

By FRANK JENKINS
Washington: "While the government (the federal government of the United States of America) pondered what to do about Hungary's offer to free four U.S. airmen for a ransom of \$120,000, PRIVATE CITIZENS IN SCATTERED AREAS PROMPTED TO RAISE THE MONEY PROMPTLY."

You're familiar with the situation, I suppose. The four airmen are the crew of an American plane that either went down or was forced down on Hungarian (communist) soil. The communists seized and jailed them. Now they offer to free them for what amounts to a ransom.

That poses a problem for our government. If it pays the ransom, it sets a precedent. If our government refuses these four Americans, it will on the theory of government be expected to ransom all other kidnapped Americans.

Where will we be then?

Suppose private citizens raise the ransom money and pay it over promptly—as every consideration of mercy prompts us to do.

Where will that put us?

I suppose you must have read these tragic stories of Chinese in America who have relatives in communist China. Their relatives are arrested and imprisoned by the communists. Demand is then made for RANSOM on pain of torture and probable death for the imprisoned ones.

The purpose of the Chinese communists is to GET AMERICAN DOLLARS for use in international trade. What the practical amounts to is taxing American citizens to carry on the communist war against the United States. Millions of dollars have already been obtained by means of the racket.

You can imagine the plight of the American Chinese who are the victims. Shall they perpetuate the cruel racket by paying the demands? Or shall they refuse and condemn their relatives to torture and death?

Shall we raise this Hungarian ransom demand by popular subscription? Our hearts say YES. Our heads tell us that if that is done many, MANY more Americans will be kidnapped by the communists and held for ransom.

That would be a national humiliation. We couldn't take long. It would lead certainly to war.

This ransom business isn't new to us.

It started away back in the late 1780's, when the Barbary pirates began kidnapping our citizens and holding them for ransom. We punned up in the course of ten years, we paid some two million dollars in the form of ransoms, gifts and tributes.

With each payment, the demands became greater and more humiliating. In 1801, the Pasha of Tripoli (one of the pirate states) COMPLAINED that the United States was not treating him as liberally as it was treating the ruler of Algiers (another pirate state). He wanted more cash and less silver. He wanted his cash right ON THE BARREL HEAD.

How did it end?

President Jefferson, a man of peace but one who brooked no pushing around, sent out a naval squadron under Commander Dale. Dale captured a Tripolitan cruiser and blockaded Tripoli.

That finished the nasty ransom stuff. When the Barbary pirates saw we meant business, they pulled in their horns.

It stayed finished for 100 years. Then a Moroccan bandit named Ahmed Ibn-Muhammad Ralsul resurrected the racket. He kidnapped a couple of Englishmen. Then he nabbed an American named Perdicaris. But he reckoned without President Theodore Roosevelt. Teddy sent the Sultan of Morocco a terse cablegram to this effect: "Perdicaris alive or Ralsul dead."

He got Perdicaris alive along with an abject apology from the Moroccan sultan.

What shall WE do NOW, in the case of Hungary?

I'll have to admit that NOW we can't follow the salutary example

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US Agrees To Pay Ransom On Four US Airmen; Deal Hinges On Quick Release

Sports Bulletin

ULTIMATUM
NEW YORK (AP) — Contender Harry Kid Matthews was given an ultimatum Wednesday to sign for a title fight by the end of the week or lose his chance for a crack at Light Heavy-weight Champion Joey Maxim.

Jack Hurley, manager of the Seattle sensation, said he would give his answer by Friday, according to Al Weill, matchmaker for the International Boxing Club. Hurley is in Seattle.

Weill said he had talked with Hurley via long distance telephone Wednesday.

Chains On U.S. 97 Mandatory

SALEM, Ore. — Chains are needed in Santiam and Willamette passes and on the Dallas California highway, the State Highway Commission said Wednesday in its 9 a.m. road report.

The commission reported packed snow in those areas, with snow still falling Wednesday morning. The commission reported the following road restrictions:

Government Camp — Snowing lightly, bare in exposed areas.
Sunset Summit — Snowing lightly, pavement bare.
Warm Springs Junction — Snowing lightly, packed snow, plowing, carry chains, 1/2 inch wet snow.

Salem — Spots of ice, sleeting.
Corvallis — Spots of ice.
Eugene — Slush and ice.
Union Creek — Packed snow plowing, carry chains.
Siskiyou — Snowing hard, packed snow, plowing, chains required, 4 inches new snow.

Bend — Snowing hard, packed snow, plowing, chains required, 1 inch new snow.
Santiam Pass — Snowing lightly, packed snow, plowing, chains required, 1 inch new snow.
Willamette Pass — Snowing lightly, packed snow, plowing, carry chains.

