

Death Rides U. S. Highways

Herald and News

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Experts Fear Old Record May Topple

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traffic	254
Fires	67
Miscellaneous	37
Total	358

A runaway pace of fatal traffic accidents today brought a warning that this may become the nation's bloodiest Christmas holiday.

"There's no indication that the traffic death toll isn't headed for an all-time high for any holiday in the nation's history," a National Safety Council official said.

The record auto toll is 706. That number was killed during the four-day Christmas period of 1956. In that weekend two years ago, accident deaths from all causes numbered 884, the highest over-all total in history.

The current Christmas weekend also is a four-day holiday. The death count which began at 6 p.m., Wednesday (local time) continues until midnight Sunday.

The first half of the 102-hour span brought an unusual number of fatal fires, including several multiple fatalities. Nine died in a farmhouse blaze near Auburn, Wash.

A prominent Virginia businessman, Horace A. Gray Jr., and four members of his family were killed when fire destroyed their Richmond mansion. Two separate fires in Pennsylvania, at Wilkes-Barre and Bradock, killed three children each. Three persons died in a Northampton, Mass., lodging house blaze. A father and his son perished in a Petersburg, Pa., fire.

But the highway toll was more than five times greater than that in fires. The massive upsurge in fatal crashes came despite emergency efforts of law enforcement agencies to promote safety on the roads. Many police agencies canceled Christmas days off for their members and assigned them to traffic duties with orders to take drunks from behind steering wheels.

The safety council spokesman said "Virtually every official effort has been redoubled to protect motorists from themselves and other drivers."

"There is only one person who can do anything more to avert accidents. That is the individual driver."

With an estimated 40 million cars on the roads during the holiday, inevitable thousands defied the conformity of driving rules devised for safety at highway speeds. In some cases the result was fatal to several persons.

Five persons died in one flaming wreck of two cars near Jackson, N. C. Another head-on collision exploded two cars near Michigan City, Ind., killing four. Near Coats, N. C., three lives were smashed out, also in a head-on collision. Often, it was the heedless or unheeded pedestrian who was pitched to sudden death.

A Greyhound bus loaded with 34 holiday passengers skidded into a crowd on a highway, killing a woman and injuring her husband. The count was higher than the council's pre-holiday estimated 620 deaths during the 102-hour holiday period.

The count also was at a faster clip than for a comparable period during the 1956 four-day Christmas holiday period when the all-time record of 706 traffic deaths was recorded.

As the toll shot upward the council said: "It's up to the driver to pull down this toll in homeward bound travel. Christmas is traditionally the most dangerous period of the year because of heavy traffic and highball hilarity."



THE WEATHERMAN AND THE CAMERAMAN were both wrong on their plans for a dry Christmas. The weatherman had predicted "no snow" for Christmas but the snowflakes began to fall right on schedule Christmas Eve for Klamath Falls and vicinity. The cameraman, not expecting the Klamath Falls snowfall, had already prepared this picture of two little Swiss girls admiring a newly made snow man. The picture was taken in Switzerland where snow is neither a scarcity nor a novelty. There, it's always a White Christmas. Klamath Falls can add, "Here, too."

Soviet Warns Of Nuclear War If Allies Continue Berlin Stay

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union warned Thursday that Western insistence on remaining in Berlin could kindle nuclear war that would reach America.

Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko continued the Kremlin's campaign to force the Western Allies out of West Berlin by predictions of nuclear war if they stay. He boasted Russia is well armed for any trouble.

Gromyko spoke at the closing session of the winter meeting of Russia's parliament, the Supreme Soviet. He also urged a ban on nuclear weapon tests without controls which the West considers necessary.

Diplomats in Washington said they found nothing new in Gromyko's speech. There was no immediate comment from the State Department.

If an end is not put to the Berlin crisis, Gromyko said, "the threat will further increase of West Berlin becoming a second Sarajevo."

Premier Khrushchev has demanded that the United States, Britain and France pull their occupation troops out of West Berlin by June 1, leaving it a demilitarized free city surrounded by Communist East Germany. Western attempts to reach Berlin without East German permission would be aggression against the Soviet bloc, Khrushchev warned.

