



45 In Hospital EXPLOSION KILLS 4, HURTS 100

Blast Follows Wreck In West Texas Town

BROWNFIELD, Tex. (AP)—Four men perished when a bottled gas truck blew up in a shattering explosion of shooting flames and flying steel last night. An estimated 160 persons, most of them spectators, suffered wounds and burns.

About 45 remained hospitalized today.

"The whole sky seemed to be on fire," a witness exclaimed. The cries of the injured filled the air at the scene on the outskirts of this small West Texas city of 7,000.

The community turned out to help the wounded and burned. The Rev. James Tidwell, Methodist minister, called it "the most efficient disaster operation I ever saw."

Soon the small, Terry County Hospital could receive no more, and hurrying doctors and nurses sent them elsewhere.

Many injured were taken to Lubbock, 40 miles northeast, and others to Andrews, Levelland and the Lubbock Air Force Base.

Killed were the gas truck driver, two firemen and a spectator.

COLLISION IS CAUSED

The fire which caused the explosion was set off by the collision of the bottled gas truck and a pickup truck. The cab of the cab-trailer overturned. The spectacular fire drew an estimated 250 spectators.

Firemen said the three-compartment gas tank caught fire at both ends and the center tank exploded later, shooting metal and flames into the massed crowd, some standing in the immediate area and the remainder across the highway.

Twenty firemen were alongside the truck.

The fireball drove into the Terry County Hospital driveway to tell authorities about the wreck. The minister, from the hospital grounds, saw the flash of the explosion. He alerted the hospital staff that injuries would be great because he had seen the large crowd around the gas truck.

"The operation was so speedily mobilized and carried out that within two hours the hospital was cleared of injured except those placed in bed.

One disaster worker said ambulances from "every town in the area that had an ambulance must have sent all they had."

Phillip Thompson, a volunteer fireman, said "There was a terrific explosion. The blast knocked me out but I came to right away. There was a terrific roar and the whole sky seemed to be on fire."

"Pieces of steel from the exploding tank ripped through the crowd," Thompson said. "Flames from the burning transport set a number of people on fire. I put out the fire on several people. I had to run some of their clothes off to put out the flames."

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They probably will meet later to talk with Welfare Supt. Wallace Kurralt and Mrs. Anne W. Maley, director of lunchrooms for the State Dept. of Public Instruction.

NO FUNDS

Mr. Dunlap said it would require other funds to feed the needy hungry school children—but they do not exist now.

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Pre-Yule End To Air Strike Beyond Reach

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pre-Christmas settlement of paralyzing strikes against American and Eastern airlines appeared beyond reach today—normally one of the busiest days of the year in the grounded lines.

Efforts of National Aviation Board officials in Washington Monday brought no immediate plans for a resumption of contract negotiations between American and the striking Air Line Pilots Assn.

The board reportedly sent telegrams to both sides suggesting new bargaining procedures. Mediation Board Chairman Leverett Edwards said talks might begin again in a few days.

There was no development in the stalemate between Eastern and the mechanics and flight engineers.

An Eastern spokesman said today's booking for canceled flights had numbered about 31,000—highest in the line's history.

30,000 GROUNDED

American estimated it would have carried about 30,000 passengers today and Wednesday.

American estimated its daily loss at a million dollars since the pilots walked out last Friday midnight. Eastern has been grounded since Nov. 24.

Nonstruck airlines, buses and railroads expanded facilities to fill the gap in the crust of holiday traffic.

Serious delays in air mail deliveries were not widespread.

Some airlines have grounded almost 400 planes, about a third of the commercial U.S. airliners.

Churches Announce Yule Plans

Story on Page 1B

Business 4A,7A
Classified 8B,9B
Comics 6B
Crossword Puzzle 10B
Earl Wilson 12A
Editorials 8A
Everyday Counselor 12A
Obituaries 4A
Radio-TV 7B
Serial 12A
Social Security Game 4A
Sports 10-11A
Spotlight Series 10B
Theaters 3B
To Your Good Health 6A
Women 2,3B
Worry Clinic 12A



Party Lines Hold Firm On Budget

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower's plan for a 77-billion-dollar balanced budget next year was described by Democrats as unrealistic today, but Republicans called it a welcome Christmas present to the taxpayers.

Eisenhower's announcement of his budget plans, unprecedented in advance of the opening of Congress, said defense spending would be higher and other expenditures "consistent" with the public interest "without any general increase in taxes."

His approximate 77-billion-dollar spending plan would be two billions below this year's estimated \$79,200,000,000 total. At that level, a 15-billion-dollar deficit is expected this year, partly because the recession cut expected federal revenues.

Eisenhower originally had forecast a 300-million-dollar surplus for this year, based on lower spending, higher revenues and a 2 percent rate increase higher than that Congress later provided.

3 TO END

Without giving details, Eisenhower said "reductions in total spending will be achieved in part by reason of the ending of temporary programs in agriculture, unemployment insurance and housing."

