

By FRANK JENKINS
This modern world:
Over in Placer county, in the rather wide-open spaces, a hitchhiker solicits a ride from a passing motorist.

The hitchhiker then reloaded his rifle and stood waiting for the next passing motorist. At that moment, a highway patrolman came along. He braked his car to a skidding stop, leaped out of it, his revolver in his hand, tackled the killer, disarmed him and took him off to jail where a check of his record revealed that he had been twice under observation for mental illness.

Tragedy?
It is double tragedy. There was a time in our friendly Western country when no motorist would have thought of passing up a pedestrian on a long and lonely road. Why did this Placer county motorist pass up the pedestrian? The answer is quite simple, as everyone who drives our highways knows. In recent years picking up hitchhikers has become DANGEROUS.

There is further tragedy in the fact that the killer had been twice under observation for mental illness and had been twice released. What to do with the mentally unbalanced? It seems unsafe to leave them on the loose. That, in itself, is another tragedy.

From Washington:
The country can expect "more and more accidents" in the air until something is done to relieve aviation traffic density over large cities, Senator Mike Monroney of Oklahoma said today.

The best solution he can see, the senator added, is to build more airports — and, especially, new airports located at a considerable distance away from New York City and other large urban areas.

What's wrong?
The trouble seems to be that there just isn't room in the air over our huge modern cities for the planes that seek to land there.

Our immense metropolitan cities are having plenty of trouble finding room enough to build the multi-lane freeways needed to get to their jobs in the morning and back to their homes in the evening.

Christmas Lasts Long For Coleta

VIOLA, Ark. (AP)—Christmas lasted several days this year for Coleta Burns, 11, the Arkansas farm girl who wrote New York City police asking if Santa Claus had died.

Coleta and her six brothers and sisters have gotten a piano, an estimated 250 cards and letters and enough packages "to fill a pickup truck" postmaster Jim Felts reported Tuesday.

The piano came by truck from Robert Washington of West Plains, Mo., 30 miles away. Coleta's letter asked for one so her 13-year-old twin sisters could learn to play it.

Weather
Klamath Falls and vicinity —
Fair through Thursday. Highs 34-44; lows 17-24.
High yesterday 40
Low last night 25
Precip. last 24 hours none
Since Oct. 1 5.19
Same period last year 1.00

ON ROGUE RIVER . . .

Fish, Recreation Winners Over Dam

SALEM (AP) — The state Committee on Natural Resources Tuesday accepted without dissent a report of the Oregon Water Resources Board forbidding a new state-sanctioned power development on the lower Rogue River.

Tito To Get Huge Credit From West

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — President Tito, who sharply criticized the Western powers Monday, will get a \$200-million credit from the United States and seven other Western nations to reform Yugoslavia's currency exchange rates and liberalize foreign trade.

Survivors Sue Owners

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Fourteen survivors of the tanker Pine Ridge are seeking \$1.4 million from the ship's owners and operators.

The Pine Ridge broke in two in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C., last Wednesday. Twenty-nine of those aboard were rescued. Seven others, including the captain, drowned.

Cubans Charge Bombing Supplies Are From U.S.

HAVANA (AP) — Charges that the United States is supplying explosives to terrorists were renewed today by the semi-official newspaper Revolution after a series of bomb blasts in Havana.

Herald and News

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Weather
Northern California — Fair through Thursday except snow flurries today in southern Sierra Nevada; strong northeast winds in mountains; warmer in San Joaquin Valley.
Mt. Shasta-Siskiyou area—Fair with little temperature change through Thursday.

W. Germans Sign Trade Agreement

BONN, Germany (AP) — West Germany and the Soviet Union have agreed on a new trade pact, the government announced today.

West Germany pressed trade pact talks with Communist East Germany in East Berlin, where the same question of Berlin has remained the stumbling bloc.

In both cases, West Germany wants West Berlin treated as part of the economy of West Germany because they are tied together by a common currency. This also would insure open communications to Berlin.

The East Germans followed the Soviet lead in balking at this proposal. Furthermore, the East Germans have threatened to halt land and river traffic to Berlin, 100 miles inside the Iron Curtain, if no trade agreement with West Germany is reached by Jan. 1.

Announcement of the West German-Soviet agreement came from a government spokesman after Chancellor Konrad Adenauer met with Soviet Ambassador Andrei Smirnov. The spokesman said the agreement probably will be signed before the end of the year.

Goldfine Is Taken After Balk

BOSTON (UPI) — Industrialist Bernard Goldfine, 67, refused to admit U.S. marshals into his hotel room for nearly 20 minutes today before they enlisted his son's aid and took him into custody on orders of a judge.

Goldfine, gift-giving friend of former Presidential Aide Sherman Adams, balked at opening the door of his 11th floor hotel room when the marshals knocked to carry out the orders of Federal Judge George C. Sweeney.

The judge two hours earlier had ordered Goldfine taken into immediate custody and held pending a hearing Jan. 10 on his competence to stand trial on income tax evasion charges.

After pleading with Goldfine to admit them, the marshals contacted his son, Solomon, in whose care Goldfine had been placed since his discharge from a Washington, D.C., mental hospital Saturday.

Skelton Leaves Hospital Bed

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Red Skelton, hospitalized Dec. 3, goes home today to celebrate a belated Christmas with his wife and daughter.