Chemult — Snowing lightly, packed snow, plowing, carry chains, 2 inches new snow.
Bly — Snowing lightly, packed snow, plowing, carry chains.
Mecham — Packed snow, well sanded.
La Grande and Baker — Spots of ice.
Seneca and Burns — Snowing hard packed snow, plowing, carry chains.
Basque — Snowing lightly, packed snow, well sanded.

Elderly Man Dies In Flaming Cabin

YREKA — An 88-year-old man, William Chenoweth, died Tuesday afternoon in the flames of his cabin at Fork of Salmon, 50 miles down the Klamath river from here.

Investigators were unable to determine the cause of the fire.

Klamath Falls News

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Chicago In Path of Cold Weather

CHICAGO (AP) — Already buried under the biggest fall of snow in 33 years, Chicago faced a sub-zero blast Wednesday which threatens the city's attempts to dig out its small paced transportation system.

While weary crews of workers battled to remove huge drifts which had paralyzed transportation in the nation's second largest city, the Weather Bureau forecast a cold wave of zero to 10 below Wednesday night.

CHEERFUL NOTE

But the weatherman had at least a cheery note for army-weary householders who have been digging paths from house to garage to street for almost two weeks.

He said there was no more snow in prospect for the next 36 to 48 hours.

Air transportation out of Chicago also was affected by the piled up snow, despite good flying weather. Three west coast flights were canceled by Trans World Airlines.

The latest covering of white brought the city's December snowfall to a record breaking 34.4 inches and the total for the season to 47.3 inches. This compares with the average of 32.2 inches for an entire winter season. The heaviest fall on record was 64.1 inches in 1918.

China Ransom Fund Drops

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese in America have cut down the money they are sending to relatives in China via Hong Kong, the newspaper Wah Kiu Yat Po reported Wednesday.

The paper said remittances have "fallen off considerably in spite of the fact that this is the season when large amounts usually were sent."

However, remittances from Hong Kong to Chinese in Communist China jumped from a November total of 46 million Hong Kong dollars to 48,200,000 in December, the 13th million dollars in the first 15 days of December.

The newspaper report coincided with a dispatch from Taipei, Formosa, that the Chinese Nationalist government had urged Chinese in the United States to donate ransom demands from Red China.

Farouk May Back West

CAIRO (AP) — A clear indication from King Farouk that he wants a settlement with the West touched off a violent anti-Palace and anti-Western demonstrations Wednesday. The king appears to be worried about burgeoning Communist activity and to want alignment with the West in the cold war with Soviet Russia.

In Alexandria, Police used tear gas to break up a student mob of 5,000 demonstrating against the appointment by the king of Dr. Hafes Afifi Pasha, strong pro-western, as chief of the Royal cabinet and adviser to Farouk on foreign and domestic affairs. Seven foreign and domestic officials were reported injured there by missiles thrown by the demonstrators. Two students were hurt.

In Cairo police dispersed a shouting crowd of 10,000 University students and were ordered on a state of alert against further outbreaks. The press reported a state of emergency already was in effect.

SHOOTING HOURS
December 27
Open 7:05 Close 3:41

Speculation Tends Toward Belief Lewis Will Call Memorial Mine Stoppage Around New Year's

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill. (AP) — An investigation to determine what caused the nation's worst mine disaster in 23 years began Wednesday deep in the wrecked workings of Orient Mine No. 2.

Thirty-six investigators headed by John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers president, Jack Forbes, head of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and Walter Eadie, Illinois mine department director, descended into the mine.

Lewis would not confirm or deny speculation the nation's miners may stage a work stoppage as a memorial to the 119 miners who died in the West Frankfort explosion Friday night.

747 Violent Deaths Mark Long Holiday Week-End As Country Celebrates Xmas

By The Associated Press
Violent accidents in the United States took a near record toll over the four-day Christmas Holiday.

Deaths in traffic accidents, fires and from miscellaneous causes from 6 p.m. Friday to last midnight local time reached the staggering total of 747.

This figure compares with the record accidental death toll of 761 recorded in the four-day Christmas holiday of 1936.

Traffic accidents caused more than 500 fatalities, but the 568 total was below the 600 predicted by the National Safety Council. Fires

German Boy Arrives Here

A small boy, transported into a new environment, thousands of miles from his native Germany was found by a generous Santa at the home of his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kerns on Keno road.

Karl, five years old, climbed obediently into a bunk bed with his foster brother, seven year old Joey Kerns on Christmas Eve and wakened yesterday to more toys and food and fun than he has ever known.