The West has pledged to stick with the 2,200,000 West Berliners who overwhelmingly vote anti-Communist. It contends East Germany has no authority to control Western military traffic to Berlin.

Gromyko said that "any attempt at aggression against East Germany may start a new big war in which millions upon millions of people would find their death."

"The flame of war would inevitably spread to the American continent, for today's military techniques have virtually eliminated the difference between dis-

Nine Perish In Holocaust

AUBURN, Wash., (AP) — Nine persons of a family of 12 died Friday in a fire which destroyed a farm home near here.

Five bodies were recovered two hours after the 6 a.m. (pst) blaze and fire department officers were searching the ruins for four more.

The fire was at the Hollenbach Turkey Farm, Route 1, Auburn. Firemen said those listed as dead were Mrs. Olie Hollenbach, 38, and eight children, Gale, 18; Donald, 17; Garry, 16; Sharon, 15; Patricia, 13; Mary Ellen, 8; Carl, 6; and Penny, 4.

The husband and father, Hollenbach, was burned only slightly.

The other two survivors were Wanda Hollenbach, 7, and a Mrs. Hightower, 80, presumed to be the mother of Mrs. Hollenbach.

Wanda Hollenbach and Mrs. Hightower were treated for burns at a hospital here.

Don Taylor, assistant fire chief, said Hollenbach told firemen he thought the blaze may have started from a short circuit in a cord leading to an electric clock.

Taylor said the father rushed out to call a neighbor, then dashed back into the house to attempt rescue of his family.

Wanda Hollenbach, badly burned, crawled on the roof from an upstairs window. A neighbor got her down on a ladder.



SHOOTING HOURS:

OREGON		
December 27		
OPEN	CLOSE	
7:05	4:43	
December 28		
OPEN	CLOSE	
7:05	4:43	
CALIFORNIA		
December 27		
OPEN	CLOSE	
7:04	4:40	
December 28		
OPEN	CLOSE	
7:04	4:40	

Cold Weather Thaw Viewed

United Press International

Sub-freezing temperatures over most of the north and north central United States were compensated for today by prospects of continued clear skies and little snow.

Northern New England and the Eastern Seaboard as far south as West Virginia and parts of lower Michigan had sub-zero readings for the holiday weekend.

Southerly breezes, which brought Miami vacationers temperatures in the 70s, caused some rain along the Gulf Coast, in Southern Iowa and near the Great Lakes but most reports showed less than a tenth of an inch.

The plains states celebrated Christmas under clear to partly cloudy skies while scattered snow flurries from Colorado to Montana, all under an inch, accompanied temperatures just above freezing.

Along the Pacific Coast, Washington and Oregon reported light rain and 40-degree temperatures extending as far south as upper California. A storm approaching the Pacific Northwest was expected to bring more rainfall and possible snow in the high mountains.

In the Southern Rockies and Southern California, there was clear weather for Christmas.

Army Copters Set Landing

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) —

Heavy-duty Army helicopters today were scheduled to attempt a hazardous landing near the wreckage of an Air Force cargo plane that crashed high on volcanic Mt. Iliamna Monday, apparently taking 15 men to their deaths.

The wreckage was sighted on the snow-covered side of the 10,116 foot mountain Thursday by a veteran Alaska bush pilot, Don Sheldon of Talkeetna, who reported to the Air Force that he saw no sign of life.

Sheldon piloted his small private plane very low through seething currents of air to make certain that the wreckage spotted Wednesday was positively that of the four-engine C54 that had been the object of a three-day search.

Sheldon said the demolished plane was in a box canyon at one of the 7,600-foot level. Sulphuric fumes from the heart of the volcanic mountain rise constantly around the wreckage, he said.

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Many Needy Basin Families Enjoy A Merry Christmas

By RUTH KING

Through the generosity of local organizations, churches, schools and individuals hundreds of families in this community had a Merry Christmas this year.