The red-haired comedian underwent major surgery Dec. 12 to correct a hernia in his diaphragm, the thin layer of tissue separating the abdomen from the chest.

Police Use Tear Gas, Fire Hoses On Belgium Crowd; Strike Called

Zuckert, Connally Picked For Air Force, Navy Posts

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect John F. Kennedy today tapped Eugene Zuckert to be secretary of the Air Force. He was assistant secretary in the Truman administration and also served as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Rex Putnam Will Resign His State School Post

SALEM (AP) — Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction since 1937, announced Tuesday he would resign Jan. 31 or as soon afterward as is convenient for the governor.

Brave Family Gets Praise In Ike Letter

NORTH PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—President Eisenhower says the goal of equality before the law for all men "will be one day attained."

"Our nation must continue her steady advance toward equality before the law for all men, and each one of us must do his share to make certain that we have a government of laws, not of men. If all of us will, like yourself and your family, stand up to be counted in the cause of human dignity, even though personal sacrifice be involved, these goals will one day be attained."

Pharmacist Tries Hard, But Stickup Men Win Out

VAN NUYS, Calif. (UPI) — It was a very frustrating experience for pharmacist Hyman Goodman.

He noticed two suspicious looking characters loitering in the parking lot of the Bank of America branch Tuesday when he drove in to deposit \$870.

Jungle Doctor Returns With Another Illness

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Tom Dooley, in great pain and barely able to walk, returned from the Orient Tuesday night and entered the Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases.

Thousands Are Taken From Vault

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Police and FBI agents, who had a harder time cracking a vault than the burglars did, today confirmed that some of the more than \$1 million in cash and checks in the safe was missing.

Unarmed U.S. Plane Hit By Red Shots Over Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — An unarmed U.S. plane was hit by gunfire while observing Soviet air drops to Pathet Lao rebels Tuesday, the American military attaché's office said today.

Fight Flares On Ship Fire

NEW YORK (AP)—A Navy witness testified today that Navy men could have extinguished the fatal fire aboard the aircraft carrier Constellation in half an hour except for interference by city firemen.

Russian Ships Head For Cuba

MOSCOW (AP)—A fleet of Soviet merchant ships steamed through the Baltic today, bound for Cuba with cargoes of tractors, paper and other goods.

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BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Police used tear gas and fire hoses today to break up a demonstration in Ghent. Socialist union leaders promptly called for a general strike in Antwerp to retaliate.

It was the first use of tear gas in the eight-day strike aimed at toppling the government of Premier Gaston Eyskens. Strikers in Ghent were trying to force workers out of the fuel gas works administrative office.

Antwerp, lying in the Flemish northern section, has not been hit as hard by the strike which has paralyzed the Socialist strongholds in the industrial and French-speaking south.

The government had reported a back-to-work movement in Antwerp, except for workers at the big port installations. Harbor installations are still paralyzed.

If successful, the Antwerp call would spread the general strike to an important Flemish area, where many are Social Christians and back Eyskens, himself a Social Christian.

A mass demonstration of strikers was staged this morning in Brussels without incident. The capital itself appeared under virtual military siege. Policemen were camped in the central public park opposite Parliament and the royal palace, and in front of the opera house.

Rallies and demonstrations by the striking, 700,000-member Socialist unions were countered by calls from the Catholic Social Christian unions to their 800,000 members to remain steadfast at work.

The Socialists launched the walkout eight days ago in protest against Eyskens' plans for tax increases and social welfare cuts because of the country's financial setback in the Congo. They denounced the government's strike-breaking efforts as dictatorial, called Premier Eyskens a Hitler and demanded the fall of the Social Christian-Liberal coalition.

Catholic union leaders condemned the strike as political and revolutionary, aimed at overthrow of democratic processes. Belgium, its Christmas dimmed by the strike, faced a cheerless New Year's with few trains running, many power stations shut down or nearly so, mines and industries at a standstill.

Although the government said conditions were returning to normal in the Catholic-dominated north, where the strike generally had not made great inroads, the situation in the industrial south was gloomy.

In Brussels a 48-hour streetcar strike started. About a third of the cars were running, manned by Catholic union members.

Parliament is in recess until next week. No negotiations have taken place between the government and the strikers.

King Baudouin and his bride, Queen Fabiola, had a special army plane at hand to fly them back from their honeymoon in Spain if the situation demanded.

Shouts for a march to Brussels were raised at a strikers' rally at Roux Tuesday.

Twenty thousand workers at La Louviere, 20 miles south of Brussels, howled at the name of Josef Ernest Cardinal Van Roey, Belgian primate.

The plane was making a reconnaissance flight of Soviet drops to the pro-Communist rebels at Vangvieng, 65 miles north of Vientiane at the request of the Laotian government, the attaché's office said.

Riser, who was making a visual reconnaissance from his plane, saw a Soviet plane dropping equipment over Vangvieng, the attaché's office said.

"When he flew over top of the Soviet plane to see what type of equipment it was dropping," a spokesman added.

"When he was over the Soviet plane he received small-caliber, probably .30 caliber, machine gun fire.

"At the time he was hit he was flying over a jungle area. It is not certain the fire came from the Soviet plane."

Shooting Times
OREGON
December 29
7:05 a.m.—4:45 p.m.
CALIFORNIA
December 29
7:04 a.m.—4:41 p.m.