

Two Children Are Killed In Five-Car Oregon Accident

ONTARIO, Ore. (AP) — Two little children bound for their grandparents' home for Christmas died in a five-car pileup on an icy, fog-shrouded highway north of Ontario and early Saturday.

Their brother and sister and their parents were hospitalized. So were five others.

Police said it appeared that a car stopped about 3:45 a.m. on a straight stretch of Highway 30 leading into this town on the Oregon-Idaho border, probably to clear ice from the windshield.

Fog was so thick visibility was cut almost to zero in patches. It froze on the highway in a clear layer that gave a deceptive appearance of dryness to the roadway.

The car that stopped was headed east. A following car slammed into it as did another and still another. A fifth car avoided the pileup but spun around and ended with its headlights playing back on the first.

Three of the cars were demolished.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert L. Chaffin, St. Helens, Ore., and their four children were headed for a Christmas holiday in Blackfoot, Idaho, at the home of Chaffin's parents. Their daughter Edith Emaline, 8 months, and their son Bert Jr., 8 months, and their other children, Michael, 6, and Nancy, 4, were hurt but not critically. Mrs. Chaffin, 28, was seriously hurt.

and her husband, 34, a teacher at the rural Deer Island School near St. Helens, was less badly injured, hospital attendants said. State Patrolman Ray Ganing said that Chaffin, despite his own injuries and the knowledge two of his children were dead, helped with the injured.

"He is one of the bravest men I have ever seen," the patrolman said.

In reconstructing the accident, Ganing said a pickup truck driven by Morris Nelson, 29, The Dalles, stopped to clear the windshield. A following car, the driver's name not learned, skidded by and stopped with its lights on the pickup. Nelson got out, asked if anyone was hurt, then returned to his pickup when assured everyone was all right.

A car driven by Armand Dennis Hegge, 19, Everett, Wash., with Edgar Duane Wait, 25, of Everett, as passenger, hit the pickup just as Nelson was starting to drive on in the darkness and fog. Then the Chaffin car hit and stopped broadside on the highway. The last car, carrying several young women, struck the car carrying the Chaffin family.

Others hospitalized were Elaine Ritchey, 23, Rexburg, Idaho; Joyce Crow, 18, Portland, Ore.; Vernon B. Beck, 21, Idaho Falls, Idaho; Deon Bean, 23, Twin Falls, Idaho; and Gayla Whitmore, 21, Portland. Only Mrs. Chaffin was believed seriously hurt.

Many Dead, 2 Buildings Levelled In Boston Blast

BOSTON (UPI) — A deafening explosion shattered the quiet of the day before Christmas, completely destroying two buildings in what police described as a "major disaster."

Early reports from the blast scene in the city's Charlestown section said at least four persons were dead and several more missing.

A raging three-alarm fire flared up from the rubble that was Doherty's Golden Nugget Cafe and the adjacent Purity Cone Co.

The ruined buildings were located on Chelsea Street, just a few yards from City Square, the major Charlestown business intersection.

At least five persons were undergoing emergency treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said "we understand there are many, many more coming. We have called in all available assistance."

Police said the explosion was the second to occur in the big cafe. They said the building was rebuilt after being destroyed in an illuminating gas blast "four or five years ago."

Force of Saturday's explosion caved in the walls of the two-story brick building and shattered every window in a block-long area.

Huge billows of smoke rose up over downtown Boston within minutes of the explosion, just as Boston stores were opening for the last day of the Christmas rush.

Patrolman Peter Larfarello said he and Patrolman Michael Cammarata were among the first to reach the scene of the blast.

"There were four or five bodies lying in the street when we got there. It looked to me as though the explosion happened in the cafe. Both the cafe and a building next door belonging to the Purity Cone Co. were just a pile of burning rubble," Larfarello said.

Dense black smoke from the blast obscured a nearby expressway. Police attempted to divert traffic around the area.

The nearby City Square YMCA lost every window in the building and the front door in the blast.

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Certainly it wasn't intentional that I've been overlooking you, a little girl of 11, and your two older brothers, your twin sisters, 13, and your younger brother and sister. It's just that such faults do exist in my system.

I'm going to try to make up for the oversight this year, although I may not make it by Christmas, for as Commissioner Arm says, I have "a lot of territory to cover." So please be patient.

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Bus Demolished, But Passengers Are Only Hurt

ST. JOHNS, Nfld. (AP)—A suburban bus filled with Christmas shoppers slammed into the side of a moving Canadian National Railways train at a crossing here Saturday. Officials reported 15 persons injured and called it miraculous that no one was killed.

James Clements, 20, the bus driver, was reported in critical condition. He was making his first trip as a substitute driver on a run from Petty Harbor, 30 miles away.

Another bus driver who got to the scene minutes later said Clements' bus slid into a freight car at the middle of the combination passenger-freight train. Witnesses said the crossing had not been sand.

Rescuers freed some bus passengers, including a 5-year-old boy, who were trapped in the wreckage. Most on the bus were women.

Rescuers worked 20 minutes to free a woman and a man trapped in the wreckage.

The bus, demolished in the front, was dragged 50 feet by the train and stopped only when it struck a telephone pole. There is a slight downgrade at the intersection where the bus apparently skidded on ice.

No Blame Is Placed For Blaze

NEW YORK (AP)—The deadly disastrous fire on the aircraft carrier Constellation was the result of an unforeseeable chain of circumstances and not caused by general negligence or by any individual, says the commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The fire took 49 lives and did an estimated total of \$75 million damage before it was brought under control Monday night at the Navy Yard, where the Constellation was nearing completion.