"Operation Santa Claus," the annual Christmas distribution of toys by the Klamath Falls Moose Lodge, reached 400 children on Christmas Eve, an increase over 1957, when 325 boys and girls were remembered.

Members of the Loyal Order of Moose and Women of the Moose provided two toys and a sack of treats for each child. Toy barrels, placed in business houses, yielded some toys and a last minute appeal over KOTI-TV and radio stations brought a flood of gifts at the 11th hour that put the Christmas cheer program over the top.

Central Oregon Fast Freight, Division of Consolidated Freightways, provided eight trucks without charge through the courtesy of W. H. "Ole" Roemhildt, manager, for transportation. Employees of the trucking company, Ernie Fullen, Leonard Springer, Frank Wryn, Phil Barry, Leonard Aligre, Jim Reis, Harold Crowell and

World News In Brief

United Press International

HOLIDAY — Motorists are dying at an alarming rate during the early hours of the Christmas holiday, indicating that the current fatality pace could set an all-time record.

POPE — Vatican City — Pope

Pope Visits Rome Jail

VATICAN CITY (UPI) — Pope John XXIII carried the spirit of Christmas into Rome's biggest jail today during a simple priestly visit that brought tears to the eyes of even hardened criminals.

"We must carry out all the deeds of mercy," he said, "and assisting prisoners is one of them."

The Pope's voice betrayed a solemn emotion as he sat upon a make-shift throne in the rotunda of the prison and looked around at the hundreds of hands clasping the bars of cells surrounding him.

He could see three tiers of cells in the black Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) jail on the banks of the Tiber River. His words echoed through the massive building of steel and stone.

"I want to bring you the good philosophy," he said, "Your life is ugly because you have lost all taste for life."

"Rest assured that this visit will remain deeply impressed in my soul. It is good that the new year, or let us call it the first year of our pontificate, be marked by a deed of mercy."

Soviet Radio Gives Wishes

LONDON (UPI) — The officially

atheistic Soviet Union broadcast a religious Christmas message Thursday.

Alexander Karev, head of the Union of Baptists of the USSR, delivered the Christmas message to Britain over Moscow Radio.

"My best wishes at this joyous Christmas season to all the people of Britain on behalf of the Union of Baptists of my country," Karev said.

"The angels in Bethlehem who sang the wonderful song of peace at the birth of Jesus Christ remind the faithful to pray earnestly for world peace and do all they can to build that peace," he said.

The reference to Jesus was unusual for Moscow Radio, which usually echoes the official Soviet line that Jesus never existed and that stories about him are pure capitalistic mythology.

Yule Fires Bring Death

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christmas holiday fires brought

tragedy to families in many parts of the nation. Fathers, mothers and children lost their lives during what was to have been one of the happiest times of the year.

In all, at least 45 persons died as the result of flames which swept homes and lodgings. Five of the six members of one family were wiped out. In two other cases three children were killed.

Dozens of other persons were injured, some critically.

John, who visited hospitals Thursday, extends his round of priestly visits today by calling on prisoners in Rome's biggest jail.

SCIENCE — Washington — Scientists begin annual set-together at the 125th meeting of American Association for Advancement of Science.

FRANCE — Paris — Government shuts financial markets; devaluation of franc expected momentarily.

ALFORD — Washington — Drive by some House liberals to block seating of segregationist Dr. Dale Alford appears to be slowing.

NEWSPAPERS — New York — New York newspaper strike appears to be developing into a war of nerves.

CHAIRS — Washington — Four newly elected House members have no place to hang their hats: not enough office space to go around.

SOVIET — Moscow — Gromyko claims Soviets ready to sign nuclear test ban agreement; Soviets name new secret police chief.

Shaky Franc Devalue Set

PARIS (UPI) — A surprise decree shut financial markets throughout France today in apparent preparation for devaluation of the tottering franc.

Newspapers here said Premier Charles de Gaulle will cut short his Christmas vacation in the country and return to Paris for special cabinet talks this afternoon.

Official sources said the markets were shut down to avoid any inopportune reaction to the decisions which are being studied by the government.