Due to expire next year are part of the soil bank program and a recession-born program of extended unemployment compensation benefits.

Although no general tax increase is to be asked, Eisenhower said "again without giving details—that his budget will request higher postal rates and gasoline taxes and some new user charges for government services."

Chairman Clarence Cannon (D-Mo.), whose house appropriations committee will have first crack at Eisenhower's appropriations requests, said he is gratified at the plan for a balanced budget "but I am quite dubious about it. I don't see how he is going to get the extra revenue."

Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney (D-Ola.) said the announcement seemed to him to include "merely a wishful thinking, but any realistic approach" to budgetary problems.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) chairman of Senate Democratic leadership, commented that "I can't see a gas tax increase" as being in the cards and said Eisenhower was "having trouble, too, in getting Congress to vote another increase in postal rates."

Our Weather

Partly cloudy and warmer this afternoon, cloudy and warmer tonight with occasional 11 to 11 P.M. rain. Wednesday cloudy and mild with occasional rain.

Low this morning 32
Low tomorrow morning 45
High today 65
High yesterday 53
High tomorrow 62
Sunrise today 7:29 a.m.; sunset today 5:15 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2A

Wrong Type Hooves

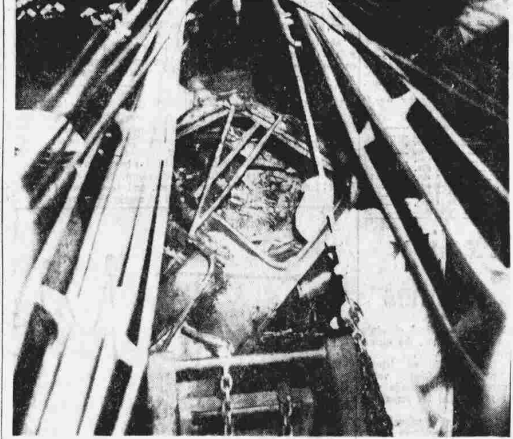
Mrs. Elizabeth Hawn of Dallas didn't think the sound she heard on her roof was the prancing and pawing of reindeer hooves.

She went out to investigate she found her fears realized. Someone had stolen the big-size paper machine. Santa Claus she had placed atop her home.

Santa Misbehaving?

The Rev. E. F. Cook, a Baptist minister told Oklahoma City police he didn't think Santa Claus should be acting in such a manner, he told a Cook. Santa wasn't violating any law.

Santa, or Joe B. Hyden as he is known in civilian life, is circulating a petition calling for the repeal of Oklahoma's whiskey prohibition law.



Picture Made From Top Of Wrecker Shows Cab Of Wrecked Truck

Living Costs Go Up Again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Living costs in November bounced back to their peak level recorded last July.

The government's index rose two-tenths of 1 per cent between October and November to 123.9 per cent of the 1947-49 base. This equates the price living cost record in July and is about 2 per cent higher than November last year.

Evan Clague, Labor Department statistics commissioner, said today that greater sales of 1958 model cars at higher prices in November was the major factor in the new living cost climb. Most other groups of goods and services advanced in price, but food and gasoline prices were lower.

The rise in living costs will mean a one-cent-an-hour pay increase for about one million workers in the steel, aluminum and most packing industries.

These workers have labor contracts providing for semiannual wage adjustments based on the government index.

Another group of 80,000 workers in scattered industries, including some municipal transportation systems, will receive varying increases under a quarterly adjustment plan.

**HELEN TRAUDEL
Lost Stature**

NEW YORK (AP)—Soprano Helen Traudel says she could never keep Margaret Truman on key when acting as singing adviser to the former President's daughter.

Miss Traudel says she quit after three years.

"I think her great fault was that she could not read herself singing," Miss Traudel comments. "She failed because she had no gift for self-criticism."

In a publication condensation of her memoirs appearing in the January issue of the "Ladies' Home Journal," the former Metropolitan opera star says her three years as Miss Truman's adviser cost her stature "in the eyes of the musical world."

Miss Traudel wrote that she consented to the adviser role in 1948 when Miss Truman asked for help. Her voice then

was "inexperienced and rather bad," Miss Traudel says, adding "My first, greatest and uncomparable disaster was when Margaret's voice was simply keeping her on key."

"There simply was not enough of everything—or of anything—to make her really a concert or light-opera singer."

Miss Truman is now the wife of Clifton Daniel, a New York newspaperman. She said she had not read the article, did not plan to, and would have no comment.

No comment was forthcoming either from Truman.

Miss Traudel's adviser was because Miss Truman's adviser with the understanding that the President's daughter would not appear in public concerts for at least five years.

Soon, however, Miss Truman signed for some appearances.

Garinger's Opinion Hungry Children Figures Reliable

By ANN SAWYER
News Staff Writer

The city school superintendent says the estimate of needy hungry school children in the city system is reliable.