Rear Adm. Schuyler N. Pyne, testifying at the naval court of inquiry into the fire, called the start of the blaze "inconceivable—a chain of circumstances which was inconceivable to foresee."

While Pyne gave this opinion, in Washington the Navy ordered a series of new and stiffer safety precautions aboard its ships. Specifically, it said fuel tanks of the kind involved in the start of the Constellation fire must no longer be allowed on Navy ships.

It also ordered elimination of temporary structures below decks.

Hazardous Driving May Make Holiday Toll High

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

country's highways, 43 in fires, and 75 in various other accidents for an over-all total of 609.

The record traffic and over-all total for a three-day Christmas holiday was set in 1955 when 609 died in traffic, 48 in fires and 103 in other accidents for a total of 760.

The greatest number of deaths for any holiday period occurred during the four-day Christmas period in 1956 when traffic deaths numbered 706, fires 54 and others 124 for a total of 884.

Less than 18 hours after the start of the holiday period Friday evening 88 deaths had occurred in traffic accidents. In addition there were 12 deaths from fires and 10 from miscellaneous accidents for an over-all total of 110.

Icy or snow-packed highways were reported in many parts of the country, adding to normal driving hazards. The National Safety Council also issued a reminder to motorists that speeding and drinking have been foremost factors in Christmas holiday traffic fatalities in past years.

The council estimated 510 persons may be killed on the highways in this year's 78-hour period that began at 6 p. m. Friday and continues until midnight Monday.

The council estimate is 217 higher than the number counted in an Associated Press survey of a recent 78-hour nonholiday weekend when 293 died in traffic accidents. On that weekend 47 other persons died in fires and 113 in miscellaneous accidents.

Last year's Christmas period saw 439 persons killed on the



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for a
HAPPY HOLIDAY
EVA DICKSON
and
SHARON PEARSON
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Merry Christmas . . . and may we take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you our friends and customers, for your goodwill and patronage this past year.

Jay Humphries
and
Ray Migliaccio
Jay's Grocery Service
1313 Owens

Russians Denounce Christmas As Pagan Rite From Mythology

MOSCOW (AP) — The celebration of Christmas was denounced as a pagan rite by the labor paper Trud today. It said science had proved long ago that Christ never existed.

Trud said that "this person is purely taken from mythology" and Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 25 because the chief gods of ancient religions were supposed to have been born around that date.

What actually happens, Trud said, is that the sun is beginning to turn its face toward spring "so this holiday is the day when the sun is born — when longer days start."

The paper said it was printing the article in response to requests from many readers asking for a story "explaining the harm of religion and its customs."

Under communism, Christmas has been combined with New Year celebrations and people set up what are called "New Year's trees." The Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on the old Julian calendar, which puts the date on Jan. 7.

Bar Association Backs Two For District Judge

Two young Klamath Falls attorneys have been recommended by the Klamath County Bar Association for the position of district judge, vacated recently by the death of Judge D. E. Van Vactor.

Robert B. Kerr, 33, and Hal F. Coe, 29, were the co-choices of 45 association attorneys polled. P. K. Puckett, president, announced Friday. Kerr and Coe had 19 votes each with the other seven widely scattered.

The preferential poll was taken after a request by Gov. Mark Hatfield, who asked for recommendations from the local bar group. The governor is expected to make the appointment soon.

Both Coe and Kerr are extremely interested in the judgeship. Coe, who came to Klamath Falls in May of this year to go into partnership with Glenn D. Ramirez, said he has always been aiming for a judicial career. A native of Burns, he received his BA degree from Oregon State College and graduated from the Northwestern College of Law in Portland in 1958. Since then he has worked as a law clerk for Multnomah Circuit Judge Martin Hawkins and as a trial lawyer for the Portland firm of Posey and Wilson, prior to coming to Klamath Falls.

Coe, his wife, Betty, and three children live at 1129 California Avenue.

Kerr received his bachelor of science and law degrees at the University of Oregon, graduating in 1953. He began as deputy district attorney in Klamath County in January, 1954. He was in the district attorney's office until Aug. 1, 1955, when he opened his own private practice. Although not principally a trial lawyer, Kerr feels that he has gained considerable experience through the years. He has also been municipal judge pro tem for the past two years.

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Coleta Gets An Apology From St. Nick, Himself

SANTA'S HEADQUARTERS, North Pole (AP) — Dear Coleta Burns:

Shiver my whiskers! My face is red as my suit. Please forgive me for not getting to your house at Christmas for such a long time. No wonder you thought I was dead.

But rest assured, I am not. All I can say is that my elfin secretary help here is just not what it used to be, and the names of many poor and deserving children sometimes get left off the list.

But don't worry. By a reindeer's hoof, I promise I'm going to get to your house this time. I have before me a copy of the letter you wrote from your farm home at Viola, Ark., to the police department in New York City saying:

"Is there a real Santa? You see if there is a real Santa he doesn't know where we live. You know he hasn't been to our house for a long time. He must have been dead for a lot of years. If he is alive, I hope you will read this letter to him."

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2 Persons, 19 Horses Killed

WARREN, Ohio (AP)—Two persons died and another was injured as fire swept through a horse barn at the Trumbull County Fair Grounds early Saturday. At least 19 trotters and pacers were lost.

The dead were identified tentatively as Nathan Barnett, about 83, a crippled Negro, and Willabelle Belle, 32, a Negro woman.

William Gibson, 28, of New Castle, Pa., who had been employed at the Fair Grounds, escaped by leaping through a window. He was reported in fair condition at Trumbull Memorial Hospital.

Most of the horses were owned by Robert Hogue of New Castle and William Montgomery of Brookfield, Ohio.

There was no immediate estimate of the property loss.

White marble