The markets, normally closed on Saturdays and Sundays, will not reopen until Monday at earliest. The government apparently planned to use the time to work out its fiscal decisions without the risk of panicky speculation on the franc.

Business quarters believed the decisions under study included a 10 per cent devaluation of the franc — from its present nominal value of 24 of a U. S. cent to around 21—perhaps coupled with the creation of a new "heavy" franc worth 100 times as much as the present currency.

The franc was down to 21 of a cent on the free market Wednesday.

Some experts believed the French devaluation would be announced at the same time as Britain's expected decision to make the pound convertible—that is, freely exchangeable for dollars on world money markets.

West Germany and other countries west of the Iron Curtain are expected to make their currency convertible when the British do, producing a considerable effect on the European economic situation.

HOPE ABANDONED

ZICHEM ZUSSEN BOLDER, Belgium (AP) — Hope has been abandoned for an estimated 15 mushroom farmers trapped in a network of caves and tunnels near here, but rescue workers today were still trying to recover the bodies. Seven bodies have been recovered since some of the tunnels

caved in Dec. 23.

Weather

FORECAST — Klamath Falls

and vicinity: Mostly cloudy with snow showers tonight and Saturday. Low tonight 22-28; high Saturday 34-39.

High yesterday 36
Low last night 21

Northern California — Rain tonight in moderate to heavy amounts. Snow level lowering to 3,000 feet in extreme north tonight. Clearing trend Saturday. Little change in temperature. Windy inland tonight. Southerly coastal winds 20-45 miles an hour from Point Reyes northward.

CRATER LAKE

High Thursday 28
Low Thursday night 20
8 a.m. Friday 27

Snow to a depth of 9½ inches fell at the rim on Christmas Day and 2½ inches had fallen today by 8 a.m. Total for the year is 71 inches against 196 inches in 1957. Present total depth is 15 inches. Total precipitation for December to date, 5.38 inches. A light south wind was blowing this morning. Snow is powdered, sking fair. Chains are necessary on Annie Springs to the rim.

Strike Talks Continuing

NEW YORK (AP) — Negotiations return to the bargaining table today in an effort to restore peace in the city's newspaper industry, throttled by a 17-day-old deliverymen's strike.

Presses at the city's nine major dailies remain idle as federal mediators sit down again with representatives of the striking deliverymen and publishers of the nine papers.

The talks recessed Wednesday on a faint glimmer of hope. Federal mediator Walter A. Maguire said he and other mediators were "quite encouraged by the continued progress being made and the atmosphere in which the parties' deliberations are being conducted."

Mediation Commissioner Bernard J. Forman said Thursday: "We are always hopeful that any session might produce a turning point."

About 15,000 of the papers' 20,000 employees have been furloughed. Many are members of nine other newspaper unions, all AFL-CIO, which are not supporting the independent Deliverymen's Union.

Hungary Expands Alcoholic Wards

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) —

Hungary's official news agency carried these two items within a few hours:

1. The grape crop is so good there will be about 26 million gallons more wine in 1959.

2. A system of out-patient wards for alcoholics has proved so successful that two more will be opened in Budapest suburbs.



HERE ARE SOME of 30 windows in KUHS broken by vandals in a wave of anti-Christmas enthusiasm this week. Inspecting the damage is Walter Hamblin, a maintenance man at the school. Hoodlums went out of their way to leave their destructive mark at KUHS and at Conger School, heaving rocks, bricks and concrete blocks as heavy as 25 pounds. They added to their moronic glee by heaving rocks through more than half a dozen car windows, city police reported.



A CREW of 12 Women of the Moose, and Loyal Order of Moose worked frantically on the day before Christmas to have all toys wrapped and marked for the 400 children remembered this year by the Moose Lodge, "Operation Santa Claus," that each year provides toys and treats in this community for children who otherwise would be overlooked. Left to right are Mrs. R. L. Fairchild, Women of the Moose chairman; Mrs. Dave Lovelace, Mrs. Vic Douglas, Mrs. Webb Hescocock, Mrs. Jack Gunther and Mrs. Jon Popken. Jim Moerel was chairman for the Moose.