From infancy he has lived in a Lutheran orphanage in Herford, Germany near Frankfurt where he was taught impeccable manners, his new mother says. His father died some time ago; his mother is an invalid.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerns learned of the child through a brother of Kerns, Benjamin Kerns, in Germany with the displaced persons commission.

It was he who made arrangements for sending the little boy to America. A baptismal ritual was required before he was permitted to leave the country with three Godfathers, one of them Kerns, taking part in the ceremony.

He was given a book, a Bible, and some chocolate by his Godfathers before he left for the long trip overseas.

He does all the things a small boy normally does, understands English much better than the Kerns family understood German, made the air trip from Germany here with no lingual difficulty.

The little boy, met in San Francisco by his father will be legally adopted. He raced from a United Airlines plane Monday into the embrace of his new mother. Almost the first words he spoke were "Ich Liebe Du" which the Kerns family easily understood.

Okay Given To Extend Truce

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway has been authorized, if he sees fit, to extend for 30 days the agreement with the Communists that the existing battle line in Korea shall be the line for an armistice in event one can be negotiated.

Diplomatic officials who reported this Wednesday indicated they expect both sides to agree to a temporary extension while negotiations go forward on other details of the cease fire.

A 30-day trial period for reaching accord ends tomorrow, midnight.

County Agents Draw Protest

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Farmers Union has renewed a demand for a congressional inquiry into what it calls misuse of the government-supported county agent system for private purposes of Farm Bureau Federations.

Union President James G. Patton made the request in a letter to Chairman Ellender (D-La.) of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Ellender has announced the group will look into some activities of the Agriculture Department.

Patton said the time spent by Agriculture Extension Service employees in "improper activities" for Farm Bureau Federations represents "hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars annually."

He charges these activities include membership campaigns, sale stock commission houses, writing and editing columns and carrying delegates to meetings.

ONE ALIVE
One miner, Cecil Sanders, was taken alive from the blasted tunnels after virtually all hope was abandoned. He has been given a good chance to recover.

His physician, Dr. John Summers, described the miner's condition as fair and said, "You can't be too sure he's out of danger until he has been up and around for about a week."

Sanders suffered a relapse Monday night and developed a fever, but he still was expected to pull through.

Christmas was a sad day for West Frankfort. Funerals were held for some of the victims and additional funerals were being arranged.

HST Plans State Of Union Talk

By W. H. MORLEY

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) — President Truman put holiday affairs behind him Wednesday and turned again to the job of being chief executive.

He left his home here at 8:15 a.m. CST, and sped by automobile direct to the Hotel Muehlebach in downtown Kansas City, where a penthouse suite is maintained as a sort of little White House when he is here.

There was no immediate news word on the nature of the business which called Mr. Truman to his desk but he has told reporters repeatedly since his arrival that he has been spending even his spare time at home on the "State of the Union" message and the budget message which he will deliver to Congress shortly after the lawmakers go back to work Jan. 8.

Mr. Truman has called the budget of the most troublesome of the 16 with which he has dealt as a senator and as President. He has made it clear that the main trouble is over the arms spending section.

The word from Washington was that even the top military officials themselves have not gotten together on figures. They were understood to be still debating how far to go on all-out mobilization at the expense of the civilian economy.

One question reported under debate was how many warplanes to order with possible major disruption—and accompanying unemployment—in the automobile industry.

Wreck Hurts Not Serious

An appalling number of traffic accidents between Friday afternoon and Monday morning pointed to a tragic holiday safety record for the Klamath Basin; but during Christmas Eve day, the rapid rate of wrecks slowed and the Klamath area has come through the holidays thus far without a single really serious personal injury reported.

A amazing number of cars were cracked up and several persons were hospitalized but city hospitals reported today all wreck victims had been released.

However, Lady Luck rode with many motorists. Weekend smash-ups clogged garages with badly crushed and splintered cars. Viewing the many battered cars, it was hard to believe that no one had been killed or critically injured.

From Friday afternoon until Monday morning, three city wrecking services reported a whopping total of 114 wreck calls. But from Monday evening until late today, the wreckers had had little more than help calls for ditched cars and minor mishaps.

City and suburban firemen have enjoyed an unexpected respite during the holidays. With lighted Yule trees and inflammable decorations, the firemen anticipated busy Christmas; but there has been only one Christmas tree fire and one false alarm since Friday noon.

KF Weather Stays Erratic

Klamath weather was in another of its frequent dilly-doodle patterns today. The mercury in downtown Klamath Falls only got up to 25 yesterday and dropped steadily until about the middle of the night and then suddenly spiraled upward.