Meeting yesterday with the Social Planning Committee studying the problem, Dr. E. H. Garinger said the Attendance Dept. social workers are sensitive to the need.

It has been estimated 2,000 city school children—most of them in elementary grades—go without lunch each day because their parents cannot afford to provide either a lunch in the cafeteria or a sandwich from home.

Several times during the two-hour meeting, Dr. Garinger referred to a study of hungry school children in 1951.

At that time, he said, classroom teachers reported between 700 and 800 children were not receiving an adequate diet.

A spot check of about every eighth family listed as needy showed that half of them were not in actual need, Dr. Garinger said.

However, at that time the schools did not have trained social workers as it does now. He said he would think the information now is reliable.

"DEFINITE EVIDENCE"

The 1951 study committee of 29 members came to the conclusion that "there is definite evidence of a need for free or reduced cost lunches for children whose parents are unable to provide them."

It is the responsibility for determining the need and meeting it rests with the school authorities as long as Federal funds are

used in the school lunch program."

Dr. Garinger predicted the current committee findings would be the same and told members he thinks "it is foolish to waste time."

However, he said, the city lunchroom program would go bankrupt if it fed all needy hungry children. It would have to go out of business, he said.

Miss Ross Spearman, director of the city school lunchroom program, and John Dunlap, in charge of city school finance, also met with the committee yesterday.

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The Christmas I Remember Best

(The News thought it fitting that the concluding article in this series be written by the reporter who wrote the newspaper's appeals for its Empty Stocking Fund, just concluding its most successful year.)

THEIR Best Christmas

By BOB SLOUGH

I stood in the doorway of his flat and looked past him and into the room. There was much to see here and much to remember.

He put out a raw, cracked hand that was limp, almost lifeless, and said, "Come in." He waved at a chair and seated himself beside a pot-bellied stove.

I looked long at his face. It was more than a face. It also mirrored more than a half century of life, and, of late, despair and hopelessness.

His short, clipped speech was interrupted by a cough which came at short intervals and rattled through his chest. He panted as he spoke, pausing frequently to take great gulps of air into his lungs.

The explanation he gave for his condition was brief and aptly fit his ability to give it. "Pneumonia," he said. "I'm just getting over it."

The story he told was one that had a true ring of familiarity. I had heard many times these past weeks the story he related. Only the names of his children, the individuality of the situation, isolated his own predicament.

He could give his children nothing on Christmas Day.

It was as simple as that.

I had seen the same pattern of life on numerous visits to these families. The wife, weakened through years of constant struggle to rear more children than she and her husband could afford. The children, in tattered clothing, but all the father could give them. And the house, with a bed in the living room, and springs punched up through the covering on the couch, and cardboard put up at the window in an almost vain attempt to keep cold air out of the house.

These were the families that told what they would have for Christmas by simply showing what they then possessed.

Why then will this be the best Christmas I have ever known?

It will be the best because I know that these families I have seen and many like them will be helped on Christmas Day by the Empty Stocking Fund.

A father will not be pained with a question from his child. "Why didn't I get anything for Christmas?" A mother will not watch her little girl leap from bed and run to the Christmas tree to find nothing under it.

My Christmas will be the best for I know their Christmas will be the best.

Badly Burned Youth Fires Store In Flight

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—A teenage boy's snowman costume caught fire when he lit a cigarette yesterday. He ran screaming through a clothing store and set fire to the building.

David Bait, 17, of Wilmington was hired by The People's Clothing Store to help boost

holiday business. He was playing in critical condition.

While a photograph played the popular tune, "Frosty the Snowman," the costumed youngster danced on the sidewalk outside the store.

He lit the cigarette during a break in his routine. As he rushed through the 400-lb store his burning costume set little fires in the piles of clothing on display.

The fire destroyed the store and damaged apartments in the three-story building. Five people were overcome by smoke.

Ass. Fire Chief John Reilly estimated damage at between \$75,000 and \$125,000.

Evening Prayer

O God, we thank Thee that the best part is but the guarantee of a best future. May the memory of past trials and victories inspire hope for greater conquests. In Christ's name . . . Amen.

—PAPA'S KEEPING QUIET THIS TIME— Ex-Tutor Says Margaret's Singing Off Key



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Lost Stature



MARGARET TRUMAN
Couldn't Hear Self

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After the first few concerts, Miss Traudel appealed to Truman, reminding him of the agreement about five years of study. The remainder of the concert series was canceled.

In the fall of 1951, Miss Traudel withdrew completely. She says that when Truman was advised of this decision by telephone, he terminated the conversation by slamming down the receiver.

Earlier, the President's interest in his daughter's career caught headlines when he wrote an angry letter to Paul Hume, a Washington music critic.

"After he had written this famous note to the music critic who had dared say that Margaret had little talent," Miss Traudel writes, "he confided to me that I should never have written that letter. But now it's written I'll stand by it."