "most important true story we have ever published."

It was written for the January issue by Donald E. Keyhoe, a former information chief for the aeronautics branch of the U. S. commerce department.

The magazine, saying its conclusions were based on an eight-months investigation, stated:

"For the past 175 years, the planet Earth has been under systematic close-range examination by living, intelligent observers from another planet."

"The intensity of this observation, and the frequency of the visits to the earth's atmosphere, by which it is being conducted, have increased markedly in the past two years."

The flying discs, Keyhoe writes, vary "in no important particular from well-developed American plans for the exploration of space expected to come to fruition within the next 50 years. There is reason to believe, however, that some other race of thinking beings is a matter of two and a quarter centuries ahead of us."

12 a Month The article says that "project saucer," operated by U. S. army air force investigators and charged with solving the mystery, "are receiving and evaluating" reports of sighted flying discs at the rate of 12 a month.

True learned, Keyhoe says, that a "rocket authority" stationed at Wright field has told "project saucer" personnel flatly that the saucers are interplanetary and that no other conclusion is possible.

Cases of reliably reported sightings, the writer says, are closely checked by teams of air intelligence officers and technicians.

"Astronomers, rocket experts, guided missile consultants, aeromedical men and other specialists work on a hush-hush basis," Keyhoe said.

## 38 Criminal Cases Going To Grand Jury

Some 38 criminal cases, including at least three carrying possible negligent homicide indictments, are to be presented to the grand jury during its current session, District Attorney D. E. Van Vactor said today.

The grand jury went into session this morning and the first case brought in for consideration was that of Richard Shuck of Merrill, charged with negligent homicide. Shuck's case is being resubmitted to the grand jury because of a fault in an indictment returned last July.

Deaths At least two other automobile wreck deaths will be considered by the jury.

Most of the other cases are minor, the bulk of them regarding bad checks.

Three Poe valley men arrested last Friday night on cattle-stealing charges have been released from the county jail on \$1500 bail each and the charges against them probably will be presented to the jury.

Van Vactor said he doubted if the jury would complete its deliberations this week.

Routine Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg gave only routine instructions to the new grand jury this morning.

Members of the jury are Guy Merrill, foreman; L. W. Soukup, Paul Hilton, Otto Ellis, Clarence Goyer, Walter N. Ritter and Glen L. Evans.

## Youths Ruin Big Windows

BAKER, Dec. 27 (AP)—A milk bottle throwing spree has ruined \$1500 worth of plate glass windows here and landed three juveniles in jail, according to Police Chief Guy Church.

The youths, Jimmy Ward Holden, 19, Don Williams, 17, and Wilfred Braekin, 16, told police that after they had thrown milk bottles through one window they decided to toss some more.

Damaged were a grocery store in South Baker, a service station, a bakery, the C. G. Anderson store, Palmer brothers jewelry store on Main street, and a motor company near Main street. The escapade took place between 1 and 2 a. m. last night.

## EPIDEMIC MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, Dec. 27 (AP)—An epidemic of measles and whooping cough has stricken most of the 301 children aboard the refugee ship Castellanico which reached Melbourne today from Naples. Two of the children died.



ROSE QUEEN AND COURT—Tournament of Roses Queen Marion Brown (center) poses with her princesses for their official photograph at Pasadena, Calif. She will reign over the annual Rose parade and Rose Bowl game. All the girls are students at Pasadena junior colleges. The princesses, starting lower left and clockwise: Betty Brusher, Dorothy Welsh, Eddy Ruth Stewart, Carole Lynn Collins, Dorothy Scott and Barbara Jones.



STOPPED FOR THAT MORNING CUP OF COFFEE—Mrs. Nora M. Ferguson is pictured in a Main street cafe for that lift that carries people until lunchtime.