At 4:30 this morning, the red line on the big Herald and News recording thermometer posed above the freeze mark and kept climbing. At press time today, the line was nudging 40.

Meanwhile, there was a heavy snow falling to the north. Chiloquin, Chemult and Mowich all reported the white stuff piling up to noon.



MRS. OSTENDORF

Ostendorf Death Told

Sadie Evelyn Heath Ostendorf, 61, for almost 25 years a resident of Klamath Falls, died Monday, 3 p.m., of a heart attack after an illness of several years.

Born in Medford, Minn., Oct. 10, 1890, Mrs. Ostendorf was married to Ed Ostendorf in Salem, Dec. 30, 1916. They would have been married 35 years this Sunday.

Ostendorf was a longtime auto businesswoman here, and was one time mayor of Klamath Falls.

The Ostendorfs came to Klamath Falls, Feb. 1, 1927, and Mrs. Ostendorf died at the family home, 519 Pacific Terrace.

She was a member of the Klamath Lutheran Church, Aloha Chapter, Eastern Star No. 61, and Zuleima Temple No. 13, Daughters of the Nile.

Besides the widower, survivors include a daughter, Mrs. A. C. (Dean) Aldrich, Klamath Falls, whose husband had just returned from Korea, arriving at the Ostendorf home a few hours after Mrs. Ostendorf's death; two sisters, Mrs. F. O. Johnson, Salem, and Mrs. George Balch, Pittsburg.

Funeral services have been scheduled from Ward's Klamath Funeral Home tomorrow, 2:30 p.m., under direction of the Aloha Chapter, Eastern Star No. 61. The Rev. Irvin Twest will officiate.

The body will be shipped to the Howell-Edwards Chapel in Salem, where burial will be in the Hillcrest cemetery Saturday after services at 2:30 p.m.

The family has requested those wishing to do so make contributions to the art-glass memorial window fund under the direction of Rev. Twest, Klamath Lutheran Church.

Information Scanty As Deal Talked

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has informed Hungary that it will pay the \$120,000 in fines imposed on four U.S. airmen provided they are released promptly.

The State Department announced this Wednesday on specific authorization of Secretary of State Acheson.

At the time of the announcement, the department was without any information as to whether or when the airmen would be released.

From Budapest, press dispatches said there were reasons to believe the four men had been released, or would be released shortly.

The dispatches said reporters in Budapest could not say at this time what the signs were that indicated some past or imminent action for release of the fliers.

PROMPT RELEASE

The State Department's announcement here said that acting "under instructions" the ranking U.S. diplomat at Budapest, George Abbott, "has indicated that, provided the fliers are released promptly, this government will pay the fines imposed on them."

Abbott gave this information to the Red regime at 7 o'clock Tuesday evening, Budapest time, the State Department said 10 a. m. PST yesterday.

At the outset of the announcement read to reporters by Press Officer Michael McDermott, the State Department said it had tried to obtain the release of the four U.S. Air Force men constantly since they were forced down in Hungary on Nov. 19.

Hells Dam Group Forms

BOISE, (AP) — Boise backers of Hells Canyon Dam will form a local chapter of the Idaho-Oregon Hells Canyon Association Thursday night.

Albert C. Ullman of Baker, Ore., chairman of the two-state group, will speak.

George Greenfield, temporary chairman of the Boise club, said the group will attempt to provide full information to Ada County residents regarding the proposed Bureau of Reclamation structure north of Weiser and the benefits to this area resulting from its construction.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity and Northern California: Occasional rain through Thursday, turning to snow flurries mixed with rain at night. Southerly winds will become strong tonight and Thursday. High today 42. Low tonight 24. High Thursday 46.

High temp yesterday	30
Low last night	23
Precip last 24 hrs.	0.0
Since Oct. 1	6.83
Normal for period	4.28
Same period last yr.	8.21

(Additional Weather on Page 4)

DIES

YREKA — Sidney Aubrey, 8-year-old boy burned in a house fire at Sommes Bar last week, died in Siskiyou general hospital Tuesday.



9 O'clock Special



GOOD NEWS! Three of the many Klamath Falls college students home for the holidays are shown above spreading glad tidings; they're telling fellow collegians about the Rotarians' annual dance for collegians and guests. This year's event is slated for Friday, 9 p.m., at the Willard. It's to be strictly informal... a "come as you are" affair. The trio above is composed of (l to r): Bill Southwell (Oregon U), 1147 Pacific Terrace; Joan Moore (Oregon U), 2045 Leroy; and Douglas Dryden (Oregon State), 1842 Portland.